

# *the paddlefish* ***the paddlefish***

Vol. 8 No. 1

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalist Chapter Newsletter

January 2016

## ***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.***

## **2016 OFFICERS**

Stella Barrow - President

Betty Morgan - Vice President

Kristi Thomas - Secretary

Charles Gillis – Treasurer

Linda Richtsmeier – Membership Chairman

Pat Sawyer & Michael Mathews - Webmasters

Jill Wright - New Class Representative

Vanessa Adams Neace - Advisor

Doug Weir -Advisor

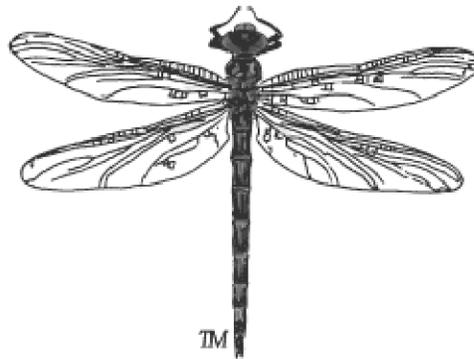
## **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

**2015 AWARDS AND 2016 OFFICER INSTALLATION**

**Monday January 11 6:30 pm**

**Jefferson Transportation Center 305 E. Austin**

# Snippets from Stella



January 2016

***Happy New Year!!!***

This is going to be such an exciting year I can hardly wait to see all of you at our first meeting, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm at the Transportation Center.

We have projects galore! It looks like we will have enough students for a new training class! The energy in the group just gets me wound up!!

Your Executive Board met on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> to begin the planning for 2016 and we've set dates for the monthly meetings, monthly work days, quarterly pot lucks, family social (no not July or August), and the Paddling Regatta. Bring your calendars!

To facilitate prioritizing our projects we are partnering with The Collins Academy on a computer program that will allow us to "vote" electronically at our January meeting on where our priorities will fall for 2016 and beyond. We have several "hard-wired projects" such as the EAB traps, regatta, TPWD, etc. but we have several new proposed projects that will need to be defined such as the new walking trail, bird blind, refuge auto and walking trail brochures and others.

Anyway, my wish for you and yours is that 2016 is the most prosperous, most healthy and most "happiest" EVER!

SB

**CYPRESS BASIN TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 9, 2015**

**ATTENDING:** 26 members – Kristi Thomas, David Skinner, Betty Morgan, Linda Richtsmeier, Michael Mathews, Jill Wright, Karen Williams, Nancy Rheay, Barbara Judkins, Vicki and David Gilliland, Sheila Ritter, ViAnn Sawyer, Kay Watson, Herman Hazard, Sandra Hooker, Ted and Stella Barrow, Tom Walker, Susan and Steve Sedberry, Ellen and Floyd Anderson, Charlene Franks, Pam Andrews, and Vanessa Neace.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m. by President Stella Barrow, following quarterly pot-luck social.

**PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** After one correction to be made to volunteer hours – change from .05 to .50 – minutes from prior meeting were unanimously accepted with a motion by Ted and a second by Barbara.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Per Karen, balance is \$6,859.50, of which \$3,253.85 is the balance earmarked as Regatta funds. The only disbursement this period was \$226.35 for food for biologists' luncheon. Linda motioned to approve, Vicki seconded, unanimously approved.

**GENERAL ITEMS: OLD BUSINESS**

**STAR GAZING PARTY DISCUSSION:** Had good meeting with Jay Webb and Libby Horton. Could be collaborative effort with Friends of Refuge and Collins Academy. If not for this year idea for "moon" party discussed. Possible creative group to put that together, work on ideas?

**ROAD TRIP TO RIO BRAZOS:** Stella discussed; Dana said that they want to host a bird walk on Saturday morning, asked for those interested. Ted, Karen, Becky, Sandra, Michael, Ellen, and Floyd signed up so far.

**NEW CLASS RECRUITMENT:** Betty gave an update, need to beat the bushes. Michael is working on the brochure.

**PHOTO NATURE TOUR:** Michael gave a progress report and possible dates were discussed with the group, considering the many other events that happen in April and May. Interest was expressed by a majority of the group for a photography class for our chapter. Michael also informed that the [www.easttexasnaturalists.com](http://www.easttexasnaturalists.com) site has gone live, and the forum is a good way to communicate and share ideas.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**WORKING DOGS FOR CONSERVATION:** Vanessa told of plans to start at Lake Texoma as a media event on January 13, zebra mussels only. This will get all of that out of the way so that later in May can concentrate without all the media attention. Updates to follow. Stella asked for volunteers to get together gift bags with local items for two presenters.

