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Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalist Chapter Newsletter

Vol. 6 No. 9

September 2014

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.

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.

2014 OFFICERS

Carl Turner - President

Betty Morgan - Vice President

Diane Turner - Secretary

Karen Williams – Treasurer

Linda Richtsmeier – Membership Chairman

Pat Sawyer - Webmaster

Vanessa Adams - Advisor

CYPRESS BASIN CHAPTER SEPTEMBER MEETING

Tuesday September 16, 2014

6:30 p.m.

City of Jefferson Multi-Purpose Center

305 East Austin Street

**PRESENTATION: E.O Wilson's Life on Earth series
presented by Dr. Carl Turner**

NOTES FROM CARL

Last month on our vacation we were lucky enough to attend a ranger led walk on the Rocky Mountain tundra. The tundra looks very barren being above the tree line. The harsh cold wind swept environment that is over two miles high accounts for the fact that very few plants grow over a few inches high. There appeared to be little life as we walked the barren hilltops. Then the ranger gave us a circular piece of yarn a foot in diameter and told us to get down on our knees and count the plants within our circle. To our amazement there were over sixteen different plants and a few minute insects to boot. The tundra all of a sudden became an amazing complex ecosystem.

I find myself often looking at birds and trees so much that I forget about the small things. I first learned about the small things in freshman biology lab. We are assigned the task of collecting algae from different bayous in Houston and then identify them under the microscope. Diane was my lab partner and we went out together on our collection trips. It was an exciting time, mostly because Diane and I were beginning to fall in love with each other, but also because we were introduced to a whole new world that we knew nothing about.

Each summer I make a point to show my grandchildren some of the small things. I will remember their surprise this summer when they looked at a minute flower under my dissecting scope and saw an even more minute spider inside.

Freshman biology taught me to always carry a small magnifying glass when I am out taking a walk in nature to get a closer look at some of the small things. I would highly recommend it.

Carl



CYPRESS BASIN TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST

MEETING MINUTES

August 19, 2014

ATTENDING: Twenty-three (23) members were in attendance. Carl Miller, Linda Richtsmeier, Robert Carter, David Gilliland, Vicki Gilliland, Barbara Judkins, David Skinner, Ellen Anderson, Floyd Anderson, Sheila Ritter, Darrell Hudson, Becky Gullette, Kristi Thomas, Donna Bell, Linda Gail Price, Charlene Franks, Ted Barrow, Sella Barrow, Charles Gillis, Pam Andrews, Pat Sawyer, ViAnn Sawyer, Betty Morgan

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Betty Morgan, Vice President.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: Approved-motion made by Linda Richtsmeier, seconded by Kristi Thomas

TREASURER'S REPORT: Approved-motion made by Linda Richtsmeier, seconded by Betty Morgan

GENERAL ITEMS

Old Business:

- EAB traps – Phyllis will send out an email to schedule a date to check and take down the traps.
- Tallow project – Vanessa Adams was not in attendance, but sent info that there was no update on this project.
- Trail Maintenance – Becky Gullette reported that she had walked the Magazine trail and part of Starr Ranch trail. They were in good shape, however, she noted there had been some wind and rain and they should be checked again. The WMA has been harvesting pine trees along the Magazine trail and there are limbs to be picked up.
- Poetry book – Betty Morgan reported this is still in progress.
- Paddling trails maps – Pat Sawyer and Stella Barrow reported that no work had been done on this project.
- Group Project – ViAnn Sawyer asked if there was a consensus on the ADA trail at the refuge. After considerable discussion, the group agreed on this project. ViAnn will send out an email with a list of all the other group project suggestions.
- David Gilliland and Charles Gillis briefed the group on the progress of the ADA trail. A proposal has been submitted to Jason Rosener at the refuge. We are waiting to see if that project is approved by the refuge district office. This will be a maintenance project once the trail is installed and will require our participation.
- Betty Morgan announced that a water monitoring class may be offered by The Collins Academy in Jefferson if there is enough interest. Ten participants are required for a class.
- UTV training on the refuge will require one more person to sign up

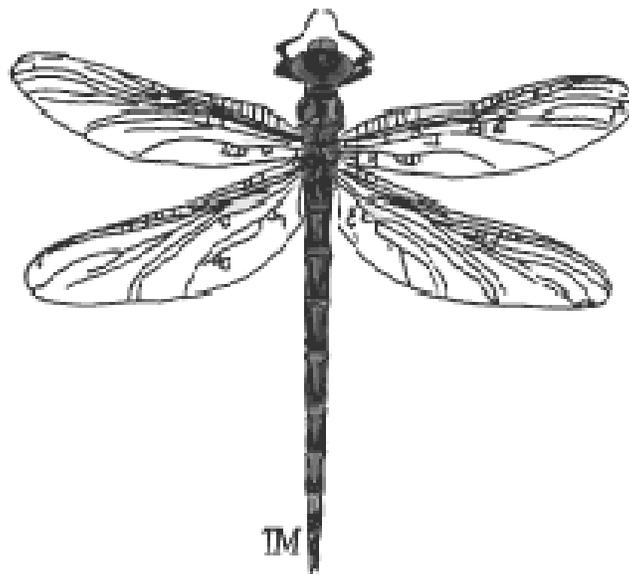
New Business:

- Betty led a discussion on what is considered to be a valid volunteer opportunity. Members were encouraged to contact the officers for approval of what they are requesting as a volunteer opportunity.

