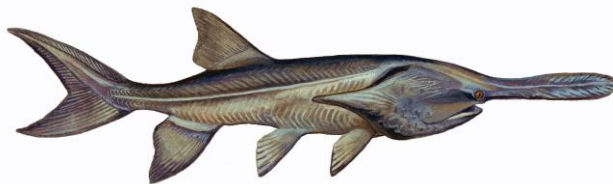




THE PADDLEFISH



Briefings from Becky

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I hope you are enjoying the beautiful spring we are having! We love the colorful blooms we are beginning to see; pinks, whites, yellows, purples, blues.... but I offer you this challenge: See how many shades of green you can count! Don't get distracted while driving, but if you can stop the car for a bit or better yet, get out and walk; you will see amazing greens all around. I thought my male holly had yellow reproductive structures, but they were really yellow green. I've been blown away by the green beauty I've seen on my trips to and from Caddo! Even in my neighborhood, I am amazed by the variety of green from different species, different leaf ages, and differing amounts of light and shade.

A lot of you have been working on school and city pollinator gardens, Flotilla planning, field trips at the park, work at the refuge, and training. BUT please read the newsletter and emails carefully! There are lots of volunteer opportunities rapidly approaching that will give you more chances to enjoy the spring green as we learn and share!

See you April 08, 6:30pm at Kellyville for our next meeting.
Becky

2019 Meeting Dates

Apr 08
May 13
Jun 10
July 08
Aug 12
Sep 09
Oct 14
Nov 11

VMS Change - The 45 Day Rule

TPWD is now enforcing the 45-day rule for admins as well as volunteers. All hours must be inputted within 45 days after earning them. Linda can no longer enter them for you past this date. The chapter president can request a change/ addition via a help desk ticket after vetting by the chapter board. These requests should be a rare occurrence and only happen given extenuating circumstances (hospitalization, family emergencies, etc.). The board will be discussing a shorter deadline so that in case of problems with the entries there will still be time to correct them. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Linda Richtsmeier or any of the chapter board members.

