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## Our Mission

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

## SAVE THE DATES

Board Meeting – 5/6/2022 –  
Chapter Meeting – 5/21/2022 -  
Winedale

Send articles or photos to our  
Newsletter Editor, Betsy  
Palkowsky

[bpalkowsky@outlook.com](mailto:bpalkowsky@outlook.com)  
[glcnwsltr@gmail.com](mailto:glcnwsltr@gmail.com)

**June 30**

July NEWSLETTER  
ENTRY DEADLINE

## From the President

### Sheri Wilcox



Our beautiful spring weather continues and with it plenty of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Our chapter members have certainly been making the most of the clement weather:

- Our wildscapes and pollinator gardens have benefited from attention at Stephen F. Austin State Park, Winedale, Washington-on-the-Brazos, the Fayette County Agrilife Building, Indian Creek, and the Schubert House
- The Class of 2022 has added to their knowledge with field trips in ornithology, archaeology, and geology, with more field trips and classroom learning to come
- Our 2-mile stretch of highway benefited from a spring clean-up. Chapter members have participated in prescribed burns to reinvigorate our prairies
- School science nights and Ag Safety Days are bringing nature to the next generation. Thank you to all of our chapter members who make these projects possible
- Our Volunteer Appreciation Event highlighted our chapter's accomplishments during 2021. We can all be proud of providing over 5,600 hours of volunteer service to our community in 2021

We had a wonderful chapter meeting in March. Our advanced training speaker Debbie Moran spoke with us about the importance of soft lighting. Debbie gave us lots of great ideas for adjusting our own outdoor lighting to improve its effectiveness while minimizing the impact on birds and insects. With about a third of all birds migrating in North America traveling through the Central Texas flyway and many of those migrating at night, we play a critical role in ensuring safe passage. For more information on preferred lighting, you can go to Debbie's website ([www.softlighthouston.com](http://www.softlighthouston.com)).

## From the President (cont)



For more information on how you can support migrating birds, check out the Houston Audubon Society's Lights Out, Houston! webpage (<http://www.birdfriendlyhouston.org/about/lights-out/>).

Chapter members also were treated to presentations by Susan Vanderworth and Jon Watkins.

Susan spoke about the turkey tail fungus that they are using at Indian Creek to accelerate decomposition of the many ligustrum logs that have been removed from the nature trail.



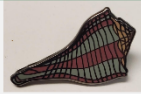
Jon described how he has applied Aldo Leopold's tools to improve his land, culminating in a prescribed fire conducted by chapter members working with the South Central Texas Prescribed Burn Association.

Our next **chapter meeting will be May 21, 2022, at Winedale**. The advanced training will be presentations from members of the Class of 2022. I hope you will be able to join us in celebrating with all of the members of the Class of 2022 as they complete their initial training and embark on the next step of their journeys as Texas Master Naturalists.

Our [chapter calendar](#) is full of upcoming volunteer workdays and advanced training. Be sure to check these out and get outdoors before the summer swelter arrives.

## State Information

**2022 Annual Meeting** will be at the Omni Houston Hotel near the Galleria October 20 – October 23. They do not know if it will be an in-person or hybrid.



### 2022 Annual Recertification Pin

Lightning Whelk (*Busycon perversum pulleyi*)  
The State Shell of Texas

### 2021 Annual Meeting AT recorded sessions

will be available to attendees through April 2022. Info on new access portal will be sent to registrants shortly.

### 2022 #TMNTuesdays

January 11   May 10   September 13  
February 8   June 14   October 11  
March 8   July 12   November 8  
April 12   August 9   December 13



### #TMNTuesday [#TMNTuesdays \(tamu.edu\)](https://tamupress.com/tmnt-tuesdays)

#### April 12th 12:00pm cst

Sarah Coles – Texas Children in Nature  
Health and Nature Liaisons: Nature and Health Connections

#### May 10th 12:00pm cst

Richard Heilbrun – Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Crossing the Finish Line: Recovering America's Wildlife Act



### Be The Change Workshop

April 6th – 9:00am – 1:00pm  
Virtual workshop - Will have Breakout Rooms  
guest speakers, Dr Roel Lopez, Department Head of the  
Rangeland Wildlife & Fisheries Management Department at Texas  
A&M and David Buggs the Diversity & Inclusion Director for Texas  
Parks & Wildlife Department. Join the conversation if you feel will have productive contribution  
or special interest in the workshop materials & goals.

