



# THE PADDLEFISH

## Briefings from Becky

Well, it has been an unusual spring so far! The Covid19 social and work restrictions have created major changes for many people. Our state office is really pushing digital meetings and communications between chapters. They are actively looking at ways to accommodate those chapters whose spring trainings have been interrupted.

But, at least in nature, we have some consistency.... well sometimes a spring is cooler or hotter, more wet or more dry but the wildflowers are making their appearance! This has been a blessing to a friend of mine who is currently "laid-off" because of the restrictions on retail. She has started walking with me (usually an hour plus) to work off stress and fill her time. YES, we are maintaining the "safe" distance defined by the government. Where we walk we're seeing self-heal, lyre-leaf sage, buckeye, spiderwort, blue-eyed grass, crow poison, lyre-leaf sage, yellow wood-sorrel, violet wood sorrel, Carolina jasmine, thistle and a composite that I need to take a closer look at. LOL. As much as I enjoy seeing these plants, I've enjoyed it even more because my friend is so enthusiastic.



She asked me where she could have a short drive to take her mother to see wildflowers on the roadside. So, I started scouting some of our FM's and CR's. Queen Anne's lace, pink evening primrose, fleabane, and yes some yellow ones that I couldn't identify from the car are coming on.

Maybe you know someone who would enjoy some "guidance" to help them enjoy the spring and give them a mental and emotional break from the restrictions that we all need to honor. Put your thinking caps on. Maybe you just need to spend more time with field books and practicing your ID'ing. (I certainly do and have! LOL) Stay safe. Enjoy the spring. Check out this newsletter for reminders and new info.

~Becky Gullette  
CBTMN President

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### 2020 Meeting Dates

- May 11
- June 8
- July 13
- Aug 10
- Sept 14
- Oct 12
- Nov 9

## Annual Inter-Agency Giant Salvinia Taskforce Conference Held in Oil City, LA



*The Giant Salvinia Weevil Rearing Working Group meeting at the Caddo Biocontrol Alliance's Morley Hudson rearing facility in Uncertain, TX. Credit: Hattie Lee Hackler, Caddo Biocontrol Alliance*

In early February, Caddo Lake Institute and the Inter-Agency Giant Salvinia Taskforce (IGGST) brought together experts from 4 states, 2 federal agencies and local government officials to share their latest information on and techniques for managing Giant Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*). Some topics of discussion were prevention, containment booms and the latest in herbicide and biocontrol measures. John Findeisen with TPWD, Dr. Chris Mudge with the LSUAg Center, and Dr. Mark Weaver with the USDA Bio Control of Pests Research Unit were just a few of the experts in attendance to discuss this invasive species. The consensus among the specialists is that managing Salvinia requires more than one facet: prevention, (where possible), containment, herbicides, and biological agents are all needed to combat this tough invasive. This annual meeting is part of Caddo Lake Institute's efforts to manage invasive species by sharing the latest information with those affected by Giant Salvinia or other invasives. The day before, members of the Weevil Rearing Working Group and others attended a meeting in Uncertain, TX, to discuss the rearing of salvinia weevils (*Cyrtobagous salviniae*) at Caddo Biocontrol Alliance's rearing facility. ([iWire March 2020](#))

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**“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.” ~Albert Einstein**

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### 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.

### Texas A&M Forest Service Virtual Class: All About Trees

Texas A&M Forest Service's ALL ABOUT TREES has moved several of our all live presentations to a WebEx platform. This is in response to the important stay-at-home ordinances related to the outbreak of COVID-19.

Join us for this series of presentations created to bring experts in forestry and arboriculture to answer your questions interactively through a dynamic CHAT feature.

Check with your local Texas Master Naturalist or Texas Master Gardener chapters for Advance Training AT credits. This class will be live on our WebEx platform allowing professional foresters and arborists to answer your questions in real-time meeting state AT requirements.

COST: FREE

Thursday, April 16, 2020

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Program information is available by emailing or calling John Warner, [jwarner@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:jwarner@tfs.tamu.edu) or 936/546-3169.