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Minutes from March 11, 2019

1. Call meeting to order — Becky said grace at 6:00 before potluck. AT Presentation “Virginia Opossum, North America’s Only Marsupial” by Vanessa Neace started at 6:30Vanessa presented until 7:10 AT (45 minutes)
2. Roll call by SIGN-IN SHEET – Sign-up sheets for hosting Training Classes;
3. Questions about Feb minutes? Approval? Kristi Thomas no questions.
4. Treasurer’s Report? Charles Gillis Charles asked us to take a look at note in newsletter about Amazon Smiles.
5. Newsletter/Publicity — Tami White, Rayla Dickinson Way to go Tammi! She said she can use ideas, submissions, pictures, etc., especially with summer coming up.
6. Volunteer Opportunities/New and Ongoing Projects
 - 1) State Park Opportunities — Kelsey Johnson - Becky encourages all to do one of two things - either take some of the programs as advanced training or tell her you want to go volunteer at the park. She has some great programs. Pollinator Pals program is going on this week, is combo with TPWD at Port Jefferson nature trail. Latter part of March and April there will be field trips at state park and WMA.
 - 2) Great Texas Birding Classic 2019 — Vanessa Neace - still not too late for groups. Last day of sign-up is April 1. Thought about state park team, can only be 3-5 people. Go to website or call her if questions.
 - 3) Fred Dahmer Project — Vanessa Neace - Fred has three daughters, has slides of Caddo Lake and she wants to get something done with these. Can digitize and he has audio tape dubbed to slides. Called around to try to find funds, GCLA and Laura-Ashley Overdyke and Robert Speight will be most interested. Moving forward. Hattie mentioned Jefferson Museum might also be interested in housing.
 - 4) NFWF Grant update — Ted Barrow, Pete Wright, Charles Gillis Waiting for weather to get better.
 - 5) New walking trail update – Ted Barrow, Charles Gillis, Todd Dickinson - same waiting on weather.
 - 6) Boat Road Markers and Paddle Trail Markers Update — Stella or Ted
 - 7) New Training Class — Jill Wright, Susan Sedberry - thanked trainees for coming. March training is coming up back at refuge.
 - 8) Flotilla April 27 Stella Barrow Flotilla Update - 88 are pre-registered. Doesn’t close until the 3/24. 7th Annual Earth Day Flotilla. Has grown exponentially. Stella has flyers to pass out to be distributed. Has tumbler might have sticker with logo and have them made. She will get one made and bring it to April meeting.
 - 9) Reports from participants in recent activities (Jesse Wise Garden Club,
 - i) JISD Pollinator Pals, Hughes Springs, anything else I missed. Pam spoke at Garden Club, went well. Remember you can do presentation and that will be volunteer time. Hughes Springs is doing pollinator pals too. Some of the new members showed the items they made with the kids. Try more to get pictures and send to media, etc., and that is a perfect example of how many kiddos they have touched.
 - ii) j. Cookbook? Caroline Hughes - Tammi said twelve people have responded, 80% says do it, would spend \$12, and 100% says they would give recipes. Please go to the link and give an opinion. Caroline said will have to be more simplistic version of what she envisioned at first. Could have reflections or photos on divider pages, just wouldn’t be super professional. Chamber and tourism center want pictures, etc., remember that.
- 10) Upcoming Field Trips
 - a) Weds. March 13th Gregg County AgriLife on Insects.
 - b) Field trip to Neches River National Wildlife Refuge by Tyler Audubon next Saturday.
 - c) March 21st at 6:00p.m. Friends of NWR, all invited. Doug Weir is having water well testing. He will pick up container here, having it in Linden.
 - d) FUTURE:
 - i) PROJECT TRAINING: ViAnn Sawyer and Betty Morgan, other types?
 - ii) Training in Ranger Kelsey’s Interpretive Programs
- 11) Anything else?
- 12) Closing – Round off to 8:00 and add volunteer time. Adjourned at 7:53.

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

Amazon Smile

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you need to select Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalist to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

Beginning Bank Balance, 02/28/2019		\$12,446.41
Add Deposits:	Annual Dues. B 50.00	
Less Expenses:	New Class Expense \$ -154.81	<u>-104.81</u>
Ending Balance, 03/31/2019		<u>\$12,341.60</u>
	Flotilla Funds	\$7,890.16
	General Funds	<u>4,451.44</u>
		<u>\$12,341.60</u>

Notes: 1. Did you know that Amazon contributes to non-profit organizations such as ours? A percentage of your purchases can be given to an activity of your choice at no cost to you. Our chapter has received \$108.76 since we registered with Amazon. If you purchase from Amazon and have not selected a recipient, please consider our chapter. It's easy- just go to <http://smile.amazon.com/about> for instructions.

2. We still have a few 2019 outstanding dues. You can mail to Charles Gillis, 709 Lovely Road, Marshall, TX 75672, or see me at the next meeting.

~ Charles Gillis, Treasurer

2019 Annual Flotilla Update

Well, ladies and gents, this thing is growing and growing. As of this writing, 3/25/2019 we have 140 paddlers registered. This time last year we had 75 and then another 25 or so showed up the day of the event. HUGE, I tell you, HUGE!

We have PADDLEFISH sponsorships (\$100-\$200+) committed from Bass Pro Shop-Bossier City, Russell and Scarlet Raborn, Greater Caddo Lake Association, The City of Uncertain, Regina Adams to honor her mom and our member, Pam Adams (how awesome!), Caddo Lake Cabins (Jay and Patti Webb), Friends of Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

At the BREAM level (\$50-\$100) we have one from John Fortune. Sponsorships are VERY important. This year since our participants have doubled. If you know someone or a company that would like to sponsor, please let me know. We can take sponsorships until April 12th.

Will definitely need your help as a volunteer on Friday evening, 4/26 to set up the event and then on Saturday, 4/27 to help with parking, directing traffic, answering questions, "manning" the launch sites, food preparation, kid's activities, silent auction and raffle ticket sales, and then of course, clean up. We do have a small celebration after the event so hang around for that.

