

Minutes: Rio Brazos Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists
Thursday, January 5, 2017
Cleburne State Park

After sharing food and fellowship with fellow master naturalists and friends, Billy Teels presented a program on a “bucket list” trip to the Galapagos Islands from which he and his lovely wife Phyllis had recently returned. Billy discussed Charles Darwin and the role the islands had in influencing Darwin’s theory of evolution prior to writing **On the Origin of the Species**. The presentation included photographs showcasing a variety of unique wildlife indigenous to the Galapagos Islands including iguanas, birds, and tortoises.

Business Meeting

- President Dayna Inbody wished all a Happy New Year and introduced the incoming board: Tessa Owenbey - Vice President, Henry Bogusch-Treasurer, and Sara Paulsen- Secretary.
- Cleburne State Park Superintendent Ted Stevens announced that there is an upcoming **Moon Event** that will be hosted by CSP on April 28. Robert Theimer is the lead on this event. Dayna thanked Ted for his help and support and presented him with a pin denoting that he is a friend of the RBMN.
- Minutes from December 2016 meeting that had been posted to the RBMN website were approved. No changes or additions were made.
- **Treasurer’s report** : Henry Bogusch reported that there is a current balance of \$8800. Incoming dues will increase that amount.
- The following new members were recognized and awarded pins and badges: Cindy Bobek, Sonna Sanders, Kathy Bruce, Gaylene Stengel , Barbara LeBlanc, and Nadia Lambert.
- Billy Teels, Joe Langdon, and Margi and Dwayne received their recertification.
- It was announced that Maryann Matthews will be replacing Robert Theimer as training coordinator. In addition, Karen Siddall will serve as lead on the streams team.

Dayna welcomed Malea and Edward Balmuth back from a 6 month absence during which their children, Jake and Eliza, had been studying abroad. Malea spoke of some personal stories and shared that her children had decided to stay abroad for a period of time. Jake is a member of our chapter.

Cathy Crocker on behalf of the **Friends of Cleburne State Park** thanked RBMN for their help and support. She shared an extensive list of items/projects that benefitted from donations and help from our chapter.

Education Committee Wendy Moore reporting. The committee members have been diligently working on completing the trunks. Wendy asked members of chapter to check our website for a wish list of items needed for trunks. She also announced that the **Featherfest** will be March 25

Homeschool Malea Balmuth reporting. Malea announced that she will begin a hiking program and requested assistance in locating forested trails and MNs to join hikes. A sign-up sheet was circulated. In addition, Malea asked if anyone would be interested in helping with home school education.

Volunteer Projects Maryann Matthews reporting. Maryann asked for documentation of bat sightings for the Texas Bat Survey. She also discussed the prairie dog colony in Burleson.

ANC Dave Moore reporting. Dave announced that a workday at ANC will be on January 21 with an alternate date of January 28. The purpose is to clear junipers from under some live oak trees.

Membership Committee Wanda Riley reporting. Members are turning in hours and made the December 31, 2016 deadline.

Outreach Billy Teels reporting. Bird walk will occur at 7:00 AM at ANC. Upcoming chapter field trip to Rio Grande Valley will be January 8-15. Dayna added that the Big Bend trip will be May 14-21. She also announced That Dave and Wendy Moore will be presenting to the Glen Rose Bird Club on January 26 at 6:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned.

