

The GLC Tidings

June 2023

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From the President



Sheri Wilcox

It has been more years than I would like to admit since I was first introduced to the writer Maya Angelou in a college American literature class. Despite a childhood full of tragedy recounted in her autobiographical novel *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Maya Angelou's poetry and writings are full of hope. I recently read an article that highlighted one of her most famous quotes, "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." While she was speaking of the human spirit, her sentiments apply equally to what we do as Texas Master Naturalists.

I had the pleasure of attending the Lone Star Land Steward awards banquet on May 25th where one of our own, Mark Brown, and his wife Cheryl received the Leopold Conservation Award, the state's highest award for private land conservation. Many of you know that Mark and Cheryl received the Lone Star Land Steward Blackland Prairie ecoregion award in 2017. Their story is one of doing the best they could and then doing better. The video produced for the awards banquet can be viewed at <https://sandcountyfoundation.org/our-work/leopold-conservation-award-program/brown-ranch>. Join us at our July meeting where Mark will talk with us about land stewardship.

Maya Angelou's words apply equally to the journey we celebrated at our May meeting with the graduation of our Class of 2023. Congratulations to each of our fourteen graduates! We are so glad you chose to join us in learning more about our natural world. We continued our class member presentations with three excellent presentations on dark skies, ant identification, and edibles natives. More of our newest master naturalists will be sharing their interests with us in upcoming meetings.

During 2023, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Texas Master Naturalist program. Our own chapter is in its 18th year. For each of us, the journey is different, but we all share the need to learn more and do more to conserve the natural resources of our home state. Whether your favorite volunteer project is prairie restoration, Adopt-a-Highway, maintaining a pollinator garden, or sharing what you have learned through our many outreach and educational projects, the energy that each of you puts into your volunteer activities matters.

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist
Gideon Lindecum
Chapter



<https://txmn.org/glc>
glctmnmkt@gmail.com

Our Mission

Volunteers dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources through education, outreach and service in our community.

Newsletter Entry Deadlines 1st day of even Months

Send articles or photos to
glcnwsltr@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATES

Board Meeting – 06/30/2023

Chapter Meeting – 07/15/2023

From the President (continued)

Look for new educational programs that are under development. Chapter members completed the Project Wild, Flying Wild, and Growing Up Wild series of classes. We have lots of new activities to present. Better yet, if there is a topic that interests you, volunteer to develop an educational program or display. Our education director Karen Gardner would like to hear from you.

Our presence at community festivals this spring gave us another opportunity to share our love for the natural world with festival goers. For the first time, we were invited to the Independence, Texas Historic Homes Open House where families (parents too) made pinecone bird feeders. Volunteers were on site at the Burton Cotton Gin Festival and the Honeybee Jubilee. Continuing the theme of “when you know better, do better,” Ken English and all of the volunteers have made our presence at these events much more engaging by filling our booths with bird nests and animal skins and monarch butterfly displays. I promise you there is not a single fourth grader who cannot tell you the four stages of the monarch butterfly life cycle.

I could go on about the beauty of our pollinator gardens, or the diligence of our volunteers who test for water quality and clean our roadsides, but I will end here where I began with a challenge each of you to think about how you can continue to put Maya Angelou’s words into practice.

Sheri



Chapter News

The last couple of months have been so exciting as we have been in the field with students:

- Students at Agricultural Safety Days in Fayette, Washington, and Austin Counties learned about safety in nature or engaged in a naturalist scavenger hunt
- We were in the classroom in Burton ISD talking about adaptations with our skins and skulls presentation, and insects with a new program called Bees as Chemists, Spiders as Architects and Monarchs as Navigators.
- We partnered with the Texas Wildlife Association and other conservation groups in Washington County to host two full field days for Brenham ISD 7th graders focusing on land, water, and wildlife. Students rotated through nine stations including a stream trailer that demonstrated stream dynamics, a rainfall simulator, a topographic hike, a wildflower hike, and more
- At Lake Somerville State Park, we led third graders on a wildflower hike and a scavenger hunt. Their delight at spending time in nature, their wonder at the colors and shapes of the wildflowers, and their zeal for finding each and every item in the scavenger hunt was so gratifying
- Our second annual Giddings ISD Wildlife Day gave the fourth graders an opportunity for hand's-on naturalist activities right on their own campus. TMN volunteers manned the stream trailer, made seed balls, played the Oh Deer! biodiversity game, helped students safely handle snakes and a baby alligator, and swept for insects. Just imagine 15 students with insect nets in a field full of grasshoppers and butterflies. Chaos, yes, but also an incredible learning opportunity that they will remember



Dear Volunteer,
 Thank you for taking the time to come out and teach us. I really enjoyed getting to actually see examples about what we are learning. It was a great experience to get out of the classroom and learn.
 Sincerely, Harper Colley



11 caterpillars





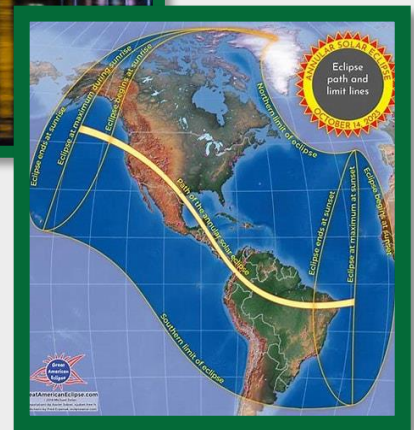
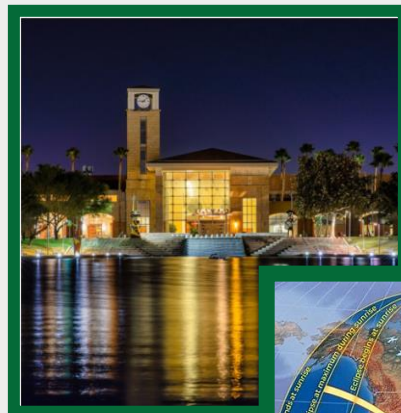
- ### Graduation 2023
- Tim Baker
 - Carol Claverie
 - Karen Dean
 - Richard Fannin
 - Clinton Granger
 - Marvelyn Granger
 - James Kelley
 - Scott Maddox
 - Debra Miller
 - Tayanne Prestes
 - Mary Dawn Romagnoli
 - Carey Soderstrom

Additional graduates: John and Shirley Isbell, who were unable to attend the meeting.

