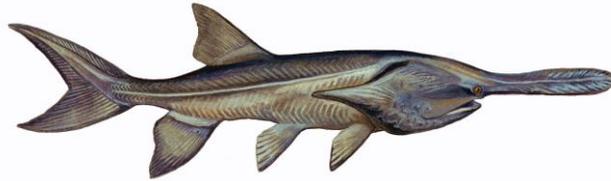




THE PADDLEFISH



Briefings from Becky

It's August! We're back on our regular meeting schedule. I would say that we have a lot of cool opportunities coming up BUT I know that (literally taken) that would be a lie. It's still hot but we still have jobs to do. Outside will be hot but hopefully everyone's AC is working and inside will be cool.

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This Monday, August 12 our job will be to meet at Kellyville for our regular chapter meeting. At 6pm we will have our quarterly Potluck and combine it with a recipe tasting so you can tell folks that you have some firsthand experience enjoying some of the recipes in our cookbook: "Swamp Fare: Cooking in the Cypress Basin with Master Naturalists". We'll have some cards ready to write down the name of the recipe so you'll know what you're eating! Some recipes will be hot and some will be cool.

On August 17 we have a workday at CLNWR starting early morning (probably 7:30 but we'll let you know by the chapter meeting). As we hit the trails and work if possible on bird blinds it will start to get hot. THEN we can go into the admin building and get cool as we enjoy Darryl Shuler's presentation on entomology at 11am.

Please try to attend our chapter meeting and at least some part of our Aug 17 activities. Be sure to read our great newsletter (Thank you, Tami) and keep your eyes open for upcoming messages about available opportunities for VT and AT.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Do what we can, summer will have its flies; if we walk in the woods we must feed mosquitos...." Well the cicadas are serving as a protein treat for my dog as we go for walks, but I'm trying not to be food for the mosquitos. Guess Emerson didn't have Off or Repel.

Becky



Cookbook pre-orders
Order by Aug 30.

Contact Caroline
Hughes

cahughes8@gmail.com



Quarterly Potluck!

When: Monday, August 12, 2019 @ 6 p.m.

Where: Marion County Extension Office, Kellyville Community
Center

Bring a sample of a dish you put in the Cookbook for all to try!!



Caddo Biocontrol Alliance breaks ground on second greenhouse to control salvinia



Representatives from Caddo Biocontrol Alliance (CBA) and Caddo Lake Institute along with Pct. 1 County Commissioner William Hatfield participate in groundbreaking ceremony for a second greenhouse to help control giant salvinia at Caddo Lake in Uncertain

(Robin Y. Richardson/News Messenger photo)

UNCERTAIN — Due to the success of its climate-controlled weevil greenhouse operation, the Caddo Biocontrol Alliance is amplifying its fight against giant salvinia at Caddo Lake with the construction of a new greenhouse project.

“Caddo Lake has been dealing with giant salvinia since 2006. Caddo Lake’s Bio Control Alliance built the first greenhouse for this project in 2014,” Robert Speight, president of the CBA, said Wednesday during a groundbreaking ceremony for the project. “Today our efforts in controlling this plant, using a natural biological control agent, are expanding. “(The) new greenhouse will double our capacity to produce giant salvinia weevils, which is the natural agent (to manage) giant salvinia,” Speight explained.

Giving background of the biocontrol efforts, Speight said the first greenhouse was constructed during a massive outbreak of the invasive weed on the lake in 2013. “In 2013, salvinia was so bad on the lake you couldn’t even get to Johnson’s Ranch marina over here; so there was a community outcry and we responded to it with this,” he said of the existing Morley Hudson Weevil Greenhouse in Uncertain. Moving forward, the new greenhouse, at 385 Cypress Drive, will not only be identical to the existing facility, but located right next to it on property that’s been secured by the Caddo Lake Institute. Funds to construct the new greenhouse were provided by partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Services, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Cypress Valley Navigation District and many grassroots donors. “New laboratory space of additional land to house this expansion was secured by the Caddo Lake Institute’s chairman of the board, conservationist, world renowned music artist and East Texas native Don Henley,” said Speight. “Multiple organizations have been instrumental in the success of the Caddo Biocontrol Alliance since its beginning. None more so than the Greater Caddo Lake Association of Texas, which has a long history of supporting Caddo Lake’s future as well as preserving its past and have provided critical support to the CBA.” In addition to nonprofit partners, Speight acknowledged U.S. Sen. Louie Gohmert, State Sen. Bryan Hughes, State Rep. Chris Paddie and former State Sen. Kevin Eltife for their support of the salvinia management efforts. He also thanked the Harrison County Commissioners Court and the cities of Uncertain and Marshall for their aid. “The number of nonprofit and government organizations working together to conserve the unique ecology and economic integrity of Caddo Lake are a testament to how valuable

