



# THE PADDLEFISH

## Briefings from Barbara

On the advice of ViAnn Sawyer, I've started reading the book "Guardians of the Valley: John Muir and the Friendship That Saved Yosemite" by Dean King. It is a lovely book that explains how Mr. Muir fought on behalf of not only Yosemite, but for other land to be preserved for all to enjoy in perpetuity. These are meaningful goals explained in wonderful prose. To me, however, the most amazing parts of the book are the descriptions of when Mr. Muir and companions got into "natural" trouble. They have kept me riveted. He never got lost but he, occasionally, misjudged the weather, the behavior of Grizzlies and neglected to ensure his food supply on prolonged hiking trips. It shows that even the most knowledgeable and seasoned outdoorsman can make a mistake while outside. He managed to live through them but did face his own demise with grit and, since he lived to be 74, learned from his own mistakes.



I want Mr. Muir's mishaps to be a wake-up call to our members and their loved ones. When you are out volunteering at the Refuge or anywhere, please be aware of your limitations. We live in such a special area that we sometimes forget the danger that can live under a rock or be beaming down on us. It is not with a nagging heart that I ask you to be safe and prepared, it is with a caring heart that I make this plea. You are nature and are even more important than the trees we love

and the wildflowers we enjoy. Be safe everyone! Thanks!!

"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  
April 1, 2023—April 30, 2023**

<b>Beginning Bank Balance: 03/31/2023</b>		<b>\$ 21,414.36</b>
Add Receipts: Flotilla Sponsors	\$ 2,100.00	
Credit Card Receipts	1,192.06	
Flotilla 23 Day of Event <sup>1</sup>	2,810.00	
Flotilla Paddlers	120.00	
Flotilla 23 Event Brite	1,927.90	
Dues	100.00	
New Member 23	<u>40.00</u>	+8,289.96
Less Expenses: Flotilla 23 Dutch Oven	\$ 102.18	
Flotilla 23 Shirts, Food, etc	1,809.32	
Flotilla 23 Display	30.00	
Flotilla 23 Cash Withdrawal <sup>2</sup>	730.00	
EXP Debit	<u>435.00</u>	<u>-3,106.50</u>
<b>Ending Bank Balance: 04/30/2023</b>		<b>\$ 26,597.82<sup>3</sup></b>
Flotilla Fund	\$ 19,751.52	
Trainee Scholarship Fund	600.00	
General Fund	<u>6,246.30</u>	<u>\$ 26,597.82<sup>4</sup></u>

Notes: <sup>1</sup> Includes cash withdrawn from bank for change.

<sup>2</sup> Flotilla Day cash withdrawal for making change.

<sup>3</sup> A definitive Statement of Flotilla 23 results will be submitted after all expenses and revenue are received/paid.

<sup>4</sup> Expenses of \$100 for Banner and \$229 for Launch Fees were paid from cash on day of the event.

~ Submitted by Charles Gillis, CBTMN Treasurer

## MAY MEETING ! ! !

Monday, May 8th, at 6PM is our next monthly meeting. It will be held at the Main Fire Station in Marshall, 601 S. Grove Street. Parking is around back - as you face the station, the driveway is on the left (south) side of the building, and the gate will be open. You can park anywhere back there, but you cannot block the bays. The door to the meeting room is on the other end (north) of the building from the bays. It is well lit and you can see inside the room. Hope to see everyone there!

## **Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Minutes For April 10, 2023**

The meeting was well attended and began with a Dutch Oven Demo by Jennifer and Jason Bean. Tortilla soup with homemade tortilla chips and broccoli and rice were on the menu. Members enjoyed learning about the history of the Dutch oven, as well as selection, cleaning, and cooking tips. Besides enjoying the tasty treats, members earned 45 minutes of AT (.75)

The business meeting began at 6:45.

Cares, Concerns, and Joys: Thoughts and prayers sent to Tammi White and Sue Simmons

Treasurer's Report and the March minutes were included in the newsletter and approved. As well as minutes from the February meeting.

VMS - Congratulations to Herman Hazard on being the first member to certify for the year!

Flotilla: 117 paddlers registered, no kids under 13. Discussed t-shirts for volunteers, donations of food, and the request that all volunteers be so kind as to allow attendees to line up first. A call to turn in all painted items (canoes, turtles, etc). \$2800 in sponsorships. Set-up beginning at 5pm on 4/21 and as many volunteers as possible are needed. Check in for Flotilla begins at 6pm. Groups this year are smaller...Holly Lake-less than 20, Camping Buddies-36, TOWN-10. Lots of repeaters. All volunteers to arrive at 7am on Saturday.