Register here [https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYof-Cuqz8vE93FRyx\\_jqgc2W6nGzSTdd7j](https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYof-Cuqz8vE93FRyx_jqgc2W6nGzSTdd7j)



### [Virtual Volunteer Fair 2022](#)

Partner conservation organizations to present volunteer service projects that need volunteers from a distance or virtually!



### 2022 Annual Meeting

23<sup>rd</sup> Texas Master Naturalist Program Annual Meeting  
Thursday, October 20th to Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Omni Houston Hotel

# Membership Memo

by Chris Morrison



## Directory

It's almost time for the annual GLC **Membership Directory**, which includes contact information and a photo of each member. If any of your information has changed since last year's directory, please email me. For returning members, I will use the photo that was in last year's directory unless you send me another digital photo by April 10. For this year's trainees I will use the contact information and photo you submitted for your training class directory unless you let me know what you want changed.

## New Opportunities

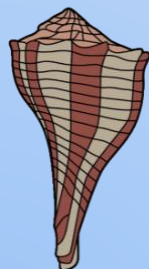
In the next few days you will see two new volunteer opportunities in your VMS menu of opportunities. [Teaching the Prairies](#) is working with the Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT) to help them design and put on an annual teacher workshop with activities ready for them to use with their students. The workshop will include indoor and field sessions. We'll help NPAT develop the activities and manage the logistics for the field sessions. Sheri Wilcox is heading up this project.

**Technical Guidance** is what you will use to record hours for providing FREE, detailed natural resource management advice or assistance for any natural resource-related program or related business. Examples include providing guidance in consultation or written form to land managers, site visits for and writing ecosystem management plans, and serving on a city/community/regional habitat conservation plan committee. This doesn't require a project leader since it is individual actions.

## Pins

The **2022 Service Against All Odds – Through Grit and Distance** pins have been shipped to chapters and I will be distributing them at the May chapter meeting. Anyone who logged at least one hour of volunteer time and at least 8 hours of AT during 2021 has earned a Service pin.

### Membership Awards (March chapter meeting)



#### 2022 Recertification (lightning whelk)

Chuck Babb  
Marcia Braun  
Betsy Palkowsky  
Swee Leng Rapatz  
Jon Watkins  
Sheri Wilcox



**250 All-Time Hours**  
Betty Scardino



**500 All-Time Hours**  
Charlene Koehler

Thank you for recording your hours in VMS. Each volunteer hour is worth more than \$23 in federal grants to our sponsoring agencies. Your time does matter!

## Member Profiles

### Swee Leng Rapatz

#### About Me

I grew up in Malaysia and graduated from the University of New Brunswick, Canada with degrees in [Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering](#) and Business Administration. I was working as a Professional Engineer in Fredericton, New Brunswick when I was recruited to work on the Super Conducting Super Collider Project in Waxahachie in early 1992. I have lived in Arlington and Ennis and moved to Houston in 1994 where I transitioned my career into Information Technology. I had worked for Petro-chemical and automotive companies before deciding to open two music instruction schools in the Houston suburbs in 2003 and 2007. The schools collectively had 800 students ranging from ages 3 to 86 but they have been closed during the COVID lockdowns. I've been married to Phil for almost 35 years.



We bought our current Brenham acreage in late 2017 and we renovated an existing hunting camp into a small weekend cabin. We are hoping to build a house so we can spend more time in Brenham.

#### Why TMN?

I had signed up for the GLC newsletters at the TMN information booth during a New Landowner Education Workshop. I had never been comfortable outdoors but have always been conservation conscious. I had thought the TMN education/training will help me gain a better appreciation of flora/fauna whilst doing meaningful volunteer work.

