

**Rio Brazos Master Naturalists
Monthly Meeting
September 3, 2015
Opal Durant Community Center, Acton**

Guests: Carol Kantz, Nadia, and Speaker Gary Carter

Program

Gary Carter spoke of the International Dark Sky Association and its mission of preserving the beauty of the dark sky environment and restoring our heritage of dark skies.

Business

Minutes were approved with Secretary Scott Taylor's offering many thanks to Robert Theimer for his taking the minutes in Scott's absence last month.

Treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$7944.32 after \$100 was allocated for donation in remembrance of the passing of Kenny Coy.

An announcement was made that the Coys had returned safely from the interment in Arkansas, and they expressed their gratitude for all the prayers and support they have received.

Training: Robert reports that there is one meeting left in the current training class, the topic being prairie grasses. Spring (March, 2016) will bring a new start of classes.

Outreach:

- > 1st Saturday Bird Walk will be Sept 5, dawn (7:00)
- Comanche Peak Native Arts Event will be held at Comanche Peak Nature Trail on October 10, 2015 from 9:00 AM to Noon. There will be a work day on Sept. 20 with concentration on the lower loop. The "I Naturalist" app and program can be used to help with identification of species on the trail. Contact Greg Lee for details of USE.
- The Monarch Event will be on Friday, October 16 for Acton Elementary School 2nd graders and on Saturday, October 17 for the public, Event times are 9:00 AM to Noon.
 - Some *volunteers are needed* at about 7:00 AM to assist in collecting Monarch specimens as they are resting, prior to their warming up and beginning flight.
 - Wendy Moore is asking for cardboard egg cartons for the art project associated with the event.
 - Sara Paulson took orders for t-shirts.
- ANC Development and Maintenance
 - Water Feature is near completion. Another water pump may need to be used.
 - The Bird Blind construction is almost complete, only lacking interior work. However it is totally useable.

- ANC Entry Gate will be repaired or rebuilt.
- Security system and cameras are now in place.
- Jim Crocker said that the chapter field is planned Sept 26-17, involving a visit to the state fish hatchery near Athens, Nature hike and botanical garden visit.
- Cleburne State Park
 - Sept 12 “Learn to Fish” Event, 9:00 AM – Noon *Volunteers are needed.*
 - Dutch Oven Society is back in business. Sept 19 is trail clean up at 9:00 AM followed by “lids off” at noon. *Volunteers are needed*
- Cleburne State Park (continued)
 - Sept 26 is Public Lands Day and trail clean up. *Volunteers are needed*
- Meridian State Park will be hosting a kayak event on Oct 3. *Volunteers are needed* to assist both on the water and on shore.
- Camp El Tesoro: although Tanner Rhone was unable to attend the meeting, it was reported that records were set during the summer. They were full all summer long with equestrian, canoe and kayak activities in the latter part of the summer once water had receded to a safe level.
 - October 24-25-26, 2015 will bring a Family Camp at El Tesoro. Art, Geo Caching, and nature hikes are some activities offered. *Volunteers are needed.*
- Palo Pinto Mountain State Park will host a star party either Oct 10 or 17, hosted by Fort Worth Astronomical Society.
- Home School report by Jake Balmuth cited 16 youth taking part in the seining event at Dinosaur Valley State Park, and there are 17 signed up to date for the Comanche Peak Native Arts event.
- Education Committee asks that members check the website, look at the wish lists for the educational trunk project, and assist by contributing materials needed to complete these collections to make consistent programming available for MN’s to present to the community. The committee has discussed making 2016 the year we implement a community birding event, much like the Monarch Event and the Star Party. 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.
- Newsletter’s deadline for submission of articles is Sept. 30.
- CHECK OUT THAT WEBSITE! Members are encouraged to check the website frequently for additional announcements and updates.
- Remember to turn in those hours.