

THE  
**PADDLEFISH**  
CYPRESS BASIN CHAPTER  
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

**RUNNING OUT:**

**TEXAS' WATER CRISIS AND THE PATH  
FORWARD**



OCTOBER 8



7 P.M. CT



IN LONGVIEW AND ONLINE

This advanced training opportunity is available both in person and online. Visit <https://runningouttexaswatercrisis.splashthat.com/> for more information.

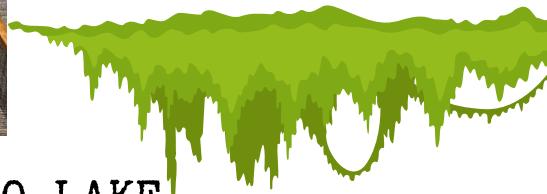
**OCTOBER MEETING**

Kellyville is the location of our October 13th monthly meeting. This facility is located at the Marion County AgriLife Extension Office, 130 Kelly Park Road, Jefferson 75657. The meeting starts at 6pm, with set up being at 5:45. We are putting together an AT presentation on household recycling in the Marshall/Longview area. Hope to see you there!



# CONGRATS TO OUR NEWEST CERTIFIED MEMBER

## MICHELLE CLAGG



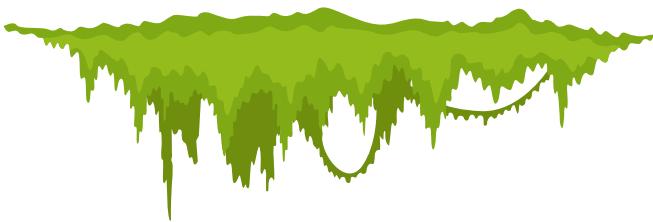
### SPOOKY SWAMP SECRETS OF CADDO LAKE

As the mist rolls across Caddo Lake at dusk, it's easy to understand why this mysterious East Texas treasure has inspired ghost stories for generations. The bald cypress rise like sentinels from dark, still water, their moss-draped limbs swaying in the slightest breeze — and if you listen closely, you might just hear whispers of Caddo's haunted past.

Locals speak of The Weeping Woman, a ghostly figure said to wander the foggy shores, crying for a lost Civil War-era lover. Fishermen tell tales of phantom paddleboats gliding silently through the mist — echoes, they say, of the Mittie Stephens, a 19th-century steamboat that caught fire on the lake, claiming dozens of lives. On moonlit nights, some even swear they see the flicker of lanterns drifting across the water, where no boats can be found.

According to Caddo legend, the lake itself was born from a prophecy. A tribal chief foresaw a great flood that would cover the land, and soon after, the earth shook — perhaps during the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-1812 — and the bayou filled with water. Some say the spirits of that ancient upheaval still linger beneath the surface.

Whether you believe in ghosts or not, there's no denying that Caddo Lake holds a magic all its own. Its beauty and mystery remind us that every ripple carries a story — and every shadow hides a secret.



# UPCOMING AT OPPORTUNITY: TREE FARM TOUR

Mark your calendars! Roger Geiger has arranged a tour of Charles Snowden's tree farm near Atlanta on Saturday, October 25th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Charles' farm was recently recognized as the Outstanding Tree Farm of 2025 by the Texas Forestry Association. Earlier this year, Roger attended a tour there and found the farm's history and natural beauty to be especially fascinating.

Transportation will be needed on-site. Charles has a side-by-side available, and we can pull a trailer with benches or hay bales if possible—but we will likely need additional options to get everyone around the property.

If you'd like to join this unique experience, please contact Susan at caddomama@gmail.com.

## MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

### CYPRESS BASIN TMN CHAPTER MEETING - SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

**The following members were present at the Marshall Library:** Ellen Miller, Steve & Susan Sedberry, Michelle Clagg, Teresa McKinney, Ted Barrow, Stella Barrow, Linda Richtsmeier, Barbara Judkins, Laura Wilson, Roger Geiger, Kathy Koenig, Pam Andrews, Jim Meyer, Becky Gullette, ViAnn & Pat Sawyer, and Caryn Duncan. **Guest:** Valerie Wilson

**Meeting was called to order** at 5:55 by President Barbara Judkins.

**Joys & Concerns:** Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of our members Herman Hazard and Ellen Anderson....we are so sorry for your losses...they will be missed.

