

## **FOB Board Annual Retreat Minutes**

August 15<sup>th</sup>

Attendees: Dub Lyon, Bill Carr, Pat Wilkinson, Gary Caylor; USFWS David Maple

Previous meeting minutes approved

Treasurer's report approved

David Maple gave the refuge report. Senior FWS realty management from Albuquerque and Washington DC will be visiting and being briefed on Peaceful Springs. He also spoke about possible grants that could be applied for from Walmart "Acres for America".

A visit by the National Wildlife Refuge Association is planned on Sept. 28 where Dub will receive an award for his outstanding service to Friends and the Refuge.

Swiftfest will be on August 29. There will be a Dove Hunt from September 1 to the 4<sup>th</sup> on a self-service basis. Two volunteers will be present to help hunters. The FWS fiscal year ends at the end of September. The refuge is being tasked to demonstrate that all equipment is being used efficiently and some equipment may be reallocated. All fire-crew is out helping either locally or nationally.

The Refuge's achievements this year include large increase in number of volunteers and Environment Education courses given. A lot of effort is being put into creating the Monarch initiative.

Friends priorities are currently raising funds for land acquisition, lobbying for completion of the Refuge and environmental education. Focus is on raising funds to retire the mortgage on the Peaceful Springs tract so that it can be conveyed to the Refuge. Dub was given permission to ascertain costs for retaining Grant Writer to assist with fund raising for land acquisition. He will return to Board for approval for any proposal to engage a Grant Writer. A meet and Greet is proposed for Peaceful Spring for people with potential for making donations in \$10K to \$25K range. Target is Fall of 2015. Funding will also be established for setting up a Youth Group. Friends will fund the lunch for the Hill Country Land Trust meeting at Oatmeal. Pat, the Treasurer, will have financial control of the Songbird Festival and will put together a Songbird Festival Committee.

It is proposed we store presentations to other organizations on our Google drive also recording to whom and how many people attended. Bill will be giving presentation to Sierra Club on Sept 8 and suggested we support group opportunities for volunteering and hikes, this was supported by Board.

24 of the 26 species of Sparrows were seen at this year's Sparrowfest.

Friends member should take the "Defensive Drivers Course" in order to be able to drive Refuge vehicles.

Next Board meeting will be on Sept 16 at 5.30PM at the Refuge.

If any additions or corrections are needed please provide them to me

Bill Carr

---