

Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting

August 3, 2017

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center

Dinner: Began at approximately 6:00

DVSP - Nicole Gilbert, Assistant Superintendent of DVSP, presented some opportunities in which RBMN can help serve the park.

- **DVSP** wants to establish a “friends group” and invited members to attend the initial public meeting on **August 17 at 6:30**. The meeting will be held at the Glen Rose Citizens Center, 209 Barnard Street, in Glen Rose. It is their hope RBMN members will consider helping them organize this group. Email Nicole.gilbert@tpwd.texas.gov for more information.
- An **Archery Expo** will be hosted by DVSP on **September 23** and volunteers are needed. This is a fund raiser for 4H and will highlight various archery activities both educational and recreational. They are expecting 600 participants. Email Nicole.gilbert@tpwd.texas.gov for more information.
- **DVSP** is requesting assistance with Paluxy River clean up within the park. Upcoming dates are **August 19, September 16, October 21, and November 18**. To sign up you must go to <https://tpwd.samaritan.com> and search for DINOSAUR VALLEY STATE PARK.
- **DVSP** is also looking for help cleaning the muck out of dinosaur tracks on the following dates: **August 12th, Sept 9th, Oct 14th, Nov 11th, and Dec 9th**. Sign up at <https://tpwd.samaritan.com> and search for DINOSAUR VALLEY STATE PARK.
- **DVSP** is requesting assistance with trail maintenance within the park. Upcoming dates are **August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4, and December 2**. <https://tpwd.samaritan.com> and search for DINOSAUR VALLEY STATE PARK.

Program: Tessa Ownbey introduced guest speaker Zach Davis who is the County Extension Agent for Somervell County. Zach presented a program entitled White-tail Deer in Cross Timbers. White-tail deer are the #1 big game in Texas and the largest herd of white-tail deer in the USA are within the Texas borders. 16 million tons of venison can be produced each year. Healthy deer herds have several common attributes including big antlers, and good body condition. Productive does often having twins after the first birth. A white-tail deer can live its entire life in one square mile so it is essential to provide good habitat. Zach emphasized the importance of conducting deer census and discussed three primary methods collecting data: Hahn, spotlight, and mobile line. Other options include casual observations, watch vegetation, and check harvest records. A wildlife biologist is available if needed and can be contacted through the County Extension Agent. Wildlife exemption protocol was briefly discussed and members Tessa Ownbey and Gregg Lee shared their experiences obtaining the exemption. A prior agriculture exemption is helpful and minimum acreage is 14-20 acres.

Introduction of guests: Gary welcomed Nancy Haubert and Cynthia Walker who are trainees in the RBMN program, and his mother-in-law Mary Jane Moody (Gramma). He also praised the current training class and shared a photo of some plant ID stone markers for the ANC butterfly garden which were completed last weekend as a class project. An excellent teamwork effort by the new training class!

Special Announcements:

- Joretta Haas was recognized and awarded her membership and recertification pins. Joretta lives in Whitney and participates in many of our outreach events. Congratulations and welcome Joretta!
- Gary thanked Cathy Crocker for setting up a private Facebook page for our chapter. It can be accessed on Facebook as Rio Brazos Naturalists Group. It is a private group only accessible to members of our chapter.
- Jan Bussey's Celebration of Life event will be on August 27 at High Hope Ranch. A map to the ranch and event times will be published later.

Business:

- **July Minutes** – due to some minor errors in the originally posted July minutes, a revised edition was created. The revised minutes were approved.
- **Treasurer's report** – submitted by Henry Bogusch. There have been no transactions for the month of July. The current balance is \$12,951.

