



THE PADDLEFISH

Briefings from Becky

Who would have guessed that we would still be in this strange, Covid19 situation? If I weren't able to get outside these last months I would really be nuts. (Keep your opinions of that to yourself. LOL) But now, it's starting to feel like summer! It wasn't too hot as I sat under my breezeway ceiling fan for the 3 hr webinar on Saturday. But I really worked up a sweat during the 30 min. picture taking break! (See more in the "iNaturalist/Texas Nature Trackers" article).



Remember you can go work the trails at the Refuge to get VT. I was there briefly a week ago and Visitor Center Trail could stand some trimming. Others were a bit grown up several weeks ago. We will try to come up with some group days to work.

I know some of who have had "ongoing" VT projects that may have slowed down or halted during the more restricted times. Hopefully, in spite of the heat, you've been able to get started back with those. Just remember, just follow the state guidelines I sent you on May 29.

From the May newsletter: "Tammi has a great idea for a new project, ongoing, year-round, individual/group, chapter and/or public! Hmmm....what can it be? Tammi and I'll be checking in with the leadership board this week and then the mystery will be revealed." I'll take the responsibility for not getting back to that project, but I will get with her this week.

Please continue to keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers: Lisa Egner in the loss of her mother and Roger Geiger in the loss of his granddaughter.

~Becky Gullette, CBTMN President

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2020 Meeting Dates

- July 13
- Aug 10
- Sept 14
- Oct 12
- Nov 9

"And into the forest I go to lose my mind and find my soul." ~John Muir

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

Beginning Bank Balance, 04/30/2020	\$ 13,669.91
Add Deposits: Amazon Smile	+ 13.01
Less Expenses: None	- 0.00
Ending Balance, 05/31/2020	<u>\$13,682.92</u>

	Flotilla Funds	\$ 6,779.87	
	General Funds	6,903.05	<u>\$13,682.92</u>

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NOTES:

Donors for Flotilla 2020 thus far:

Friends of CLNWR	\$ 200	
Diann Mabus - Pine Valley Farm	50	
Dallas Caddo Club	100	
GCLA	250	
City of Uncertain	1,000	
Patrick Noon	<u>50</u>	
	\$ 1,650	

We still have a few dues outstanding. You can mail to me at 709 Lovely Road, Marshall, TX 75672.

~ Submitted by Charles Gillis, CBTMN Treasurer

The Honey Bee



Honey bees are valuable pollinators and rarely sting when they are away from their nest searching for nectar. Photo courtesy of Molly Keck.

The honey bee is a truly social insect that lives in colonies. The honey bee life cycle consists of egg, larva, pupa, and adult stage. Within a colony there is a single queen, thousands of workers and a few hundred seasonal drones. The queen is the only female that can lay fertilized eggs and can live 2 to 5 years. She controls the colony by releasing chemicals called pheromones. Without a queen, a colony will rapidly decline and eventually die. Drones are the only male bees and there are many of them in healthy colonies during the spring and summer months. During winter months, drones may not be found at all because they consume more food than a colony can support in the cold season. A honey bee colony consists mostly of worker bees. Workers are infertile females, but can lay unfertilized eggs if the queen is absent or declining. Workers perform many functions based on age. When they first emerge from their cells as adults, worker bees act as house cleaners. As they age, they progress through roles of nurses, construction workers, guards, and eventually foragers. Worker bees gather food and produce honey and wax. A healthy colony can have as many as 60,000 workers. (Used by permission of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension)

2020 8th Annual Flotilla Update



Get Ready!!
New date set —September 26,
2020
We refuse to let Covid-19 win so
third time is a charm!
More to come later.

“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.” - John Muir



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 Kim Deloney.

