

THE
PADDLEFISH
CYPRESS BASIN CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST

CADDO LAKE ADVENTURE DAY PLANNED FOR 2025

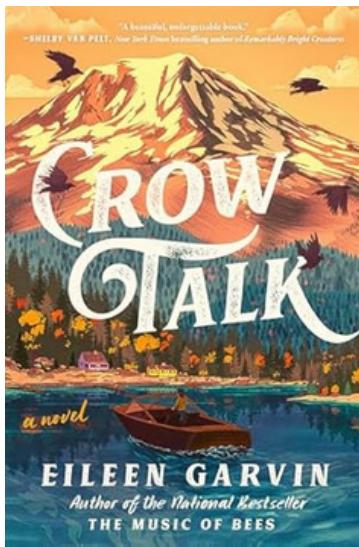
Caddo Lake State Park is hosting its 2nd Annual *Caddo Adventure Day* on Saturday, March 15, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This family-friendly event offers an array of activities like archery, fishing, paddling, hiking, and educational exhibits. Following last year's popular "Skins and Skulls" display, Lane Neely has invited us to set up a similar table, where visitors can explore local wildlife up close.

This is also an excellent volunteer opportunity for Texas Master Naturalists to share their expertise and engage the public. Volunteers can help run activities, answer questions, and deepen visitors' appreciation for East Texas ecology. Event participation counts toward volunteer hours for Texas Master Naturalists, making it a meaningful way to contribute to conservation efforts and public education.



NOVEMBER MEETING INFORMATION

Our last meeting of the year will be at Caddo Lake State Park in the Rec Hall, on Monday, November 11th. Set up is at 5:45pm and the meeting will begin at 6. No one is lined up for some AT at this meeting, so if someone would like to speak for 30 minutes or so on ANYTHING you are passionate about, please let Susan (972-890-3620) know! Whether it's a safari you've been on, or an Antarctica cruise you've been on, or an interest in flora or fauna (like Laura, our bat-crazy lady!), or hiking in Big Bend - we'd love to hear about it! We will also have election of officers for 2025 at this meeting.



BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

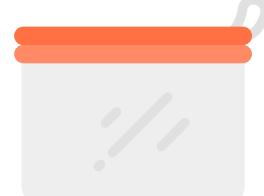
Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge Classroom
Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge

"Crow Talk by Eileen Garvin , author of previous book club selection, The Music of Bees is the next book to be discussed by the nature book club.

Nature lovers and book enthusiasts are invited to the upcoming Nature Book Club meeting, where this month's selection, *Crow Talk*, takes center stage. This engaging book dives into the intelligence, communication, and social lives of crows, revealing fascinating insights into these often-overlooked birds. From their problem-solving skills to their complex family dynamics, *Crow Talk* offers a fresh perspective on one of nature's most misunderstood creatures.

HIKING CLUB TO MEET

"Nurture Yourself with Nature" before the hectic holiday season begins! On Saturday, November 16, we will leisurely hike through Atlanta State Park to soak in the beauty and peace of nature. We'll practice a few relaxation techniques along the way, including doing some watercolor painting after we hike. Please bring something to sit on for the trail, such as a towel, and bring a lawn chair in addition to your sack lunch. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Knights Bluff Day Use Area. Please see the attached details page for directions, the hiking plan, day use fee, etc.



SUSTAINABLE SWAP

Switching to compostable trash and food storage bags is a simple, impactful way to reduce plastic waste. Unlike traditional plastic, which can take hundreds of years to break down, compostable bags decompose within months, often in both home and industrial compost settings. Made from renewable plant-based materials like cornstarch and PLA, these bags offer a sustainable alternative without sacrificing durability. Compostable trash bags are ideal for handling everyday waste, while compostable food storage bags keep produce fresh without plastic. By opting for compostable bags, you're actively reducing your environmental footprint, making a small but significant change toward a waste-free future.

