

**Rio Brazos Master Naturalists
Monthly Meeting
January 7, 2016
Somervell County Training Center**

Guests

New class members: Gaylene Stengel and Barbara LeBlanc

Program: Shrike Survey Project

Speakers were Tessa Chenoa-Owenby, Director of Education at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center and Katy Palfry, MBA, representative of Conservation Center for Species Survival. Tessa talked about the Shrike Survey Project. She gave us some information on how the data is recorded and how it might be used. Katy explained further about the use of data and about the ultimate goal of creating a breeding program to try to reverse the decline of the species.

Business Meeting

December minutes are posted on the website and approved.

Treasurer's report: Current Balance = \$7737.44 Linda reminds us: DUES ARE DUE!

Project Committee: Maryann Mathews was installed as new chairperson of the Project Committee, following the distinguished service of Ken Coy. New committee members are Henry Bogusch and Chris Paulsen

Chapter State Representative Position Created. Valerie Taber has accepted the new position. Her duties include attending semi-annual chapter rep meetings, advocating, advising, and communicating for the RBMN chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists with the state organization.

1000 Hour Pin was awarded to Dave Moore for his volunteer service.

Training Committee: Robert Theimer

New class starts January 23, and there are 4 new students added.

Robert is working to get advanced training opportunities at the Petit Jean field trip.

Outreach Committee: Billy Teels

- ANC Nature Run will be April 23, 2016. Contact Karen Langdon
- Burlson Park Dept Family Day will be April 23, 2016. Contact Maryann Mathews
- 1st Saturday Bird Walk: This month's walk was a success with 24 species sighted Feb. 6 will be the next one.
- Star Party was a success with 131 participants. There were 26 volunteers and 11 came from Cypress Basin Chapter of the MN's to take part and observe. They intend to stage a similar Star party called "Cypress Moon" in February.

(January 7, 2016 Minutes continued)

Outreach Committee – Continued

- 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.
- More projects continue for the Bird Blind. Brush Fence is scheduled to be constructed as soon as the weather cooperates. Interior has been painted, chalkboard paint has been applied, and silhouettes have been painted. Caulking has been done, but exterior painting is yet to be done. Bird Blind should be substantially complete for the dedication.
- Friends of Cleburne State Park: fishing Pier has been completed at a cost of \$50,000. It will be dedicated this month. Thanks to Kathy and Jim Crocker.
- Homeschoolers: Jake Balmuth
Upcoming projects reported: Children’s Birds on February 12
Orienteering activity on March 4
Permaculture activity in Stephenville on March 25
Habitat activity on April 8

Membership Committee

Wanda Riley has not been feeling well, so questions concerning hours reports should be directed to Dayna or Chris Inbody. “Hours” tab has been added to the website for a “cheat sheet,” VMS updates, and Powerpoint.

Newsletter

Deadline for submissions is March 15

Upcoming Events

February 4, 2016	Chapter Meeting at Acton Library
February 6, 2016	1 st Saturday Bird Walk at ANC. 7 a m
February 13, 2016	Great Backyard Bird Count at the ANC, 7 a m
	Feather Fest at ANC Bird Blind & Farmhouse 10a m – 4 p m
April 23, 2016	ANC Nature Run at Revolver Brewery
April 23, 2016	Burleson Park Dept Family Day

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Taylor, Secretary