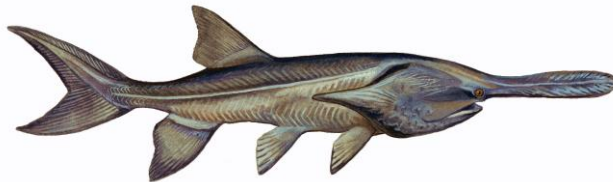




THE PADDLEFISH



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Financial Report	2
TMN Annual Meeting	3
Great Awakening Pics	4
Great Awakening	5
Bats	6
Officers	7
Calendar	7
Scholarship	7

Snippets from Stella

GREETINGS!

Sheesh! August! You know what that means, right? Only FOUR months til Christmas. 😊

First thing I want to tell you about is the TMN Annual Meeting. You should have received an email with the registration details. It is going to be fantastic! Here's the news. TMN is offering a \$75.00 scholarship to a member that is planning to attend. Our chapter will have a lottery for anyone planning to attend the annual meeting at the August meeting. The winner of the lottery will be given a special code for registration to deduct the \$75.00 from the registration fees. So, review the classes and decide if you want to attend, put your name in "the hat" and we'll draw on August 14. You must be present to win.

Second thing, is we need your bird pictures. Pictures of the most common birds typically found in our "neck of the woods"; i.e. the refuge. Both of the new bird blinds are nearly completed but we need pictures of local birds to put into binders that will be left at the blinds. Please send them to Jill at jillmom8788@hotmail.com And – be thinking about being a part of the blind maintenance team. Would likely be only every two weeks or monthly that you'd check the blinds.

Third thing is this month's meeting. A little change in format. We will have a very short business meeting and then a full hour (or maybe a wee bit more) of Advanced Training. Roger Geiger will present on the River Birch Tree and Kay Lowery will present on "After the Fire" at Bear Creek. Hoping this will help and encourage those of you that are behind on AT.

See you, Monday, August 14, 6:30 pm, Jefferson Transportation Center.

SB

Upcoming Events:

- Aug 14 – Meeting
- Aug 19 – Work Day
- Sept 6 – Mycology class
- Sept 11 – Meeting (Potluck)
- Sept 16 – Work Day
- Oct 9 – Meeting
- Oct 14 – Work Day
- Nov 13 – End of Year Celebration
- Nov 18 – Work Day

Financial Report for July 2017

Beginning Bank Balance, 07/01/2017	\$8,475.16
Add: Receipts	None
Less: Expenses	None
Ending Bank Balance, 07/31/2017	\$8,457.16
Dedicated Funds – Regatta	\$5,696.75
Undedicated Funds	\$2,760.41
Ending Bank Balance, 06/30/2017	\$8,457.16

Charles Gillis
Treasurer



**This world is but a canvas
to our imagination.**

Henry David Thoreau

Annual Meeting



T E X A S
MASTER NATURALIST™
18th Annual Meeting
OCTOBER 20-22, 2017
OMNI CORPUS CHRISTI HOTEL

It's time! Registration is NOW OPEN for the Texas Master Naturalist 18th Annual Meeting!

Registration Open - <http://txmn.org/2017-annual-meeting/>

This year's event will mark the Texas Master Naturalist Program's 18th Annual Meeting and will be the 19th year of the program. This year's meeting will be held at the Omni Corpus Christi from October 20th-22nd, 2017 overlooking the western shores of the Gulf of Mexico, where the breakwaters meet the sand dunes, neotropical birds fly overhead on their migration routes and endangered sea turtles return annually to their nesting habitats. With 367 miles of coastline in Texas, Corpus Christi is situated along the southern reaches of this coastline at the mouth of the Nueces River as it flows from the hill country, through the south Texas Plains and out into the Gulf. The Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for the Texas Master Naturalist volunteers from around the state to gather, participate in hands-on educational seminars, and receive all of their Advanced Training requirements for the year within one weekend. It's also an opportunity for program participants and supporters to network, share new ideas/projects, and to learn from different chapters from different regions of the state.

