



# THE PADDLEFISH

## Briefings from Barbara

In 2011, I wanted to get involved in a nature-related organization, but didn't really know where to begin. Some Dallas County Master Gardeners maintained an heirloom garden at the outdoor museum where I worked. Not knowing anything about the Master Naturalist program, I approached one of the Master Gardeners members named Martha and peppered her with questions about joining. Martha, being direct as Martha usually was, told me it wasn't a good fit for me and suggested I look into the Master Naturalist program instead. I haven't seen her in years, but I think about her all the time and how that one very direct sentence changed my life. Thanks, Martha!

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Flotilla! Flotilla! Flotilla! I say that not in the whiny way Jan Brady said, "Marsha, Marsha, Marsha!" but with an excited voice anticipating this wonderful upcoming fundraiser, public event and all around great time. Stella probably began working on this year's Flotilla the day after the 2022 one closed. This is a multi-pronged program with many ways for chapter members to assist. If you want to help reach out to Stella Barrow for an assignment. I'm sure she has a rather long list of things to do!



I do not want to muddy the waters where advanced training is concerned but if you run across an interesting article, website, podcast, book, or blog post you think our chapter members would enjoy and that aligns with what we do as master naturalists, then pass it along. Even if there is no AT associated with it, learning is still learning. I like the *Stuff You Should Know* podcasts. They have several nature-related podcasts including one I've recently listened to about owls! Their description of how owl pellets form in the owl's body was gross but very interesting.

"Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt." - John Muir

~Barbara Judkins, CBTMN President

**TMN Welcomes Prospective New Members to Our Newsletter!**

**Look inside to find our meeting times and venues, volunteer opportunities, a list of officers, and much more.**



**Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists  
Financial Report for  
January 1, 2023—January 31, 2023**

**Beginning Bank Balance, 11/01/2022** **\$ 19,051.94**

Add Receipts: Dues + 450.00

**Ending Balance, 12/31/2022** **\$ 19,501.94**

Flotilla Funds	\$ 13,125.78	
Trainee Scholarship Fund	600.00	
General Funds	<u>5,776.16</u>	<b><u>\$ 19,501.94</u></b>

Note:

**Chapter Dues for 2023 are now due - \$25/individual and \$40/couple. You may pay at chapter meetings or mail to me at: 709 Lovely Road, Marshall, TX 75672. I will bring envelopes to the meetings for you to include cash payments with your name on the envelope. Checks will not need an envelope.**

**~ Submitted by Charles Gillis, CBTMN Treasurer**

**POTLUCK and PINS!!!**



Time to get cooking!! February 13th, at 6pm, is the time to show off your culinary skills again. Set up at the Jefferson Transportation Center is at 5:30 and dinner will begin at 6. Bring your favorite Valentine dish, and come join us for some visiting and great eating. During the business meeting, recertification and milestone pins will be presented to the deserving members and you'll get your picture in the newsletter! Hope to see you there!

**"Some old fashioned things like fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat." - Laura Ingalls Wilder**



## Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Minutes For January 9, 2023

**Attendees:** Barbara Judkins, Steve and Susan Sedberry, Becky Gullette, Linda Richtsmeier, Calvin Witt, Kathy Koenig, Laura Wilson, Phyllis Wilson, Pete Wright, Jill Wright, Charles Gillis, Ted Barrow, Stella Barrow, Roger Geiger, Pat Sawyer, ViAnn Sawyer, Dudley Swofford, Vickie Gilliland.  
No guests attended

**The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by our newly elected President, Barbara Judkins**

**Cares, Concerns, & Joys:** None were stated.

**Treasurer's Report:** included in the Paddlefish Newsletter, approved as written.

**2023 dues are now due!** \$25 per individual, \$40 per couple. Bring to a meeting or mail to our Treasurer, Charles Gillis, 709 Lovely Rd, Marshall TX 75672

**November Meeting Minutes:** included in the Paddlefish Newsletter, approved as written.

**VMS:** Please enter hours in a timely manner. Linda explained that when we make entries, we need to enter time to the nearest quarter hour using decimal format (.25 = 15 min, .50 = 30 min, .75 = 45 min)

**Reports from the field:** Adopt-a-Loop is in a new quarter. Phyllis asked us to turn in hours. Becky stated that Christi is in touch with the state regarding the paddle trails.

