



# THE PADDLEFISH

## Briefings from Becky

### Inside this issue

- May Financials .....2
- May Minutes .....3
- Fall Training .....4
- Meeting Update .....5
- Book Club .....5
- Participation Ops .....5
- TMNers at Work .....7
- TMN Tuesdays .....8
- AT Ops .....8
- Chapter Info .....8

As I write this the first day of summer is only 10 days away. We are starting to feel the heat but we have had a very comfortable spring temperature-wise lots of beautiful spring flowers and 50plus shades of green. AND we’ve had a great spring for CBTMN activities!

The Flotilla was amazing! The field trip to the Caddo Exhibit at Gregg County Historical and to the Longview Arboretum was wonderful and informative! We’ve had a good start to our Trail-of-the-Month project! The Adopt-a-Paddling Trail and Adopt-A-Loop projects are perking right along. The “Old Rail Trail” wildlife viewing blinds are in place. At the refuge, our folks have been working with Friends of the Refuge to get a garden going at the check-in comfort station. We also have an ongoing project of the new trail near the parade ground. Some of our members are engaged in other needed projects such as gardens at nursing homes, schools etc. Our new Nature Book Club had a great start!



We will need to start our more strenuous outside activities earlier in the morning. In fact, you’ll be hearing about some work days for the new and old trails. And there may be some activities you can actually do as the sun begins to set. Shade is important as is good hydration. Don’t forget about the nighttime.... the sounds, the night sky and just sitting quietly. You may need mosquito spray and a small quiet fan might be beneficial. LOL

And remember, when you are inside you can still be learning. Participating in the Nature Book Club, reading field guides, working with apps like iNaturalist and Merlin, attending instructive programs face-to-face or virtual. There are many options.

We won’t have a meeting in July. We call that a summer break but we still need to take care of trails and gardens. We still need to simply enjoy nature and continue to learn about it.

Hope to see you soon.

~Becky Gullette, CBTMN President

*“I must say as to what I have seen of Texas it is the garden spot of the world.” – Davy Crockett*



**Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists  
Financial Report for  
April 1, 2022—April 30, 2022**

**Beginning Bank Balance, 05/01/2022** **\$ 21,730.57**

Add Deposits:

Flotilla 22 (1)			
Silent Auction	\$ 80.00		
Mugs	20.00		
Dues	<u>50.00</u>	+ 167.77	

Less Withdrawals:

Flotilla 22			
Plastic Ware	\$ 32.97		
Dutch oven	82.81		
Launch Fees	470.00		
Port-a-Jon	255.00		
Tee Shirts	1,672.00		
Mugs	300.00		
Postage	58.00		
Safety Brochures	24.03		
Misc	21.11		
Drinks/Snacks	<u>177.88</u>	3,093.80	
GCLA Caddo			
Clean Up (2)	1,000.00		
New Members '21			
Apparel/Supplies	<u>193.42</u>	<u>1,193.42</u>	<u>-4,287.22</u>

**Ending Balance, 05/31/2022 (3)** **\$17,611.12**

Flotilla Funds	\$ 10,483.98		
Trainee Scholarship Fund	600.00		
General Funds	<u>6,527.14</u>	<b><u>\$17,611.12</u></b>	

- .....
- (1) EventBrite deposit for Flotilla pre-registration not yet received.
  - (2) Paid from Flotilla Fund
  - (3) There are no outstanding Flotilla expense checks or invoices.

~ Submitted by Charles Gillis, CBTMN Treasurer



## Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Minutes from May 9, 2022

Roll call by SIGN-IN SHEET

Welcome and Introduction of Guests

No guests noted

Opening of CBTMN Business Meeting — Becky

Cares, Concerns and Joys — Becky

None shared

Treasurer's Report — Charles

Charles Gillis noted the financials look "better than ever!" following the flotilla

Minutes — Pam, Becky

Approved

VMS — Linda

Linda and Becky recently attended state VMS zoom presentation. Take aways:

- \*The state is cutting down on the flexibility Linda has for adjusting VMS inputs
- \*Be sure not to enter VT or AT time before actual event
- \*Enter all your time! Don't lose your hours.

Flotilla 2022 Report - Stella

Stella out of town. Preliminary report of 149 paddlers (38 from Holly Lake). 13 same day registrations, 98 preregistered.

Reminder of use of Flotilla funds:

- \*Maintain trails
- \*Anything that benefits the lake
- \*Encouraging participation

Trail-of-the-Month Report — Becky

Next TOTM May 28, Starr Ranch Trail "east loop"

Interested participants? Questions? Prep days?

Prep day to be this coming Thursday, 5/12 at 9 am - walk trail and check condition. Need volunteers for West Loop Trail. Meet at Pavilion.

