

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

## TEXAS OPERATION GAME THIEF

**tip 411**

**HELP FIGHT ILLEGAL HUNTING & FISHING.**

Send anonymous tips to Texas Operation Game Thief. Text keyword TXOGT to 847411, add a space, type in your tip information, and hit send.

**DOWNLOAD FREE**  
Texas OGT app  
for iPhone or Android  
tip 411



A service of  
**Texas Operation Game Thief**

## CORRECTIONS CORNER

In last month's newsletter we mentioned that the pigfrog was native to the Caddo Lake area. Turns out, that's not the case! The real star around here is the American Bullfrog, which is common in Northeast Texas and especially around Caddo Lake. Thanks for letting us clear that up – and keep an ear out this summer, you'll probably hear those bullfrogs singing at night!

### Fun Bullfrog Facts:

- Bullfrogs can jump up to 10 times the length of their body in a single leap.
- Their deep "jug-o-rum" call can carry more than half a mile on a quiet night.
- Bullfrogs are the largest frogs in North America, sometimes growing over 8 inches long!



## SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Marshall Library is our meeting site for the September 8th meeting. ViAnn Sawyer is tentatively scheduled to talk to us about a program our chapter has been involved with in the past, "Texas Wild". Set up will be at 5:45pm. Hope to see you there!

Our October meeting currently has no one to give us a little AT time. It will be at Kellyville - a great place to get outside if anyone has something they would like to present to us. Please let Susan know if you would like to do this!

## HIKE INTO WELLNESS: TRAILS NEAR JEFFERSON, TX

Hiking isn't just a walk in the woods—it's one of the best all-around exercises for both body and mind. It boosts heart health, burns calories, builds balance and strength, and reduces stress. Plus, spending time outdoors sharpens focus and creativity while giving you a break from screens.

We're fortunate to have plenty of beautiful hikes local to us.

- Caddo Lake State Park – Explore moss-draped cypress forests on trails like Pine Ridge Loop and CCC Cut-Through.
- Atlanta State Park – 4.5 miles of trails around Wright Patman Lake, with spring redbuds and dogwoods.
- Daingerfield State Park – Scenic lake loops, wildflowers, and towering pines in a peaceful 500-acre park.
- Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge – Trails and boardwalks through diverse habitats, with birdwatching galore.
- 1North Adventure Park – Family-friendly trails and outdoor fun just minutes away.

### Tips for the Trail

- Start with short, marked trails.
- Bring water, snacks, and comfy shoes.
- Trekking poles can help with balance.
- Most of all—take your time and enjoy nature!

Hiking is a simple, low-cost way to get moving, connect with nature, and recharge your spirit. With so many options nearby, your next adventure is just around the corner.

See you on the trails!



My kids hiked 12 miles the last 2 weeks of August! Take your kids and grandkids and be amazed at how intrigued they are with nature-- future naturalists in the making!

# 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](mailto:caddomama@gmail.com).

## MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

CBTMN CHAPTER MEETING & POTLUCK - August 11, 2025

The following members were present: Laura Wilson, Terry Venden, Jim Meyer, Becky Gullette, Pete Wright, Jill Wright, Michelle Clagg, Caroline Hughes, Jean Bratton, Debby Ward, Becky Canter, Roger Geiger, Phyllis Wilson, Ellen Miller, Linda Richtsmeier, Pam Andrews, Teresa McKinney, Keith McKinney, Ted Barrow, Stella Barrow, Barbara Judkins, Kathy Koenig, Steve & Susan Sedberry. 5 guests were present: Debbie Venden, Jacob Canter, Heather & Anna Rose Bulba, Gary Bowles.

Potluck from 6:00 - 6:30. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 by President Barbara Judkins and guests were introduced.

Cares, Concerns, Joys: Congratulations to Phyllis on her new grand baby and Happy Birthday to Keith! Please keep the following members in your thoughts and prayers: Herman (is very ill at his home in MI), ViAnne, David, and Jean (as she goes in for knee surgery next month).

