



# THE PADDLEFISH

## Briefings from Becky

Yea! We’re getting to have another face-to-face meeting. Looking forward to seeing everyone that is comfortable attending. Remember, we will be set up for social distancing but if you are not comfortable attending we understand.

We’ll be taking a look at where we are with some ongoing projects and what we need to do to get back in the groove for things like hiking trails, paddling trails, birds, memorial plaques, etc.

Remember, so much of what we do does not require close quarters with other individuals. You’ve received info to help you learn about volunteering for virtual service. The Virtual Volunteer Fair was amazing. There are a number of opportunities one can do online such as reviewing specimen info for BRIT. Also there are projects you do individually then report such as water testing, CoCoRaHS, iNaturalist.



This Monday, I want to discuss with you a very cool project called “Adopt-a-Loop” It is considered a place-based project but you can do individual, online reporting of your observations from your adopted loop (loops set up by the state). These observations are typically made for each season.

We’ll also take a look at other volunteer opportunities involving CLNWR, CLWMA, CLSP, LOP. There is a way using iNaturalist to develop an online field guide for a particular area.

We have a refuge workday next Saturday as well as a board meeting. I’m sure there’s been some vegetation growth since our August workday, We want to revisit the “new trail” as well. I’ll send a more detailed agenda later tonight or tomorrow.

Please keep Liz & Dave Avis, Floyd & Ellen Anderson, Todd & Sue Richardson in your prayers and good thoughts.

Stay Safe, Enjoy Life.

~Becky Gullette, CBTMN President

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*“Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads.” ~Henry David Thoreau*

## Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Financial Report for August 31, 2020

<b>Beginning Bank Balance, 08/01/2020</b>	<b>\$ 13,061.93</b>
Add Deposits:	
2020 Dues	\$ 50.00
Flotilla Table Refund	224.55
Amazon Smile	<u>18.21</u>
	+ 292.76
Less Expenses:	<u>- 0</u>
 <b>Ending Balance, 08/31/2020</b>	 <b><u>\$13,354.69</u></b>
.....	
Flotilla Funds	\$ 7,004.42
General Funds	<u>6,350.27</u>
	<u>\$13,354.69</u>

~ 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.



GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

The expectation is that a TMN Chapter will adopt a particular loop of the Great Wildlife Trails for that chapters particular region. Our region is "Prairies and Pineywoods East"

Adopt-a-Loop is a citizen science project by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Master Naturalists (TMN) to better understand the distribution of Texas' wildlife. The Great Texas Wildlife Trails (GTWT) are used by many to visit sites across the state for

birding and other wildlife viewing. By adopting a loop on the GTWT, each TMN chapter will help collect data on our Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and wildlife in general. This info will be used as a guide for informing visitors on what species to look for when they are at a particular site.

TMN chapters and members will also assist in ensuring that site information along the GTWT is updated and accurate, and perform site surveys throughout the year. The information gathered from this project may be used to augment the TPWD's survey, monitoring and research efforts.

Observations of rare species may be added to the Texas Species Observations database which is maintained by the TPWD and used to assist environmental review and conservation planning efforts.

We hope that this project will both inform our agency and other researchers about species distribution as well as empower citizen scientists to assist in the conservation of Texas' wildlife.

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wildlife/wildlife-trails/>  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/gtwt-adopt-a-loop>

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

Becky called the meeting to order.

Roll call was by sign-in sheet.

The March Minutes were approved.

Treasurer Report noted no changes since last report. Susan is sending out emails to members to remind them that need to pay their dues.

Future meeting formats were discussed with several possibilities:

- a. Facebook live stream
- b. Chat rooms
- c. Zoom/WebX
- d. In person presenters verses on-line presenters
- e. Earlier meeting times during winter months.

Stella gave the flotilla report: The flotilla has been put on hold until April 2021. If needed, a virtual paddle event will be investigated for next April.

Jill presented Darryl with his new member certification, pin, and lanyard.

Becky led a discussion about diversity and inclusion within Texas Master Naturalists. Becky noted that the state agency desired more outreach to attract minorities to the organization. Continuing Marshall Night Out and more outreach to Wiley College was discussed. This topic was tabled for later discussion.

Becky went over the member categories:

1. Member-in-Training
2. Pledge
3. Certified Master Naturalist
4. Texas Master Naturalist Member

Becky reminded everyone that 45 days were given to enter hours into VMS. All eight advanced training hours can be done online. If possible, this should be interactive. There is no reduction in the 40-hour volunteer time requirement.

Stella has the plaques for memorials for Donald, Barry, and Jim. Benches are ready, but there is no access to the classroom.

Jill discussed AT opportunities:

1. Tim Bister may come to October meeting and give paddlefish updates
2. Tony Bosworth is not comfortable coming out at this time, so this activity has been put on hold until next year.