this natural resource, ‘a Wetland of International Importance,’ is to the region,” said Speight. Pct. 1 County Commissioner William Hatfield, who participated in the Wednesday’s groundbreaking, said he was proud to represent the area.

Onsite office/lab

Laura-Ashley Overdyke, Executive Director of Caddo Lake Institute, said CLI is excited to provide the land for the new greenhouse along with a great onsite laboratory and office space for CBA. “For many years, the Caddo Biocontrol Alliance has been using this weevil greenhouse next door,” she said. “They don’t have bathrooms there; they don’t have an office space there, and the laboratory was about 10 miles away at the refuge. “So, when they had a chance to build a new greenhouse, Caddo Lake Institute wanted them to have some security and to have a nice, long lease,” said Overdyke. “So, we got them a lease of this land for a longer term where they can build that greenhouse with some confidence for the future, but they can also use this manufactured home for bathrooms, for office space. “It’ll make it a lot more convenient for them,” said Overdyke, sharing they’ve already started putting the building to use. The provision of land and onsite laboratory facility is just an extension of CLI’s longtime support to the preservation of Caddo Lake. “The Caddo Lake Institute has been investing in Caddo since ‘93,” she said. “Millions and millions of dollars have been invested in this area and this is just a continuation of support of local nonprofits like Caddo Biocontrol Alliance, who are focused on specific things. “We’re focused on all the issues that matter to Caddo Lake, and salvinia is certainly one of those; and we help Caddo Bio Control Alliance to achieve their mission,” she said.

Timeline

Speight said the public should see some progress soon as contractors begin to start leveling the dirt on the property to prepare for construction. “Probably within the next week or so, you’ll be seeing dirt getting turned and hauled in,” said Speight. While the greenhouse was ordered Wednesday, it will be about 10 to 12 weeks before it’s built.

“It’ll (take) a couple of weeks to put the dirt down, get it settled, packed and then probably about mid-October they’ll be putting the greenhouse up,” said Speight. “Then we’ll start putting the tanks in

(Continued on page 3)

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Financial Report for July 31, 2019

Upcoming Events:

- **August 15 Urban Wildlife Conference, Richardson TX**
- **August 17 Workday and AT presentation**
Entomology by Darell Shuler
- **Oct 5 - Weevil Wobble**
Uncertain, TX, a 5k run to directly benefit the Caddo Biocontrol Alliance
- **Oct 18-20 – Annual Meeting**
Held at Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakefront Hotel. Register now at <https://txmn.org/2019-annual-meeting/>

Beginning Bank Balance, 06/30/2019		\$10,156.03
Add Deposits:	Cookbook Prepay	\$ 120.00
	Name Tag Reimbursement	<u>21.84</u>
		141.84
Less Expenses: Postage	Flotilla 2019 Charge Fee	\$ 38.65
		<u>4.95</u>
		<u>\$ -43.60</u>
Ending Balance, 07/31/2019		<u>\$10,254.27</u>
Flotilla Funds	\$ 5,992.19	
General Funds	4,262.08	<u>\$10,254.27</u>

Cookbook Report as of July 31, 2019

Receipts: Prepaid Cookbook Orders (6)	\$ 120.00
Expenses	-0-
Net Gain	\$120.00

Early prepaid orders appreciated!

Upcoming Workday AT – August 17

We are pleased to announce that we will have an AT opportunity from one of our own. Recent trainee, Darryl Shuler, will do a program on Entomology. Darryl is an enthusiastic naturalist with a broad background. He has a BS degree in Wildlife/Fisheries Sciences (Ecology) from Texas A&M University. Darryl has worked for a variety of state and federal agencies doing real field research. We'll share more about this great opportunity later.

CADDO BIOCONTROL *(continued)*

it, getting all the internal, the power to it and all that. "Our goal is to be ready by spring of 2020 to actually have weevils released out on the lake, in the second greenhouse," he said.

