

THE

PADDLEFISH
CYPRESS BASIN CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



BARB'S BLURBS

Spring is springing. It's been chilly lately, but I don't think I'm in the mood for a long hot summer, just yet. Hopefully the heat will hold off until we've enjoyed the eclipse and have held a successful Flotilla fundraiser. Personally, my favorite part of the spring is seeing what survived the winter in my flower beds and opening day of Major League Baseball. What can I say. I'm the daughter of an avid sports fan and didn't dare touch the TV when dad was watching his beloved Cowboys and Rangers. He passed his fandom down to me and my brothers.

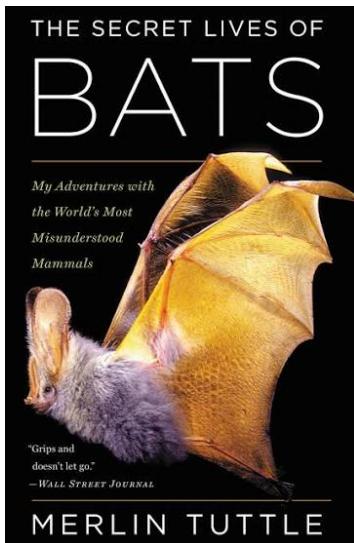
A new email address is about to be created for chapter members to send photographs for use on our Instagram, Facebook, and web pages. Your photos will enable us to create more robust posts that will attract new audience members that could turn into chapter members. There is always room for more members to help with current projects or create new ones. Keep those photos coming!

Enjoy the eclipse on April 8. If you need eclipse glasses and are in the Marshall area, let me know. We have some at Starr Family Home. Free, of course.



APRIL MEETING INFORMATION

You've got to come to this meeting! We will have a **HANDS ON** Dutch oven cooking presentation by Jason and Jennifer Bean once again, which counts as **AT**. They plan to set up multiple cooking stations and we will all get to cook. We meet at Kellyville at 5:45 for set up and the meeting starts at 6. We've still got some recertification pins to hand out, so if you earned one in 2023 and have not received it, please come and get yours!



BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, MAY 9TH AT 6 PM

Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge Classroom
Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge

Our next selection is the nonfiction book *The Secret Lives of Bats*, by Merlin Tuttle. This book should provide great information as we prepare to begin our efforts toward bat conservation in our area. It has received great reviews online, and on the cover, the Wall Street Journal states that it "Grips and doesn't let go." Thanks to Laura Wilson for suggesting it!

The discussion date is Thursday, May 9, at 6:00 p.m., at the refuge. Please save the date.

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



SUSTAINABLE SWAP



In today's world, where environmental consciousness is paramount, homeowners play a crucial role in conserving water. By implementing simple yet effective strategies, they can contribute significantly to water preservation efforts. Firstly, fixing leaks promptly can prevent waste of hundreds of gallons of water each month. Installing low-flow fixtures in bathrooms and kitchens can drastically reduce water usage without compromising functionality. Additionally, opting for water-efficient appliances like dishwashers and washing machines can save substantial amounts of water with each use.

Landscaping choices also matter; selecting native plants that require less water and employing mulch to retain moisture can minimize outdoor water consumption. Implementing rainwater harvesting systems further maximizes water conservation efforts.

Furthermore, adopting mindful habits such as shorter showers and turning off the tap while brushing teeth or washing dishes can collectively make a substantial impact. By incorporating these practices into daily routines, homeowners can play their part in safeguarding this precious resource for future generations while also reducing their water bills.

GOING BATTY



Things are moving towards being ready to put out the monitors at the end of April! The Coordinators and the Data Entry folks have received the first parts of their training programs. The monitor volunteers will be contacted shortly about whether or not their locations are in the "desired" GRTS. We could use more folks for Data Entry and to volunteer their properties, especially south of the Refuge, all the way to Waskom. Also just south of the bayou in the Jefferson area. The monitors need to be attached to a permanent structure and be there for 4 nights, Monday-Thursday.

