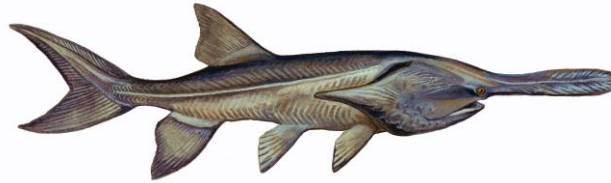




THE PADDLEFISH



Briefings from Becky

Happy Valentines!

People may have many different types of love in their lives: Love of God, Love of Family, Love of Friends, Love of their profession or a special hobby. Since you are members of Cypress Basin Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists, I think we can assume that you love nature and especially our beautiful and intriguing Caddo Lake area.

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The Sierra Club website has a page of “14 Quotes About Loving Our Planet This Valentine’s Day” at <https://www.sierraclub.org/colorado/blog/2018/02/14-quotes-about-loving-our-planet-valentines-day>

One quote that I especially liked was attributed to Chief Seattle: “Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together ... all things connect.”

If you have a favorite nature quote, feel free to bring it to the meeting. We won’t take a lot of time, but it could be fun to share.

One way that you all evidence your love for nature is the amazing work you do to care for nature and to encourage others to also appreciate and care for nature.

This year, we’re trying to provide a variety of opportunities for additional learning, additional experiences and service opportunities. Please look at the Activities Schedule in this newsletter. Of course, it is subject to change. We will send additional notices as necessary. And, when you see Jill Wright, please thank her for doing the leg work on these arrangements.

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 January 13, 2020

Becky called the meeting to order.

Roll call by sign-in sheet.

There were no questions about November minutes.

Charles gave the treasurer's report. He reported that 1700.00 dollars had been made on cookbook sales. There are 26 cookbooks left. Membership dues are due at this time.

Becky took a few minutes for cares, concerns, and joys.

Cookbook Update: There are 26 left. Reprints are possible. There was discussion of renting a GCLA table to sell the cookbooks at the barbecue. Linda was recognized for her contribution of editing the cookbook. The many hours spent by Barry and Caroline in making the cookbook a successful venture was also recognized.

VMS: Linda discussed VMS. She stated that we are starting a new year, and entries should be made within 45 days of the service performed.

Memorial Projects were discussed for Donald Swofford, Barry Hughes, and Jim Ingold. David is working on memorial benches. Memorial plaques will be added to benches. Ted will check on final placement of benches.

Advertising Opportunity: Kristi will have a table at Bass Pro Shop on 1/18/20 from 1-4. She plans to take TMN material to disperse.

AT opportunities were discussed as follows:

- Texas Watershed Steward program - free January 31st, 8 - 12, Smith County Extension Office (972 - 862- 4457) 1517 Front Street #116, Tyler <https://tamu.edu/workshops/registration>.
- Jill discussed possibility of a bird walk at Tyler State park (with tentative date May 16th) with Boyd Sanders.
- Jill commented that Todd Macon at Caddo Mounds was willing to provide some AT training (possibly Oct. 17th).
- The members discussed the possibility of road trips to North East Texas Prairies restoration projects, Daphne Prairie Preserve, Clymer Meadow; attending members were interested. Appropriate personnel will be contacted about field trips. At this time, May or June are possible months for a scheduled visit.
- Many were interested in iNaturalist training. Vanessa will contact TPWD about the possibility of this training.
- Becky noted that AT is possible Morley Hudson Greenhouse, Collins Academy, Ecoverdant, schools, parks, Caddo State Park, Lake O' the Pines, and numerous other sources

Flotilla

- Stella announced 2020 Flotilla date as April 25th. The first planning meeting will be Jan. 18th at 10:00 at refuge. Anyone who wants to help with flotilla should let Stella know.

