

**Minutes: Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter
December 1, 2016
Cleburne State Park**

After a delightful spread of dishes for a convivial dinner the December meeting commenced with recognition of Cathy Crocker and her elves who made this Christmas themed meeting so pleasant and welcoming. Cathy made sure to recognize all the talented MN's who contributed to the door prizes.

BUSINESS MEETING

MINUTES: Scott Taylor reporting

Minutes were posted to the web site. No additions were made, and they were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jim Crocker reporting

Jim reported that the balance currently at \$8564 will increase. He has several dues checks yet to be deposited, and he will do so next week.

TRAINING COMMITTEE: Robert Theimer reporting

Robert reported that he and Nancy will be moving to Cushing OK to be near kids and grandchildren. His absence will leave a huge gap, not easily filled by a single successor. For the upcoming training classes to begin in February, Robert noted that all the teachers have been lined up. However, there needs to be a coordinator to handle the logistics of each class, such as opening & closing the venue, introducing the teacher, setting up the projector and coffee pot, etc. A volunteer or group of volunteers is needed to act as class coordinator. Please let Dayna know if you are interested.

Important to note: The Class Coordinator does not have to teach.

Robert has been contacted by 2 people who are interested in joining and coming to classes, plus Dayna pointed out we have a sign-up sheet with about 8 names of people who showed interest when they visited different MN activities during the last few months. Robert said he would make contact with them.

OUTREACH: Billy Teels reporting

1st Saturday Bird Walk: Billy will not be able to do it due to back trouble, but Dave and Wendy Moore said they'd do it. If it is raining, as the weather report indicates, they will either let folks know it will not happen & cancel until next week, or slog through.

Newsletter: deadline was today, but he can accept articles until the 15th at the latest in order to put out the newsletter by Christmas.

Moon Event at Cleburne State Park will take place again, probably in May, with date to be determined.

HOMESCHOOL: Dayna Inbody reporting

November's class was about water quality with Karen Siddal and our own Chapter Advisor, Zach Davis conducting the classes. It was attended by 17 kids and 10 adults,. Very positive feedback was received. December will have no formal class for the home schoolers. Instead, they are invited to the S'Mores with Santa event at the ANC.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Wendy Moore reporting

The education committee met at the Moore's place to go through all the existing materials, inventory them and determine what we have and what we need to complete our 3 initial education trunks. Our

1st phase will consist of 3 trunks: Birds, Mammals, and Pollinators. Dayna had attended a trunk workshop at the state meeting conducted by the North TX MN's from the Dallas County area. They have been very generous with their guidance and advice. Once these 3 are completed, we will present them, along with activities from each to show how easily they may be utilized by anyone in the club for presentations.

NEW PROJECT APPROVED: Maryann Mathews reporting

April 21, 2017 there will be an Ag and Conservation Day at the Langdon's working cattle ranch. A short discussion was held with no resolution as to whether hours would be approved for volunteers who have been working at Camp El Tesoro preparing it for the Breakfast with Santa event.

ANC WORKDAYS: Dave Moore reporting

The 2 previous work days were very productive, especially the last one with 25 students from Acton Middle School performing a community service project under the direction of several RBMN's. The butterfly garden looks great now. There's still work to do on the farmhouse, and there will always be maintenance issues, but it looks good. Next workday will be scheduled at the Friends of the ANC meeting.

BIRDING FIELD TRIP TO THE VALLEY Jan 8-15: Billy Teels reporting

Billy and the Moores will be staying at the Super 8 in Donna, which will be used at headquarters. Folks will meet there each day and they will carpool from there to each location along the 120 mile route. Itinerary and map will be provided so anyone who can meet them along the way if they do not want to drive to Donna each day. Let Billy know by January 1 if there are any changes in attendance.

HOURS: Wanda Riley

VMS asks that all hours be reported by December 31 to most efficiently expedite year end totals and management of reports.

DINOSAUR VALLEY STATE PARK MONARCH MONITORING PROJECT: Dayna Inbody reporting

After Bob Bullard's stroke, they decided to move to Wisconsin to be closer to family. Their absence is sorely felt, and the DVSP has asked that we continue the Monarch Monitoring Program which the Bullards managed. The October observations and classes were not done. So far a committee composed of Sara, Nadia, Dywayne and Margi Calder, and Dayna will meet on December 10 at the site to begin planning. Call Dayna if you want to join the team. Gary Hinds will give a training program and will try to get Skip Kiphart to assist. We will start out with fewer programs "to get our feet wet" and work into the full blown project the Bullards had put in place.

YEAR END ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dayne Inbody reporting

Annual dues are due by December 31. Please send to Jim Crocker, Treasurer at 7300 Rendon New Hope Road, Fort Worth, TX 76140. Dues are \$25.00 for single member, \$35 for family.