State Information

Don't miss out on the chance to attend this year's annual meeting. It is sure to be one of the most memorable meetings so far. Not only is it our 25th anniversary but there is a special all day off-site field trip to witness the annual solar eclipse at a private ranch. Of course, there are lots of folks to catch up with and classes to attend, awards ceremony and announcement of where in the state the next annual meeting will be held. All of which will round out the four days of getting together to celebrate all the things we love about being Texas Master Naturalists.

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM SKELETON AGENDA	
Thursday 10/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Event Field Sessions Chapter Leadership Luncheon Afternoon Concurrent Advanced Training Sessions Welcome Dinner
Friday 10/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field Sessions Concurrent Advanced Training Sessions Keynote Address
Saturday 10/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annular Solar Eclipse All Day Off-Site Conference Location Annual Awards Reception & Dinner
Sunday 10/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-Event Field Sessions Contest Awards Morning Concurrent Advanced Training Sessions Conference Wrap up by Noon!
HTTP://TXMN.TAMU.EDU	





#TMNTuesday [#TMNTuesdays \(tamupress.com/tmntuesday\)](https://tamupress.com/tmntuesday)

June 13, 2023, 12:00 p.m. CST

Plants 201 presented by Jason Singhurst and Tim Siegmund from TPWD

[Register here!](#)



[2023 Annual Meeting](#)

Get excited for this year’s Annual Meeting – to be held **Thursday October 12 through Sunday October 15th** at the southernmost point of Texas’ South Plains ecoregion, surrounded by mesquite and prickly pear brush country in **McAllen, Texas**.

[2023 Annual Meeting https://txmn.tamu.edu/2023-annual-meeting/](https://txmn.tamu.edu/2023-annual-meeting/)



[25th Anniversary Storytelling Project](#)

To celebrate our 25th Anniversary, we are hosting a year-long storytelling project to highlight our wonderful TMN members and their conservation volunteer work across the state.

We want to know! What inspired you to become a TMN member? Do you have a favorite TMN in-the-field memory? What has been your most meaningful project, community outreach, or conservation event? What does nature mean to you? [Learn More https://txmn.tamu.edu/25th-anniversary-storytelling-project/](https://txmn.tamu.edu/25th-anniversary-storytelling-project/)



Order YOURS Today!!!

ANYONE can purchase this plate and \$22 of each \$30 annual plate fee comes directly back to the Texas Master Naturalist Program for continuing our mission.

The plate is available for purchase on the website:

Personalized plate (\$70): <https://www.myplates.com/design/personalized/passenger/texas-master-naturalist/>

Non-Personalized plate (\$30): <https://www.myplates.com/design/background/passenger/texas-master-naturalist/>

Membership Memo



By Chris Morrison

Congratulations to members who have earned pins since December.

Initial Certification

Green Dragonfly Pin and Certificate

Scott Maddox graduated and got his initial certification on the same day!

Class of 2023

Recertified for 2023

The Texas Ecoregions pin

Marcia Braun
Patti Brown
Linda Esco
John Gardner
B. R. Koehler
Charlene Koehler

Chris Morrison
Donna Mueller
Betsy Palkowsky
Dottie Schoenberg
Denise Turner

250 Hours All-Time Milestone
Bronze Dragonfly pin

Connie Shortes

Swee Leng Rapatz

500 Hours All-Time Milestone
Pewter Dragonfly pin

John Gardner

Celebrations also include trainees in the 2023 training class. Besides attending classes and field trips, the trainees put in 225.5 volunteer hours on GLC projects and attended 100.5 AT sessions approved by the chapter! This is a VERY active group of members, and we salute you!!

What does the updated *Chapter Management and Operations Protocols (CMOP)* TMN governing document (in effect January 1, 2023) say about certification?

As in previous versions of the *CMOP*, Certified means a member has logged at least 40 volunteer and 8 advanced training hours. Once you've done that, you are considered to be a Certified Texas Master Naturalist for that year and the next year.

The first time a new member logs the 40 + 8, we call that Initial Certification and award them a green dragonfly pin and a certificate. The new *CMOP* says trainees are "encouraged" to finish the training classes and get that initial certification within 12 months after the start of their training classes. It may take someone longer than 12 months, and a few never reach that initial certification goal. Until they do, they are a Texas Master Naturalist, but not a Certified Texas Master Naturalist.

After Initial Certification, annual **recertification** is the next goal. Within a calendar year, log 40 volunteer and 8 AT hours to be awarded the designated recertification pin for that year. This year it's the Texas Ecoregions pin. If you are awarded that pin, you are a Certified Texas Master Naturalist for that year and the next year. To maintain that title, you need to recertify each year. If you don't get your 40 + 8 one year, it's OK. You won't be a Certified TMN, but you're still a TMN.

Certification or recertification are not requirements for remaining a member of GLC or TMN. There are other organizations that do require service and/or AT hours for continued membership, but not TMN. We do strongly encourage you to uphold the TMN mission which includes providing education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of Natural resources and natural areas.

