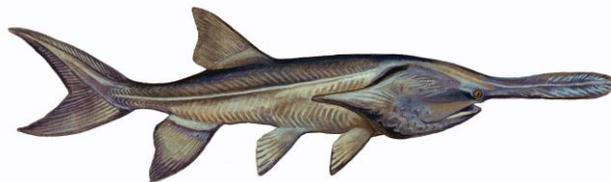




THE PADDLEFISH



Briefings from Becky

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Valentine’s Day is just around the corner. Certainly “What the World Needs Now is Love Sweet Love”. As Master Naturalists, we can share with others our love of nature and especially our amazing Caddo Lake area. We are actually loving others by giving them the opportunities to enjoy and appreciate what we all enjoy...the peace, the beauty, the diversity of Caddo Lake, Cypress Basin, and this special corner of Texas.

In January we “shared the love” of nature with our new training class. Our hardworking director, Jill Wright, did an amazing job as did the presenters she recruited. To Jill, the presenters and those who hosted, “Thanks for sharing the love of nature”

The *Jefferson Jimplecute* “shared the love” of Caddo through some excellent articles in the last month.

On January 17, in his “From the Pressbox” column, Charlie Chitwood describes his love of paddling Caddo Lake. He writes of critters, currents, paddling safety and caring for the waters we use. “The Waterways of the world have always had some form and number of mankind either on them or next to them. They’re all more attractive when they’re not junked up. If you partake of the waters, help keep’em clean!” Good way to “share the love”, Charlie.

On January 31, Bob Palmer’s article “Beauty of Local Treasure Attracts National, Local Photographers” opens with a narrative of Dallas-based videographer, Scot Miller, experiencing and filming Caddo Lake. His experience was seen across the country on CBS Sunday Morning News with an introduction by host Jane Pauley. The *Jimplecute* also interviewed local photographers Hollis Shadden and OUR OWN HATTIE HACKLER! The article included one of Hattie’s beautiful photos of Caddo. Hattie’s love for Caddo is expressed not just in her photos but in her comments found in the article. “Caddo is hauntingly beautiful” Hattie mentions the sense of peace one can get on Caddo and its uniqueness among ecosystems of the world. She reminisces about her childhood experiences on Caddo and says, “Caddo has never disappointed me.” Thanks for sharing the love, Hattie.

Caddo Lake was recently featured in a segment on NatGeo channel with a piece on the Salvinia control efforts at the lake. Thank you to Caddo BioControl, CBTMN, Greater Caddo Lake Association, Caddo Lake Institute and others who care for and share their love of Caddo.

We’ll be emailing directions for our Mon, Feb 11 meeting at the Texas AgriLife Extension Office in Kellyville . See ya’ll then.

Becky

2019 Meeting Dates

- Jan 14
- Feb 11
- Mar 11
- Apr 08
- May 13
- Jun 10
- July 08
- Aug 12
- Sep 09
- Oct 14
- Nov 11

