

THE
PADDLEFISH
CYPRESS BASIN CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



BARB'S BLURBS

Having lived in the northern part of Texas my entire life, I never noticed that Texas had such a vast variety of birds. Over 600 species to be exact! We trail California by 19 species.

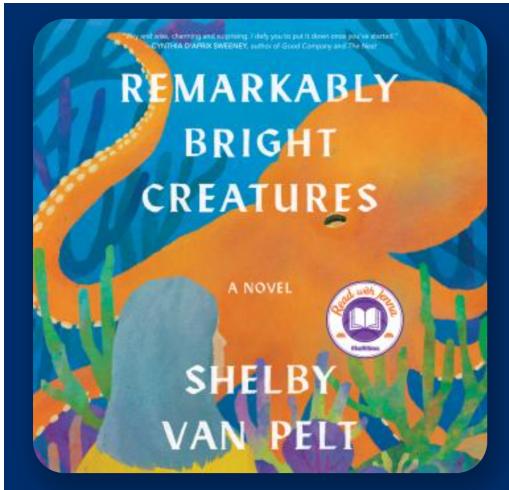
Now that I'm spending time near the coast, I've come to realize that I'm not as great of a birder as I am in my own backyard. Oh, the wonderful birds I've spotted over the last two months! Of course, I haven't been able to identify very many. They sure do fly fast. In the first week I was in the costal bend, I managed to identify a Roseate Spoonbill. With pink being my favorite, I was rather taken with that bird and stood watching in my monocular until the dude with the big swamp boat came roaring up. I uttered some words not fit for this publication, packed my monocular and moved to a quieter spot. I've seen several of the pink beauties since then and am gratified that there are plenty of them. Some other wonders of nature I've encountered while away have been enormous live oak trees, a million and one sea gulls, some cormorants lazily floating around and those amazing whooping cranes.

Why this long-winded ode to nature? It is because, while I'm enjoying my new job duties and ogling the wildlife, I'm missing my family and friends. With the help of a few feathered friends, I'm finding the joy of birds on the wing and water splashing on shore. Nature has the ability to generate many positive emotions, such as calmness, joy and creativity and can facilitate concentration. I'm for all of those things and hope you are, too. As John Muir said, "In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."

Thank you all for being dedicated members of this chapter and thank you for reading my missive.

MARCH MEETING INFORMATION

The Marshall Public Library is the location of our March 11th meeting. Set up will be at 5:45 and the meeting will begin at 6pm. The library is located at 300 S. Alamo. Their meeting room is on the north end of the building and there is a door on that side of the building. Turn on Fannin Street and you'll see the door. Parking is on the east side of the building, as well as out front. Ellen Miller, one of our new trainees, will make an AT presentation on reptiles. She has several and she will bring them for some hands on, if anyone is interested! Hope to see you there!



BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, MARCH 21ST AT 6 PM

Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge Classroom

Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge

Our next selection will be *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, by *Shelby Van Pelt*, which is a fictional story. To make sure that we have adequate science and nature facts in our discussion, I have organized the discussion slightly differently than normal. Everyone will read an article about octopuses before reading the book and will read what experts say about the positives and negatives of public aquariums and/or zoos, such as the Caldwell Zoo in Tyler in our own region. We will have a short debate on this subject. Please read the attached directions, especially the ones that accompany the debate topic. The first letter of your first name determines which side you will defend. We will also discuss unique animals from our own region.

. For more information, contact Caroline Hughes at cahughes8@gmail.com.



SUSTAINABLE SWAP



Choosing a reusable water bottle over single-use plastic alternatives can significantly reduce our environmental footprint. The production of plastic bottles involves extracting and processing fossil fuels, contributing to carbon emissions and environmental degradation. In contrast, reusable bottles, typically made from materials like stainless steel or BPA-free plastics, have a longer lifespan, minimizing the need for continuous production.

Moreover, the disposal of single-use plastic bottles poses a severe threat to ecosystems, as they often end up in landfills or oceans, taking centuries to decompose. This results in pollution and harm to wildlife. By embracing reusable options, we curtail the demand for new plastic production, mitigating the environmental toll. Beyond reducing waste, the manufacturing process of reusable bottles generally consumes fewer resources and emits fewer pollutants.

In essence, opting for a reusable water bottle is a small yet impactful step towards a more sustainable future, demonstrating our commitment to preserving the environment and combating the detrimental effects of plastic pollution.

GOING BATTY



If interested in participating, please watch the recording of the TMN Tuesday dated January 23rd and register to participate as a Chapter Coordinator/Leader, Acoustic Monitor Field Deployment Volunteer, or as a Data Review/Analysis Volunteer. Please choose Cypress Basin from the dropdown menu and use our Chapter address: CBTMN, PO Box 226, Karnack TX 75661. Terry, Teresa, and Steve have already signed up as Coordinators, Stella B. and Ellen have volunteered as Data Reviewers, and several members have registered as Monitors.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

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



Mail checks

made payable to "Cypress Basin TMN" to Charles Gillis, 709 Lovely Road, Marshall, TX 75672.

RECERTIFICATION PINS

Pam Andrews, Stella and Ted Barrow, Jason and Jennifer Bean, Kim Delony,

Roger Geiger, Charles Gillis, Becky Gullette, David & Vicki Gilliland,

Hattie Hackler, Herman Hazard, Caroline Hughes, Trish Jones,

Barbara Judkins, Kathy Koenig, Jim Meyer, Linda Richtsmeier,

Steve & Susan Sedberry, Stella Smith, Dudley Swofford, Amy

Taylor, Tami

White, Laura Wilson, Phyllis Wilson, Cal Witt, Mike & Thelma

Woodruff, Jill & Pete Wright

SERVICE PINS

250 hour pin: Jason Bean

500 hour pins: Barbara Judkins

Dudley Swofford

4000 hour pin: Herman Hazard



CARES AND CONCERN

Barbara is excited about the birth of her granddaughter in just 8 more weeks! Sending get-well wishes to Becky who is recovering from COVID. Congratulations to Ellen who will be graduating from college in May! Wishing Teresa a successful surgery on March 6th with a speedy recovery.

