

THE PADDLEFISH

CYPRESS BASIN CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST

CADDO LAKE STATE PARK ACTIVITIES FOR JULY AND AUGUST



NO MEETING IN JULY

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 11th at the Transportation Center in Jefferson, located at 305 E. Austin Street. This gathering will be a potluck, so please arrive hungry! Setup will commence at 5:30 PM, followed by dinner at 6:00 PM, with the meeting starting at 6:30 PM. If the AT presenter is not prepared for this meeting, the presentation will be postponed until October. Further details will be provided as the meeting date approaches.

Texas Leads Global Nature Challenge – 150+ At-Risk Species Documented

Texans showed up in force for the 10th Annual City Nature Challenge (CNC), helping the state secure a place among the global leaders in community science. Participants across 14 Texas metro areas logged 342,913 observations, identifying 9,800+ species, including 150+ species of greatest conservation need—like the Texas horned lizard, Cascade Caverns salamander, cave myotis, and Texas tortoise.

Global Science, Local Action

The CNC, organized by the California Academy of Sciences and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, empowers people to document wild plants, animals, and fungi using the free iNaturalist app.

In 2025, the CNC engaged 102,945 participants from 669 cities across 62 countries, generating 3.3 million observations and identifying 73,765 species, including over 3,300 rare or threatened species. Texas alone made up 10% of the global total.

Top-Ranked Texas Cities

- San Antonio Metro: #2 in both observations and species
- Dallas/Fort Worth: #4 in observations, #6 in species
- Four Texas cities ranked in the global top 15

This marks the fourth year in a row Texas cities placed in the global top 10, showing the state's strong commitment to conservation and public engagement.

Why Citizen Science Matters

Citizen scientists help fill critical gaps in biodiversity data. Their observations:

- Reveal species' ranges and behavior
- Identify environmental threats
- Inform habitat and wildlife protections

According to Texas Nature Trackers, a TPWD program that supports CNC in Texas, this data is vital for guiding conservation efforts.

Get Involved Year-Round

You don't have to wait for next year's CNC to make an impact:

1. Download iNaturalist
2. Photograph wild plants and animals
3. Upload your observations

Whether you're exploring a park, backyard, or schoolyard, your sightings help scientists and conservationists protect Texas wildlife.

Learn More

- citynaturechallenge.org
- tpwd.texas.gov/trackers



BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY AUGUST 21 AT 6:00 PM

Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge Classroom
Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge

Our next Nature Book Club selection is *Super Fly: The Unexpected Lives of the World's Most Successful Insects*, by Jonathan Balcombe. The author of *A Dog's World*, Marc Bekoff, writes of the book: "We can learn a lot about ourselves by peering into the remarkable lives of these remarkable insects."

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists

Financial Report for June 2025

Beginning Balance 5/24/25

\$34,502.91

Deposits:

Annual Dues

\$25.00

\$25.00

Expenses:

New Class Flyers

\$12.25

Stamps

\$29.20

-\$41.45

Flotilla Fund

\$27,808.38

Trainee Scholarship Fund

\$600.00

General Fund

\$6,078.08

Ending Balance 6/28/25

\$34,486.46

Teresa McKinney, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP DUES

**\$25 PER INDIVIDUAL
\$40 PER FAMILY**

Mail checks- made payable to
Cypress Basin TMN

Mail to
PO Box 226
Karnack, Texas
75661

Be a Citizen Scientist: 4 Free Apps to Get You Started

You don't need to be a professional to contribute to science. These free apps let anyone help track wildlife, monitor the environment, and support global research — right from your phone.

iNaturalist

Snap photos of wild plants, animals, or fungi. Helps identify species and contributes to biodiversity research.

[inaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org)

eBird

Log bird sightings to help scientists track migration and population trends.

ebird.org

GLOBE Observer

Contribute climate data by observing clouds, land cover, and more for NASA.

observer.globe.gov

Seek by iNaturalist

Great for kids and beginners — instantly IDs species without needing an account.

seekbyinat.com

Start observing and make a difference — all it takes is your phone.