Our prayers go out to David Gilliland to have a full recovery from his recent surgery. Barbara announced that she will be retiring in March 2026...congratulations!

**Congratulations** to our newest certified member Michelle Clagg!

**Treasurer's Report and Minutes** are published in the Paddlefish Newsletter. Teresa asked that anyone delinquent in dues, please settle up as soon as possible.

**VMS** - Ellen reports that we are doing a good job with our entries...if you have questions, the best way to contact Ellen is by text or email.

**Tour of Charles Snowden's Tree Farm** will be on Oct. 25th from 10am to 12:30pm. Charles is graciously going to provide lunch for our group (pulled pork and cobbler)...members attending are asked to provide additional dishes and necessities. Please contact Roger if you are interested in attending.

**GCLA Fish Fry Annual Fundraiser** - Susan reports a successful event raising approximately \$9500, with 10 TMN's volunteering. Please consider helping out with the event next year!

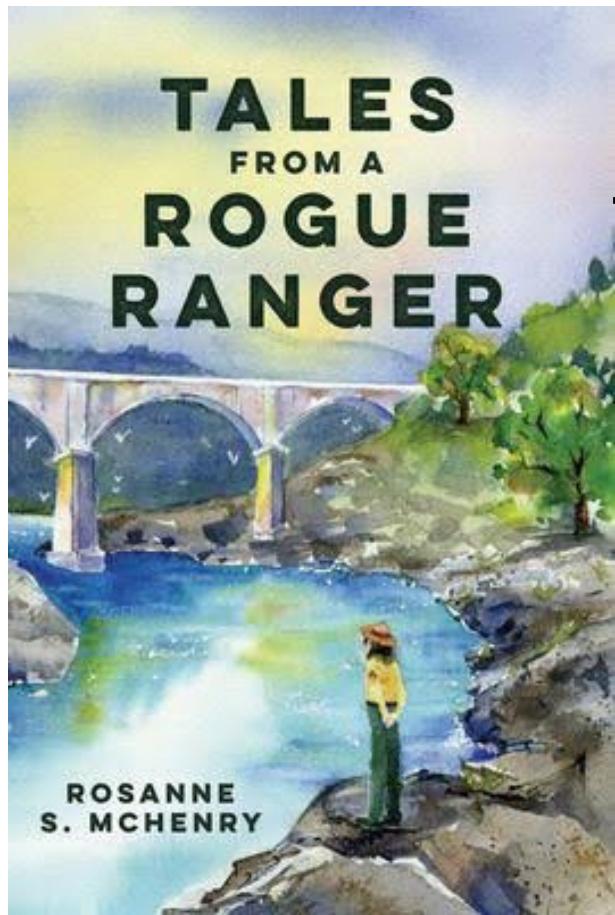
**Advanced Training** - ViAnn Sawyer presented on "Project Wild" and encouraged us to take the necessary classes to be able to present nature activities to the youth of the community. If interested, contact ViAnn for more information or go to <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/project-wild>

**Meeting adjourned** at 6:35

**Next Meeting:** October 13, 2025 at Kellyville

**VT:** 15 minutes (.25) plus drive and set up time

**AT:** 30 minutes (.5)



# BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:00 PM

Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge Classroom  
Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge

Our next Nature Book Club selection is Tales from a Rogue Ranger, by Rosanne S. McHenry, which relates the high and lows of the life of a park ranger. The discussion will be on Thursday, October 30, at 6:00 p.m. at the refuge.

For those who wish to join us, we will meet at 2:30 that day at the Visitors Center for an afternoon of trail maintenance.

Anyone is welcome to join us for trail maintenance, even if you do not plan to attend book club.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists		
Financial Report for September 2025		
Beginning Balance 8/29/25		\$32,318.96
MEMBERSHIP DUES	Deposits:	2025 Dues
\$25 PER INDIVIDUAL \$40 PER FAMILY		\$155.00
Expenses:		\$0.00
Mail checks- made payable to Cypress Basin TMN	Flotilla Fund	\$25,968.88
	Trainee Scholarship Fund	\$600.00
	General Fund	\$5,905.08
Mail to PO Box 226 Karnack, Texas 75661	Ending Balance 9/24/25	\$32,473.96
Teresa McKinney, Treasurer		



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

Ellen Miller  
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