Committee reports:

- **Training** – Maryann Matthews reporting.
 - Eleven trainees are currently enrolled in the RBMN trainee program. Two trainees have dropped out due to health issues but wish to complete their training next year.
 - Next year's plans include holding classes at project locations and creating a mentorship program with at least one mentor per county.
 - The next scheduled session will be at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center on **August 19** followed by the final session on **September 21** at Rancho Helios Brazos.
- **Outreach** – Billy Teels reporting.
 - Monthly bird walk at **ANC** will be Saturday, **Aug 5, 7am**. Jake Balmuth will lead the bird walk this month.
 - A hike for advanced home school students will occur at Mineral Wells State Park on Monday August 7. Participants are to meet at the front gate at 7:00 AM. Chapter members were invited to participate.
- **Education** – Wendy Moore reporting.
 - Madison McGlatherty, Dayna Inbody, Bonnie Colgin, Sue Wallace, and Wanda Riley participated in a "plant people" activity for the public at Hood County Library on July 18. It was a popular event and they want us to return in the future so save your cans!
 - Valerie Taber has requested pictures of native Texas pollinators for the pollinator trunk. She will need your permission to publish the pictures

for use in the education program. Contact Valerie at alamodragonfly@yahoo.com.

- Dayna reported Baccus Elementary School has requested RBMN provide an activity for first graders on November 2 at the school. It would consist of 4-6 stations and focus on Native American uses of plants, etc. Teressa and Valerie have the lead.
- **Partners:**
 - **Comanche Peak** – Maryann Matthews reporting. **Comanche Peak Native Arts Day** will be on **October 7** at the Comanche Peak Nature Trail and CPNPP Auditorium. Charlotte Whitney, a Native Choctaw, will be the featured speaker. Members were requested to sign up to help with stations at the event. A workday is scheduled for **September 23** from 8-11:00 at Comanche Peak.
 - **State report** – Gary Hinds reported registration for state conference is now open. Valerie shared that there are 25 pages of selections for the event. Gregg Lee stressed how important it is to sign up early to get into the classes you want. Tessa Ownbey will be presenting the Shrike force material on Saturday morning.
 - **BRIT** – Gary Hinds reporting. BRIT is currently digitizing their Texas collection and filers and other herbarium volunteers are needed. There are several advance training opportunities offered on their website under the Events tab. Tours are given on most Thursdays at 1:30 but check the online schedule because there are exceptions. There is also a first Saturday of the month open house so if you have not been, go visit this amazing facility.
 - **City of Cleburne** – nothing to report at this time.
 - **City of Burleson** – Maryann Matthews reporting. The coalition met mid July. They will be partnering with an elementary school and making signs. “Keeper of the Beautiful” was mentioned.
 - **Cleburne SP** – nothing to report at this time.
 - **Fossil Rim** – Tessa Ownbey reporting. Tour guides are needed. There is a part-time job opening for a volunteer coordinator.
 - **DVSP** – Dayna Inbody reporting. RBMN has been invited to set up an educational booth at the upcoming Archery Expo. Information on tracks

was discussed as a possibility. Dayna agreed to take the lead on this event.

- **El Tesoro** – A grief counseling event is being held at camp this week.
- **Unimin** – Alan Sarver reporting. There will be a fossil hunt on August 12 from 7-10:00am. Melody Holm will assist in identifying fossils. Participants must wear closed toed shoes.

- **Newsletter** – Billy Teels reporting. Discussion regarding the number of times per year the newsletter was published should be decreased to twice annually rather than quarterly. The chapter voted and the proposal for twice a year publishing passed. Deadlines for future articles are the end of December and mid June. Gary Hinds stated the RBMN newsletter is “Best in the state” and will be entered at the state conference in October.
- **Website** – Dayna Inbody reporting. Webmaster Chris Inbody continues to publish updated information on the calendar, links to sponsors, and fliers.
- **Volunteer Services** – Dave Moore reporting. Although there are no work activities at ANC now, plans for future projects will be determined later.
- **Membership** – Dayna Inbody reporting. There is no news to report now.
- **Open Forum:** Teresa Taylor requested presentations for the trunks be more “user friendly” whereby various users will be successful at implementing the “lesson plans”. There is a standard lesson plan template which should be followed when developing curriculum. The November meeting will showcase examples of how the education trunks can be used.

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sara Paulsen, RBMN secretary