

# Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting

Nov. 6, 2014 – Somervell Training Center

**Program:** Robert Theimer gave a program on the State Convention Meeting.

**Guests:** Bruce Bradshaw and Karen Siddall

## Old Business:

- There were no minutes because the October meeting was a picnic at the Langdon's.
- Dave Moore read the Treasurer's report and it was accepted.

## Training Committee Report:

- Robert Theimer said there will be a make-up class in December or January.

## New Business:

- The nominating committee has a full slate for the December elections. They are Dana Inbody for president, Robert Theimer for vice president, Scott Taylor for secretary and Linda Diehnelt for treasurer.

## Outreach Committee Report:

- There were 9 or 10 people at the last bird walk with a new couple attending.
- Gary Hinds reported that there were 362 people attending the Monarch Event. There were 170 schoolchildren on Friday. There were 50 monarchs tagged on Friday, 30 on Saturday, 30 on Sunday and 30 since then. There are still over 100 living larvae. Dana Inbody said that Tanner Rhone from El Tesoro brought kids to help and that there were lots of volunteers.
- Tanner Rhone from El Tesoro said they loved coming out to help at the Monarch Event. He said they had fall camping on October 17, 18 and 19 with about 100 families. The dutch oven class led by Dave Moore maxed out. They received lots of great feedback and thanked everyone for their help. They are looking for help every weekend to plant 1000 daffodil bulbs. On November 21, they have the Cornerstone Academy coming out for the morning ending with their feast at noon. They are looking for help with nature walks, archery and arts and crafts. There will be about 200 people pre K thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade. On November 22<sup>nd</sup> they have KEEN coming from 9-4 with 50-60 kids and are looking for similar help as their outdoor education staff is now gone. On Dec. 6th they have their breakfast with Santa and need similar help with that.
- Henry Bogusch said the projects with the City of Cleburne are coming along well. They are developing an eco-region at McGregor Park. Students are researching plants and ordering seed. The site has been mowed, raked and plastic put over it to kill the forbs. The project will end in November.

- Miss Davis, from Mambrino Elementary School who attended the Monarch Event, asked for help with the 1<sup>st</sup> grade with Native American studies. Gail Bradshaw, Valerie Taber and Linda Diehnelt met with the class November 15<sup>th</sup> for part of the day. They were able to set up ahead and then bring the students in. Valerie put sound effects on her cell phone to guess what animals make those sounds. She had yucca root soap which the children said “stunk”. Gail had arrowheads and a tracking sandbox, scat samples and a trifold display. Miss Davis would like to do this again with different areas of study and become a self-sustaining outreach program.
- Malea Balmuth has suggested an education committee be formed to help organize the expanding role the chapter is playing with the public schools. An exploratory committee was formed and decided there are four key areas to cover with a lead person on each area. They are Malea for homeschools, Dayna Inbody for special events, Gail Bradshaw for public schools and Dave Moore for at risk students. They are looking for a chairman and will meet Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 at the Acton Library.
- Tessa Chenoa-Owenby said that at Meridian State Park they have started on a herbarium project. The park is offering lots of freedom to develop new programs. Their theme for the year is water. Tessa wants to do trail work.

#### **Volunteer Services Report:**

- There are no work days planned. Bill Diehnelt said that on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 3 homeschoolers came to help as part of their theme for fall of giving back to the Nature Center. Jake Balmuth learned to drive the tractor and they worked on the bird blind. The students brought in tractor loads of dirt to build the berm around the water feature, put plastic down and cleaned it off before placing rocks on the plastic. Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> they cleared brush and used up the available rocks. Still about half the berm to finish. Scott Taylor has been digging the ditch for electrical and water lines. Pump has been ordered.

#### **Newsletter:**

- Billy Teels said the newsletter is on line now.

#### **Membership:**

- Robert Theimer said Michelle Haggerty has decided that in the future we will have an on-line VMS system of reporting hours for all Master Naturalists.

The next meeting will be held at Cleburne State Park on December 4th for the Christmas party.