**Nature Book Club:** New selection is The Music of Bees by Eileen Garvin. Book discussion will be held in the classroom at the Refuge on Thursday, January 26th at 6:00pm. Mark your calendars....discussion time counts as VT.

### **AT and VT Opportunities:**

**January work days** at the Refuge were scheduled for Friday and Saturday (1/13-1/14).

Fred Ormsby hit all the trails in December and they were in pretty good shape. He recently reported that Starr Trail had a good bit of flooding.

**Trail of the Month:** for those who are interested, a group brainstorming session is TBA. We need to start planning by the first week of February. Be thinking about which trails and how best to promote this event. (Pete suggested promoting to cyclists). Also think of activities to have available on the deck. Dates will be planned for 1 weekend each month of March, April, May, June.

**Flower bed at check in:** Discussion around whether TMN or Friends Group is taking charge of this project. TMN is in need of a plant-loving volunteer to take up the lead for our part. Ted advised that it is important to maintain communication with John Fortune of the Friends Group.

**New Headquarters Trail:** Becky reports is a work in progress and will be discussing with Eric and Vanessa. This area will be included in our monthly trail works.

(Continued on page 6)

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*"Spring is nature's way of saying 'Let's Party!'" – Robin Williams*

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# 11th Annual Earth Day Flotilla

## It's Flotilla Time!

The Cypress Basin Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists is holding their 11th Earth Day Paddling Flotilla on Caddo Lake, Saturday, April 22nd. More information coming! Breakfast snacks will be provided, fishing education table, corn hole games, raffle, silent auction. Food available for purchase: hot dogs, burgers and Frito chili pie. Launch is either at Shady Glade Marina or Johnson's Ranch. Registration fees range from \$30-35 (Adults) and \$10 (under 13), depending on when you register. Tickets are available via Eventbrite <https://tinyurl.com/2023Flotilla>



Per Stella, As of this morning, we have 5 registered paddlers. There are 3 groups coming this year:

- Camping Buddies - Malae Harris is their leader and she's also the first one to register - for the second year in a row! They may have as many as 40 paddlers.
- Holly Lake Kayak Klub - Tom Hunse is their leader. Don't know their numbers, yet.
- Texas Outdoor Women Network (TOWN) Kathy Koenig is a TMN member and the contact.



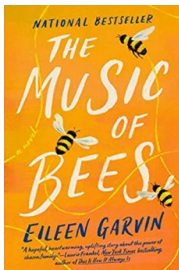
Contact: [23flotilla11@gmail.com](mailto:23flotilla11@gmail.com) or 903.736.3063

Share the tiny URL or QR code to register!

<https://tinyurl.com/2022Flotilla>

## TMN Nature Book Club

Ten members of The Nature Book Club met at the refuge on Thursday, January 26, to discuss *The Music of Bees*, by Eileen Garvin. Everyone really enjoyed the book's interesting characters and themes about the importance of community, family, and self-empowerment. The book also contains beautiful descriptions of and information about bees, which play an important role in the healing and growth of each main character.



Our next selection is *Nature's Wild Ideas*, by Kristy Hamilton. This is a nonfiction book about how nature has inspired some of the world's greatest inventions. Club members will meet briefly after the chapter meeting to select a date for the discussion.



Anyone who would like to join us, please contact Caroline Hughes at [ca-hughes8@gmail.com](mailto:ca-hughes8@gmail.com).



## NEW TRAINING CLASS SCHEDULE

Caroline and Susan, the New Class Co-Chairs, have set the dates for the (hopefully) new class beginning in August. Mark your calendars and please join us for some of the interesting-to-you classes for AT. All classes will be at the Refuge this year, and we are putting a strong emphasis on longer outdoor field time for each class. The dates are:

August 18-19  
September 15-16  
October 6-7  
November 4-5



**Recruiting trainees for the upcoming training class. Bring interested folks to a meeting!**

## ADVANCED TRAINING BEING PLANNED

There is some AT already lined up for 3 of our monthly meetings. The Beans will put on another FABULOUS Dutch oven cooking demo at the April meeting at Kellyville. There was some good eating at the last one they did! In August, Angela Anderson, a Certified Master Arborist, will present a timely program on trees and some of the issues we are experiencing this summer. For our last meeting of the year at the State Park, Ranger Dustin Shrock, from the Park, will speak to us on the Caddo Indians and their presence and significance in this area. Each of these will be about 45 minutes long with a 15 minute Q&A at the end. Pending the Board's approval, we hope to have a field trip or two. We have a couple of spots in mind, but if any of you have a place you are burning to go to, please let Caroline or Susan know.

