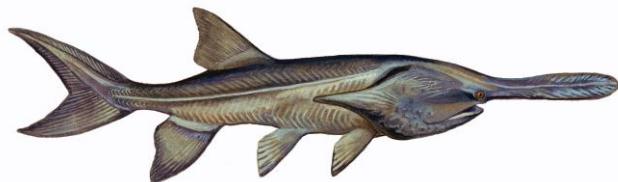


## THE PADDLEFISH



T E X A S



Cypress Basin Chapter

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### Snippets from Stella

Well – HAPPY NEW YEAR! I’m so looking forward to this year with each of you. The potential is exploding for so much to do. I thought I’d start this year of snippets by reminding myself of our mission as Master Naturalists. We should keep it in front of us as we plan the year.

**The Mission:** 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.

**The Need:** Many communities and organizations rely on such citizen volunteers for implementing youth education programs; for operating parks, nature centers, and natural areas; and for providing leadership in local natural resource conservation efforts. In fact, a short supply of dedicated and well-informed volunteers is often cited as a limiting factor for community-based conservation efforts.

Your officers for 2017 are myself as President (thank you!), Susan Sedberry, Vice President; Kristi Thomas, Secretary; Charles Gillis, Treasurer; Jill Wright, New Class Director; Michael Mathews, Marketing Director; Linda Richtsmeier, Membership Director; Marge West, New Class Director. (Jill is responsible for getting our new class started. Marge represents the last class to finish their training.) Angela Ledger is taking over the newsletter. Please submit any pictures and/or articles you have to her.

There are some exciting enhancements to VMS for this year and Linda will be telling you about those at the January meeting.

Here are just a few of the things we’ve got ahead of us for 2017: Paddle trails – need new signs; Earth Day Regatta; National Fish and Wildlife Grant for the E-bird kiosk and new bird blinds and walking trail at the refuge; projects with the Collins Academy. And anything else you come up with. Yowzah!

See you on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm at the Transportation Center. THAT IS OUR AWARDS MEETING – new class certification and milestone pins. You don’t want to miss it!

### Upcoming Events:

- Jan 9 – Meeting
- Jan 14 – Work Day
- Feb 13 – Meeting
- Feb 18 – Work Day

## The Frolicking Frogs of Bear Claw Creek

Come hear me well, and I will tell,  
A ballad quite unique.  
When mon ami, he came to see,  
The frogs of Bear Claw Creek.

Down from the north, he hopped on forth,  
By rail car and canoe.  
Twas in his mind for him to find,  
That great frog rendezvous.

François le Frog, o'er hill and bog,  
While questing t'ward his dream,  
Swam to New York, upon a cork,  
Then skipped down Sumner Stream.

"Le frog most hardy has come to party,"  
Said our hero from Quebec.  
I'm hot to hail a frog female,  
And nibble on her neck.

Then in the brook he chanced to look,  
Upon his heart's desire.  
Her name was Pat, and there she sat,  
Within the frogett choir.

"Ou la la", said great Francois,  
With gestures quite symbolic.  
"There is no doubt, I'd fight a trout,  
If you and I could frolic".

"Well chugerum, your just a bum,"  
Sang Pat from cross the puddle.  
"If you've no fear, swim over here,"  
"Then maybe we will cuddle."

So in the pool, leaped our fine fool,  
And headed for his mate.  
When just begun, our story's done.  
He ended up fish bait.

R. Geiger

## National Fish and Wildlife Grant and Project

The Friends of the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Cypress Basin were awarded over Eleven Thousand dollars for a grant from NFWF (National Fish and Wildlife). The scope of the project consists of installing an E-bird kiosk in the visitor's center, rebuilding the bird blind on the visitor center walking trail, building a new bird blind on the "to-be constructed" walking trail. The new trail is going to be OURS and will need maintenance. Pat Sawyer is the lead for the kiosk. By the way, if you haven't explored E-Bird on your computer or smart phone, you should. There is amazing data there. Pete Wright is the lead for the bird blind construction. He will need plans to fit our budget details in the grant. David Gilliland – any interest in helping with that phase? We will need a lead for the new walking trail. There will be all sorts of volunteer opportunities for this project; construction labor as well as administrative labor. Inside the blinds, we need pictures of the birds the visitor will likely see and log books.

This first quarter of 2017 will find us VERY, VERY busy. You are encouraged to volunteer as often as you can.

*"There will be all sorts of volunteer opportunities for this project; construction labor as well as administrative labor."*

## Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2016

**ATTENDING:** Kristi Thomas, Linda Richtsmeier, Michael Mathews, Jill and Pete Wright, Karen Williams, Vicki and David Gilliland, Ted and Stella Barrow, Tom Walker, Susan and Steve Sedberry, Ellen and Floyd Anderson, Pam Andrews, Pam Watts, Charles Gillis, Becky Gullette, Herman Hazard, Sue Simmons, Carol Fox, Nancy Rheay, Carl and Diane Turner, Mickie Moore, and Vanessa Neace, advisor, and guests Jim and Shirley Lloyd and Brad Abraham.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Stella Barrow at the refuge, to combine awards ceremony with end of year social and Super Moon viewing.

**PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Minutes from prior meeting were unanimously accepted with a motion by Ted, seconded by Linda.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Treasurer's report as published in preceding newsletter was unanimously accepted with first a motion by Susan, seconded by Linda.

