

**Minutes: Rio Brazos Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists**  
**Thursday, July 7, 2016**  
**First Baptist Church fellowship Hall**  
**Glen Rose, TX**

After a dinner of summertime goodies, topped off by the Sarvers' (should be award winning) buttermilk popsicles the meeting was begun.

WELCOME New members/guests: No new members or guests were in attendance

PROGRAM: Karen Siddall provided a program on the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District, which is charged with conserving, protecting and enhancing the groundwater resources of Ellis, Hill, Johnson and Somervell Counties.. She conducted a tour of their demo trailer, plus she showed a video that helped to explain the goals and functions of conservation districts.

MN volunteer opportunities will be available to assist in presentations, service hours are approved. See our "Hours" page on website for up to date approved AT and Service Projects.

MINUTES: June's meeting minutes, online for viewing, were approved and accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jim Crocker detailed inflow and outflow with the balance remaining at \$9541.28

**BUSINESS:**

- President Dayna awarded name badges to Alan and Karen Sarver.
- She reminded us that a field trip to Petit Jean State Park, Arkansas is planned for November.
- She noted that we should be proud that our chapter was included in the book Explore Texas: A Native Travel Guide by Mary Porter. There is a chapter on the ANC as one of the top 100 sites to visit and the RBMN are prominently credited for its success.
- Dayna also announced that Moth Night is being presented by Indian Trails Chapter, and all are invited to attend on July 27.
- Also announced The Herb Society is presenting the Summer Thyme Festival, August 6 from 9 AM – 3 PM with our own Seth Hamby presenting. Details will be sent via e-mail.

**TRAINING COMMITTEE:**

- Robert Theimer reported, "Classes are going well." Class #8 was coming up and would meet at Somervell Training Center with seining to follow at DVSP. Training center lecture will start at 9:00 AM
- Robert also added that the third edition of the Riparian Guide is available for \$22.

#### OUTREACH:

- Billy Teels lead another 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Bird Walk and reported that there were many juveniles sighted. A white eyed verio and yellow crown night heron were observed. 13 people were present. Billy said many pictures were taken. If copies are needed, let him know. Gregg suggested the use of I Naturalist and that he could set it up. Billy said that E Bird was in use. Next Bird Walk will be August 6, 7:00 AM

#### FRIENDS OF CLEBURNE STATE PARK:

- Report given by Cathy Crocker noted record attendance of 165 persons came for Swoon at the Moon in June. It was noted that the moths were slow in coming out. Regardless of the uncooperative nature of the moths, Tessa did a lot of good teaching.. Special thanks to the Fort Worth Astronomy Group which attended.
- Next year's event will probably be moved to an earlier date: "May Moon Madness" perhaps?

#### HOMESCHOOLERS:

- Jake Balmuth reported the seining event at Langdon's Ranch was a big success. This is the last event of the formal school year, We wished Jake, his sister Eliza and Mom Malea a great and safe trip as they go to Spain and Switzerland for an extended period of overseas studies.

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

- There is no education committee report, as meetings were suspended for the summer. Meetings will recommence August 3. Monarch Event and Star Party dates have been set, and materials will be needed for them. Members are asked to save paper ½ gallon milk cartons, paper egg cartons, toilet paper rolls (TP cleaned off, please), and pine cones for various kids' activities such as bird feeders and play binoculars.

#### UNIMIN PROJECT

- Alan Sarver updated us on the Nature Trail, which has been approved, with Tessa acting as the RBMN representative. His organization is utilizing the help of a wildlife habitat council and will attempt to ultimately reclaim approximately 700 acres. Alan said chapter advise is welcome.. Gregg said to avoid non-native plants, and Robert suggested that Alan consult Gary Spicer.

#### VOLUNTEER SERVICES COMMITTEE

- MaryAnn Matthews reported there was nothing new on the approval list.
- No new work day at ANC has been scheduled. Trail damage remediation will be the next project.
- Trail maintenance on the Comanche Peak Nature Trail will take place in late September as a lead up to the Native Arts Day in October.

#### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- Wanda Riley reported Margi and Dywayne Caulder have transferred from the Blackland Prairie MN Chapter. Welcome to both of them.

#### WEBSITE COMMITTEE:

- In Chris's absence, Dayna Inbody reported that the calendar entries were going well. She listed several items that could be found on the calendar of events.
- Among them were August 20's I Naturalist Training,
- the upcoming field trip to Petit Jean State park in Arkansas
- the Star Party in September
- the Comanche Peak Event in October, which will have the Native Plant Society taking part
- Fort Worth Nature Center trail work.
- MANY OTHERS
- Now that the calendar is working so well, please take the opportunity to keep abreast of all the opportunities you have available to enjoy.

#### NEXT MEETING:

- August 4 at Camp El Tesoro.
- Topic: Aquaponics and Wicking Beds. Presenter will be Justin Lindsey.