Trail of the Month: Vanessa led an ID at Hope's Cemetery Trail. 40 species were identified. Another outing with Vanessa is planned for 4/22 and TOTM for Hope's Cemetery on 4/29...weather permitting.

Caddo Lake State Park Homecoming Celebration: 11-5 on Saturday 4/15. There is a spread sheet for volunteers and activities. TMN sponsored activities include Cypress Basin TMN Chapter Information-Charles, fishing game-Kathy, Wetland Metaphors-Phyllis, Monarch Butterfly-Stella S., Animal Tracks/Skins and Skulls- ViAnn and Linda.

Nature Book Club Meeting: Nature's Wild Ideas discussion at the Refuge on 4/13 at 6pm.

Board Meeting: May 1st at 5:30 pm at the Visitor's Center Classroom at the Refuge. All are welcome!

Next meeting: May 8th at the Marshall Central Fire Station at 6:00

VT earned: 30 minutes (.5) plus drive time. AT earned: 45 minutes (.75)

**~ Submitted by Laura Wilson, Chapter Secretary**

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*"We still do not know one thousandth of one percent of what nature has revealed to us. – Albert Einstein*

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## 11th Annual Earth Day Flotilla Recap

"The 11th Earth Day Paddling Flotilla was another resounding success by the final total of 128 paddlers. The weather was perfect. The food was excellent. YUM! Check in went very smoothly based on the comments we heard about how organized it was. The silent auction and raffle items brought in paddlers with money in their "dry bags". Set up and tear down were the usual controlled chaos. The vendor area seemed very busy and I KNOW Jennifer and Jason were busy with their cast iron cooking demonstrations. YUM!

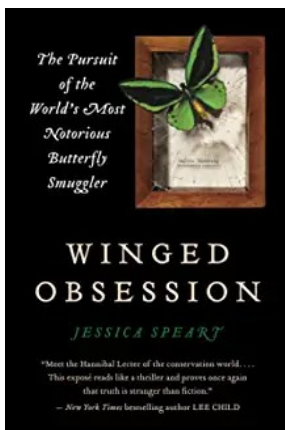


**Now** - the team that worked on the flotilla would like to have your ideas on what to do with the funds we have been raising. One idea is to replace the kiosks at Johnson's Ranch, Shady Glade and The Point at Goose Prairie. They have needed an upgrade for several years. An idea came up to provide a kayak class prior to next year's event and add a guided tour the day of the event. Those are **fantastic ideas** but they don't spend money. What would you like to see done with these funds that are ear-marked for keeping the lake clean and beautiful?

Thanks again to each and every one of the volunteers for the hours spent getting this thing organized and implemented so seamlessly!

~ Stella, Flotilla Chairperson

## TMN Nature Book Club



The next selection for the Nature Book Club will be *Winged Obsession: The Pursuit of the World's Most Notorious Butterfly Smuggler*, by Jessica Speart. On the cover of the book, author Lee Child refers to the main character as "the Hannibal Lecter of the conservation world," so we can expect craziness to ensue as we read. The book discussion date will be Thursday, June 22, at the Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge, at 6:00 p.m. Discussion participants will receive one hour of Advanced Training. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you are new to our chapter or a prospective new member, we would love to have you join us. Anyone who would like to join us, please contact Caroline Hughes at [cahughes8@gmail.com](mailto:cahughes8@gmail.com).

## Kayaking 101 for AT!!

Interested in learning the basics of paddling? Trish Jones has offered to hold a class on Thursday, June 1st, at 9am. On shore, she will talk about safety and basics, she will show how to launch the boat, and then lead a short paddle on the lake in the Johnson's Ranch area. This will count for about 2 hours of AT. She only has access to 4 or 5 kayaks, so it will be first come, first serve, or bring your own. You will need to bring your own personal flotation device. Please RSVP to Trish and let her know you are coming and if you need a kayak. This will take place at her house, 115 S. Mossy Brake in Uncertain. Her email is [trishjones15@gmail.com](mailto:trishjones15@gmail.com), and if you need directions, her phone number is 214-543-0651.

## NEW TRAINING CLASS UPDATE

Caroline and Susan are so excited to announce that the new training class will happen beginning in August! We have 6 trainees so far, and a possibility of 4 more. Most of the classes will be at the Wildlife Refuge in Karnack, but we are trying to get one Saturday "away". Still working on that - more to come!!