Recording VMS hours for Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting, including field trips, are approved for AT.

Hours should be logged using **AT: TMN State Meeting Advanced Training**. You can't count travel time to or from any session or field trip, only the time spent at the location, unless the group and instructor are together in the same vehicle and the instructor is providing information about the topic to the group the entire way there.

Member Profiles



Marvelyn and Trey Granger

About Us

Our family has lived across Texas, including Austin, Dallas, and several areas in the greater Houston area (Sugar Land, Midtown, and Cypress). We moved to Austin County in 2022 with the goal of creating a multi-generational family property and being good stewards to the land.

As part of that, we were immediately committed to restoring it as a native habitat, particularly for pollinators and songbirds. Trey is a Program Manager with Texas Instruments and Marvelyn provides property development and management with a heart for non-profit and educational endeavors. While our daily commutes are much longer, we continue to split our time between our various passions.

Why TMN

Our first deep dive into understanding prairie restoration was the 2022 Houston Rodeo Ranching & Wildlife Expo where Mary Pearl Meuth encouraged us to join the TMN-GL Chapter and introduced us to our local biologists Jon McLeod and Mark Lange.



TMN-GLC Projects

The Great Backyard Bird Count was our first project where we volunteered but have mostly been focused on the education and learning how to best treat the land. We also participate in NPAT-Fayette Chapter and are registered as an ASPCA Wildlife Rehabilitation site. We've been attending many of the round-ups and workshops on a wide variety of topics to round out our ecology education. Trey is active in the SCTPBA and has assisted in prescribed burns locally.

Favorite Thing About TMN

We have found the numerous, high quality opportunities and community enthusiasm TMN offers to be inspiring and helpful in understanding how to best achieve our goals for the property – the opportunities have been like a backstage pass to see and learn about Texas ecology. We continue to be impressed to find our TMN friends in other areas (NPAT, SCTPBA, CCA, etc.) always offering their energy and knowledge broadly across the restoration community. It speaks to the high quality of TMN education, talented membership, and generous outreach.

Favorite Critter(s) Our five family dogs

Favorite Place in Texas

Our favorite place in Texas is always home with our multi-generational family, becoming more familiar with the countless animals who share their space with us. Fredericksburg is one of our favorite places to visit and hike in Texas, but we also really love road trips, discovering small Texas towns and exploring the state.

Favorite Big Trips

Travel is a family passion and we've been fortunate to see a lot of the world with our extended family and have created some truly spectacular memories. We've found that taking bicycle trips has been an unparalleled way to see, smell, and taste the places we've visited both in Europe and across the US – allowing us to have a far more personal experience with the locals and experience their cultures.





Karen Dean

About me

My interests include hiking, camping, cooking and gardening. I prefer to be outdoors most days. I love spending time with family and friends. My husband, Randy, and I live in the city of Brenham in a 90 year old home that is still in the process of being updated. We have a garden, and a few chickens who live behind a lot of invasive growth! We have 2 children, 7 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandson. We have 2 young dogs and 1 old cat who live with us. Randy and I own a construction and remodeling company in Brenham. I “mostly” retired a year ago. We also ranch on land leased in Austin County. We’ve only been ranching for 6 years, so we are still very much in the learning curve!

Why TMN

I became interested in TMN when my daughter and I were on a hike. While we were admiring and discussing the nature around us, someone on the trail asked us if we were Texas Master Naturalist. Our response was, “What is that?”. We checked out who they were but never acted on it. In 2022 my daughter signed up and became certified in the Llano Escatado group in Midland. That encouraged me to pursue TMN here. We have enjoyed talking about our activities. We plan on going to the State Meeting together in October!

TMN-GLC Projects

I am still looking for my niche in the volunteer projects. I am participating in CoCoRaHS. I’ve also worked at the Winedale pollinator garden, the Wildscape at Stephen F Austin State Park and at the Indian Creek Natural Area. Volunteering at the BISD Field days event was great experience in learning Interpretation.



Favorite thing about TMN The different perspectives regarding all material. For example, it’s not just about prairie restoration, it’s also about best practices for rangeland and farmland management. I would hate to think we were only going to have prairies, however wonderful, cattle and crops are also important for the survival of us all.

Favorite critter The Bobcat is beautiful and elusive. I love catching them on the game cameras. Rarely have I seen them alive and in person.

Favorite place in Texas This is a hard topic to answer. I love being HOME. At the same time I love the diversity of Texas and can find something beautiful and interesting just about anywhere I go in the state. I particularly favor some place with trails for adventure, usually in one of our wonderful state parks.

Favorite Big Trips 97.6 mile hike on the Lone Star Hiking Trail with my sister in Sam Houston National Forest.



Deb Miller

About Me

I am a recent widow after 28 years of an incredible marriage. I am now the sole caretaker of 16.5 acres in the Burton area. I like taking care of it, time is a factor but I get done what I can. I enjoy hiking and camping when time allows. I am a member of the Brenham Pickleball club and love playing and the fellowship that it offers. I work 3 to 5 days a week depending on the workload. I am a member of Grace Community Fellowship and love my church family.

Why TMN?

I have seen the TMN booth at several AgriLife meetings that I have attended and was always curious but didn't take the time to check deeper. At the last event I attended my friend Karen Dean said she had signed up to become a Texas Master Naturalists. Well that was the catalyst I needed to take the plunge.

TMN-GLC Projects

I am currently not involved in any projects, just trying to get through the training. Hopefully will get involved now that the training has completed.

Favorite thing about TMN

I have really enjoyed all the training. I love the field trips, they have broadened my horizons on what is going on in Texas as far as preserving natural Texas.

