# Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalist Chapter Newsletter

Vol. 6 No. 10 October 2014

**Mission of the Texas Master Naturalist**

To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

* **Travel and attendance time** for monthly meetings count 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.

2014 OFFICERS

### Carl Turner - President

 **Betty Morgan - Vice President**

**Diane Turner - Secretary**

 **Karen Williams – Treasurer**

**Linda Richtsmeier – Membership Chairman**

### Pat Sawyer - Webmaster

### Vanessa Neese - Advisor

## CYPRESS BASIN CHAPTER OCTOBER MEETING

Tuesday October 21 2014

6:30 p.m.

City of Jefferson Multi-Purpose Center

305 East Austin Street

PRESENTATION: NPSOT MEETING REPORT

E>E>NOTES FROM CARL

**NOTES FROM CARL**

**Day at the Refuge**

**What wonderful plans are shaping up for our chapter to be more involved with our Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge. I would like to thank ViAnn and her committee for coming up with the idea of having a workday each month at the refuge. Betty, thanks for setting task teams that will coordinate things like Outreach program development, Refuge Trail Tree identification, Starr Ranch History and tour of cemeteries, birding opportunities, paddling trails, and refuge trail maintenance. Linda I think your idea was great about developing check lists of the flora and fauna for visitors.**

**The Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge is a treasure right outside our door and the possibilities to provide education, outreach and service that are our mission are limitless. I can see what we do here not only benefiting those who live close to us but also all those who do not live near wild areas who come here in search of them.**

**Carl**

CYPRESS BASIN TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST

MEETING MINUTES

September 16, 2014

**ATTENDING: Twenty-five (25) members were in attendance. David Skinner, Ted Barrow, Stella Barrow, Sandra Hooker, Vanessa Neese, Charlene Franks, Barbara Judkins, Sheila Ritter, Phyllis Wilson, Linda Price, Charles Gillis, Tom Walker, Carl Miller, Vicki Gilliland, David Gilliland, Karen Morris, Ellen Anderson, Floyd Anderson, Pat Sawyer, ViAnn Sawyer, Betty Morgan, Becky Gullette, Linda Richtsmeier, Carl Turner, Kristi Thomas**

**CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Carl Turner, President.**

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: Approved-motion made by Ted Barrow, seconded by Vicki Gilliland**

 **TREASURER’S REPORT: Approved-motion made by Phyllis Wilson, seconded by David Skinner**

**GENERAL ITEMS**

**Before starting with old business, newly married Vanessa Neese reported that they had a great wedding and a great trip, and thanked everyone for the gift of a camera, with which they took over 1,300 photos!**

**Old Business:**

* **EAB Traps – Phyllis Wilson coordinated trap pick-up and did a great job. All were picked up and a few were sampled. Stella Barrow brought up the fact that loops would be helpful in looking at traps, and Betty Morgan advised that those loops in the kit could be used.**
* **Tallow Project – will be needing volunteers in two teams of two to monitor where have been found before and treated, keep a tally sheet. Getting squared with the forester at the refuge now, and contractor will be spraying shortly, Vanessa Neese reported.**
* **Paddling trails maps – it was reported that no work has been done on this project.**
* **Trail Maintenance – Phyllis Wilson reported that she has walked the trails and they really need feet on the ground. Starr Ranch parts are getting lost, and several trees are down. Chain saw may be needed in some areas, and she will report all of this to Jason.**
* **UTV Training – need four or more, before take class must go online. Currently Charles Gillis is only one. Link is confusing to get, Vanessa Neese suggested getting it from laptop. Charles Gillis spoke with Josh and he is anxious for help; Vanessa will check it out.**
* **Weevil release – Ted Barrow reported that last Friday 17 volunteers at greenhouse loaded totes on three trucks and one trailer and went to Wilson’s Wood Yard on WMA, released at five sites, which put about 36,000 weevils out. Samples will be pulled to monitor.**
* **Poetry book – Betty Morgan reported that the poetry book is coming along slowly, getting formatted and this takes time.**
* **David Gilliland and Charles Gillis briefed the group on ADA trail progress, with David providing a handout. It was suggested and discussed among the group the potential benefit of reaching out and partnering with Friends of Caddo Lake/Refuge, as could be good contact source. Carl Turner will bring up at next meeting. Motion to approach Friends of Caddo Lake was made by Stella Barrow and seconded by Ted Barrow.**