Election of officers for 2017 ensued, with the slate of nominees leaving the room. Slate – President, Stella Barrow, Vice President, Susan Sedberry, Membership Director, Linda Richtsmeier, Treasurer, Charles Gillis, Secretary, Kristi Thomas, Communications Director, Michael Mathews, and Director of Training, Jill Wright. Karen moved to accept the slate, Ted seconded, with unanimous approval.

Stella announced that the Fish and Wildlife grant for \$11,471 was awarded, expect emails regarding plans for kiosk, walking trails, new birding blind.

Paddle trails – Ted, Steve, and some others spent time checking, plans for reflective vinyl and larger trailhead signs.

Extended volunteer and ads for trainees to December 31.

New class recruitment going very well, per Jill. Four packets out and even more promises. Social media is a good tool. Meeting adjourned to commence social and Super Moon Viewing.

**ADJOURNMENT:** at 8:00 p.m.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:** 1.5 hour

**ADVANCED TRAINING:** none

**PLUS YOUR TRAVEL:**

Submitted by Kristi Thomas, Secretary

## Financial Report for November and December 2016

**Beginning Bank Balance, 10/30/16** \$5,932.68

**Less: Expenses**

**Moon-vie:**

Wild and Free Eagle support	\$ 100.00
Appreciation award for Betty	109.00
Regatta Supplies	373.87
Moon-vie brochures	42.22
Citizens Science Lunch	97.00
Avinger Wine Festival booth	66.77
Text Books – new class	369.12
Checks	<u>27.50</u>
	-1,185.48

**Add: Deposits**

Silent auction receipt	\$ 25.00
Moon-vie donation – for food	86.00
Member purchased book	10.00
New member fees	<u>850.00</u>
	<u>971.00</u>

**Ending Bank Balance, 12/31/16** \$5,718.20

Dedicated Funds – Regatta \$2,817.41

Undedicated Funds 2,900.79

**Ending Bank Balance, 12/31/16** \$5,718.20

**Outstanding check:**

Memorial – Duke Morgan - 100.00

**Available Balance, 12/31/2016** \$5,618.20

**Note: This report is for both November and December 2016 as there was no December meeting.**

**Charles Gillis, Treasurer**

## THE PADDLEFISH

### Emeril's Cranberry Apple Pie with Sweet Walnut Topping

#### Ingredients:

(recipe courtesy of Emeril Lagasse)

**Basic pie dough to fill 9-inch pan, either store bought or make your own. I use Pillsbury store bought.**

**1 3/4 cups light brown sugar**

**5 tablespoons cornstarch**

**1 tablespoon ground cinnamon**

**1 teaspoon ground nutmeg**

**1 teaspoon salt**

**1 pound Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored, and cut into 1/4-inch slices (about 4 cups)**

**2 cups fresh cranberries, rinsed and picked over**

**2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice**

**10 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut up**

**3/4 cup granulated sugar**

**2 tablespoons heavy cream**

**1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract**

**1 cup walnut pieces**

We are a chapter filled with great cooks. Have you brought a dish to an event and taken back an empty pan or had multiple requests for your recipe? Here is your opportunity. Send them to [TreeHealthLady@gmail.com](mailto:TreeHealthLady@gmail.com) for submission in the newsletter.

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Line pan with pie dough and set aside.
3. In a bowl combine the brown sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt, and mix well.
4. In another bowl combine the apples, cranberries, and lemon juice, and toss well. Pour the dry mixture in your other bowl over the fruit mixture. Melt 2 tablespoons of the butter and pour it over it all and mix thoroughly.
5. Turn the mixture into the pie shell and bake the pie until the fruit is tender, for about 1 hour. Remove from oven and set pie on a rack to cool.
6. In a large skillet on medium heat, melt the remaining 8 tablespoons butter with the granulated sugar. Cook, stirring, until the mixture is bubbling and the consistency of a thick roux, for about 5 to 6 minutes.
7. Stir in the cream, vanilla, and walnuts and cook, stirring constantly, for 4 minutes. Remove from heat and cool for 20 minutes. (Actually, here I usually just spoon while hot over the pie. It seems to go on easier, but E's instructions are to spoon the topping over the cooled pie and refrigerate overnight.) Good served with a scoop of ice cream, and always better the next day!

**OFFICERS:**

Stella Barrow  
President

Susan Sedberry  
Vice President

Kristi Thomas  
Secretary

Charles Gillis  
Treasurer

Jill Wright  
New Class Director

Marge West  
New Class Director

Michael Mathews  
Marketing Director

Linda Richtsmeier  
Membership Director

Vanessa Adams  
Neace  
Advisor

Doug Weir  
Advisor

## Saw Tooth Oak Saplings

**Stella received a call from Skipper Miller, a former TMN member in the East Texas Chapter. He is interested in joining our merry little band and will be contacted about that. He also mentioned he had SEVERAL Saw Tooth Oak tree saplings; 24-30" tall and will either give them to you or charge a small nominal fee. His number is 903-407-1204. Tell him you are a CBTMN member.**

## 2017 Meeting and Work Day Calendar

MONTHLY MEETING DATES	WORK DAYS
JANUARY 9	JANUARY 14
FEBRUARY 13	FEBRUARY 18
MARCH 13	MARCH 18
APRIL 10	APRIL 15
MAY 8	MAY 13
JUNE 12	JUNE 17
JULY 10	JULY 15
AUGUST 14	AUGUST 19
SEPTEMBER 11	SEPTEMBER 16
OCTOBER 9	OCTOBER 14
NOVEMBER 13	NOVEMBER 18
DECEMBER – USUALLY DON'T MEET	

## Photo of the Month



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