



# THE PADDLEFISH

## Briefings from Barbara

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Could summer be on its last legs? I hope so. I don't hate the season but am always happy to see it go. This summer has been brutally hot but my husband, Ken, and I have gotten through it by reading, trying new recipes, watching TV and exploring content such as podcasts and YouTube.

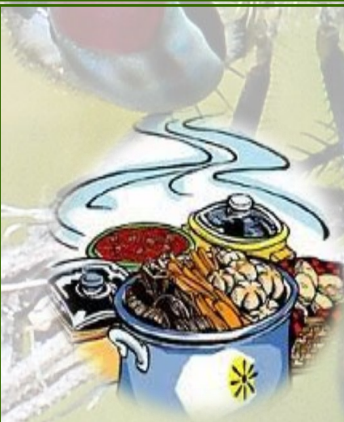
I listen to a history podcast called You're Dead to Me. It's a combination of humor and history. If you have a favorite book, podcast series or YouTube video, share it with me. Each month from here on, I will include one or two of the items you've shared at the bottom of our meeting agenda. This will not qualify for AT, but learning is learning. It's fun to learn new things!!!



~Barbara Judkins, CBTMN President

### YUM!!! POTLUCK DINNER! YUM!!!!

Our September monthly meeting is another yummy Potluck! Bring a dish to share to the Jefferson Transportation Center (also known as the Jefferson Visitor's Center), 305 E. Austin St, in Jefferson. We will meet Monday, September 11th, at 5:30pm for room set up, eating will start at 6, and a short business meeting will follow. We will also have some AT presented by Jennifer Bean. She will enlighten us on the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (fondly referred to as CoCoRaHS). Hope you can join us for a fun, fellowship-y dinner and meeting!!



**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  
August 1, 2023—August 31, 2023**

**Beginning Bank Balance: 08/01/2023** **\$ 25,082.81**

Add Receipts: New Members \$ 120.00

Less Expenses: Post office Rental \$ 92.00 + 28.00

**Ending Bank Balance: 07/31/2023** **\$ 25,110.81**

Flotilla Fund \$ 17,924.15

Trainee Scholarship Fund 600.00

General Fund 6,586.66 **\$ 25,110.81**

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

**Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists  
Minutes For August 14, 2023**

The meeting began at 6pm with an advanced training presentation. Angela Anderson, "Tree Health Lady", Certified Master Arborist discussed a variety of foliar diseases, insects, and parasites that destroy the health of our trees...an excellent, engaging presentation with lots of audience participation. Thank you, Angela!

The meeting was attended by members: Barbara Judkins, Laura Wilson, Vicki Gilliland, Cal Witt, Dudley Swofford, Karen Tromza, Stella Smith, Kathy Koenig, Roger Geiger, Steve & Susan Sedberry, Trish Jones, Pat & ViAnne Sawyer, Charles Gillis, Caroline Hughes, Phyllis Wilson, Linda Richtsmeier, Pam Andrews, Becky Gullette, Amy Taylor, Kay Lowery, Jim Meyer

Trainees: Debra Ward, Jean Bratton, Terry Venden, Christina Parrott, Teresa McKinney.

Guest: Pam Adams

Congratulations to our President Barbara who announced that she is going to be a grandmother!

Treasures' Report – approved as in the Paddlefish. An \$83.00 deposit was made on Flotilla 2024.

There were NO minutes as we did not meet in July.

*(Continued on page 3)*

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*"Everyone must take time to sit and watch the leaves turn." – Elizabeth Lawrence*

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14 members have re-certified for 2023...congratulations to all!

Member Opportunity: We are in need of someone to take over in creating our monthly Paddlefish Newsletter...if you have the skills, please consider volunteering your time to this important aspect of our chapter. Tammi White has done an incredible job each month but she is ready to step down...please contact Barbara if you would be interested. Thank you Tammi for your years of service to our chapter! In the interim, please send updates, photos, articles, etc to Judkinsbr@gmail.com

Susan presented the 2022 recertification pin and 500 hour service pin to Karen Tromza....Congratulations Karen!