#### TMN-GLC Projects

I volunteer with: Julie Itz on the Washington on the Brazos Pollinator Garden; Mark Brown on Prescribed Burns; Connie Shortes on Buddies for the 2022 Trainees; Butterfly Monitoring (TMN Virtual Project) Program, and Lan Shen for the Katy Prairie Conservancy.



#### Favorite Thing About Being a Master Naturalist

I cherish meeting and making new friends while learning best practices (and what not to do) from more experienced naturalists.

#### Favorite Critter

Favorite bird is the Cardinal and favorite flower is the day flower.

#### Favorite Place in Texas

Our place outside Brenham in the Sandy Hill Area

#### Favorite Big Trips

Sailing and diving in British Virgin Islands

## Adventures and Observations

### Chance encounter with an American Woodcock



**By David Itz**

On March 6, I saw an American Woodcock nest on our property between Chappell Hill and Washington-on-the-Brazos in Washington County. This would be on the southwest edge of the range of the American Woodcock.



The ground nest, near a fence line in an old hayfield, is a simple depression lined with a few leaves and pieces of grass.



As I approached, the superbly camouflaged female woodcock flew from her nest, fluttering about ten yards as if she had a broken wing before dropping to the ground.

Then she performed the same routine once more, trying to draw my attention away from the four brown and tan mottled eggs she had been tending.

Later that afternoon I saw her leave the nest again, this time with the fast horizontal flight that makes the American Woodcock a challenging upland game bird.



### Icelandic Adventure

**By Ann Ray**

Iceland in March yielded many snow covered mountains and beautiful waterfalls. But the almost a constant cloud cover resulted in no Northern Light sightings for us this time. Riding the Icelandic horses was my highlight of the trip.



## Teaching Moments



### The Red Fox

by Ellen Morris

I've been watching the fox around my area for a number of years. As you might guess, they are not as prevalent as they used to be as more of us move out to the country.

When we first bought our property, the seller told me how much they enjoyed watching all the fox activity and I eagerly kept watch for them. My first fox interaction finally came one morning on my way out my drive, something orangish caught my eye over to the side of our entry. Sadly, it was a dead fox, lying peacefully (but not 100% peaceful), just inside our entry off the road, close to where I had been told the den was located. I believe he had been hit by a car and had made it almost all the way back to his den.

I was devastated. I asked around and one neighbor said oh yes, there was that big full moon and those bring about a lot of nighttime activity, hence animals get hit. Eventually, we finally began seeing more foxes. But I still get a little nervous when I see a nice big full moon.



The red fox, *Vulpes vulpes*, the largest of the true foxes is eye catching. It has rusty red fur, a long, bushy tail with distinctive white tail tip, a white underbelly, black legs, orange face with long snout, cat-like whiskers, large ears with black ear tips and they can run up to 45 mph. The Red Fox was introduced from England to Texas in the 1890s to train tracking dogs.

The Red Fox's many color variations can make it difficult to differentiate Red and Gray Foxes (which are natives to Texas). The white tail tip, longer snout and slightly larger size distinguish the Red Fox. The fox's nocturnal and crepuscular behavior, and preference for brushy habitat make sightings rather unusual.

Although a member of the canid family, the fox has many feline characteristics. The female, called a vixen, is slightly smaller than the male dog fox; babies are called kits, cubs or pups. A group of foxes is called a skulk or a leash. A key feature of a canid is canine teeth specifically suited to grabbing and holding prey, cracking bones and shredding flesh. As with many wild dogs, they have become highly adaptable and are opportunistic feeders as well as being susceptible to canine diseases like rabies and distemper.

The feline characteristics of the fox include: its elliptical pupils, claws which partially retract like a cat's, long tail used for balance, kits that hiss when they are young, and a hunting style that is cat-like in its solitary manner.

Some feline behaviors are also seen in foxes such as, quietly stalking its prey and increasing the length of its reach by pausing and pouncing upon small rodents or mammals, assuming an arched-back cat type threat posture. While primarily carnivorous, foxes like a wide variety of food: live prey, including birds, rodents and insects, carrion, eggs, berries, fruit, and garbage.



