

**Minutes: Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter**  
**June 9, 2016**  
**Cleburne State Park Cedar Lodge**

The evening began with a big meal of grilled hot dogs with all the fixings', beans, salads, Frito Pies and multiple enticing desserts. Thanks to Jim and Cathy Crocker and all those that made contributions.

The **program** followed the meal. Sam Kieschnick, Urban Wildlife Biologist TPWD, was introduced. His program emphasized the questions that a naturalist asks: "*When and where did we see what?*" Sam introduced iNaturalist as a means to network with like-minded individuals to answer these questions and to record this data.

**Business Meeting:**

Dayna began the meeting by introducing guests Zach Davis and his new intern Maci, Al and Dana Chase, Margie and Dwayne Calder. She next called Carol Lee up to award her 5000 Hours Certificate. In addition a letter from MN State Director Michelle Haggerty was read, recognizing Carol's accomplishment.

Minutes for the May 5 had been posted to the website. They were approved. Scott thanked Robert Theimer for performing that duty in Scott's absence at the last meeting.

Treasurer's Report by Jim Crocker: Starting balance = \$9506, and ending balance = \$9514.

Training Committee Report by Robert Theimer: the next session would provide topics covering soil and geology. He also reported that Prairielands Water Conservation District would have their demonstration trailer on the parking lot of the Acton Nature Center at 2 PM for education.

ANC: Dave Moore reporting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Bird Walk stated that 2 public visitors joined in. 31 species were seen, more than usual. These included a yellow billed cuckoo and a dickcissel. Also seen were turtles laying eggs and assorted rabbits. ... Dave also commented on the effects of the recent heavy rains. He said there was some trail damage and water had entered the bird blind to a level of 3-4 inches. He felt there was no significant damage ... He reminded us that a work day is necessary at ANC on the 15<sup>th</sup> prior to a wedding that is scheduled for 6/18. He also reported that "Attracting Birds and Butterflies" was presented to a local church youth group.

Newsletter: Dayna reminded us of the July deadline.

Friends of Cleburne State Park: FCSP will meet on 6/16 and the Park Store is coming along. Design has been completed and insurance is in place, so it will start soon ... ***Swoon to the Moon in June*** will take place June 18. Programs include touch tables, moon talks, and night sounds. Fort Worth astronomers group will be present. "Mothing in our PJ's," Robert added will be a learning station ... Kayak training will be July 9.

Home School Report: Jake Balmuth reported most popular event was seining at the Fall Creek Ranch with 15 people attending. Jake reminded us that he will be in Europe much of next year and a mentor will be sought for the home schoolers. A program he hopes to develop will be youth and birding.

Education Committee Report: Meetings will be suspended for summer and will begin again August 3.

State Liaison Valerie Taber, our chapter state representative, reported on the state representative meeting in which design of new certification pins was discussed. Suggestions were solicited. She also informed us of training opportunities in San Antonio for entomology in September.

Comanche Peak Nature Trail: Maryann Mathews reported that downed trees had been cleared by Gregg Lee ... Native Arts day is planned for Oct. 8, with Lance speaking again ... On Oct 14 the native Plants Society will conduct a program at the site ... On Oct 1 Billy Teels will do a walk through. Game cameras are still out there with some good pictures of animal activity ... Gregg Lee reminded us to use iNaturalist many flowers are unique to this area. Dayna said that we need foot traffic there and that the power plant has been very supportive.

Volunteer Services Committee Report by Maryann Mathews. She said that Alan Sarver has plans for a Nature Trail and Amphitheater for mine reclamation projects at the Unimin property. It includes an Eagle Scout project proposal.

Membership Committee Report Wanda Riley said all are doing well on the VMS and to "Keep going!"

Website Report: Dayna said iNaturalist will be an approved project with advanced training components.... the calendar is working well, and it is being used by media outlets.

Announcements: Dayna informed us that Bob Bullard had a stroke and that he and Gail are out of town for his rehabilitation treatment. Someone may be required to pick up their monarch project at Dinosaur Valley State Park ... Dayna also reminded us that the Shrike Survey at Fossil Rim has been recognized by C2S2 (Conservation Centers for Species Survival) in their formal reports with use of our Shrike Force logo.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Scott Taylor, Secretary