



THE PADDLEFISH

Briefings from Becky

CBTMN Together: Working and Caring

Remember this?

“The Texas Master Naturalist Program’s mission is 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.”

A “corps” is a “body of people engaged in a particular activity”. Biologically, a body is the physical structure of a plant or animal. It is a collection of molecules, cells, tissues, organs that work together to maintain what we call life. If each component isn’t working properly, the body isn’t as efficient and/or successful in sustaining life as it should be. We TMN’ers play different roles in our efforts to support conservation efforts in providing “education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.”

Most importantly, we work together and communicate. That has been demonstrated so well by our Flotilla committee (primarily Stella and Susan) and our leadership board as we tried over 2 weeks and 2 meetings to determine what was the best decision to make regarding this year’s Flotilla. After polling the membership, we had about a 50/50 split as to whether or not to have the Flotilla in light of the still unresolved COVID 19 pandemic. Some of us indicated we were “fence straddlers”.



The board so appreciates you members for sharing suggestions and concerns. I wish you all could have witnessed the thoughtful consideration and discussions by the board. They took great love, care and time in coming to a decision. You must know, Stella did an amazing job and spent a lot of time setting up requirements to make the event safe. The CDC would have been proud. BUT, no one wanted anyone in our group to feel worried. No one wanted our group to give the appearance to the public that we were unconcerned with COVID. No one wanted our “Flotilla” to be used in a comment, “Well I guess I must have picked up COVID at that Caddo Lake Flotilla”. Honestly, I don’t think anyone would have gotten sick there; but I also think we made the correct decision. In fact, members of the board have said, “It just feels right”.

So thank you for being a group of folks that work together. Read this newsletter and upcoming emails carefully to stay updated on how we can continue to work together to take care of our natural resources even in the midst of COVID (aren’t you tired of hearing that?)

~Becky Gullette, CBTMN President

Inside this issue

- July Financials2
- New Lighting System2
- Flotilla Update3
- Refuge Workday4
- Annual Meeting5
- Training & Volunteer Ops6

“Look into nature, and then you will understand it better.” ~Albert Einstein

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

Beginning Bank Balance, 06/30/2020	\$ 13,061.93
Add Deposits:	+ 0
Less Expenses:	- 0
Ending Balance, 07/31/2020	<u>\$13,061.93</u>

Flotilla Funds	\$ 6,779.87
General Funds	6,282.06
	<u>\$13,061.93</u>

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~ Submitted by Charles Gillis, CBTMN Treasurer

Join the Bird Herd!



Volunteers needed to maintain the bird blinds at the Refuge . Please contact Kim Deloney.



Join Bluebird Buddies

Volunteers to help maintain the bluebird houses and seasonal counts. Please contact Mike Woodruff.

New Lighting System Helps Deer Avoid Vehicles at Night

Posted by Gail Keirn, APHIS Legislative and Public Affairs (970-266-6007)

Researchers with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Wildlife Services (WS) program recently applied for a patent (U.S. Patent Application No. 16/668,253) for a new vehicle-based lighting system to prevent deer-vehicle collisions during low-light conditions.

Through a series of experiments with free-roaming white-tailed deer, researchers at the WS program’s National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) found the use of a rear-facing light-emitting diode (LED) light bar—which illuminates a larger portion of the vehicle’s front surface than standard headlights alone—resulted in fewer dangerous deer-vehicle interactions. The likelihood of dangerous interactions decreased from 35% to only 10% of vehicle approaches when using a rear-facing light bar plus headlights versus just headlights alone. The reduction in dangerous interactions appeared to be driven by fewer instances of immobility or “freezing” behavior by deer when the light bar was used. The study “Frontal vehicle illumination via rear-facing lighting reduces potential for collisions with white-tailed deer” is highlighted in the latest issue of the journal *Ecosphere*.

“This new lighting system takes advantage of a deer’s predator avoidance behavior (also known as flight behavior),” states lead author and former NWRC researcher Dr. Travis DeVault who currently serves as the associate director of the University of Georgia’s Savannah River Ecology Laboratory. “We predicted that light reflected from the front surface of the vehicle would provide a more reliable looming image to deer, thus encouraging the deer to move out of the path of the approaching vehicle.” When an object “looms,” it becomes increasingly larger to the perceiving animal, helping the animal realize that the object is an approaching object versus one that is stationary.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

In the United States and Canada, deer cause the majority of animal-related injurious and deadly road collisions. Many of the mitigation measures designed to reduce vehicle collisions with deer and other wildlife are road-based rather than vehicle-based. Road-based mitigation measures include devices and methods intended to influence animal behavior (e.g. roadside reflectors and mirrors, repellents, hazing) and driver behavior (e.g., warning signs, speed limits, animal detection systems), as well as vegetation management and highway lighting designed to increase visibility of wildlife to drivers, and wildlife population management. A vehicle-based system, such as the rear-facing LED light bar, advances efforts to reduce wildlife deaths and increase driver safety on roads.