The 2023 Training Class begins Friday at 6pm at Collins Academy and all day Saturday at Daingerfield State Park (bring water shoes for fishery participation. A sign up sheet for Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast was passed around. Members...please consider helping by providing food for the upcoming trainings. It will be a great service and way to earn VT! Future classes will be held at the Refuge (unless we need to relocate due to a water issue)

At the last Board meeting, we discussed events for viewing the October and April solar eclipses. October 14<sup>th</sup> - Party to be held at the Refuge with the opportunity to do a potluck and some trail walks. Glasses for viewing will be available and free to members. More details available soon!

Nature Book Club – The current selection is Migrations: A Novel by Charlotte McConaghy. The discussion will be held at the Refuge on November 9, 6:00pm.

Updates:

Special thanks to Kathy and Stella for their hard work on the gardens! (Refuge has no water and Kathy has been hauling water out...no small feat in this weather!!!)

Becky and Ted will resume clearing headquarters' trails when weather cools off. Volunteers needed for the parade ground and to help clear sidewalks.

Remember you can earn VT when visiting/maintaining the trails.

October 23 is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary for RAMSAR of Caddo Lake (wetlands of international importance, especially for water fowl)

Susan stated that volunteers are needed for the annual GCLA BBQ fundraising event on Saturday, Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>. Arrive by 9:30 am to start serving at 11. Volunteers are also needed to set up Friday evening starting around 6pm. Great VT opportunity!

The Disk Golf Tournament is scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup> at Lakeside Park, Lake of the Pines. Spectators are welcome! Entrance fee to park is \$4 paid at the kiosk on entry. Check with Roger for more information!

Our next chapter meeting will be a POTLUCK! September 11<sup>th</sup> at Jefferson Transportation Center, 305 E. Austin St., Jefferson at 6:00pm. Bring a dish and come early to help set up for extra VT!

Board meeting November 6th at the refuge at 5:30...all are welcome!

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm. AT-1 hour, VT -30 min (.5) plus set up/drive time.

~ Submitted by Laura Wilson CBTMN Secretary

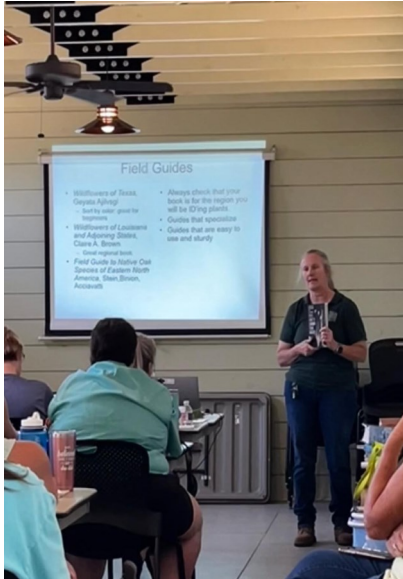
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*"Life starts over when it gets crisp in the fall." – F. Scott Fitzgerald*

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## TRAINING CLASS UPDATE AND SCHEDULE

### 2ND WEEKEND OF NEW CLASS TRAINING



Vanessa Neace, TPWD Wildlife Biologist, Manager WMA Caddo Lake teaching on Plants last month.

Hope to see lots of friendly faces this weekend!!

September 15 and 16 are the next new class training dates. We will be at the Refuge, in their Conference Room. Our Friday night presenter is Shannon Smith, an archaeologist and Site Manager from the Houston

area. She will have outdoor time, with a possible "little" dig and other activities. Saturday morning, Josh Marcisz, Meteorologist for KTAL in Shreveport, will tell us all about weather in our area and hopefully we'll have some clouds that he can talk about. David Brotherton, Birder Extraordinaire from East Texas, will enlighten and entertain us with his vast knowledge of birds in our area, Saturday afternoon. He is fascinating to go on hikes with and definitely has outdoor time planned for us. We would appreciate any members coming to join us Friday evening bringing a food dish - either an appetizer or something to compliment lasagna. Saturday morning, breakfast foods would be appreciated. There will be a sign up sheet at Monday's meeting, or if you can't make the meeting and want to bring something, please let Stella Barrow know at [barrowstella1@gmail.com](mailto:barrowstella1@gmail.com).



