

the paddlefish ***the paddlefish***

Vol. 8 No. 8

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalist Chapter Newsletter

August 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

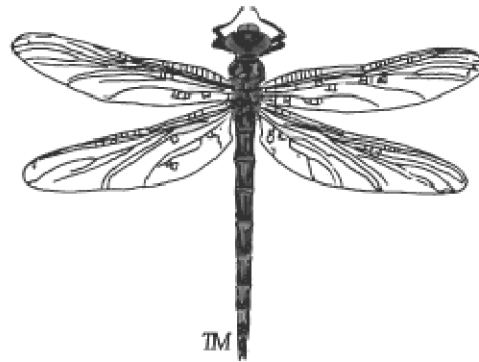
Doug Weir -Advisor

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Monday August 8 6:30 pm

Jefferson Transportation Center 305 E. Austin

Snippets from Stella



August 2016

Hello Friends!

Hope you had a good July. Just good ol' Texas weather isn't it? Blazing hot one day and then on 7/28, I had 5.6" of rain in my CoCoRaHS gauge. It's raining again as I write this. By the way – do you have your CoCoRaHS gauge yet? ☺

Had a good work day in July. Work on the walking trails and organizing the classroom storage room – Again. It must have gremlins because it just turns itself upside down ever so often. We also got the metal paddle marker signs labeled with the paddles and the next step is to get out there and get them installed. I still need a few of you to let me know if you can help re-confirm the locations and then install the markers. We also have Dept. of Transportation signs that need attention. We won't be installing them, but we need to identify where they should go and the DOT will install. Please let me know if you want to be on either or both of these project.

Monday night, 7/25, a few of us had a chance to visit with Allen Smith of the TFS re: the EAB Wasp Watcher project. He just has not had the time to look for new nests. We need to take ownership and action on this task. Look at infrequently used ball fields or dirt parking lots. Early morning before 10-11 am is the best time to look for them. Allen stated that you need to sorta sneak up on the quarter-half dollar size hole because the female wasp will dive back down in her nest if she is startled. Good hunting!

The Red River Chapter is coming to visit on September 16 and 17 and we need to review what we've planned; food committee, bird walk, pontoon boats.

Next meeting is Monday, August 8 and Work Day is the 13th. See you then!!

SB

**CYPRESS BASIN TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
MEETING JUNE 13, 2016*
MINUTES**

*There was not a meeting in July.

ATTENDING: 27 members – Kristi Thomas, Linda Richtsmeier, David Skinner, Michael Mathews, Ted and Stella Barrow, Tom Walker, Steve and Susan Sedberry, Pam Andrews, Marge West, Becky Gullette, Floyd and Ellen Anderson, Nancy Rheay, Carl and Diane Turner, Sue Simmons, Bill Huddleston, Pat and ViAnn Sawyer, Kay Watson, Angela and Victor Ledger, Carol Fox, Becky Gullette, Mickie Moore, and Vanessa Neace (advisor).

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Stella Barrow.

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

TREASURER REPORT: Charles discussed and gave an overview of the treasurer's report, which was in the newsletter of approximately \$8,274 in bank, with not many expenses reported for the month. Full detail provided in the newsletter; with a motion by Linda, seconded by Susan, the report was unanimously approved.

GENERAL ITEMS: OLD BUSINESS

RED RIVER CHAPTER VISIT: Per Stella, dates of September 16th and 17th have been confirmed, will finalize details in July for bird walk, pontoon boats, and Susan to head up food committee. Looking for someone to do a brief summation on Giant Salvinia because on pontoon boat tour leaving from Shady Glade, it will be encountered. Will be sign up sheets for help, and may need that help the night of the meeting on the 16th and/or Sat. the 17th for lunch, etc.

PHOTO TOUR/CLASS: Set date for second class on 7/16, probably starting at 8 a.m. due to heat. Michael will be sending emails out regarding.

