

## **Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting**

**July 6, 2017**

**Cleburne State Park**

**Special Announcements:** A farewell to Jan Bussey was presented accompanied by a slideshow of photos of Jan and friends. Jan was a founding member of RBMN. For many years, Jan served as the primary contact between the chapter and Fossil Rim Wildlife Center providing training on Volunteers as Teachers. She will be greatly missed.

**Guests/New members:** Billy Teels introduced his daughter and grandchildren. Visitors Walt and Marge Helgesen and new member Lori Magers were introduced and welcomed.

**Dinner:** Began after the tribute to Jan and welcomes. Time was approximately 6:10.

**Program:** Billy Teels presented a program sharing his recent visit to the Amazon. Many photos accompanied Billy's presentation among which were birds, fish, mammals, insects, and reptiles of the region, lodging and outings, local destinations and native residents, and other adventures in which he and his wife Phyllis participated.

After outlining the logistics of his journey and some history of the region, Billy shared some interesting facts. The Amazon is about the size of the USA and the Amazon River is the largest river in the world. There are over 1500 species of birds, 750 species of trees, and 5600 species of fish. Only 3-4% of sunlight reaches the rainforest floor. 20% of the world's oxygen is produced in the rainforest of the Amazon.

Rainfall totals are 80-120 inches annually. Billy's narrative contained many more facts, comparisons, descriptions, and personal experiences regarding his trip.

### **Business:**

- **June 2017 minutes approved.**
- **Treasurer's report** – submitted by Henry Bogusch. Beginning balance \$13,130. Total inflows \$204. Total outflows \$382. Ending balance \$13,192.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Training** – Dayna Inbody reporting. Next class training is scheduled for July 8 at the Somervell Training Center. The second portion of the training will be at DVSP including seining of the Paluxy River.
- **Outreach** - Billy Teels reporting. First Saturday bird walk will be at ANC at dawn on July 8<sup>th</sup>. June bird walk was rained out.
- **Home School Program** – Dayna Inbody reporting. The home school program is on hold for the summer.
- **Young Birders Club** – Dayna Inbody reporting. Recent event at ANC went well.
- **Education** – Dayna Inbody reporting. The committee will not be meeting in July. In August, work will continue on the pollinator, mammals, and birding trunks.
- **Partners:**
  - \* **City of Cleburne** – Henry Bogusch reporting. Nothing

to report at this time.

- \* **City of Burleson** – Dagmar Higgins reporting. A meeting is scheduled for July 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss signage.
- \* **Friends of Cleburne State Park** – Jim Crocker reporting. 100 people attended the **Take a Walk With a Homeless Dog Event** and several dogs were adopted. There will be a kayaking event on July 15<sup>th</sup> from 10-2:00. Participants are to meet at the boat ramp.
- \* **Fossil Rim** – Tessa Ownbey reporting. New roads are under construction. Volunteer tour guides are needed. Fossil Rim will be partnering with DVSP.
- \* **DVSP** – Dayna Inbody reporting. DVSP is wanting to form a **Friends of DVSP** group. A meeting place will be set up in August. Future plans include RBMN becoming more involved with DVSP.
- \* **El Tesoro** – no report available.
- \* **Unimin** – Alan Sarver reporting. Troop 50 had a camp in June. They worked to remove an invasive plant. Robert Theimer gave some items to Alan to donate to the training class. There will be a **fossil dig** on August 12 from 7-10:00 AM. Melody Holm will be present to assist with identification of fossils.
- **Newsletter** – Billy Teels reporting. The newsletter will be available soon.

- **Website** – Chris Inbody reporting. There is nothing to report at this time.
- **ANC** – Waiting on cooler weather at this time before commencing with work days.
- **Membership** – Wanda Riley reporting. Hours have been approved.
- **State report** – Gary Hinds reporting. The state convention will officially start taking reservations on August 1. The convention will be held October 23, 24, and 25.
- **Open Forum/Announcements:**
  - \* **Star Party** – November 25
  - \* **Monarch event** – November 27-28
  - \* **Native Arts Day** – October 7
  - \* **August meeting will be at Fossil Rim**

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Sara Paulsen, RBMN secretary**