



THE PADDLEFISH

Briefings from Becky

The Pumpkins finally arrived at our church and my neighbors are decorating. I’m trying to figure out a “contact-free (or restricted)” way to give out Halloween Treats. BUT guess what! We can still enjoy autumn in East Texas!

Watch the birds in your yard. (I’m trying to concentrate on my writing while a Carolina Wren is bouncing around at my window!) Work the trails at the Refuge! Remember, even just walking them helps! Visit the trails at the State Parks! Canoe! Kayak! Get involved with planting for and monitoring Monarchs!



The TMN Annual meeting is coming up and I know some of you have registered for that. At our next meeting, we’ll chat a little bit about the state meeting and chat a good bit about our current projects and the new ones we’ve begun to discuss.

Hoping to see you all at our next meeting, Monday, October 12, 6:30pm in the Kellyville AgriLife Building. Remember we are in the big exhibit hall so our social distancing is working out really well.

~Becky Gullette, CBTMN President

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Are you interested in practicing with iNaturalist?

Join Becky at the Refuge, 11am, Saturday, Oct 17. She needs to practice too! We can spend about an hour (or more if you like) using iNaturalist app and helping each other. If you don’t need the practice but are willing to be a tutor, you would be most welcome. This will also help us get started on a possible iNaturalist “field guide” to CLNWR. It will also start us preparing for the “Adopt-A-Loop” project.

“In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.” ~John Muir

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Financial Report for September 30, 2020

Beginning Bank Balance, 09/01/2020	\$ 13,354.69
Add Deposits:	+ 0
Less Expenses:	
Refund Flotilla Donation (City of Uncertain)	- <u>1,000.00</u>
 Ending Balance, 09/30/2020	 <u>\$12,354.69</u>
Flotilla Funds	\$ 6,004.42
General Funds	<u>6,350.27</u>
	<u>\$12,354.69</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.

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Minutes from September 14, 2020

Becky opened the meeting and approved minutes.
Balance in the treasury is \$13,354.69.

Becky shared the concerns and joys of group members.

October meeting: Tim Bister and Margaret Stadig with TPWD Fisheries will present a program on paddlefish, aquatic vegetation updates, and VT opportunities.

Jill did a great job setting up field trips. One field trip is scheduled for Caddo Mounds on October 17. Becky will check with Jill about Covid issues.

We are waiting to continue the Potluck dinners until we receive news concerning the current state mandate on gatherings.

There will be a board meeting on Saturday. The board will discuss new officers. Jill wants to be relieved of her position as designated coordinator for new classes.

Stella discussed the option of a dual flotilla and one in real time.

Becky noted that the annual meeting will be having a virtual trail that will be replacing the silent auction fundraiser.

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The cost is thirty dollars and can be done over days. People do their walk, jog, ride, etc. through nature and then share pictures for the virtual trail.

Diversity and inclusion were discussed.

Becky asked if anyone did the Virtual Fair, and if anyone had problems logging hours. You must register on the TPWL SITE, and the site will put Virtual Fair on your log recordings.

Stella discussed the Memorial Projects. We are waiting on a permit from the state. The three plaques for Dr Jim Ingold, Barry Hughes, and Donald Swafford will be placed on the refuge. Caroline wants Barry's at the Lending Library.

Ted gave a paddling trails update. All trails look good. He and Hattie need to go upriver to check on salvinia.

Mike and Sue Simmons will be working on relocating the bluebird boxes. We have a total of 60 boxes.

Next Saturday, September 19th, is trail work. Anyone who shows up should work on new trails at 8am.

Todd and Rayla suggested we could participate in Adopt a Trail. People would volunteer to be responsible for a specific trail. The Board will discuss this on Saturday. Ted suggested those in charge would report what needs to be done and reach out to others to help.

Linda has been sitting outside the refuge on workdays speaking to visitors.

LOP. WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS!

INATURALIST can be used for volunteer time. Becky has a guide. There are details involved for recording the entries.

Educational outreach needs to be reviewed

Adopt a Loop project was discussed. Piney Woods Loop and Lake of the Pines Loop are our area loops. The requirements would be to check 4 times a year for wildlife. We need to decide if we want to participate in this project. This is to collect data for INaturalist. There needs to be a coordinator for each loop adopted. It was noted that this seems like a really good project to consider.

Hattie Hackler is now manager of the Greenhouse. The new greenhouse has been built.

Ted discussed weevils for fiscal year 19-20. The release of weevils by quarter is as follows:

1. 7530
2. 0
3. 7326
4. 106,240

First release for 20-21: 11,000 weevils.

Ted is now the new CBA president.

