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Vol. 8 No. 3

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalist Chapter Newsletter

March 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 and Michael Mathews - Webmasters

Vanessa Adams Neace - Advisor

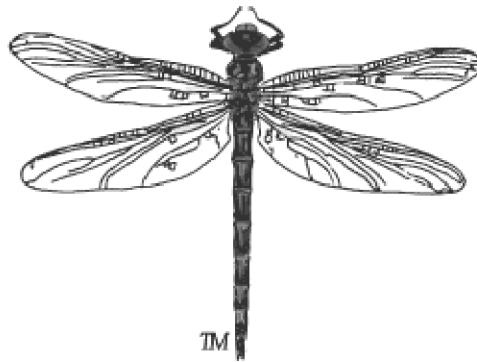
Doug Weir -Advisor

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Monday March 14 6:00 pm

Jefferson Transportation Center 305 E. Austin

Snippets from Stella



March 2016

IT'S THAT TIME! Pot Luck this month at the meeting! So, let's begin to gather at 6:00 pm so we can munch and grub out and socialize and be ready to start the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Heaven knows this group does know how to cook! Speaking of that, this second class for our 2016 trainees had some dee-licious food Friday night and Saturday. Many thanks to Celesta, Kristi, Jill, Karen, Nancy, David, Michael, Susan!! (Apologies if I missed someone.) We had everything from crawfish pie to yummy breakfast casseroles. Literally, soup to nuts!

The **Moon Over Caddo** event is still scheduled for 3/19, 7P-9P. And any of you that can help that night – will be welcome!!

The **Earth Day Paddling Regatta** is 4/30 and registrations are already coming in. We have added new features for this year: Working Dogs for Conservation, the EAB Cerceris Wasp Citizen Scientist project and the Invasive Species Citizen Scientist program. Exciting!!

The 2016 class members and the other members that attended were treated to some very good training on 2/26 and 2/27. Betty did a great job on General Ecological Systems and Lee Eisenberg, director at the Morley Hudson Weevil Greenhouse covered Aquatic systems. Thanks, Betty for arranging this!

I'm asking Betty to incorporate the results of our project priority survey into the newsletter if she has room. Just FYI. The diversity of this membership is astounding! I think that's what makes us so good together!

See you on March 14 at 6:00 pm for food, fun and then a little business.

SB

**CYPRESS BASIN TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
MEETING FEBRUARY 8, 2016
MINUTES**

ATTENDING: 39 members – Kristi Thomas, David Skinner, Betty Morgan, Linda Richtsmeier, Michael Mathews, Jill Wright, Karen Williams, Barbara Judkins, Vicki and David Gilliland, Pat and ViAnn Sawyer, Kay Watson, Sandra Hooker, Ted and Stella Barrow, Tom Walker, Susan and Steve Sedberry, Ellen and Floyd Anderson, Charlene Franks, Pam Andrews, Becky Gullette, Herman Hazard, Sue Simmons, Pam Watts, Charles Gillis, Vanessa Neace,(advisor), Carl and Diane Turner, Roger Geiger, Bill Huddleston, Donna and Keith Shands, Mickie Moore, Celesta Ellis, Carl Miller, Nancy Rheay, and Phyllis Wilson.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President Stella Barrow. Stella welcomed the large group, which includes several members of the 2016 trainee class.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: Minutes from prior meeting were unanimously accepted with a motion by Jill, seconded by Susan.

TREASURER REPORT: Per Charles, balance is \$8,767.58, of which \$3,253.85 is the balance earmarked as Regatta funds. Reimbursements and purchases since January meeting were detailed. Pam Andrews motioned to approve, Pam Watts seconded, unanimously approved.

Stella Barrow read a thank you note from Tom Spier, archeology presenter at January training session.

ADVANCED TRAINING: Stacy Blomquist, Biological Science Technician with USFS gave an enlightening presentation on the Citizen Science Wasp Watch Program, where wasps are used as bio-surveillance tools. Asked for volunteer citizen scientists to help monitor and collect the beetles that this wasp feeds to larvae, using waspwatchers.org. This would help detect the spread of the EAB and is more accurate than the purple traps. Per Vanessa, new methods are on the horizon, and we may not be able to do EAB traps in the way they have been done in the past. More to come, and a questions and answer session ensued, with sign-up sheet circulated for those interested.

GENERAL ITEMS: OLD BUSINESS

Vanessa gave an update on Working Dogs for Conservation. Have confirmed with KYKX radio that the dogs will be welcome to come to the Big Bass Classic Tournament on the last day, May 1st. The Saturday before, 4/30, is the Regatta, and the dogs will be here then. Vanessa won't be able to attend this event, but the dogs and handlers will be available for demonstrations that day.

STAR GAZING EVENT/MOON PARTY: Barbara briefed on progress, next meeting is 2/18 at 4:00-5:30 at the refuge classroom. Making headway, but need volunteers; sign-up sheet circulated. First part of next meeting will be to look at logistics, second part at 5:30 at classroom. The event will be 3/19 and it was stressed that there will be a need for many volunteers.

PHOTO TOUR/CLASS: Michael provided a brief update and will be getting with Stella to set date; Starr Ranch is probably going to be the location.

NEW REFUGE TRAIL: Charles indicated that Ted and some others went out and brush hogged, now just need volunteers with loppers and tools, as there is still lots of little stuff to pick up. Be sure to sign in at visitor's center any time you are there, and encourage others to do the same.