Ongoing Projects were discussed as follows:

- Refuge trails are in bad shape due to recent storm. Members need to walk trails. Charles or Becky offered to walk trails with members who are not comfortable walking trails. Vanessa suggested that signage and maps that would make trail access easier might be a possible project. Badges for trails was discussed.
- Vanessa discussed a trail reclamation project near refuge headquarters. A picnic table could be added. Vanessa reported that the area is easy birding and would be a good location for a butterfly garden or native plants area.
- Kim reported on bird feeders and a sign-up sheet for Bird Herd was sent around.
- Bluebird Buddies project was discussed. Some houses need to be relocated or replaced. Sue Simmons and the Woodruffs are taking the lead on this project.
- Ted gave an update on paddling trails. Backwater Jack's needs clearer trailhead markers. A possible kayak trip on these trails was discussed. Vanessa also discussed using flotilla money for aluminum frames for signage. Signs are free but placing the aluminum frames will be a major undertaking since they are very heavy.
- Susan awarded the certification, recertification, and milestone pins. Susan noted that the organization had 54 members who volunteered over 5400 hours this year.

Next meeting will be February 10th.

Attendees then broke into small committee groups to organize and plan.

Meeting adjourned.

~Submitted by Kim Deloney
CBTMN Secretary

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Financial Report for January 31, 2020

Beginning Bank Balance, 12/31/2019		\$12,019.71
Add Deposits:		
Annual Dues	500.00	
Cookbook Sales	100.00	
Amazon Smile	<u>12.67</u>	+ <u>600.00</u>
Less Expenses:		
Bird Supplies	<u>69.76</u>	- <u>69.79</u>
Ending Balance, 01/31/2020		<u>\$12,549.95</u>
.....		
	Flotilla Funds \$ 6,056.24	
	General Funds <u>6,493.71</u>	<u>\$12,549.95</u>
.....		
Cookbook Report		
Additional cookbooks were purchased by our Chapter for later sale, speakers, gifts, etc.		
Donations/Sponsorships	\$ 650.00	
Cash Sales	2,280.00	
Credit Card Sales	116.76	
Cookbook cost	<u>-1,264.01</u>	
Net Gain thus far		<u>\$ 1,782.75</u>
~ Submitted by Charles Gillis CBTMN Treasurer		

Quarterly Texas Master Naturalist Gear Sale



The quarterly sale of Texas Master Naturalist gear through the new online apparel store is currently going on. Items offered include Texas Master Naturalist short sleeve and long sleeve shirts, and some fun new field gear that has been requested – a vest, a cooler tote, backpack and an apron!

The online store will close on Sunday, March 1st! Once closed, items ordered through the site will then be collectively produced and shipped. All items will be shipped by mid-March. I will email all orders upon close of the site with a more specific shipping and arrival date. Shipping is included in the price. There are no returns or exchanges – please review the sizing* guide carefully!

<https://tmnonlinemembers.itemorder.com>

The next quarterly store will open in May with shipment of items in mid to late June. The rest of the TMN merchandise in stock at the Bookstore is still available - <https://www.agrilifebookstore.org/category-s/1841.htm>

2019 CHAPTER AWARDS RECERTIFICATION

2020 Meeting Dates

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



Recipients of their 2019 Recertification pins are: Stella Barrow, Ted Barrow, Kim Delony, Lisa Egner, Carol Fox, Roger Geiger, David Gilliland, Vicki Gilliland, Charles Gillis, Becky Gullette, Hattie Hackler, Herman Hazard, Sandy Hooker, Barry Hughes, Caroline Hughes, Kay Lowery, Diann Mabus, Nancy Rheay, Linda Richtsmeier, Susan Sedberry, Steve Sedberry, Sue Simmons, Dudley Swafford, Kristi Thomas, Karen Tromza, Tammi White, Phyllis Wilson, Cal Witt, Mike Woodruff, Jill Wright, Pete Wright

Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Buffalo Soldiers program celebrated its 25th anniversary with a founder's event and exhibit unveiling February 7, 2020 at the TPWD headquarters building in Austin. For more on the Buffalo Soldier program and the new museum exhibit visit <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/programs/buffalo-soldiers/>



The next is Captain Charles Young. Captain Young was born into slavery in Kentucky on March 12, 1864. He became the third African American graduate of the United States Military Academy, the first black US National Park Superintendent, first black military attaché, first black man to achieve the rank of colonel in the US Army, and highest-ranking black officer in the regular army until his death in 1922. As the Superintendent for the Sequoia and General Grant national parks, Young ensured the preservation of the great wilderness, and commanded a group of park rangers that became known as the "Buffalo Soldiers" keeping the park free from poachers and ranchers whose grazing sheep destroyed the parks' natural habitats. Young also managed road construction to allow more visitors to enjoy it completing a wagon road to the Giant Forest, home of the world's largest trees, and a road to the base of the famous Moro Rock.