**New Business:**

* **Group Project – Betty Morgan, Vicki Gilliland, Barbara Judkins, ViAnn Sawyer, and Charles Gillis met, and instead of many projects it was proposed that one Saturday a month the group set aside to meet at refuge education trailer and build lessons for volunteer opportunities. From there and on same day there would be other opportunities, such as trail maintenance and paddling shoreline. Per Betty Morgan, first meeting should be of an organizational nature. Some of $900 from EAB project could be designated for supplies, lessons could be built so that they are readily assessable when volunteer opportunities arise. Linda Richtsmeier motioned and Vicki Gilliland seconded to designate the monthly meeting on third Saturday, and to begin on October 18th, tentatively set for 9 a.m., either bring lunch or plan to go out locally. Task leaders appointed were Charles Gillis, Pat Sawyer, and Barbara Judkins.**
* **Barbara Judkins informed the group about non-fiction and social studies based book club, FB page is Starr Family Home, first meeting October 14th from 7-8:30 p.m.**
* **Sandra Hooker briefed the group and provided handouts on Smithsonian display coming to Marshall 9/22 through 11/1 at Weisman Center on Washington Street, M – S 10:00 to 4:30 p.m., which is interactive and free. She invited members to attend “Around the Campfire” on 9/28 and advised reservation specifics.**

**Other Business:**

**Linda Richtsmeier needs time reports by 10/5. Pat Sawyer advised that the TMN site will have new functions and will look different. Upcoming volunteer opportunities were discussed.**

**Advanced Training – Carl Turner gave a very interesting presentation on E.O. Wilson’s seven book series “Life on Earth” and details about how to download the free series through iBooks.**

**1.5 hours volunteer time and .50 for advanced training.**

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20.**

**Submitted by: Kristi Thomas**



**OCTOBER 18**

**DAY OF VOLUNTEERING AT CLNWR**

At the September meeting it was decided to have a chapter work day on the third Saturday of each month. The first of these work days is scheduled for Saturday, October 18 at the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Members will have an opportunity to get as many hours as they want on that day between daylight and dark (when the Refuge gate is open). Below are the opportunities that will be available.

**Charles Gillis will be the team leader for Trail Maintenance and Tree Identification.**

* Meet Charles at the Refuge Visitors Center at 9:00 a.m. He will tell you which trails need to be walked
* He will talk with you about what's in the plans for identifying and marking trees on trails
* Wear comfortable clothes and shoes
* Bring tree and shrub field guides
* Bring gloves and tools for trimming plant growth
* Bring a GPS if you have one

**Becky Gullette will be the team leader for Outreach Program Development.**

* Meet Becky at 9:00 a.m. at the Refuge Education Trailer
* Bring any Project WILD Guides that you have
* The task for the day will be choosing lessons that can be developed to teach students in groups at the Refuge or other places
* and to make a list of materials needed to develop the lessons so they can be used by others
* Lessons will be completed at the Work Day in November

**Linda Gail Price will be the team leader for the development of fauna/flora guides for the Refuge.**

* Meet Linda at 9:00 a.m. at the Refuge Visitors Center
* Work with Linda Gail to investigate opportunities for general wildlife viewing at the Refuge
* Help develop monthly guides/checklists for wildlife to view and suggestions on how to view and where to view on the Refuge
* Bring field guides that may include dragonflies, butterflies, moths, ants, wasps, bees, other bugs, mammals, mushrooms

**Pat Sawyer will be the team leader for paddling trails check-up.**

* Meet Pat at 9:00 a.m. in the Refuge Visitors Center parking lot
* Bring your kayak or canoe
* Plastic garbage bags may be useful if you want to collect litter

**GREAT WAY TO GET VOLUNTEER HOURS AND HAVE FUN!**

Bird and Nature Walk Scheduled

**Jim Booker will be leading a bird and nature walk on November 8th at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. The walk begins sharply at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 11:00 a.m.** Take your binoculars and field guides.

