

Rio Brazos Master Naturalists Chapter Meeting

June 1, 2017

Camp El Tesoro

Dinner: Began at 6:00 PM

Program: Dr. Sonja L. Swiger, Veterinary/Medical Extension Entomologist, presented a program on the Zika virus. There are 85 species of mosquitoes in Texas. The life cycle of the mosquito was described with an array of visuals depicting the various stages. It takes 4-14 days to complete a life cycle. Females need the blood of hosts to assist in reproduction. The two species of mosquitoes that carry the Zika virus are the yellow fever mosquito and the Asian Tiger mosquito.

Zika was first identified in Uganda in 1947. The first known human outbreak was reported in 1952. Initially outbreaks occurred in Africa, Asia, and some Pacific islands. 95% of Zika cases are transmitted from mosquito to human. However this is the first such virus to be transmitted from human to human. 80% of those infected with the Zika virus do not initially have symptoms. When symptoms do appear, they are flu-like and may cause red eyes and a rash that lasts 2-7 days.

Zika can be transmitted from human to mosquito. If a female is infected during pregnancy, the birth defects are monumental including microcephaly, destruction and prevention of brain development, and tremendous negative medical impacts of child development.

The best prevention of the Zika virus is to disrupt the life cycle of the mosquito by removing food, shelter, and water. Master naturalists can help in three primary ways. Education of the public (materials are available), conduct community cleanups to destroy breeding sites, and help monitor mosquito presence with state surveillance.

Business Meeting

- Dayna awarded Catherine Huey her MN certification pin. Catherine was also recognized for completing 250+ volunteer hours.
- A large hand-painted thank you card was presented to Dayna to express our chapter's gratitude for her 2+ years serving as chapter president. The card was painted by Wendy Moore depicting memories and events over the last 2+ years and was signed by RBMN members.
- Madison McGlaherty was recognized for graduating high school. She will attend TCU.
- **May, 2017 minutes approved.**
- **Treasurer's Report** – submitted by Henry Bogusch. Beginning balance \$12,986. Total inflows \$144. Ending balance \$13,130.
- **Training** – Maryann Matthews reporting. There are 5 remaining classes for the trainees. The next session will be June 17. Chapter members were invited to attend training classes.
- **Outreach Committee** – Dave Moore reporting. Monthly bird walk will be at ANC and will be led by Dave Moore. There will be a hike for high risk children on June 12 at ANC.
- **Home school** – Jake Balmuth reporting. The last hike for the group was in May. Home school group is taking a break for the summer.

- **Young Birders** – Jake Balmuth reporting. Next birding class will be June 24 at the Hood County Library.
- **Education Committee** – Wendy Moore reporting. Work continues on the educational trunks. A presentation on using the trunks will be at the November chapter meeting. A plant people project will be held on July 18 at the Hood County Library.
- **State Update** – Valerie Tabor reporting. Sufficient funds have been raised for the TMN license plate. State agencies are working out details. With failure of passing HB#78, severe cuts in the budget will most likely occur.
- **Cleburne Botanical Garden** – Henry Bogusch reporting. Amanda Zumwalt has recently become the lead of the Cross Timbers Eco-region Project at Cleburne Botanical Garden (aka McGregor Park).
- **Cleburne State Park** – Diane Humphries reporting. The park store is successful. The **Take a Walk with a Homeless Dog** event will be June 3 at the park.
- **Burleson** – Maryann Matthews reporting. The coalition continues to work on trails.
- **DVSP** - Sara Paulsen reporting. **MLMP** continues monitoring on a weekly basis for monarch larvae, milkweed, and milkweed parasites.
- **FRWC** – Tessa Ownbey reporting. **FRWC** needs tour guide volunteers. Contact Tessa if interested.
- **El Tesoro Camp** – Andrea Roiz reporting. **El Tesoro Camp** is hosting 2 months of camps beginning the first week in June.
- **Unimin** – Alan Sarver reporting. Alan has led some nature hikes. Upcoming events include a turkey shoot and Weberlee events.
- **Newsletter** – Dayna Inbody reporting. The newsletter will probably be published in June.
- **ANC** – Dave Moore reporting. Recent projects at the ANC included repairs on farm house and bat boxes.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sara Paulsen, RBMN secretary