We are pleased to extend an invitation to ALL Texas Master Naturalist Program volunteers, along with all other program affiliates. This includes those certified volunteers, those still in training, program administrators and advisors of local chapters, and your local chapter partners, sponsors, or special guests. This year's gathering has several chapter enhancement and Advanced Training topics to choose from. Our social times, chapter project fair showcase and round table discussions will offer great opportunities to meet your fellow Texas Master Naturalist peers from our 46 Chapters across the state and share new ideas from the past year. Hear what projects your peers are contributing their volunteer time towards and make new acquaintances all at the same time. The Texas Master Naturalist Store and other surprises are also on the agenda. So, come out for a weekend filled with fun, fellowship, and learning on the western shores of the Gulf of Mexico.

Registration for this highly anticipated event is NOW available through the Annual Meeting page on the Texas Master Naturalist state website at <http://txmn.org/2017-annual-meeting/>. Additional information about the annual gathering weekend, annual awards and contests, the advanced training sessions agenda, and registration details can be found on the website as well. The **deadline** for registration is Friday, September 29th, 2017.

Submitted by: Michelle Haggerty

Great Awakening event



Gang members:

Back Row: Roger Geiger, Steve Sedberry, Linda Richtsmeier, Robert Avrett, Stella Barrow

Middle Row: Sandra Hooper, Becky Gullette

Front Row: Pam Watts, Susan Sedberry, Kristi Thomas

Not pictured: Ted Barrow.

Great Awakening! Great Teamwork!

Members of CBTMN rose to the challenge of providing nature-based activities for approximately 50 campers at the first Great Awakening Youth Retreat held at Diamond Don's RV Park in Jefferson on July 20-22. The retreat was designed for young people 12-19 years of age. The organizing staff included David Nelson, Youth Minister at First Baptist Church of Marshall; Justin and Joslin Hart, Youth Leaders at New Hope Baptist Church of Ore City; Daniel Baldwin, Youth Minister at Jay Valley Baptist Church of Longview and Kelly Schilling, Tourism and Marketing Director for the city of Jefferson.

We were asked to provide activities for 1.5 to 2 hours each day. Because of the extreme heat (Heat indices in the 100's) those periods were actually shortened a bit each day. Our group provided 4 of the 5-6 stations available to the campers.

Activities we provided included "Skins, Skulls and Tracks", "Critter Scene Investigation", "Wetland Metaphors", "Quick Frozen Critters", "Deadly Links", "Habitat Lap Sit", Animal Bingo, nature walk, canoeing/kayaking and a field guide table. Some of these activities came from the "Project..." series of nature activities. (Project Wet, Project Wild, Growing Up Wild, etc).

Those contributing to this educational outreach were Roger Avrett, Stella Barrow, Ted Barrow, Kim DeLoney, Roger Geiger, Becky Gullette, Sandra Hooker, Jane Reynolds, Nancy Rhea, Linda Richtsmeier, Steve Sedberry, Susan Sedberry, Kristi Thomas, Pam Watts, Jill Wright and our sponsor, Vanessa Neace.

In the midst of the GREAT heat at the GREAT Awakening, sixteen CBTMN'ers undertook any or all of the following challenges: preparing lessons, transporting equipment, setting up stations (including the BIG canopy!), teaching lessons, and breaking down the stations (including the BIG canopy!). CBTMN'ers exhibited GREAT work ethic, GREAT creativity, GREAT flexibility, GREAT teamwork, GREAT patience and GREAT camaraderie. The Cypress Basin Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists is truly a GREAT group!

Submitted by: Becky Gullette



THE PADDLEFISH

BATS – FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL LITTLE BEASTS

Bats are clean, gentle and intelligent little animals. And - they are vital to the ecosystem and help in many ways. Fruit and nectar bats help us with approximately 450 commercial products and over 80 different medicines through seed dispersal and pollination. Up to 98% of all rainforest regrowth comes from seeds that have been spread by fruit bats. Insect-eating bats help us in the night skies by eating insect-pests that destroy crops and cause human disease. They should certainly be encouraged rather than feared.

