

**Minutes: Rio Brazos Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists  
August 4, 2016  
Camp El Tesoro, Hood County**

**Program:**

After a fine dinner and pleasant conversation, Justin Lindsey presented his program on Aquaponics and Wicking Beds. Aquaponics seemed an interesting and labor intensive way to produce plants and fish. He also presented wicking beds, which involved the introduction of water through buried pipes to a garden, rather than surface watering. It seems a conservative and ultimately labor saving use of water.

**Business:**

Dayna began the business meeting by presenting Andrea Roiz her badge. Tammy Evert is back after welcoming her new grandbaby.

**Minutes:** Posted to the RBMN website. Accepted and approved with no corrections.

**Treasurer's Report:** Delivered by Jim Crocker. Opening balance was \$9541, ending balance is \$9667.

**Publications availability:**

- The Nature Tours book highlighting the ANC with RBMN contributions is still available at a cost of \$18, available through Jim Crocker.
- Robert says that one copy of the Riparian Guide is available for \$22

**Training Committee:** Robert Theimer reporting. 2 training sessions remain.

- (1) The Fossil Rim tour will be conducted by Chris and Sara Paulsen at 8:00 AM on 8/13.
- (2) The Rancho Helios Brazos Tour will be provided on 8/22.

**Outreach:** Billy Teels reporting.

- The September bird walk is cancelled for the first time ever due to vacation schedules.
- The seining event at Langdon's was a big success.
- The Newsletter is out and Billy thanks all for their contributions.

**Friends of Cleburne State Park:** Jim Crocker reporting

- The kayaking event was a big success.
- Camp Store is nearing completion. All that remains is the final paperwork. Inventory is stocked. All are urged to come and buy something.
- Friends meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, and all are invited.

**Homeschoolers:** Dayna Inbody reporting

- Even though Jake and Malea Balmuth are out of the country, Jake has already found a photo friend.
- Dayna and Valerie Taber will be doing a program on Wildscape and Insect Color Code with Valerie as lead August 26, 2016 at the Education Center. The kids will be able to design their own insects.

**Education Committee:** Dayna Inbody reporting

- Education trunks are slowly being built up. Members are encouraged to contribute materials and programming for others to use in these packaged presentations which may be used at the ANC or taken off site to schools, clubs, etc. for outreach educational presentations.
- Many upcoming programs are on the calendar. Among them are
  - I Naturalist** training on 8/20 at 8:30 AM at the ANC
  - Star Party** on 9/10. Gary will come in spite of TCU game. Valerie noted the Billboard looks good.
  - Monarch Event** October 14 (schools) and 15 (Public) 9AM-Noon
  - Native Arts Day** at Comanche Peak Nature Trail on 10/8. Maryann Mathews is lead. Volunteers and IDEAS are needed for the stations.
  - Monarch in the Classroom** will be presented by Dayna and Sara Paulson for a school which has repeatedly asked to attend the event, but which we cannot accommodate. This may be a pilot for other presentations.
  - Native Plant Society of Texas Annual Meeting** will be in Glen Rose this year. RBMN is partnering with the NPSOT to host an activity at the Comanche Peak Nature Trail Maryann and Dagmar October 14th. There will also be hikes at the ANC with Bonnie and Valerie October 14, 2016

*NOTE: Since the Education Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month, 6:00 PM at the Acton Library, the next meeting will be September 7. Normally that falls just before the general membership meeting, but not always. September falls AFTER the general membership meeting.*

**Camp El Tesoro:** Tanner Rhone reporting

- 3100 campers were there this summer.
- New construction is finished, but a 20 acre lake is planned for the site to allow for new activities.
- Teachers from District 11 toured the camp recently
- Fall events begin on October 14

**Unimin:** Alan Sarver reporting

- The amphitheater project is still in the process
- A Webeloree is being planned for September 24. Boy Scouts will be teaching Cub Scouts at 3 stations : (1) "Into the Wild" - Insects and Animals ; (2) "Into the Woods" – Plants; (3) "Into Geology" – rocks and fossils. MN volunteers for each station are much appreciated. Please contact Alan to volunteer.

**Announcements:**

- Dayna told us that one of the "Swoon to the Moon in June" visitors contacted her and suggested that our chapter be involved with the Cleburne Park Pioneer Days. They had 3000+ in attendance last year. She said that perhaps our booth could be used. She asked us to think about a lead for that purpose.
- Hood county News had articles about our Monarch and Native Arts events.
- Sara said she has Star Party T-Shirts to order and gave prices. Contact her to order.
- Dayna said that the MN License Plate project was rejected for lack of interest, but will be revisited at the state meeting.
- Summer Thyme Festival would be held August 6 in Cleburne. Thanks to Seth, Maryann and Dagmar for manning the booth.
- The Granbury News had featured photos by Jake Balmuth and Chris Inbody. Congratulations to both our talented members.
- Quarterly Board meeting will be held on Sept. 1 prior to the general membership meeting.

**Volunteer Services:** Maryann Mathews reporting

- BRIT has requested volunteers
- Groundwater Project District is interested in having volunteers assist in presentations.
- ANC-No work days had been scheduled because of the heat, but mowing has been contracted and the Bird Blind and the Garden had been checked on.

**Membership Committee:** Wanda Riley reporting

- 2 members are back
- Robin Brodsky was cancer free. Yea!

**Website Committee:**

- The calendar is accurate, being maintained well, and – best of all – it is being used.
- Please refer to the calendar on the website often to keep up to date on volunteer opportunities and other groovy stuff. <http://www.riobrazosmn.org>

**New Officer Nomination Committee:** Dave Moore, Chairman

- Officers are elected to serve 2 year terms. Please contact Dave Moore with suggestions for nominees. Don't be shy!

**Reminders:**

- The TMN's 17<sup>th</sup> State Meeting is coming up October 21-23, 2016 in Montgomery, TX. Watch for announcements or check <http://www.txmn.org>
- There's still time to join us for our chapter field trip November 6-13, 2016 to Petit Jean State Park in Arkansas. Contact Dayna for more info.
- January 8-15, 2017 field trip to the Rio Grande Valley is being planned. There is something for everybody: hiking birding, photography, lots to choose from and great fellowship. More details to come.
- Remember the board meeting will take place on Sept. 1 immediately preceding the general membership meeting.
- Education committee meeting will be 6:00 PM on the first Wednesday, September 7, Acton Library.
- Check the online calendar on the website often. Update your events as necessary.

Meeting was adjourned.