Treasurer's Report as in the current Paddlefish. There was no meeting in July, therefore no Minutes.

VMS: Ellen has relieved Linda of VMS duty! Thank you Linda for your years of dedication and keeping us all "legal" with VMS...NOT an easy task! And thank you Ellen for stepping up! VMS has been updated and Ellen will keep us informed of any necessary changes. For now she is asking that EVERYTHING be spelled out (except for certain acronyms like TMN, TPWD). It is very important that we are diligent about entering our VT and AT in a timely manner and do our best to make the entries detailed. An important note...there will be NO VT given for food preparation for potlucks...only for food preparation for training classes... When in doubt about VMS, please contact Ellen.

Flotilla News: Stella announced that Flotilla #14 will be held on 4/18/26. Caryn Duncan will begin shadowing Stella and becoming familiar with the planning process to eventually relieve Stella of that responsibility...and a HUGE responsibility it is!!! Thank you, Stella, for your years of planning and co-ordinating 13 successful events!!! And thank you, Caryn, for your willingness to step into this position.

TMN Training: The training for 2025 has been canceled due to low enrollment, and the Board has decided to offer future training classes every other year beginning in 2026.

Congratulations to Becky Canter on your TMN Certification!

Nature Book Club: The current selection is Super Fly by Jonathon Balcombe. Discussion will be held on Thursday 8/21/25 at the Refuge at 6:00 pm. Please verify with Caroline about how to correctly enter your time in VMS.

Website and Facebook: Ellen is now managing the CBTMN website and Becky C. is managing our chapter FB page. As you explore Nature, please send any pictures, stories, articles of interest, etc to them to post. It's nice to share what we are experiencing and learning with each other and this is a great way to share. It also shows that we are a fun and active group and helps inspire people who might be interested in joining us.

Bat Brigade: Official bat monitoring ended on 6/27/25 and Terry presented a report showing the data from each site. He encouraged members to become involved for next year. Between now and cooler weather, members may ask to have a monitor set up at their own location (not as part of the North American Bat Project, but just for fun). If interested, contact Terry or Steve for more information.

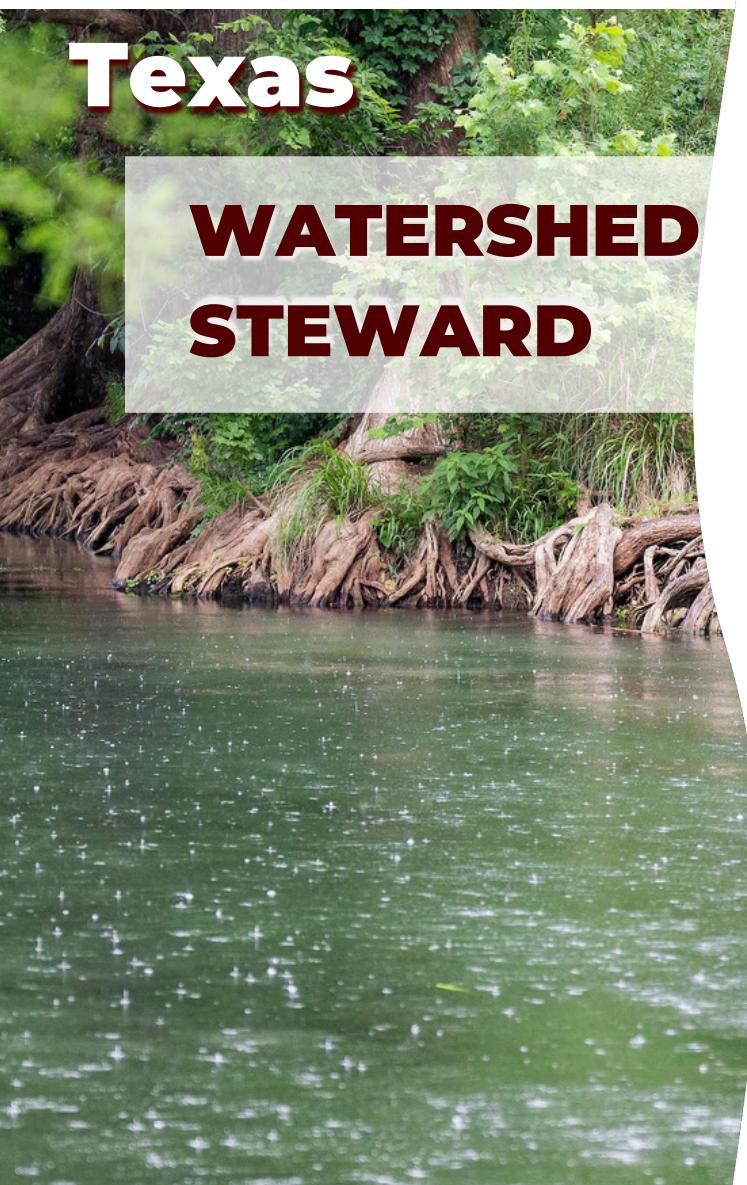
AT: Teresa gave an interesting presentation on her involvement with the Eclipse Soundscapes Project (<https://eclipsesoundscapes.org>), a NASA Citizen Science Project. Teresa encouraged us to watch Dr. Brent Pease on YouTube to learn more about the project. Other AT opportunities at Caddo Lake State Park were listed in the Agenda. Also the TX Pollinator BioBlitz will be held October 10-26 (<https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/bioblitz>)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18

