

the paddlefish ***the paddlefish***

Vol. 8 No. 6

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalist Chapter Newsletter

June 2016

Mission of the Texas Master Naturalist

To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.

2016 OFFICERS

Stella Barrow - President

Betty Morgan - Vice President

Kristi Thomas - Secretary

Charles Gillis – Treasurer

Linda Richtsmeier – Membership Chairman

Pat Sawyer and Michael Mathews - Webmasters

Vanessa Adams Neace - Advisor

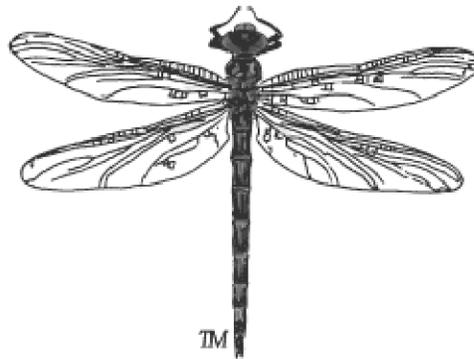
Doug Weir -Advisor

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Monday June 13 6:30 pm

Jefferson Transportation Center 305 E. Austin

Snippets from Stella



June 2016

It's summer! Well, not officially by the calendar, but isn't June a summer month? Anyway – it's humid and hot and still a wee bit rainy. Texas weather – gotta love it!

An update on the EAB situation. I'm sure you know by now that the EAB has been identified in Harrison County. Boo! Stacy Blomquist delivered to us nets and other equipment for the wasps. (Stacy received a promotion and new job so she's trying to stay involved.) However – the nest that Allen Smith was watching in Longview got bull-dozed! Yikes! I've reached out to Allen for a "next steps" conversation. I hope he will go ahead with our training so we can be on the lookout for new locations. Hope to have more info at the monthly meeting.

Michael and Kristi held one of their two photography classes and it was met with rave reviews. Yay! And has happened to our projects so often this spring, their second class is in a reschedule status due to the rain.

The Paddlefish Festival on 5/18-19 was a success despite the rain. Exciting surprise on the 18th? A release of paddlefish right from the boat launch in Jefferson. Very Cool!

Your executive board met in May and here are just a few things we discussed: New Class Director for 2016 class, an outdoor movie event at the refuge in October, planning for a 2017 class, set the date for the 2017 Paddling Regatta, and the TMN Annual meeting. Much to discuss at our monthly meeting on June 13, 2016 at the Transportation Center, 6:30pm. See you there!

SB

**CYPRESS BASIN TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
MEETING MAY 9, 2016
MINUTES**

ATTENDING: 21 members – Kristi Thomas, David Skinner, Michael Mathews, Vicki and David Gilliland, Ted and Stella Barrow, Tom Walker, Steve and Susan Sedberry, Pam Andrews, Becky Gullette, Floyd and Ellen Anderson, Sandra Hooker, Roger Geiger, Nancy Rheay, Carol Fox, Becky Gullette, Celesta Ellis, Mickie Moore, and Vanessa Neace (advisor).

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by President Stella Barrow.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: Minutes from prior meeting were unanimously accepted with a motion by Susan, seconded by Pam.

TREASURER REPORT: Charles was not in attendance, but the financial report was in the monthly newsletter, with a balance of \$8,288.65 total, \$3,091.28 of that dedicated for Regatta. With a motion by Vicki, seconded by Pam, the report was unanimously approved.

GENERAL ITEMS: OLD BUSINESS

RED RIVER CHAPTER VISIT: Per Stella, have been contacted again about visit. Reschedule? Reconsider? Asked for thoughts. Tentatively decided September, Fri. 16th and Sat. 17th, will need help with birding and pontoons to take out. Feed with a catered meal Fri. night. Will check with Lee Eisenberg, Robert Speight to talk about Caddo Lake.

PHOTO TOUR/CLASS: First one is Saturday 5/14 at Refuge. Michael urged members to let know if coming for planning purposes. Second class will be June 4th. Can participate twice if would like to. Michael announced photo contest, will be 15 days after class to digitally submit entries, with fun little prizes.

EAST TEXAS NATURALIST SITE INFO: Per Michael, new presenters will be joining site and that is exciting, will be great recruiting tool in the future. Is starting to be good resource for bird ID and other things. Anyone wanting to jump in and contribute is welcomed, just let him know.

