

**Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting**  
**Minutes: 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
**June 4, 2015     Langdon Ranch**

Since the June 4 meeting was a celebration of the Rio Brazos Master Naturalist's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the minutes will not be structured as they normally are. Instead, it will be an account of the celebration and honored members, past and present.

The June 4 monthly meeting of the RBMN chapter began with an exciting fording of the low water crossing which serves as the entry to the Langdon ranch pavilion. Some brave souls with the appropriate vehicles forded the flow to the pavilion. Others who were driving what Chris Paulson aptly called "floaters" piled up in the back of his and others' pickup trucks and were ferried across to the event.

Before the picnic and program began, some arrived early to take part in a nature walk guided by Billy Teels. (The rattle snake showed up later, near the creek.)

The Hood County Development District & Friends of the Acton Nature Center (ANC) kindly supplied the brisket and sausages, which Langdons barbecued for the membership. That, plus the many side dishes and desserts proved to be a delicious and bountiful meal.

Once settled with our plates overflowing, the program began with Dayna Inbody welcoming membership and special guests. Thirteen of the founding members of the 2005 chapter attended. Also present were all presidents who have ever served the RBMN's, as well as representatives from many of the organizations with which the MN's partner to serve our communities.

Robert Theimer acted as Master of Ceremonies as he narrated a power point show, highlighting the chapter's growth since its inception in 2005. For many of the members it was a "walk down memory lane" as they threw out comments and short anecdotes related to the projects projected onto the screen. Some may well have been left in the past as they laughed about some of the trials and tribulations associated with specific past endeavors. Lots of laughs were produced as the stories flowed.

After the slide show, introduction of charter members took place. They were thanked for their desire and tenacity in developing a new MN chapter to serve Hood, Johnson and Somervell Counties, as well as those others which have been represented as the chapter grew. Each was given a special trophy designed to look like interlocking gears – a way of thanking them for "getting it in gear!"

Dayna introduced all the presidents who have served the RBMN's since its inception in 2005.

Dagmar Higgins was recognized and awarded her 1000 Hour Pin, and 32 members were given their 2014 Recertification Pins.

Special thanks were extended to the Cross Timbers MN Chapter for their part in assisting and guiding the RBMN's into existence as a chapter. And it was pointed out that now we are doing the same, expanding the Master Naturalist program with a new group which will serve Ellis and Navarro Counties.

## **Guests**

**Founding Members present:** Elaine Bell, Jan Bussey, Diane Cutler, Pat Kriener, Carol Lee, Gregg Lee. Gary Spicer. Bruce Turner. Robbin Brodsky, Jim Cheatam, Bob Portman and his wife, Diane Wilmart, and Wanda Riley

**Special Guests:** Mel Schrader (Acton Nature Center & Hood County Development District) and her husband, Buck. Nicole Gilbert (Dinosaur Valley State Park). Current Training Class Members: Alan and Karen Sarver, Seth Hamby, Kenneth Nalley, Jay Clark, Bruce Bradshaw, Diana Humphries, Jeanette Scott, and Nicole Gilbert (not only from DVSP but a current class member as well), Charlie and Paul Grindstaff (Representatives of Indian Trail MN's)

**All RBMN Chapter Presidents**, past and present: 2005-2006 Elaine Bell  
2007-2008 Robert Theimer; 2009-2010 Billy Teels; 2011-2012 Bill Diehnelt  
2013-2014 Dave Moore; 2015-2016 Dayna Inbody

## **Special Thanks were offered to...**

- Suzanne Tuttle, Fort Worth Nature Center Staff Naturalist, who assisted with early surveys of the ANC and in development stages of the chapter.
- Robert Theimer, former chapter president, class instructor, and class training coordinator since 2008.
- Wanda Riley for her untiring work in managing both the hours reports and acting as keeper of the history scrapbook.
- Indian Trails Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists, which guided the newly formed RBMN chapter in the early days.
- Friends of Clebure State Park
- Acton Home School Group
- Fossil Rim
- Comanche Peak Power Plant
- Joe, Karen and Kelly Langdon for opening their ranch and pavilion for our celebration.
- Chris Inbody for his photographic documentation of so many MN activities

## **Awards and Honors**

- Honorary Membership bestowed on Kelly Langdon for his many years of support and work on MN projects
- 1000 Hour Pin to Dagmar Higgins
- 2014 Recertification Pins: Henry Bogusch, Bob Bullard. Gail Bullard, Tessa Chenoa-Ownbey, Bonnie Colgin, Ken Coy, Cathy Crocker, Jim Crocker, Bill Diehnelt, Linda Diehnelt, Carol Gisler. Catherine Hinds, Gary Hinds. Chris Inbody. Dayna Inbody. Joe Langdon, Karen Langdon. Carol Lee, Gregg Lee, Maryann Matthews, Gary Miller, Kathy Miller, Dave Moore, Wendy Moore, Chris Paulsen, Sara Paulsen. Wanda Riley. Billy Teels. Nancy Theimer. Robert Theimer, and Valerie Taber

## **Next Meeting: Cleburne State Park, Thursday, July 2, 6:00PM**

**Members bring a dish for potluck dinner. Visitors are encouraged to attend and have dinner on us!**

Our speaker will be Dr. Barron Rector. He is an AgriLife Extension Service range specialist in College Station and associate professor in the Texas A&M University ecosystem science and management department. He has served as a member of the Texas Master Naturalist statewide advisory committee and as a program advisor since the beginning of the formal program, which is sponsored by AgriLife and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

His topic will be "Invasive Plants and Their Impact".