



THE PADDLEFISH

Briefings from Becky

I love this quote. “The field has eyes, the wood has ears; I will look be silent and listen.” *Hieronymus Bosch, 1450 to 1516 Dutch painter.*

Yes, whether you believe it or not, this talkative woman can be silent. (Though I admit I sometimes even talk or sing to myself when no one else is around.) On Wednesday I participated in a meeting about the new garden at the refuge at the end of the meeting I was disappointed and frustrated that I had to rush back home. That has happened to me so many times.

So, on Thursday I brought a Carthage friend back to the refuge. As we walked Magazine Trail and Hope Cemetery Trail and went to the Harrison Bio Bridge we didn't talk much. We looked, we listened. Several times my friend commented softly on how beautiful and quiet it was there. It was at once a soothing and refreshing day.

Listening to nature instead of our own thoughts, worries and planning; being still in our minds, and looking around to see the beauty of the variety around us. These are things that can renew, refresh, and soothe us.

I am grateful that my life is full and active. But I hope that I will do a better job this spring of getting out in nature, being still, listening and looking. And I hope you will too. We have a beautiful place in which we live, and we have lots of good activities coming up that will get us out in nature, and we need to be doing these activities, but we also need to take time just to be still and look and listen.



~Becky Gullette, CBTMN President

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2021 TXMN Dues are Due!

You may send your 2021 Dues (Single - \$25 and Couple - \$40)

to:

Charles Gillis
709 Lovely Road
Marshall, TX 75672

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Financial Report for December 31, 2020— February 28, 2021

Beginning Bank Balance, 12/31/2020		\$ 12,407.10
Add Deposits:		
Dues	625.00	
Flotilla 21 Donation		
City of Uncertain	1,000.00	
Amazon Smile	<u>15.69</u>	+ 1,640.69
Less Expenses:		
Postage	15.87	
Vimeo Subscription	<u>90.51</u>	- <u>106.38</u>
Ending Balance, 02/28/2021		<u>\$13,941.41</u>
Flotilla Funds \$ 7,004.42		
General Funds <u>6,936.99</u>		
		<u>\$13,941.41</u>

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NOTES:

~ Submitted by Charles Gillis, CBTMN Treasurer

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Minutes from February 8, 2021

Roll call was by sign-in sheet.

Becky introduced the guest speaker, Caddo Lake State Park Ranger, Nicolette Ledbury. She spoke on “Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in Conservation”. Her one hour program counted as one hour of AT credit.

Becky opened the CBTMN meeting. The business report was included in the newsletter sent out last week prior to tonight’s meeting. Those who have not paid dues should mail them to Charles. His address is also in the newsletter.

Becky urged members to look on the TMN website, our chapter page in the website, and the chapter Facebook page. Tami has placed links on the chapter Facebook page. These sites contain useful information and opportunities for AT credit. There is a TMN Tuesdays program that might be of interest, so please check these opportuni-

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ties out.

Linda requested that Becky remind everyone of the 45 day limit to enter your services hours. Due to Covid, all AT hours can be virtual. At least four should consist of a program with a presenter in real time with question and answer opportunities.

The memorial projects are as follows: There will be a dedication for the lending library in honor of Barry on Saturday, the 13th, at 9:30. All are welcome to attend. The bench dedicated to Donald is at Starr Ranch.

The new training co-directors, Caroline and Susan, discussed all of the exciting opportunities that will be available. There will be new class training in the fall. The dates were in the latest newsletter. They are also planning for AT credit at the May, August, and October meetings. If anyone knows a presenter, or would like a specific topic to be considered, please contact Caroline or Susan.

In order to promote inclusion, TMN plans to have informational booths at Marshall's Cinco de Mayo celebration and National Night Out.

Becky reminded the group that the Backyard Bird Count will be February 12th - 15th. This is a way to earn some volunteer time while social distancing. Also available for remote volunteer time are CoCoRaHS, iNaturalist, and Texas Nature Trackers.

Stella's gave the Flotilla Update. This year's Earth Day Flotilla will be a virtual event. The registration is up on Event Bright. Canoes need to be painted, and finished canoes from last year should be given to Stella. Flotilla participants will have a chance to purchase a canoe.

Becky stated that there may be a meeting for those interested in Adopt a Loop. Becky mentioned that we take care of Caddo Lake and trails upriver by making signs.

Becky noted that Herman has cleaned the flower bed area at the comfort station at the refuge and volunteers are needed to plant some native plants and maintain the area. Suggestions for suitable plants will be solicited from knowledgeable sources.

Becky said that the new sidewalk trail is in the works. The sidewalk is in good shape, but vegetation needs to be cleared. Becky will inquire about a prescribed burn. This trail will be handicapped accessible.

Herman noted that he needed help putting up the signage at Magazine Trail. David stated that the Hope Cemetery Trail needed maintenance beyond just clearing vegetation, such as stone placement and fill material for boggy areas.

Herman reported that 30 bluebird boxes were found. There should be 60. Many need repair before placement in a more accessible area for easier monitoring and maintenance.