Favorite critter

I'd have to say the Honeybee. Fascinating creatures, the more I learn the more I am amazed.

Favorite Place in Texas

There is no place like home.

Favorite Big Trip

My sister who lives in Seattle invited me to join her and some of her friends to go on a 5 day hiking and camping trip. We hiked and camped on the Pacific Crest Trail. The scenery and weather were incredible. It was a trip of a lifetime.





Scott Maddox

About Me

I grew up in Houston and had a long career as an information technology executive in the energy business (mostly natural gas). My wife, Lorrie, and I have been happily married for more than 40 years. I retired several years ago, and we moved out to our small place, Yaupon Run, near Cat Spring, in 2020.

We are really enjoying living in the country, and we are very happy to be part of the Austin County community.

I volunteer with the Bluebonnet Master Gardeners' Kids' Kamp each summer, and I'm the treasurer for the Men's group at Bellville Methodist Church.

I am enjoying my vegetable garden these days. We started out small but have expanded a little each year. The garden has been quite a learning experience, and we've had a lot of great fresh vegetables too!



*"It's difficult to think anything but pleasant thoughts while eating a homegrown tomato."
- Lewis Grizzard*

Why TMN?

Lorrie and I have always been fairly avid birders and hikers; we have a love of all things in nature. We both completed Master Gardener Training in 2022 with a hope to be better prepared for our foray into vegetable gardening.

I enjoyed the Master Gardener learning experience so much that I decided to also pursue the Master Naturalist program. I figured that it would be a great way to gain a better understanding of how we could add some plant diversity to our little ecosphere here at Yaupon Run. I also hoped to get some tips for gaining some control of the yaupon and woody vine thicket that is in firm control over most of our wooded areas.



Favorite Critter(s)

I am partial to white-tailed deer, especially in the spring with the arrival of the fawns. We love the deer even though they don't pay much attention to the deer-resistant lists for annuals and perennials. They will at least nibble just about everything.

TMN-GLC Projects

I assisted with the birding event at San Felipe de Austin earlier this year and have volunteered to assist with a kids event up at the state park at Somerville later this month.

Favorite Place in Texas

Favorite Place in Texas I love Big Bend!

Adventures & Observations



Our First Prescribed Burn

By Swee Leng Rapatz

Our First Prescribed Burn – amazing model of chapter members and neighbors helping neighbors

After months of shredding, mowing and discing firebreaks around our intended prescribed burn areas, we had decided on April 13, 2023, that April 16, 2023 was going to be **THE** day. We reached out to the [South Central Texas Prescribed Burn Association \(SCTPBA\)](#), Mark Brown and Rory Johnston and Gary Kocurek, for guidance. We decided to keep the volunteer crew small but experienced. Sheri Wilcox, Duane Clementson, Jon Watkins, Ray Hinnant and Tom Grahmann immediately stepped up to volunteer. Sheri brought her daughter and son-in-law as well.

We couldn't tow the 7000-lb plus burn trailer (with all the equipment) to our place and Sheri and Duane drove over 100 miles out of their way to tow it for us and told us to just "pay forward". I think they drove over 300 miles that day!

The day was sunny with gusty winds and lower humidity than usual for a burn, but we had determined that we needed these conditions for the fire to "carry" since our meadow was quite green. It made for a nerve-wrecking Saturday and Sunday morning making final preparations for the burn while realizing the dangers and liabilities if something went wrong. However, everything went almost smoothy and the burn results exceeded our expectations!



How did we pay forward for Sheri and Duane's kindness? We're grateful we had an opportunity to host a hot meal to about 80 folks in an under-served community. Our first burn is truly a demonstration of TMN and SCTPBA members and neighbors helping neighbors!

Did you know Sheri was my Buddy during my 2021 TMN Training and Jon Watkins is my neighbor?

Take-aways for members considering a prescribed burn

1. Join the [SCTPBA](#) - Volunteer when others are hosting burns to gain experience
2. Attend the Prescribed Burn Training classes. Training proved invaluable when we wrote our Burn Plan and helped us understand the need for preparation
3. Contact [SCTPBA](#) for assessment and advice
4. Know your liabilities
5. You won't feel like you're "READY" but "over-preparation" helps
6. Be prepared to pivot – we burned 1 unit instead of 3.



What's the answer?

We'd like to make this a new feature in the newsletter. Submit a picture and description of what's in the image and we'll see who figures out "What's the answer" to the question asked

The first entry is from Tressie Roark.

Look for the answer somewhere in the newsletter.

Reply to newsletter email and let all of us know if you found the answer.

How many caterpillars do you see?



Teaching Moments



FORAGING WILD NATIVES

by Marvelyn Granger

We often frame our preservation and restoration efforts as “for the pollinators.” While that resonates theoretically once we learn the correlation between the survival and health of

pollinators and that of our own, it threatens to remain compartmentalized as philanthropy until we incorporate it into our everyday lives. This is especially true when we are so far removed from our own food sources. While we might claim a food shortage, we are still presented with plenty of products on the shelves, even if they may not be our first choice of out-of-season grocery list staples.

It is convenient to choose a recipe, then collect the ingredients. But step back in time with me and imagine yourself as a hunter-gatherer, reliant on the land, seasons, and ecoregion as your grocer and the pollinator as your shopping buddy. Gather your ingredients, then choose your recipe. This was commonplace not so long ago; growing and (over)managing our food is relatively new. In some native languages, the term for “plants” translates to “those who take care of us”. That flips the relationship on its head; we have become accustomed to being the one in charge.

