

Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting
Minutes: July 2, 2015
Cleburne State Park

After a great meal, featuring Pecan pie, the meeting was opened with a award to Robert Theimer: a wooden bowl made by Bill Diehnelt. The award was presented by Past Presidents Billy Teels, Dave Moore, Dayna Inbody and Bill Diehnelt in recognition of Robert's contributions to our chapter: 4,000+ hours volunteered, former president, training committee coordinator, training instructor and champion of many projects.

Guests: Zach Davis, AgriLife Extension Agent, Somervell County; Charlie Grindstaff, President of Indian Trails MN Chapter; Carolyn Ross, ITMN Member; and Jeff Titus

Treasury: Report was given by Linda Diehnelt. Beginning Balance = \$8,879. A laptop computer was purchased, leaving the Ending Balance at \$8343.

Program was presented by Barron Rector, PhD. The topic was invasive plants and their impact. A lot of interesting information was presented with accompanying printed materials distributed. In spite of the educational value, Dr. Rector's presentation was quite entertaining!

Training: Robert reported that the attempted aquatic activity was (ironically) rained out, but otherwise training is going well.

Outreach: 1st Saturday BIRDWALK is to be started at 6:30 – 7:00 AM and will be over by 9:30, thereby avoiding the heat of the day. Although the species at this location have been identified, after 8 years of observation a new species has been recorded: the Great Crested Flycatcher was seen. We are encouraged to use Google Plus to observe and contribute to nature photography. The progress of the owls in the "Duck Boxes" has been recorded by Jake.

Maryann announced Tour of COMANCHE PEAK Trail on July 6 at 8-8:30 AM. Work projects will be outlined to lead to a Native Arts presentation of the Cross Timbers area at Comanche Peak Trail on October 10. A workday will be scheduled prior to the event to get the trails ready. *VOLUNTEERS* will be needed for both the workday (Date-TBA) and for the actual event.

MONARCH EVENT at ANC will be held October 16 & 17, 9:00 AM to Noon. *VOLUNTEERS* will be needed. Volunteers have been secured for the 1st Aid Station.

Outreach (Continued): HAM RADIO EVENT was held at ANC on June 22. Ken Coy was the contact and it has been reported that the furthest distances reached were Puerto Rico and Cuba, contacted on battery power.

Indian Trails MN representatives Charlie Grindstaff and Carolyn Ross announced that ADVANCED TRAINING will be available on August 19 with the Texas Wildlife Association at Waxahachie Ranch to benefit inner city kids with science based nature education program called **Learning Across New Dimensions in Science or LANDS**. Training will be given, followed by putting it into practice with the kids attending.

Friends of Cleburne State Park: There are 22 paid members of FCSP. Next meeting of FCSP will be July 11, and Kids Fish Day will be July 11, as well. FCSP has been featured in the Cleburne Times Review. The article was passed around for meeting attendees to read. Robert Theimer will give a talk on the ASH JUNIPER PROGRAM on August 21.

Home Schoolers: Seining event at Landgon Ranch, led by Billy Teels, was a success with a large variety of specimens collected and explained. Billy or Jake can provide more details.

Camp El Tesoro: Tanner Rhone can be contacted for *VOLUNTEER* opportunities for Summer Camps. *Astronomy instructors are requested*. There will also be a Fall Camp at the end of October.

Education Committee: Trunk inventory list can be accessed on the website. Contributions, ideas, and games are all welcome and much needed in order for the educational programming to develop as we envision it. The goal is to make these trunks a permanent library of activities and programs, readily available for MN's to use at events and at school presentations.

Volunteer Services: A recently approved volunteer project, MILKWEED SEED COLLECTION can still be done. Contact Valerie Taber for recording details. Friends of Cleburne State Park has also been approved as a volunteer project.

ANC Workday: 3rd Saturday has been reinstated for maintenance of the ANC. Contact Bill, Joe, or Ken for ANC ongoing projects and Linda or Bonnie for butterfly garden.

Membership Committee: Three new members have transferred from the Cross Timbers MN Chapter: Kenneth Nalley, Seth Hanby, and Katie Hunholz. They are already active in several upcoming projects. Welcome!

Newsletter: The current newsletter has been well received and applauded by many sources. Billy asks that more pictures be included, and please turn in articles by September 30 for the next edition.

Upcoming Events:

- July 4 Bird Walk at ANC, 6:30 AM
- July 6 Tour Comanche Peak Trail
- July 8 Friends of ANC meeting at Acton Library
- July 11 Friends of Cleburne State Park meeting and Kids Fish at CSP
- July 28 Lake Point Academy field trip to ANC, 10:00 – 11:00 AM
- August 5 Education Committee Meeting at Acton Library, 6:00 PM
- August 6 RBMN Board Meeting 5:00 PM prior to membership meeting
RBMN Membership Meeting, Somervell Training Center, 6:00 PM