

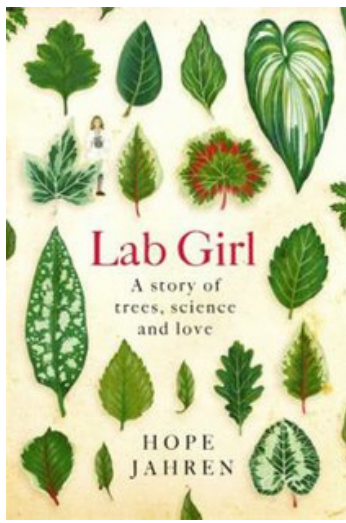


A SOLUTION FOR OCEANS PLASTICS?

Scientists have discovered a fungus capable of breaking down ocean plastics, providing a potential solution to one of the most stubborn environmental issues. This fungus, identified as *Aspergillus tubingensis*, has demonstrated the ability to degrade polyester polyurethane, a common plastic, within weeks. The process involves the fungus secreting enzymes that break the chemical bonds of the plastic, converting it into smaller, non-toxic molecules. This breakthrough offers a promising method to reduce plastic pollution in marine environments, potentially transforming waste management practices and contributing significantly to ocean conservation efforts ([ScienceDaily](#)) ([ScienceDaily](#)). By harnessing this natural solution, we could significantly mitigate the impact of plastic waste on marine ecosystems, promoting healthier oceans and biodiversity ([ScienceDaily](#)).

JUNE MEETING INFORMATION

The Marshall Library is the site of our June 10th meeting. We will meet at 5:45 to set up the room and a short business meeting will follow. Hope to see everyone!!



BOOK CLUB

DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED

Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge Classroom
Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge

"Lab Girl," by Hope Jahren, is a memoir detailing the author's journey as a scientist. Jahren, a geobiologist, has studied trees, flowers, seeds, and soil her entire career. The book is her "revelatory treatise" on plant life, but it also honors the passion and drive of all scientists. The New York Times calls "Lab Girl" "engrossing" and "thrilling," and The Washington Post labeled it "One of the Best Books of the Year" when it was published. Everyone is welcome to join the Nature Book Club. If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Hughes at cahughes8@gmail.com.



Switching from disposable paper towels to reusable cloth towels is an effective way to reduce environmental impact and promote sustainability. Paper towels contribute significantly to deforestation and generate large amounts of waste, with millions ending up in landfills each year. In contrast, reusable cloth towels can be washed and used multiple times, drastically cutting down on waste and the resources needed for production.

Cloth towels are often made from sustainable materials like organic cotton or bamboo, further enhancing their eco-friendliness. They also tend to be more durable and absorbent than their paper counterparts, making them more efficient for cleaning tasks. Over time, using cloth towels can lead to significant cost savings, as they eliminate the need to continually purchase disposable products.

Making this simple swap not only helps conserve natural resources but also supports a zero-waste lifestyle. It's a small change that, when adopted widely, can lead to substantial environmental benefits. .

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership Dues- \$25 per person or \$40 per couple



Mail checks

made payable to "Cypress Basin TMN" to Theresa McKinney, 6475 FM 995
Atlanta, TX 75551

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Financial Report for May 2024			\$25,431.94
Beginning Balance 4/23/24			
Deposits:	Cash Returned	\$660.00	
	Dues	\$65.00	
	Eventbrite	\$2,647.91	
	Flotilla Cash Received	\$1,092.00	
	Flotilla Sponsorship	\$580.00	
	Raffle	\$50.00	
	Refund	\$653.38	
	Tuition Fee	\$40.00	
		<u>\$5,788.29</u>	
Expenses:	Chapter Misc:	\$43.29	
	Flotilla 2024:	\$1,836.20	
	Flotilla 2025:	\$82.00	
		<u>\$1,961.49</u>	\$3,826.80
Ending Balance: 5/25/24			
Flotilla Fund		\$21,228.39	
Trainee Scholarship Fund		\$600.00	
General Fund		<u>\$7,430.35</u>	\$29,258.74
Teresa McKinney, Treasurer			

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

June 20th (Thursday) - Atlanta ISD (3rd to 5th grade ~45 students) from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. ViAnn has offered to be there for Art in the Park, but they could still use 1-2 more for that station. There are also 2-3 availabilities for the Wildlife Hike and Skins and Skulls table.