Bats can outnumber purple martins as much as one hundred to one and they are much more helpful in controlling mosquitoes. They come up from their winter homes in Mexico about the same time the martins arrive but stay three to four months longer.

One bat can eat about 600 mosquitoes and other night-flying insects hourly. Twenty million bats return each year to one Texas cave alone. This colony in a single night eats a quarter of a million pounds or more of flying insects. Bats also help to pollinate flowers by feeding on plant nectar and pollen. The nectar-eating bats aid the pollination of primarily tropical fruits in warm regions but also the agave plant from which tequila is made. That of course is especially important!

There are many misconceptions and outright falsehoods about bats. They aren't evil. They don't suck blood from your neck - the only blood-loving bats are the vampire bats that live in Latin America. They do look somewhat peculiar hanging upside down in caves and under bridges but their mysterious sleeping habits shouldn't bother anyone, especially since they do all of their beneficial work at night and they don't bother anybody during the day.

There is little health threat or danger from bats. They cause less rabies than do cats and dogs. More people die from dog attacks annually than have died in history from contact with bats.

Texas has the highest population density of bats in the U.S. There are two particularly interesting bat communities. The first is the largest urban colony that is estimated at close to a million bats roosting under the Congress Avenue bridge in downtown Austin, Texas. The second, located in a natural cave north of San Antonio, has been proclaimed by the National Geographic Society to be the largest concentration of mammals in a single place on earth. If the 1,000,000 bats in Austin eat an estimated 20,000 pounds of mosquitoes each night, imagine the benefit we receive from the 20,000,000 (20 million) bats that leave Bracken Cave every night from April to October to feed on flying insects.

Merlin Tuttle, in his excellent book *America's Neighborhood Bats: Understanding and Learning to Live with Them*, points out that all bats in the United States and Canada are insectivorous except for three species of nectar-feeders found along the Mexican border of Texas and Arizona.

Anyone interested in receiving more information about our furry flying friends, write or call Bat Conservation International at P.O. Box 162603, Austin, Texas 78716, (512) 327-9721.

https://www.dirtdoctor.com/garden/Bats-Friendly-and-Helpful-Little-Beasts-Newsletter_vq12927.htm

The NEW Bat-Watching Sites of Texas website is now live!!

The website, created in collaboration with Bat Conservation International, covers general bat biology, provides a list of the bat species that occur in Texas, briefly discusses white-nose syndrome (WNS) and bat -watching etiquette, and highlights twelve bat-watching sites of various ownership/management across the state, including four TPWD properties.

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/species/bats/bat-watching-sites/>

OFFICERS:

Stella Barrow
President

Susan Sedberry
Vice President

Kristi Thomas
Secretary

Charles Gillis
Treasurer

Jill Wright
New Class Director

Tami White
2017 Class Rep.

Linda Richtsmeier
Membership Director

Vanessa Adams
Neace
Advisor

Doug Weir
Advisor

2017 Meeting and Work Day Calendar

MONTHLY MEETING DATES	WORK DAYS
AUGUST 14	AUGUST 19
SEPTEMBER 11 – Potluck	SEPTEMBER 16
OCTOBER 9	OCTOBER 14
NOVEMBER 13 – End of Year Celebration	NOVEMBER 18

AmazonSmile

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalist has been issued a \$17.40 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between January 1 and March 31, 2017.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalist. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/30-0514961> and support us every time you shop.

There is no cost to you – only a win for the chapter.

State TMN is offering a \$75.00 scholarship to one lucky chapter member. We will hold a lottery type drawing at our monthly meeting to see which of you will receive this award toward registration fees. So! Review the link above, decide if you are interested in going to the meeting, throw your name "in the hat" for the drawing. Reminder: Our meeting is Monday, August 14. You have to be present to win.

~SB