

**Rio Brazos Master Naturalists  
Monthly Meeting  
March 4, 2016  
Cleburne State Park Group Dining Hall**

The meeting was opened by President Dayna Inbody, who ceded the floor to Cathy Crocker. Cathy and Jim had directed traffic for parking for the new meeting site, and Cathy gave directions and the rules for use of the new meeting facility. Since we are given the hall free of charge, we are to leave it clean, the way we found it and gather trash into one receptacle in order to minimize the work of the maintenance crew. We are also to use the defined parking spaces. If parking places are not available, for overflow parking, one would need to turn around and parallel park on the side of the road heading out of the area for safety and visibility.

Cathy announced that CSP was named Region 5 Park of the Year. Thanks in part to the Master Naturalists' support and that of Friends of Cleburne State Park, it was determined that the combined volunteer hours amounted to the equivalent of 3 full time employees! **Dawn Yanez**, Assistant Superintendent of CSP was introduced and thanked for CSP's support of the RBMN's in acquiring the new meeting place to accommodate the club's growth.

New Badges were presented to Jake Clark and Diane Humphries.

PROGRAM: Valerie Taber

Valerie presented a report on the very soggy state MN meeting held in at the Marble Falls Resort on October 15, 2015. Although Hurricane Patricia laid 8" of rain on the meeting and several outdoor activities and field trips had to be cancelled, the 450 participants shared in a variety of seminars presented by experts in their respective fields, and discussions broadened into how topics may be expanded into teaching the public . There was a great amount of sharing among chapters regarding their "signature" highlighted events, and our event centered t-shirts were impetus for a lot of discussion. The RBMN's were recognized on their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The next state meeting will be October 21-23 at the LaTorretta Resort in Montgomery, TX.

The educational portion of Valerie's presentation centered on "Landscape Amnesia" – or as Valerie preferred to consider it – "Landscape Memory Dilution." As time passes, gradual changes occur in the landscape. The Population ages and moves, and memories of landscapes change. The example Valerie used was the changing face of Granbury, specifically how Granbury has changed with the construction of Lake Granbury. Construction began on the dam in 1966, and filling began in 1969. Yet many folks do not know of a time when Lake Granbury was not there. She also presented the more recent development of the large retail facilities along US Hwy 377 at FM 4 as current example of remembering what was compared to what is happening. Her point: I we don't remember what was here, how can we preserve, protect and share the landscape for future generations. What we don't make the effort to remember, we lose.

## BUSINESS MEETING:

New Meeting Locations: due to the very pleasant problem of a growing membership, we have outgrown our locations, so new locations have been secured by the board of directors. The new sites will be (Johnson County) the group dining hall in Cleburne State Park, (Somervell County) First Baptist Church, and (Hood County) Camp El Tesoro. Note about Camp El Tesoro: From general parking the suspension bridge must be crossed to access the meeting place. There is limited parking in front of the site for those unable to negotiate the bridge or who have to deliver materials (then park in usual spot to open those places up again). Addresses and maps to the new locations are listed on the website.

Minutes: February minutes were posted to website, approved and accepted

Treasurer's Report: After a \$700 deposit the balance is now \$9,513. **2016 Dues are due!**

Training: Robert Theimer reports that there are 25 attending the new classes. The 3rd session will be on March 12.

### Outreach:

ANC - Billy Teels reported the Great Backyard Bird Count, Feather Fest, and Bird Blind dedication were all a great success. 31 species were spotted in the GBBC. There were over 300 attendees at Feather Fest. The Hood County News gave an excellent write up, accompanied by several photos. There was excellent cooperation and integration of other groups into the Feather Fest (Dinosaur valley State Park, Fossil Rim wildlife Center, Native Plant Society and the Raptor group from Lucas), and plans are being considered to expand it next year.

### Cleburne State Park –

80 people attended the pier dedication including about half the Zimmerer family.

New cabins are coming available with 3 available by the end of March, \$60/night

Texans for State Parks will have a training Easter weekend at Lake Brownwood SP.

The main topic is how to develop a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. They will finish early since it is Easter weekend.

Many events and volunteer opportunities were presented by Cathy Crocker and Assistant Park Superintendent Dawn Yanez. Cathy will submit for posting to the RBMN webpage. Among the events 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month is trail clean up day. Once you get the required training on what to do and cut, you may come on your own and work on a trail assigned to you at the time you volunteer. Work time on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday is 9 AM – Noon. Dutch oven lunch on those days, “lids off” at noon.

Bioblitz will take place April 30. “I Naturalist” is used. Hikers will take pictures of various species of plants & critters in the park to either identify or submit for identification. Once there are 3 verified ID's then it is considered that these species can be found in the park for exploration and possible research.

Field trips on May 13 and 20 for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades numbering 100+ kids each date. Among activities planned: Leave No Trace, Angler Ed, Geo caching & Hiking, Archery, and Aquatic Education.

Robert Theimer announced Friends of CSP are working on a “Swoon to the Moon in June” on June 18. He solicited activities for the evening. Agenda is still pending.

July 6 the Friends of CSP and the YMCA will have a youth program including kayaking, hiking, fishing and geo caching.

Last weekend of October will have Halloween activities in various campsites.

Burleson Family Camp: takes place April 23. Bailey Lake, creek discovery, geo caching, possible prairie dog town visit, night sounds. Contact Maryann Mathews to volunteer.

