

THE
PADDLEFISH
CYPRESS BASIN CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST

NEW CLASS TO BE HELD

Our first weekend of training this year was a huge success! We have 8 very enthusiastic and engaging folks - lots of questions and interaction with the presenters and each other. Our next weekend is September 13 and 14. Friday night kicks off at 6PM with Vanessa Neace presenting on Mammalogy. We ask for food by 5:30, please. Josh Marcisz, meteorologist from KTAL, Channel 6 in Shreveport, will wake us all up at 9AM with his presentation on Weather. Please have breakfast food there by 8:30AM. Our afternoon class on Herpetology will begin at 1PM. Ellen Miller, a new member from last year's class, will bring her pet reptiles and critters for us to handle and learn about. We will need to turn up the AC for a short time while the reptiles are being handled, so please bear with us and a warm room for just a short while. Remember that attending training classes can earn you either AT or VT. All classes this weekend are at the Refuge.



SEPTEMBER MEETING INFORMATION

Our September meeting is at the Marshall Library on Monday the 9th at 6PM. Set up will be at 5:45. Hope to see everyone there! NEW TRAINEES - you can begin earning VT by coming to the monthly meetings (and your driving time counts, also)!

2024 Presenter's Schedule – CBTMN Training Class

Friday, August 16 6-9pm Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge 15600 FM 134 Karnack 75661

Orientation/Program Overview

Intro to TMN program - Caroline Hughes, Co-Training Director & Barbara Judkins, Chapter President

Ethics and TMN Code of Conduct – Barbara Judkins, Chapter President

6:15-8:30 Historical Naturalists of Texas – Barbara Judkins, Texas Historical Commission, Site Manager of Starr Home in Marshall

8:30-9pm Trainee Informational Tidbits – VMS questions

Saturday, August 17 8:30-5pm Refuge

9am-12pm Forest Ecology and Management (Unit 17) - Ricky Maxey, Retired Army Corps of Engineers

1-4:30pm Archaeology (Unit 2) – Nick Bourgeois, Texas Historical Commission, Archaeologist

4:30-5pm Training Wrap Up

Friday, September 13 6-9pm Refuge

6-8:30pm Mammalogy (Unit 16) – Vanessa Neace, TPWD, Caddo Lake Wildlife Management Area Manager

8:30-9pm Volunteer Management System and How It Works – Linda Richtsmeier, Chapter VMS Manager

Saturday, September 14 8:30am-5pm Refuge

9am-12pm Weather and Climate (Unit 8) – Josh Marcisz, Meteorologist for KTAL TV in Shreveport

1-4:30 Herpetology (Unit 15) - Ellen Miller, TMN Member and Reptile Lover

4:30-5pm Training Wrap Up

Friday, October 4 6-9PM Refuge

6-8:30pm Texas Water Resources/Aquatic Systems Ecology (Units 9 & 18) - Lynlee Russell, Park Ranger with US Army Corps of Engineers

8:30-9pm Trainee Informational Tidbits

Saturday, October 5 8:30-12:00pm US Army Corps of Engineers Office, 2669 FM 726, Jefferson 75657

9am-12pm Ichthyology (Unit 14) – Tim Bister, TPWD, Inland Fisheries Division

Travel to Refuge

1:30-4:30pm Wetland Ecology & Management (Unit 19) – Lane Neely, TPWD, Caddo Lake State Park Interpreter

4:30-5pm Training Wrap Up

Friday, November 1 6-9pm Refuge

6-8:30pm Entomology (Unit 13) – Allen Smith, Texas Forest Service

8:30-9pm – Trainee Informational Tidbits

Saturday, November 2 8:30-5pm Refuge

9am-12pm Ornithology (Unit 12) – David Brotherton, Birder Extraordinaire and author of *100 Birds of Morris County*

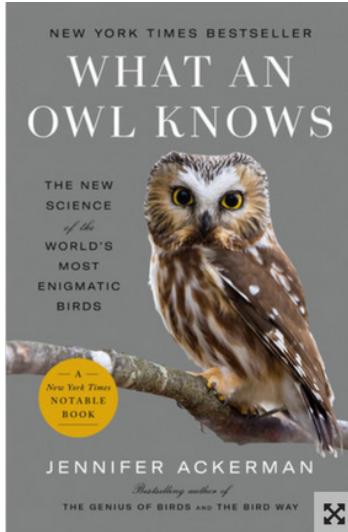
12-1:30pm – Hamburger cookout served to all by our fabulous TMN chefs

1:30-4:30 Laws & Ethics/Volunteers as Teachers/Citizen Science (Units 22-24) – Boyd Sanders, TPWD, Asst. Superintendent Martin Creek State Park

4:30-5 Training Wrap Up

Be prepared for some outside field study (closed-toed shoes/comfortable seasonal clothing/layers). We will provide sunscreen and bug repellent when needed. **Please bring a sack lunch for Saturdays. We will have coffee and water.