LINK: [Register Here](#)

Or copy and paste this link in your web browser:

<https://tfs.webex.com/tfs/onstage/g.php?>

## 2020 8th Annual Flotilla Update

### Stella Barrow, Chair for the Annual Flotilla, shared the following updates.

- ◇ Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the date has been changed to May 30, 2020. She has reached out to all the registered participants and as of date only one has requested a refund.
- ◇ Susan and Food Team have made arrangements for a food truck. They would like members to bake cookies for that day. 2 dozen, I believe, but Susan will confirm that for you.
- ◇ Sponsorships so far
  - ◇ City of Uncertain - 1K for exclusive rights to the back of the t-shirt;
  - ◇ VERA BANK, Jefferson - give aways for the goody bags
  - ◇ BassPro Shop - nothing confirmed from them yet
  - ◇ Caddo Cabins



***“Between every two pines there is a doorway to a new world.”***  
***~John Muir***

### Rare Native Prairie near Texarkana Preserved by Family, Conservation Groups

Fifth-generation Texans, David and John Talbot of New Boston, in February 2020 sold one of the last examples of unplowed native prairie in northeast Texas to the Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT) for permanent preservation as the Talbot Brothers Prairie Preserve. The 366 acres in Bowie County also includes more than 200 acres of bottomland hardwood forest and wetlands.

The Talbot family owned the property for more than 55 years. “The land stewardship and preservation of these unique prairie lands into the future is very important to our family’s legacy,” said John Talbot. “Our mother, Mary Talbot, initiated a similar transaction several years back.” Those 115 acres, also near New Boston, are called the Mary Talbot Prairie.

Read more from Amy Martin with North Texas E-News [here](#).

For more information about the Native Prairies Association of Texas, visit their website at [texasprairie.org](http://texasprairie.org). For more information about The Nature Conservancy, visit [nature.org](http://nature.org).



Talbot Brothers Prairie Preserve Credit: Amy Martin

## **Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Minutes from February 10, 2020**

Members enjoyed the quarterly potluck dinner.

A presentation by Jason Hansford of the National Weather Service began around 6:40. He discussed CoCoRaHS with the group. His discussion referenced the importance of citizens reporting rainfall daily from their locations. Members attending the presentation received 1.25 hours of AT credit.

Becky called the chapter meeting to order at 8:00. Roll call was by sign-up sheet.

A correction was made to the February minutes. Tony (instead of Tom) Bosworth will do the AT presentation on insects on June 13<sup>th</sup> (instead of the 15<sup>th</sup>). This will be at 10:00 at the refuge. Please update this change on your calendars. The February minutes were approved with this correction.

Charles gave the treasurer's report. He noted that some members had yet to pay the \$25.00 dues. He urged those members to please make payment as soon as possible.

Darryl has earned his certification but was not present this month to receive it in person. Kristi was awarded a certificate for her outstanding services as CBTMN secretary.

Susan gave the Flotilla 2020 report. So far 55 people have pre-registered. She discussed the new T-shirt design which will be free to volunteers to wear on Flotilla day. A paper was sent around to get sizes of volunteer shirts. Extra shirts will be 10:00 each for members to purchase. Please let Susan know your size or whether you wish to purchase extra shirts.

Susan also reported on current sponsorship levels. The back of the shirts will credit the City of Uncertain for their \$1000.00 contribution.

Susan also reported that Megabites food truck will provide sliders and a veggie option on the day of the event. Soft drinks and desserts will be sold by club members. Volunteers are asked to provide two dozen cookies or brownies for to be sold at the event. The next workday will be Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00. This day will be used for trail maintenance.

The next Flotilla meeting will be March 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 at the refuge.

Members were encouraged to take a canoe or an alligator to decorate

Doug Weir attended the meeting and will need some help for some upcoming children's programs. He needs volunteers to provide a 20 minute activity on butterflies. Please contact him if interested.

The meeting was adjourned. Members received .25 in volunteer time plus drive time and food preparation time.

