

Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter

January 5, 2012

Guests: Bonnie and Tom Colgin and Gerry Lovedahl

Program: Ricky Linex – Riparian Management

Ricky Linex has served the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in range conservation and wildlife biology since 1982. He is being recognized as the Wildlife Society's Educator of the Year for his outstanding achievements in wildlife conservation education. Mr. Linex spoke on riparian management.

Old Business:

Minutes from November: Approved

Committee Reports:

Training Committee: Robert Theimer Meetings begin in January and training will begin early spring. Agendas will be going out soon.

Out Reach Committee: Billy Teels

- The ANC Bird Walk will be held Saturday at 7am.
- Nature Walk will probably be a geocaching hike with Phil Deluce on January 14th.
- Buffalo Creek: Carrie McLaughlin reports that they are still waiting on the board to have their monthly meeting concerning the redbud area. Proposed Nature Center is on hold. City is on board developing the Marti Reservoir for ecology. Carrie has been working with Ricky Linex developing a workshop on erosion using Buffalo Creek as an example. If you know a good example of creek rebuilding within 10 minutes of Cleburne please let Carrie know.
- El Tesoro: Jane Lovedahl reports new construction begins in January. AmeriCorp will be coming out to work on the property. Susan is working on new programs for spring and will be contacting us for help. Brit brought out their education staff to visit and El Tesoro and Brit are now involved in talks that will pull all of us for partnerships.
- Brit: Brit will take part in the training for Bats along with Bat World on January 14th. There will be a 7 hour training dealing with bat rescues, values, and diseases on the last Saturday in February.
- Comanche Peak: Briers in the habitat garden have been removed, and a couple of downed posts have been reset. Robert has gotten permission to place

geocaches. Water to wildlife habitat is on hold for now. Permanent markers are ready for installation.

- Acton Nature Center: Kenneth Coy reports the butterfly garden is now over an acre. Bill has been working on new trails. Projects to include moving some cedar and cactus, shredding and mowing on the third Saturday. Some of the trails could use trimming and chain saw. Areas of concern are marked with pink and polka dot trail markers. Gutters are ready to be installed and then we can schedule a rain water harvest class. An Eagle Scout is looking for project with a bat house. Carrie suggest Joe bring him the Bat Program on Jan 14th at the BRIT.
- Burleson Nature Walk: Next hike this Saturday at 2pm. City is advertising for us. They will have a city campout in May they have asked us to be involved in.
- Fossil Rim: Some of the animals in the pasture have been rotated. Babies are arriving, a 6 month old giraffe, and a baby white rhino born in October. Christmas lights were on display for the December tours. Wattled Cranes are new endangered species on the property.
- Newsletter is past due and Billy would like articles and pictures of the Christmas meeting. Please submit any articles to him.

Awards: Certification and hour pins were passed out to several members who did not attend awards ceremony.

Membership Committee: Wanda ask all to get your yearly total hours in so she can complete the report to the state. Wanda has placed all the necessary reporting forms on the webpage for use.

New Business:

Dues: Bill reminds all to get your annual dues in. All membership dues are due and payable on 1/1/2012. If you are not a dues paying active member you are not an active Texas Master Naturalist.

Acton Development Board: Arbitration Settlement

The Hood County Development District #1, overseen by the Acton Development Board forfeited almost \$48,000 in back tax monies to the City of Granbury- but in return the HCDD#1 will start collecting 1/2 of 1 percent sales tax on properties, that had been and still are in the HCDD#1, but were annexed by the City of Granbury. The maximum amount the HCDD#1 can take in taxes will be \$200,000 a year. This settlement should secure both the ANC and the HCDD#1 in the future.

Next meeting at 6 pm Somervell Training Center