With gained respect and connection to the land and our food comes a genuine first-hand understanding of why preservation of pollinator habitat is important and not just a fad or a soundbite. Foraging for native plants offers the very freshest and most nutrient-dense food available. Then there is the benefit of simply being in and appreciating the land and its native bounty. The Japanese made the correlation between nature and mental health, coining the phrase Shin-in Yoku, or forest bathing. The appreciative sense of abundance has a much more enticing draw than fear of shortage. The benefits of whole foods vs Whole Foods are truly exciting!

The substance of foraging is relying on what is available. Unlike food packaged, shipped, and stored worldwide, foraging locally is dependent on seasons. Eating seasonally ensures nutrient-density, color, and unadulterated flavor. You may even experience a “flavor shift.” Imagine the difference between iceberg lettuce and arugula. With retained intensity, minus added “natural” seasonings and sweeteners found in many processed foods, you may find you are unaccustomed to these heightened flavors.

Foraging and sharing nature’s food illicit respect for the law, the land, the plant, and yourself.

- Respect the Law. If you are foraging on private land that is not your own, ask permission. Some people would be happy for you to pick their “weeds!” Others may appreciate the opportunity to share in exchange for access to your land. Win-win! In Texas you are able to forage above-ground roadside vegetation and from National Forests. Check for limits; generally, one pint per person per day is typical.
- Respect the land. Leave no trace and only take what you need
- Respect the plant. Harvest sustainably so that there will be plenty of plants year after year. Don't strip all the leaves from one plant, just take one shoot or 2-3 leaves from many plants, minimizing damage to



My granddaughter foraging with her great-grampa (my dad).

the plants by cutting leaves off the plant with a sharp knife or shears rather than tearing them off. Lastly, sterilize your cutting tools with alcohol to prevent transfer of diseases

- Respect yourself. Be aware of any environmental hazards such as snakes, chemicals from roadways, or lead paint around old buildings, for instance. Identify carefully and accurately. This is one of my personal challenges as I tend to prefer skipping (metaphorically, of course) through the woods and visually absorbing the sea of color and texture. I prefer to let the details wash over me. But I've found nothing drives me to pay super close attention to the details quite like the idea of ingesting something.

Believe me, even with the clear physical and mental benefits of foraging, I am familiar with how daunting it can feel to incorporate; it is so counter to the world of labeled convenience food around us. But I am challenging myself to add a new native plant to our family's table each season. I would love it if you would join me in this challenge and share your experiences — and your table — with a friend

SOME OF MY FAVORITE FORAGED NATIVES AND THEIR SUPERPOWERS

Common Chickweed, *Stellaria media*, also known as 'starweed'. There are 3,000 varieties of chickweed, many native and more are considered naturalized, according to the [Lady Bird Johnson Wild Flower database](#). The seed is sometimes sold commercially to market gardeners for the high-dollar restaurant trade.

Benefits

- 6x more vitamin C
- 12x more calcium
- 83x more iron than spinach
- magnesium
- zinc
- iron
- potassium
- Vitamins A & B



Dewberry, *Rubus species*

Benefits

- carbohydrates
- vitamin C
- small amount of minerals and vitamins A & B
- leaves soothe skin inflammations

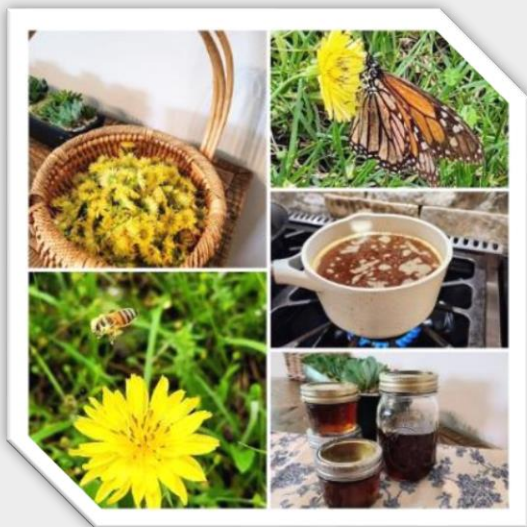




Texas Dandelion, *Pyrrhopappus pauciflorus*, aka false dandelion

Benefits

- vitamins A & B
- magnesium
- iron
- zinc
- protein
- Analgesic properties
- Probiotic
- wound healer for cuts, scrapes, minor burns, chapped lips
- antibacterial
- anti-inflammatory and treats infections
- ½ cup of greens = more calcium than a glass of milk



Dandelion Tea

Add 4 cups washed flower petals (only) to mason jar
 Cover with boiling water
 Stir, cool, steep in fridge 24 hours
 Strain for tea

Dandelion Jelly

4 cups tea
 1 pack pectin
 2 T lemon juice
 Boil 1 minute, stirring
 Add 4 c sugar (or less if using low-sugar pectin)
 Boil 1 more minute, stirring constantly
 Add to sterilized jars, wipe top, seal
 Set in water bath for 10 minutes

Purslane, *Portulaca oleracea*. Purslane has been consumed since ancient times. Additionally, it is represented in many cuisines of the world from Greece, Mexico, Turkey, India, and South Africa. It is thought to be an important component of the Cretan high-life-expectancy diet.

Benefits

- calcium
- iron
- magnesium
- potassium
- Vitamins A, C, Bs
- omega-3 fatty acid
- antioxidants





Turk's Cap, *Malva arborea*. Centuries ago, the French candied the marsh mallow roots by boiling them and adding sugar. Later gum arabic was found to be a cheaper substitute, followed by the even cheaper gelatin, leaving us with the modern marshmallow and disgusting Peeps at Easter. The name mallow comes from the Greek *malakos* meaning soft. Babies were given the roots to chew on when teething. The root became softened and released a mucilage which had a calming effect. This same quality popularized it for treating upper respiratory irritations and for soothing digestive inflammation.