NEW REFUGE TRAIL: Grant with Friends of Refuge - any volunteers to help write? (Per Charles, Eric says that all we could do on workday would be to trim existing trails due to all the problems with recent rains. Kay asked if could start on existing trails, and Charles thinks so.) Won't know until end of month if get grant for the \$5,00 applied for, could revise application and send in on new walking trail, but this is due the first of July. Becky and Charles expressed interest in brainstorming with Stella about.

EAB STATUS: Let's find those wasp nests! Nest in Longview has been bulldozed. Per Vanessa, if you could get out and scout around and you find confirmed mounds, Alan will come out and train us, which will take 30-45 minutes. If you find one, don't dig in it, take a picture, send to Vanessa or go online and search; are active in early morning.

PADDLEFISH FESTIVAL: What other things have we done? Camp Fern, Becky and Darrell went out last year, will take tracks set, Project Wild, Deadly Links, hope to get binoculars from Collins and let do bird watching, lasts from 9:30 to 12:20, roughly. If interested in helping, see Becky tonight, or call. ViAnn spent 3 days helping at summer camp for Collins. David made bluebird boxes for all of them. Pollinator garden - ViAnn installed four raised boxes and replanted annual plants, which are doing well. David is working with 4-H and Master Gardeners. Kay is working with HS in Linden, her hometown, and Pam is working on Headstart garden in Jefferson, which are all good examples of ways to work within our communities. Linda reminded when you go out she needs the count of the people that you deal with.

NEW BUSINESS

FISHING LINE PROJECT: Roger's info - <https://mrrp.tamu.edu/downloads/MRRP-Volunteer%20Agreement.pdf> - order indoor/outdoor bins, monofilament lines only. Roger has asked for more info re decals and construction, and if anyone interested. He will talk to COE and to someone at boat launch and Hwy 43 bridge. Sue would be interested in 43 bridge location. Will talk to him about it in July, there is an extra form to fill out to be able to do that, link included.

ANNUAL MEETING: Sponsoring \$250 event this year - please plan to go, coming up in October, Lake Conroe. Usually much further away, so as soon as we find out about registration Stella hopes many will plan to go.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEETING: Thursday, 6/23 at Saint Mary's Catholic Church, - Allen Smith speaking on EAB at 7 p.m., would be AT.

BOOKS FOR SALE: 2016 class members using uncorrected proof, so if any of you want one is new book and doesn't have index, will be \$10 per copy.

NEW PROJECTS: Executive board met and we're reminded that there is a form to fill out for new project proposals, Michael to make one change and it will go live and is on the website.

OCTOBER POSSIBLE EVENT: Group discussed possibility of renting large movie screen to have outdoor movie, "Something in the Woods" that was filmed at Tom's place. Could watch at refuge, set up telescope and project moon and stars, October 8th is a Saturday. Usually \$2,000, getting a reduced price and Friends of Refuge would go in half. Becky suggested "Drive-in Moonvie", could pass out recruitment materials, possibly make a little video of what we do. Becky motioned for vote, Sue seconded, unanimously approved to move ahead and investigate possibility.

OFFICERS: Per Stella, begin thinking about this. Elections will be in October with installation at November meeting, awards ceremony, family social. Should have slate to you by end of October. Betty is stepping down as new class director, Jill is considering and would like a team member in that respect.

2016 CLASS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Asked Marge to be rep so she will be meeting with others quarterly.

2017 CLASS: Will try to recruit for 2017, classes will start in Jan., beat the bushes to bring on board. Reminded to take as many pictures and videos of things we do and send to Michael, we need more before, during, and after on projects to use for recruitment. This is an area where we could improve.

OPPORTUNITY AT COLLINS ACADEMY: Libby is leaving, should we do something for her? Last day end of June, grant winding down. Ideas - Caddo Lake book, or price of membership to TMN were suggestions.

WORK DAY: Saturday 6/18, per Vanessa, signage needs cleaning. Stella will pick a day and send an email, student staying at classroom and Vanessa advised about keys. Vanessa says keep in mind maintaining paddling trails necessary, by next meeting could make progress.

