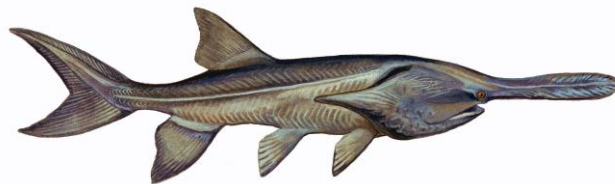




THE PADDLEFISH



Briefings from Becky

Welcome to Cypress Basin TMN 2020!

Thanksgiving fell so late that it seemed like the weeks leading to Christmas were fuller and faster than other years! But now it's time for us to start cranking up for our CBTMN activities. Our next meeting is January 13 at 6:30pm in the AgriLife Extension Building in Kellyville.

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Your leadership board will meet Jan 11 to discuss the upcoming months.

Remember, we currently are not planning a training class this spring. Rather, we hope to do more outreach and more opportunities for our members. We will be looking at AT options to hopefully include some out-of-town field trips as well as maybe making better use of Saturday's for some AT.

Stella's already started thinking and working on the Flotilla (not sure she ever really stops!). We "expanded" our storage at the Refuge and will be looking at what might need to be done with continued organization. It won't be long before hunting will be over at the Refuge and we'll need to start getting back to the trails. Hopefully more of us will be able to do that. Ranger Kelsey at Caddo Lake State Park will have great activities with which we can help. We've got folks who work on public and school native plant gardens and butterfly habitat. We've got Paddling Trails to keep up. And, who knows what other fun stuff we can get into!

Feel free to share ideas with the leadership board.

As we start this New Year, let's not forget those who have lost loved ones. As a chapter we've not only lost our dear Barry Hughes, but you've also received bereavement notices of our members who have lost someone in their family, most recently Dian Mabus and Sheila Ritter. Please keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

Looking forward to seeing
Becky



It is time to pay our 2020 dues - \$25 per individual or \$40 per couple. You can mail dues to Charles Gillis, 709 Lovely Road Marshall, TX 75672, or pay at the monthly meeting. Checks can be made to CBTMN.

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Minutes from November 11, 2019

POTLUCK !!!!!

Meeting called to order at 6:47 pm by Becky Gullett

Roll call by Sign in Sheet

October Minutes – Becky asked if there were any questions about October Minutes. There were none. Minutes approved.

Treasurer Report – Charles presented the Treasurer’s Report. Pointed out that a to CBA will show on the next report as it was sent to us in error.

Cares, Concerns and Joys – Becky shared cares, concerns and joys. Reminded us to give thanks for what we have and it’s enough. She shared that several were not there due to the weather and some were out due to illness so prayers for all. She shared that baby Ruby was doing well. She said we are all a family and interested in knowing each other. That is good.

Updates

- Cookbook Update — Get with Linda if you are still needing or wanting a cookbook.
- VMS — We recently were audited. Get comfortable with VMS and check your logbook and be sure to get your time recorded with in the 45 days allowed.

Ongoing and possible chapter projects:

- Trail maintenance at CLNWR — We will not be having a work day this Saturday due to hunting in the area.
- CLNWR Trail familiarization – Herman advised the group that they have changed the speed limit on the Refuge to 25MPH and will ticket those who are speeding. Becky will be setting a date soon for all that would like to come out and get familiar with the trails. Laura Speight asked who is responsible for interpretative signs as they need to be updated. Her son did the originals for Eagle Scout project. Becky will look into it.
- Weevil Greenhouse – Laura and Hattie shared that the Weevil Wobble brought in approximately \$2200. They recently had a workday and got quite a bit of work done. They also shared that Texas Highways did an article for their November issue.
- Becky shared that we will be relocating Friends “supplies” to Admin Office and reorganizing our resource room storage to use the adjacent room left vacant after moving Friends supplies.

Other volunteer opportunities

- CLSP — Field Trip for Jefferson ISD Fri, Nov 15 – Bodies are needed to help herd kids and AT is available

Awards for certification, recertification, and milestones

- New Certifications: Liz Avis, Brinda Mandella, Thelma Woodruff, and Greta Wright
- Milestone Pins:
 - 250 hours: Lisa Egner, Roger Geiger, Vicki Gilliland, Barry and Carolyn Hughes, Karen Tromza and Tammi White
 - 500 hours: Charles Gillis, Sandy Hooker, Barry and Carolyn Hughes, Steve Sedberry
- Recertification: These will be presented at the January Meeting

2020 Officer Elections were presided over by Past President Stella Barrow. The candidates are:

President: Becky Gullett

Vice President: Susan Sedberry

Treasurer: Charles Gillis

Secretary: Kim Deloney

Motion made by Ted Barrow to accept the proposed slate of officers. Second made by David Gilliland.

Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting January 13, 2020

Meeting was closed at 7:38 pm

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Financial Report for November 1 - December 31, 2019

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Bank Balance, 11/01/2019 | | \$12,006.91 |
| Add Deposits: Memorials - Barry Hughes | 50.00 | |
| Cookbook Sales | 400.00 | |
| Flotilla 2019 | 100.00 | |
| Amazon Smile | <u>12.67</u> | + <u>562.67</u> |
| Less Expenses: Project Wild & Free | 100.00 | |
| November Monthly Meeting | 49.87 | |
| CBA (Note 1) | <u>400.00</u> | - <u>549.87</u> |
| Ending Balance, 12/31/2019 | | <u>\$12,019.71</u> |
| | | |
| | Flotilla Funds \$ 6,056.24 | |
| | General Funds 5,963.47 | <u>\$12,019.71</u> |

Note 1: EventBrite erroneously made a payment to CBTMN for \$400.00 that was actually owed to CBA. We sent payment to CBA for \$400.00.

