

Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter

October 6, 2011

Program: Gary Hinds presents "Monarch Butterflies"

October marks the beginning and end of the fall migration peaking around the middle of the month. Gary presented the life cycle of the monarch, it's novel adventure through generations to make the annual migration from and back to Mexico and if you didn't know how to tell the sex a monarch- you should now.

Guests: Terry Dohl

Old Business:

Minutes from September: Approved

Committee Reports:

Training Committee: Robert Theimer

- Indian Trail Chapter is holding a fall class. Information is on our website or contact Robert if you know someone interested.
- Monarch Watch training will be held in Boerne in October. Information is on the website.

Out Reach Committee: Billy Teels

- The ANC Bird Walk was held on the 1st. Merlin Brown Thrasher were seen as well as flickers in the junipers.
- Nature Walk will be held Saturday at 9am. Topic "Deer Food".
- Melia will begin home school program every other week on Fridays at noon, beginning Oct 7. This semester's curriculum will center on "Survival- Animal Shelter". The first two Fridays are covered, but she needs volunteers to cover the remainder. Contact Melia or Billy if you are interested.
- Web page: Jim Crocker reports the website domain has been repurchased. All notices are on the front home page of the website.
- Newsletter will publish in December. Send in your articles.
- Wendy and Nancy worked our booth at the Fall Market. They report four people expressed interest in our group.

Volunteer Services Committee: Ken Coy

- Buffalo Creek: Carrie McLaughlin reports that the committee met with the new Parks and Recreation director who is enthusiastic about our projects. He overrode and approved the redbud area project. Park board will meet in November and she is hopeful it will be installed this winter. The rock and necessary flat bed will run about \$2000. Last Saturday was United Way Day and teams worked on the banks of the creek. Carrie reports several trees are stressed from the drought.
- Acton Nature Center: We will have work day on the 15th continuing on the water lines to the butterfly garden. The rain barrel foundation is built.
- Comanche Peak: Diane McCracken presented the sign and birdhouse she and Cecil made for the wildlife habitat area fashioned after the National Park signs from the 30's. She is continuing research on possible seeding for the area which will attract butterflies. Wanda has offered some cactus plants to rim the steps to the trailhead.
- El Tesoro: Susan reports the fall programming begins the second Saturday of October. The Crockers will hold a kayak 101 class and lead a Nature Hike and fossil walk. Dad and Me program will be held in November.
- The Brit needs help hand watering. Bring in your plant for ID on the 1st Saturday.
- Burleson Nature Hike: Cathy Crocker reports the first hike is this Thursday at Oak Valley Park North. The team will lead the city managers .

New Business:

- State Meeting will be held in October. Chapter is not sending representation.
- Susan announced that Jane's husband Jerry finished the Appalachian Trail last night, and is now safe and sound. They are enjoying more time in Maine.
- Cleburne Library: Carrie reports that the Cleburne Library will sponsor "Observe the Moon" night on 10/8 from 7-10pm in the parking lot of Hill College. Telescopes will be on hand as well as the sound recording of a lunar landing.

Next meeting 11/3 Somerville Training Center at 6 pm