



# THE PADDLEFISH

## Briefings from Becky

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### 2020 Meeting Dates

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

Come to the Potluck dinner and meeting starting at 6pm on Monday, March 9. Do I need to say anything else? Our great cooks ought to be enough of an incentive! Oh but wait....there are a few other things that will be fun and informative.

There will be at least 1 certificate to give out and possibly a surprise.



We will get updated on the Earth Day Flotilla. As always, Stella and crew are doing a phenomenal job of getting that great event together. We'll do a very quick business meeting and a quick review of upcoming AT and VT opportunities.

Our guest speaker will be Jason Hansford of the National Weather Service in Shreveport. Dudley Swofford asked him to come train us in CoCoRaHS, a very "cool" way to get in some VT in your own backyard. The 45 minute presentation and 15 min Q&A will give you 1 hour of AT. See the article on page 2 for more information.

Hope to see you at Kellyville Monday night!

Becky



Jason Hansford, senior meteorologist for the NWS Forecast Office in Shreveport. LA

## Jason Hansford and CoCoRaHS

At our potluck dinner and meeting on March 9, you will have the opportunity to learn more about a great volunteer effort you can do in your own backyard. Some of our members already participate in CoCoRaHS. CoCoRaHS is an acronym for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. CoCoRaHS is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). By using low-cost measurement tools, stressing training and education, and utilizing an interactive Web-site, our aim is to provide the highest quality data for natural resource, education and research applications. CoCoRaHS is now in all fifty states.

The presentation will be made by Jason Hansford, a senior meteorologist for the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Shreveport. The Shreveport weather forecast office is responsible for monitoring weather conditions for counties in South Central and South-

western Arkansas, North Central and Northwestern Louisiana Parishes, McCurtain County in Southeastern Oklahoma, and 21 counties in Eastern and Northeastern Texas.

The current office in Shreveport maintains a WSR-88D radar system and Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System that greatly improve forecasting in the region. Shreveport is in charge of weather forecasts, warnings and local statements, as well as aviation weather.

Jason has a degree in meteorology from Louisiana State University at Monroe and has many years of experience in predicting how weather trends will develop. He is an active and strong advocate for using local volunteers with rain gauges and thermometers placed around the ArkLaTex to plot the weather as it develops. He said that this takes about five minutes a day to collect. Join us Monday night. You'll receive credit for attending and hopefully you'll decide to participate in CoCoRaHS.

*“CoCoRaHS is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation.”*



### 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.

## Prescribed Burns Benefit Bees

### Science Daily

Freshly burned longleaf pine forests have more than double the total number of bees and bee species than similar forests that have not burned in over 50 years, according to new research from North Carolina State University.

For many forests, fire is as essential as rainfall. But while several studies have outlined the benefits of human-controlled prescribed burns on forest ecosystems, little was understood about how prescribed burns, or fires in general, may impact pollinators.

"There is global concern about the decline of insects in general, and pollinators in particular, so it's really important for land managers to understand how prescribed fire affects insect communities," says Elsa Youngsteadt, co-author of a paper on the work and an assistant professor in NC State's Department of Applied Ecology.

"Given the importance of fire in maintaining longleaf pine ecosystems overall, you would expect it to be good for the region's native bees. But it's also easy to imagine small bees and their nests, especially nests in twigs and stems, just getting incinerated. We weren't sure



Photo Credit: bugguide.net

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*Photo Credit: John Warner*

## Prescribed burns continued

*Continued from page 2*

where we would find the most robust pollinator community."

NC State researchers worked with the Walthour-Moss Foundation's longleaf pine savannah reserve, which was established to protect this endangered pine. The reserve regularly burns 90% of its plots in 3-year cycles, while the remaining 10% of plots have not been burned for at least 50 years. This provided an ideal opportunity to compare bee abundance and diversity between unmanaged and managed ecosystems.

"The southeastern U.S. has some of the highest lightning strike rates in the world, which used to contribute to low-intensity fires passing through the longleaf pine savannas every 2 or 3 years," Youngsteadt says. "But agriculture, development, and logging fragmented this landscape and blocked the movement of fire."

