

## AWESOME ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Join us for a unique opportunity to explore the three paddle trails near Shady Glade by pontoon boat! This guided outing, scheduled for Monday, May 19 at 4:00 PM, will count as Advanced Training (AT) thanks to insightful commentary from our Captain and from Ted, who will share valuable information about the trail markers.

Participants will help assess the condition of trail markers, so note-taking is encouraged to identify any that need repair or replacement. This is a great way to contribute to local conservation efforts while enjoying the beauty of Caddo Lake from the water.

- Boat seats 12 – one spot is reserved for Ted.
- First come, first served.
- If there's strong interest or if you can't make it on the 19th, we may schedule a second tour.
- Fee covered by Flotilla funds.

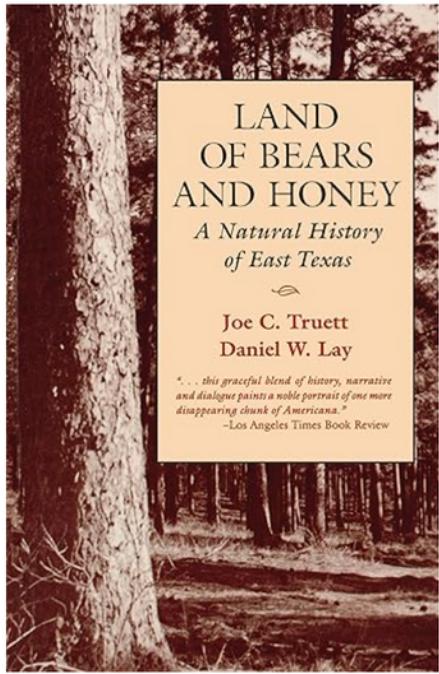
To reserve your spot or suggest an alternative date, please contact Susan at [caddomama@gmail.com](mailto:caddomama@gmail.com).

Don't miss this chance to enjoy a scenic ride, deepen your knowledge, and give back to the trails we love!

**MAY MEETING-MAY 12TH AT 6PM**

The Conference Room at the Refuge is the site for our May 12th meeting, which begins at 6pm. There is no AT scheduled, so if someone would like to share an experience or a nature adventure with us, please, please do so!! Even if you don't think it's very interesting (or you think you are boring!), we would love to hear about it (but only for about 30 minutes!). Please let Susan ([caddomama@gmail.com](mailto:caddomama@gmail.com)) know if are willing to share something. Hope to see you there!!





# BOOK CLUB

## THURSDAY MAY 8TH AT 6:00 PM

Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge Classroom  
Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge

Our next selection is *Land of Bears and Honey: A Natural History of East Texas* by Joe C. Truett and Daniel W. Lay. The discussion will be at the refuge on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Please bring a lawn chair so that we will have the option of sitting on the deck

We will meet at 2:30 again for anyone interested in doing trail maintenance prior to the book club meeting.

## LUCKY 13 FLOATILLA

What a day! With perfect weather and 79 paddlers on the water, the Lucky 13th Earth Day Paddling Flotilla was everything we hoped for – and more.

A huge thank you to everyone who paddled, volunteered, donated, or helped spread the word. Your energy and enthusiasm made this event a celebration to remember!

We're now beginning discussions on how best to use the funds raised to support local conservation, education, and future events. Stay tuned for updates – and again, thank you for being part of this incredible community effort!





# BAT MONITORING

Join the 9-Week Bat Monitoring Project – Learn, Explore, Contribute!

Starting this Monday, our 9-week Bat Monitoring Project kicks off – and you're invited to be a part of it! Whether you're curious about how bat acoustic monitoring works or just want a hands-on wildlife experience, this is a great opportunity to learn and contribute to real conservation work.

Led by Terry Venden and Steve Sedberry, the project involves placing two monitors at different locations each Monday and retrieving them on Friday. Mondays are the best day to join in, as you'll get the most educational experience while helping with setup.

If you'd like to join, contact Terry Venden at 903-407-2025, and he'll coordinate a meeting location based on where you live and that week's destinations.

Your first outing qualifies as Advanced Training (AT) – all additional outings count as Volunteer Time (VT). Come explore East Texas, learn about bat ecology, and make a difference in wildlife monitoring!

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

Mail checks- made payable to  
Cypress Basin TMN

Mail to  
PO Box 226  
Karnack, Texas  
75661

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists		
Financial Report for April 2025		
Beginning Balance 3/24/25		\$30,873.66
Deposits:	Annual Dues	\$50.00
	Flotilla Sponsorships	\$1,750.00
	Flotilla Food	\$853.50
	Flotilla Silent Auction	\$765.00
	Flotilla Registration	\$250.00
	Flotilla Sales/Raffle	\$670.00
	Flotilla Online	\$760.84
	Flotilla Shirt/Postage	\$35.00
	Donation	\$4.00
		\$5,138.34
Expenses:	Flotilla Caterer	\$640.00
	Flotilla Table/Chairs	\$249.50
	Flotilla Mugs & Maps	\$411.53
	Flotilla Cash	\$660.00
	Flotilla Misc	\$124.68
	New Checks	\$107.13
	Bat Project	\$46.76
		\$2,239.60
	Flotilla Fund	\$26,914.00

# BIRD SAFE WINDOW SEMINAR

Each year, millions of birds die from flying into glass windows they cannot see. The webinar will explore simple, effective strategies for making windows safer, including visual markers, films, and architectural design modifications. Attendees will also learn about materials and techniques suitable for both new construction and retrofitting existing structures.

