



October 2023
Volume 15, Issue 10

Briefings from Barbara



Ken and I have had a rough time of it lately. We lost his mother on September 12. It wasn't sudden but it was sad. She left a large hole in our lives. She was 92 but we still weren't ready to lose her.

From a daughter-in-law's perspective she was a kind, loving person that could confound me to no end. She was, after all, my mother-in-law so sweet and spicy just went with the title. The sweet part manifested itself repeatedly, like when she and my father-in-law would keep our children so Ken and I could bathe or have a quick meal alone. There is not enough space here for me to extoll her virtues or explain the times she made me so mad I couldn't see straight, like when she took the cream cheese out of my fridge and took it home because she couldn't understand why I had so much of it there in the first place or the time she washed and DRIED my wool sweaters. Was she the evil MIL? Heck no! In the two incidents I've laid out, she was "helping" me since I had full-time job and a messy house! She and I didn't always agree but I know women that would have paid a lot of money to have such a caring, generous person to help them when times got rough!

I lost my mother before I married Ken. I've always said that if my children were only going to have one grandmother, Lometa Evelyn Judkins, would have been my first and only choice. She was a grandmother that was larger than life while only being about 5'2" and weighing next to nothing! She was fiercely protective of her family. I'm going to miss her more than I'm sure I'll ever know but am grateful she shepherded me through motherhood while vexing me all the while. She was a nuanced and talented woman.

I'll end by encouraging you to hug 'em while you got 'em!!!

Inside this issue

Sept Financials	2
Sustainable Swap.....	2
Book Club	2
Vol Opportunities ...	3
Training Class Info	4
Chapter Info	6

October Cypress Basin Chapter Meeting

Monday, October 9th, at 6PM is our next monthly meeting. It will be held at the Main Fire Station in Marshall, at 601 S. Grove Street. Parking is around back when facing 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 please do not 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. Mike and Thelma Woodruff will present a program on Bluebirds for some AT time. Hope to see everyone there! Call me if you have any problems once you're there. Susan 972-890-3620

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 September 30, 2023

Beginning Bank Balance: 09/01/2023		\$ 25,110.81
Add Receipts:	New Members	\$ 160.00
	2023 dues	\$ 75.00
	Books	\$210.00
Total:		\$445.00
Less Expenses:	Visitor Center Deposit	\$125.00
	Memorial Sue Richardson	\$100.00
	First Aid Kit	\$28.38
Total:		-\$253.38

Ending Bank Balance: 09/30/2023 **\$ 25,302.43**

Flotilla Fund: **\$ 17,924.15**

Trainee Scholarship Fund: **\$600.00**

General Fund: **\$6,586.66**

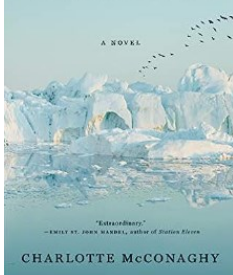
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Charles Gillis, Treasurer

Sustainable Swap

Single use plastics creates 380 million tons of waste annually, with the average American contributing 110 pounds of trash from their usage. Our sustainable swap this month is the 4 Oceans bamboo cutlery set. This is easy to take on the go and can remove single use plastic cutlery from the waste you contribute. 4 Oceans takes profits generated from the sale of this item and will remove 5 pounds of plastic waste from our oceans. These are available for \$18 at 4oceans.com. What are your sustainable swaps?



MIGRATIONS



TMN Nature Book Club

The next Nature Book Club selection is *Migrations*, by Charlotte McConaghy. 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."



Celebration of 30th Anniversary of Ramsar Designation of Caddo Lake

What: Celebration of 30th Anniversary of Ramsar Designation of Caddo Lake sponsored by Friends of CLNWR and Caddo Lake Institute.

When: Sat, Oct 21 (times still in flux)

Activity: Possible trail walks, kayaking, possibly a cookout, possibly bicycling, info tables, star party

Please let Becky know if you are interested in helping AND if you have a preference for morning or afternoon or an activity preference. If you are willing to walk trails with visitors or at least greet them at the trailheads or visitors center, we can make sure you have info about Ramsar, the refuge trails, Caddo Lake in general and CBTMN. We also have access to "skins and skulls" if we want to use them as an educational opportunity for guests. Contact Becky at 03-692-3813 to volunteer or obtain additional information.

Minutes from September 2023 Meeting

Prior to the business meeting, we all enjoyed a wonderful potluck dinner and Jennifer Bean delivered an AT presentation on COCORAHS. For information, see the website www.cocorahs.org

Members in Attendance: Linda Richtsmeier, Tammi White, Caroline Hughes, Vicki Gilliland, Steve & Susan Sedberry, Ted & Stella Barrow, Jim Meyer, Cal Witt, Pete Wright, Jill Wright, Dudley Swofford, Kathy Koenig, Laura Wilson, Stella Smith, Vanessa Neace, Charles Gillis, and Jennifer Bean. **Guest:** Pat Macey **Trainees:** Jessie Fitzgerald, Terry Venden, Teresa McKinney, Jean Bratton, Debby Ward, Courtney Hill, and Caryn Duncan.