The patent-pending technology can be incorporated as an after-market device, like a brush guard or bumper, or can be embedded in the vehicle as part of the manufacturing process. USDA is currently seeking a licensing partner to build and market the technology. For more information, please contact NWRC's Technology Transfer Program Manager john.d.eisemann@usda.gov. WS is a program with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Its mission is to provide Federal leadership and expertise to resolve wildlife conflicts to allow people and wildlife to coexist. The program's efforts help people resolve wildlife damage to a wide variety of resources and to reduce threats to human health and safety. Funding for the WS program is a combination of federal appropriations and cooperator-provided funds.

The NWRC is the research unit of the WS program. It is the only Federal research organization devoted exclusively to resolving conflicts between people and wildlife through the development of effective, selective, and socially responsible methods, tools, and techniques.



These images show the difference in the “looming” appearance of approaching vehicles equipped with headlights (top) versus headlights plus the new rear-facing LED light (bottom).

Flotilla Postponed



It is out of the abundance of caution and with great regret that the Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists are postponing the Flotilla until April 2021. Watch for more information in the near future for Flotilla planning!

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

iNaturalist Training

If you couldn't take the original webinar on June 6 and are interested in learning to use iNaturalist or if you took the original, live webinar and just want to review, here's the information :

Cypress Basin Chapter TX Master Naturalists iNaturalist/TNT Training-20200606 1502-1
Saturday, June 6, 2020
2:03 pm | (UTC-05:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

(It might take this link awhile to load.)
Play [recording](#) (2 hrs 59 mins)
Recording password: cJu24Bpq

TPWD Upcoming Webinars for AT

Aug 11 Prescribed Fire to Improve Deer Habitat
Aug 13 Brush Management Practices for Improving Wildlife Habitat
Aug 18 Grazing as a Tool for Wildlife Management
Aug 20 Turkey Habitat and Plant ID
Aug 25 Supplemental Water for Wildlife
Aug 27 Texas Wildscapes: Gardening for Wildlife.

To register please go to: <https://bit.ly/D7webinar>
For questions Contact: clinton.faas@tpwd.texas.gov

The Texas Master Naturalist 2020 Annual Meeting is going virtual!

Registration is now open!

When: October 14th-17th, 2020

Where: From the comfort of your home office, back patio or reclining chair.

Join us for our **21st Texas Master Naturalist Program Annual Meeting**, where we'll gather online, learn and celebrate another year of the Texas Master Naturalist program in a new and interesting way. This year's event will be hosted online starting **Wednesday October 14th** through **Saturday October 17th**.

The Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting is geared toward Texas Master Naturalist volunteers, their chapters, agency advisors, representatives of partner organizations and supporters of the statewide TMN Program.

The meeting provides an opportunity for our volunteers and affiliates to receive all of their Advanced Training requirements for the year within one extended weekend. It's also an opportunity for program participants and supporters to network, share new ideas and projects and to learn from one another.



Click [Here](#) to register now!

Some of the outstanding training available includes:

- * iNaturalist 101/201/301
- * Monarch Waystations for Texas
- * Intro to Interpretation, Who Cares?
- * Armchair Botanist: Citizen Scientists Transcribing Collections
- * Operation Game Thief
- * Pollinators and Native Plants—Who are the Real Managers of Wildlife Habitats
- * Fifty Shades of Green: Neat Natives for you Landscape
- * Covids: The Amazing Crow Family
- * Working with Kids and School Groups
- * Botanical Bartending

The Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for our volunteers and affiliates to receive all of their Advanced Training requirements for the year within one extended weekend.

Check out the full session descriptions [here](#).

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.

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

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

Volunteering Without Violating COVID-19 Restrictions

- * <https://www.inaturalist.org/>
- * <https://www.cocorahs.org/>
- * <https://ebird.org/home> (You may remember that we have an ebird kiosk in the visitor center at CLNWR. If you have the bird app you can enter sightings you may have at the refuge even though you can't get in to use the kiosk)
- * School and community native plant or pollinator gardens: Please honor the state and local laws/rules/guidelines related to the Covid-19 restrictions.
- * State parks are opening but go online to keep up with their status.
- * Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge trails are still open but remember, you should have someone with you on the trails; family member eliminates the worry of the safe distancing. If you partner with a friend, PLEASE, maintain the appropriate distance.
- * Visitor Center, classroom and Admin Building are not open at this time. Contact person is erik_duerkop@fws.gov 903-407-9303

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