



# THE PADDLEFISH

## Briefings from Barbara

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When Ken and I first moved to east Texas, we were happy to be out of the traffic and amongst giant trees. Both of us would rather be outside than inside but, usually, the weather is the determining factor as to where we have our daily beverage together. As we sit and catch up with each other, our conversation almost always ends up with us "patting our backs" for moving to such a beautiful area of the state. I know you all love it too, because you work so hard to keep our corner of the state environmentally viable! I'd like to thank all of you for doing your part in our Chapter and hope you have a great month "off"! We'll see you at our meeting in August as we kick off what looks to be a very busy fall! Stay safe and hydrated!

Happy trails, y'all!



~Barbara Judkins, CBTMN President

T E X A S



Cypress Basin Chapter

## NO JULY MEETING ! ! !

Just a reminder that we will not have a meeting in July. Our next one will be August 14th at Caddo Lake State Park, at 6pm (set up at 5:45). Angela Anderson, who is a certified master arborist, will do an AT presentation on local trees, including best practices when planting new trees, care and feeding of new ones, and what to watch for in a drought and/or too much rain. She is happy to answer questions, so please have some ready for her!

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

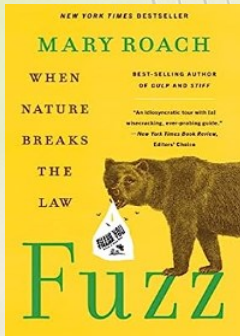
**Look inside to find our meeting times and venues, volunteer opportunities, a list of officers, and much more.**



**Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists  
Financial Report for  
June 1, 2023—June 30, 2023**

There were no transactions with our bank account for the month of June 2023. The bank balance remains at \$25,165.81. Have a great summer!

~ Submitted by Charles Gillis, CBTMN Treasurer



## TMN Nature Book Club

The new book club selection is Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law, by Mary Roach. This is a nonfiction book with lots of dry humor thrown in along the way. Several TMN members have read it and recommended it to the group. The book discussion will be on Thursday, August 10, at 6:00 p.m. at the refuge. Everyone is invited to join us. If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Hughes at [cahughes8@gmail.com](mailto:cahughes8@gmail.com).

July 2023  
Speaker Series

T E X A S

Master Naturalist... #TMNTuesdays

NASA, GLOBE,  
ECLIPSE, oh my!

July 11th, 12-1:30pm

## TMN Tuesdays

Texas is uniquely situated with the cross-roads of two major astronomical events crisscrossing the state in the coming year – an Annular Solar Eclipse October 14th, 2023 and a Total Solar Eclipse April 8th, 2024. All Texas Master Naturalist volunteers are welcome to learn about these upcoming natural events, how to safely watch them, and other programs our partners at NASA are hosting. Visit <https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/>

*"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." – Audrey Hepburn*



## Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Minutes For June 12, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with the following members present: Jim Meyer, Tammi White, Steve & Susan Sedberry, Caroline Hughes, Stella Smith, Cal Witt, Dudley Swofford, ViAnn Sawyer, Pat Sawyer, Linda Richtsmeier, Charles Gillis, Phyllis Wilson, Kathy Koenig, Laura Wilson, Becky Gullette, and Barbara Judkins. TMN Trainees: Debra Ward, Christina Parrott, Beverly Cole, and Terry Venden. Guests: Barbara Walker, Patrick Fortune, Tom Walker, Darrell E., and Paul F.



The meeting kicked off with AT presentation by Becky on Raccoon Behavior, followed by Tom Walker and Patrick Fortune performing Tom's song "Caddo Raccoon Dance". Great fun was had by all when we were recruited to sing along!

**Treasurer's Report:** Approximately \$25,000 in the account with about \$18,000 Flotilla. CLI sent a letter of thanks for our donation to them of \$1000. All but 2 members have paid current dues.

**Minutes:** Approved as in the May newsletter

**VMS-**Barbara Judkins has re-certified...CONGRATS to our fearless leader!!!

**Flower Bed Projects:** Stella has met with Brenda at the State Park and plans are being made for all native plants. Once the plant list is approved, planting can begin. Asking for cardboard. Kathy and Stella have been going weekly to water and weed the flower bed at the Refuge Check-in.

Handouts were available to anyone interested in the free Plant Party webinar on "Talking Wetlands" to be held June 28.

**New Training Class Update:** we have 9 trainees registered (4 of them present tonight!). And presenters for the session are lined up, the first class will meet on Friday August 18 at the Refuge and Saturday at Dangerfield State Park.

**Trail of the Month:** April was a "wash" due to the weather, but May was a success with the roadside signs made by Kim...thank you!

**Nature Book Club:** The book "Winged Obsession" will be discussed on Thursday, June 22 at the Refuge.

The next Board Meeting will be held on August 7 at 5:30 at the Refuge...all are welcome! Our next meeting will be August 14th at Caddo Lake State Park at 6:00. There will be an AT presentation by Angela Anderson, Arborist who will speak on current tree issues. (There will be no meeting in July).