CBTMN Meeting Minutes January 14, 2019

1. Becky called to order at 6:35 p.m. — brief explanation of meeting location change. Danielle from Tourism office had notified they would be charging \$100 per meeting (discount rate for NP) and since Brandon (interim at CLSP) had offered we took them up on offer this time. Won't be permanent fix, investigating options.
2. Roll call by SIGN-IN SHEET; Sign ups also to host Training Classes
3. Questions about Nov minutes? Approval? Unanimously approved.
4. Treasurer's Report? Charles Gillis went over annual financial report, copy in newsletter. \$2,000 - \$3,000 in operating expenses each year. Taking dues, will bring receipts next meeting and have them on a table at door, too many folks to try to hand out tonight.
5. Newsletter/Publicity — Tami White, Rayla Dickinson will be working together, we need more publicity on all that we do. Just snap pic as things happen, caption it, and send it to Tami or Rayla. Need more of this kind of thing all along instead of just at big events.
 - a. deadlines, format, etc.
 - b. pictures, pictures with good metadata
6. Volunteer Time/Advanced Training Time Linda wasn't at meeting, Becky went over criteria, said to shoot Linda a message with questions as volunteer projects can be confusing. Bottom line if you have 8 hours of AT and do more, some of that can count as volunteer hours.
7. Volunteer Opportunities/New and Ongoing Projects
 - a. Weevil Wrangling — Laura Speight appreciates what we do and can't do what they do without us. Trying to find ways to work better, will start having a Sat. workday every month, get FB page. Passing sign-up sheet, can send group email and streamline. Smaller releases, more often, maybe every other Tues. and at least one on weekend. Ideas - jars for donations, being tested now. Weevil Wobble 5K at Shady Glade area, possibly in October, microbreweries involved, could be big fundraiser.
 - b. Great Texas Birding Classic 2019 — Vanessa Neace detailed and passed a sign-up sheet around for interest, will get more info, answer questions. Low attendance rate in our area so good opportunity and lots of fun, helps learn.
 - c. Fred Dahmer Project — Explained slide conversion project, needs to be digitized. More will be known about quality, content, quantity - email Pat Sawyer when find out how many
 - d. NFWF Grant update — Ted Barrow, Charles Gillis, Pete Wright — not much to report, loggers have been in and so wet.
 - e. new walking trail — Ted Barrow, Charles Gillis, Todd Dickinson - same as above.
 - f. Boat Road Markers and Paddle Trail Markers Update — Ted and Vanessa introduced Molly Sullivan and her mom Paula Tefteller from Gilmer. Molly is doing her Gold Scout project by restoring/adding paddle trail markers. Met with board before meeting. Vanessa suggested bigger signage and marking trailheads with "start here". Kristi will be mentoring and point of contact for questions, etc.
 - g. New Training Class — Jill Wright, Susan Sedberry - have eleven as of today, with shutdown not sure how all will work but it will work out. Will be on website and newsletter. Per Jill, 60-75% are the same presenters, good news is you can count as AT even if you saw the same presenter last year. Signup sheets for hosts, be sure to come out and support the new group.
 - h. Flotilla April 27 Ted Barrow - Stella not here, she took pics of a bean bag toss, has idea for "weevil bag toss" at Flotilla, more to come.
 - i. State Park Opportunities — Caroline and Barry Hughes detailed how much fun to help Kelsey and others at CLSP during spring break, they get slammed.
 - j. Lake O' the Pines — Stacey Coester at LOP may have opportunities in spring on LOP to help.
8. Next OUTREACH: March Paddling day at CLWMA — Vanessa Neace and Kristi Thomas - possibly could have 3/9.
9. Update on permit requirements at our public lands - each paddler over age of 17 must have LPU permit, Vanessa explained the diff between LPU and APH. Decided will require more discussion in light of the fact that on NWR will require permits, not sure how all of this will work.
10. Quarterly Potluck and Advance Training. "Mammals"
 - a. Presentations will be limited to 1 hour including Q & A
 - b. Ideas for presenters? Becky informed to be thinking about.
11. FUTURE:
 - a. PROJECT TRAINING: ViAnn Sawyer and Betty Morgan, other types?
 - b. Ongoing considerations: IDEAS? Fund Raising? Varied outreach activities at CLNWR, State Park, WMA (small events; paddling trail hosts/guides, improved publicity about what we can do for schools, churches
12. Other participation, sharing, support opportunities
 - a. REMEMBER: You can ask for photos, articles, relevant announcements to be placed on FB and website -- for now you would submit to cypressbasintmn.org so leadership board can review; Tami White maintains FB and website, Tami White and Rayla Dickinson will be doing newsletter together.
 - b. Members:
 1. submit articles from other sources, original work
 2. Observations, journal excerpts, poems, photos.
 3. PLEASE email content to
 - a. Tami and/or Rayla or
 - b. cypressbasintmn@gmail or
 4. to one of the leadership board
13. Anything else? Charles made a plea for help for the Friends of Caddo Lake association, has no operating board, need a PI person, someone to handle membership. Several members of TMN who are members of Friends said they never receive meeting notices, sporadic. Part of Problem. As it dovetails nicely with all we do at CBTMN, Charles asked for members to give thought because we really don't want to let this organization die. Just received \$10,000 Donation, has funds, just need leadership.

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Financial Report for January 31, 2019

*"It is time to pay
2019 dues -
\$25 per
individual or
\$40 per couple.*

*You can mail
dues to Charles
Gillis, 709 Lovely
Road Marshall,
TX 75672 or pay
at monthly
meeting.*

*Checks can be
made to CBTMN."*

Beginning Bank Balance, 12/31/2018		\$10,733.12
Add Deposits:	New Class Registration	\$990.00
	Member Dues	<u>570.00</u>
		1,560.00
Less Expenses:	Speaker Appreciation	50.00
	Kitchen Supplies-coffee pot	<u>50.38</u>
		-100.38
Ending Bank Balance, 31/31/2019		<u>\$12,192.74</u>
.....		
	Flotilla Funds ¹	\$8,462.99 ²
	General Funds	<u>3,729.75</u>
		<u>\$12,192.74</u>
.....		