**EARTH DAY 4/22 - 24 AS RELATED TO REGATTA DATE:** Discussion of possible dates, as CLI has offered to pay for double booth this year at event. Proposed Regatta date of 4/30 was penciled in and Regatta committees were discussed, emails to follow regarding sign-up.

**2016 SLATE OF OFFICERS:** President, Stella Barrow, Vice President, Betty Morgan, Secretary, Kristi Thomas, Treasurer, Charles Gillis. Michael to set up way to vote through email, slate approved. ViAnn motioned no meeting in December, Linda seconded with unanimous approval.

**WORK DAY** is 11/21, and awards will be on January 11, 2016. Betty reminded everyone to put in hours and cautioned about the new 45 day rule.

**ADVANCED TRAINING:** Linda attended the state meeting, along with Carl, Diane, and Phyllis. She gave an update and provided a hand-out regarding VMS.

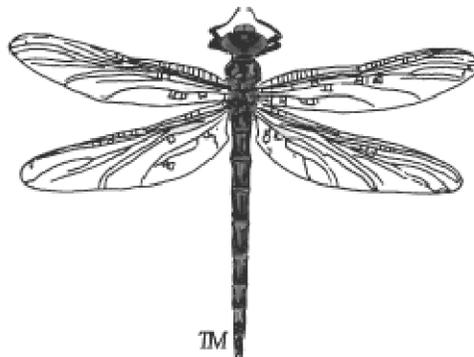
**ADJOURNMENT:** at 8:25 p.m.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:** 1.5 hour

**ADVANCED TRAINING:** .25 hour

**PLUS YOUR TRAVEL:**

Submitted by Kristi Thomas, Secretary



## **BIRD BANDING TO BE ANNOUNCED**

The next bird banding at Tom Walker's will be announced via email as soon as a date has been set.

**SATURDAY WORK DAY**

**JANUARY 16**

**9:00 a.m.**

**CADDO LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

**2016  
MEETING DATES**

January 11  
February 8  
March 14\*  
April 11  
May 9  
June 13\*  
July 11  
August 8  
September 12\*  
October 10  
November 14\*\*

\*Pot Luck

\*\* Family Social &  
Awards

**2016  
WORK DAYS**

January 16  
February 13  
March 19  
April 16  
May 14  
June 18  
July 16  
August 13  
September 17  
October 15  
November 19

**2016 NEW CLASS  
TRAINING DATES**

January 29 - Collins Academy  
January 30 - CLNWR  
February 26 - Collins Academy  
February 27 - CLNWR  
April 1 - Collins Academy  
April 2 - CLNWR  
May 6 - TBA  
May - 7 TBA

# The Weeds Are Coming! The Weeds Are Coming!!!

by Michael Mathews

I wrote recently about all of the water hyacinths that were appearing in large clumps all over the lake after recent heavy rains. The heavy rains caused the lake level to rise rapidly causing the lighted moored water hyacinths to break loose and float downstream. Many people who lived in the south part of the lake were not used to seeing these floating islands and some were not sure what was happening.



If they were really surprised by the large number of plants that floated down, just wait. Right now there is approximately 5 or 6 acres of water hyacinths pressed up against the Highway 155 bridge. Little by little they are squeezing through and floating downstream as the ones a couple of weeks ago did. This time, after the recent rain last week that caused the lake to rise another five or more feet, there are many more water hyacinths headed their way.

We may get a good cold front that could slow the progress for the plants do not do well in cold weather. With prolonged times of freezing weather, much of the mass of plants may sink below the surface and not continue its migration. Many of those growths will actually die in the deeper water. If we do not get the cold weather, then these plants will eventually make their way under the bridge. Winds and boat traffic will free the "logjam" that now exists.

Aren't invasive species wonderful?

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# ***Warthogs invade South Texas***

by Vanessa Neace



No, this is not a joke.

It does show once again the dangers that arise with the importation of non-native species. Far too often, with no natural predators, their populations get out of control and the damage they do to the local ecosystems can be devastating.

The article is from the Houston Chronicle.

<http://www.chron.com/sports/outdoors/article/Warthogs-invade-South-Texas-6671689.php>

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**January 11:** Cypress Basin Chapter Monthly Meeting 6:30 p.m.

**January 16:** Saturday Work Day at Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge 9 a.m.

**January 29-30:** Training Weekend for New Class



Cypress Basin members are encouraged to submit articles for the monthly newsletters. Original articles of interest to members are greatly appreciated. Items for Events and Notices are welcomed. Submissions are due on the first Saturday of each month.

Contact Betty by email @ [bgmorgan46@yahoo.com](mailto:bgmorgan46@yahoo.com) or mail to: 100 Lakeview Circle, Jefferson, TX 75657.