Becky discussed VT opportunities:

1. Groups of ten or fewer can walk trails
2. Bird Herd will start asking for volunteers in October
3. Blue Bird Buddies
4. Workday scheduled for Saturday, the fifteenth, where a person could walk trails or host on deck
5. E-bird
6. CoCoRaHS
7. A possible photo contest was suggested by Tammi which could be printed in *The Paddlefish* or submitted to the state website
8. The weevil greenhouse needs volunteers for August releases
9. Friends of LOP needs workers for the golf course to pour cement and assemble baskets.

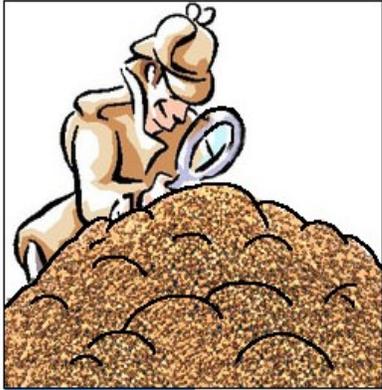
Becky reminded members that face coverings were required at all events.

Attending members received 1.25 of volunteer time for attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

## USDA Investigates Packages of Unsolicited Seeds

**iWire August 2020** About two months ago, mystery seed packets started showing up in mail all over the U.S. Since then, thousands of Americans have reported receiving unsolicited seed packets from China. The USDA has been working diligently with the Chinese postal service and E-commerce companies to determine the origin of the packets and stop the shipments. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials are working with the USDA to intercept any future packages being shipped to the United States. [Official USDA APHIS Reports](#)



Seeds from two noxious weeds, water spinach and a dodder, were identified from two separate seed packages. Another single seed package contained larvae from a common leaf beetle pest. Other tests have concluded that packets contain a fairly common mixture of ornamentals, herbs, fruits, vegetables, and weeds. Officials continue to monitor the situation, as they remain concerned about the possible accidental introduction of invasive agricultural pests or diseases that could cause irrevocable damage to American crops.

*Credit: Kylee N Kleiner, TRIES*

At this point is believed that the mystery seeds were sent as part of a "bushing" campaign or scam, where a company ships cheap unsolicited packages and uses fake sales to improve rating in the marketplace.

Recipients are asked to not plant the seed or throw them away but to instead [File a Report with USDA officials](#). After completing the report, you will then receive instructions on how to mail the seeds to the USDA. The USDA APHIS has collected over 900 seed packets, but this is only a fraction of the thousands of packets reported.

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**"Leave the road, take the trails." - Pythagoras**

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### 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)
- \* State parks are open but go online to keep up with their status.
- \* Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge trails are still open but remember, 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](mailto:erik_duerkop@fws.gov) 903-407-9303

## The Texas Master Naturalist 2020 Annual Meeting is going virtual!

**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**.

Click [Here](#) to register now!

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



## A Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting Fundraising Event!



In years past, the Silent Auction at the Annual TMN State meeting was our annual fundraiser. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, and the virtual nature of our Annual Meeting, we are not able to have a live event this year. For the first time, we are asking our community to come together and participate in a VIRTUAL NATURE VENTURE! that will take place in the weeks just prior to our Annual Meeting. “Venture” is defined as a “risky or daring journey or undertaking” – pioneering ventures into little known waters . . . . A perfect synopsis of what 2020 has been!

As has been the case previously, all funds raised by the annual fundraiser will be used to offset registration costs for next year's Annual Meeting. While we won't be able to gather in person and enjoy our nature experiences together this year, we hope you will register and complete your Nature Venture knowing that you are sharing your celebration and love of nature and your Texas Master Naturalist community with many others; together virtually, but safely separate.

### Registration

**\$35.00** — Participants will receive event swag including a custom medal, and more! The first 300 to register will receive their swag prior to the event.

Register early – the first 300 participants will receive their event swag prior to the event start. Registration is open to all at this link! <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-nature-venture-registration-118511640507>

Thank you for supporting the Texas Master Naturalist Virtual Nature Venture!

# 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

## OCTOBER

Oct 12 Regular meeting: AT Tim Bister and Margaret Stadig of TPWD Fisheries Division will present a program on paddlefish and aquatic plant management at Caddo Lake.  
Oct 17 Pending Field Trip: Caddo Mounds Historic Site -- Todd McMakin???

## 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](mailto:cypress-basintmn@gmail.com)*

## Webinars

### Here Come the Monarchs

On Sept 16 Craig Hensley with TPWD will have a WebEx webinar called: Here Come the Monarchs! This is the same gentleman who was part of the team presenting the iNaturalist online training. It will be a very well done presentation. You can get AT time for this and learn not just more about Monarchs but about the use of iNaturalist in monitoring the Monarchs.

Use this link to learn more: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/events-calendar/here-come-the-monarchs/>

### Virtual Volunteer Fair

The Virtual Volunteer Fair held on Sept 2 is now available online. It was a very well presented and informative event You may get volunteer hours by simply watching and listening to the slide presentations from the Virtual Volunteer Fair. Go to the state web site and scroll down to locate the link to the Virtual Volunteer Fair recording. Or you can try this: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/virtual-volunteer-fair-september-2nd-2020/>

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