If you would like to be part of this fascinating program, please register at this new link:
<https://txmn.tamu.edu/blog/tnt-bat/>

MEMBERSHIP DUES

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



Mail checks

made payable to "Cypress Basin TMN" to Theresa McKinney, 6475 FM 995
Atlanta, TX 75551

CADDY LAKE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, April 13 - Texas Envirothon Competitors - Grades 9-12, Incredible Edible Hike or Citizen Scientist table

Saturday, April 27 - Caddo Lake Day, 10am-3pm - set up our table with a display. Other activities include Art in the Park, and assisting with fishing and canoeing

Thursday, May 2 - Harleton ISD - 50 second graders, 3 rotations of skins/skulls, hiking, and Art in the Park

On-going - Braille Trail installation - clearing brush, widening trails, installing boards, new bridges, laying down sand, putting in Braille/English signage

Contact Lane Neely, Interpreter at CLSP, with questions or to let him know you would like to help.

lane.neely@tpwd.texas.gov

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

12th Annual Earth Day Paddling Flotilla - April 20, 2024 - Shady Glade RV Park and Marina
As of March 26, 2024, we have 90 total attendees, folks. Prices go up to \$35.00 per adult at 12:30am on 3/31/2024. We usually get a few more late registrants and some walk ups on the day of the event, so this one has the potential to top last year's 128 paddlers! YIPPEE!!

Volunteers are always needed, so contact Stella Barrow at 903-736-3063 or 2024earthdayflotilla@gmail.com. We need to know your T-shirt size, as soon as possible. Sponsors have been generous as have those folks donating items to the silent auction and raffle. NOTE: Diane Jones is painting a paddle for us to raffle again this year. It's always a big crowd favorite.

Paddlefish: \$1000-UP The City of Uncertain

Large Mouth Bass: Dean and Tina Sweat

Crappie: \$250-\$499

Becky Gullette, Duncan Brothers Distillery, First Cast Cabin, Friends of CLNWR, Greater Caddo Lake Assoc., Holly Lake Kayak Klub, Johnson's Ranch, Panola College, Port-A-Jon, Capt. Ron's Swamp Tours, Ole' Mossy's Up River Kayak Rentals & Boat Tour

Contributors:

The Caddo Lake Cluckers, ViAnn Sawyer, Terry Ward-Pretty Good Art Studio, Becky Canter, Caddo Lake Cabins, Scarlet Raborn, All the CBTMN members who are painting canoes and critters

Next Meeting: Saturday 4/6/2024 at 9:30 am at the CLNWR Visitor Center Classroom

**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
Master Naturalist®
Cypress Basin Chapter

Check in times:
Friday 4/19 from 5-6 p.m. for
those who have preregistered
Saturday 4/20 beginning 7:30 a.m.

**12th ANNUAL
CADDO LAKE FLOTILLA
EARTH DAY 2024**

PADDLE - FISH

PADDLE - KAYAK
Beautiful Paddle Trails
Family Adventures
Food - Fun for all ages
Raffle - Auction