FIGHT LIGHT POLLUTION

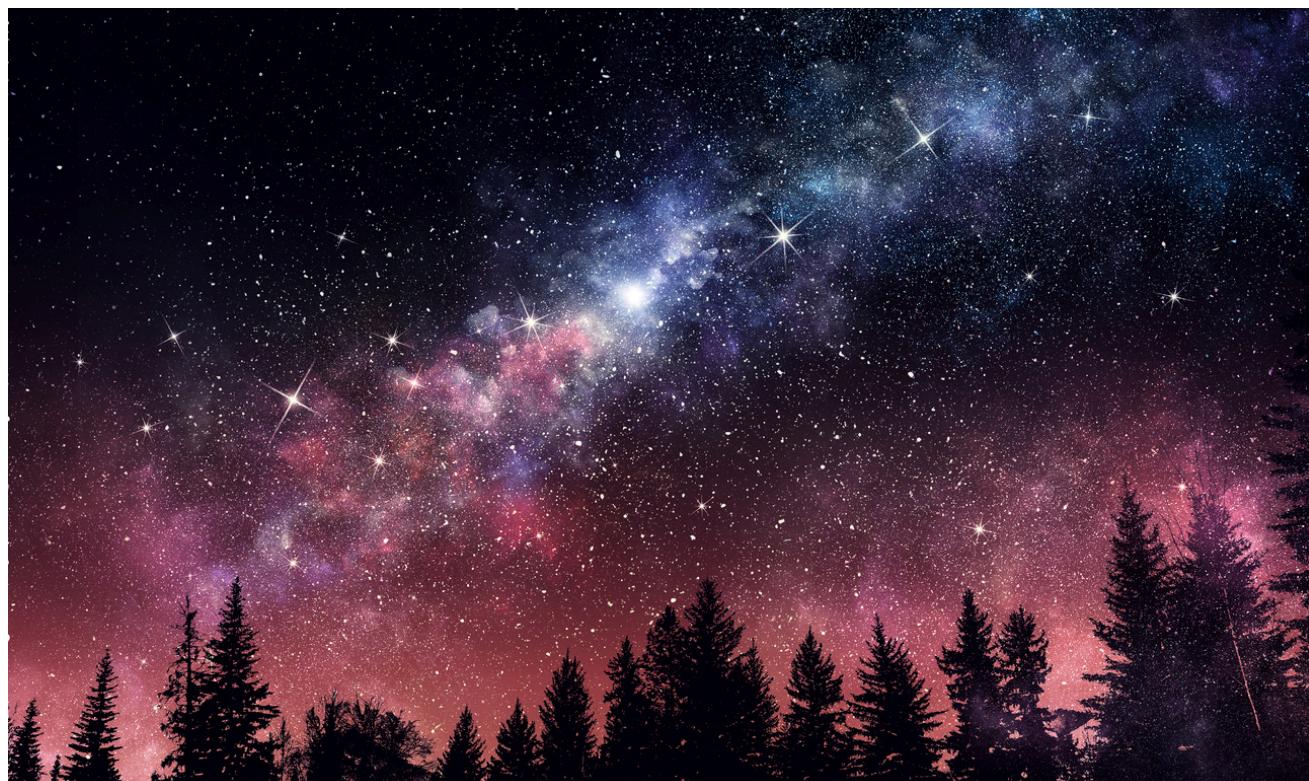
Explore the Stars and Fight Light Pollution: The Globe at Night Campaign

The **Globe at Night** campaign is a global citizen science initiative inviting people of all ages to measure and record the brightness of the night sky in their local areas. This data helps scientists assess light pollution levels and understand its impact on wildlife, ecosystems, and human health. As urbanization grows, so does light pollution, dimming the stars and affecting natural cycles. By participating, you can help identify regions where light pollution is severe and support efforts to preserve dark skies.

How to Participate

1. ****Choose a Date****: The next observation window is November 24 to December 3, 2024. Observing during a specific period ensures consistency in the data.
2. ****Locate a Dark Spot****: Find an area with minimal artificial light, such as a park, backyard, or rural spot. Let your eyes adjust to the darkness for about 10 minutes.
3. ****Observe the Stars****: Look up at the constellation indicated on the **Globe at Night** website (often Orion in the Northern Hemisphere). Count the stars you see and note the clarity.
4. ****Submit Your Observation****: Go to the **Globe at Night** website or use their app to log your observations. They provide easy-to-use sky charts for reference.

By contributing, you join a global effort to protect our night skies and promote awareness about light pollution.



MINUTES OF MEETING

CBTMN Chapter Meeting - October 14, 2024

Members present: Barbara Judkins, Terry Venden, Susan & Steve Sedberry, Kim Delony, Phyllis Wilson, Cal Witt, Vicki & David Gilliland, Laura Wilson, Jane Ball, Becky Canter, Sherry Sikes, Linda Richtsmeier, Stella Smith, Keith & Teresa McKinney, Ellen Miller, Pat & ViAnn Sawyer, Becky Gullette, Kathy Koenig, Pam Andrews. Special guest: Doug Weir, Advisor

Meeting called to order by President Barbara Judkins at 6:05 pm

Cares, Concerns, Joys: It was called to attention that several members did not receive the current Paddlefish via email. Barbara will report to Jessie.