Tonight's meeting: VT-45 minutes (.75) and AT-30 minutes (.5)



~ Submitted by Laura Wilson, Chapter Secretary

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*"Keep your face to the sun and you will never see the shadows." – Helen Keller*

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## NEW TRAINING CLASS UPDATE AND SCHEDULE

Caroline and Susan are so excited about the new class that begins Friday, August 18th, at the Refuge in the HQ building, at 5:45pm. We have 10 trainees and a great line-up of presenters, some of whom are new to us! Members are encouraged to attend any and all classes that interest you, for either AT or VT. We will also be asking members to furnish food for Friday nights and Saturday breakfasts. Trainees have the option to check out the textbook or purchase it for \$70. The books will be available at the August meeting.



Below is the schedule of presenters. Please note that all classes, except for Saturday, August 19th, will be at the Refuge. We have asked all presenters, except Micha Petty (herpetology) to include outdoor field time. Micha brings so many critters - it's as exciting as being outdoors!

### **Friday, August 18 6-9PM Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge 15600 FM 134 Karnack 75661 Orientation/Program Overview**

**Intro to TMN program** - Caroline Hughes, Co-Training Director & Barbara Judkins, Chapter President

6:15-8:30 **Ecological Regions/Concepts/Ecosystems** (Units 4-6) – Penny Wilkerson, Wildlife Biologist, TPWD

8:30-9:00 **Volunteer Management System and How It Works** – Linda Richtsmeier, Chapter VMS Manager

**Ethics and TMN Code of Conduct** – Barbara Judkins, Chapter President

### **Saturday, August 19 8:30-5pm Daingerfield State Park (Dining Hall) 455 Park Road 17 Daingerfield 75638 (on TX 49 just north of Hughes Springs)**

9am-12pm **Ichthyology** (Unit 14) – Tim Bister, TPWD, Fisheries Div.

1-4:30pm **Plants** (Unit 11) – Vanessa Neace, TPWD Wildlife Biologist, Manager WMA Caddo Lake

4:30-5pm **Training Wrap Up**

### **Friday, September 15 6-9pm Refuge**

6-8:30pm **Archaeology** (Unit 2) – Shannon Smith, Texas Historical Commission, Site Manager and Archaeologist

8:30-9pm **Trainee Informational Tidbits**



**Saturday, September 16 8:30am-5pm Refuge**

9am-12pm **Weather and Climate** (Unit 8) – Josh Marcisz, Meteorologist for KTAL TV in Shreveport

1-4:30 **Ornithology** (Unit 12) – David Brotherton, Birder Extraordinaire and author of 100 Birds of Morris County

4:30-5pm **Training Wrap Up**

**Friday, October 6 6-9PM Refuge**

6-8:30pm **Rangelands & Grasslands** (Unit 20) – Carly Aulicky, PhD, NTX Outreach and Stewardship Director, Native Prairies Association of Texas

8:30-9pm **Trainee Informational Tidbits**

**Saturday, October 7 8:30-5pm Refuge**

9am-12pm **Forest Ecology and Management** (Unit 17) – Ricky Maxey, Retired Army Corps of Engineers, LOP

1-4:30pm **Herpetology** (Unit 15) – Micha Petty, President, Louisiana Exotic Animal Resource Network

4:30-5pm **Training Wrap Up**

**Friday, November 3 6-9pm Refuge**

6-8:30pm **Entomology** (Unit 13) – Allen Smith, Texas Forest Service

8:30-9pm **Trainee Informational Tidbits**

**Saturday, November 5 8:50-5pm Army Corps of Engineers Office, 2669 FM 726, Jefferson 75657**

9am-12pm **Laws & Ethics/Volunteers as Teachers/Citizen Science** (Units 22-24) – Boyd Sanders, TPWD

12-1:30pm **Hamburger cookout served to all by our fabulous TMN chefs**

1:30-4:30 **Historical Naturalists of Texas** (Unit 3) – Barbara Judkins, Texas Historical Commission, Site Manager of Starr Home in Marshall

4:30-5 **Training Wrap Up**

**\*\*Be prepared for some outside field study (closed-toed shoes/comfortable seasonal clothing/layers). We will provide sunscreen and bug repellent when needed. Please bring a sack lunch for Saturdays. We will have coffee and water.**

Please call Susan Sedberry at 972.890.3620 or Caroline Hughes at 903.821.4264 with any questions.

# 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

## 2023 Meeting Dates

**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



## Views from Vanessa



When Milkweeds Attack! The Scary Side of Pollination

Here is a link to a great YouTube video about the pollination of milkweeds.



Vanessa Neace

**When Milkweed Attacks: The Scary Side of Pollination**

<https://youtu.be/dEefy6PMRdo>

*"Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability." - Sam Keen*

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