

## Rio Brazos Master Naturalists Chapter Meeting

May 4, 2017

First Baptist Church, Glen Rose

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

**Guests:** Introduction and welcome

Recertification awards were given to Carol and Gregg Lee by President Dayna Inbody

### Business Meeting

- April, 2017 minutes approved
- **Treasurer's report** – submitted by Henry Bogusch. Beginning balance \$13,178. Expenses \$191. Ending balance \$12,986.
- **Training** – Maryann Matthews reporting. Class members were introduced. Chapter members are invited to sit in on training classes. Next class will be Saturday, May 6 with Gary Hines and Henry Bogusch providing the training. MN manuals are available for \$37.
- **Outreach** – Billy Teels reporting. The next bird walk will be Saturday, May 6. The Golden-cheeked Warbler outing at DVSP was successful. GCWs were heard, seen, and photographed. Pictures can be seen on G+.
- **Home School Program** – Madison McGlaherty reporting. The recent home school hike was at Cleburne State Park and the next one will be at Mineral Wells State Park .
- **Young Birders Club** – Reported by Billy Teels. The club is led by Jake Balmuth. Seven young birders recently participated. Billy praised Jake for his skills as a birder. Binocular donations were requested for the club. Jake will do another program soon at the library.
- **Burleson** – Maryann Matthews reporting. The recent Burleson family campout had 100 participants and was a success. The first public tour of the Prairie Dog town was led primarily by local homeowners. A coalition is being formed to combine the Burleson trails. Developing interpretive signage and using Inaturalist are occurring.
- **Chism Trail** – Reported by Maryann Matthews. Grand opening for the trail was April 22.
- **Friends of Cleburne State Park** – Dayna Inbody reporting. The **Moon Event** will be on May 12 from 6-10:00. Tessa Ownbey will present a mothing program. Ranger Dawn will lead a nature hike and there will be both our chapter booth and Friends of CSP booth at the event. The Fort Worth Astronomy group will make a presentation and will have scopes available for viewing the night skies.

- **Wingding** – Dayna Inbody reporting. Event will be at DVSP on May 13 from 9-3:00. RBMN will host a MLMP booth and a birdfeeder craft for the public as well as our chapter booth.
- **Education Committee** – Wendy Moore reporting. The mammal, pollinators, and bird trunks are completed. A fossil trunk will be added.
- **ANC Fieldtrip** – Teresa Taylor reporting. 106 first graders from Acton Elementary participated in a field trip entitled “Have to Have a Habitat” on April 28. Nature “bingo” hikes and an insect game “Don’t Be Dinner” helped teach the first graders using fun and active learning. Appreciation was expressed to all who volunteered for the event. Valerie Taber and Teresa organized the field trip. A possible format whereby teachers and parents can facilitate future field trips is being considered.
- **MN State Report** – Valerie Taber reporting. The funding goal for the MN license plate has been reached. The plates should be available sometime next year.
- **FRWC** – Tessa Ownbey reporting. Tessa expressed thanks to chapter members who are helping with Badgifest at FRWC on Saturday, May 6. At recent C2S2 event, Tessa presented the Shrike Force project. This project is currently on hold. Private landowners have approached C2S2 expressing interest in shrikes.
- **ANC Workday** – Dave Moore reporting. The next workday will be May 27.
- **RBMN Website** – Dayna Inbody reminded members to contact Chris Inbody for website information, changes, and announcements.

## Program

“The Stories Rocks Can Tell – The Geology of Lost Maples State Natural Area” was presented by Melody Holm, a retired Professional Geologist of the U.S. Forest Service. Melody has worked in the field in several areas including Assistant Director for Geologic Resources, Hazards, and Surface Management – Minerals and Geology Management Washington Office (National Program located in Golden, CO). In addition, Melody is a member of the RBMN chapter. Melody became involved in the Lost Maples project after she had been requested to create a geologic report that would assist the acquisition of a “dark skies” permit for the area.

LMSNA is located in the Edwards Plateau. It has been set aside as a unique biological and scenic resource. Lost Maples opened to the public in 1979 and in 1980 it became a national landmark. It is not considered a recreation park. Golden-cheeked Warblers, Black Cap Vireo, Guadalupe Bass, and large toothed maples can be found within this natural area. A multitude of geologic features define the landscape including steep walled canyons, limestone, sinkholes, caves, and underground waters. In addition, valleys, terraces, cliffs, gravels, soils, springs and seeps, and a variety of minerals, rock types, and fossils contribute to the geologic makeup of LMSNA.

In closing, Melody described the formation of the Edwards Aquifer. She emphasized that some ecosystems, microclimates, and special habitats are dependent on ground water formation.

Minutes submitted by Sara Paulsen, Secretary RBMN