

Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Chapter

Nov 3, 2011

Guests: Bonnie Colgin and Doris Moore

Program: Bob and Gail Bullard: Animal Conservation

The Bullard's presented a slide show of the animals at Fossil Rim and spoke on Dinosaur Valley State Park and the animal conservation efforts they have been involved in. They consider every person they come in contact with is an opportunity to talk about conservation.

Old Business:

Minutes from October: Approved

Committee Reports:

Training Committee: Robert Theimer No activity to report

Out Reach Committee: Billy Teels

- The ANC Bird Walk will be held Saturday at 7am.
- Nature Walk needs a volunteer guide for the November 12th walk.
- Buffalo Creek: Carrie McLaughlin reports that they are still waiting on the board to have their monthly meeting concerning the redbud area. The second project that has come up is Mexican freetail "Bats". The Buffalo Creek Association has informally agreed to have a bat condominium built at Buffalo Creek in the red bud area. It will require Park Board approval. The condo should house 10, 000 bat and attract tourists, as well as provide a new home for the colony of bats that will be migrating back to Cleburne in the spring.
- Moon Watch: The weather did not co-operate, so they sent the moon pies with the one young boy who did attend.
- Fossil Rim: The birds have been moved to the newly completed CAC.
- Brit: Carrie reports the Brit will take part in the training for Bats along with Bat World. The programs will begin in January. There will be a 7 hour training dealing with bat rescues, values, and diseases. 2012 is the year of the bat.
- Homeschool: The classes are all covered.
- Comanche Peak: Maryann Mathews reports that her family and the MCCrackens met at CP to spread wildflower seeds harvested at the McCracken

property, and hang the donated wildlife habitat sign. The next project is digging up the briars in the habitat garden.

- Acton Nature Center: Kenneth Coy reports the work day is on; projects to include moving some cedar and cactus, expanding and extending the water system now that the water storage is on its base. There are now 3 hydrants to water with. There are 3 new garbage containers made out of cedar thanks to Joe Langdon. Two Mexican plums have been planted in the butterfly garden area.
- Burleson Nature Walk: Maryann Mathews reports the first Burleson Nature Hike was a success. There were 7 folks that attended. The next walk is the 1st Saturday in December.
- Explore Nature Around Us: The City of Burleson has asked us to do 101's to get folks outdoors. If you think of activity to present, please contact Maryann.

Membership Committee: Wanda Riley

Wanda reports she will be sending out a broadcast invitation to membership old and new about the Christmas Party attempting to get them back to the meetings. She also reminds everyone that they need to turn in their volunteer hours for the year **Now**.

New Business:

Annual awards night will be December 1st at El Tesoro. Bill reminds all to get your hours in to Wanda if you want to get your award.

Internet Security: The membership list on our webpage is protected by a password. There has been some hacking through the back door of a search engine. Mike and Jim have installed a fix they hope repairs the problem. If you do not want your information on the list please let Mike or Jim know so it can be removed.

State Convention: Gregg and Carol Lee attended the state meeting. The Annual Meeting provides training beginning early on the Friday afternoon and ends at noon on Sunday. Mo Ranch is a great facility to hold the meeting with nice facilities providing rooms and bunkhouses. There is not a lot of formal networking but meals provided socialization. Gregg reports 265 people attended as he took us through a slideshow of the grounds, some of the classes he attended, and some surprising finds while in the field. Carol attended a moss class. From that class Carol has been asked to help document the existence of moss in Somerville County.

The board had decided to ask the Outreach Committee to lead an "Annual Meeting sub-committee" to beef up attendance and interest. Volunteers are needed.

Next meeting 12/1 at 6 pm El Tesoro