REGATTA: Committees are in place. Items will be needed for silent auction and raffle, per Karen, and they don't have to be nature related. Stella displayed partial order of the canoes to be painted, and Karen is to help keep track of who picks them up. Make sure to put year on the canoe, and time to work on it counts as volunteer time. Stella will be posting Eventbrite, and be sure to share Facebook page for event. Need to beat bushes for sponsors - Stella will be sending members a letter to print to show potential sponsors who we are, etc. Will continue to meet and will have more updates.

NEW BUSINESS

2016 PROJECT PRIORITIES RESULTS: Stella shared the tally of interest in different projects and how they should be prioritized based on members' preferences gathered from the poll taken at the last chapter meeting. She went over an excel spreadsheet on projector and copies were circulated and discussed. She will also email a copy to members.

APPROVAL OF CHAPTER OPERATING HANDBOOK: Sent a copy out to members, got feedback, need approval vote for changes that were recommended. Motion to accept by Linda, seconded by Ted and Barbara, and unanimously approved. Per Betty, will be on website for reference, and will stay in place until something needs to be changed, then would be amended just like our bylaws.

Floyd Anderson will do AT on Native Wildflowers at the March 10th chapter meeting.

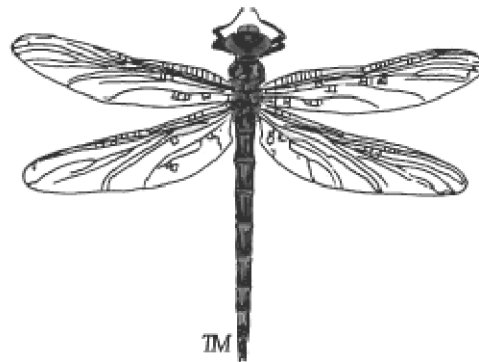
ADJOURNMENT: at 8:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: .75 hour

ADVANCED TRAINING: .75 hour

PLUS YOUR TRAVEL:

Submitted by Kristi Thomas, Secretary



SATURDAY WORK DAY

MARCH 19

9:00 a.m.

CADDO LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

MOON OVER CADDO

Saturday, March 19

7 - 9 pm

Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Dead Ancestors Are Delicious and Oh So Nutritious*

by Michael Mathews

With Spring coming, I start to get antsy. We have had some warm days and nights lately (in February) and the other afternoon I heard tree frogs calling. It won't be long before the pond and creek bottoms are blackened by little tadpoles. There is no telling how many thousands of them that I ~~killed~~ . . . uh caught as a kid, put in a jar or aquarium and watched for hours. I meant well but the mortality rate was high. Of course, it is in nature, too.



Each male and female frog may have many hundreds eggs. In order for the frog population to remain stable, only two need survive and in most cases that is what happens. Otherwise, we would be knee-deep in frogs.

Did you ever wonder what happens during the Springs that don't get enough rain for the frogs to successfully breed? Here in east Texas, that doesn't happen often but when it does, there is an interesting development (no pun intended).

During a dry Spring, at the first little bit of rain, frogs will suddenly appear and begin their breeding choruses. You will hear them calling in large numbers. Then the breeding starts, even if there are only puddles. If the puddles are deep enough or if there is more rain soon, the tadpoles may develop after a few weeks and become little frogs. However, if the puddle dries up, so do the tadpoles for they must have water to survive.

A funny thing happens if there is another rain after that. The frogs come out again and go through the same process. When the tadpoles emerge, they actually grow a little faster. If the puddle is big enough or there is a little more rain, they will develop into little frogs but they do

so a little faster than the earlier batch that died when the pond dried up. If they are not fortunate enough to develop before the puddle dries out, they do die.

Then it gets even more interesting. If it rains again soon, the process starts over again, but this time, the little tadpoles really grow much faster. They may develop in half the time that the first group of tadpoles would have taken. The first group developed slowly but took too long and died. The second group developed faster but still took too long and they to died. The next group grew very quickly and were able to develop before the puddle dried up.

How is that possible? Do they "know" that it is a dry Spring and that they have to develop fast or die like the previous broods? Was there something different in the breeding process that caused this batch to be able to grow faster; was some vigor passed on from the adults who "knew" the first populations took too long to develop. How in the world would that work? What kind of mechanism could cause that?

Well actually it is a lot more simple than that. For you see, when the pond dried up the first time, the dead tadpole bodies dried out in the mud. When it rained and the new tadpoles came, they fed on the added nutrients that the previous brood of tadpole bodies created. In other words, they were feeding upon the decomposed bodies of the earlier tadpoles. When the pond dried out again, the new brood of tadpoles became an even more concentrated mass of nutrients. The next brood of tadpoles had a tremendous amount of nutrients in their water and their development was much faster. They had a much greater chance of surviving because they fed on the bodies of those who proceeding them.

How cool is that? Nature is so amazing in ways. Even when the environment changes, some organisms "find" mechanisms that allow them to survive. There are limits to that, of course. A prolonged drought of many years could be catastrophic, but there are mechanisms that allow adult frogs (and toads) to go for very long periods without water, even years. Maybe we'll talk about that some other time.

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2016 TMN TRAINING CLASS SCHEDULE Weekend 3

- Friday, April 1: Urban System presented by Gary Endsley
- Saturday, April 2: Forest System presented by Dr. Eric Taylor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 14: Cypress Basin Chapter Monthly Meeting 6:00 p.m.

March 19: Saturday Work Day at Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge 9 a.m.

March 19: Moon Over Caddo 7-9 pm CLNWR

April 1-2: Training Weekend 3 for New Class

April 30: Earth Day Paddling Regatta

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

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 or mail to: 100 Lakeview Circle, Jefferson, TX 75657.