2025 TRAINING CLASS ANNOUNCEMENT



The advertisement for the 2025 Texas Master Naturalist Training Class is for the Cypress Basin Chapter. It features a green and blue design with a dragonfly logo. The text includes 'Cypress Basin Chapter', 'Texas Master Naturalist Training Class', 'Join us!', 'Email to apply! cahughes8@gmail.com', 'Application deadline: Aug 1st, 2025', and '2025'. It shows three circular images of people in a swampy environment. The bottom text provides location (Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge), dates (Aug 15-16, Sept 12-13, Oct 10-11, Nov 7-8), times (Fridays 5:45-9, Saturdays 8:30-5), cost (\$40 / \$55 couple), and contact information (Questions? Call 903-821-4264). Logos for Texas Parks & Wildlife and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension are at the bottom.

We are just one student away from launching our new class this year, and we need someone to take charge of food coordination. This role includes:

- Providing sign-up sheets at meetings to recruit volunteers for bringing food for breakfasts and light meals/snacks on Friday evenings.
- Inventorying paper goods, utensils, coffee, and water, then purchasing items as needed.
- Ensuring cold water is stocked in the fridge and making coffee on Saturday mornings.

This position is not difficult, but it does require a commitment for the four weekends of classes.

Remember how much you appreciated this perk and were grateful to the TMN members for their efforts? We want to continue this hospitality, so please reach out to Susan if you're interested in taking on this responsibility.

PRESENTER SCHEDULE FOR TRAINING CLASS

Friday, August 15 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

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

6:15-8:30 Historical Naturalists of Texas, Barbara Judkins, Texas Historical Commission, Site Manager of Starr Home in Marshall

8:30-9pm VMS and Training Wrap Up

Saturday, August 16 8:30-5pm Refuge

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

1-4:30pm Invasive Vegetation and Soil Biodiversity, Charla Emery, Master Gardener, Shiloh Farm Homestead

4:30-5pm Training Wrap Up

Friday, September 12 6-9pm Refuge

6-8:30pm Mammalogy, Unit 16, Vanessa Nease, TPWD, Caddo Lake Wildlife Management Area Manager

8:30-9pm Training wrap up

Saturday, September 13 8:30am-5pm Refuge

9am-12pm Ornithology (Unit 12), David Brotherton, Birder Extraordinaire and author of *100 Birds of Morris County*

1-4:30 Wetland Ecology & Management (Unit 19), Lane Neely, TPWD, Caddo Lake State Park Interpreter

4:30-5pm Training Wrap Up

Friday, October 10 6-9PM Refuge

6-8:30pm TBA

8:30-9pm Training Wrap Up

Saturday, October 11 8:30am-5pm

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

1-4:30 Herpetology (Unit 15), Ellen Miller, TMN Member and Reptile Lover

4:30-5pm Training Wrap Up

Friday, November 7 6-9pm Refuge

6-8:30pm Aquatic Invasives, Roger Geiger, TMN Member and Author

8:30-9pm – Training Wrap Up

Saturday, November 8 8:30-5pm Refuge

9am-12pm Ichthyology (Unit 14), Tim Bister, TPWD, Inland Fisheries

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

1:30-4:30 Laws & Ethics/Volunteers as Teachers/Citizen Science (Units 22-24), Boyd Sanders, TPWD

4:30-5 Training Wrap Up



Online Webinar
Speaker Series
#TMNTuesdays

Join us on the 2nd
Tuesday of each
month at 12:00pm CT!*

*Some TMNTuesday dates and times are subject to change.
Join our Email Listserv to stay updated.

AT ALERT

Caroline and Susan are always looking for AT ideas for both meetings and field trips. If you would like to do a short presentation at a meeting, or have an excellent place you would like to make a field trip to, please let Susan (caddomama@gmail.com) or Caroline (cahughes8@gmail.com) know!



2025 Officers

Barbara Judkins
President

Susan Sedberry
Vice President

Laura Wilson
Secretary

Teresa McKinney
Treasurer

Caroline Hughes
Susan Sedberry
Training Coordinators

Lara Wilson
Class Representative

Linda Richtmeier
Membership Director

Vanessa Neace
Advisor

Doug Weir
Advisor

2025 Meeting Dates and Locations

January 13 - Refuge

February 10 - Transportation Center,

Jefferson - Potluck dinner

March 10 - Marshall Library

April 14 - Kellyville

May 12 - Refuge

June 9 - State Park

July - no meeting

August 11 - Transportation Center,

Jefferson - Potluck dinner

September 8 - Marshall Library

October 13 - Kellyville

November 10 - Refuge

December - no meeting

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/](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/>