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



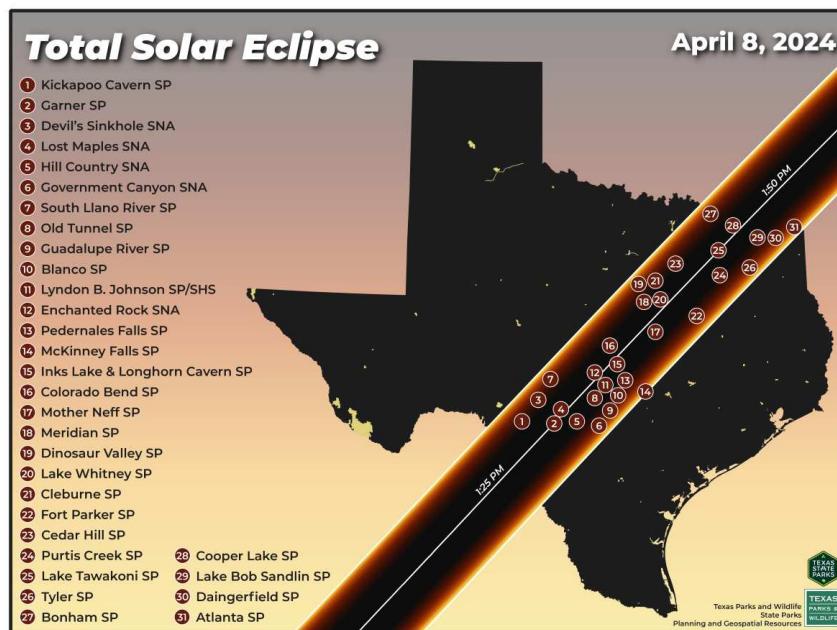
2024 SOLAR ECLIPSE

As the celestial spectacle of a solar eclipse draws near, Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) is gearing up to offer a unique experience for nature enthusiasts across the state. With the upcoming eclipse set to captivate viewers on [specific date], TPWD is organizing special events and programs to enhance public engagement and appreciation for this awe-inspiring phenomenon.

From guided eclipse viewing sessions in state parks to educational workshops led by expert astronomers, TPWD is committed to providing diverse opportunities for Texans to safely observe and learn about the eclipse. Participants can expect informative talks on the science behind eclipses, hands-on activities for all ages, and even solar viewing opportunities through specialized telescopes equipped with proper filters to ensure eye safety.

In addition to organized events, TPWD is also promoting responsible eclipse viewing practices to the public, emphasizing the importance of using certified solar viewing glasses to protect eyesight and avoid any potential hazards associated with direct sunlight exposure.

Whether it's witnessing the eclipse amidst the serene landscapes of a state park or joining educational programs facilitated by TPWD, Texans have a myriad of options to engage with this celestial event safely and informatively. As the eclipse date approaches, TPWD encourages everyone to stay updated on event details and safety guidelines to make the most of this extraordinary experience.



FORAGING CLASS

Roger Geiger has set up a foraging class to be held on April 5 at 10 am in Eagle Landing near Avinger. The price per person is \$10 with very limited space. If you are interested, let Roger know at our meeting on 3/11 or via email. AT hours for this program can be claimed. The presenters are Daniel and Emily Mills who lead foraging classes at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site and are highly recommended. I do not know how long the class is but I believe it is less than 1/2 day. If this is successful, perhaps we can schedule another one for the fall or winter.

BIRDING HIKE

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.

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



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		

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

My name is Jean Bratton and I have lived in Texarkana, Texas since 1970, but I am originally from Nashville, Arkansas. I received my BSE from Southern Arkansas University (Southern State College) and my masters from East Texas State University. As a high school science teacher for 32 years at Texarkana's Texas High School, I taught biology for the first 7 years and then only chemistry for the next 25. I retired in 2002 and wanted to join master naturalists then but finally got around to it in 2023.

I love all of nature but my favorite hobby is birding. In sixth grade we did a unit on birds and I have been hooked ever since. I have been a member of TexArk Audubon since I retired and I served about 20 years as treasurer and now I am Vice President. Also I have taken over as the compiler for our two Christmas bird counts. I have a small pillow that says "If you're lucky enough to be in the woods, you're lucky enough." I have always enjoyed camping and love forest habitats. My most memorable camping was on an island in Lake Marmion in Atikokan, Ontario where I stayed awake all night listening to the loons sing because the 5 people with me snored so loud I couldn't sleep.

My wildest nature adventure was spending 8 days traveling up the Rio Negro branch of the Amazon River in 2011. Four times each day we got into long canoe type boats and explored the rainforest. We saw lots of birds and other wildlife but didn't encounter anything that put us in danger. My most dangerous wildlife encounters were in college when I took the first ever Vertebrate Natural History course and our professor had us out collecting specimens. Once I was elected to stay after the field trip and help him put a large water moccasin to sleep and inject it with formaldehyde. He didn't use enough chloroform and it started moving while I was holding its head down. I wonder if all those specimens we collected are still on display in the science building.

I also belong to two different garden clubs in which I served as president for one and am now treasurer for the other. I also spend much time serving on several committees in my church. I even came back to music after an absence of nearly 40 years because our pianist moved out of town. I now play the keyboard and sing with the choir and even sing solo specials. Birding and music are the two things that make me happiest.



