



THE PADDLEFISH

Briefings from Becky

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We’ve just finished Thanksgiving and Christmas is busting out all over! Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter all have profound meaning for me. When I really take the time to think about the significance of each of these special seasons/days, I realize how grateful I am for so many things in my life and even how much more grateful I should be. One of the many things I’m grateful for is the Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists. I’m grateful for you members and for our mission/activities. I’ll share a bit more but first, the backstory (You’re not surprised that I have one of those are you?)

After an 11 hour day working our Panola County Christmas Blessings project, I came home exhausted and not as grateful as I normally am during the month and a half project. I greeted Ebony and almost immediately sat down to write this. Before, I could write the first sentence, she excitedly wanted outside and blasted out the door and across the yard! I looked out to see her confronting a ‘possum almost nose to nose. I am so grateful that I managed to call her off the possum without either one



sustaining injuries! BUT.... I decided it would be wise to go ahead and give Ebony a walk. On our half mile walk, I found myself so grateful that I have a safe place to walk late at night and that for at least some of the walk I can enjoy the stars. Even the dampish, slightly cool weather was a pleasant change from working inside most of the day.

As my mood continued to improve and my fatigue reduced just a bit, I found myself thinking about how much CBTMN and its members mean to me. It is such a blessing to be able to know and work with so many folks that love nature. Just as diversity helps nature stay healthy, diversity is also good for our chapter. There is diversity in our personalities, our personal stories, our skills and our interests. We learn from each other, we enjoy working together, we step up to fill in the gaps when others simply can’t and we are concerned and compassionate not just about nature but about our fellow members as well.

Thank you for what you mean to me and what your efforts mean to our beautiful Cypress Basin. May you all have a blessed Christmas.

~Becky Gullette, CBTMN President

“To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold” – Aristotle

**Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists
Financial Report for
November 1, 2021—November 30, 2021**

Beginning Bank Balance, 11/01/2021		\$ 14,917.58
Add Deposits:		
Amazon Smile	\$ 16.81	
Members Dues	\$ 25.00	
Cookbooks	\$ 80.00	
Donation	<u>\$ 35.00</u>	\$ 156.81
Less Expenses:		
Zoom	\$ 90.51	
Booth Avinger Festival	\$ 12.64	
New Class Training		
Speakers	\$ 40.00	
Supplies	\$ 44.81	
Food	\$ 42.07	<u>- 230.03</u>
Ending Balance, 11/30/2021		<u>\$14,844.36</u>
	\$ 7,568.90	
	600.00	
	<u>6,675.46</u>	<u>\$14,844.36</u>

NOTES:

~ Submitted by Charles Gillis, CBTMN Treasurer

**Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists
Minutes from November 8, 2021**

14 members present

Member survey sheet was handed out to be returned at end of the meeting.

Becky welcomed our new trainees, Laura, Stella and Kathy who have completed their training

- * Cares and Concerns:
 - * Tammi will have thyroid surgery.
 - * Kim is overwhelmed with taking care of mother...
- * Welcome back to Herman and Barbara Judkins

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- * Treasure Report: \$15,000. Half for Flotilla. Half for Caddo. Like signs, Training classes. We have Itemized ideas to put money towards.
- * Flotilla has been set for April 23, 2022 and planning will start in January. Please consider helping with this.
- * Training co directors Susan and Caroline did a wonderful job and worked diligently on this. They have already started looking at ideas for the 2022 Class. A big thank you to Susan and Caroline.
- * Susan reported that in 2022 classes will be rotated between Marshall, The Refuge, Jefferson Transportation Center and Kellyville Center. Hopefully this will help those who have to travel so far.
- * Becky stated that Richard Heilburn over the State Conservation Outreach has reached out to Texas Master Naturalist Chapters to help with the Recovering America's Wildlife Act by reaching out to Louie Gohmert .
- * Linda had no report on VMS.
- * AT Opportunities:
 - * Check newsletters, emails, handouts
 - * TMN Tuesdays will be having Bats tomorrow for 1 hour.
 - * CoCoRaHS
 - * Texas nature trackers
 - * eBird
- * Volunteer Opportunities:
 - * Roger reported on Disc golf status. 2 Signs are wrong. David will take care of that. T pads are needed. This is a project of Corp of Engineers, Friends of LOP AND TMN.
 - * Roger also reported on the Avinger Wine Fest and said several were interested in our information.
 - * Herman reported that several trees have fallen at the refuge on and around the trails. Only Refuge personnel can use chain saws so progress is slow. A bulldozer is needed. Starr Ranch needs help on the North East Corner.
 - * Bluebird boxes need attention.
 - * Bird herd needs a new chairperson.
 - * Phyllis said adopt a loop is all caught up. There is still a chance to join this group.
 - * Adopt A Paddling Trail is checking and maintaining paddling signs.
- * CLSP There is a New manager, so nothing new right now.
- * No workday on Saturday due to deer season.
- * Rehab center in Kilgore needs our help to regroup and clean their green house.
- * Officers for 2022 will be Becky, President. Susan, VP, Pam, Treasurer and Charles, Treasurer.
- * Laura reported on new pin which will be the Lightning Whelk and she gave a report on the Whelk.
- * Susan said the class can post 15 min AT and 1 hour VT.
- * Next meeting will be January 10 at the **Marshall FIRE DEPARTMENT #1** at 601S Grove Street in Marshall.