Cookbook Report

Additional cookbooks were purchased by our Chapter for later sale, speakers, gifts, etc.

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Donations/Sponsorships | \$ 650.00 | |
| Cash Sales | 2,180.00 | |
| Credit Card Sales | 116.76 | |
| Cookbook cost | <u>-1,264.01</u> | |
| Net Gain thus far | | <u>\$ 1,682.75</u> |

~ Charles Gillis Treasurer

Prepare for Cold Weather!

The way to avoid frostbite and hypothermia is to plan for extreme cold before it arrives. Don't get caught unprepared.

- **Check the Forecast at weather.gov or your favorite weather app, station, etc.:** Make checking the forecast part of your regular routine so you'll know when to expect cold weather.
- **Adjust Your Schedule:** If possible, adjust your schedule to avoid being outside during the coldest part of the day, typically the early morning. Try to find a warm spot for your children while waiting for the school bus outside.
- **Protect Your Pets, Livestock and other Property:** If you have pets or farm animals, make sure they have plenty of food and water, and are not overly exposed to extreme cold. Take precautions to ensure your water pipes do not freeze. Know the temperature thresholds of your plants and crops.
- **Fill up the tank:** Make sure your car or vehicle has at least a half a tank of gas during extreme cold situations so that you can stay warm if you become stranded.
- **Dress for the outdoors** even if you don't think you'll be out much.

**2020
Meeting
Dates**

- Jan 13
- Feb 10
- Mar 9
- Apr 13
- May 11
- June 8
- July 13
- Aug 10
- Sept 14
- Oct 12
- Nov 9

2019 CHAPTER AWARDS



New Member Certification - Brinda Mandella and Thelma Woodruff. Not pictured are Liz Avis and Greta Wright



250 Hours Milestone - Tammi White, Roger Geiger and Vicki Gilliland.: Not pictured are Lisa Egner, Barry and Carolyn Hughes and Karen Tromza

**TOP 5 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR A
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST**

1. Remember to report to VMS in 45 days.
2. Learn something new!
3. Travel and visit other Master Naturalists.
4. Attend the 2020 Annual Meeting.
5. Volunteer more and get outside!



500 Hours Milestone - Charles Gillis, Sandra Hooker and Steve Sedberry. Not pictured are Barry and Carolyn Hughes.

Gasps and Excited Eyes

I did the Tenaha/Murvaul Christmas Bird Count on New Year's Day. I'll look it up eventually, but I think I've done this count for most of the last 20-25 years. It was dreary and cold; but then we've had many other times when it was brutally cold. The light wasn't great for discerning field marks especially on shore birds and water birds. My 87-year-old birding partner and I both had some mobility issues. We had some mechanical problems with spotting scopes. We didn't get nearly as many birds as we usually do. But as we drove back to Carthage in the cold and dark, we started talking about how excited we got when we finally got a bird on our list that normally would have been easy to find. Many times, during the day, one or the other of us would gasp and the partner would say, what are you seeing? We would look at each other with excited eyes and smile on our faces because of what our avian friends were doing or because we finally found that bird.

Why would we get so excited about a robin? Well, we went for hours without seeing one. Then we saw a flock of about 90! We got excited about the 2 phoebes we saw. I could go on... but you get the point. We got excited about finding a bird that was common because we wanted to get it on our list. Let every day be a day when you can get excited, achieve peace, put a smile on your face because you see, you hear, you smell, you touch, you simply absorb the beauty and intrigue of nature around you.

~ Submitted by Becky Gullette

Chapter Survey

Please help us as we begin strategically looking at our Chapter in the next year. Please answer the following questions and bring to the January 13 meeting. You do not have to put your name on it.

Why did you want to become a Master Naturalist?

How are you using your training?

Where do you do most of your volunteering?

What has surprised you most about the Master Naturalist program?

What type of activities would you be interested in participating in?

What type of activities would you be interested in leading others in?

What topics would you like to see advanced training on?

Would you be interested in taking a leadership (officer) role?

How can the Chapter help you?

Anything else that you can think that might help with planning please add here.

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

OFFICERS:

- Becky Gullette
President
- Susan Sedberry
Vice President
- Kim Deloney
Secretary
- Charles Gillis
Treasurer
- Jill Wright
New Class Director
- TBD
2019 Class Rep.
- Linda Richtsmeier
Membership Director
- Vanessa Adams Neace
Advisor
- Doug Weir
Advisor

Volunteer Opportunities

Upcoming Events:

- **Work Day at Refuge** – January 18, 2020 Time TBA
- **Women Who Wander Outdoor Retreat** – March 27-29, 2020 in Concan, TX. Visit <http://womenwhowandertexas.com>
- **8th Annual Flotilla**
- **2020 Annual Convention** – Oct 15-18, 2020 in Houston, TX
- **More to come!!**



The Mission: 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.

The Need: Many communities and organizations rely on such citizen volunteers for implementing youth education programs; for operating parks, nature centers, and natural areas; and for providing leadership in local natural resource conservation efforts. In fact, a short supply of dedicated and well-informed volunteers is often cited as a limiting factor for community-based conservation efforts.

Don't forget to pay your 2020 Dues!

Volunteer at Public Lands

Don't forget to volunteer at our public lands. Helping with ranger programs or just walking the trails and picking up limbs, reporting problem trail conditions, etc. is volunteer time. That activity is especially needed at Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Caddo Lake State Park, Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Lake O' the Pines, Atlanta State Park may have a number of fall opportunities. Though we really want to support our service area, Daingerfield State Park is not far away from some of our members.

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.