ARBORETUM TOUR

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 27th! We will meet at the Longview Arboretum at 10 am for a "guided tour" and some history of the place. Jan Barth, a TMNer from Tyler, will be our host. This will qualify as AT. A reminder email will be sent out in April asking for a response from those interested.

2024 FLOATILLA PLANS

The 12th Annual Earth Day Paddling Flotilla is April 20th. Plans are underway with a dedicated small group of volunteers. The need for volunteers grows on Friday afternoon, 4/19 and the day of the event, 4/20. Please contact Stella at 2024earthdayflotilla@gmail.com or barrowstella1@gmail.com or 903-736-3063. Upcoming dates for the planning meetings are: 2/17, 3/2, 3/16, 3/23, 4/6, 4/13 at 10:00 am. All meetings are at the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center.



12th Annual Caddo Lake **PADDLING FLOTILLA**

April 20 Shady Glade Resort RV Park & Marina
449 Cypress Drive ~ Karnack, TX 75661



BE A SPONSOR!

Crappie - \$250-\$499

Large Mouth Bass - \$500-\$999

Paddlefish - \$1000 and up

for sponsorship info, call 903-736-3063
or email 2024earthdayflotilla@gmail.com

T E X A S



Cypress Basin Chapter



**Beautiful Paddle Trails
Family Adventures
Food ~ Fun for all ages
Raffle ~ Auction**

Details and Tickets
online at
<http://tinyurl.com/vpfaat78>



MINUTES OF MEETING

Minutes of the February Meeting

President Barbara Judkins called the meeting to order at 6:00.

The following 33 members and 3 guests were present.

Treasurer's Report: approved as published in the Paddlefish. If you are not current, please PAY YOUR DUES! *Our newly elected Treasurer is Teresa McKinney

Minutes: approved as published in the Paddlefish.

VMS: Please be diligent about entering your hours in a timely manner.

The "Ecoregions of Texas" 2023 Recertification pins Service pins were presented

Flotilla News: Raffle canoes were distributed to be decorated. We need items for the Silent Auction, so please contribute or solicit items from local businesses as donations.

Please consider volunteering for set up and for the day of Flotilla.

"Batty Business": Laura (with help from Vanessa) presented information about our participation in the North American Bat Acoustic Monitoring Project.

VT/AT Opportunities: *VT-Caddo Lake State Park – "Caddo Adventure Day"...April 27 th from 9am – 3pm.

*AT "Birding w/David Brotherton" - scheduled for March 30 th from 9am -11am at Daingerfield State Park.

*Roger mentioned the possibility of a future AT class in Foraging such as the one offered at Caddo Mounds...more info to come later.

Nature Book Club: Current selection is "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt. Discussion is scheduled for Thursday, March 21 st at 6:00 pm at the Refuge.

New Training Class Scheduled

Dates for the 2024 Board Meetings: 3/25, 6/24, 9/2, and 11/4...all are welcome!

VT for this meeting = 1 hour plus travel time. There was no AT presented.

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

David Brotherton will lead a birding program on Saturday, March 30, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., at Daingerfield State Park. We will meet at the pavilion on top of the hill overlooking the swimming area and next to the park store. The birding program will be a co-event with Caroline's hiking club. Ladies are invited to stay and hike afterwards (Please bring a sack lunch.)

Everybody grab your binoculars and join us for some birding fun!

If you have any questions, please contact Susan or Caroline.

03/11	Marshall Library	Ellen Miller TMN Chapter Member	Reptiles
04/08	Marion County Extension Office/ Kellyville Community Center	Jennifer and Jason Bean TMN Chapter Members	Dutch Oven Hands On Event
05/13	Caddo Lake State Park	Lane Neely Caddo Lake State Park Interpreter	The CCC at Caddo Lake State Park
06/10	Marshall Library		
July	No Chapter Meeting		
08/12	Jefferson Transportation Dept. - Potluck	AT through Attending Initial Training Presentations	
09/09	Marshall Library	AT through Attending Initial Training Presentations	
10/14	Marion County Extension Office/ Kellyville Community Center	AT through Attending Initial Training Presentations	
11/11	Caddo Lake State Park	AT through Attending Initial Training Presentations	
Dec.	No Chapter Meeting		

2024 #TMNTuesdays

January 9 **May 14**
February 13 **June 11**
March 5* **July 9**
*first week of the month
April 9 **August 13**

September 10
October 8
November 12
December 10



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

2024 Meeting Dates

Here is the list of meeting sites for next year. We have eliminated the Fire Station, due to their parking situation, and have moved those meetings to Marshall's Library, located at 300 S. Alamo in Marshall. Caroline and Susan are looking for some AT for the meetings. If anyone has a topic that they would like to present to the group, please let one of them know. If you have any field trip suggestions, pass those along also. They are working on a trip to the Longview Arboretum in early May and a birding event at Atlanta State Park with David Brotherton in early April.

January 8- Caddo Lake State Park
February 12- Transportation Center in Jefferson-Potluck
March 11- Marshall Library
April 8- Kellyville
May 13- Caddo Lake State Park
June 10- Library
July- no meeting
August 12- Transportation Center - Potluck
September 9- Library
October 14- Kellyville
November 11- State Park
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/tmtn Tuesdays/>

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/>