Raised Gardens and Flower Beds

Raised garden beds are freestanding beds constructed above the natural terrain. Texas gardeners are discovering that raised bed gardens can help solve many problems. In many areas of the state the soil contains too much sand or clay, or is too alkaline for some plants to grow well. Soil that is poorly aerated because of compaction or poor drainage also may be a problem. Soil quality problems are often aggravated in urban and suburban settings, where topsoil and vegetation have been removed or the grade changed during construction. Raised bed gardens improve growing conditions for plants by lifting their roots above poor soil. Soil in the beds can be amended to provide a better growing medium for plants, even plants that would not naturally thrive there. The soil in raised beds warms up earlier in the spring and is less apt to be invaded by certain grasses and by tree roots. Also, the height of raised beds may make them easier to maintain. (Used by permission of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension)



For tips, tricks and more information on building and maintaining your raised beds check out <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/solutions/raised-garden-beds/>

Recent iNaturalist and Nature Trackers Training

This past Saturday, fourteen CBTMN'ers enjoyed a 3 hr webinar on iNaturalist and Texas Nature Trackers.

TPWD presenters, Craig Hensley and Tania Homayoun did a great job! They managed the WebEx presentation technology very well and kept us very attentive. We also had a 30 min break in which we recorded our backyard observations in iNaturalist.



We were taken through the steps of using the cool app, iNaturalist and following up with the web site iNaturalist. iNaturalist was started by graduate students and is now supported by grants from groups like National Geographic. It is used worldwide. It provides a great resource for citizen scientists and professional researchers alike.

We were also instructed in the use of Texas Nature Trackers. Texas Nature Trackers is managed by the Wildlife Diversity Division of TPWD and it also uses citizen scientists to help professionals keep the Texas Natural Diversity Database. This system helps professionals keep track of organisms that are in a group known as "greatest conservation needs". It can also be a resource for citizens.



Maybe we can look at using these systems to develop an iNaturalist project at Caddo. There are already a number of iNaturalist users, not associated with our group, that record sightings at CLNWR, CLWMA and other places at Caddo.

Hopefully, it won't be too long before Tania and Craig can come to Caddo to offer another training and help us do a BioBlitz at CLNWR.



1



2



3

Name these plants



4



5



6

Contest

First person to email the name of all 6 plants to cypress-basintmn@gmail.com will receive a special award at the next chapter meeting!

Volunteers in Action

CBTM Members caught trying to play around at Lake O' the Pines

Fellow CBTMers, Roger Geiger and David Gilliland were caught in action recently at Lake O' the Pines. They have been instrumental, working with the Army Corps of Engineers and Friends of Lake O' the Pines, to establish a disc golf course out at Lakeside! GPS coordinates have been marked for all 18 tee box and basket sites at Lakeside Park.

(Left) David taking a GPS reading on the basket location for hole 15.

(Below) Roger, David and Brad Grems, USACE Natural Resources Specialist, discuss placement of one of the tee boxes.

Stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities at Lake O' the Pines.



***"Between every two pines there is a doorway to a new world."
~John Muir***



21st Texas Master Naturalist Program Annual Meeting

Join us for our 21st Texas Master Naturalist Program Annual Meeting, where we'll gather, learn and celebrate another year of the Texas Master Naturalist program. This year's event, taking place in Houston, Texas, will run from Friday, October 15th through Sunday, October 18th. The event will be hosted at the Omni Houston Westside, just off I-10 near Katy.

Meetings, Training & Volunteer Opportunities

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

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. **
All events are pending the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.

JUNE

June 13 AT Insect "Hike" with Tony Bosworth – 2 Hours in the Morning
WORKDAY

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

In Need of AT?

Remember that out of the 8 hours of advanced training required each year, only 4 can be online. Hopefully we will be able to continue with our chapter face-to-face AT before too long. Here are a few good online options:

Forestry and Natural Resources Webinars
<http://forestrywebinars.net/>

Conservation of Natural Resources
<http://www.conservationwebinars.net>

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

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

Cornell University
<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org>

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 cypress-basintmn@gmail.com

Texas Master Naturalist Program

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.

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