

the paddlefish ***the paddlefish***

Vol. 8 No. 4

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalist Chapter Newsletter

April 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

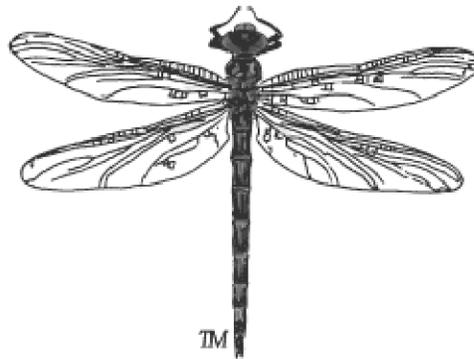
Doug Weir -Advisor

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Monday April 11 6:30 pm

Jefferson Transportation Center 305 E. Austin

Snippets from Stella



April 2016

HAPPY SPRING!!

March was a busy month and it looks like April and may are gearing up to be as busy!

The Moon Over Caddo event was FUN! A small turnout of visitors and I think “we” volunteers outnumbered them, but we learned a lot! Thank you, Barbara Judkins and team!! We should consider another one. We made some new friends that brought their own telescopes and are anxious to participate.

The Regatta is the “next big thing” on April 30th. I’m a wee bit nervous this year. Registrations are down and the launch sites are under water as of this writing. But – we have back-up plans. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to participate! The Community Collaborative of Rain Hail Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) has committed to having a table so that’s three “vendors” plus the Working Dogs that will be participating this year. We need PADDLERS!

Many of you were affected by the floods on Caddo so we missed our March meeting. My most sincere hope is that all of you are safe and recovering. We used the Phone Tree to get help for an elderly couple in Karnack that had to leave their home. Many of you responded. Truly – you are an amazing group of individuals that make this an amazing group. Thank You!

SB

THERE WAS NOT A MEETING IN MARCH DUE TO FLOOD CONDITIONS.

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.

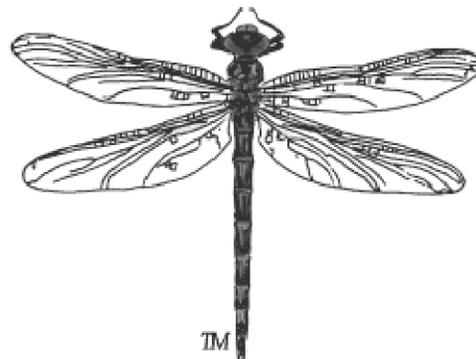
ADJOURNMENT: at 8:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: .75 hour

ADVANCED TRAINING: .75 hour

PLUS YOUR TRAVEL:

Submitted by Kristi Thomas, Secretary



SATURDAY WORK DAY

APRIL 16

9:00 a.m.

CADDO LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

2016 TMN TRAINEES NEAR COMPLETION OF INITIAL TRAINING

The nine trainees in the 2016 TMN class have completed 75% of their initial training. With only one more weekend of training remaining there's a sigh of relief and an air of excitement as Cypress Basin Chapter gains additional volunteers to our corp.

We are very proud of the trainees and their dedication to TMN. A special day for members to join the trainees on their last day, May 7, is being planned. Watch for forthcoming details.

Congratulations to: Carol Fox, Roger Geiger, Bill Huddleston, Angela Ledger, Mickie Moore, Donna and Keith Shands, Marge West, and Pete Wright.

Latest from the Eagle's Nest - One Month In

Tuesday, 05 April 2016
by Kristi Mears Thomas

Exactly one month to the day of the first sighting of the eaglet chicks, Michael Mathews, Jill and Pete Wright, Linda Richtsmeier, and Jerry and I went out to check the nest. We'll be doing this as often as we can, and posting photos so that we can all track their development!

Several photos follow, and on this afternoon, as always, one parent was in the nest with the eaglets. Every time that we have visited, at least one parent is either in the nest or very close by; the other is surely out hunting. At one point, the parent on duty seemed to be looking and whistling for the other.

It appears that the babies have the last of the downy feathers on the tops of their heads and neck, as can be seen in some of the photos. They are growing rapidly at this phase, and adding a pound of body weight every four to five days!

Editor's Note: To see the previous four accounts of the eagles' nest visit the Website: <http://easttexasnaturalists.com>.





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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

April 30: Earth Day Paddling Regatta

May 6-7: Training Weekend 4 for New Class

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 - Collins Academy
May - 7 CLNWR

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.