

# Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting

Sept. 4, 2014 – Opal Durant Library

**Program:** Dr. Sonja Swiger, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, talked about ants.

**Guest:** Tanner Rhone from El Tesoro

## Old Business:

- The minutes from August were approved.
- The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

## Training Committee Report:

- Robert Theimer said the final class will be held on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 and any other members can attend. It is the class on prairies and grasses given at Rancho Helios Brazos given by Rhett Johnson.

## Outreach Committee Report: Billy Teels.

- There will be a First Saturday Bird Walk at 6:30 Sept.6th at the ANC.
- The home schoolers are currently putting together their classes. This year the older students will be leaders for the new younger students. The group will continue to work with the public school children.
- Mel Schrader had a meeting with the principal for guidelines on public school field trips to the ANC and Malea suggested we put together a group to figure out how to coordinate and educate the students. There will be 91 2<sup>nd</sup> graders for the Monarch event. In April there will be 116 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and 140 1<sup>st</sup> graders at an unspecified date. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> graders will need to be split into smaller groups.
- A new project with the City of Cleburne has been approved and will be recorded as "McGregor Park". Henry Bogusch will be the contact with Grace Clanton who is looking to develop eco regions of Texas and is looking for consulting help. They will be developing a local leadership corps of students who research and design areas, learn basic landscaping, soil profile of each region and learn about the grasses and plants with the students taking the lead.
- The Native Plant Society of Texas is meeting at Barnard's Mill on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> and has invited us to have our booth there. Contact Dave Moore if interested.
- Dayna Inbody said the Monarch event is scheduled for Oct 10-11 from 9-12:00 with the 91 2<sup>nd</sup> graders coming on the 10<sup>th</sup>. A signup sheet for volunteers and for ordering event t-shirts was passed around. Another teacher with 140 kindergarteners is in talks with Gary Hinds about the Monarch event but he is considering bringing the program to them instead. There will be many volunteer opportunities available including parking, working with Gary on the flight path

and migration, with Sara Paulsen on the lifecycle and with Valerie Tabor on making puddlers to attract butterflies. The 11<sup>th</sup> is open to the public.

- Tanner Rhone from El Tesoro said they are having an event October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> with adults only on the 17<sup>th</sup>. They will be needing lots of help and individuals can present their own ideas for classes as well as using existing ideas. He said the de la Vida volunteers will also be there. He passed around a signup sheet and a list of the many activities and they can use as many people to help as we can provide.

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

- Bill Diehnelt postponed the Sept 6<sup>th</sup> workday on the water feature until it cools off.

#### **Newsletter:**

- Billy Teels said the next newsletter will be coming out at the end of September.

#### **Website:**

- Chris Inbody said there is just routine maintenance.

#### **Notices:**

- Big Bend trip: the trip is planned for Nov 9-16. There is advanced training set up for 2 days of classes on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't paid for the advanced training, payment is needed now.
- The State Convention registration is now open.
- New Officer Elections will be held in December. If you would like to volunteer or nominate someone, send your suggestions to Bill Diehnelt.
- This year, the December meeting will be held at Cleburne State Park at the Cedar Lodge.
- The January meeting is moved to January 8<sup>th</sup> to avoid conflict with the holiday and will be in Cleburne.
- Malea has a reservation that someone can take over in Big Bend at the Chisos Lodge during the November trip.

The next meeting will be held at the Langdon's ranch.