

Minutes: Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter
September 1, 2016
Cleburne State Park Dining Hall

PROGRAM:

After a fine pot luck dinner and a spirited conversation, our own Gregg Lee was introduced as presenter for our program entitled "Opining on Opuntia." He told us that many called this plant the "Prickly Pear," but that name is an oversimplification. Five species can be found in our area, depending on your perspective it is a nuisance or a large part of habitat restoration. Further information can be obtained from EFLORA.com or the USDA.gov by doing an "Opuntia" search.

GUESTS included Park Ranger Dawn Yanez, who introduced us to the new Superintendent of Cleburne State Park, Ted Stevens. Ted welcomed us and said that he hoped to carry on a continued close relationship with the MN's. Dawn gave an update of CSP events:

September workday would be the 3rd Saturday, 9/12, followed by Dutch Oven Society luncheon. She said we were also welcome to come out on our own after a brief training session.

Sept 17- plans to rebuild White Tail Hollow trail because of a large fallen tree. Bring hand tools & gloves.

Sept 24 – Public Lands Day. Volunteer grants have been given to build 36 fish habitats from PVC piping and to distribute them throughout the lake. Workday will begin 9:00 AM and continue for 6 hours. Bring lunch. Stay the whole time or come and spend as much time as you can.

October 29 – "Trunk or Treat in the Park" will take place again this year from 5:30-8:00 PM. Robert will present "Night Sounds," and the touch table will be provided.

BUSINESS MEETING began after Dawn's update.

MINUTES by Scott Taylor from the previous meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Jim Crocker was given. Starting balance was \$9600, and ending balance was \$8857.

Valerie Taber was awarded \$75 towards expenses at state meeting in her position as State Representative for our chapter. It was mentioned that the new training book has a note of appreciation for Valerie's editorial assistance.

TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT by Robert Theimer

Thursday, Sept 22 at 3:00PM will be the last training day at Rancho Helios Brazos. Rhett Johnson will give a guided tour of this ongoing reclamation project. Directions to the site can be obtained from the calendar at the Chapter Website.

The new training book is available for \$36.25. New sections include "Water Rights, Laws, and Land Stewardship. Payment should be given to Jim Crocker.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

1st Saturday Bird Walk will be at the ANC at 7:00 AM on Sept 3.

Requests are being made for articles and photos for the Newsletter.

Gail Bradshaw asked for photos for the Scrapbook.

FRIENDS OF CLEBURNE STATE PARK report was given by Jim Crocker. He said the park store is almost ready. "One piece of paper needs to be signed." The inventory is here. He also said that Henry Bogusch has recently joined the group.

HOMESCHOOLERS report was given by Dayna Inbody.

The Balmuths are still out of the country. The kids are in school and everyone is doing well.

The August program, led by Valerie Taber, entitled "Wildscapes and Insect Color Codes," was designed for 7 - 17 year-old. Twenty students attended.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT was given by Gail Bradshaw.

Gail reported a quiet summer, but teachers are now beginning to contact us. One wants advice on butterfly gardens at her school.

A private school teacher wants to come to the ANC with her class. It was suggested that possible a star party or bingo Hike could be done.

October 8: Comanche Peak Native Arts Day is approaching.

October 14 and 15: Monarch Event with schools on Friday and Public on Saturday. Both are from 9:00 AM - Noon. Dayna said she would e-mail for volunteers again.

UNIMIN: Alan Sarver reporting. On September 24, the (Boy Scout) Webeloree will be held. There will be 1:00 - 4:30 time commitments on 3 topics: "Earth & Rocks," "Into the Wilds," and "Into the Woods"

EVENT T-SHIRTS: Sara Paulsen said that she has Star Party shirts available and that the Monarch shirts will be the same, but she will order more if anyone wants them.

STAR PARTY: Chris said that the Star Party would be September 10 from 8:00 – 11:00 PM, but set up would begin approximately 3:00PM. Steve Tuttle is expected to speak again, and clear skies are expected.

COMANCHE PEAK NATIVE ARTS DAY: Maryann Mathews reporting. Event will take place October 8 from 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM. *VOLUNTEERS are needed.* Maryann will send out a sign-up sheet via E-Mail. A workday is planned for September 25 from 8:00 to 10:00 AM to prepare the site.

BURLESON: Maryann and Dagmar announced that Russell Farms could use your help to build a native trail and that Burleson wants help in returning the area around their library to a more natural state. Volunteers can work in Burleson from 9 AM – 5 PM during the week or 9 AM – 2 PM Saturdays.

“B” EVENT IN GLEN ROSE: This event celebrates Bats, Bees, Birds and Butterflies. The sight is Barnard’s Mill Art Museum in Glen Rose, 3 blocks south of the square. Booth volunteers are needed. October 1 from 9 AM – 3 PM

Dayna reminded us the Bullards’ MONARCH PROJECTS AT DVSP still need volunteers for them to continue, still waiting on communication from DVSP on whether they want or need RBMN to help with the project moving forward.

STATE ANNUAL MEETING: Alan Sarver was agreed to be the recipient of the state sponsored scholarship to cover his attendance. All are encouraged to attend. Valerie Taber will also be attending as our representative, and she said that registration was closing at the end of the month.

ANC WORKDAY is scheduled for Wednesday, 9/14

NEW OFFICER COMMITTEE: Dave Moore reporting. Committee is currently working to establish a slate of nominees for the new executive board term. Suggestions should be forwarded to Dave Moore.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: No new reports to be given.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE: Reiteration that calendar is up and working well.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Taylor, Secretary

