

THE PADDLEFISH

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalist Chapter Newsletter

Vol. 2 No. 4

April 2010

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Travel and attendance time** for monthly meetings counts as volunteer time.
- **Programs** at meetings that can count as Advanced Training are announced in advance with the amount of time allowed noted.
- **Record** your volunteer time **immediately** so there won't be questions later about when and amount of time.
- Check the **calendar** for dates that you may have forgotten. We're trying to post volunteer opportunities so there's a record for the chapter and for members to refer to.
- Watch for **Advanced Training** announcements in the newsletter and in emails. Travel for such events is counted as volunteer time.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Ted Barrow

Howdy

Well, looks like spring is finally here, no more snow!!

There're lots of opportunities for volunteer hours as Betty has sent out several notifications for different projects. Now is a good time to get your hours in before the heat of summer.

Not much new from me as I've been out of pocket the past few weeks so I'm making this short. Look forward to seeing everyone next week at our Tuesday night meeting. Don't forget Diane Turner is giving a presentation that night also.

March ended the first quarter of 2010 so it's time to send Rosanna a copy of your Monthly Volunteer Report that covers January 1 – March 31, 2010. She needs to keep a calculation of our hours so a report will be readily available when the state office requests it. Also, she orders certificates and pins as needed. She can't order them unless she has the documentation of volunteer hours and advanced training. **Remember: each member is responsible for recording his/her volunteer hours and advanced training and submitting that record upon request. DO IT NOW BEFORE YOU FORGET!**

CYPRESS BASIN CHAPTER APRIL MEETING

Tuesday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m.
City of Jefferson Multi-Purpose Center
305 East Austin St.

PROGRAM: Night Sounds
Presented by Diane Turner
(1 hour Advanced Training)

INVADERS OF TEXAS TRAINING THIS SATURDAY APRIL 10

(If you're interested in participating please contact Vanessa or Gary immediately.)

Gary Endsley wrote:

Hi Friends;

The Invaders of Texas training is a Friends OF Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge outreach program that will train volunteers in the invasive species ID/mitigation program at CLNWR. It is also a part of Friends outreach to Karnack ISD.

If you have any interest in volunteering time and effort toward education and outreach at CLNWR, you should plan to attend.

Please let Vanessa Adams or me know if you plan to attend the training and participate with the outreach program.

Vanessa Adams wrote:

Hello All,

We will be having another Invaders of Texas Workshop Saturday, April 10, 2010. We have scheduled it for the Karnack High School, but it could be at the Karnack Elementary depending on the attendance. Travis Gallo will be coming down from Austin to conduct the training and some local folks will also help. All the reading materials will be provided. Having a GPS is not absolutely necessary (thanks to Google Earth) but you would need a digital camera that can download to the computer and a way to get online with the website. The lunch will also be provided but at this point I could not tell you what's on the menu.

Circulate this to any interested folks you may know. This program has no mandatory meetings or fees, but interested active individuals are most desired. Take time to visit the Website it is a really good Website.

Invaders of Texas: A Citizen Science Program of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

**April 10, 2010 at the Karnack High School
8:30am-4:00pm**

FREE TO ATTEND AND LUNCH PROVIDED

**If you are interested in attending please RSVP with
Vanessa Adams, 903-679-9817 or Vanessa.adams@tpwd.state.tx.us
Or**

Gary Endsley, 903-665-2900 or gendsley@hotmail.com

For additional information on the Invaders of Texas program go to the Website:

www.texasinvasives.org

ATTENDANCE AT THE INVADERS OF TEXAS PROGRAM WILL BE ADVANCED TRAINING

YOU MUST RSVP

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COMING UP SOON

- This **Friday April 9** Rosanna has planned a workday at the Lady Bird Johnson Historical Marker site at the Karnack triangle across from the community center and post office. Meet her there at 9:00 a.m. with your gloves and tools for weeding and removing grass from around the concrete. Mowing grass and mulching are probably on the agenda.
- Application has been made for our chapter to sell native Bald Cypress and Black Willow trees at the **Longview Downtown Market on Friday April 30 and Friday May 7** from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Those members who collected the Bald Cypress trees and have them growing in pots will want to come and help with the sale or make sure that the plants get to us to sell. As soon as our application has been approved we'll send out more details.
- At the January meeting Gary Endsley shared information with us about a grant that he was writing entitled **Healthy Habitats at Caddo Lake**. The grant has been submitted and if awarded will create about **200 volunteer hours** for Cypress Basin members. The **April 15** date of notification of grant award is approaching and we are so hopeful that Gary's grant has been approved. You'll receive details in the near future.
- The **TPWD Mini Expo** that is to be held in conjunction with the Alley Fest in Longview will offer us volunteer opportunities. Although we haven't heard any specifics yet we should get more information soon and we'll share it with you ASAP.