If you took a small canoe, a gecko or an alligator to decorate, will you please bring those to the monthly meeting on 4/8 or to the last day of training for the awesome 2019 class on 4/13? These are SO popular with the return paddlers. OH – please ensure that you put 2019 somewhere on the canoe, gecko or alligator.

THANKS EVERYONE! Call me if you have questions.
Stella Barrow, Event Chair 903-736-30763



Upcoming Events:

- Apr 8 Monthly Meeting
- Apr 13 Work Day
- TMN Trainee Training Apr 12-13
- April 27 Annual Flotilla

CHAPTER PICNIC – SATURDAY, APRIL 13th – 12 PM

Our final initial training weekend is fast approaching on April 12-13. Chapter Members: **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!** We need hosts to bring dinner/dessert foods for Friday, evening, April 12th, and breakfast foods for Saturday morning, April 13th.



ALSO – our trainee picnic will be held from 12-1:15 pm on Saturday, April 13th at the Visitor Center Pavilion at the Wildlife Refuge. All are welcome and encouraged to cheer on our newest members. Our chapter will provide burgers/hot dogs and veggie burgers, but we need our chapter members to sign up to bring some side dishes. If you can help with any of these food needs on April 12-13, please email Susan Sedberry and let her know. Susan's email: wssedberry@sbcglobal.net She and I will be most grateful for your help! We will also send a sign-up sheet around at our April chapter meeting on April 8th.

- Jill

Last Trainee Training Schedule

Friday, April 12 6-9pm Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge – Admin. Bldg.**

6-8:30pm Water Resources of Texas (Unit 9) – Dr. Roy Darville, Professor, ETBU

8:30-9pm Trainee Informational Tidbits

Saturday, April 13 8:30am-5pm Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge – Admin. Bldg.**

9am-12pm Forest Ecology/Mgmt; Wetland Ecology/Mgmt (Units 17,19) – Dr. Marnie Erin, CEO – EcoVerdant, Inc. Tyler, TX, Research Asst. Professor, UT/Tyler

12-1:15pm Picnic at Visitor Center

1:15-3:45 Plants (Unit 11) – Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Professor, TX A&M AgriLife Research

4-5pm Weather & Climate (Unit 8)

***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

Please share pictures and updates of any presentations, field trips, etc that is going on! We also can use interesting articles you come across. You can email them to cypressbasintmn@gmail.com

2019 Training Class Update!

From Your Training Director:

Lions(fishes), and Tigers (mosquitoes), and Bears – oh, my!! What a host of amazing creatures we covered in our third weekend of initial training for our 11 trainees on March 22-23. Friday evening, we enjoyed a presentation by Ricky Maxey on Mammalogy. From armadillos to white-tailed deer, to mountain lions, to Brazilian free-tailed bats to black bears and everything in between, we discussed the bountiful diversity of mammals in our state and in the Piney Woods region that we call home.

Saturday morning brought us a class on Ichthyology with Tim Bister and his associate, Margaret, from the Fisheries Division of TPWD. We have a great class of trainees who aren't afraid to get their hands on and identify the fishes provided, using a dichotomous key. Locating and removing otoliths (small fish earbones) for age identification was a task the trainees were up for, and they did a great job with the use of a microscope provided.

Dr. Tony Bosworth returned on Saturday afternoon for a presentation on Entomology. Our trainees enjoyed identifying the arthropods living around the Headquarters Building windows, as well as trying their hand at ground sweeps using the nets Dr. Tony provided to see what they could come up with – such an array of insects and spiders can be found with just a couple quick sweeps of the net! We learned lots about the good that our insects can do, and a little about some of the diseases our arthropods can carry. Even the fire ant has beneficial traits!

