

Minutes
Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting
January 8, 2015 Cleburne State Park

Program:

Karen Siddall, Area Representative of the Prairielands Ground Water Preservation Association, spoke of the scope, duties and outreach of her organization

Guests:

Jeff Titus, Cleburne State Park Superintendent was recognized and thanked for our use of the facility.

Andrea Roiz from El Tesoro

Gary Hinds' son, Raymond and daughter, Natalie

Tanner Rhone from El Tesoro was recognized for beginning Master Naturalist training

Committee Reports:

Training Committee: Robert Theimer said new class will begin January 24, 2015. It was suggested that we check out training on the website for refresher as needed.

Outreach Committee: (1) Billy Teels said First Saturday Bird Walk is set for February 7 at 7:00 AM at the ANC

(2) The ANC Great Backyard Bird Count is scheduled for February 14 – 15

(3) Billy also reminded us that field trip dates and locations should be decided soon. There was discussion of Petit Jean State Park in Arkansas and/or Big Bend National Park as destinations. Hawk migration and changing of leaves were mentioned as factors for consideration of Petit Jean.

Education Committee: (1) Billy Teels reported that a letter was being prepared for distribution to schools regarding field trips to the ANC, The letter would be discussed at the Hood County Development District meeting on January 14.

(2) The dates for the MN State Meeting will be October 23-25, 2015 in Marble Falls.

Art Project: Jake Balmuth spoke of ink made from oak galls and displayed his work depicting a bird in flight. He said that note cards with the same image are available for purchase. Contact him through the RBMN website.

Friends of Cleburne State Park: Cathy and Jim Crocker told us that the Charter and Funding paperwork for the Friends group has been completed, and a board meeting will be next Monday, January 12, with monthly meetings to follow.

Home Schoolers: (1) Malea Balmuth said an art project with Wendy Moore present would be done in March.

(2) A group of home schoolers will be helping with the water feature.

City of Cleburne: Dayna Inbody said that help was needed with the wildflower area and the maze design.

Volunteer Services: ANC workday, including Bird Blind, was announced for January 15, weather permitting.

Membership Committee: Wanda Riley reminds us that hours for 2014 should be in by January 10, or as soon as possible. The report to state must be turned in by January 15.

Newsletter Committee: Billy Teels said articles should be submitted by January 20.

Website Committee: (1) Chris Inbody suggested we look at the site and membership list and inform him of any errors.

(2) Field Trip dates will be added

Notices:

ANC FUN RUN Karen Langdon reported the FUN RUN would be April, 25, 2015, with 500-600 runners expected. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT JUDGES NEEDED Tanner Rhone requested volunteers to judge the 5th graders' science projects at Baccus Elementary on January 28. For more information or to volunteer Tanner's e-mail is Tanner@campfirefw.org

WOODY PLANT ID CLASSES January 18 and February 8 will be presented at the Fort Worth Nature Center, presented by Suzanne Tuttle, staff naturalist. Classes are **approved for advanced training hours**. See website for more information or call Hardwicke Interpretive Center at (817) 392-7410

ITEMS NEEDED FOR LEARNING STATIONS at the ANC In conjunction with increasing requests for field trips to the ANC by local schools we are developing some "canned" presentations and will be requesting some materials from membership. First on the list is clear (rinsed) 2 liter soda bottles.

ANC WORKDAY is scheduled for Thursday, January 15 at 9:30 AM, weather permitting.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE no later than March: See Linda Diehnelt. According to the handbook "Membership dues will be \$25/yr beginning January and running through December, except when there is more than one member from the same family, in which case the dues will be \$35/family for the same period. All new member's dues will be \$25/member, and be included in their initial training fees."

MASTER NATURALIST STATE ANNUAL MEETING is set for Oct. 23-25, 2015 in Marble Falls

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 5, 2015, Somervell County Training Center, Pot Luck supper at 6:00 PM followed by meeting and presentation at 6:30