VT: 30 minutes (.5), plus drive time and set up/break down.  
AT: 30 minutes (.5)

The September meeting will be held at the Marshall Library on September 8th and there will be an opportunity for AT.

# UPCOMING AT OPPORTUNITY



The Texas Watershed Steward program is a free, educational workshop designed to help watershed residents improve and protect their water resources by getting involved in local watershed protection and management activities.

**Jefferson, TX**  
**September 19, 2025**  
**9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**

**Marion County AgriLife Extension Office**  
**130 Kelly Park Rd, Jefferson, TX 75657**

Register by Sep. 16 for FREE, in-person LUNCH!

*Preregistration Required, Space Limited*

The workshop will provide an overview of water quality and watershed management in Texas, including a discussion on the Big Cypress Creek basin. Best management practices local stakeholders may use to help improve and protect their water quality will be highlighted. Free continuing education credits/CEUs are offered for a wide variety of professional disciplines. For a complete list of continuing education offered, or to register, visit our website or call the number below.

**Pre-register for the workshop by visiting:**  
**<https://tws.tamu.edu/workshops/registration>**  
**or call 979.321.5935**



Workshop provided through Clean Water Act §319(h) nonpoint source grant funding from the TSSWCB and U.S. EPA.

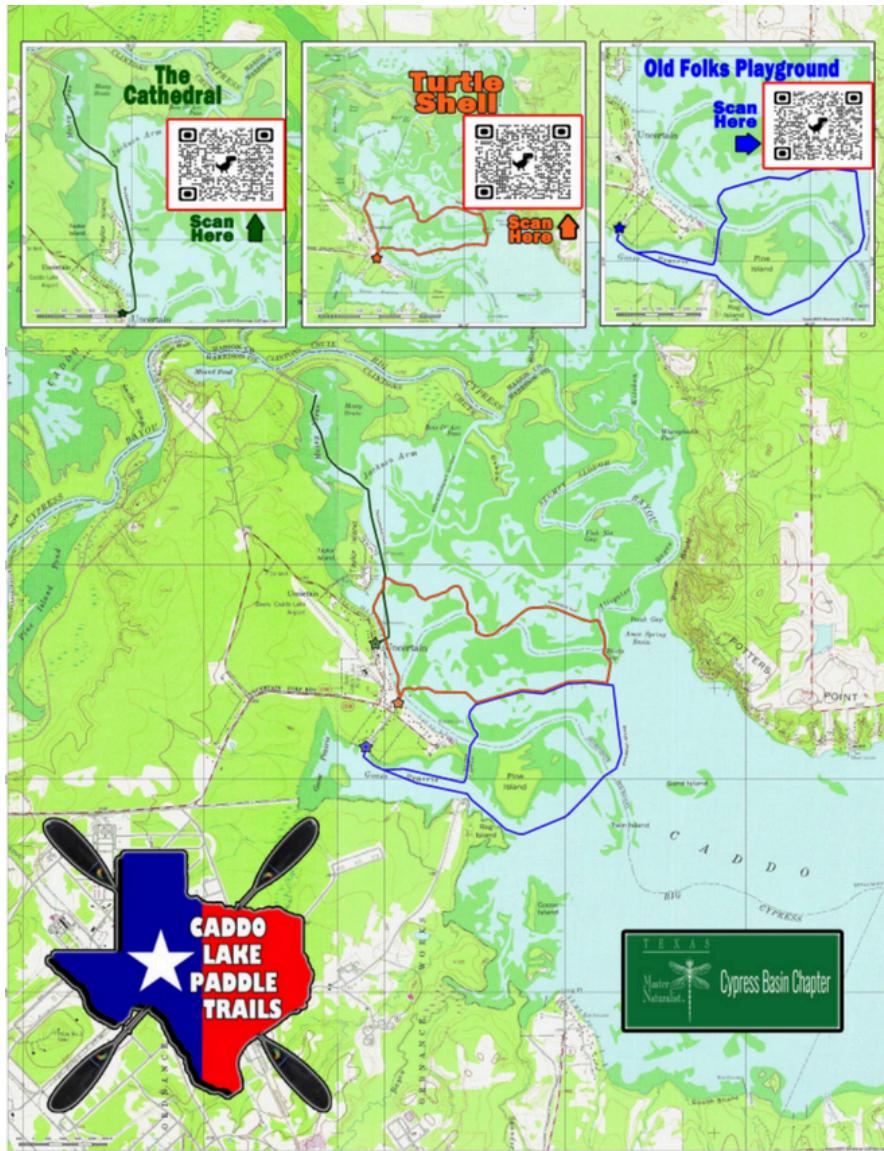
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is an equal opportunity employer and program provider. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

# NEW KIOSK PANELS COMING TO CADDO LAKE

We're excited to share a preview of the brand-new kiosk panels that will soon be installed at Johnson's Ranch, Shady Glade, The Point at Goose Prairie, and Starr Ranch. These panels will provide visitors with helpful maps and information to make exploring Caddo Lake even easier and more enjoyable.