MINUTES OF MEETING

CYPRESS BASIN TMN – MARCH 11, 2024 CHAPTER MEETING

The following members were present at the Marshall Library: Vicki & David Gillis and, Roger Geiger, Laura Wilson, Stella Smith, Ted & Stella Barrow, Pete & Jill Wright, Cal Witt, Linda Richtsmeier, Steve & Susan Sedberry, Teresa McKinney, Ellen Miller, Becky Gullette, Viann & Pat Sawyer, Jim Meyer, Vanessa Neace (Advisor). Guests: Wendy Anderson (Texas Nature Tracker Biologist w/TPWD) and Keith McKinney. Vice President Susan Sedberry called meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Welcome to special guest, Wendy Anderson, Texas Nature Tracker Biologist!

Cares, Concerns, Joys: Please keep Charles Gillis and his wife in your prayers as he heals from back issues and she from pneumonia. (Charles will have family visiting April 10-13 and is requesting someone to guide them on the trails for bird watching.) Wishing Susan a resolution to a knee injury. Teresa is recovering very well from hand/wrist surgery.

Treasurer's Report: presented by Teresa and data will be included in the Paddlefish Newsletter. If you would like a copy, please contact Teresa. Minutes: approved as in the March Paddlefish. Vanessa introduced Wendy Anderson who spoke on the upcoming TPWD BioBlitz to be held on June 8-9 in areas around Caddo Lake. Guides and experts

in a variety of programs needed. Birding, kayaking/canoeing, trips to Goat Island and other areas, terrestrial surveys of plants and birds, possible bat netting. TMN may have an educational table set up with Skins & Skulls. More

information to follow. Wendy also announced a FaceBook Live lesson on using iNaturalist to be held on April 9 th at 7:00 PM on the Texas Nature Trackers FaceBook page. Recertification Pins were awarded to Becky Gullette, and Pete and Jill Wright. AT Opportunity: Roger Geiger announced that a Foraging Class will be held on Friday, April 5 th starting at 10:00 AM. Presented by Emily Mills and her husband Daniel with Red Earth Wildcrafted from Shreveport. Cost is \$10 and limited to 20 people. Contact Roger if interested.

Trails: Becky reported that the concrete sidewalks have been mostly cleared but need constant care/upkeep. Anyone enjoying trails at the Refuge, please report any areas of concern. She and Ted have received permission to begin poisoning the Privet. She reported recent work on the trails around the headquarters and a young volunteer who may consider joining our chapter. Equestrian/Railroad Trail needs signs.

Flotilla: Stella reports 79 paddlers are registered so far. A sign up sheet for volunteers was passed around. If you were not at the meeting and would like to volunteer, contact Stella with your T-shirt size, food preference (volunteers are comp'd), and what job you prefer doing. Please plan to bring ONE dozen cookies/brownies.

Award: Laura announced that Stella Smith received a call from Tom Rhodes, president of Texans for State Parks. She had been nominated and won the award for Volunteer of the Year for our region! Brenda Cooper (CLSP) said that she had nominated Stella for spearheading the CBTMN garden project at Caddo and had worked hard to see that it was completed and maintained. Rodney Franklin, director of Texas State Parks, will present Stella with the award April 13th at an awards banquet in Tyler. Congratulations, Stella!!! New Class News: Susan reported that a couple of people have signed up. Training begins in August and completes in November and is limited to 12 people. Please help recruit new members!

Nature Book Club: Discussion of the book Remarkably Bright Creatures will be held at the Refuge on 3/21 at 6:00 PM. Bring an outdoor chair and bug spray!

AT Presentation: Ellen Miller presented on "Reptiles", focusing primarily on snakes. She educated us by dispelling myths, pointing out identification traits, and introducing us to her own menagerie of snakes and lizards...fascinating!!!

Next Meeting: April 8 th at Kellyville at 6:00 PM

VT – half hour (.5)

AT – 1 hour

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 PM

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/>