

Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting

Minutes

March 3, 2011

Program:

Program: Malea Balmuth presented portions of the curriculum from her Nature Studies class designed for her Home School group. Malea brought our chapter back to nature by quieting our spirits and blindfolding our partners for group activities. Malea presented several outdoor education books to bring our children back to nature. Malea thanked the chapter for their support and help with her Nature Study class.

Joe and Karen Langdon barbecued pork loin and brisket. That combined with the offerings from everyone else made for a great dinner under the setting sun, cool breeze and howl of coyote at the ANC.

Meeting called to order.

Minutes from February were presented and approved.

Old Business:

Training Report: Robert Theimer reports that we have 4 confirmed for the spring 2011 training. Robert suggests that if we do not have a minimum of 6 the class should not hold and any interested parties would be allowed to attend meetings, glean volunteer hours and attend the next class. He suggests the chapter members solicit new members to fill the remaining spots in the next couple of weeks. A suggestion that a fall class would give opportunity to more master gardener types to apply.

Website Update: Jim Crocker reports we will have a couple of new additions to the regular submissions. He requests we continue to submit new items of interest to him to post.

Newsletter: March newsletter deadline is middle of March. There will be a feature article on the home school program being held at ANC. Billy reports there have been several submissions and the newsletter should be out by the end of March.

First Saturday Bird Walk: Billy Teels reported that the Great Backyard Bird count had a good turnout as well as the program presented on Sparrows at the library. New species were spotted on the trail

Nature Walk: Bily Teels reports the walk will be "Harbingers of Spring" on 4/9 beginning at 9am.

ANC Workday: Kenneth Coy reports there is lots of work that can be done in preparation for the "Fun Run" in June. We need to have a marathon mulching activity so we can get the trail work done. The stringers for the bridge are in place and the decking timbers are being milled now. This activity will take a lot of people and will be scheduled.

Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting

Minutes

March 3, 2011

Buffalo Creek Project: Robert Theimer reports that the trenches have been dug and the pipes are laid for the irrigation system and it is now up and running. All the trees have been replaced by the Committee and have the markers installed. Beaver barriers are in place.

Fossil Rim: no report

El Tesoro: Jane Lovedahl presented her guests ; program director for El Tesoro Susan Merrill, Mildred Merrill, Heather Pitt , El Tesoro Program coordinator, and Weldon Hatch . El Tesoro is sponsoring MN Outdoor Education Training during the week of spring break . This training is background for volunteering to lead 1 hour sessions for the students at El Tesoro. Training is free to RBMN members and will be considered advanced training. Please contact Jane to let her know you are coming. Jane passed out several pieces of information and flyers. Weldon reports the possible volunteer opportunities coming up for invasive species removal , planting new plants, fill in for erosion control, trail work. Equestrian center construction starts in August.

Comanche Peak Trail: Robert Theimer reports that the information has been given to Dave so he can manage reproducing the informational signs . Dave Moore reports that this groups are trying to come up with the pictures to be included on the signs and then will have them reproduced at Comanche Peak. Robert Theimer reports that he is coordinating a work day when the staff of the Peak can bring out big equipment and will get back with us on a date. Gary reports trail is intact and people are using it. We are trying to establish a targeted work day to care for the trail, probably quarterly.

Spring Home School Program: Program begins Feb 11th. Malea Balmuth reports that the sessions have begun for the 18 children. The children have built bird houses, discovered shelters and made suet bird feeders. Volunteers have provided the necessary support for Malea to carry on her Nature Study program and would appreciate any interest in expanding the program.

Kenneth Coy presented two guest; Sue and Barry Bazza. The Bazza's are long time supporters and avid visitors to the ANC.

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.

Dues: Amendment as approved to the handbook reflected in the updated chapter handbook. \$25.00 Yearly membership dues are due.

Booth Committee: Cathy Crocker introduced the Booth Committee and the booth display.

New Business:

Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting

Minutes

March 3, 2011

Committees: Bill Diehnelt reports the executive board has realigned the multitude of committees for approval from the chapter. Realignment will be rolled out by next month. 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 meeting to have a voice.

Stream Team: Gary Hines reports that the all day Stream Team training will be at El Tesoro on 3/26. Please let Gary know if you are interested. The state program requires training, and a commitment to consistently monitor water in our local areas. Cathy will coordinate this effort. Gary will keep all informed of the progress by email.

ANC Butterfly Garden: The Diehnelt's worked with a landscape designer to sketch suggestions for the butterfly garden out of native hardy plants. The chapter approved submission to the ANC friends for approval and Linda Diehnelt will present our suggestions to the ANC on Wednesday.

Brochure Approval: Booth Committee asked for approval for 3000 RBMN brochures to be printed.
Approved

Open Discussion:

7/1/2011 There will be an invasive workshop at BRIT. Information will be on our website.