Thanks were expressed to the ...,

Executive Board for working so well together through a lot of changes which took place over the last 2 years.

Project committee – Maryann Mathews, Chris Paulsen and Henry Bogusch

State Representative Valerie Taber

Education committee for adding new projects in response to community needs and for its adding organization and structure to outreach programming

Hours and VMS Conversion committee - Wanda Riley and Chris Inbody

Gary Hinds who has accepted the post of president after his soon to come retirement in March. Dayna will continue to serve as president until Gary becomes available. At that point she will resign and Gary will be nominated to assume the remainder of the president's term.

NEW OFFICER ELECTIONS: Reported by Dave Moore, Nomination Committee Chair
The Nomination Committee met several times and worked very hard to find candidates to fill the shoes of those whose terms will end on December 31, 2016. Per RBMN handbook, the proposed slate of candidates was determined and posted to the membership for their input last month. The slate of officer candidates was presented at the meeting, and the floor was opened to any other volunteers or nominations. There were no other nominations. The motion was made and seconded that the following slate of candidates be accepted by acclamation. The vote passed unopposed. Congratulations and thanks to the newly elected Rio Brazos Master Naturalist s officers for the 2017-2018 Term. They are:

President: Dayna Inbody
Vice President – Tessa Ownbey-Chenoa
Secretary - Sara Paulsen
Treasurer: Henry Bogusch

CAMP EL TESORO: Reported by Andrea Roiz
Dec 3, from 8:00 – Noon: Breakfast with Santa. Busses, as well as the hay ride wagon, will be available to carry folks from the parking lot. Pancake breakfast, plus games, crafts, and archery (if weather permits) will be offered. Volunteers can come at 7:00 for free breakfast. Several folks have been working hard to prepare El Tesoro for this outreach event.

ANC - December 8, 5:30 – 7:30 PM – S'Mores with Santa. Fire pit has been built in the parking lot behind the pavilion for the event. Go tell it to the man!

MN ENDOWMENT ANNOUNCED: Valerie Taber reporting
A new program, an endowment account to permanently fund the MN program has been proposed, and MN's are asked to contribute or find others who will do so. Valerie has raised several questions and concerns with the state office over this program, and she asks that any RBMN's who have concerns should let her know so she can properly forward them, as well, to the state office for response.

PETITE JEAN FIELD TRIP: Dayna Inbody reporting
The trip was a grand success, despite rainy weather during the planned hike. Rubber Ducky awards were handed out to the brave souls who slogged through the rain and muck to discover the many beauties that Petit Jean had to offer. The Princess Award was given to Chris Paulsen, who whined about its raining and who was the only MN to stay in his cabin, napping in front of a fire while the other intrepid MN's explored. But we're not judging!

AWARD CEREMONY – PINS AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED: Dayna Inbody presiding
Name pins for new MN's have not yet been received, so we hope to have them for presentation at the January meeting. Some of our new members received Double Certification, meaning they completed not only their required hours for certification, but enough additional hours for certification for the next year.

First Year State Certificate and pin were awarded to ...

Cindy Bobek
Melody Holm – Double certified
Catherine Huey – Double Certified, plus 250 hour pin
Nadia Lambert – Double Certified
Sue Wallace – Double Certified

AWARD CEREMONY – PINS AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED: (Continued)

Milestone Pins

Scott Taylor – 250 Hours

Gail Bradshaw – 500 hours

Dayna Inbody – 2500 hours

Recertification Pins

Henry Bogusch

Bruce Bradshaw

Gail Bradshaw

Bob Bullard

Margi Calder

Dywayne Calder

Tom Colgin

Bonnie Colgin

Jim Crocker

Cathy Crocker

Joretta Haas

Dagmar Higgins

Diane Humphrey

Karen Langdon

Carol Lee

Gregg Lee

Maryann Mathews

Dave Moore

Wendy Moore

Chris Paulsen

Sara Paulsen

Wanda Riley

Andrea Roiz – 1st year Certificate & pin

Cynthia Ross

Alan Sarver

Karen Sarver

Valerie Taber

Scott Taylor

Robert Theimer

Nancy Theimer

Jay Clark

State allows for recognition of a non-MN who has been of great service to the chapter.

That recognition and thanks go to Stu Riley.

This year's recognition pin is the Guadalupe Bass. Next year's will be the Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle.

The meeting ended with appreciation being voiced for the Executive Board, to Jim and Cathy Crocker for arranging the meetings held at Cleburne State park and to Cathy for managing the door prizes, to those talented and generous MN's who contributed door prizes, and to Valerie Taber and her crew for decorations.

Next Meeting: January 5, 2017 at Cleburne State Park according to our rotating schedule. Reminder that the October picnic and the Christmas end of year meeting locations replace "normal" rotation sites and have been approved by coordinator prior to previous end of each year cycle.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Taylor, RBMN Secretary