June 28th (Friday) - Gregg County 4H Club. They are still working on their schedule and amount of students coming out, but the Park is planning on having Fishing, Hiking, Paddling, and possibly an Archery station as well which could all use at least 1 TMNer on each.

The Park works on their Braille Trail project every Thursday from 8am-12pm if any TMNer wants to help clear out shrubs, wheelbarrow sand, help build bridges, lay down 6x6 wood borders, etc.

CADDO BIO BLITZ

Tentative schedule

Below you will find the tentative schedule with program leads, and cross reference the location for [this map](#). Please let me know before May 25 if you would like to change time or location. Also, if you can recommend anyone else to be a program lead, please let me know.

Friday June 7

All day: Guests arrive for camping

8pm: Owl Prowl with Lane Neely and Craig Hensley at Caddo Lake State Park

8pm: Mothing at Caddo Lake State Park with Sam Kieschnick

Saturday June 8

6am: Birding with Shelia Hargis and Cheryl McGrath at Caddo Lake NWR

9am: Surveying islands via kayak or canoe with Wendy Anderson and Vanessa Neace at Caddo Lake WMA

Bring your own boat

4pm: Botanizing with Craig Hensley (eastern site of Caddo Lake State Park)

8pm: Black lighting at Caddo Lake NWR with @cosmicat and Sam Kieschnick

Bring your own batteries & power supplies

8pm: Owling at Caddo Lake NWR with Craig Hensley

8pm: Herping & Frog Calls at Caddo Lake State Park with _____

Sunday June 9

6am: Bird walk with Lane Neely at Caddo Lake State Park

9am: Botanizing with Wendy Anderson (western site of Caddo Lake State Park)

10am: General blitzing at Caddo Lake NWR with Craig Hensley and NWR Staff

10am: General blitzing at Caddo Lake WMA with Vanessa Neace

2024 FALL CLASS DATES

We are actively looking for students for our training class this fall. If you know anyone who might be interested, please give them the TMN email address, cypressbasintmn@gmail.com, and either Caroline or Susan will get back to them. The October 5th class will possibly be at Daingerfield State Park, and the rest of the classes will be at the Refuge. The dates are:

August 16 & 17

September 13 & 14

October 4 & 5

November 1 & 2

Bad weather makeup day is November 9th



NEW MEMBER BIO

ELLEN MILLER



What do you enjoy most when you are in nature?

I enjoy water the most in nature. A lake, an ocean, a creek, a puddle, any of them will do.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy taking care of my reptiles, reading, and being outside.

When did your interest in nature begin?

I grew up in the 10 acres of woods behind my family's house, and I don't remember a time I wasn't outdoors. It was hard to keep me inside, according to my mom.

If you could be any animal in nature, which one would you choose and why?

It would make sense to choose something that is the apex predator and has no natural enemies. I would want to pick dolphins because they seem to have fun, but the females of the species suffer a lot from the males, so that sounds bad. Any ocean animal is a bad choice because of humans, the rise of pollution, and the warming of the ocean, which is destroying much of their habitat. I don't think I'd wanna pick anything besides a human because you're at the mercy of humans no matter what, whether directly or because they're destroying the world. Let's say in an ideal society, with no interference from humans and perfect planet conditions, a killer whale. They have amazing family dynamics, no natural predators, and are pretty intelligent. But with things the way they are - I cannot pick.

Have you ever been camping? If so, what was your most memorable experience? If not, would you like to go camping some day? Why?

Yep I have. It was awful and I got bronchitis. So I haven't done it again since.

Do you prefer spending time at the beach or hiking in the mountains? Why?

At the beach, the ocean is my happy place. I love the sounds it makes, the animals that reside there.

What is your favorite season and why?

Fall, because it's cooler in the evening but without the pollen of spring. Plus the leaves are beautiful.

Are you more fascinated by the night sky or by various species of plants and animals on Earth? Why?

Various species of animals. Space is far away. Animals are right here where we can study and try to understand them.

Have you ever tried gardening or growing your own plants? If so, what has been your most successful or funny gardening experience?

