

Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting

Feb. 5, 2015 – Somervell Training Center

Program: The program was given by Robert Enckhausen, Park Superintendent at Dinosaur Valley State Park and was about the economic value of State Parks and volunteers. He described a new volunteer ranger program that has a significant training element.

Guests: Nichole Gilbert, Asst. Superintendent at Dinosaur Valley State Park.

Awards and presentations:

- Bob and Gail Bullard received their recertification pins from 2013.
- The newly certified students were Jake Balmuth, Scott Taylor, Tom Colgin and Gail Bradshaw.
- Linda Diehnelt and Catherine Hinds received their 500 hour pins.
- Bill Diehnelt, Dagmar Higgins, Chris Paulsen, Sara Paulsen, Valerie Taber, Chris Inbody and Dana Inbody received their 1,000 hour pins.
- Carol Lee and Robert Theimer were recognized for having received their 4,000 hour pins at the state meeting.

Old Business

- Minutes: The minutes are on the website and approved.
- Treasurer's Report: Linda Diehnelt read the treasurers report. She said membership dues are due and are \$25 for a single person and \$35 for a family.

Training Committee Report:

- Robert Theimer said that there are 4 new students and Nichole Gilbert will also be attending some of the classes.

Outreach Committee Report:

- Billy Teels said there will be a first Saturday bird walk at the ANC on Feb. 7 at 7:00am.
- He said the Great Backyard Bird Count will be held on Feb. 14 and 15 at the ANC at 7:00 am. Following the Saturday count, he will be giving a presentation at the Acton Library on the Birds of the Coastal Bend of Texas.
- Gail Bradshaw spoke for the education committee about the field trips at the ANC. Acton Elementary 3rd graders will be coming on April 28th. Their theme is "Animals In Our Backyard". Tentatively scheduled for May 5 & 6 are 141 1st graders. Their subject is currently unknown. She passed around a volunteer signup sheet to see if there will be enough volunteers to accommodate these field trips. She also spoke about the trunks that will be put together after the conclusion of the field trips and said that more information on these will be presented at the March meeting.

- There will probably be an event needing volunteers in Burleson in April. More information will follow.
- Cathy Crocker said the Dutch Oven Event at Cleburne State Park was a big success. Five master naturalists worked clearing trails in the park while the cooking was going on and then joined the meal with 26 ovens providing the food. The Dutch Oven Society will meet at Cleburne State Park on the 3rd Saturday of each month September through May and there will be volunteer work on trail maintenance during the event. Both events begin at 9:00 with lids off at 12:30. The Friends of Cleburne State Park group is waiting for paperwork to become official, then will announce a meeting.
- Karen Langdon said the Fun Run can still use more volunteers for the April 25th event. Volunteers are asked to arrive between 7:00 and 7:30. Sizes are needed for the t-shirts so they can be ordered. Acton Nature Center ball caps can also be ordered through Karen.
- Tanner Rohne said volunteers are needed at El Tesoro for Preview Days March 7, April 12, and May 2. There will be archery, canoeing, kayaking, outdoor cooking, hay rides, s'more making, and black out bingo nature hikes.
- The new contact person with Luminant is Randy Harding. He will be working with Maryann Mathews on the Comanche Peak Nature Trail.
- Tessa Ownbey-Chenoa said Meridian State Park is using iNature app for the herbarium. They are looking for people to teach classes and lead walks.
- Ken Coy said there have been no new submissions for new projects this year.
- Bill Diehnelt and Dave Moore have been working on the electrical and plumbing on the bird blind and water feature. Weather has been the driving factor in scheduling work days.
- Billy Teels said the newsletter is just out and it is a really good one. Cypress Basin and Indian Trails chapters are requesting our newsletter be forwarded to them. It also needs to go to the TX list serve and should be entered in the State contest.
- Gail Bradshaw is helping Wanda with the scrapbook and requests pictures with information and news clippings be sent to her.

Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, Feb. 8th is the Winter Woody Plants class which is advanced training.
- The Rockport field trip is March 27-30. Billy Teels will send out a schedule.
- April 3rd is the Dinosaur Valley State Park bird walk.
- April 25th is the Fun Run.
- April 28th 3rd grade at ANC
- May 5-6 possible ANC visit by 1st grade.
- Ken Coy said the Ham Radio Operators will be at the ANC day and night from June 27 to the 28th. They bring their own generators. More information to follow.

