

Grotto meeting

February 23, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Gregg Williams

Visitors Ophelia – found us on meet up
 Jen – found us on meet up
 Emily – Visiting from Huntsville – Staying with Geary Schindel

Treasury Report

Report given by Pam Campbell

\$5,580.62

Added \$35 in dues

Organizational Reports

TCMA

Bennett – There will be a conference call. In the future, their website will have some different things.

TSA

Per Kurt Menking – No new

NSS

BOG Meeting coming soon.

TSS

Per Marvin Miller – no news

Bracken

Fran – ready for new season. Bats and Warblers are due anytime. Last year they came around the 21st of March. They did a walk this past weekend and found some karst features.

Old Business

- We had a meeting regarding the tax exempt status. By Law changes coming as well.

New Business/announcements

- This Friday there will be a karst survey at Bracken. Call Fran if you want to go. Someone will be at the gate. Follow signs also watch Facebook and emails. It is raining it will be cancelled.
- March 18 & 19 – Zach is looking for help with Lee High School trip to Robber Barron. He needs a couple additional people.
- We will be getting a quote for new t-shirts. Don Arburn has the old screen print.

Trip reports

- Rob and Rick and Fran went to Childers, TX and stayed five days. They went to several caves per day. They were surveying bats in each cave including number and species and samples. Possibly checking for white nose. Take samples and send to labs. One objective was to look for physical evidence and count bats in each cave. When you are caving you have to think like a bat and look in every hole and crevice. They went into about 15 caves during the week. All leads towards Peace River.
- Alan Cobb- Carlsbad Caverns went on a tour of main caverns.
- Bennett Lee and Pam Campbell took tour on Saturday and took Trinity University students there. They did very well.
- Jill Orr did Colorado bend on Saturday. She went with Crash Kennedy. They had to chisel her out. They are redoing the facilities. 15 people showed split into five or six teams.

Upcoming trips

- Cibolo Bluff karst survey this weekend
- Monday vertical workshop at Bennett's
- March 6-10 - BOG meeting
- March 11 - second Walls Workshop Drafting night. Joe Mitchell presenting. Learning in Ink Scape. Let Joe know if you are interested.
- March 7 & 8 - Government Canyon karst walk.
- March 14 - Colorado Bend karst survey.
- March 8 – Ezell's cave being re-gated in San Marcos. Also access to some additional caves possibly if you attend.
- March 22 - Whirlpool clean up from 2-4 pm.
- March 27-29 - Deep workday - moving bathroom as well as some other items.
- April 24-26 - TSA Spring convention at CWAN. Presentations needed. Enter photos as well for prizes.
- May 2-3 – Bamberger's fundraiser. Prep on Saturday and cook on Sunday.
- Date unknown - Hide Watts Cave. Rob Bissett trying to get a trip set up for Memorial Day weekend. If there are bat colonies in cave trip will be cancelled. There are other caves we can go into it. Black and Cottonwood. Mark Childers is helping to organize. You have to be guided in the cave due to very strict rules.
- Bennett will set up a robber Barron trip soon for all of the new members.
- Sue wants to take people on wine tour on Friday and Sunday during BOG.

Program by Fran Hutchins

Adjourned 7:49 by Gregg Williams