Please call Susan Sedberry at 972.890.3620 or Caroline Hughes at 903.821.4264 with any questions.



BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge Classroom
Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge

"What an Owl Knows"** is a fascinating exploration of the mysterious and captivating lives of owls, penned by science writer Jennifer Ackerman.

Drawing from scientific research, personal observations, and interviews with experts, the book delves into the unique biology, behavior, and intelligence of these enigmatic birds. Ackerman uncovers how owls use their acute senses, such as exceptional hearing and night vision, to hunt and navigate. The book also highlights the cultural significance of owls throughout history and their roles in various ecosystems. Ackerman's narrative blends science with storytelling, offering a profound appreciation for these nocturnal creatures. Everyone is welcome to join the Nature Book Club. If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Hughes at cahughes8@gmail.com.

FOOD NEEDED FOR NEW CLASS

The upcoming class weekend is September 13-14, and we need food for Friday evening and breakfast foods for Saturday morning. There will be a sign-up sheet at the September meeting, but if you cannot make that meeting, please contact me and let me know if you would like to bring something. This weekend, we will be at the Refuge again. Friday night food needs to be there by 5:30 pm and Saturday food by 8:30 am. Thank you so much to everyone who signed up last month and made it a massive success for our new class!

Ellen Miller
ellenbrianamiller@gmail.com or 903-241-6263.



SUSTAINABLE SWAP



A simple and effective sustainable swap people can make in their homes is replacing single-use plastic bags with reusable shopping bags. This change significantly reduces plastic waste and helps minimize environmental pollution, as plastic bags are a major contributor to ocean and land pollution. Reusable bags are often sturdier, hold more items, and can be used repeatedly, which makes them both environmentally friendly and cost-effective over time.

By bringing reusable bags to the grocery store or when shopping, individuals can help decrease the demand for single-use plastics, which take hundreds of years to decompose and can harm wildlife and ecosystems when not properly disposed of. Many stores now offer affordable reusable bags at checkout, making this sustainable swap easy to implement in daily life.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Citizen science is a growing movement that invites everyday people to participate in scientific research, contributing valuable data and insights to professional studies. For Texas Master Naturalists (TMNs), citizen science provides a unique opportunity to deepen their engagement with nature while supporting vital conservation efforts. By leveraging the collective power of many individuals, citizen science projects can cover vast geographical areas and collect data over extended periods, something that would be impossible for scientists to do alone.

Enhancing Conservation Efforts

One of the key benefits of citizen science is its ability to enhance conservation efforts. Many TMNs are already involved in various conservation projects, such as monitoring local wildlife populations or documenting the spread of invasive species. By participating in citizen science initiatives, these efforts gain additional layers of support. For example, programs like eBird allow bird watchers to log sightings, which researchers use to track migration patterns and changes in bird populations due to climate change. In Texas, data collected through projects like the Texas Nature Trackers, a citizen science initiative by Texas Parks and Wildlife, are instrumental in conserving rare and non-game species across the state.

Bridging the Gap Between Science and the Public

Citizen science also serves as a bridge between scientific research and the general public, increasing awareness and understanding of environmental issues. TMNs can play a crucial role in this by acting as ambassadors of science, spreading knowledge, and encouraging community involvement. Public engagement through citizen science can lead to better-informed citizens who are more likely to support and participate in conservation efforts. By collecting data on local biodiversity, water quality, or plant health, citizen scientists contribute to a broader understanding of environmental trends that affect everyone.

Contributing to Large-Scale Data Collection

The scale at which citizen science operates is another significant advantage. Traditional research methods often face limitations in scope and funding. Citizen science projects, however, can gather extensive data over large areas and longer time frames. TMNs, with their training and passion for nature, are ideal contributors to projects that require detailed observation skills, such as the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, which tracks monarch butterfly populations, or iNaturalist, a platform that enables naturalists to share observations of biodiversity worldwide.

Personal and Community Benefits

Beyond the ecological impact, citizen science offers personal and community benefits. TMNs participating in citizen science projects gain a deeper understanding of the natural world and the scientific process. These projects provide hands-on learning opportunities and foster a sense of stewardship for the environment. They also build community connections, as volunteers work together towards a common goal, sharing experiences and knowledge.