Benefits

- flowers high in antioxidants
- seeds high in protein & starch
- leaves high in minerals
- fruit high in vitamin C

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES and ENCOURAGEMENT

“Foraging” by Dr. Mark “Merriwether” Vorderbruggen at <https://www.foragingtexas.com/>
“Wild Edible Plants of Texas” by Charles W. Kane
“Edible and Useful Plants of the Southwest” by Delena Tull
“Animal, Vegetable, Miracle” by Barbara Kingsolver
“ Braiding Sweetgrass” by Robin Wall Kimmerer

[Gail Bennison](#) via our [Facebook page](#)

ATTENTION TEXANS: NOT A HOAX. This big snakelike worm is called a hammerhead worm. They have been spotted in all parts of Texas, except the dry West Texas area. Please be on the lookout for them. Check your driveway, patio and walkways. They can be seen after a rain or in shady, damp places. This is a highly invasive species which preys on our native beneficial earthworms. It also poses a danger to humans and pets.



If do you see this ugly ass worm (it is usually 8-12 inches but can be 15 inches!) please do the following:

1. Do not touch it with bare hands as it excretes a toxic “venom”

which is irritating to the skin. Keep pets away from it as well

2. Take a photo then KILL it. Email the photo and location to <mailto:invasives@shsu.edu?subject>

3. Be careful when you kill it, do NOT leave any part of it behind. If you leave part of it behind, it will regenerate itself like some freaky, sci-fi alien monster. It can grow a whole new head and body from a portion of its tail...and it only takes 10 days!

4. You can kill them with citrus oil or citrus oil and vinegar. Put it in a Ziplock bag with some salt and vinegar or just vinegar. Then, seal the bag and throw it in the trash

For more info:

<http://www.tsusinvasives.org/home/database/bipalium-kewense>

<http://www.tsusinvasives.org/.../data.../bipalium-kewense...>

Volunteering Highlights

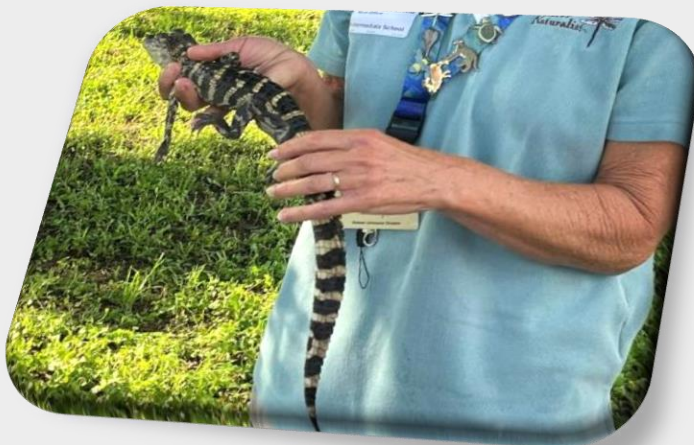


Our County School Field Days

By Jaci Elliott

Here are just a few tidbits from the field days some us volunteered at and a plug for TMNGLC members to consider volunteering with students just once the rewards are immeasurable.

As the school year wound down, and students get wound up about summer vacation, teachers, administrators, volunteers and students alike look forward to their field trips and science days.



Recently, I had the pleasant opportunity to help with TMNGLC presenters at both the Giddings and Bellville ISD Field or Safety Days, and, as a retired educator, it is certainly one of my favorite volunteer projects with our Master Naturalists. Not only do we as TMN volunteers get to help educate young Texans. We also have an opportunity to become more familiar with our learning material and each other.

Sometimes, the situations are humorously memorable. One Bellville 3rd grader's bird calls were so impressive that some of us Master Naturalists had to look twice to confirm it was he doing the chirping!

Of course, whenever the call goes out for assistance with a reptile lesson, I will eagerly offer to help. So, during the Giddings ISD Science Day with their 4th graders I was most pleasantly surprised to discover that Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist Laura Sherrod had not only brought along some live snakes, she also had a 20" inch long juvenile alligator with her. As I have worked with quite a few gators out at Brazos Bend State Park over the past 20 years, I was delighted to get to hold the alligator and share with the students information about the American Alligator, our lone native crocodilian from the Lone Star State.

At the beginning of the lesson, Laura would ask the students to guess how many poisonous snakes there are in Lee County (a trick question—there are none). This slyly reinforced for the kiddos the distinction between what makes something poisonous (we ingest it and become ill) versus what makes a creature venomous (it bites or stings us to inject venom).



Students also discovered that, out of 72 species of snakes in Texas, Lee County has only five species that are venomous: the Diamondback and Timber Rattlesnakes, the Cottonmouth (water moccasin), the Copperhead and the Coral Snake. Quashing the common perception that there are “good” snakes and “bad” snakes, Laura emphasized the value of both venomous and non-venomous snakes in nature; we even learned that there is a protein in copperhead snake venom currently being used for cancer research.

Laura showed the students a live Copperhead which she had found near her house. When the children needed to look very closely to find the snake among the oak leaves in the cage, we adults could see students’ proverbial lightbulbs turning on as they grasped the concept and the advantages of camouflage.



Laura and our own Karen Gardener continued to intrigue the 4th graders with their shared snake facts and personal experiences, and Laura won over several snake skeptics (including some teachers) by introducing them to, and letting them touch, her pet jungle carpet python, Xena, a tree-climbing native of Australia.

Laura had several snake skins for the 4th graders to see; however, we did not have a Coral Snakeskin with us. That was when I got to thinking about the frozen Coral Snake in my big freezer at home. And while that option may not have made for a good prop anyway, as warmer weather and the thawing and refreezing of a specimen would probably just hasten its second demise. I somewhat regretted not bringing along my Coral Snake STICK. Well, maybe next year!