Notes: 1. For clarification Flotilla Funds, unless specified otherwise by a donor, are for general maintenance of paddling trails and other support of Caddo Lake that enhances recreation and health of the lake.
2. During end of year review, \$95.44 was recharacterized as not being Flotilla items and was moved from Flotilla to General Fund.

Charles Gillis
Charles Gillis
Treasurer

2019 Annual Flotilla

Hope you have saved the date! It will be at Shady Glade RV Park & Resort again. (Need to give them real credit this year).
I'd like to add one or two kid friendly activities. What can you do?

1. START LOOKING FOR SPONSORS RIGHT AWAY.
2. Paint a canoe.
3. Paint a Bean Bag Toss board. Butterflies, birds, turtles, etc. I have picture examples.
4. Sew some "cutie pie" bean bags. Butterflies, birds, turtles, bunnies, etc. See me for size details.
5. Different focus on silent auction and drawings this year.
 - a. Would like several really nice large items for both instead of so many smaller items.
 - b. We got feedback from last year. So, if you can gather some items, let me know. We can talk.



More info after we have a couple of organizational meetings.
THANKS EVERYONE! Bigger and Better!!
Stella

Meet the 2019 TX Master Naturalist Trainees

Upcoming Events:

- Feb 11 Monthly Meeting
- Feb 16 Work Day
- TMN Trainee Training Days: Jan 25-26, Feb 22-23, Mar 22-23, Apr 12-13
- Mar 11 Monthly Meeting
- Mar 16 Work Day
- April 27 Annual Flotilla



(not in order) Dave and Liz Avis, Marianna DiGiammo, Nancy Gordon, Patsy Lancaster, Brinda Mandella, Rod and Greta Wright, Thelma Woodruff, Darryl Shuler, James Tatum

Upcoming Training Schedule

Friday, February 22 6-9pm Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge – Admin. Bldg.**
6-8:30 pm Ornithology (Unit 12), Land Stewardship (Unit 1) – Vanessa Neace, TPWD
8:30-9 pm Trainee Informational Tidbits

Saturday, February 23 8:30am-5pm Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge – Admin. Bldg.**
9am-12pm Laws & Ethics/Volunteers as Teachers/Citizen Science (Units 22-24) – Boyd Sanders, TPWD, Tyler State Park
1-5pm Archaeology (Unit 2)/Geology & Soils (Unit 7) – Todd McMakin, Sr. Archaeologist and owner, Stone Point Services, Inc. Tyler, TX

***Be prepared for outside field study (closed-toe shoes/comfortable clothing/hat/gloves/coat). We will provide sunscreen and bug repellent when needed. Please bring sack lunch for all Saturdays, except on April 13th.**

Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge Address: 15600 Hwy 134 Karnack, TX

****This location may change-we will update as necessary**

**We need hosts and members to bring food items for training days!
 Signup Sheets will be circulating at monthly meeting.**

Can be counted as Volunteer Time!

2019 Training Class Update!

We kicked off our 2019 training Year with eleven new enthusiastic trainees for our first weekend of training on January 25-26. Thankfully, despite the government shutdown, we were able to relocate our Saturday training site from the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, to the meeting room at the Lake O' the Pines US Army Corps of Engineers Project Office, thanks to the wonderful generosity of Ricky Maxey and the staff there.

Thanks also goes to Gary Endsley and Collins Academy for the use of their meeting room and computer room, for our Friday night training on January 25. Becky deftly navigated our trainees through orientation, and the intricacies of the taxonomic system, while Linda introduced them to VMS and got them swiftly up to speed on the use of the system for inputting volunteer hours.