A Call to Action

For Texas Master Naturalists, the call to action is clear. By engaging in citizen science, TMNs can significantly contribute to conservation research and efforts to protect Texas's natural heritage. Whether it's through monitoring local species, participating in biodiversity counts, or educating the public about the importance of natural resources, TMNs have a pivotal role in driving forward the citizen science movement.

In conclusion, citizen science not only advances scientific knowledge but also empowers individuals to make a difference. It is a powerful tool for conservation and a way for TMNs to continue their lifelong commitment to the natural world. Let's harness this potential, engage with our communities, and inspire a future where every Texan is a steward of our natural resources.

Get Involved

For those interested in getting started, there are numerous citizen science projects to consider. Platforms like iNaturalist, Project FeederWatch, and the Texas Water Monitoring Network offer TMNs the chance to contribute meaningful data. Local organizations, such as Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, also regularly organize citizen science events and training sessions. Your participation is not just valuable—it's essential to building a sustainable future for Texas's ecosystems.

By joining forces, we can make a lasting impact. Let's lead by example and show how citizen science can change the world, one observation at a time.

MINUTES OF MEETING

CBTMN CHAPTER MEETING - AUGUST 12, 2024

Members present: Barbara Judkins, Ellen Miller, Laura Courtney Hill, Michelle Clegg, Caryn Duncan, Debby Ward, Caroline Hughes, Pam Andrews, Ted Barrow, Keith McKinney, Teresa McKinney, Kim Delony, Pete Wright, Jill Wright, Terry Venden, Pat & ViAnn Sawyer, Kristi Thomas, Laura Wilson, Roger Geiger, Vicki Gilliland, Kathy Koenig, Charles Gillis, Stella Smith, Linda Richtsmeier, Phyllis Wilson

After enjoying our semi-annual potluck dinner, the meeting was called to order by President Barbara Judkins at 6:30pm.

Last month's Treasurer's Report and Minutes were approved as noted in the Paddlefish.

VMS: Linda stated that she would be out of town for a couple of weeks.

2024 Training Class: Classes begin this weekend (Aug 16-17) at the Refuge (where all classes will be held, except on October 5th which will be held at Lake of the Pines). Members are welcome to attend for AT or VT. Ellen Miller is in charge of overseeing food for the training classes. We need members to volunteer to provide food for each training class...please contact Ellen if you are willing and able to help out.

Bat Brigade: Terry gave an update on our participation in the NA Bat Monitoring Project. 9 weeks (over 1/2 gigabyte of data has been sent to Craig Hensley with TPWD. Terry showed the monitor and explained how we gather data. Stella and Ellen will be working on the data analysis.

Nature Book Club: 8 members gathered to discuss the book Lab Girl. The new selection is What an Owl Knows by Jennifer Ackerman and the discussion will be held at the Refuge on Thursday, October 3rd. Caroline also asked for donations to the Caddo Library...please bring books to the next meeting or contact Caroline.

Texas Pollinator Bioblitz will be held October 11-27.

Chapter Officer Elections: Elections will be held at the November meeting. If you are interested in serving as an officer, please contact Becky.

Ted mentioned that the GCLA event scheduled for Labor Day Weekend is in need of volunteers to set up for their Fish Fry.

Next meeting: September 9th at the Marshall Library.

Meeting adjourned: 6:46pm.

VT: 1/4 hour (.25) plus drive time and food preparation



How to Participate

- Pollinator BioBlitz participants observe and identify pollinators.
- All ages and abilities are encouraged to find pollinators and nectar-producing plants, take photos, and share with friends!
- Share observations by posting a photo or video to [Instagram](#), [iNaturalist](#), or the [Facebook event page](#).
- Pollinator observation challenges and informative links will be emailed to all [registered](#) participants regularly to add to the fun.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists					
Financial Report for Aug 2024					
Beginning Balance 7/26/24					\$29,481.39
Deposits:	Tuition		\$80.00		
	Dues		\$75.00		
	Textbook		\$70.00		
	Donation		\$15.00		
					\$240.00
Expenses:	Postage		\$91.64		
	Facility Rental		\$125.00		
	Batteries		\$23.36		
					\$240.00
Ending Balance: 8/23/24					
	Flotilla Fund		\$22,086.75		
	Trainee Scholarship Fund		\$600.00		
	General Fund		\$6,794.64		
					\$29,481.39



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*

*first week of the month

April 9

August 13



September 10

October 8

November 12

December 10



2024 Meeting Dates and Locations

August 12- Transportation Center*

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/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/>