Advanced Training: Ted and Stella gave an update on the Morley Hudson Weevil Greenhouse that has been built by the Greater Caddo Lake of Texas Association. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for August 20, 2014 and all are invited. One hour volunteer time and .75 for advanced training. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 and a celebration was held in recognition of Linda Richtsmeier's retirement.

Submitted by:

Stella Barrow



MESSAGE FROM GARY ENDSLEY

Hello Potential Volunteers:

I have a great opportunity to improve wildlife habitat along Big Cypress Bayou at Jefferson September 25th and 26th, which are WILD DAZE for the Paddlefish Project, Big Cypress Bayou, and Jefferson's riverfront.

On both days we will be improving the river walk park in Jefferson by planting native groundcovers (either seeds or live plantings) or by weeding or removing unwanted alien species (such as Chinese tallow and privet).

Whether or not you volunteer, you are invited to see Creature Teacher at 11 AM or see and hear Cliff Shackelford at 6:00 PM on Thursday. You are also invited to volunteer on Friday and partake of the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon then.

Please see the attached DRAFT schedule for the event but please NOTE that we are still planning and there is possibility of a very special occurrence on Friday afternoon.

You'll need to bring hand tools, gloves, hat, etc., if you volunteer.

WILD DAZE 2014 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Except for the 8:30 AM and the 1:30 PM Creature Teacher presentations on the 25th, all activities take place at the Jefferson Transportation & Visitor Center located at 305 E. Austin Street.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25		FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26	
8:30 AM	Creature Teacher @ Jefferson Primary	8:30 AM	Volunteer Gardening: Plant Installation
9:00	Volunteer Gardening: Plant Installation Volunteer Project: Alien Plant Removal	9:45	Paddlefish Reintroduction Report
1:30 PM	Creature Teacher @ Jefferson Elem.	10:00	Cliff Shackelford Presents: Reality TV
6:00	Cliff Shackelford Presentation, Reception, and Book Signing	11:15	Raptor Release by Free & Wild Again
		11:30	Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
		1:00 PM	Volunteer Project: Alien Plant Removal
			POSSIBLE SURPRISE EVENT

TOP STATE BIRDER TO SPEAK IN JEFFERSON

Cliff Shackelford, State wide Ornithologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife, will join with Jefferson's Collins Academy in celebration of Wild Daze on Thursday, September 25 at the Transportation Center in Jefferson Texas at 6:00 p.m. Wild Daze is an annual Collins Academy event held in conjunction with National Public Lands Day events.

Gary Endsley, Director of Collins Academy said, "We are excited to have someone with Cliff's credentials come to our region and talk with area birders. He is the premier bird expert for the state, in addition he is a highly entertaining speaker. We encourage all individuals interested in birding to attend. Endsley said that bird watching is an 82 billion dollar a year industry in the U.S., and we hope to see more area people become involved. We are perfectly positioned in the Caddo Lake region in both Texas and Louisiana, where more than 200 resident and migratory bird species occur, to promote this natural resource not only for personal enjoyment, but for tourism and economic development projects."

Cliff Shackelford is a seventh generation Texan and the statewide Non-game Ornithologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He is the author of the book Hummingbirds of Texas. He is also the author of over 60 publications on birds and birding, he has been a featured guest speaker on Red River Radio in Shreveport. He will be available after his talk to sell and autograph his books.

The event is free and open to the public. The Transportation Center is located at 305 E. Austin Street in Jefferson. The reception honoring Cliff and his talk is being sponsored by the Collins Academy, TODAY Foundation and the Paddlefish Reintroduction and Education Project. To RSVP or for questions, please contact Gary Endsley at endsley961@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY IN OCTOBER

- Mark your calendar for October 10-12.
- Melissa Casarez with the Texas Natural History Collections at the University of Texas in Austin is coordinating an October Bioblitz in the Cypress drainage area.
- She has contacted Cypress Basin Chapter to recruit volunteers to help on those days. Details will be forthcoming. Members will be notified as soon as her plans are released.

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

September 16: Cypress Basin Chapter Monthly Meeting 6:30 p.m.

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

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.