For this study, researchers placed bee "traps" at 16 sites: four that had been burned the year of sampling, four that had been burned one year before sampling, four that had been burned two years before sampling, and four unburned control sites.

The researchers found that burned sites supported 2.3 times more total pollinators than plots that had not burned in 50 years. Burned sites also had 2.1 times as many different bee species as unburned sites. Within those burned areas, bee abundance and diversity tended to be greatest at sites that were most recently burned, and this abundance and diversity decreased with time since the last fire.

But why?

Fires maintain openings in the forest canopy, reduce ground cover and release nutrients into soils at the same time, creating the perfect environment for large blooms, increasing the flower resources pollinators rely on. The study also found that the low-intensity prescribed burns did not reduce the amount of nesting material for above-ground nesting pollinators, and the abundance of above-ground nesting pollinators was not impacted by the fires. Meanwhile, below-ground nesting species appeared to benefit from the increased access to bare soil.

"It's great news that prescribed fire, as currently used in longleaf pine savannas, is helping to support the pollinator community," Youngsteadt says. "But there's still a lot to learn. For example, the fires in this study were set in the winter, but many land managers use summer burns. Knowing the effects of fire in different seasons will be an important next step, as will knowing the optimal area of land to burn at any one time."

Learn more by visiting [Texas A&M Forest Service-Prescribed Fires](#) or [Texas A&M Agrilife- Texas Prescribed Burn Handbook](#).

~Used by permission of CFLA

## Record Number of Acres Treated with Prescribed Fire in Texas

### Texas A&M Forest Service

Texans are using prescribed fire more than ever to manage land and mitigate wild-fires. Now there is data to support this. A recent statewide survey found that 402,017 acres were treated with prescribed fire in Texas during 2018.

That's up by nearly 50,000 acres from the previous year for two reasons - Texans are using prescribed fire to manage their land in one of the most successful and cost-effective ways, and they are also doing a better job at reporting that use.

"In a state as vast as Texas, no one agency has the sole responsibility of conducting and reporting all prescribed burning," said Andy McCrady, Texas A&M Forest Service Fuels Coordinator. "We take a collaborative approach to land and fire management."

In the spring of 2019, more than 60 stakeholders came together to create the Texas Prescribed Fire Council.

Partners recognized that there is a significant amount of forest and rangeland in Texas – most of it privately owned – and that it takes everyone working together to conserve and protect our resources and communities.

Learn more by visiting [Texas A&M Forest Service-Prescribed Fires](#) or [Texas A&M Agrilife- Texas Prescribed Burn Handbook](#).

## **Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Minutes from February 10, 2020**

### **General information**

- Becky called meeting to order at 6:30.
- Roll call was done by sign in sheet.
- No one had questions about the January minutes. The minutes were approved.
- Charles gave the treasurer's report. Charles noted that 39 people had paid their dues. If you have not paid dues, Charles is taking them at this time.

### **VMS**

- Becky noted some issues with VMS. She reminded attendees that hours must be submitted within 45 days. She suggested that members strive to submit their times monthly. Becky also noted that it is okay to collect more than 8 hours of AT. She reminded everyone that 4 hours of this could be from webinars. AT credit over 8 hours can sometimes be used for volunteer time.
- Becky noted that she and Linda will be revisiting VMS categories. The state wants to consolidate categories. Current categories can't be deleted from the available choices, but can be made unavailable. Becky and Linda will work to reduce categories and cluster opportunities in a more logical way.

### **FLOTILLA**

- Stella reported on flotilla progress. She felt that turnout for initial organizing meeting on 2/1 was fantastic. The t-shirts this year will be Heather Gray with yellow neon letters without the volunteer on back. Stella mentioned that raffle and silent auction volunteers should come early to set up so that paddlers could be shuffled through the display after registering. Stella also notes no change in sponsorship levels this year. Tami is in charge of news release for event. Micki is working on flyers for the event and Susan is heading up the food committee. Becky will call Panola about display. Stella asked that members take canoes, alligators, or dragonflies to decorate. Stella also urged flotilla volunteers to remain and help clean after event. Next meeting will be February 15th at refuge.