I kill every plant I try to grow. No further comment. ;)

Would you rather explore a dense rainforest or dive into the depths of the ocean? Why?

Neither. They both sound dreadful. I am not diving in the ocean, I know it's my happy place but I meant like, the shore. Not in the trench. But not the rainforest either. It's so hot and humid, everything there can kill you, and did I mention humid?

Do you have a favorite nature documentary or TV show that you enjoy watching? If so, what is it?

Anything narrated by David Attenbourough. I was a huge fan of Blue Planet when it came out.

Have you ever encountered any wild animals up close? What was your reaction? Yep, lots of them!

Holding very, very still if it was dangerous, and trying to catch it if it wasn't.

If you could have one superpower related to nature, such as talking to animals or controlling the weather, what would it be and why? **Talking to animals. Though it would make me a vegan. Which is fine.**

MINUTES OF MEETING

CBTMN Chapter Meeting - May 13, 2024

The following members were present: Caroline Hughes, Terry Venden, Stella Smith, Debby Ward, Susan Sedberry, Cal Witt, Charles Gillis, Stella & Ted Barrow, Kathy Koenig, Linda Richtsmeier, Caryn Duncan, Pat & ViAnn Sawyer, Dudley Swofford, Jessica Fitzgerald, Phyllis Wilson, Ellen Miller, Barbara Judkins, Vicki Gilliland, Laura Wilson, Teresa McKinney. Guests: Our presenter Lane Neely (CLSP Interpreter), Daniel Rios (Assistant Superintendent of CLSP), and Keith McKinney.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 by President Barbara Judkins with welcome and introduction of guests. The meeting was turned over to our AT presenter Lane Neely who delivered an excellent, very interesting presentation of the "History of the CCC and Caddo Lake"...very informative!

Cares, Concerns, Joys: Teresa (our new Treasurer) is CAST FREE and doing well after her recent hand surgery. Barbara's new granddaughter is doing well and bringing much joy to the family.

Both the Treasurer's Report and last month's Minutes are published in the May Paddlefish.

VMS UPDATE from Linda....for all volunteers participating in the NA Bat Monitoring Project, PLEASE HOLD OFF ON LOGGING YOUR HOURS...the state has decided to add a special opportunity listing specific to the project. If you have already entered hours under "Field Research", that is fine, however, just keep up with your hours and wait for the new listing before entering hours into VMS.

Flotilla Update: Stella reported approximately 90 paddlers checked in for the event, despite the date change. She expressed her gratitude to all who volunteered to make the event happen. There are still t-shirts available ...if you would like one, please contact Stella.

Bat Project: Coordinators Terry and Steve, along with several volunteers, are in the 3rd week of placing monitors. Terry presented information on data gathered to date, explaining the GRTS map, and how the 2 different types of monitors and computer programs work. Dudley and Charles expressed interest in participating. This is an exciting project...a great way to earn VT and learn about bats.

Nature Book Club and Training Class: Caroline advised that the book club meeting has been rescheduled from 5/9 to 5/16 due to threat of weather. The next selection will be decided on at the meeting.

There are 3 people interested in the 2024 training class...a minimum of 6 is needed. If you know of anyone interested please pass their name, email, and snail mail address to Caroline.

Next meeting: June 10 at the Marshall Library at 6:00 pm

Next board meeting: June 24 at the Refuge at 6:00 pm

VT = 30 minutes (.5) plus drive time

AT = 30 minutes (.5)

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

2024 #TMNTuesdays

January 9 **May 14**
February 13 **June 11**
March 5* **July 9**
*first week of the month **August 13**
September 10
October 8
November 12
December 10



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/>

2024 Officers

Barbara Judkins

President

Susan Sedberry

Vice President

Lara 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

Trainees Wanted for 2024 Class

Contact Caroline Hughes (cahughes8@gmail.com) or Susan Sedberry (wssedberry@sbcglobal.net) for additional information!

2024 Meeting Dates and Locations

May 13- Caddo Lake State Park

June 10- Library

July- No Meeting

August 12- Transportation Center*

September 9- Library

October 14- Kellyville

November 11- State Park

December- No Meeting



Newly Certified TMNer's



The Bat Brigade