Once again, a HUGE shoutout to Susan and her crew of hosts who outdid themselves with delicious and nutritious foods for our trainees on Friday evening and Saturday morning. We so appreciate all of you for your volunteer time to provide our trainees with such gastrological delights! Those contributing: Diane & Carl, Sue, Sandra, Barry & Caroline, Stella, Kristi, Linda, Phyllis, Kim, Nancy R., Mike and Thelma, Sue & Steve. Special thank you's also to Pete for his help with photographing the weekend's activities and helping with set up and clean up, along with Steve, Barry and Ted. We can't do this without all of you!



Ricky Maxey, Army Corps of Engineers, Lake O' the Pines engaged the trainees on a Mammalogy class.



Tim Bister from the Fisheries Division of TPWD shared with trainees how to identify different fish using a dichotomous key.



Dr. Tony Bosworth showed the trainees how to use a net to do a ground sweep to see what arthropods they could come up with.



Margaret Stadig, from the Fisheries Division of TPWD, taught an outstanding class on ichthyology with Tim Bister.

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



Join the Bird Herd!

Looking for volunteers to help maintain the bird blinds at the refuge. As part of the blinds there is a need for the birds to be fed! If you would be interested in being part of the team to rotate and keep the feeders filled, please contact Stella,

Feeding the birds

Spring is one of the most beautiful times of the year in East Texas. The flowers and trees delight us with their happy colors, ushering in a new season of growth. The birds that enjoy these plants enhance our yards and gardens with their bright colors and song. Many gardeners work to enhance their yard's visitors by providing them with feeders. The feeders themselves can be a visual enhancement to yards and gardens and provide birds with a reason to pay your yard more visits.

When selecting a bird feeder for your yard or garden, you need to make sure that you are selecting one that will be able to keep the seed you put out for the birds clean and dry. There are tall feeders, short feeders, and many in between. The sky is the limit when selecting one for your own enjoyment. Many birds prefer to eat from a perch, so providing a space for them to do so will be beneficial. Hummingbirds feed while in flight, so feeders designed for them do not need a perch.

When selecting what type of feed to use for the bird feeder, you need to keep in mind which types of birds you're a working to attract. Black oil sunflower seeds, safflower, millet, and thistle are popular bird seed options, or you can buy a prepackaged mixture. If you are seeking to feed hummingbirds, a simple recipe of 1 part refined sugar to 4 parts boiling water will make them happy. The red dye found in commercial blends is not needed. Keep in mind that if you are trying to attract a rare bird by feeding it you shouldn't. Feeding them will bring them in close contact with humans which will expose them to dangers, as well as inhibit their ability to forage for themselves if they become dependent on humans for food. This will do more harm to these species than good.

Location of your feeder can also have a large impact on your success. Ideally, the feeder will be near nesting sites and structures and have a potable water source.

Used with permission of Jessica Rymel, Cass County AgriLife Extension Agent

Volunteer Opportunities

Spring Field Trips

Tuesday, April 16- 8:30AM- 2PM: JISD HS Horticulture class
Number of Students:

Approximately 25

Location: Caddo Lake WMA and Caddo Lake State Park (1 bus needed; sack lunches)

Details: Mayhaw collecting on foot @ CLWMA with guidance from TPWD Biologists V. Neace & S. Price in the morning; Boater safety and canoeing @ CLSP with Ranger Kelsey in the afternoon

Wednesday, April 17- 8:30AM- 2PM: JISD 7th Grade
Number of Students:

Approximately 50

Location: Caddo Lake WMA and Caddo Lake State Park (1-2 buses needed; sack lunches)

Details: Mayhaw collecting on foot @ CLWMA with guidance from TPWD Biologists V. Neace & S. Price (as available) in morning; Boater safety and canoeing @ CLSP with Ranger Kelsey

Friday, April 19- 8:30AM- 2PM: JISD 7th Grade
Number of Students:

Approximately 50

Location: Caddo Lake WMA and Caddo Lake State Park (1-2 buses needed; sack lunches)

Details: Mayhaw collecting on foot @ CLWMA with guidance from TPWD Biologists V. Neace & S. Price (as available) in morning; Boater safety and canoeing @ CLSP with Ranger Kelsey