

Minutes: Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting March 5, 2015 Opal Durant Community Center, Acton, TX

Program

The Homeschool Students Joel & Anna Masiero and Jake & Eliza Balmuth attended the meeting. They displayed their artwork: water color renditions of butterflies on wood backing, cut into puzzle pieces. They had been assisted in their work by Dave and Wendy Moore. They also awarded stepping stones set with butterfly mosaics to Master Gardeners Ray & Jane McGowen and Nancy & Bob Walsh in appreciation for the Master Gardeners' donation of plants to the Butterfly Garden.

The program continued with presentation by Education Committee member Gail Bradshaw and consultant Teresa Taylor. Gail discussed the use of "Trunks" and prepared presentations as a means to standardize the materials used and to make volunteers jobs easier. Teresa Demonstrated one of the presentations that might be included in the "Insect Trunk", specifically an experiment to show how insects communicate by pheromones. She also explained that schools will be able to better utilize our efforts by the coordination of the presentations with the established curriculum requirements called Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Once a presentation is prepared and ready to be placed in a "trunk," Teresa and Gail will coordinate the prepared presentations with the TEKS.

Acton Elementary School has determined that field trips to the ANC will be a mandatory for some of their classes. Third grade is scheduled for April 28, and first grade is scheduled for May 4 and 5. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**

Later in the meeting, Mary Ann Matthews also spoke of the requirement for and display of permits for collection of specimens for the educational "Trunks." This is in regard to regulations and laws covering materials related to federal and state protected species, which could turn up in some of the trunks. Collectors – even casual ones - in the RBMN's may be listed as a sub-permittee to a main permit. Contact Mary Ann for the form to be added to the permit.

Business

Minutes for the February meeting were posted on the website and approved. Treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$9487.00. Linda Diehnelt reminded us that dues are requested. Per chapter guidelines, they must be paid by March 31.

Awards

Valerie Taber was awarded a 1000 hour pin.

Jake Balmuth, Tom Colgin and Scott Taylor were awarded their MN badges.

Committee Reports

Training: Robert Theimer said there are 13 students with 4 people finishing up their course. Because of scheduling problems, Monarch training and Stream Team training is being postponed. He also noted that future speakers will be Ricky Lennox and Barron Rector.

Outreach: Billy Teels reported that 1st Saturday Bird Walks will continue. Dinosaur Valley State Park Bird Walk will be April 3 and although it is on a Friday, the sign up is full.

12 people attended the Great Backyard Bird Count this year.

The Caddo Lake trip will be May 15-20 with star party provided by our chapter for the Caddo Lake MN chapter. **INFORM DAYNA INBODY OF YOUR INTENT TO ATTEND** the Caddo Lake trip as soon as possible.

Committee Reports (continued)

(Outreach-continued)

The RBMN chapter's 10 year anniversary is being planned for June 4.

The Langdon's' ranch has been proposed as a site for the celebration.

The committee is looking for stories, photos and other ideas for the celebration.

Contact Robert, Dayna or Wanda with contributions. Please identify photos.

Cleburne State Park: Jim and Cathy Crocker were not in attendance, but it was reported that Friends of Cleburne Sate Park is still in its early stages and the Dutch Oven Society will meet 3rd Saturday of the month through May. Working at trail maintenance starting at 9:00 AM, ending around noon gets you a free lunch from the Dutch Oven folks. "Lids off" at 12:30.

Homeschoolers: Malea Balmuth reported that numbers are reducing, now down to 3 students. There will be an event at Falls Creek on April 24 in which area home school groups are showing interest.

Fun Run: Karen Langdon reports the date is April 25, and there is some behind scenes preparations to take place that will make the event move more smoothly.

El Tesoro: Tanner Rhone was not in attendance, but events can be found by going to the link on the RBMN website.

Burleson: Mary Ann Matthews reported the dates for the Burleson Family Camp Out is April 25-26. **VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED.** Activities will include bird feeder construction and a scorpion walk at night. Go to the front page of the website and contact Mary Ann for more information.

A day camp will be held at the recreation center during spring break with several MN's taking part by directing activities.

Volunteer Services: Ken Coy said Bill Diehnelt has been having trouble getting work days called because of bad weather, but he thanked Bill for his part in drought recovery. Work will continue on the water feature. Much of the bird blind is complete.

Cactus needs to be "relocated" away from the butterfly garden and the bat houses where children, especially, run into them during the Monarch event. That will be one focus on the next work day, in addition to other ongoing chores. It was suggested that cactus may be put at the base of the perimeter brush piles to be located around the bird area.

Ken also noted that on June 27 a Ham Radio Operators Club will be at the ANC.

Notices:

- (1) Geo-caches are up and ready to go at the ANC.
- (2) Newsletter articles should be in to Billy Teels by May 20
- (3) Citizens Park Ranger Academy (CPRA) will begin in April. Training will be shared between Dinosaur Valley and Cleburne State Parks. Six or seven MN's have signed up.
- (4) Photo contest in April, sponsored by Cleburne Camera Club. Contact Henry Bogusch for information.
- (5) Scrap book contributions are requested. Contact Gail Bradshaw or Wanda Riley to arrange delivery and discuss any questions. Please identify pictures and clippings with as much information (who, what, when, where) as possible.