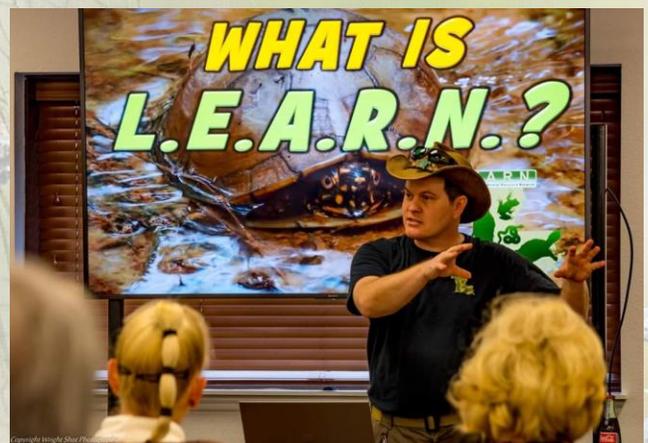
Saturday morning, we were bright eyed and bushy-tailed and kicked off a full day of class with terrific presenters. Penny Wilkerson, Wildlife Ecologist/Biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept, returned to enthusiastically present on Texas Ecosystems and Ecological Regions. Our afternoon was filled with all kinds of herps, when Micha Petty from Louisiana Exotic Animal Resource Network in Elm Grove presented a terrific class on herpetology. Visiting with him, were several crawling critters, from box turtles and red sliders, to hog-nosed snakes and salamanders. Penny and Micha were both a wealth of information and knowledge! I would say we were all challenged to appreciate the importance of these unique and vital animals to the health of our ecosystems!

This month, our initial training continues, as we meet again on February 22-23. Topics this month include Ornithology and Land Stewardship on Friday, February 22, with our own advisor, Vanessa Neace with TPWD, followed by Volunteers as Teachers/Citizen Science/Laws and Ethics presented by Boyd Sanders of Tyler State Park on Saturday morning, February 23, and Archaeology on Saturday afternoon, presented by Todd McMakin of StonePointServices in Tyler. All these presenters are terrific at what they do, and our trainees and members alike always enjoy what we learn from them. Stay tuned for information about where our training site will be, as the US government shutdown may very well impact our location again this month. Special thanks go to all our members who acted as hosts in January, and brought WONDERFUL foods, snacks, appetizers and desserts Friday evening and Saturday. If I have forgotten someone, please accept my apologies!

Barry and Caroline Hughes, Kristi Thomas, Dudley Swofford, Phyllis Wilson, David and Vicki Gilliland, Carol Fox, Susan Sedberry, Kim Delony, Carl and Diane Turner, Sandra Hooker and Tammi White.



Penny Wilkerson, Wildlife Ecologist/Biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept, returned to enthusiastically present on Texas Ecosystems and Ecological Regions.



Micha Petty from Louisiana Exotic Animal Resource Network in Elm Grove presented a terrific class on herpetology.

Volunteer Opportunities

OFFICERS:

Becky Gullette
President

Susan Sedberry
Vice President

Kristi Thomas
Secretary

Charles Gillis
Treasurer

Jill Wright
New Class Director

Barry & Caroline
Hughes
2018 Class Rep.

Linda Richtsmeier
Membership Director

Vanessa Adams Neace
Advisor

Doug Weir
Advisor

Texas Stream water Quality trainings

Delores Mccright will be doing several Texas Stream water Quality trainings this Spring. If anybody is interested, contact her at Delores.Mccright@gmail.com. She doesn't have dates yet, but they will be on Fridays or Saturdays. Trainings will be at Texarkana College, Paris Junior College, Greenville campus for PJC and Texas A & M-Commerce.

TPWD Spring 2019 Volunteer Opportunities

No experience necessary – just follow the links below to sign up:

- Texas-National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) State Tournament in Belton on 28-29 March. [2019 NASP Tourney Volunteer Link](#)
- Get Outside at the Baytown Nurture Nature Festival on 13 April. [Baytown Nurture Nature Volunteer Link](#)
- Get Outside at ¡Fiesta de los Niños! in San Antonio on 20 April. [¡Fiesta de los Niños! Volunteer Link](#)
- Get Outside at Mayfest in Ft. Worth on 4-5 May. [Mayfest Volunteer Link](#)

CBTMN To Assist Molly with Gold Award Project

Members of the board met with Molly Sullivan and her mom Paula Tefteller before the monthly meeting on January 14th to discuss and review her proposed Gold Award Project, which would replace and add paddle trail markers to areas where they are needed. Molly is raising funds for this endeavor and plans to attend the Flotilla with other girls from her troop, possibly setting up a booth or providing some information about her project. Kristi Thomas has agreed to support Molly as her Project Advisor and will act as a go-between as she needs information and guidance.