The territorial and family habits of foxes combine canine and feline behavior. Red Foxes are social, with the entire family living together in a den or multiple den burrows in their territory. Sometimes two families will share a whelping den. Red Foxes prefer diverse vegetative areas; wooded uplands mixed with farms and pastures. However, they will venture into urban areas for food if necessary. The size of their home range varies depending on food supply.

Foxes mark their territory with a musky scent which can be a clue there are foxes nearby. They also have such routine hunting habits that they wear trails which are visible in dense brush and grasses. Foxes communicate with a variety of sounds: screams to attract a mate, barks to warn, growls, yelps, and whines. They tend to be quite docile and avoid confrontation. Their large ears give them an excellent sense of hearing.

Foxes typically have a life span of three to four years. They mate in late winter and kits are born around March (with 3-5 kits to a litter). The mother carefully tends to them in the den for about three months while the father brings food and protects the den. The kits eventually emerge to play and to learn to hunt. In Fall, after 8 months or so, the young leave the group to seek territory of their own.



## Be on the lookout - Invasives in our area!

by Julie Itz



Have you noticed plants with yellow flowers along the roads in our area? They may be invasive **Bastard Cabbage** (*Rapistrum rugosum*)! As member of the mustard family the young leaves, flower buds and young seed pods are all edible. Unfortunately, the broad leaves of this invasive plant can choke out our native plants.

According to the [Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center](#), bastard cabbage is now found in 17 US states and even in Canada. This is the perfect time to work on removing bastard cabbage where you see it growing – most often found along roads and on recently-cleared land.

Right now, you'll find it easy to pull the individual plants by hand. Be sure to pull out the entire plant before it goes to seed. The Wildflower Center recommends that after you remove the bastard cabbage plants, you should plant more native seeds. According to the Center, Mark Simmons, Ph.D. found that areas heavily seeded with Indian blanket (*Gaillardia pulchilla*) made it difficult for the bastard cabbage to compete.



In 2018, CBS had a short clip on its morning show about bastard cabbage threatening the future of the Texas Bluebonnet. If you're not sure you would recognize bastard cabbage, view the clip: <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/killer-cabbage-threatens-texas-state-flower/>

Unfortunately, bastard cabbage is not the only invasive species that we have in our area. Texas Invasives (<https://texasinvasives.org>) lists the Dirty Dozen Terrestrial Invasive Species in the Blackland Prairies and the Post Oak Savannah ecoregions:

### Blackland Prairies:

Bastard cabbage - *Rapistrum rugosum*  
Giant reed - *Arundo donax*  
Johnson grass - *Sorghum halepense*  
Chinese tallow tree - *Triadica sebifera*  
King Ranch bluestem - *Bothriochloa ischaemum* var. *songarica*  
Field bindweed - *Convolvulus arvensis*  
Bermudagrass - *Cynodon dactylon*  
Chinaberry tree - *Melia azedarach*  
Redtip photinia - *Photinia x fraseri*  
Heavenly bamboo - *Nandina domestica*  
Pincushions - *Scabiosa atropurpurea*  
Chinese privet - *Ligustrum sinense*

### Post Oak Savannah

[Giant reed](#) - *Arundo donax*  
[Chinaberry tree](#) - *Melia azedarach*  
[Chinese tallow tree](#) - *Triadica sebifera*  
[Bermudagrass](#) - *Cynodon dactylon*  
[Johnson grass](#) - *Sorghum halepense*  
[Japanese honeysuckle](#) - *Lonicera japonica*  
[Chinese privet](#) - *Ligustrum sinense*  
[Glossy privet](#) - *Ligustrum lucidum*  
[Japanese privet](#) - *Ligustrum japonicum*  
[Giant salvinia](#) - *Salvinia molesta*  
[King Ranch bluestem](#) - *Bothriochloa ischaemum* var. *songarica*  
[Heavenly bamboo](#) - *Nandina domestica*

*So be on the lookout this spring and help our annual natives by removing invasives*

## Volunteering Highlights



### Chapter Members Monitor Colorado River Quality By Annette Holdeman

The Colorado River has the distinction of being the 18<sup>th</sup> longest river (862 miles) in the United States, as well as being the longest river with both its source and mouth within the same state. The Colorado River begins its course near Lubbock, flows southeast and discharges freshwater into the finfish and shellfish estuaries at Matagorda Bay before flowing into the Gulf of Mexico.