Cares, Concerns, Joys: Our thoughts and prayers go out to our President, Barbara Judkins, and her family. Special thank you to the volunteers who helped out with the GCLA BBQ..."Keep Caddo Lake Natural!"

Treasurer's Report – Charles: as presented in the Paddlefish...there has been little activity, \$25110 total.

Minutes – Laura: per David Gilliland last month's meetings were corrected to reflect that the correct date of the Disc Golf Tournament is October 7th...spectators welcome and entrance fee is \$5 per vehicle. Vickie announced they have exceeded the number of participants from last year.

VMS-Linda: everyone please remember to wear your nametags when out volunteering.

TMN Annual Meeting-in McAllen: Currently there are no members planning on attending. We will submit our Paddlefish Newsletter in the competition.... Members are encouraged to consider entering other contests...photo, video, etc. Entries are all done electronically.

Paddlefish Newsletter update: Tammi White is stepping down after creating amazing newsletters for our chapter...many thanks to Tammi for her years of service! Jessie Fitzgerald of our 2023 training class will take over next month and we look forward to our future newsletters!

Training Class Report – Susan & Caroline: the 1st class weekend went well with programs on plants, ichthyology, and ecosystems. This weekend's training will feature programs on archaeology, meteorology, and birding. Volunteers for food should sign up.

Nature Book Club-Caroline: our discussion of the book Migrations-A Novel, by Charlotte McConaghy will be held Thursday, November 9th at the refuge beginning at 6pm.

Updates:
Stella: Opening day for the State Fair in Dallas is September 29th. Volunteers are needed...if interested, check for an email from Stella with the following link

https://tpwd.samaritan.com/custom/1353/opp_details/223959

Tammi has made a beautiful throw for the 2024 Flotilla auction...thank you, Tammi!

Susan: Volunteer Opportunity with Becky this Saturday at 8:00 for clearing trails at the refuge.

RAMSAR 30th anniversary celebration will be held on October 21st. Friends and TMN will host hiking/biking events and serve hot dogs at the refuge. Plans and activities are still being finalized. The RAMSAR designation draws attention from all over the world and helps us protect the wetlands...a great accomplishment for the area in 1993.

Cypress Basin Chapter of TMN will celebrate our 15th anniversary this year. Stella presented the idea of a "class reunion", possibly the 1st weekend of December... Please start to gather any pictures, articles, etc that you might have to bring to the celebration.

Next meeting: 10/9/23 @ Marshall Fire Department, 601 S. Grove St, Marshall...park on the side or back of the building and enter through the back door.

Upcoming Board Meeting: 11/6/23 @ Refuge Visitor's Center...all are welcome!

VT: Half hour (.5) plus drive time and set up **AT:** Half hour (.5)

TRAINING CLASS UPDATE AND SCHEDULE

Please come help us welcome our 12 new trainees at one of our upcoming training classes. See below for the presenters. We would love to see lots of members on both days, both to meet the new folks and support our speakers. We are asking for food both days. Snacks, sandwiches, finger foods, etc are good for Friday night and breakfast foods are requested for Saturday morning. A brown bag lunch will be needed for Saturday. Please contact Barbara if you would like to sign up to provide food. Her contact information is 214-766-2616 or judkinsbr@gmail.com.



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– Refuge

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.

October Training Class

Our October training classes kick off Friday, October 6th at the Refuge, at 5:30pm. We have a new presenter with a new subject - Dr. Carly Aulicky will talk to us about Rangelands and Grasslands. Ricky Maxey starts us off Saturday morning with his presentation on Forest Ecology and Management. He is probably our longest standing presenter and he is very interesting and very knowledgeable about forests and trees. We will have outside time. The afternoon session will be Micha Petty and he comes with all kinds of crates and cages with snakes and reptiles and is guaranteed to keep you awake after lunch!

We do need food and appetizers for Friday night (by 5:30pm, please) and breakfast food Saturday morning (by 8:30am, please). If you can bring something, please let either Becky or Susan know, at beckygullette71@gmail.com or 903-692-3813, or wssedberry@sbcglobal.net or 972-890-3620, respectively. We hope to see lots of members there!

Volunteer Opportunities

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

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

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

October 9th - Marshall Central Fire Station

November 13th - Caddo Lake State Park

December - no meeting



2023 #TMNTuesdays

January 10	May 9	September 12
February 14	June 13	October 3* <small>*first week of month</small>
March 14	July 11	November 14
April 11	August 8	December 12



"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree"- Emily Bronte

Follow us:



CYPRESS BASIN CHAPTER | PO BOX 226 | KARNACK, TX 75661 | CYPRESSBASINTMN@GMAIL.COM 903.679.9817 |

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