

Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting

Sept 5, 2013 – Acton Library

Program: Audubon's Master Birder Certification given by Diane and Walt Berk.

Recognition of Guests: Guests were recognized.

Old Business: The minutes from August were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Training Committee Report: Robert Theimer

- Training classes began May 25, next are Sept. 14, 21 & 28. They are going well. A couple of students dropped out, class gained Malea, Jake and Eliza Balmuth.
- The State Meeting is Oct 25-27 in New Braunfels. It is the 14th annual meeting. Quite a few chapter members are going this year. Our chapter is a \$250 silver sponsor. Robert Theimer will be receiving his 2,500 hour recognition.

Outreach Committee Report: Billy Teels.

- There will be the first Saturday bird walk at ANC on Sept. 7, at 7:00am.
- On Sept. 7th, there will be a star party at ANC at 7:30pm. The cloudy/rain date is Sept. 13th. Gary Hinds said there will be 12-15 telescopes this year. Dr. Tuttle will do a presentation on exoplanets. There will be a 32 inch robotic telescope with Dr. Hibbs remotely controlling the telescope at Tarleton. The banners are up in Acton and a couple of billboards are also up.
- There will be a trip to Big Bend National Park on Nov. 3-10.
- ANC Educational Projects. Karen Langdon reported a group went to Cleburne State Park to look at signage and to the Ft. Worth Nature Center to look at their water feature. They think those examples are what would be good to install at the ANC. Cathy Crocker will put together a slide presentation to be presented to the Acton Development District Board.
- Burleson. Maryann Matthews said there will be no family campout this year. Instead there will be a Fishing Adventure. There will be a well stocked pond and

free fishing poles. The event will be for 5-12 year olds. There will also be a 10:00am nature hike Saturday Sept. 7th.

Volunteer Committee Report: Ken Coy was not present.

- There will be a work day at ANC at 8:00am on Sept. 21.
- El Tesoro needs help in October on the same weekend as the Monarch Butterfly tagging. They also want to do some adult education this fall and will work around available skill sets.
- Fossil Rim. Tessa Owenby has a project at the Wolf Ridge Camp for when it is cooler. They will be working on a Monarch Way Station, a pollinator garden, a keyhole garden, composting and planting more native plants.
- Acton Middle School. Dave Moore reported that the science teacher Scott Carpenter and the GISD have received three grants and are building an outdoor learning center. Dave will be in contact to get more details.
- The Comanche Peak 2nd annual cleanup day is Oct. 19 at 8:00am. Bring tools.

Membership: Wanda Riley

- If you have been short changed on your travel time to and from the meetings, email Wanda.

Newsletter: Billy Teels said the newsletter will be coming out by the end of September.

Website: Jim Crocker. Jim suggested that on the front page of the website he could put a notice that if any group was looking for speakers they could check with the Speakers Bureau section on the web site. So far he has not had any response but will keep trying.

The next meeting will be at the Langdon ranch on October 3.