

## **Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting**

**March 2, 2017**

**Camp El Tesoro**

**Dinner:** Began at 6:00 PM

**Guests/New Trainees:** Introduction and welcome

**Program:** Tammy Smith from HCCD #1 shared some history of ANC and the Fun Run held there every year. ANC was originally purchased for \$1. The Fun Run was inspired by a disabled friend of Tammy's 7 years ago. The first year, 100 runners participated and \$2736 was raised. Joe Langdon suggested that the event partner with Revolver Brewery. After that occurred, the event increased to 600 runners in 2016 and over \$10,700 was raised during the 2016 event. To date, \$54,601 has been raised. Mel Schrader, also of HCCD #1, stated that the funds raised at ANC are used to "make the dreams come true" of the RBMN. In other words, the chapter does so much to help ANC, the funds are primarily allocated for financing costs of programs and development of ANC.

Jerrod Whitney, a Johnson County Eagle Scout, presented his ES project to build an amphitheater at the Unimin scout site. The presentation was documented with a slide show and the construction of the project was narrated by Jerrod. The amphitheater can seat 230 and took 250 hours of volunteer labor to complete. Jerrod thanked Alan Sarver for all his help and support. The project was complete on October 25, 2016.

Alan Sarver spoke of Jerrod's future projects, specifically the Hornaday award. Assistance was requested by Alan to the members of the chapter to brainstorm ideas for activities that could be led for scouts at the Unimin camp site. Suggestions given included structure and function of ecosystems and seining for biodiversity. Alan answered several questions about the 40 acre tract currently being used by scouts for camping and other activities. Opportunities to help include a turkey shoot, leading nature walks, developing a conservation project, and a variety of other scout oriented activities. Tessa requested ideas from the chapter regarding use of the amphitheater.

### **Business:**

- February Minutes - submitted by Sara Paulsen, secretary. Minutes approved.
- Treasurer's Report – submitted by Henry Bogusch, treasurer. Beginning balance of \$9136.70. Total inflows \$2373.00. Total outflows \$831.58. Ending balance \$10,335.31.

## Committee Reports:

- Camp El Tesoro – Andrea Roiz reporting. There is a need for volunteers for El Tesoro family camps. A thorough background check is required to volunteer.
- Training Committee –Dayna Inbody reporting. There have been two training classes thus far this year. The next class is scheduled for March 11. Classes to be taught that day include ichthyology, herpetology, and streams.
- Outreach Committee – Billy Teels reporting. There will be a bird walk on March 4 at ANC. Billy emphasized the significance of the Great Backyard Bird Count including the tracking of migratory patterns. The spring newsletter is scheduled for completion in May. Articles were requested.
- Friends of CSP – Amanda Zumwalt reporting. The scheduled workday in March has been cancelled. No other updates.
- Unimin updates – Alan Sarver reporting. Members were invited to a fossil walk at Unimin on February 28, 2017. There will be another fossil walk offered again in the future.
- Homeschoolers - Madison McGlathery reporting. A hike held on February 17 included four families for a total of 15 participating. The next hike is scheduled for March 31 with Dave and Wendy Moore, at Fall Creek Ranch. There will be another hike in April site TBA.
- Burleson activities and projects update –The Burleson family campout will be April 22. Volunteers are needed. Contact Maryann Matthews. Also the Prairie Dog project has been approved.
- State Representative Updates – Valerie Taber reporting. There is a state representative webinar scheduled on March 3. Regarding the Texas Master Naturalists license plate, endowment fundraising of \$12,000 has been received thus far and they are working on developing a volunteer marketing team to carry that fundraising forward. TXMN license tag go fund me project must raise \$9,000 to meet the \$8,000 deposit for tag production by TXDOT to start. Additional \$1,000 goes towards go fund me fees. \$3,600 has been raised by the day of our meeting. All are invited to contribute. Deposit money will go in the endowment fund. If goal is not reached, all funds raised still will go towards endowment fund.

The 2017 state convention will be in Corpus Christi.

- Nature Run April 2017 – Karen Langdon reporting. A couple more volunteers are needed. Contact Karen if interested.

- Feather Fest March 2017 – Dave Moore reporting. Currently there are seven presenters. In preparation for the event, there will be a workday at ANC on March 11 at 9:00.
- MLMP program at DVSP April 22 – Sara Paulsen reporting. Event will include live examples of the Monarch life cycle and demonstrations on how data is collected for the Monarch Larvae Monitoring Project at DVSP.
- Moon Event at CSP May 12. 2017- Robert Theimer will be providing more information soon.
- Spring Wingding at DVSP – Dayna Inbody reporting. Chapter will host 3 booths at the event. Chapter booth, bird feeder activity booth, and MLMP booth. Volunteers are still being accepted.
- Education Committee report – Teresa Taylor reporting. A first grader fieldtrip is scheduled for April 28. The activities include a nature hike, habitat, and a “Don’t be Dinner” activity. Another first grade field trip is scheduled May 10 with the same curriculum. Signup sheets for volunteers to help were passed around.
- Cleburne Botanical Gardens – Henry Bogusch reporting. Master Naturalists are needed to help grow native plants and forbes in containers using greenhouses on site for the Cross Timbers Eco Region. A lead for this project is needed. Contact Henry if you are interested.
- Fossil Rim Wildlife Center – Tessa Ownbey reporting. Tessa recently attended a C2S2 (Conservation Centers for Species Survival) convention in Virginia. She presented the Fossil Rim Shrike survey program. A goal was set to form a 501©3 tri-national (Canada, USA, and Mexico) Shrike Force replicating our citizen science program. Hopefully all of our state chapters will participate. Head of the Canada team, Amy Chabbot, possibly may address the Master Naturalists at the state conference. Michele Haggerty needs to be contacted first.

C2S2 is putting together a portfolio of 8 songbirds to begin a North American Songbird Conservation program. More will be added later.

Tessa is taking over the native "winged things" conservation at Fossil Rim, that had been under Curt Decker. These include Golden-Cheeked Warbler, Black Capped Vireo surveys, Bluebird houses, bat houses, and a survey of where various native birds typically can be seen on FR property. She is going to add a habitat survey and this native bird survey into this year's Shrike survey for expedience. This will probably be an iNaturalist project.

- Membership Committee – Wanda Riley reporting. It is important to describe the actual volunteer service being performed when recording hours.

- Website Committee – Chris Inbody reporting. Chris commended the new training class on their correct use of the VMS system.

## **OTHER**

Robert and Nancy Theimer's farewell party will be at the Langdon ranch at 3:00, March 18. Karen Langdon requested that guests park on the opposite side of the creek. A card was passed around for chapter members to sign. Donations were accepted to defray the cost of the cake and gift. This is not a sponsored Master Naturalists event.

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Sara Paulsen, Secretary**