In 1934, the Texas Legislature created the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) to manage the devastating effects of flooding and droughts by damming the river at 6 strategic locations called the Highland Lakes area. Hydroelectric power generated from the dams brought electricity to rural Texas Hill Country which contributed to growth and development throughout the area. The six man-made dams along the river also capture rainwater for agricultural use during times of drought.

According to the LCRA, the Colorado River's waters are primarily used for agricultural and municipal purposes. Other uses include environmental flows, industrial, and recreational. Of particular importance to TMN volunteers is LCRA's allocations for "Environmental Flows". "Environmental Flow" is a function of water quality where water is released from a dam to maintain downstream river health in the following ways:

- Protect aquatic ecosystems and reduce aquatic weeds and frequency of algal blooms
- Improve conditions for native fish, frogs, water birds and river-dependent plants and animals that rely on different flows to trigger migration and breeding
- Protect river condition for recreation such as boating and swimming
- Protect the water quality of the freshwater discharge into Matagorda Bay into the Gulf of Mexico. This controls salinity conditions preferred by most species of finfish and shellfish and supports the economic stability of commercial fishing

To achieve these ends, the LCRA has developed a volunteer program, the Colorado River Watch Network. Approximately 90 trained volunteers perform monthly water testing along the Lower Colorado as an "early warning system" to alert the LCRA of potential water quality problems. Once a month, three Gideon Lincecum Chapter members hike down the banks of the Colorado with sample buckets in tow to collect water samples for analysis. You may see **Terry Rooney, Nita Tiemann, or me** doing just that at our testing sites.

Nita Tiemann performing  
Dissolved Oxygen testing



Terry Rooney performing  
Conductivity testing

Annette Holdeman  
collecting site water sample



The tests we perform help develop baseline and ongoing water quality data that is reported back to the LCRA. Monthly testing includes:

- **Water and Air Temperature** – These temperatures affect the amount of dissolved oxygen in water. Changes in shade or lack of shade upstream, changes in vegetation on streambank, discharges from urban sources, or groundwater inflows directly affect dissolved oxygen, one of the most important measures of river health
- **Conductivity** – Implies presence of inorganic dissolved solids, such as sodium, chloride, sulfate, and calcium in water, which may reflect upstream changes in geology or surrounding run off upstream. Changes in salinity, chloride, sulfate, and calcium can kill aquatic plants and animals
- **Dissolved Oxygen (DO)** – An important water quality indicator for aquatic life. Sewage, leaf litter, grass clippings, run off from agricultural feedlots all utilize available oxygen for decomposition by bacteria, hence a low DO reading will alert LCRA of issues upstream for aquatic plants and animals
- **pH** – Measures acidity or alkalinity. Either extreme can kill adult fish and damage juveniles
- **Nitrates** – Increased nitrogen can cause overgrowth of algae decreasing dissolved oxygen causing fish kills. Nitrate producers include human and animal sewage, industrial pollutants, and non-source pollution by run-off from heavily fertilized croplands and lawns
- **E Coli bacteria** – Found in fecal matter from humans and other warm-blooded animals. High levels indicate presence of disease-causing bacteria and viruses in our streams and lakes. Sources include sewage systems that are not working properly, polluted storm water runoff, and agricultural runoff.

Water quality monitoring helps the LCRA ensure these waters are being used beneficially for all its stakeholders which is truly a balancing act on a grand scale. I'm sure Terry and Nita will agree, volunteering for the Colorado River Watch Network is both rewarding and always interesting.

## Early Spring at Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site

By Julie Itz



February's workday was spent cleaning up winter damage to the Chapter's pollinator garden in anticipation of the Texas Independence Day

Celebration scheduled for the next weekend.