2020 Calendar of Events

Please note: Where field trips or trainings occur on a regular workday, this does not mean there will be no workday at all.

Some may choose to do the workday instead of the special activity.

We may group up to do trail work, etc. on a different day.

FEBRUARY

- Feb 10 Regular Meeting 6:30pm
- Feb 15 WORKDAY: Trails, Flotilla meeting (scheduled by Stella as necessary)

MARCH

- Mar 09 Potluck Meeting 6pm; AT following: Guest presenter: Jason Hansford, National Weather Service; CoCoRaHS
- Mar 14 WORKDAY: Trails, Flotilla meeting (scheduled by Stella as necessary)

APRIL

- Apr 13 Regular Meeting 6:30pm
- Apr 18 WORKDAY: Trails, Flotilla meeting
- Apr 25 FLOTILLA!!!!!!

MAY

- May 11 Regular Meeting 6:30pm
- May 16 FIELD TRIP and AT: Tyler State Park, Boyd Sanders, "Birds"
WORKDAY consider alternative scheduling
- Possible road trip to prairie restorations in May or June????

JUNE

- June 06 AT morning: iNaturalist Training – Craig Hensley, Tania Homayoun TPWD; possible
VT afternoon – BioBlitz using iNaturalist
- June 08 Regular meeting 6:30pm: AT presenters: Tim Bister, Margaret Staddig, TPWD
Fisheries Biologists: "Paddlefish Project and Invasive Aquatic Species"
- June 13 AT Insect "hike" with Tony Bosworth – 2 hours in the morning
WORKDAY
- Possible road trip to prairie restorations in May or June????

JULY

- July 13 Potluck meeting 6pm
- July 18 WORKDAY

AUGUST

- Aug 10 Break from meeting
- Aug 15 WORKDAY if needed

SEPTEMBER

- Sept 14 Regular meeting
- Sept 19 WORKDAY
- ??? other presenters??? Possible field trip to LOP and presenter Rickey Maxey?

OCTOBER

- Oct 12 Regular meeting
- Oct 17 FIELD TRIP: Caddo Mounds Historic Site -- Todd McMakin
- ??? other presenters??? Possible field trip to LOP and presenter Rickey Maxey?

NOVEMBER

- Nov 09 Potluck meeting 6pm
- Nov 14 WORKDAY

DECEMBER

- Dec 14 Break from meeting
- Dec 19 WORKDAY if needed

**Need more AT?
You can do up to 4
hours online.
Check out these
webinars:**

**North American
Invasive Species
Management
Association Webinars**
<https://tinyurl.com/wcvgkyu>

**USDA Conservation
Webinars**
<https://tinyurl.com/vpytxxo>

Natures Notebook
<https://www.usanpn.org/nn/webinars>

**Texas Wildlife
Federation**
<https://www.texas-wildlife.org/webinars>

**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

Training & Volunteer Opportunities

Upcoming Events:

- **Pollinator Citizen Scientist Training** – February 24, 2020 from 12:00-1:00pm (2hrs of training required) 227 Rush St, Linden, Texas Please RSVP to Jessica.Rymel@ag.TAMU.edu or 903.756.5391
- **Texas Stream Teams Training** - February 28, 2020 at Texarkana College or February 29, 2020 at Wiley College. Contact Delores McCright at delores.mccright@gmail.com to register
- **Women Who Wander Outdoor Retreat** – March 27-29, 2020 in Concan, TX. Visit <http://womenwhowandertexas.com>
- **8th Annual Flotilla** – April 25, 2020
- **2020 Annual Convention** – Oct 15-18, 2020 in Houston, TX
- **More to come!!**

Looking for Volunteers to be on Planning Committee for Weevil Wobble 5K

It's time to begin planning the 2nd annual Weevil Wobble 5K Race. There will be a meeting for volunteers who would like to serve on the planning committee on Thursday, February 27th, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the new CBA office (the white modular home) next to the greenhouse in Uncertain. This meeting is only for planning committee volunteers. We will solicit volunteers to work on the day of the race later. If you would like to be on the planning committee but can't make the February meeting, please email Carolyn Hughes at cahughes8@gmail.com.

Don't forget to pay your 2020 Dues!

***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.*



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.