Texas Parks and Wildlife has partnered with AlleyFest in Longview to put on the "*Life's Better Outside® Experience*" on **Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6, 2010**.

This is a great opportunity to introduce a huge group of kids and families to what the Texas outdoors and Texas Parks & Wildlife has to offer; letting them try their hand at archery, casting, rock climbing, camping skills, wildlife activities and a lot more.

We've been asked to provide volunteers Saturday & Sunday, June 5 & 6 to help introduce kids to outdoor recreation. The shifts are 9:30am-1:30pm and 1:00pm-5:00pm on Saturday and 10:30am-3:30pm Sunday. Volunteers will be provided with free parking and admission to the fairgrounds as well as a volunteer t-shirt.

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST TRAINING NEARS COMPLETION

The last weekend session of training for our new class of volunteers will be April 23-24. On Friday evening 6:00-9:00 **Allen Smith** will present Entomology. On Saturday **Ricky Maxey** will present Forest Ecology and Management in the morning and in the afternoon he will present Rare/Endangered Plants and Animals of the Cypress Basin. Trainees who have attended all training sessions will be well on their way to becoming certified volunteers. As soon as each completes the required 40 hours of approved volunteer work and 8 hours of approved advanced training he/she will receive the official certificate and the dragonfly pin. We are looking forward to having additional volunteers to assist with projects.

The 2010 training of Master Naturalist volunteers began on the weekend of January 22-23. There are eight members in this year's class. The second weekend of training began on Friday February 19 with **Vanessa Adams** presenting Taxonomy and Plants. Saturday's session included **Dr. Jim Ingold** presenting Ornithology with a demonstration on bird banding. In the afternoon **Darren Manthei** presented Wetland Ecology and Aquatic Systems. Weather cooperated and the trainees were in the "field" for hands-on activities. (See pictures on the Website.)

March 26-27 was the third weekend of classes. On Friday **Tim Bister** presented Ichthyology. On Saturday **Steve Lange** presented Geology and Climate. Also on Saturday **Amanda Lewis** presented Herpetology. Trainees went out into the woods hunting herps but didn't find any.

The Friday class will be in Jefferson at Collins Academy. Saturday classes will be at the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge in the fire station kitchen area.

Many of the trainees have already received volunteer service hours and advanced training credit. That is commendable! We're excited to have this group of enthusiastic volunteers-in-training.

KUDOS to:

**Becky Gullette
Sandra Hooker
Darrell Hudson
Brenda Jones
Karen Morris
Judith Parker
Nadine Pope
Linda Richtsmeier**

FORMS ONLINE

Please go to our web site (<http://grovesite.com/tmn/cbc>) and click on FORMS to view and complete **required** forms.

- **Dues and Insurance Form** – to be completed and submitted with annual dues
- **Monthly Volunteer Report** – to save on your computer and complete each time you perform volunteer service; submit to the membership chairperson upon request
- **Request for Approval of Individual Volunteer Activity** – must be submitted and approved **before** you can provide volunteer service for credit
- **Request for Approval of Group Volunteer Project** – must be submitted and approved **before** a group of members can provide volunteer service for credit
- **Request for Approval of Advanced Training** – must be submitted and approved **before** attending advanced training for credit

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Approved volunteer opportunities are posted on our Website <http://grovesite.com/tmn/cbc>. Click on Calendar to view volunteer opportunities posted each month.

Check out the Website for pictures of recent events!

CBTMN members are encouraged to submit articles for the monthly newsletters. Items for Events and Notices are welcomed. Original articles of interest to members are greatly appreciated. Deadline for the May newsletter is May 3. You can contact Betty by email @ bgmorgan46@yahoo.com or mail to: 100 Lakeview Circle, Jefferson, TX 75657.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 11-17: National Environmental Week. Information at <http://www.eeweek.org>.

April 22: Earth Day

April 23-24: Fourth of four training sessions for the 2010 Master Naturalist Class.

April 30: Arbor Day

May 1-2: Texas Woodland and Wildlife Expo at the Lone Star Convention and Expo Center, Conroe; for more information <http://expo.tamu.edu>.

June 5-6: Texas Parks and Wildlife's Life's Better Outside Experience Mini Expo at Alley Fest in Longview.

October 22-24: 11th Annual State Texas Master Naturalist Conference in New Braunfels.

Please check our web page at least once a week for news and announcements on the calendar.

Web address: <http://grovesite.com/tmn/cbc>