Plants in the garden were beginning to pop up and green up. The garden was ready for visitors



Unfortunately, the weekend of the Texas Independence Day Celebration was cold and blustery. Our chapter recruiting booth was cancelled on Saturday, but Ken English with Jon Watson's help got our booth set up on Sunday with displays and seeds to give away. The cold weather meant fewer visitors, but our Chapter members were eager to explain the Master Naturalist program and how we work to educate ourselves and others about the important native plants, birds and animals of Texas. Volunteering in one of our Chapter's recruiting booths is a great way to meet other Chapter members and interact with booth visitors.



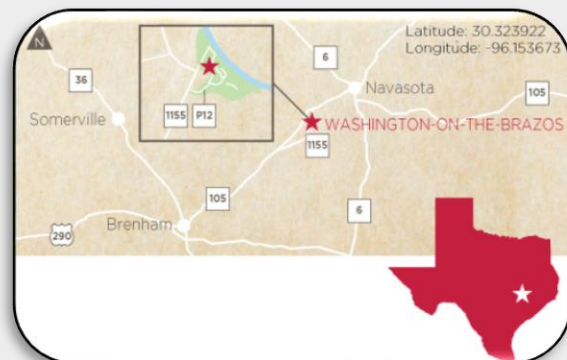
Tim, Swee, Julie, Carol  
with David behind the camera

Happily, we had perfect weather for the March workday – not too hot, not too cold! The spring annuals and perennials continue to grow. With the help of Carol Gaskamp, Julie & David Itz, Tim Rackley, and Swee Leng Rapatz, we continued to remove winter damage and tidy the area in anticipation of park visitors looking for Bluebonnets in the next few weeks.

### [Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site](#)

Known as the site of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2, 1836

23400 Park Rd 12, Washington, TX 77880



## Adopt-An-I-Way

By Jaci Elliott

Adopting a Highway (AAH) is more like giving the shoulders of the road a hug and a scrub. Our fearless TMNGLC leader, Mary Ann Butler is a real trouper when it comes to continuing our stretch in Rutersville.



We welcome any and all TMNGLC members and members in training to join us for our next pickup, probably sometime early this summer. If you can't make it to our chapter AAH cleanup, remember, you can always pick up trash along your local roadways and submit your hours to VMS. For safety reasons, please go with a partner (carry your phone); take a first-aid kit, water, sunscreen, gloves and bags, and, when walking alongside the roadway, always face the oncoming traffic.

I like to collect and sort recyclables when I go, and this inspired me a few years ago to pen the following:

Count me among my aunt, an octogenarian friend, and even writer David Sedaris

As one of the roadside trash warriors of the world. Having moved fulltime to rural Central Texas, I now pick up trash along Farm-to-Market routes near our property, which are currently quilted in a rainbow of spring wildflowers.

I used to walk, but now, in case I need to outrun the occasional and commonly aggressive canine, I take our Honda Recon, which is outfitted with a crate, several plastic bags and a bungee cord.

The recyclables are separated from the refuse with the most popular items being:

Lone Star beer cans, store brand water bottles and Whataburger cups. These are presumably tossed, in order, by the following drivers: young males, construction workers, or local grab-and-go diners. All of whom are much too lazy to throw them away in a garage can.

Bleached armadillo hide is a dead-wringer (if you'll pardon the expression) for Styrofoam pieces, scorpions and fire ants are known hazards. My biggest haul yet probably filled four kitchen-sized garbage cans. My most unusual find was a girls' pony saddle, decked out in pink leather trim and missing the horn.

Thankfully, our trash collection center is also a large recycling center.

Most travelers, when they see me in my gloves and reflective vest, will give me the standard two-fingered wave from their steering wheel. Once, a passing farmer asked me how much money I got for the aluminum. I told him I don't turn anything in for money. My satisfaction comes from seeing just the wild and the flowers along our country roads. He thanked me for improving our little highway and apologized for our slovenly neighbors.

Made my day, to be appreciated for just doing my part, our part.