The meeting was adjourned.

"The fire is winter's fruit." – Arabian Proverb

10th Annual Earth Day Flotilla

April 23, 2022 will be the TENTH ANNIVERSARY of the Earth Day Flotilla. It's going to be a BIG DEAL! We hope to create a small quilt or wall hanging made from a t-shirt from each of the years since 2012. If you have one, contact Stella Barrow, 903-736-3063 or barrow-stella1@gmail.com. If you know any quilters that could put this project together, let her know about that, too. Save the date and let Stella know if you want to be involved in the planning.



"The color of springtime is flowers; the color of winter is in our imagination." – Terri Guillemets

2022 Meeting Dates

- Jan 10** – Marshall main Fire Station, 601 S. Grove
- Feb 14** – Potluck at Transportation Center in Jefferson
- Mar 14** – Caddo Lake State Park in Karnack
- Apr 11** – Kellyville
- May 9** – Marshall Fire Station
- June 13** – Kellyville
- July 11 or Aug 8**– Caddo Lake State Park (we don't usually meet one of those months)
- Sept 12** – Potluck at Transportation Center
- Oct 10** – Marshall Fire Station
- Nov 14** -Caddo Lake State Park
- Dec** – no meeting

You've got Mail!



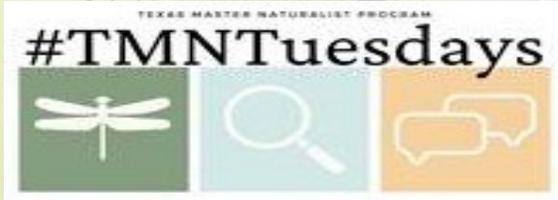
Be on the watch for a Member Interest Survey in your mailbox. They are going out Monday, December 6. Please fill out and return in the self-addressed, stamp envelope. Please participate as we make plans for 2022 volunteer and advanced training opportunities.

Books Needed



Books are getting low in the Barry Hughes Lending Library. If you have any books that you would like to donate get in touch with Caroline Hughes or bring them to the next meeting. Any and all genres, kids to adults are appreciated.

Need Volunteer Time?



This upcoming #TMNTuesday event will be **Tuesday, December 14th, #TMNTuesday—Steve Hall—The Future of Conservation—Will it look the same?**

TPWD Hunter Education Coordinator Steve Hall will be joining us!

Recruiting, Retaining and Reactivating (R3) future customers to pay for conservation in Texas is a big deal!

Can the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the State's fisheries and wildlife management steward, continue to rely solely on hunters, boaters and anglers to pay for conservation and management of wild landscapes, public waters, habitats and species? If so, can it engage enough future customers that participate in these activities to sustain a business model that is declining around most of the country?

The Texas R3 Strategic Plan, just introduced to TPWD employees and many of their agency partners, aims to continue a business model that has sustained conservation efforts in Texas for well over 50 years. But, it must also implement more robust strategies to protect, conserve and engage more urban, diverse customers, far removed from traditional land practices such as ranching, farming, and rural landscaping. There are many threats and barriers towards a thriving future for conservation. But as prideful as Texans are, such negative influences only bolster their wills to do more for this great state in providing for the agency's mission *"to manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and other recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."*

"Winter forms our character and brings out our best." – Tom Allen

New Trainings Uploaded

Wanted to attend the AT presentation but couldn't? Need VT and AT? Interested in one of the recent trainee classes. Guess what you can now view them in the privacy of your own home!

Go to our state website at <https://txmn.org/cypress/>

On the right hand side click on Chapter Meetings.

It should take you to a password protection page. Check your email for password. If you need the password again contact Becky or Tammi.

OFFICERS:

Becky Gullette
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Susan Sedberry
Training Co-Directors

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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



Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalist

Location: Marshall, Texas

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

Texas Master Naturalist Program

The Mission:

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.

The Need:

Many communities and organizations rely on such citizen volunteers for implementing youth education programs; for operating parks, nature centers, and natural areas; and for providing leadership in local natural resource conservation efforts. In fact, a short supply of dedicated and well-informed volunteers is often cited as a



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