ANC 5K Fun Run at Revolver Brewery: April 23. Contact Karen Langdon to volunteer

ANC: Trail maintenance notice will be sent after the Friends of the ANC board meeting next Wednesday, March 9.

Home Schoolers

Upcoming Events: Orienteering with Dave Moore at the ANC 3/5  
Permaculture project with Seth Hamby at Tarlton 3/25  
Habitat with Billy Teels on 4/8

Education Committee: Gail Bradshaw, Chairman

Upcoming Field Trips to the ANC. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL 4 DATES!

Contact Wendy Moore to sign up for the date(s) you care to come.

Members are asked to save clear 2 liter bottles & toilet paper rolls for a science based ecosystem demonstration & a craft project (pretend binoculars) respectively.

Field Trip Dates Volunteer duties include Docents to lead from one learning station to the next and activity leaders and helpers to direct learning station activities.

Tuesday, 4/12, 8:30 AM – Noon Acton Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Habitats

Friday, 4/22, 8:30 AM – 11:30 Mambrino Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Earth Day

Wednesday, 4/27, 9:30 – Noon Acton Elementary 1<sup>st</sup> Grade ½ class Habitats

Thursday, 4/28, 9:30 – Noon Acton Elementary 1<sup>st</sup> Grade ½ class Habitats

Activities have been planned for the students to cycle through a series of learning stations. We will use the Bird Blind as one station and focus on bird habitats, so the lessons will be easily adapted from one grade level to the other. If there is bad weather, we will do programming at the school using the City Critters curriculum and the Bird “trunk.” The goal is to “can” these programs so the field trips are already planned and can be conducted year after year without having to reinvent them.

Dinosaur Valley State Park’s Spring Wing Ding on March 12: It appears we have the minimum number of volunteers signed up, but there is always room for more help. Call or e-mail Dayna to sign up.

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center’s Shrike Survey: March 21, 23, 25, 28, 30 April 1, 4, 6, 8

Contact [Tessac@fossilrim.org](mailto:Tessac@fossilrim.org)

Meet at the overlook, and plan on it lasting from 9:00 to Noon. Get there a little early.

Permaculture Field Day: Seth Hamby, lead. Bring gloves and your lunch and water.

Check the website for a link to information.

Camp El Tesoro: K-5 students will be coming during Spring Break. Topic: “All About Nature” will include activities like Nature Detectives, Trees, Food Chains, and Ecosystems.

Membership Committee: Wanda Riley reports that everyone is doing well on hours reporting. New class members are advised and encouraged to log their hours manually on the “old” paper form until their VMS identities can be fully established.

Newsletter: Billy reminds us the deadline is 3/15, and he encourages articles and photos. Also requested article on the last Big Bend trip.

Website: The calendar is now being updated regularly, so entries should be submitted as soon as dates are confirmed. Members are encouraged to check regularly and often to find out about volunteer and training opportunities and dates to mark on your calendars.

Volunteer Services: Our partnership with the Native Plant Society will allow hours for collaboration in their projects. April 23, 10:00 AM – 3:00 Earth Day Celebration on the Glen Rose Square.

New class member Cynthia Ross is developing a clearing house for activities, which should make it easier for volunteers to decide where to share their talents.

Monarch Event: Yes it's not quite time, but mark your calendar for October 14-15, 2016.

Future events: Check the body of the minutes for some details under the different outreach/volunteer topics. **Check the RBMN website calendar for updates.**

➤ Next Meeting is Thursday, April 7, 2016 at the First Baptist Church in Glen Rose, Somervell County. Check the website for directions and a map.

3/7-11/16	Nature Day Camps (K-5)	Camp El Tesoro	
3/12	Spring Wing Ding	DVSP	7AM – 5 PM
3/15	Newsletter deadline for articles and photos		
3/19	Trail Maintenance	CSP	9AM - Noon
3/25	Permaculture Field Day	Tarlton State, Stephenville	9AM – 5 PM
3/21, 23, 25, 28, 30	Shrike Survey	Fossil Rim	9AM – 11:30
4/1, 4, 6, 8	Shrike Survey	Fossil Rim	9AM – 11:30
4/2	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday Bird Walk	ANC	7AM
4/6	Education Committee	Acton Library	6PM
4/7	RBMN monthly Meeting	Somervell County	6 PM
4/8	Habitat	Homeschoolers	
4/12	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip	ANC	8:30 – Noon
4/22	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Trip	ANC	8:30 – 11:30
4/23	Burleson Family Camp	Bailey Lake, Burleson	All Day
4/23	ANC Fun Run	Revolver Brewery, Acton	7:30 – 10:30
4/23	Earth Day (NPSOT)	Glen Rose Square	10:00-3:00
4/27	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Field Trip	ANC	8:30 - Noon
4/28	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Field Trip	ANC	8:30 - Noon
4/30	Biobliz	CSP	All Day
5/13	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip	CSP	
5/20	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip	CSP	
6/18	Swoon at the Moon in June	CSP	
7/6	YMCA Nature Day	CSP	
10/14-15	Monarch Event (schools)	ANC	8:30 - Noon
	Monarch Event (Public)	ANC	8:30 - Noon
10/29	Halloween at the Park	CSP	