ADVANCED TRAINING: Stella conducted a very informative presentation about wildflowers, focusing on bluebonnets and others.

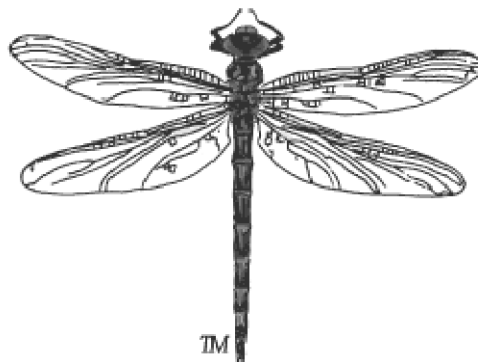
ADJOURNMENT: at 7:45 p.m.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: 1.0 hour

ADVANCED TRAINING: .25

PLUS YOUR TRAVEL:

Submitted by Kristi Thomas, Secretary

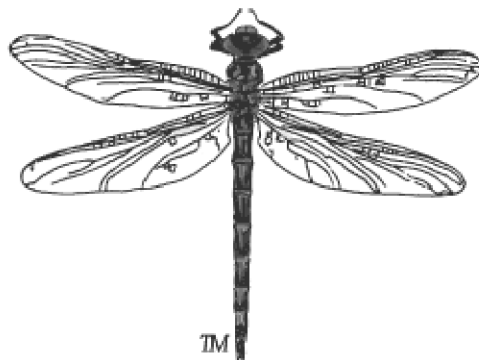


Financial Report for June 2016

Submitted by Charles Gillis, Treasurer

Beginning Bank Balance 06/01/16		\$8,274.85
Less: Expenses		
AgriLife supplies	\$ 264.79	
Training Material	19.64	
New Class Expense	102.42	
Sponsor Annual Meeting	<u>250.00</u>	<u>-636.85</u>
<u>Ending Bank Balance, 06/30/16</u>		<u>\$7,638.00</u>
Dedicated Funds – Regatta	\$3,191.28	
Undedicated Funds	<u>4,446.72</u>	
Ending Bank Balance, 06/30/16		<u>\$7,638.00</u>
Less: Outstanding Checks		
AgLife Supplies		-112.86
Available Balance		<u>\$7,525.14</u>

Note: Some of the AgriLife Supplies expenses were for items for members and the chapter will be reimbursed.



Financial Report for July 2016

Submitted by Charles Gillis, Treasurer

Beginning Bank Balance 07/01/16	\$7,638.00
Less: Expenses	
Training Material/Curriculum	\$745.64

Ending Bank Balance, 07/29/16 \$6,892.36

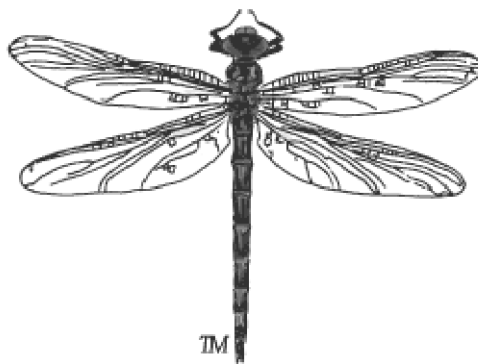
Dedicated Funds – Regatta	\$3,191.28
Undedicated Funds	<u>3,701.08</u>

Ending Bank Balance, 07/29/16 \$6,892.36

Less: Outstanding Checks	
AgriLife Supplies	-112.86

Available Balance \$6,779.50

Note: Some of the AgriLife Supplies expenses were for items for members and the chapter will be reimbursed.



After Discovery of Emerald Ash Borers, Harrison County is Placed Under Quarantine

On April 29, 2016, four adult emerald ash borer (EAB) (*Agrilus planipennis*) males were discovered in a trap 1.5 miles north of Leigh in Harrison County. Because of the potential for devastating damage to ash trees in the state posed by EAB, the United States Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) have placed the entirety of Harrison County under quarantine. This action has been taken to prevent the spread of EAB.