### **MEMORIAL PROJECTS**

- David has finished Donald's memorial bench and it is located in the administration building awaiting plaque. Becky noted that it is a beautiful bench.

### **AT OPPORTUNITIES**

- CoCoRaHS Training – March 9th at Chapter Meeting by Jason Hansford, National Weather Service
- Birds with Boyd from Tyler in May
- iNaturalist Training – June 6th at 9:00 in morning
- Bioblitz – June 6th in afternoon
- Paddlefish Project/Aquatic Invasive Species - June 8th during Chapter Meeting
- Insects with Tom Bosworth – June 15th at 10:00 at refuge
- Road Trip to Talbott Prairie – planning for a June visit
- Caddo Mounds visit planned for October

### **VT OPPORTUNITIES**

- Paddling Trails – if interested, meet at refuge February 19th at 5:00
- Bird Herd – an email for March and April volunteers will be sent out soon
- Bluebird Buddies – Sue Simmons is in charge. Boxes need moving and replacing at the refuge.
- Refuge trails can be walked at anytime. Becky will set a date for trail familiarization for those who are interested. The possibility of purchasing some equipment such as loppers to keep in the classroom was discussed.

*Continued on next page*

## Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Financial Report for February 29, 2020

<b>Beginning Bank Balance, 01/31/2020</b>	<b>\$12,549.95</b>
Add Deposits:	
Annual Dues \$395.00	
Amazon Smile <u>\$20.59</u>	+ \$415.59
Less Expenses:	
Flotilla 2020 <u>\$248.45</u>	- <u>\$48.45</u>
<b>Ending Balance, 02/29/2020</b>	<b>\$12,717.09</b>
Flotilla Funds \$5,807.79	
General Funds \$6,909.30	<b>\$12,717.09</b>

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Dues status: 41 paid, 13 to go.

If you haven't had the opportunity to pay your 2020 dues, you can send to me at 709 Lovely Road, Marshall, TX 75672, or see me at the monthly meeting. Annual dues are \$25 for individuals or \$40 for couples. Thanks,

**Submitted by Charles Gillis**  
**CBTM Treasurer**

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***"If you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere."***  
***- Vincent Van Gogh***

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### February Minutes

*Continued from page 4*

- Friends of LOP
- Caddo Lake State Park activities/Ranger Kelsey can use volunteers
- Morley Hudson Greenhouse
- Collins Academy
- Ecoverdant
- Schools/city parks
- Great Texas Birding Classic/now open for registration
- Backyard Birdwatch is this weekend/eBird
- Train reclamation project near refuge headquarter/ clear dirt from sidewalk/ contact Vanessa or Hattie to get this project going

#### **TRAIL HERD**

- Becky suggested forming a group to spend more time at refuge offering guidance for visitors. This year marks 20 years since the transfer of the land from the Department of Defense to the Interior Department. The group could feature this in the news media to encourage more use of the refuge trails.

#### **CLOSING**

- Remember work day at 8:30 on February 15th.
- Next meeting will be March 9th potluck and CoCoRaHs training.

**Submitted by Kim Deloney**  
**CBTM Secretary**

**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*

## Meetings, Training & Volunteer Opportunities

**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.

**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????

### TxDOT Roadsite Chat, Free Webinar: Ongoing Analysis at the Casa Frio Site, March 25 at 2 p.m.

The Casa Frio Site in Frio County comprised a burial in what appeared to be a burned prehistoric pit house. Archeologists used computed tomography (CT) scanning, an x-ray technique common in medical applications, and other techniques to study sediment samples, which now casts doubt on the original field interpretation. Join us to learn what new analyses suggests about the burial!

**Register:** <https://txdot.webex.com/txdot/onstage/g.php?MTID=e656a8175ac0cf306b0bec90c7e881647>

*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](mailto:cypressbasintmn@gmail.com)*

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