NEW REFUGE TRAIL: Charles was going to try to talk to Eric about a new walking trail, but still up in the air.

WD4C – 5/21-22 IN FRISCO: Those that have volunteered meet with Vanessa at close of meeting to nail down logistics.

EAB STATUS: Per Vanessa, not funded through TFS-A&M. Waiting to hear from Allen Smith about status of wasps on Longview. Stacy will let us know when they do. Training – 2 days, 30 minutes each, Friday afternoon and Sunday morning possibly. Typical flight of wasps 5/19-5/28, collecting in June.

NEW BUSINESS

CLASS OF 2016: Stella welcomed new members Mickie, Roger, and Carol, and expressed how energized the chapter is with the addition of new members.

FISHING LINE PROJECT: Stella put potential fishing line project on the table, up for discussion. If there is interest, get a team together to research. Roger to research and get back on that, will be out of town in June, will send out email before.

CoCoRAHS: Stella passed out information again regarding this program, as more volunteers are needed in Marion County. Is only about \$38 investment, cool info.

GRANT STATUS: Waiting to hear on. Friends of Refuge participated with for funding, could be potentially better than initially thought, if awarded. Updates to follow.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: 5/18-5-19 Paddlefish Festival, still need volunteers. Details given by Stella. 6/7-6/9 Kid's Camp – theme is Back to Basics, more info to follow. Pam is taking the lead on the State park event for 25 pre-schoolers with Becky, Nancy, Celesta, and Carol to help. Mia is leaving; 14th will be her last day.

Roger looked all over site on Texas Stream Team and Collins Academy, couldn't find when training is. Becky asked that Roger make the information available when he finds out.

Discussion ensued among the group regarding volunteer opportunities, and how to make sure that members are engaged and seeing potential for the types of opportunities that keep them excited. Discussed the many ways to do this, and about ways to reach out within the community.

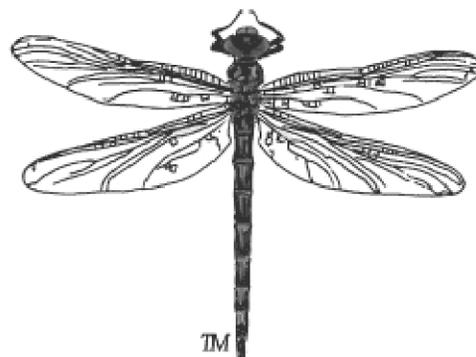
ADJOURNMENT: at 7:30 p.m.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: 1.0 hour

ADVANCED TRAINING:

PLUS YOUR TRAVEL:

Submitted by Kristi Thomas, Secretary[



Financial Report for May 2016

Submitted by Charles Gillis, Treasurer

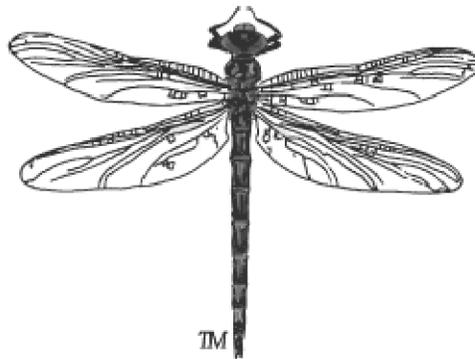
Beginning balance 05/01/16		\$8,288.65
Less: expenses		
AgriLife supplies	114.73	
New Class Expense	<u>78.50</u>	-193.23
Add: deposits		
CLI for Regatta	\$ 100.00	
Book payments	<u>79.43</u>	<u>179.43</u>
Ending balance, 05/31/16		<u>\$8,274.85</u>

Dedicated Funds – Regatta	\$3,191.28	
Undedicated Funds	<u>5,083.57</u>	
Ending Balance, 05/31/16		<u>\$8,274.85</u>

Notes:

1. Outstanding Checks

a. Sponsor Annual Meeting	\$250.00
b. Training Material	10.64
c. New Class Expense	102.42



Eaglet Update - Flying Lessons

Kristi Mears Thomas

Monday, 30 May 2016

At last check, both Liberty and Freedom were flying well and becoming independent. In fact, we were able to watch Liberty eat a rather sizeable fish that he'd caught on top of a stump. He pulled and picked at it, and during all of the adjusting to stay atop, he dropped a large portion over the side into the water. He watched it fall and as he looked around, you could just imagine from the expression what he was thinking! Meanwhile, Freedom was closer to the nest, and both parents were nearby. We left for a while, and when we circled back by before sunset, Liberty and Freedom were sitting side by side and shoulder to shoulder, close to the nest. What a heart warming sight!