Treasurer's Report: No new activity. Current balance... \$29,481.39

Minutes: As recorded in Paddlefish, all members will review and approve at next meeting.

VMS: Linda reminded everyone to accurately record VT in a timely manner (before the 45 day cut off). Linda announced that she will be "retiring" from VMS and asked that another member step up to do this very important task...thank you, Linda for your years of service to the chapter!

Class of 2023: Three more members have certified but were not present, therefore, they will be recognized at next meeting.

VT Opportunities: Several opportunities were listed in the Agenda and discussed at the meeting.

Class of 2024: Nov 1-2 is the final weekend for this year's training session. The celebratory Hamburger Lunch will be held on Nov 2 and members are asked to volunteer to bring side dishes. A sign up sheet was posted and members can also contact Ellen to volunteer.

Nature Book Club: New selection is Crow Talk: A Novel by Eileen Garvin (author of previous selection The Music of Bees: A Novel). Discussion will be held on Thursday, Dec 5th at the Refuge at 6pm. All are welcome...contact Caroline if interested.

Election of 2025 Officers: Vote will be held at the November Chapter Meeting...please attend! Anyone interested in serving are welcome to "throw their name in the hat"!

Additionally: Terry opened a discussion on submitting for a grant Planting Pollinator Gardens. David brought up issues surrounding the Disc Golf Course and mentioned the chapter possibly being a sponsor at the next tournament held 12/7. A request for new CBTMN signage at Kellyville was made. The board will take up these issues at the meeting scheduled for Nov 4th. Becky gave an update on recent trail work done at the Refuge on Magazine and Hope Cemetery....much more clearing is needed...contact Becky to volunteer.

AT Presentation: Laura Wilson presented her "Recent Batty Experiences" with Merlin Tuttle in Austin and a day learning about rehabilitation through Bat World Sanctuary.

VT: 45 minutes (.75) plus drive time

AT: 45 minutes (.75)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The *Christmas Bird Count* (CBC), running from December 14 to January 5 each year, is a wonderful citizen science event hosted by the National Audubon Society. This 120-year tradition invites people of all skill levels to help document bird populations across North America. The data collected aids scientists in monitoring bird populations and understanding environmental health.

Participating is easy and open to everyone! Begin by locating a local Audubon chapter or CBC coordinator to join a counting group in a designated area known as a “count circle.” These circles cover various bird habitats and are led by experienced birders who guide participants in identifying and counting local bird species.

Each count typically lasts a full day, during which volunteers note every bird species and individual they see. The compiled data provides invaluable insights into species trends and migratory patterns. By participating, you contribute directly to bird conservation while enjoying a rewarding outdoor experience.

OWL PROWL

Owl Prowl - Saturday November 9. Meet David Brotherton at the Jack Rabbit Grill on Hwy 155 at 5:30 PM to enjoy dinner and then go on the Owl Prowl on the backroads around Lake O' the Pines. NOTE - you don't have to attend dinner to participate (just let David know you are coming and be at the restaurant by 6:15 or 6:20 PM).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists

Financial Report for Sep 2024

Beginning Balance 9/30/24		\$29,481.39
Deposits:	None	
Expenses:	Nametags	\$19.00
	Class Expenses	\$80.18
		\$99.18
Ending Balance: 10/31/24		
Flotilla Fund		\$22,086.75
Trainee Scholarship Fund		\$600.00
General Fund		\$6,695.46
		\$29,382.21
Teresa McKinney, Treasurer		

THANKFUL FOR TEXAS TURKEYS

Native to Texas, the Rio Grande wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo intermedia*) thrives across the state, including the woodlands and rolling hills of northeast Texas. In this region, their populations have been successfully reintroduced and managed, allowing them to flourish in forests, agricultural lands, and riparian areas. Recognizable by their bronze-green iridescent feathers, these turkeys roost in trees and forage for insects, seeds, and berries. Conservation and habitat restoration efforts have ensured that they remain an important part of the ecosystem in northeast Texas.

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!

2024 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

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



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>

Nature's Notebook
<https://www.usanpn.org/nn/webinars>

Texas Wildlife Federation
<https://www.texas-wildlife.org/>

2024 Meeting Dates and Locations

August 12- Transportation Center*

September 9- Library

October 14- Kellyville

November 11- State Park

December- No Meeting