

**Rio Brazos Master Naturalists  
Monthly Meeting  
November 5, 2015  
Somervell County Training Center**

**Dinner** began at approximately 6:00 PM.

**Program**

Lee Burough of Dino-Bee Beekeeper Association delivered an informative, educational, and entertaining program on honeybees. The life cycle, habits and useful products were discussed. Although imported from Europe with the Pilgrims, their spread and impact on agriculture was noted. Some beekeeping techniques were also discussed.

**Business**

Announcement: Robert Theimer read a letter of thanks from the priest at Kenny Coy's church, saying the donation was greatly appreciated and would be going to the church's Land and Building Fund.

Minutes from the October meeting were abbreviated due to the meeting being a picnic/party in nature. They are posted to the website.

Treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$7680..

Training: Robert reported that the 2016 class schedule is prepared and that 3 individuals have already paid tuition.

Volunteer Management System (VMS) Wanda Riley gave a power point presentation on the operation of the VMS. Information and instruction handouts were distributed. Another presentation will come in December to help further, with distribution of personal passwords as well. *Special thanks to Wanda and Ken for their diligent efforts on our behalf.*

**Outreach:**

- > 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Bird Walk will be December 5, dawn (7:00)
- Comanche Peak Native Arts Event was held at Comanche Peak Nature Trail on October 10, 2015 from 9:00 AM to Noon With approximately 70 people in attendance, it was creative and fun. Lance Tahmahkena, grandson of Chief Quanah Parker, was an extraordinary guest speaker. Those who managed the event and the presenters agreed that more attendance could be accommodated for a future event. Suggestions for future event included inviting the public or scout troops, and possibly partnering with the Native Plant Society
- The Monarch Event on Friday, October 16 for Acton Elementary School 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and on Saturday, October 17 for the public was well attended by everyone but the Monarchs! The count was 826 people over the 2 days. There was active and excited participation by the Acton students. Via e-mail the teachers sent thanks, and several students commented on that they look forward to the event each year.
- ANC Development and Maintenance

- Water Feature is near completion. The Bird Blind construction is almost complete, only lacking interior work. However it is totally useable.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday workdays have been reinstated, weather permitting, with emphasis on completing all bird blind related projects, including the brush fence.
- Bird Blind work is targeted to be complete before Feb 6 in time for the Great Backyard Bird Count and RBMN's newest "event" **Feather Fest.**
- Camp El Tesoro needs volunteers for their Santa Day Breakfast and other activities. Contact Tanner Rhone .
- Cleburne State Park
  - Halloween in the park was big success. There was fishing for candy, face painting and other children's activities as they trick-or-treated through decorated campgrounds
  - Dutch Oven Society is back in business every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. Trail clean up at 9:00 AM followed by "lids off" at noon. Get 3 hours work in and get volunteer hours a nice lunch for your efforts! *Volunteers needed*
  - Robert informed us of the effectiveness of the Friends of Cleburne State Park - and other such "Friends" programs - as illustrated by their ability to rapidly turn a \$30,000 donation into a fishing pier which will be installed in December. Being a private entity allowed the process to bypass lengthy state regulated process.
- Star party is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 4 (Saturday, Dec.5 as a back-up date) Guest speaker Steve Tuttle begins the program at 7:00 PM at the Pavillion, followed by star gazing. Fort Worth Astronomy Club will be present, and we will be joined by the Cypress chapter of the MN's, who will stay for the bird walk on Saturday morning before heading home. Several scopes will be available. Volunteer sign up took place, t-shirts were ordered. Volunteers are needed for operating scopes, parking, shuttles, and general traffic direction.

Education Committee announced a new "EVENT" for the RBMN's and the ANC in conjunction with the Great Backyard Bird Count in February. It will be called "Feather Fest." Starting with the First Saturday bird walk, followed by various presentations and the dedication of the bird blind. In conjunction with the Feather Fest, volunteers will be needed, and the need to work on the Ornithology (Bird) Trunk has become more pronounced. To that end, we are asking members to assist with finding binoculars and possibly bird guide materials to add to the trunk to build our inventory for a birding event.

Members, please check the website. Look at the wish lists for the educational trunks. Assist by contributing materials needed to complete these collections to make consistent programming available for MN's to present to the community.

Newsletter for the winter is now accepting articles and photos. Please submit to Billy Teels. Billy expressed his appreciation for the stories and many photos being submitted.

Membership Committee Wanda and Ken have the RBMN's data entered into the Volunteer Management System (VMS). **Hours should be updated through November to Wanda for her to enter them into the system.** The system will be in place on December 15, at which time we will enter our hours directly. Wanda will then access the system to "approve" them. We are encouraged to access the state system to familiarize ourselves with the process by utilizing the tutorials.

Website Committee Dayna informed us that all updates and a VMS "cheat sheet" would be added to the website in the near future.

CHECK OUT THAT WEBSITE! Members are encouraged to check the website frequently for additional announcements and updates.

Upcoming Events:

1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday Bird Walk at ANC	November 7 at 7:00 A M
Big Bend Trip	Nov 8-15
RBMN Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting	Nov 30, 11:00 A M at ANC Farmhouse
Chapter Awards Program	December 3 at 6:00 P M
Cleburne State Park	Don't forget the "Ugly" Christmas Sweater Contest
Star Party	December 4 at 7:00 P M (Backup date Dec 5)
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday Bird Walk at ANC	December 5 at 7:00 A M
VMS Roll Out	Dec 15