The Board would like to get back to members presenting AT at meetings. We will have a sign up sheet at the meetings and would love for anyone who would like to speak on a subject near and dear to them, to sign up. We are asking for a 15-20 minute talk, then a short Q&A time. This will count as 30 minutes of AT for the members, and 30 minutes VT for the speaker. Any prep or additional research on the presenter's part will also be counted as VT. The months available for this are March, May, June and October. Hope you will consider doing this!

*"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." – Margaret Atwood*

## Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Minutes For January 9, 2023 (cont.)

*(Continued from page 3)*

### **Other VT Opportunities:**

**Hattie Hackler of Caddo Biocontrol Alliance is requesting volunteers...**"We are ready to have a volunteer workday at the Caddo Biocontrol Alliance greenhouses soon. We will be draining, mucking and cleaning all the tanks in the new greenhouse. Some only need sweeping out (light work), while others still need more strenuous mucking with long handled nets. Should be several hours of volunteer time. Gloves and muck boots are recommended." ....Dates TBA

### **Caddo Homecoming! April 15th starting at 11:00**

Caddo Lake State Park- Celebrating 100 years of Texas State Parks and 30 years of good conservation with the Caddo Lake Institute.

We have been invited to participate in this event and will need volunteers to monitor the games area. Sign up sheet will be available at our next meeting.

Susan and Caroline have been working to set up some **AT opportunities for the chapter**. Topics and dates TBA.

**AT with Vanessa...**a favorite of all who have participated! Join Vanessa to walk the Trails of the Month to learn more about the plants, birds and animals of the Refuge. Dates TBA

**Cypress Basin Board Meetings** will be held the following Mondays: February 6, May 1, August 7, November 6 at the Visitor's Center of the Refuge at 5:00 pm. All members are welcome to attend, however, only board members vote.

**2023 Flotilla is scheduled for April 22nd.** Our first planning meeting will be on January 21st at 10:00 am at the Refuge. Future meeting dates TBD.

### **Recertification Pins Awarded to:**

Barbara Judkins, Steve and Susan Sedberry, Becky Gullette, Linda Richtsmeier, Calvin Witt, Kathy Koenig, Laura Wilson, Phyllis Wilson, Charles Gillis, Ted Barrow, Stella Barrow, Roger Geiger, Dudley Swofford, and Vickie Gilliland.

### **Milestone Pins Awarded to:**

250 - Calvin Witt  
500 - Roger Geiger

**A motion was made to begin our meetings at 6:00 rather than 6:30.** Barbara suggested that this be put out to the group at large before making the change and will email all members.

**Our next meeting will be a Pot Luck** on February 13th at the Jefferson Transportation Center, 305 E. Austin St, Jefferson. Dinner at 6:00, meeting beginning at 6:30. Come early to help set up and earn some extra VT!!!

**Additional discussions...**Roger and David's disc golf tournament was a big success! 58 participants included some professionals and young players participating as adults...Congratulations!

Meeting adjourned at 7:15. **VT earned for this meeting .75 (45 min) plus travel time.**

~ Submitted by Laura Wilson, Chapter Secretary



# Volunteers in Action



## Receiving their Recertification Pins

Pictured are (L to R, seated) Phyllis Willson, Becky Gullette, Laura Willson, & Barbara

Judkins. Standing L to R are: Susan Sedberry, Dudley Swofford, Kathy Koenig, Cal Witt, Ted Barrow, Vicki Gilliland, Roger Geiger, Linda Richtsmeier, Stella Barrow, Steve Sedberry.



## AWARDS!

**Certification pins and milestone pins were passed out at the January meeting.**

Receiving Milestone Pins pictured L to R, Cal Witt, 250 hours and Roger Geiger, 500 hours.



*"Where flowers bloom so does hope." – Lady Bird Johnson*



## Caddo Homecoming VT Opportunity April 15

Celebrate 100 years of Texas State Parks and 30 years of good conservation with the Caddo Lake Institute. Walk into yesteryear at Caddo Lake State Park and try your hand at canoeing, fishing, games and a sock hop! Decorate your campsite with a retro theme, enjoy live music, and grab a bite to eat.

