



# THE PADDLEFISH

## Briefings from Becky

In April we had our regular meeting and workday. Our volunteers helped with the Flotilla in a different form but still successful, the start up of Adopt-A-Loop, and ongoing projects at LOP, Caddo, Daingerfield, CLNWR and other places. We also held memorial dedications and remembrances for Barry Hughes and Donald Swofford.

This summer we will have numerous opportunities to continue to honor these men by exhibiting the same enthusiasm they had for volunteering for and learning about nature. We hope you will make an effort to participate in these activities as well as others that arise including those you do in your own backyard or community.

May 10: Regular meeting this Monday night. It will be very helpful if you can attend and participate in discussion and planning.

May 15: Regular workday at the Refuge. We need to continue “hacking” away at the new trail near admin. Walking the other trails to checking signage, condition etc. (Some of you will be helping at the City of Uncertain clean up)

May 22: Bird Walk at Daingerfield State Park. David Brotherton will be leading the walk. He will be working with Rachel Laca, Superintendent at DSP, to come up with a schedule. We have had a lot of positive responses to this activity and will likely need to form 2 groups. So current plan is that Rachel will be arranging presentation(s) about the Park ecology, history etc. to alternate with David’s bird walks.

May - July Trail-of-the Month? Dates TBD

May - July Field work practicing our organism ID (especially plants, insects, birds) and using various apps (iNaturalist, Seek, eBird, etc) Dates TBD

JUNE 14 MEETING, FOOD and AT! Jason and Jennifer Bean will give us AT in DUTCH OVEN COOKING! AND we’ll get to eat the products. Members will also bring some dishes to accompany the Dutch Oven course. More detail to come.

State is continuing to provide TMN Tuesdays and Be the Change Webinar series.

~Becky Gullette, CBTMN President



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Swamp Fare Cookbooks will be available for \$20.00 at the Chapter Meeting



## Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Financial Report for April 1, 2021—April 30, 2021

<b>Beginning Bank Balance, 04/012021</b>		<b>\$ 14,127.04</b>
Add Deposits:		
Dues	75.00	
Flotilla EventBrite	<u>2,488.18</u>	+ 2,563.18
Less Expenses:		
Flotilla Tees	1,674.00	
Flotilla Postage & Supplies	<u>261.75</u>	- <u>1,935.75</u>
 <b>Ending Balance, 04/30/2021</b>		 <b><u>\$14,754.47</u></b>
Flotilla Funds	\$ 7,556.85	
General Funds	<u>7,197.62</u>	
		<b><u>\$14,754.47</u></b>

**NOTES:** Four Month Flotilla Funds Balance Change  
 Flotilla Balance, Dec 2020 \$ 6,004.42  
 Flotilla Balance, Apr 2021 \$ 7,556.85

~ Submitted by Charles Gillis, CBTMN Treasurer

## Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Minutes from April 12, 2021

Becky opened the meeting and cares and concerns were discussed.

Roll call was by sign-in sheet.

Charles gave the treasurer's report. Thirty-nine members have paid dues so far.

There were no questions about VMS. Linda clarified that 4 hours of AT could be online videos. The other four must be in a format that permits question and answer sessions. TMN Tuesdays are great opportunities to earn AT credit.

Becky gave information about AT and VT opportunities available to members. These included the following:

### Advance Training

- \* TMN Tuesdays - old episodes are available

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- \* Growing Up Wild will be offered if at least five are interested in the program.
- \* Susan and Caroline plan at least 4 hours of AT at future meetings.
- \* Adopt-a-Loop - Some members may need training on E-bird and I-naturalist since these are essential components of Adopt-A-Loop.
- \* Members may use workdays to walk trails and use E-bird and I-naturalist to help with identifications. This activity can be used as volunteer or advanced training hours.
- \* Some TMN Chapters are making AT available to other chapters. For example, Invaders of Texas from the Piney Woods Chapter is available to watch. Becky will send out a link on this program.