Current state

Speight said they are looking forward to the project as the facility will help CBA double its capacity to produce weevils that exclusively live in, feed on, and damage what's considered the world's worst aquatic weed — giant salvinia. "We released over 200,000 in 2018 out of that existing greenhouse," he said. "This one will let us, hopefully, double that amount, so that in the peak summer growing time we're putting twice as much weevils out as we have in the past, so that helps control the plant."

Currently, 1,000 acres of Caddo are covered with the plant, which is down from a high of 12,000 acres in 2013, officials said. Speight attributes the success to Mother Nature, a strong spraying program and the production of weevils. "Mother Nature and Parks and Wildlife — with their herbicide applications — have really done a good job in helping keep control of it," said Speight. "We're able to use weevils in spots where they can't spray and where Mother Nature didn't get to it, so it's a collaborative effort between state and local entities. "Hard freezes in 2017 and high water in 2018 and 2019 have greatly reduced coverage of the plant, along with aggressive herbicide and weevil applications," he added. "The expansion provides additional resources to stay on top of this difficult situation and maximize chances for success."

Speight acknowledged CBA's two part-time employees — Laura Speight, project manager, and Hattie Hackler, the greenhouse manager — for their diligent work in producing the weevils. "They work together to do this," he said. "It's not a 40-hour a week job, but it's time sensitive. So, when something needs to be done, they need to be here to do it ... because when weevils are ready to be released, you cannot just wait. "When they get to a critical mass is when you need to release them. If you let them go too many days after that, they'll actually die from lack of food; so, it's a very time sensitive thing." In addition to the employees, they also depend on volunteers with releasing efforts. "The Cypress Basin Naturalist Group has been really helpful with doing these kinds of things, doing releases and doing maintenance," said Speight. "So, we have two part-time employees, but we have a ton of volunteers." Used with permission by [Robin Y. Richardson](mailto:Robin.Y.Richardson@marshallnewsmessenger.com)

Invasive Plants They're Everywhere!

2019 Meeting Dates

Aug 12
Sep 09
Oct 14
Nov 11

Husband Ted and I travelled to Chama, New Mexico in June to volunteer with "Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad". It was the most amazing trip and we both heartily recommend it. (Nope – no volunteer hours for CBTMN - 😊) One of the benefits was the day long trip on the narrow-gauge coal powered train from Chama NM to San Antonito Colorado. The scenery was breath-taking and there's nothing to compare with breathing fresh air and a bit of coal smoke as you ride the open-air car. No, seriously, it wasn't bad, and the weather could not have been more perfect; 75-80 during the day, 40's at night. I couldn't help but notice a pretty plant that looked like a fuzzy cabbage as we slowed along the track. I asked our docent about it. He gave me the name, California Cone Flower Lily. It was transported by visitors from California to New Mexico and perhaps, he said, by inadvertent transportation via trucks and agriculture. It covered large areas of the landscape and was choking out some of the natives. It was the wrong season to get a picture of the lily. Picture of the leaves is included. Google search didn't indicate it was an invasive species and had advertisements for selling the plant. Hmm... did I get bad info? I don't think so. So unfortunate, isn't it? The pretty flowers end up being the ones that so often cause damage; i.e. Giant Salvinia.



California Cone Flower Lily

Then as we got higher up the mountain, (Chama, NM elevation 7,000, San Antonito, CO 10,000) I noticed the barren spots on the sides of the mountains and the blackened pine trees. Back to the docent. The Pine Bark Beetle is devastating the pine trees. I hope the picture gives you an idea of the devastation. I haven't uncovered any treatment for it and can only hope that it doesn't do to the pine trees what the Emerald Ash Borer has done to ash trees.

And a picture of Ted and his buddy, Carl Humphreys that worked to rebuild a box car in four days! There were two other volunteers – they didn't do it ENTIRELY by themselves, just almost.

www.cumbrestoltec.org ~Submitted by Stella Barrow



Ted and his buddy, Carl Humphreys



Devastation by Pine Bark Beetle

For information about Pine Bark Beetles in East Texas go to

<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/Whathaskilledmypinetrees/>

Please share pictures and updates of any presentations, field trips, etc that is going on! We also can use interesting articles you come across. You can email them to cypressbasintmn@gmail.com

AT Opportunity – Macroinvertebrates for water testing

INVITATION TO A 7 HOUR ADVANCED TRAINING EVENT AT TEXARKANA COLLEGE SEPT. 21, 8:30 A.M.-3:30 P.M. IN BIO. 119 LAB AT TEXARKANA COLLEGE, 2500 N. ROBISON RD., TEXARKANA, TX.