Charles reminded everyone that TOTM is an opportunity to learn together and share with others. He also shared a story of seeing a snake climbing up a tree. Laura shared about a giant skink sighting. More shared stories encouraged!

Volunteer Opportunities

CLNWR —

Thursday May 12 and/or Fri May 13

Trails — conditions, maintenance as we're able

New Trail near headquarters — report (Ted, Becky)

New flower bed at check-in — Stella, Ted

Kathy will water flower beds at equine station on Thurs, 5/12

Bluebird Buddies, Bird Herd

Becky reminded everyone regarding the recent buzz about the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, noting that feeding the birds is discouraged at this time. Feeding the birds is not harmful, rather, it is the congregation of many birds together that makes the spread more likely.

Marshall Stagecoach Days — Sat May 21, shared table for Caddo Lake

Continued on page 4



## Seeking New Members

It's time to expand our membership again. Susan and Caroline are working on recruiting new members and organizing our fall training classes. They need chapter members to spread the word about our group and to contact one of them with the name and email of anyone who might be interested in joining Cypress Basin Master Naturalists.

**Cost:**

The application fees are \$40 for one person and \$55 for a couple.

**Dates:**

Our fall training class schedule is Friday, August 19 and Saturday, August 20; Friday, September 16 and Saturday, September 17; Friday, October 14, and Saturday, October 15; and Friday, November 4, and Saturday, November 5.

**Contact Training Directors:**

Susan: [wssedberry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wssedberry@sbcglobal.net); Caroline: [cahughes8@gmail.com](mailto:cahughes8@gmail.com)



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## Minutes from May 9, 2022, Continued

Continued from page 3

Trails Adopt-A-Loop — Phyllis.

All trails have been visited. When trails are visited, just send an email of any trail updates and photos encouraged!

Adopt-a-Paddling Trail — Kristi (no report)

Other opportunities (disc golf, flower beds, etc.)

Virtual Volunteer Fair — now available from State TMN via recording

AT Opportunities

May 14 Gregg Co History Museum, Longview Arboretum — Caroline

Caroline noted to bring a sack lunch, \$5 or \$7 for entry fees

Field Trip to Clymer Meadows — June 18 Vanessa

RSVP by end of May (sooner the better)

Online: #TMNTuesdays, 5/10

Rewatching 2022 recorded webinars counts for AT!

Laura added information about event at Caddo Mounds on 5/21 – medicinal and edible plants

Nature Book Club May 25 ... 6pm

Awards:

Class Certifications (Stella, Kathy, Fred), Recertifications, Grit and Determination (Service Against All Odds) - Caroline Hughes, Becky, Charles, Cal, Phyllis, Linda, Laura, Dudley

14. New Trainees for upcoming class: 7-8 registered

\*Send email to Caroline Hughes if you know of someone interested

\*Need gift ideas for presenters

Ex: gas cards, etc.



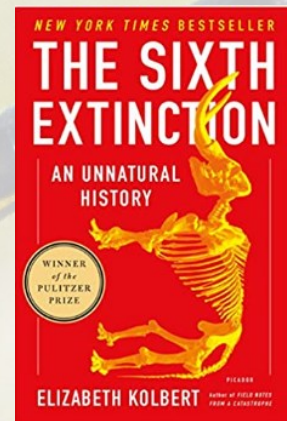
## June Monthly Meeting

Please mark you calendars for our June 13th meeting and note that it has been moved to Caddo Lake State Park from Kellyville. The gates to the park will be open, so you won't need to stop and check in. Set up is at 6 and the meeting will start at 6:30. Hope to see everyone there! Please come with ideas for gifts for the presenters for the new class. Our first class weekend this year is August 19 and 20!!

## TMN Nature Book Club

On Wednesday, May 25, nine members of the Nature Book Club met on the deck at the refuge to discuss *A Walk in the Woods*, by Bill Bryson. We talked about our favorite scenes and lines, reviewed facts about nature and the Appalachian Trail revealed in the book, and asked questions about the reading and modern-day related issues. In addition to having fun hanging out together, attendees earned Advanced Training time for the discussion.

The group chose the nonfiction, Pulitzer Prize winning *The Sixth Extinction*, by Elizabeth Kolbert, for the next book. We will read the book over the next six weeks and meet some time in late July for the discussion. We will meet briefly after the next chapter meeting to set the date. Anyone is invited to join the fun. Please contact Caroline Hughes if you would like to be added to the book club email list: [cahughes8@gmail.com](mailto:cahughes8@gmail.com)



Summer Reading

## Participation Opportunities Page Now Posted

(iWire) The Texas Invasive Species Institute (TISI) and The Texas Research Institute for Environmental Studies (TRIES) has many surveys and projects underway. These facilities strive to provide yearly invasive species presence and absence data to the authorities. Pre-screening is one of the first lines of defense in the war against invasives, however, sometimes it is hard to do it alone.