Becky is rescheduling the workday this weekend due to the expected cold temperatures.

David reported that the Disc Golf Course has been well-received at LOP, but the course needs \$2800 to acquire more signs.

Ted reports that the Weevil Greenhouse is doing well, and two new tanks were added.

Susan reports that the new pins have not yet arrived.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12.

It's Flotilla Time!

April 1st - 24th, 2021

Progress Update

Currently we have 51 registrations. Currently the plan is to remain virtual unless TMN Covid restrictions are lifted which means no food and no silent auction. We will have a small group of volunteers on 04/24 to meet and greet paddlers that show up at Caddo Lake.

Please bring any outstanding canoes to March meeting or contact Stella to arrange pick up.



For more information visit <https://txmn.org/cypress/2021-earth-day-flotilla/> or email 2021earthdayflotilla@gmail.com

"A lake carries you into recesses of feeling otherwise impenetrable." — William Wordsworth

Assist TPWD with Winter Storm Project

It is starting to become clear that the impacts of last week's Winter Storm in Texas may have been catastrophic for some wildlife populations. TPWD officials and Master Naturalists alike have provided recounts of big die-offs in ducks, migratory birds, bats, and exotics.

To better document the extent of the Winter Storm's impacts to wildlife, TPWD started a project on iNaturalist to help with the documentation. **Please report your observances directly to the following iNaturalist Project:** <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/winter-storm-uri-wildlife-deaths/>

25th Annual Birding Classic registration now open

Register Your 2021 Birding Classic Team Today!

Registration is now open for the 25th Annual Birding Classic! The event may look a little different, and there may be more virtual gatherings than in-person outings, but we hope that there is something for everyone in this pandemic-friendly version of the Birding Classic. In particular, the new expanded Big Sit! with its 50-foot diameter circle might be a great way to get your chapter together at a social distance, wearing masks to keep everyone safe. There are also new categories for teams with members spread throughout a region (or the state) where you each bird your local patch and meet up virtually to share your lists into a single team list for the day. More details on those changes and more below!

So, gather your friends, family, and fellow Master Naturalists to join your team for the Great Texas Birding Classic!

Registration deadline: April 1, 2021

Tournament Dates: April 15 – May 15, 2021 (your choice of day).

Register today: www.birdingclassic.org

Novice birders, expert listers and everyone in between are welcome! There are many categories to choose from based on your birding ability and region of the state. There are half day or full day tournaments and categories with team members scattered across the state or region as well as categories for teams of people who have been quarantining together. There's something for everyone!

Find all tournament details online now:

- What categories are available this year? <https://tpwd.texas.gov/events/great-texas-birding-classic/tournament-categories-1>

- How do you register your team? <https://tpwd.texas.gov/events/great-texas-birding-classic/rules-and-registration>

- Tournament rules and entry fees: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/events/great-texas-birding-classic/rules-and-registration/rules-and-regulations> and <https://tpwd.texas.gov/events/great-texas-birding-classic/rules-and-registration/registration-fees>

Participants receive t-shirts with the official 2021 artwork of a Belted Kingfisher, by Christina Baal.

Registration fees and sponsorship dollars go toward Conservation Grants for birding, nature tourism, and habitat restoration and enhancement projects throughout Texas. Select winning teams will help choose which projects are funded. The more teams that register, the more funds we can award! Even if your chapter decides to pass on registering a team this year, maybe you have a project that fits the conservation grant criteria to submit for funding consideration. Visit <https://tpwd.texas.gov/events/great-texas-birding-classic/prizes> for more details.

If you have any questions about the event or any of these rule and category modifications due to the pandemic, feel free to reach out to Shelly Plante, Nature Tourism Manager

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department-HQ
4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744
Office: 512-389-4500 Cell: 512-241-9163



2021 official artwork by Christina Baal (Belted Kingfisher)

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.**

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 counts.
Please contact Mike Woodruff

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

VT Opportunity—Tuesday, March 9, Time to be determined.

Sue Simmons and Herman Hazard will be doing some additional clean up, brush removal, etc. at the site of the new garden at the Refuge Comfort Station. Contact Sue if you are able to come at ptsim47@yahoo.com

Work Day—Saturday, March 13, Time to be determined

There will be a workday at the Refuge on Saturday. More information will be forthcoming at the Chapter Meeting Monday night.

2021 Meeting Dates

Mar 8
Apr 12
May 10
Jun 14
Jul 12
Aug 9
Sep 13
Oct 11
Nov 8
Dec 13



Need a great way to earn VT daily? Check out CoCoRaHS

Watch the CoCoRaHS March Madness promotional trailer: [TRAILER](#)

COCORAHS MARCH MADNESS

Welcome to the CoCoRaHS March Madness Page. CoCoRaHS March Madness is our friendly recruiting contest between all 50 states to see who can recruit the most new volunteers during the 31 days of March. Sign up at <https://www.cocorahs.org/application.aspx>

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