“MACROINVERTEBRATE COLLECTION AND IDENTIFICATION” (MUDBUGS)

USE OF TINY MUD CREATURES ARE AN IMPORTANT INDICATOR OF STREAM QUALITY. IT’S DONE ONCE A YEAR IN SPRING, SUMMER OR EARLY FALL. DRAGONFLIES, CERTAIN FLIES, ETC. THAT LAY THEIR EGGS IN AND AROUND WATERWAYS ARE COLLECTED IN THE MUD OF YOUR WATERWAY.

THIS IS DONE ALONG WITH REGULAR CORE TESTING.



RSVP REQUIRED BY SEPT. 15. MAX IN CLASS IS 20. DELORES.MCCRIGHT@GMAIL.COM

Registration is now open for TMN 2019 Annual Conference

Join us for our 20th **Texas Master Naturalist Program Annual Meeting**, where we’ll gather, learn and celebrate another year of the Texas Master Naturalist program. This year’s event, taking place in Rockwall, Texas, will run from **Friday, October 18th through Sunday, October 20th**. The event will be hosted at the **Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakefront Hotel** on the shores of Lake Ray Hubbard just east of Dallas.



The year’s Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for 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. This year’s meeting will also include day trips and training workshops to many local, state and even national refuges/parks, many of which will focus on the diversity of geography, flora, fauna and history this unique area of Texas.

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 48 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! Register now at <http://txmn.org/2019-annual-meeting>

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST ANNUAL MEETING <i>Registration</i>	\$245	\$180	\$220
	FULL CONFERENCE	ONE DAY PASS/ GUEST MEAL PASS	TWO DAY PASS
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST ANNUAL MEETING <i>Lodging</i>	\$142* /night	\$152* /night	\$162* /night
	SINGLE/DOUBLE OCCUPANCY ROOM	TRIPLE OCCUPANCY ROOM	QUADRUPLE OCCUPANCY ROOM

*plus 15% local occupancy tax

OFFICERS:

- Becky Gullette
President
- Susan Sedberry
Vice President
- Kristi Thomas
Secretary
- Charles Gillis
Treasurer
- Jill Wright
New Class Director
- Barry & Caroline
Hughes
2018 Class Rep.
- Linda Richtsmeier
Membership Director
- Vanessa Adams Neace
Advisor
- Doug Weir
Advisor



Join the Bird Herd!

Looking for volunteers to help maintain the bird blinds at the refuge. As part of the blinds there is a need for the birds to be fed! If you would be interested in being part of the team to rotate and keep the feeders filled, please contact Stella.

Upcoming Events



The Weevil Wobble, a 5k run to directly benefit the Caddo Biocontrol Alliance.



USACE and Friends of Lake O' the Pines invite you to Movie Night at Johnson' Creek

Volunteer Opportunities

A Citizen Science Project Involving Acer rubrum for VT

(Note from Becky: Vanessa Neace forwarded this to us from Dr Charles M. Allen, a well known botanist from Louisiana. The project is currently focusing on red maple but it is possible that the research will broaden to include other maples as well.)

A student researcher (Steven Gougherty, Boston University) is seeking participants throughout the SE to collect red maple leaves as part of a large-scale project to "understand how red maple (*Acer rubrum*) leaf traits, including foliar nutrient resorption varies across its geographic distribution and in response to strong environmental gradients."

TASpeR (Traits Across Species' Ranges) is a project focused on understanding how variation within plant species influences the size and movement of different pools of elements (e.g., carbon, nitrogen) on the surface of the Earth.

For 2019 we are currently focused on developing partnerships with citizen scientist groups and individuals to survey patterns of green vs. freshly fallen leaf nutrient concentrations (i.e., foliar nutrient resorption) of red maple (*Acer rubrum*) throughout its geographic distribution. Learn more about the research questions at

<http://sites.bu.edu/tasper/research/>

Interested in collecting red maple leaves for TASpeR as a group or individual? – Get involved! <http://sites.bu.edu/tasper/>

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