#### Below is the schedule of presenters.

##### 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**

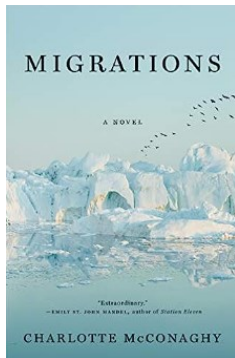
9am-12pm **Laws & Ethics/Volunteers as Teachers/Citizen Science** (Units 22-24) – Boyd Sanders, TPWD

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 sun-screen 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.**



## TMN Nature Book Club

The next Nature Book Club selection is *Migrations*, by Charlotte McConagh. It's a novel about a woman with a mysterious background who travels to Greenland to follow "the last Arctic terns in the world on what might be their final migration to Antarctica." The cover describes the story as "an ode to a disappearing world."

The discussion will be on Thursday, November 9, at 6:00 pm, at the refuge. Everyone is invited to join us. Contact Caroline Hughes at [ca-hughes8@gmail.com](mailto:ca-hughes8@gmail.com) with any questions.

## Views from Vanessa

A couple of great videos you may want to take a look at!

**Learn more about earthworms in North America.** We overlook earthworms probably because we think they are not interesting, but they are more interesting than we think.

[Native and Non-native Earthworms in the Eastern U.S. \(backyardecology.net\)](http://backyardecology.net)

**Is a Black Gum tree a good choice for your yard?**

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=WLssxkqaLjM&si=UnDvDqGEp6nLFVNB>



Vanessa Neace

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*"August is a second spring where every leaf is a flower." – Albert Camus*

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## Help Celebrate 30 Years of Caddo Lake's Ramsar Designation

On October 23, 1993 Caddo Lake was designated a "Wetland of International Importance" by the Ramsar Convention. There are 2400 sites worldwide and 41 in the USA. Caddo Lake is the only one in Texas. <http://www.ramsar.org>

Friends of Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge along with Caddo Lake Institute are organizing a recognition day on Saturday, Oct 21. CBTMN has been asked to help, as have others. The Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society plans to be there and may also be contributing to the activities. Plans are still in flux but will be finalized by the next Friends meeting on Sept 21.

Current plans under consideration include guided trail walks, kayaking, possible bicycle tours, possibly a star party, possibly a meal. Of course, much of this will be determined by who is available to help out. The public will be invited.

**If you are interested in helping, contact Becky Gullette, (903-692-3813 or [beckygullette71@gmail.com](mailto:beckygullette71@gmail.com)).**

## VT Opportunity

**What:** Walk trails at CLNWR, assess conditions to report to refuge management, move limbs as possible, trimming if needed, pick up trash

**When:** Saturday, Sep. 16

**Meet:** 8:00 CLNWR Visitor Center

**Bring:** If you have them bring gloves, hand loppers, rakes or hoes, weed eaters (hand held and rolling) BUT even if you are not up to using tools, you are providing a service by simply walking the trails and assessing conditions **AND** it is a good way to become more familiar with the beautiful trails at CLNWR. Many of our walks end up being just that....walking, enjoying nature, learning from each other.

The hot weather has really slowed us down but Sat the 16th should be great! Current prediction for the night before is temp dropping to 59 and the high for that Sat is to be mid 80's. The "new" trail (still a work in progress) near the headquarters and the parade ground will probably need a good bit of trimming. Ted Barrow and I will be taking a look at "privet" control.

Please let us know if you think you can participate.

**Contact us if you have any questions.**

**Becky Gullette 903-692-3813 [beckygullette71@gmail.com](mailto:beckygullette71@gmail.com)**

**Ted Barrow 972-965-5194 [barrowted47@gmail.com](mailto:barrowted47@gmail.com)**

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*"August is a second spring where every leaf is a flower." – Albert Camus*

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# 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)*

## In Need of AT?

Remember that out of the 8 hours of advanced training required each year, only 4 can be online except the current year TMNTuesdays.

Here are a few good online options:

### #TMNTuesdays

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/>

### 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>

## 2023 Meeting Dates

**September 11th** - Jefferson Transportation Center - **POTLUCK!!**

**October 9th** - Marshall Central Fire Station

**November 13th** - Caddo Lake State Park

**December** - no meeting



*"One must maintain a little bit of summer, even in the middle of winter." - Henry David Thoreau*

Follow us:



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