

Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2017

First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

Dinner: Began at 6:00 PM

Guests/New Trainees: Introduction and welcome

Program: Suzanne Tuttle, plant ecologist and member of the Cross Timbers Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist, presented an informative and educational program on identifying deciduous woody plants and trees in winter. Ms. Tuttle shared a rubric outlining specific characteristics to observe when identifying winter plants and trees. Evidence of fruits, leaves, nuts, fallen leaves are clues to identification. Habitat, leaf and branch arrangement, shape and arrangement of leaf buds, and bark color and patterning can also serve as identifying factors.

The second portion of the evening's program was presented by Winston Lagergren, a member of the Texas Rolling Plains Bobwhite Brigade. Winston is a student at Glen Rose High School. Winston shared information about quail, including habitat, diet, behavior, nature influences, predation, and parasites. A personal account of Winston's experiences in Brigade Camp was informative and insightful.

Business:

- February Minutes - Minutes from January meeting approved.
- Treasurer's Report - report submitted by Henry Bogusch, treasurer. Beginning balance was \$8800. Deposits \$340. Expenses \$393. Ending balance \$8835. Membership dues were requested.

Committee Reports:

- Training Committee - Maryann Mathews reporting. RBMN currently has 14 new trainees. Trainers are needed for Citizen Science (August 19), archeology, and stewardship. The first session will be February 4, 2017. On February 18, Chris Inbody will train on VMS.
- Outreach Committee - Billy Teels reporting.
 - *Birdwalk at ANC February 4 from 7-9:30
 - *Great Backyard Bird Count February 18-19
 - *Golden Cheek warbler birdwalk April 8 at DVSP. Limit 15 participants. Contact Billy Teels

- Friends of CSP - Cathy and Jim Crocker reporting. First meeting is scheduled for February 16 at CSP lodge. The park store is doing well with lots of new inventory. Two nesting pair of Golden Cheek Warblers have been identified in CSP. CSP will sponsor a Walk a Homeless dog hike on June 3.
- Homeschoolers - Malea Balmuth reporting. Friday hikes.
 - *February 17 at DVSP from 9-12:00. Hike lead by Billy Teels
 - * March 31 hike lead by Dave and Wendy Moore. Langdon Ranch(Fall Creek).
 - * May 12 volunteer needed to lead hike.
- Unimin Updates - Alan Sarver reporting. Alan presented an aerial map of the scout project and Unimin mining. He shared plans for mine reclamation areas and requested input. Alan also invited members to look at fossils at the Unimin sight, he requested assistance with id.
- Burleson activities and projects update – Maryann Matthews reporting. Burleson family campout will be on April 22, from 1-8:00. Volunteers needed. The Prairie Dog colony is doing well and signs have been placed in the area notifying the public to keep dogs on leashes, etc. The Chism Trail museum event will be April 22 at 2:00.
- Nature Run April 22,2017 - Karen Langdon reporting. Volunteers are needed for parking, registration, etc.
- Feather Fest March 2017 – Dave and Wendy Moore reporting. Feather Fest is scheduled for March 25 at ANC. A photo contest will be held with a public vote on bird photos taken by RBMN members. Volunteers needed.
- MLMP program at DVSP April 22 - Sara Paulsen reporting. Public event presenting MLMP program and Monarch life cycle from 9-12:00 on April 22. Volunteers needed.
- Moon Event at CSP May 12. 2017- Robert Theimer reporting. Specifics about event are being decided. Volunteers needed.
- Spring Wingding at DVSP May 13 - Nicole Gilbert from DVSP invited chapter to participate in the Wingding. MLMP will be part of chapter involvement. Other activities are being decided. Volunteers needed.
- Education Committee report - - Wendy Moore reporting. Education committee met on February 1. Education trunks are a work in progress, continue with updates on needs.
- Membership Committee – Wanda Riley reporting. Members are recording hours on time. Make sure that you are making comments to explain your volunteer time in comment box provided. The state looks at this in audits they perform.

- Website Committee – Chris Inbody

Other Announcements:

Tessa Ownbey announced that she will be making a presentation at the Conservation Centers for Species Survival conference in Virginia on the Shrike project at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. Tessa inquired if anyone would be interested in a master composting class. She received positive responses.

Farewell party for Robert and Nancy Theimer March 18, 2017 at the Langdon Ranch. More details to be announced at a later date.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sara Paulsen, Secretary