Presenters are slowly signing up for spots, and we have asked for at least an hour of outside field time for each class. Those already signed up are Micha Petty, the snake guy, David Brotherton, birds, Ricky Maxey, forest ecology, Allen Smith, bugs, Boyd Sanders, citizen science etc., and a new one, Josh Marcisz, weather. Josh is a meteorologist at KTAL, channel 6 in Shreveport.

The schedule will be printed soon and we hope that you are able to come join us for as many classes that interest you. We will also be asking you to help provide food and snacks for the classes.



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

*"I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles." – Anne Frank*

# Volunteers in Action



## Meeting Fun!

Jennifer and Jason Bean gave a Dutch Oven Demo at the April meeting. There was plenty of food and fun going on!



# Flotilla Views



*"Preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, it's the only home we've ever known."— Carl Sagan*

## Trail of the Month - Starr Ranch

On May 20 from 9am to noon, Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists (CBTMN) will be hosting at beautiful Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge (CLNWR). Hosts will greet you at the Visitor Center with maps and info. Hosts will also be at the trail head of historic Starr Ranch Trail. There is a dock, a screened pavilion and bathroom. The trail is rated as easy. Guided walks of 1/2 - to 1.7 mile will be available.

There will also be a guided bicycle tour of about 8-10 miles that will help you explore the refuge. (Meet up at 9am). Hikers should wear sturdy shoes. Cyclists should be prepared to ride on gravel roads and bring their own water. Admission is free.

Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge (CLNWR) is the former Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant at Karnack, TX. It has over 8000 acres of beauty, diversity and historic interest. There are 5 established trails varying in lengths and habitats. You will see both how nature restores itself and how humans can help with restoring natural habitats. The auto tour route takes you to the various trailheads where you can see some of the historic structures from LHAAP and signage discussing both the history and interesting biology of the refuge. The auto tour route is also a great option for bicycling. Paddlers can access Goose Prairie from the dock at Starr Ranch.



## Severe Weather Tips

The good news is that you can survive a tornado! Even on the western fringe of tornado alley, chances are you will never experience a direct hit by a tornado. However, being prepared is critical.

By following these simple guidelines, you can protect yourself and your family from nature's most violent storm.

No matter where you are, use these basic guidelines for tornado safety. Refer to other sections of this guide for more details on staying safe in specific locations and circumstances.

**The most important things to remember are:**

**GET IN** - If you are outside, get inside. If you're already inside, get as far into the middle of the building as possible.

**GET DOWN** - Get underground if possible. If you cannot, go to the lowest floor possible.

**COVER UP** - Flying and falling debris are a storm's number one killer. Use pillows, blankets, coats, helmets, etc to cover up and protect your head and body from flying debris.



For more information and to read the rest of the article go to <https://www.weather.gov/ama/severesafetytips>

# 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)*

**May 9, 2023**  
**12pm** TEXAS  
#TMNTuesdays Master Naturalist

**Title: Roving Interpretation: Making Casual Connections that Matter**

**Ben Horstmann**  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

### Grasslands Management Workshop & Prairie Tour June 1-2, 2023 New Boston, TX



#### Prairie Tours with Experts

- NPAT's Talbot Prairie
- NPAT's Mary Talbot Prairie
- Pasture for Upland Birds program site

#### Workshop Topics

- Grassland Ecology & Management
- Landowner Assistance Programs
- Conservation Easements
- Restoration
- Landowner Experience Panel

#### Event Schedule

- Thursday Talbot Brothers Prairie Tour
  - 6/1/23 from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
- Friday Workshop
  - 6/2/23 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
  - Lunch provided
  - Includes field trips to NPAT's Mary Talbot Prairie and a Pastures for Upland Birds program site



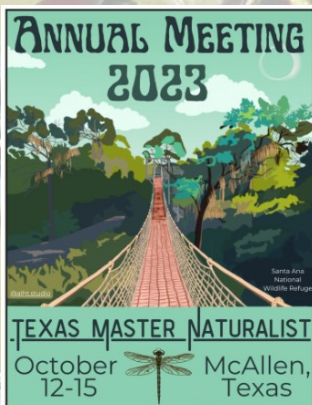
#### Register



- Both Thursday tour and Friday workshop \$30
- Only Thursday prairie tour \$10
- Only Friday workshop \$25

[texasprairie.org/category/northeast-texas/](https://texasprairie.org/category/northeast-texas/)

**Native Prairies**  
Association of Texas



### 2023 Meeting Dates

**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

*"There is no Wi-Fi in the forest, but I promise you will find a better connection." - Ralph Smart*

Follow us:



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