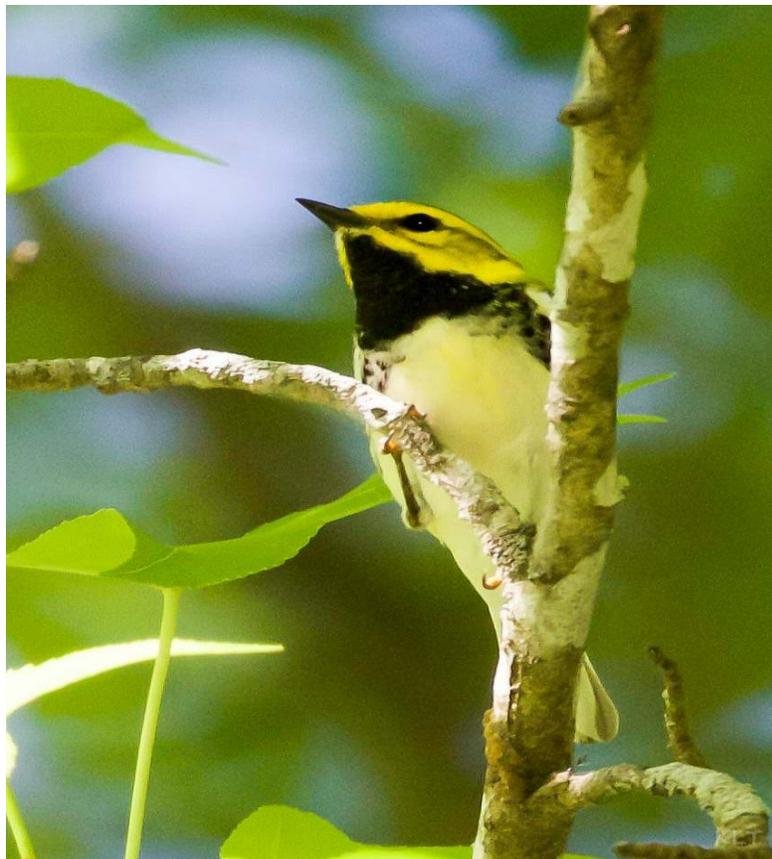
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New Friends, New Birds

by Kristi Mears Thomas

Sunday, 08 May 2016

Bob Haynes and Dr. Marnie Rout conducted and led the training sessions this past weekend on Ornithology and Taxonomy for the current Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalist trainees, and what a great weekend it was! I unfortunately couldn't attend all of the training, but the handouts are so informative and Saturday's bird walk was exciting and productive. Bob and Marnie are going to be contributing and sharing their knowledge on the ETN site when they can, so that is wonderful news, and Lee Eisenberg has come on board and we will be so fortunate to be hearing from him, as well. Photos follow of just two of the birds that we were able to see at the Refuge. The first is a Black-throated Green Warbler, and the second is of a Northern Parula.



Black-throated Green Warbler



Northern Parula

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 13: Cypress Basin Chapter Monthly Meeting 6:30 p.m.

June 18: Saturday Work Day at Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge 9 a.m.

October 21-23: Annual TMN State Meeting, Montgomery

2016 MEETING DATES

January 11
February 8
March 14*
April 11
May 9
June 13*
July 11
August 8
September 12*
October 10
November 14**

*Pot Luck

** Family Social &
Awards

2016 WORK DAYS

January 16
February 13
March 19
April 16
May 14
June 18
July 16
August 13
September 17
October 15
November 19

2016 NEW CLASS TRAINING DATES

January 29 - Collins Academy
January 30 - CLNWR
February 26 - Collins Academy
February 27 - CLNWR
April 1 - Collins Academy
April 2 - CLNWR
May 6 - Collins Academy
May - 7 CLNWR

Cypress Basin members are encouraged to submit articles for the monthly newsletters. Original articles of interest to members are greatly appreciated. Items for Events and Notices are welcomed. Submissions are due on the first Saturday of each month.

Contact Betty by email @ bgmorgan46@yahoo.com or mail to: 100 Lakeview Circle, Jefferson, TX 75657.