This project was made possible by a small but mighty group of volunteers who donated their time and talents: Pat Sawyer (map design), Jill and Pete Wright, Steve and Susan Sedberry, Teresa McKinney, Ellen Miller, Becky Gullette, and Mike Woodruff.

A big THANK YOU to each of you for your hard work and dedication! Projects like this help keep our community welcoming and accessible for everyone who loves the lake.





# BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:00 PM

Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge Classroom  
Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge

Our next Nature Book Club selection is Super Fly: The Unexpected Lives of the World's Most Successful Insects, by Jonathan Balcombe. The author of A Dog's World, Marc Bekoff, writes of the book: "We can learn a lot about ourselves by peering into the remarkable lives of these remarkable insects."

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists

Financial Report for July 2025

Beginning Balance 7/28/25

\$32,714.24

Deposits: \$0.00

Expenses: Class Refunds \$95.00

Postage & Stationary \$82.83

Package Postage \$10.92

Flotilla 2026 - chairs \$82.00

Room Rental \$125.00

-\$395.75

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$25 PER INDIVIDUAL  
\$40 PER FAMILY

Mail checks- made payable to  
Cypress Basin TMN

Mail to  
PO Box 226  
Karnack, Texas  
75661

Flotilla Fund \$25,968.88

Trainee Scholarship Fund \$600.00

General Fund \$5,750.08

Ending Balance 8/29/25 \$32,318.96

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

Linda Richtmeier  
Membership Director

Vanessa Neace  
Advisor

Doug Weir  
Advisor

## 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

### 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/>