### **Volunteer Time**

- \* Members may help with the flotilla. Stella reports that it is going well. Ninety have registered. Volunteers are needed to sell cookbooks and help with the raffle at noon.
- \* Phyllis is in charge of Adopt-A-Loop. Volunteer time can be earned by visiting the assigned loops and checking access and signage. While spending time at the loop, a member can use E-bird or I-naturalist to document sightings. Tell Phyllis after completion of your visit so that she can document your findings.
- \* Adopt-a-Paddle Trail is also an opportunity. We need a training session. Becky is going to find out more information on this opportunity.
- \* The Visitor Center is progressing. Someone may volunteer to do more vegetation removal and some aesthetic plantings at the center. There is still no access to workroom at the Visitor Center.
- \* Hope Cemetery fencing will need repairs soon. Volunteers could be needed for this undertaking. The refuge is currently planning to remount the stones. This has to be done before fence repair.
- \* Trail-of-Month is still in the planning stages. This would consist of someone sitting on the deck at the Visitor Center and handing out maps and answering questions on the weekends. This could coincide with scheduled workdays at the refuge.
- \* The next workday will be Saturday. We will meet at 8:00 and check out the new trails and sidewalks. At 9:30, we will meet for the little free library dedication and then the bench dedication. The bench has been moved to the equestrian check-in station near the garden.
- \* The Caddo Lake State Park superintendent reports that the park is 100% open and that there has been near record visitation since Covid shut down.
- \* Ted gave an update on the greenhouse that collapsed. He is waiting on estimates to tear down the remaining structure and rebuild. No volunteers are needed at this point.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37.

**~ Submitted by Kim Delony, Chapter Secretary**



## Flotilla 2021 Wrap Up

- Early Bird ticket sales: 67
- Last minute sales: 20
- Under 13 Paddlers: 7
- Commemorative Canoes: 13 - MANY THANKS TO THE MEMBERS and Vanessa for painting all the canoes. They were terrific!
- Net Sales: \$1,634. This shows just how important the raffle tickets and silent auction are to the total success of the flotilla
- First to register was Mary Pearl Meuth - Texas Master Naturalist Program Assistant State Coordinator

Stella will have the following available at the chapter meeting. If interested in buying any of these items, please bring the exact change, a credit card or a check.

- MUGS: \$10
- T-shirts: \$20
  - 1-3XL Adult
  - 2- Small Adult
  - 2-Medium Youth
  - 2 Small Youth
  - 1 Large Youth
- Cookbooks: \$20



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“No matter how chaotic it is, wildflowers will still spring up in the middle of nowhere.” — *Sheryl Crow*

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## 2020 Chapter Awards



Phyllis Wilson, Becky Gullette



Caroline Hughes, Roger Geiger, Stella Barrow, Ted Barrow, Phyllis Wilson, Pam Watt, Kim Deloney, Calvin Witt, Herman Hazard, Becky Gullette



## Donald Swofford Memorial Bench Dedication



Jennifer Bean, Jason Bean, Linda Richtsmeier, Caroline Hughes, Dudley Swofford, Becky Gullette, Susan Sedberry, Steve Sedberry, Stella Barrow, Ted Barrow, and Calvin Witt.



Dudley and Margaret Swofford and Dudley's sister.

## Barry Hughes Lending Library Dedication



Texas Master Naturalist  
Cypress Basin Chapter  
In Loving Memory of  
Barry Hughes  
Class of 2018

Example of stamp in books



Jennifer Bean, Jason Bean, Stella Barrow, Ted Barrow, Rayla Dickinson, Todd Dickinson, Caroline Hughes, Steve Sedberry, Susan Sedberry, Dudley Swofford, Calvin Witt, Pam Watt, and Nicollette Ledbury



## 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*

## Meetings, Training & Volunteer Opportunities

**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**

### 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

### Work Day—Saturday, May 15, 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.



This upcoming #TMNTuesday event will be **Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**, join TPWD's Statewide Fire Program Leader **Chris Schenck** for a talk entitled: **"Why burn? Fire History and Fire Effects"**. Go to <https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/#may> to register.

On **May 18<sup>th</sup> at 12pm CST**, join TXMN again for another segment of the mini-series, **Be the Change!** This month, we'll be hearing from founder of **Black Outside, Inc.** located in San Antonio, Texas: **Alex Bailey!** Go to <https://txmn.tamu.edu/bethechange/#may> to register.

## 2021 Meeting Dates

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

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The 2021 City of Uncertain Community Cleanup is scheduled for May 15, 2021, 7:00 a.m. until..... All trash/debris will be accepted with the exception of household trash and hazardous waste. Volunteers are needed for unloading trucks and trailers, gathering litter from the sides of roads, and *possibly* picking up trash from area residents. Spread the word! :-)) If you have any questions, contact Judy Patterson at email [judyekpatterson@gmail.com](mailto:judyekpatterson@gmail.com).

**Now recruiting trainees for the upcoming training class in the fall. Bring interested folks to a meeting!**

**COMING SOON! Mark your calendars.**



**Texas Master Naturalist  
2021 Annual Meeting**  
October 21st-24th

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