With the aid of the public and citizen scientist, we could cover a much wider area, and gather more substantial amounts of data. When it comes to protecting our environment, there is an opportunity for everyone! Together we can make a difference, one research project at a time.

Check out all the Participation Opportunities [HERE](#).

*"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."*

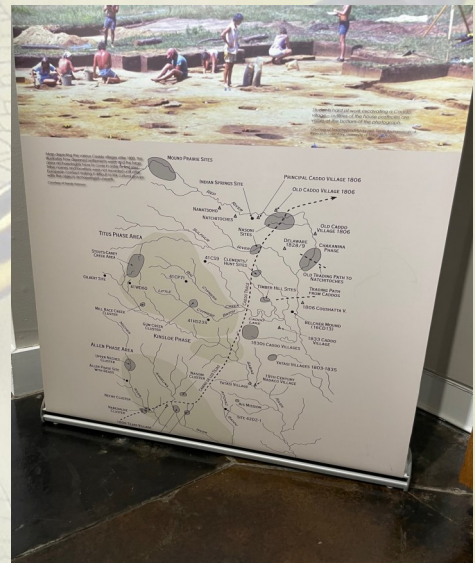
**– Henry David Thoreau**



## Volunteers in Action



You never know what you might miss when you don't go on the field trip to the Arboretum!



## What is a Master Naturalist?

Someone who's NOT afraid of digging in the dirt and slogging through the mud while giving back to the community. Volunteers with the interest and desire to give back to their community and willingness to attend the training. Volunteers must complete a training course on the area's natural features and the impact that people have on nature. The course includes presentations by biologists, geologists, naturalists, and others from local, state, and federal agencies and universities. You must complete a minimum of 40 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of advanced training during the first 12 months following your completion of the course (to be completed before your course's graduation anniversary date).

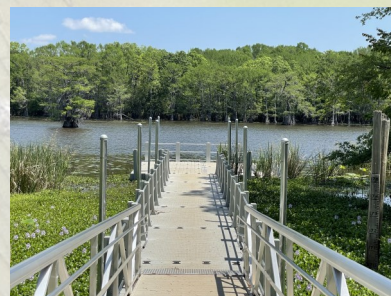




## Trail of the Month Photos



**Thank you to all those who made the TOTM a great success!**



"Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability." – *Sam Keen*



**OFFICERS:**

Becky Gullette  
*President*

Susan Sedberry  
*Vice President*

Pam Watts  
*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*



**Next Tuesday, June 14th, join #TMNTuesdays  
for an out-of-this-world event!**

Our Master Naturalist in Space, Kjell Lindgren, will be tuning in from the ISS to answer your previously submitted questions!

**About Kjell:**

A member of the Gulf Coast Chapter, Kjell (pronounced CHELL) joined the training class and earned his certification in 2021, and has been involved in the many projects of the Gulf Coast Chapter, including the Texas Butterfly Monitoring Network, BRITs Armchair Botanist and Armand Bayou trail guiding.

Learn more about Kjell’s astronaut career:

<https://www.nasa.gov/astronauts/biographies/kjell-n-lindgren/biography>

**2022 Meeting Dates**

**June 13** – Caddo Lake State Park

**July**—No meeting

**Aug 8**— Kellyville

**Sept 12** – Potluck at Transportation Center

**Oct 10** – Marshall Fire Station

**Nov 14** -Caddo Lake State Park

**Dec** – No meeting

**Live from Outside: Adventure, Conservation and Paddlefish**

**Distance Learning Zoom Webinar**

Thu, June 16, 2022  
6:00p to 7:00p



Nestled in northeast Texas, Caddo Lake State Park provides an excellent jumping off point for exploring the biologically diverse Caddo Lake and surrounding wetlands. Join a park ranger, a conservationist, and a wildlife biologist for a webinar on conservation at Caddo Lake and the prehistoric paddlefish! Join us for the second program in our "Live from Outside" webinar series!

Caddo Lake is home to hundreds of species of birds, over 50 kinds of mammals, more than 90 species of amphibians and reptiles, and over 90 types of fish, including the oldest fish in North America! Have you ever wondered what it takes to preserve this Texas treasure?

[Register](#) to attend this special webinar from Caddo Lake State Park!

[More information about this event...](#)

Dustin Schrock (903) 578-0160 [dustin.schrock@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:dustin.schrock@tpwd.texas.gov)

“Among the delights of Summer were picnics to the woods.” - *Georg Brandes*

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