Stella noted that the Burn Benefit is October 9-10. They need volunteers. Everyone sang Happy Birthday to Hattie for her 40th birthday tomorrow!

Meeting ended.

Training Director Transition

On September 19, your leadership board regretfully accepted the resignation of Jill Wright from the position of Training Director effective January 2021. Jill has done an outstanding job setting up and supervising New Member Training Classes in 2017, 2018, and 2019. When we decided not to have a new class in 2020, Jill did an amazing job communicating and coordinating with our “regular” training instructors and scheduling instruction locally and field trips away to provide on-going training for our current members. As you know, Covid19 interfered with much of that but Jill has continued to try to coordinate training activities for the remainder of this year. We are so grateful for her service.



Caroline Hughes and Susan Sedberry, Co-Directors

The Training Director position is a very intense, time consuming position. Based on information from state meetings and conversations with Jill our leadership board has voted to have 2 people responsible for both new-member and advance training. We are pleased and very grateful that Susan Sedberry and Caroline Hughes have agreed to be Training Co-directors for 2021. Stella Barrow has agreed to be food coordinator for the new class training. Jill will be working with them during the transition. We are

so grateful to these folks for stepping up to do these important jobs!

Chapter Training for 2021

After much discussion, the leadership board has decided to postpone new member training until the fall of 2021. With the uncertainty of the Covid19 situation, there was much to consider related to the delivery of instruction for new members. Virtual training requires at least 2-3 leaders, instructors and students who are comfortable with that delivery system, reliable internet service and still figure out a way to get in some quality field time.

The board and our new Training Co-directors have also decide to follow Jill’s lead and set up a variety of training activities for the chapter as a whole during the spring and summer. If you have ideas you would like to share as to presenters, locations to visit, etc. please let Caroline and Susan know.



Stella Barrow, Food Coordinator



Its Time for the Texas Master Naturalist 2020 Annual Meeting

When: October 14th-17th, 2020

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

Passing the Walking Stick

After serving as New Class Director for our TMN chapter from 2017-2020, it is time to pass the baton (or perhaps walking stick!) on to Susan Sedberry and Caroline Hughes, who have agreed to take on the Training Director duties for our Cypress Basin Chapter.



Jill Wright

I want to thank all of you in the chapter who have ever provided food for the training weekends, assisted in coordination efforts (chapter advisor - Vanessa Neace; food chairman - Susan Sedberry; chapter president - Stella Barrow, Becky Gullette, VMS training - Linda Richtsmeier, training assistants - Carl and Diane Turner), mentored the trainees, or helped me in any way in preparing for the intense, but wildly fun trainee weekends over the past four years.

We have trained over 35 new class members in my tenure. I have enjoyed the reward of working with all of them. I have celebrated each trainee's successful completion of the program, and have shed tears over the loss of two of them. It has been a wonderfully rewarding experience. I have been privileged to work with the fine men and women who so graciously serve as our presenters for the training weekends. We have a wealth of incredibly skilled and experienced professionals in the East Texas region. We are incredibly fortunate that so many are willing to give of their time and talent to help us grow our chapter.

I know without a doubt that Susan and Caroline will do an outstanding job taking over for me. They will bring terrific ideas and management skills to the chapter as we move through the challenges of 2020 and plan for the next training class. We are fortunate to have their leadership in our chapter!

Thank you to everyone who has ever helped me over these past four years. We all look forward to that time in the future when our chapter's activities and training can return to those pre-Covid days. That is a lovely thought to hang on to!

With gratitude,

Jill Wright

"Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads." ~ Henry David Thoreau

Meetings, Training & Volunteer Opportunities

OFFICERS:

Becky Gullette
President

Susan Sedberry
Vice President

Kim Deloney
Secretary

Charles Gillis
Treasurer

Caroline Hughes
Susan Sedberry
Training Co-Directors

TBD
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.**

OCTOBER

- Oct 12 Regular meeting
- Oct 17 Pending Field Trip: Caddo Mounds Historic Site -- Todd McMakin???

NOVEMBER

- Nov 09 Potluck meeting 6pm AT: Tim Bister & Margaret Stadig
- Nov 14 WORKDAY

DECEMBER

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

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

CLNWR Workday Oct 17

We made some good progress and had some fun on the "new" trail. (Considering naming it the "Railway Trail" because it's on an old railroad track bed). The other trails at the Refuge likely need some attention. It is very easy to socially distance on the trails. Please come on the Sat Oct 17. Tentative start time is 8am. Bring your tools but even if you aren't up to tool use, use your boots and walk those trails! And it's a great time of the year to be on the trails.

Photos from September Work Day



Mud Snake found on new trail.



Naturalists hard at work on new trail at the refuge.

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