

# Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting

## Minutes

April 7, 2011

### **Program:**

Program: Dave Moore presented a revealing power point on the workings of nuclear reactors, the history behind the past nuclear disasters, fusion process, our Comanche Peak design, and the most recent developments in Japan. Dave then opened the floor to Q & A from the members.

### **Meeting called to order.**

### **Minutes from March approved**

### ***Old Business:***

Minutes Adopted as presented

**Training Report:** Robert Theimer reports that we have 8 confirmed for the spring 2011 training. Robert introduced the Averyts. Parents are members of the Cross Timbers chapter and will audit the training class while Ashley and Jaime attend to get their MN certifications. We will have 2 members of other chapters who will be auditing. We should have about 14 in attendance. All who wish to attend are more than welcome. Advanced Stream Team training will be held at El Tesoro in the main lodge on 5/7. Contact Gary if you have any questions. On 7/1/2011 there will be an invasive workshop at BRIT. Information will be on our website. There will be a possibility of an urban wildlife training class this year.

**Website Update:** Jim Crocker reports we will have a couple of new additions to the regular submissions. You will now see the minutes as well as the chapter by laws and operating handbook. The ANC area had a new slide show of aerial photography by Wendy and Dave Moore. Please send all corrections and questions about the website or mailing list site to Jim Crocker.

**Newsletter:** March newsletter has been published. Billy ask that everyone submit articles and pictures so there is more to read about than the ANC. Next newsletter will in August.

**First Saturday Bird Walk:** Billy Teels reported 26 different species were spotted at the ANC including the black throated green warbler and black and white warbler, hermit thrush.

**Nature Walk:** Billy Teels reports the walk will be "wildflowers" this Saturday beginning at 9am.

**ANC Workday:** Kenneth Coy reports there is lots of work that can be done in preparation for the "Fun Run" on June 11th, and all available volunteer possibilities are listed on the webpage. They area

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requesting 6 volunteers on the day of the event. The bike trail needs to be pruned and made ready. The structure for the bridge was done during the workday and then the Langdon's laid the milled telephone pole planks so the bridge is finished and strong enough to handle the tractor load.

**Buffalo Creek Project:** Carrie McLaughlin was encouraged by the last meeting. She reports the irrigation system up and running. All the trees have been replaced by the City and have the markers installed. The city has recommitted to care for the area. Some errors were made by the city who misidentified some of the trees so an elm was replaced by live oak and a marker is placed incorrectly. The city will make the correction to the marker. Carrie will keep us informed by email or in person of future developments, progress of the second phase.

**Fossil Rim:** no report

**El Tesoro:** Jane Lovedahl reported El Tesoro held a week long training session for the RBMN's and 7 attended training. This training is background for volunteering to lead 1 hour sessions for the students at El Tesoro. Several members commented on their experience. El Tesoro will offer a couple more volunteer opportunities in the next couple of months. The Crockers have already led fossil nature hikes for 80 students.

**Comanche Peak Trail:** Maryann Mathews reported that some trail work was done, spring photos taken and bluebird boxes were checked. There is only one bluebird box active. We are still hoping to get a workday scheduled soon.

**Home School:** All requested volunteer dates have been filled. Our members have been very supportive and more information is in the newsletter. Milea has asked that we work with her to develop a presentation to present to organizations to "get children outdoors". More information to follow.

**Butterfly Garden:** Linda Diehnelt reports the garden has been planted, road base has been laid on the trail around the garden and signs have been placed. There is still a small amount of mulching to do around the established plants, and a team of "waterers" is being developed. The home school group planted some new plants. Planting is complete until the fall.

**BY Laws:** A section on our webpage will contain the current information on BY Laws, minutes and contact information. Minutes will no longer be printed except by request and can be found under this section on the website.

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**Dues:** \$25.00 Yearly membership dues are now past due.

**Background Checks:** Bill Diehnelt passed out the forms required to complete and process if you want to work with children representing this chapter. Bill Diehnelt as president will manage the background checks and maintain the private files. All officers will have a background check done. The chapter will pick up cost of each check, good for three years. If you have recently had one done with another institution, please forward a letter from that institution to Bill and it will suffice. Bill and Jim will put the "background Check" handbook and form on our website.

***New Business:***

**Committees:** Bill Diehnelt presented the realigned committees and asked for volunteers to chair the committees. New chairs: Kenneth Coy will chair the Volunteer committee, Wanda Riley will chair the Membership Committee. Billy Teels will chair the Outreach Committee, which will include a member outreach team for help when one of our members is in need. If you have an interest in chairing or serving on one of the committee's please contact Bill. Committee chairs are expected to attend board meetings to have a voice.

**Open Discussion:**

Maryann Mathews presented the finished brochure and asks all to grab a stack as they leave to distribute. Additional brochures can be obtained from the booth committee.

There will be a Host training done by the National Wildlife Federation on creating wildlife habitat beginning in April. Please log on to the nwf website to get more information.

Wanda let all know that Robbin Broadsky will be here in May to visit. She is a founding member of the ANC.

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