CLSP Rangers Dustin Schrock and Eliah Nielsen have asked us to manage the games area on that day and to set up a booth promoting CBTMN. This will be the weekend before Flotilla. We'll have a sign up sheet available later. Think about this: Encouraging visitation to CLSP, Paddling in the Flotilla and Trail of the Month all in April will be awesome! Current CBTMN contact for this event: [beckygullette71@gmail.com](mailto:beckygullette71@gmail.com)



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## Trail of the Month - Spring 2023

It's time to start planning for Trail of the Month (Mar, Apr, May, June) at Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge! You don't have to be an expert on plants, critters or leading a group. Ask those who participated last year. We will practice and learn together. We can use greeters on the deck, greeters at trail heads, folks willing to learn about the history and/or ecology of CLNWR so they can chat with visitors about it and maybe walk the trails with them. Last year we also discussed the possibility of including some activities at the Visitor Center for kids or those who are just kids at heart.

**Currently these are the event dates**

**Saturday, March 18 Magazine Trail**

**Saturday, April 29 Hope Cemetery Trail**

**Saturday, May 20 Starr Ranch Trail**

In addition to featuring the hiking trails, Jill and Pete Wright and Pam Andrews, have volunteered to lead bike tours.

The next planning meeting is tentatively scheduled for Feb 18; time to be determined. We are currently scheduling other prep days to become more knowledgeable about the ecology of the trails and to help get the trails ready. Vanessa Neace will be helping us with her amazing knowledge and we expect to have others as well.

do not have to commit to making every event. For more information contact Becky Gullette @ [beckygullette71@gmail.com](mailto:beckygullette71@gmail.com)





# Volunteer Opportunities

## 2023 OFFICERS:

Barbara Judkins  
*President*

Susan Sedberry  
*Vice President*

Laura Wilson  
*Secretary*

Charles Gillis  
*Treasurer*

Caroline Hughes  
Susan Sedberry  
*Training Co-Directors*

Laura Wilson  
*Class Rep.*

Linda Richtsmeier  
*Membership Director*

Vanessa Adams  
Neace  
*Advisor*

Doug Weir  
*Advisor*

### Join the Bird Herd!



Volunteers needed to maintain the bird blinds at the Refuge.  
Please contact Barbara Judkins

### Join Bluebird Buddies



Volunteers to help maintain the bluebird houses and counts.  
Please contact Sue Simmons

*Please share pictures and updates of any presentations, field trips, etc. that is going on! We also can use interesting articles you come across. Email them to [cypress-basintmn@gmail.com](mailto:cypress-basintmn@gmail.com)*

14 February 2023  
Speaker Series

#TMNTuesdays

**LAURA MIKSCH**

Landscape Diversity is Bigger in Texas: Exploring the Ecoregions of Texas and How They Are Mapped

## 27th Annual Birding Classic

The biggest, longest, wildest birdwatching tournament in the U.S.!

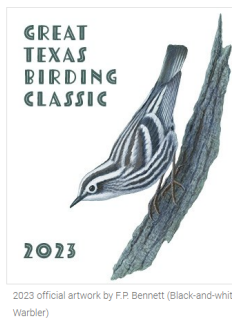
2023 Birding Classic registration is now open!

### 2023 Team Registration

Registration Deadline: April 1, 2023  
Tournament Dates: April 15 – May 15, 2023

### 2023 Conservation Grant Proposal Information

Conservation Grant Project Submission  
Deadline: May 1, 2023



## 2023 Meeting Dates

**February 13th** - Jefferson Transportation Center - POTLUCK!!  
**March 13th** - Caddo Lake State Park  
**April 10th** - Kellyville - Dutch Oven Cooking Demo by the wonderful Beans!! AT opportunity  
**May 8th** - Marshall Central Fire Station  
**June 12th** - Kellyville  
**July** - no meeting  
**August 14th** - Caddo Lake State Park  
**September 11th** - Jefferson Transportation Center - POTLUCK!!  
**October 9th** - Marshall Central Fire Station  
**November 13th** - Caddo Lake State Park  
**December** - no meeting

## CBA/TMN Work Day

Let's go for CBA/TMN work-day Saturday, February 18, @ 10am. It will be at the CBA weevil greenhouses across from Shady Glade. Hattie recommend muck boots and gloves!

"The earth laughs in flowers." - *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Follow us:



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