

Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter

May 5, 2011

Program: Nelda Tandy “Building Blue Bird Boxes”

Nelda is a Master Gardener from Somerville County with a special interest in the Bluebirds that call her property home. She spoke on food sources, housing, privacy, the reasons for decline, and the dangers for the bluebirds in our area. Nelda passed out information from the BlueBird Society.

Business:

April Minutes Approved

Committee Reports:

- Training Committee: Robert Theimer

Robert reports the 8 students are now down to 7 due to illness. The students have gotten through the hard part and now they can begin to have fun.

Advanced Training Opportunities: Texas Stream Training will be at El Tesoro on Saturday. 20 members have signed up for the class beginning at 9:00 on the 7th. Gary anticipates another training in the fall.

- Out Reach Committee: Billy Teels

Billy went over functions of the outreach committee. If you have or know of someone with a need, please let Billy know.

Website Update: Jim Crocker reports website now has the most recent committee listing. Training class is being photo documented by Tammy Averyt and available on the website. Keep sending information.

Newsletter Update: Billy reports the next newsletter will be in August and would appreciate any articles or pictures.

First Saturday Bird Walk: Billy is hoping to have the highest count this weekend.. The warblers are visiting and migrants are coming through. Nesters are just arriving. They hope for 30 different species this weekend.

Nature Walk will be May Wildflowers.

Home School Program: Ken reports he had a shortage of snakes so he brought out lizards and turtles and changed the subject matter to reptiles. Home school activities will begin again in the fall.

- Volunteer Services Committee - Ken Coy
 - ANC Workday /Fun Run: There is one more workday before the Fun Run,. The event will be using the hiking/biking trail and requires mowing, cutting, and final trail prep. We would like 6 – 10 volunteers for the actual event, with cell phones, who can man the trails. Event date is 6/11 and we need to be there at 7am.
 - Buffalo Creek: Bill Diehnelt read an email from Carrie McLaughlin...Still trying to get the committee running. The city will be cutting down some trees that are in the way. There is discussion of Phase II. The Virginia creeper project will not happen this year. The committee is still looking for interested folks from the Cleburne area.
 - Fossil Rim Wildlife Center: Carol reported that the master naturalist have a couple of projects they are working on. They redesigned a steep nature trail, are working on a plan to rate the pastures, and also working on plant identification to provide the proper forage for the Attwater Prairie chicken , the mane wolves, rhino and several tortoise. -
 - El Tesoro Update: Jane Lovedhal expressed appreciation for the MN who have been able to turn their training back in to volunteer hours for several of the family and home school programs this spring. There are additional activities coming up so watch the newsletter for additional dates and opportunities.
 - Comanche Peak Trail: Maryann Mathews reports there has been some wind damage along the trail. The cleanup, when scheduled, will require a chainsaw. The prickly pear are blooming. We have one bluebird pair nesting in the box in the middle of the parking area. No date yet for cleanup. We had our first communication from Texas Trails, the first hit was positive.
 - ANC Butterfly Garden: Linda Diehnelt reports it has been mowed, weeded and a few plants are still struggling. The next thing that needs to be done is removal of the night shade on the walking trail.
- Membership Committee : Wanda Riley is looking for additional members for the committee. We have 34 dues paying members.

Old Business:

Background Checks: Bill Diehnelt has sent in 13 background checks and 6 have been completed. You have been notified by email if yours is done.

New Business:

Feedback about the booth at the Master Gardener Convention showed the booth was very well received.

State convention is in October. Please keep in mind and save the date, reserve your rooms and classes as soon as you get the email.

Next meeting 6/2 at the Langdon's.