The quarantine under TDA is an emergency temporary quarantine that expires October 27, 2016, unless renewed or replaced by permanent quarantine regulations.

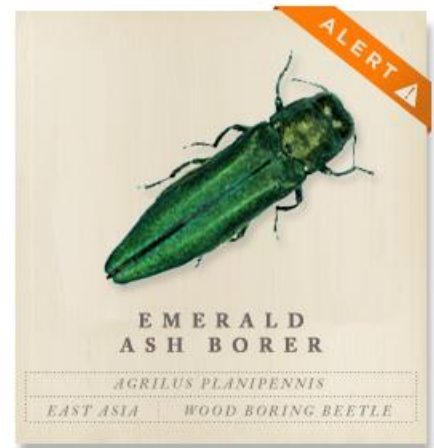
The quarantine means that specific items are prohibited from being transported from Harrison County; specifically, the interstate (APHIS - 7 CFR 301.53-3) and intrastate (TDA - Texas Agriculture Code, §71.0092) movement of the following:

"(1) The emerald ash borer; firewood of all hardwood (non-coniferous) species; nursery stock, green lumber, and other material living, dead, cut, or fallen, including logs, stumps, roots, branches, and composted and uncomposted chips of the genus *Fraxinus*.

(2) Any other article, product, or means of conveyance not listed in paragraph (1) of this section may be designated as a regulated article if an inspector determines that it presents a risk of spreading emerald ash borer and the inspector notifies the person in possession of the article, product, or means of conveyance that it is subject to this subchapter.

A regulated article moved in violation of a requirement or restriction in this subchapter shall be seized and may be destroyed, with all associated costs being the responsibility of the owner of the regulated article pursuant to §71.009 of the Texas Agriculture Code."

Note that there are 41 nurseries, including four nursery plant growers, in Harrison County, Texas.



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

By Laura Clark

Posted on Wednesday, 23 March 2016



In June of 2015, Governor Greg Abbott signed a resolution designating Jasper, Texas as the Butterfly Capital of Texas. Although the resolution was passed because of the community's efforts to help conserve the Monarch Butterfly, which passes through Jasper as one of the three major flyways for migration in the Fall, the resolution designated Jasper as the Butterfly Capital — not the Monarch Capital — of Texas.

The Monarch is stunning, and important — it's been designated as the State Insect of Texas. But since we are simply the Butterfly Capital, I think we should capitalize on some of the other gorgeous species that are indigenous to our Deep East Texas county.

By far the most stunning, in my opinion, is the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, scientifically known as *Papilio glaucus*. Black tiger stripes on its forewings makes the common name easy to remember when you see it gathering nectar Spring through Fall, with a preference for red and pink flowers.

The Eastern Tiger Swallowtail can be seen throughout Eastern North America, and utilizes a number of host plants. Two of those hosts are very common in Jasper County — Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*) and Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*). They lay their eggs on the leaves of these host plants, and the caterpillar eats the leaves before that magical transformation into a butterfly.

If you want to see more of these beautiful butterflies in East Texas, learn to recognize these common native plants and help preserve them. The Sweetbay Magnolia produces a flower shaped like that of its cousin, the Southern Magnolia, and while it isn't as large, I think it is just as beautiful. They are small trees, evergreen in our hardiness zone, and make nice ornamentals, with cones of red berries in the Fall.

The Black Cherry produces very inconspicuous white blooms which you will miss unless you're really paying attention in the Spring. But it's a beautiful tree with very distinctive and interesting bark, which I've heard was used by some of the old timers to make cough medicine. It also produces tiny cherries, which are usually consumed by birds as soon as they start to ripen.

***Reprinted from East Texas Naturalists Blog**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 8: Cypress Basin Chapter Monthly Meeting 6:30 p.m.

August 13: Saturday Work Day at Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge 8 a.m.

October 21-23: Annual TMN State Meeting, Montgomery

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

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.