Volunteer Opportunities

Executive Board Members 2024-2025

We're still looking for two folks to join our executive board. Being a part of the board allows you to contribute to the overall business of managing the chapter. Your past experience and voice can help guide what we do and how we operate to ensure the success of the chapter and the TMN program overall.

Any of our current or previous board members will tell you it's not daunting and time consuming as you might imagine. Of course, any of us will be happy to address any of questions you might have about being on the board. So, take a look at the two open positions. Contact Betsy Palkowsky or Sheri Wilcox if you are interested in one of the positions.

Vice President

If you like learning you are good candidate for our Vice President.

Primary duties for this role:

- Identify and coordinate speakers for our chapter meetings
- Identify, approve (with your AT committee) and communicate other AT opportunities
- Attend board meetings every other month (1.5 hours plus travel time)
- Attend chapter meetings every other month

Treasurer

If you pay your bills and manage your check book you have the skills to be our treasurer.

Primary duties for this role:

- Manage annual dues collection
- Manage payables to member submitted receipts for project expenditures
- Manage receivables from donations, annual dues, training fees
- Manage project and chapter budget submission and reporting (year-end activity)
- Create monthly report of income and outflow and what's left in bank account
- Attend board meetings every other month (1.5 hours plus travel time)
- Attend chapter meetings every other month

For more details review our [Chapter Operating Handbook](#)

Get involved. Board Members Needed

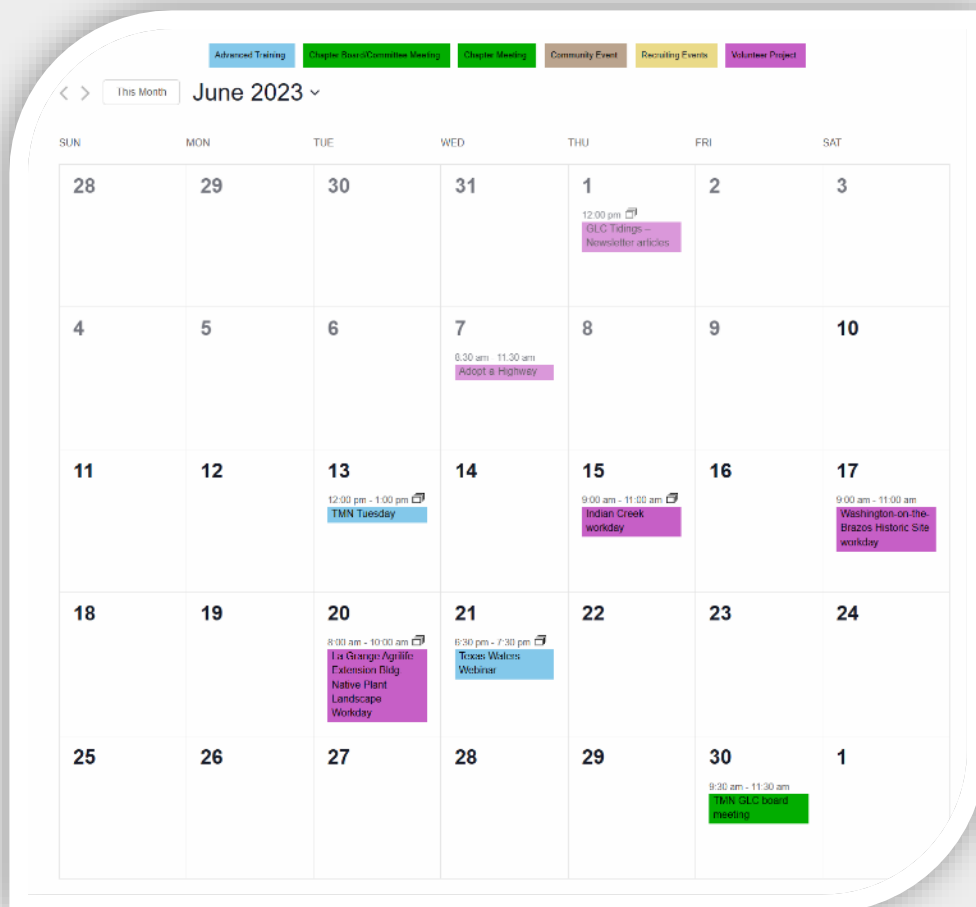
Events Calendar Snapshot

June 2023

- June 13 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm [TMN Tuesday](#)
- June 15 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am [Indian Creek workday](#)
- June 17 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am [Washington-on-the-Brazos Historic Site workday](#)
- June 20 @ 8:00 am - 10:00 am [La Grange Agrilife Extension Bldg. Native Plant Landscape Workday](#)
- June 21 @ 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm [Texas Waters Webinar](#)
- June 30 @ 9:30 am - 11:30 am [TMN GLC Board Meeting](#)

July 2023

- July 8 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am [Washington-on-the-Brazos Historic Site workday](#)
- July 11 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm [TMN Tuesday](#)
- July 11 @ 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm [Texas Waters Webinar](#)
- July 15 @ 9:30 am - 1:00 pm [TMN GLC chapter meeting](#)
- July 18 @ 8:00 am - 10:00 am [La Grange Agrilife Extension Bldg. Native Plant Landscape Workday](#)
- July 20 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am [Indian Creek workday](#)



