

**Rio Brazos Master Naturalists
Monthly Meeting
February 4, 2016
Acton Library**

Guests

New class members Nadia Lambert, Lisa Mathews and presenter Jack Dunaway from Indian Trail MN.

Program: (Preceded by the business meeting.) Jack Dunaway, Indian Trail Chapter MN, presented "50 Birds to Teach Your Kids and Grandkids." Depending on his audience, Jack said the title may change to "50 Birds to Teach Your Parents and Grand Parents." Jack presented a sequence of beautiful photographs, accompanied by humorous and educational commentary. "*You can tell a good photograph by the clarity of the eye*" - Jack Dunaway

Jack's infectious enthusiasm and love of birds and photography was evidenced by his photos and comments. He closed with this quote: "*In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught.*" - Baba Dioum (not to be confused with Baba Louie) 1968

Business Meeting

It was announced that one of our founding members Robin Brodski is dealing with another round of cancer, a card was passed for all to sign. Wanda will mail to her from our chapter. On a much happier note, we welcomed Wanda Riley, now feeling well, back to the fold.

Our guest speaker, Jack Dunaway from Indian Trails Master Naturalists was introduced and presented with a Feather Fest shirt.

January minutes are posted on the website and approved.

Treasurer's report: Month began with \$7747. Current Balance = \$8917
Linda reminds us: DUES ARE DUE!

Accomplishments Recognized:

Katy Palfry, one of last month's speakers from Fossil Rim, informed Dayna that the annual report of the C₂S₂ - a global organization – included mention of our RBMN Chapter's work on the Shrike Project.

Wendy Moore, Jake Balmuth and Chris Inbody were among featured artists in the Lake Granbury Art Association show. Wendy received 3rd Place recognition and Jake received Honorable Mention.

Bruce Bradshaw got an article on edible plants in the local paper in Comanche. He thanks Henry for sharing his knowledge with him so he can pass that on.

Training Committee: Robert Theimer reported there are 18 new students and 4 returning. Topics for the month are Meteorology, Ornithology, Land Stewardship & Law.

Outreach Committee: Billy Teels

- ANC Nature Run will be April 23, 2016. Contact Karen Langdon. Volunteers are needed for an array of duties, including parking.
- Burluson Park Dept Family Day will be April 23, 2016. Contact Maryann Mathews. Volunteers are needed. A Night Sounds Program is planned, and adult outdoor education is being added. Robert reminded us that – if you can keep a secret - you might be able to see a prairie dog town!
- 1st Saturday Bird Walk: February 6.
- Feather Fest is planned for February 13, 2016 from 10:00 a m to 4:00 p m following the Great Backyard Bird Count. The Bird Blind will be dedicated. Five presentations are planned, including Native Plant Society and Blue bird society. As visitors come to presentations, they will sign in and door prizes will be awarded at some lucky attendees. Flyers have been finalized for the Feather Fest, and the Billboard on Hwy 377 is up. Malea has the ribbon and Tanner is supplying the giant scissors for the ribbon cutting, so we're ready to fly, so to speak.
- Friends of Cleburne State Park report was given by Maryann. February 18 will be a "Bioblitz," explained as a field activity for recording species observed; February 20 will be a Trail Work Day; and on February 27, the eagerly anticipated: Fishing Pier - completed at a cost of \$50,000 - will be dedicated. Thanks to Cathy and Jim Crocker.
- Homeschoolers: Jake Balmuth
Upcoming projects reported: Orienteering activity on March 4
Permaculture activity in Stephenville on March 25
Habitat activity on April 8
- Permaculture Project at Tarleton State in Stephenville was announced by Dayna. Seth Hamby is the lead. The Flyer can be seen as a link on the chapter website. A pollinator garden is planned and a spring cover crop will be planted. Workday is planned for March 25. Bring your gloves and lunch.
- Dinosaur Valley State Park's Wing Ding – a celebration of all things with wings – will be on March 12, from 7AM – 5 PM. A Link to the flyer is on the website. Nicole Gilbert will be the lead. The RBMN chapter has been asked to participate. We are manning 3 activities: (1) Pine Cone Bird Feeders activity and needs at least 2 volunteers. Please contact Malea if you can help. Materials are provided. (2) Wendy Moore is overseeing a Caterpillar Craft activity and needs at least 2 volunteers. Materials provided. If you have paper egg cartons, they are needed. (3) RBMN Chapter Booth needs 3-4 volunteers. For Craft area and chapter booth, please contact Wendy Moore.
- Camp El Tesoro: Tanner Rhone is lead. El Tesoro is having a Welcome Center event on March 5. They are expecting 200 kids from BRIT. Tanner also reported that they've done the kitchen improvements & tore down the redwood cabins. Tours will be available.

Education committee: Gail Bradshaw reported great interest had been expressed by several teachers whose classes had participated in past RBMN activities at the ANC. However, many details, especially dates and number of volunteers needed, are as yet undecided. Dayna suggested that when the plans become more established, they could be broadcast via chapter e-mail.

Website Committee report by Chris Inbody included that an “Hours” tab was added to the website.

Newsletter: Deadline for submissions is March 15. Billy has requested stories on the many activities we are expanding into.

Upcoming Events

February 27, 2016	Cleburne State Park Fishing Pier Dedication
March 5	BRIT Kids at Camp El Tesoro
March 12	Spring Wing Ding at Dinosaur Valley State Park
March 25	Permaculture Day at Tarleton State
April 23, 2016	ANC Nature Run at Revolver Brewery
April 23, 2016	Burleson Park Dept Family Day

Respectfully submitted,
Scott A. Taylor, Secretary