

# THE PADDLEFISH

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalist Chapter Newsletter

Vol. 2 No. 5

May 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,

We had a very successful touch and feel presentation with the animal pelts and skulls, at the Refuge Tuesday the 4th with about 150 students and 20 teachers from Harleton ISD. Like the one we had at Karnack ISD earlier in the year. Sounds like things are going to start steamrolling with the Grant that Gary submitted and got approved.

Lots of things to discuss and shirts and pins to pass out at the next meeting, so everyone that can please try to attend.

The annual meeting at the MO Ranch is another topic we need to touch on also, we need to get our reservations in early, that way we'll have a better chance of getting a block of rooms together or at least close to each other. Think about it and look at the dates.

See you Tuesday night!

## CYPRESS BASIN CHAPTER MAY MEETING

**Tuesday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**City of Jefferson Multi-Purpose Center**  
**305 East Austin St.**

**PROGRAM: The Monarch Butterfly**  
**Presented by Rosanna Salmon**  
**(1 hour Advanced Training)**

## GREAT ATTENDANCE AT INVADERS OF TEXAS TRAINING

More than 30 participants were trained on April 10th in the invasive species ID/mitigation program at Karnack High School. The event was sponsored by Friends Of Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge as an outreach program to Karnack ISD. The curriculum is entitled The Invaders of Texas: A Citizen Science Program of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Additional information on the Invaders of Texas program is on the Website:

[www.texasinvasives.org](http://www.texasinvasives.org)

## TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST TRAINING ENDS

The last weekend session of training for our new class of volunteers was April 23-24. On Friday evening 6:00-9:00 **Allen Smith** presented Entomology. On Saturday **Ricky Maxey** presented Forest Ecology and Management and Rare/Endangered Plants and Animals of the Cypress Basin. Trainees who attended all 40 hours of training are 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.

Finally the bookstore has the T-shirts in stock and Rosanna placed our order. **T-Shirts and patches should arrive in time for our meeting on Tuesday, May 11. She will bring them to present to our new volunteers.**

## KUDOS to:

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

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COMING UP SOON

- Our chapter will sell native Bald Cypress and Black Willow trees at the **Longview Downtown Market on Friday May 7** from 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Sales last Friday were sparse due to a low turnout of shoppers at the market. The weather was threatening but storms did not materialize.
- Gary Endsley's grant **Healthy Habitats at Caddo Lake** was awarded and implementation has begun. Karnack Elementary teachers will receive the *Growing Up WILD* training this week so they can begin activities with students before school is out for the summer. Watch email notices for volunteer opportunities. We owe Gary about 200 volunteer hours!
- Ricky Maxey is making a presentation to students in Hallsville on **May 14<sup>th</sup>**. He needs volunteers to assist him. Call or email him to get more information.
- The **TPWD Mini Expo** that is to be held in conjunction with the Alley Fest in Longview will offer us volunteer opportunities. **We must know by May 12<sup>th</sup> if you intend to work at the expo.** Come to Tuesday evening's meeting so we can discuss more details and you can sign up for a shift.

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.

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!**

The following article appeared in the Spring 2010 issue of *Pineywoods Post*, a publication of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and is reprinted with permission by Laura Speight.

## Small Acreage Landowner-No Apologies Necessary

by Laura Speight,  
Pineywoods Regulatory Wildlife Biologist, TPWD

I sometimes answer a call that starts with the phrase, "I don't have a lot of land, but ..." sensing the caller feels an apology is necessary for calling to talk about their land. Perhaps our society is so caught up in "more is better" or "everything in Texas is bigger" that having just a small amount of acreage gives one the perception that there is little of value they can do with a small parcel of land or that a biologist will not be interested in taking time to listen and offer advice. Let me assure you, small acreage landowner needs are important to us and stewardship of land of any size can play an important role for the good of wildlife.

A perfect example of how small acreage ownership provided valuable habitat, is found in the rise and fall of bobwhite quail. If you go back to the time when small farms were the norm, farmsteads were set apart by boundary fences and further divided into fields and pastures by cross fencing. These fencerows grew up in tall grasses, vines and woody plants, perfect nesting and roosting habitat for small birds such as the bobwhite quail. Trees planted to protect the home site and livestock provided further protection and cover for wildlife. Various crops were planted, ripening at different times, creating abundant food throughout the growing season. The home garden was also another great source of food. These were good times for quail and their numbers were high. Slowly, small farmsteads disappeared, swallowed up into larger tracts of land. Boundary and cross fences were torn out, trees cut down, and single crop farming became the new norm. Thus, the prime habitat created by the small farm disappeared and so did the quail.

It's a sad story, but a perfect example of how "small" is valuable to wildlife. Granted, small acreages may have little impact on wildlife species that require large home ranges, and fragmentation of habitat hurts all wildlife, but any habitat improvement is a step in the right direction regardless of size. Keep in mind, too, the possibilities, if enough small acreages in an area work towards habitat improvement!

So, what are some things small-acreage landowners can do? The first step is to go out and assess what you have. Is your acreage mostly pasture, pine plantation or hardwoods? Do you have creeks, ponds or marshy areas? Do you have power or gas lines and do you graze livestock? Look closely at what is actually growing, and identify plants or trees that are not native. Assisting landowners in this evaluation phase, is part of what TPWD wildlife biologists do. We are here to help you with this step.

Spend a little time and contemplate your goals. Is your sole interest wildlife viewing or is hunting a part of your plan as well? How much time, effort, and money do you want to spend and are you interested in participating in available programs? Your local TPWD wildlife biologist can explain the various programs available and help you develop a plan to reach your goals.

This spring, **May 15** to be exact, plan to attend a free workshop designed just for small-acreage landowners. We'll cover a wide range of topics including: forestry practices, control of feral hogs, using GPS, and threatened and endangered species of the Pineywoods to name just a few. This is a great opportunity to meet local biologists and other small acreage landowner with similar cares, concerns and interests. The workshop will be held at the **Karnack Community Center** located on Hwy 134. Starts at **9am** and should end by 4 pm. A free lunch will be served by the "Friends of Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge." We hope you will plan to attend!

Please RSVP by contacting either:

Charlie Muller at [charlie.muller@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:charlie.muller@tpwd.state.tx.us) or 903-757-9572 or  
Laura Speight at [laura.speight@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:laura.speight@tpwd.state.tx.us) or 903-679-9149

## 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 June newsletter is June 1. You can contact Betty by email @ [bgmorgan46@yahoo.com](mailto:bgmorgan46@yahoo.com) or mail to: 100 Lakeview Circle, Jefferson, TX 75657.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

**October 22-24:** 11<sup>th</sup> 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>