**After the bird walk there are indoors displays and a dive show. The total Advanced Training time will be about 4 hours if you go to the dive show and visit the exhibits; travel time will count as volunteer hours. This is a long drive so you may want to check with others to carpool.**

**If the weather is bad the walk may be cancelled so have Jim's phone number on hand to call and verify if it has been cancelled/ rescheduled.**

**For more details go to http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/visitorcenters/tffc/**

**There you will find travel directions and information about admission fees and schedules.**

**TPWD Announcement:**

**Join us on our monthly bird watching outing. Expect to see 25 or more different species as we explore our Interpretive Wetland Trail and other areas of the hatchery.**

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| --- | --- |
| **When** |  November 8, 2014 from 09:00 AM to 11:00 AM   |
| **Where** | [Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tffc)  |
| **Contact Name** | James Booker  |
| **Contact Email** | james.booker@tpwd.texas.gov  |
| **Contact Phone** | (903) 670-2266  |

**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS**

**TO VISIT REFUGE ON FRIDAY**

Vanessa will be hosting the Native Plant Society of Texas annual symposium field trip to the Refuge this Friday, October 17 from 1:00-6:00 p.m. Fifty-three participants have signed up to attend.

Vanessa needs TMN volunteer assistance with this group. Please email her now if you can be there to help. When she hears from you she will email your "assignment".

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

**Sponsorship:** At the state level, the Texas Master Naturalist program is sponsored jointly by ***Texas AgriLife Extension Service*** and the ***Texas Parks & Wildlife Department*** (TPWD). Partnerships at the local level are encouraged and might include other public agencies, as well as private organizations whose interests are within the boundaries of the program. At the state level, the Texas Master Naturalist program is supported financially by TPWD and TCE along with occasional grants from other outside sources when available.

**Objectives:**

1. Improve public understanding of natural resource ecology and management by developing a pool of local knowledge about natural resource ecology that can be used to enhance education efforts within local communities.
2. Enhance existing natural resources education and outreach activities by providing natural resources training at the local level, thereby developing a supply of dedicated and informed volunteers.
3. Develop a Texas Master Naturalist volunteer network that can be self-sufficient.

Volunteer Service Criteria: The following points are considered in approving volunteer service projects:

1. Is the proposed service project representative of the goals, practices and teachings of the Texas Master Naturalist Program?
2. How does the project address a pressing naturalist, natural resource management, chapter and/or partner need for meaningful service or resources?
3. What is the scope of the project in terms of when it would need to be conducted, where, estimated time needed to complete or maintain per month, how many volunteers would be needed, etc.?
4. Is the project within the Chapter’s service area and ecological training?
5. How does the project allow the chapter to focus and/or create visibility, identity and/or recruitment for the chapter?
6. How can the project’s impact on the community and our natural resources be measured?

**Advanced Training Criteria:** Does the Advanced Training opportunity:

1. **Promote continued learning and development of naturalist skills?**
2. **Provide Master Naturalists with knowledge and skills to work in volunteer efforts?**
3. Direct trained volunteers toward specific programs in need of their services?
4. Provide practical information and training for application in volunteer efforts?
5. Take advantage of local partnerships?
6. **Provide Master Naturalists an opportunity to focus their interests in one or a few specific topics?**
7. **Build on the core curriculum initially provided by the local chapter?**
8. **Provide natural resource management issues and information applicable to Texas?**

Advanced Training opportunities must meet the following criteria: 1, 2, 6, 7, and 8. It is suggested that the remaining criteria also be a part of the opportunity.

FORMS ONLINE

Please go to our Website (<http://txmn.org/cypress>); logon and click on **FORMS** to view and complete **required** forms.

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

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**October 17:**  NPSOT Field Trip on the Refuge 1:00-6:00 p.m.

**October 18:** Chapter Workday at Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge 9:00 a.m.

**October 21:** Cypress Basin Chapter Monthly Meeting 6:30 p.m.

**October 24-26**: 2014 Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting at Mo Ranch in Hunt, TX

**November 8:** Bird and Nature Walk, Texas Fresh Water Fisheries Center, Athens

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. You can contact Betty by email @ bgmorgan46@yahoo.com or mail to: 100 Lakeview Circle, Jefferson, TX 75657.