Helpful References

Books

- National Wildlife Federation(R): Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Backyard Wildlife, Expanded Second Edition, by David Mizejewski
- Native Host Plants for Texas Butterflies: a Field Guide, by Jim Weber, Lynne Weber, and Roland H. Wauer (There is also one for moths)
- Native Texas Plants: Landscaping Region by Region, by Sally Wasowski and Andy Wasowski
- Wild Edible Plants of Texas: A Pocket Guide to the Identification, Collection, Preparation, & Use of 60 Wild Plants of the Lone Star State, by Charles W. Kane (This includes non-natives)

Online Resources

- Bumble Bee Watch: <https://www.bumblebeewatch.org/>
- Ecoregions of North America: <https://www.epa.gov/eco-research/ecoregions-north-america>
- Ecoregions of Texas: https://tpwd.texas.gov/.../pwd_pl_w7000_1187a/media/1.pdf
- The Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center: <https://www.wildflower.org/>
- Fayette Prairie Chapter – NPAT [Fayette Prairie Chapter – NPAT \(texasprairie.org\)](https://www.texasprairie.org/)
- National Wildlife Federation: <https://www.nwf.org/>
- Native American Seed: <https://www.seedsource.com/Default.asp>
- Native Plants by State: <https://nativebackyards.com/native-plants-by-state/>
- Native Plant Society of Texas: <http://npsot.org/wp/>
- Native Plant Society of Texas - Plant Lists By Region: <https://npsot.org/wp/resources/plant-lists-by-ecoregion/>
- Native Prairies Association of Texas: <https://texasprairie.org/>
- Plants for Birds – Audubon <https://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>
- South Central Texas Prescribed Burn Association (SCTPBA) <https://sctpba.org/>
- Texas Butterfly Ranch: <https://texasbutterflyranch.com>
- Texas Invasives: <https://www.texasinvasives.org/>
- Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation: <https://xerces.org/>

Newsletter Index

<https://txmn.org/glc/whats-new/newsletters/>

So much to learn but hard to get to it. Here's an easy way to find information about articles for newsletter issues from 2018 through the most recent. For each article, the index cites the subject, title, author, and the hyperlink directly to the issue published on the chapter website.

SUBJECT	TITLE	AUTHOR	DATE
American Green Frog	Tiny-Tiny	Deaton, Judith	2021-10
American Lady Butterflies	The Resilience of Wintering Butterflies	Bullum, Lori	2022-02
Ants	Can we do without them? Solenopsis or Fire Ants	Deaton, Judith	2018-03
Ants	Crossing Paths with History--And ants	Michel, Frank	2022-06
Aquatic Plants	Report on Wildlife & Fisheries Academy	Hobbs, Donna	2018-03
Bastard Cabbage	Be on the Lookout-- Invasives in our area	Itz, Julie	2022-04
Bees	"Bee Surprised"	Bullum, Lori	2018-07
Bees	Carpenter Bees -- Look like bumble bees	Redden, Dave	2018-09
Bees	Toxic Bee-Killing Hitchhiker Beetles (I Know, Right?)	Helzer, Chris	2018-05
Bird	Texas Master Naturalist are Never Just "On Vacation"	Bullum, Lori	2019-07
Birds	Audubon's "Lights Out" Program	Rooney, Terry	2019-01
Birds	Birding on the Beach in Mexico	Bullum, Lori	2018-05
Birds	Chance encounter with wood storks	Greene, Vicky	2022-10

Chapter Resources

Officers for 2023

President – [Sheri Wilcox](#)

Vice President – [Norbert Dittrich](#)

Secretary – [Patti Brown](#)

Treasurer – [David Hessel](#)

Board Members

Advanced Training Director – [Norbert Dittrich](#)

Communications Director – [Lori Buffum](#)

Marketing Director – [Ken English](#)

Membership Director – [Chris Morrison](#)

Training Class Director – [Connie Shortes](#)

Volunteer Service Projects Director – [Jaci Elliott](#)

Education Director – [Karen Gardner](#)

Chapter State Representative – Sheri Wilcox

Immediate Past President – Betsy Palkowsky

Advisor – [Kara Matheny](#) (Washington County Texas AgriLife)

Committees and Contacts

Hospitality Chair – Nita Tiemann

Newsletter Editor – [Betsy Palkowsky](#)

Website Editor – Sheri Wilcox

Grants and Donations Chair – Mary Ann Butler

Volunteer Project Leaders

Adopt-a-Highway – Mary Ann Butler and Jaci Elliott

Agricultural Safety Days – Karen Gardner

Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR – Susan Vanderworth

Colorado River Watch – Annette Holdeman, Nita Tiemann

Family Science Nights – Lori Buffum

Indian Creek Nature Area – Ann Ray

LaGrange AgriLife Building Native Plant

Landscape – Cindy Rodibaugh

Monument Hill State Historic Site — Karen Woods

Prescribed Burning – Mark Brown and B.R. Koehler

Schubert House Pollinator Project – Karen Woods

Stephen F. Austin State Park – Tom Shaughnessy

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site –

Julie Itz and David Itz

Winedale Trails and Pollinator Garden –Rhonda Schneider

Sponsor Contact

Each county has its own TPWD Biologist and Texas AgriLife Extension agent. We work closely with these sponsors.

Use the following links to access the main county contacts working with our chapter.

[*Austin County*](#)

[*Colorado County*](#)

[*Fayette County*](#)

[*Washington County*](#)

[*Lee County*](#)



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PARKS &
WILDLIFE

- **Our Chapter Website** <http://txmn.org/glc>
- **GLC Facebook Group** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/21969044537/>
- **Volunteer Management System**; log your hours
<https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/tmn-vms-users>
- **Texas Master Naturalist Program Website** <https://txmn.tamu.edu/>
- **Texas Master Naturalist Listserv**; get notices about activities across the state <mailto:TMN@LISTSERV.TAMU.EDU> [LISTSERV - Subscription](#)

Contact Us

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