~ **Submitted by Kim Deloney**  
**CBTMN Secretary**

## Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Financial Report for March 31, 2020

<b>Beginning Bank Balance, 02/29/2020</b>		<b>\$12,717.09</b>
<b>Add Deposits:</b> Annual Dues	\$ 115.00	
Flotilla Donation	<u>200.00</u>	+ <u>315.00</u>
<b>Less Expenses:</b> Flotilla 2020 - sign materials	\$ 438.13	
Bird Supplies	54.76	
March Monthly Meeting	30.26	
Speaker Gift	16.23	
Flotilla 2020 - whistles	<u>63.05</u>	- <u>602.43</u>
<b>Ending Balance, 03/31/2020</b>		<b><u>\$12,429.66</u></b>
<b>Flotilla Funds</b>	<b>\$ 5,506.61</b>	
<b>General Funds</b>	<b><u>6,923.05</u></b>	<b><u>\$12,429.66</u></b>

**NOTES:**

Dues status: 42 paid, 12 to go . If you haven't had the opportunity to pay your 2020 dues, you can send to me at 709 Lovely Road, Marshall. TX 75672. Annual dues are \$25 for individuals or \$40 for couples.

Not reflected in the above report are receipts of \$1350 for Flotilla Donations and \$25.00 for dues that have not yet been deposited and \$199.03 for outstanding expense checks.

~ Submitted by Charles Gillis  
CBTMN Treasurer

***"If you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere."***

***- Vincent Van Gogh***

***Lordy, Lordy, guess who is going to be twice 40!***



**If you recognize this person please wish them  
a Happy Birthday!**

## OFFICERS:

Becky Gullette  
*President*

Susan Sedberry  
*Vice President*

Kim Deloney  
*Secretary*

Charles Gillis  
*Treasurer*

Jill Wright  
*New Class Director*

TBD  
*2019 Class Rep.*

Linda Richtsmeier  
*Membership Director*

Vanessa Adams  
Neace  
*Advisor*

Doug Weir  
*Advisor*

## Meetings, Training & Volunteer Opportuni-

**Please note:** Where field trips or trainings occur on a regular workday, this does not mean there will be no workday at all. Some may choose to do the workday instead of the special activity. We may group up to do trail work, etc. on a different day. **\*\* All events are pending the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.**

### APRIL

- Apr 13 Regular Meeting - Cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions
- Apr 18 WORKDAY: Trails, Flotilla meeting
- Apr 25 FLOTILLA!!!!!! (Rescheduled to May)

### MAY

- May 11 Regular Meeting 6:30pm
- May 16 FIELD TRIP and AT: Tyler State Park, Boyd Sanders, "Birds"  
WORKDAY consider alternative scheduling
- May 30 FLOTILLA!!!!!!

Possible road trip to prairie restorations in May or June????

### JUNE

- June 06 AT morning: iNaturalist Training – Craig Hensley, Tania Homayoun TPWD; possible VT afternoon – BioBlitz using iNaturalist
  - June 08 Regular meeting 6:30pm: AT presenters: Tim Bister, Margaret Staddig, TPWD Fisheries Biologists: "Paddlefish Project and Invasive Aquatic Species"
  - June 13 AT Insect "Hike" with Tony Bosworth – 2 Hours in the Morning  
WORKDAY
- Possible road trip to prairie restorations in May or June????

### In Need of AT?

Remember that out of the 8 hours of advanced training required each year, only 4 can be online. Hopefully we will be able to continue with our chapter face-to-face AT before too long. Here are a few good online options:

#### Forestry and Natural Resources Webinars

<http://forestrywebinars.net/>

#### Conservation of Natural Resources

<http://www.conservationwebinars.net>

#### Natures Notebook

<https://www.usanpn.org/nn/webinars>

#### Texas Wildlife Federation

<https://www.texas-wildlife.org/webinars>

#### Cornell University

<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org>

## Volunteering Without Violating COVID-19 Restrictions

- \* <https://www.inaturalist.org/>
- \* <https://www.cocorahs.org/>
- \* <https://ebird.org/home> (You may remember that we have an ebird kiosk in the visitor center at CLNWR. If you have the bird app you can enter sightings you may have at the refuge even though you can't get in to use the kiosk)
- \* School and community native plant or pollinator gardens: Please honor the state and local laws/rules/guidelines related to the Covid19 restrictions.
- \* State parks are closed but go online to keep up with their status.
- \* Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge trails are still open but remember, you should have someone with you on the trails; family member eliminates the worry of the safe distancing. If you partner with a friend, PLEASE, maintain the appropriate distance.
- \* Visitor Center, classroom and Admin Building are not open at this time. Contact person is [erik\\_duerkop@fws.gov](mailto:erik_duerkop@fws.gov) 903-407-9303

*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](mailto:cypressbasintmn@gmail.com)*



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