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and access helpful resources to take immediate action at home or in their communities.

Whether you're a homeowner, architect, or bird enthusiast, this webinar provides practical solutions that can make a big impact for migrating and local birds alike.

Registration is free, but space is limited — sign up now to reserve your spot.

[https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Lh-fQfXFQsWWBPIibRqjUQ](https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Lh-fQfXFQsWWBPIibRqjUQ)



## MINUTES OF APRIL MEETING

CYPRESS BASIN TMN CHAPTER MEETING - APRIL 14, 2025 at Kellyville

Members present: Terry Venden, Stella Smith, Barbara Judkins, Trish Jones, Laura Wilson, Becky Canter, Jane Ball, Linda Richtsmeier, Jill Wright, Pete, Wright, Ted Barrow, Steve & Susan Sedberry, Kathy Koenig, Vicki Gilliland, ViAnn & Pat Sawyer, Caroline Hughes, Roger Geiger, Jim Meyer, Pamela Andrews, Jean Bratton, Teresa McKinney, and Advisor Vanessa Neace. No guests were present.

Prior to the business meeting, Vanessa Neace presented "Flora and Plant Communities of Caddo Lake WMA" for 45 minutes of AT.

Meeting was called to order by President Barbara Judkins at 6:45pm.

Treasurer's Report and Minutes were published in the Paddlefish and approved.

Flotilla: There are currently 70 paddlers registered. Discussion was held around logistics for set up the day before and for the day of the Flotilla. Arrive at Shady Glade by 5:30 on 4/25 to help set up tents, pick up t-shirts, etc. Volunteers should wear their name tags. Each member should bring 2 dozen individually wrapped cookies, brownies, etc. Also bring any remaining painted crafts on Friday. Need group to meet at the classroom at 7:00 AM on 4/26 to transport items to Shady Glade. And help will be needed at the end of the day to pack up and transport items back.

AT Field Trips: Susan presented a few options for AT Field Trips

- 1) Attend a weather balloon launch in Shreveport
- 2) Boat Tour of Caddo Lake (especially to look at the Paddle Trails)
- 3) Herpetology w/Ellen Miller

New Training Class: Susan and Caroline are asking members to actively recruit new trainees. Training begins in August. Registration forms will be emailed to members to help recruit. When signing up new members, please get their "snail mail" address. New brochures are being printed and will be at the Flotilla.

Nature Book Club: The new selection is "Land of Bears and Honey: A Natural History of East Texas" by Joe C. Truett. The discussion is scheduled for May 8th at 6:00 pm at the Refuge Visitor's Center. Option to arrive early at 2:30 for trail work...contact Caroline if interested.

Spring Festival at Starr Family Home is 4/26 from 10:00-2:00. Barbara will be manning the event, therefore will not be at the Flotilla. If anyone would like to volunteer to help her with the TMN table, please contact her.

Bat Brigade: Monitoring for the NA Bat Project will begin the week of 4/28 at the WMA the first week and Teresa's property the following week. Past participants are being scheduled. Anyone interested in volunteering for set up and pick up of monitors, contact Terry.

Next Meeting: May 12th at the Refuge at 6:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 pm.

AT = 45 minutes (.75)

VT = 30 minutes plus set up and drive time.

# FIREFLIES ARE BACK – HERE'S HOW TO HELP THEM SHINE

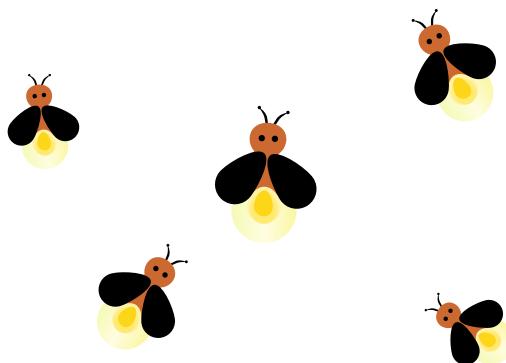
As the days grow longer and temperatures rise, a familiar summer favorite is beginning to reappear: fireflies. Also known as lightning bugs, these bioluminescent beetles are a nostalgic and magical part of many childhood memories – and an important part of the ecosystem.

Fireflies use their glow to communicate, attract mates, and ward off predators. However, their numbers have been declining due to habitat loss, pesticide use, and light pollution. You can help support firefly populations right in your backyard:

- Dim your outdoor lights in the evening and install motion sensors or warm-colored bulbs.
- Avoid pesticides and let leaf litter accumulate in parts of your yard – many firefly species spend much of their lives as larvae in soil and leaf debris.
- Create moist, natural areas by preserving native plants and reducing lawn coverage.

Now is a perfect time to go outside after sunset, slow down, and enjoy the light show. If you spot fireflies this season, consider reporting your sightings to community science platforms like Firefly Watch through the Museum of Science in Boston.

Let's keep the glow going for future generations.



## 2025 TRAINING CLASS ANNOUNCEMENT

Caroline and Susan are looking for folks interested in taking our training class this fall. Please talk to your friends, neighbors, co-workers, anyone who you think might be interested! It will begin the weekend of August 15th, and be one weekend a month through November. Please be sure and get name, address, phone number and email address. We also need a co-chair for the coordination of food. Thanks so much for helping with this!!



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](mailto:caddomama@gmail.com)) or Caroline ([cahughes8@gmail.com](mailto: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

### 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/>

## 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