## Volunteer Opportunities



### The Great Texas River Clean Up San Marcos River

By Chuck Babb

This was a great volunteer opportunity for those who like to paddle or even walk the shoreline in San Marcos and pick up trash. There is a lot of trash, too!

My granddaughter (Trystan) and I helped this year. I have been doing this for many years with my paddling friends 'Spring Woods Canoe Group'. There are cleanups annually in October and March.



This VMS opportunity is listed as "Out of GLC Area Natural Resource Management Service" since this opportunity it is not within our 5 counties.



For more info contact Chuck Babb, [gobcampinganywhere2012@hotmail.com](mailto:gobcampinganywhere2012@hotmail.com) or go to the [Texas River Protection Association](http://www.trpa.org) (TRPA) NEW and IMPROVED website!

# Volunteers make the impossible possible

Volunteers make the impossible possible

## Teaching the Prairies

By Sheri Wilcox

Teaching the Prairies is our newest volunteer opportunity, which will allow our chapter to create and deliver a workshop for area teachers in collaboration with the Fayette Prairie Chapter of the Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT). Volunteers will have the opportunity to work with professional educators from NPAT to learn and present the workshop activities. The goal of the workshop is to give teachers the skills to teach their students about the prairie ecosystem. If the plants, insects, and birds that inhabit prairies excite you and you are willing to share your knowledge and enthusiasm, this is the project for you.

While envisioned as an annual workshop, the current commitment is to develop one workshop to be presented in the fall of 2022. The format will be a field session presented by TMN GLC and Fayette Prairie NPAT volunteers followed by a state-wide virtual presentation. Here is the timeline:

- 5/28/2022 – visit to Deer Park Prairie to begin learning activities to be presented in the workshop
- 9/2022 – train the trainer workshop to continue learning activities
- 10/1/2022 (10/8/2022 rain date) – present field session
- 11/3/2022 – present breakout on history of the Fayette Prairie during virtual session

To present the workshop, we will need the following volunteers:

- 3 – 4 volunteers to learn and present field activities
- 1 or more volunteers to research and present history
- 1 volunteer to assist with logistics

If you are interested in getting involved with this exciting new project, please contact the Project Leader Sheri Wilcox.



## Snapshot from our chapter events calendar

CONTACT THE PROJECT LEADERS TO VERIFY DATES AND START TIMES

### Events for April 2022

**April 4 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

[Birding for Fun – 8 week series – Location, Location! Understanding Habitat](#)

VMS opportunity: AT: webinars

Birding for Fun 8-week series of Beginner Birding virtual classes

**April 7 @ 8:00 am - 10:00 am**

[Native Seed Project for CKWRI](#)

VMS opportunity- Native Seed Project for CKWRI The monthly scheduled workday will be the first Thursday of the month.

**April 11 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

[Birding for Fun – 8 week series – Bird’s Eye View on Behavior](#)

VMS opportunity: AT: webinars

**April 12 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**

[TMN Tuesday](#)

VMS opportunity: AT: TMN Tuesday On the Second Tuesday of each month at the noon hour (12PM Central Standard Time), the TMN State Office will offer an hour-long virtual advanced training event

**April 16 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am**

[Washington-on-the-Brazos Historic Site workday](#)

*Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site 23400 Park Road 12, Washington, TX*

**April 18 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

[Birding for Fun – 8 week series – Spring Migration](#)

VMS opportunity: AT: webinars

Birding for Fun 8-week series of Beginner Birding virtual classes

**April 21 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am**

[Indian Creek Nature Trail Workday](#)

*Burton Cotton Gin Museum 307 N. Main, Burton, TX*

**April 25 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

[Birding for Fun – 8 week series – It’s Time for a Makeover! Understanding Plumage Variation](#)

VMS opportunity: AT: webinars (description should include the topic and presenter)

**May 4 @ 8:00 am - May 5 @ 5:00 pm**

TMN Virtual Volunteer Fair – Save the Date

**May 5 @ 8:00 am – 10:00 am**

[Native Seed Project for CKWRI](#)

VMS opportunity- Native Seed Project for CKWRI The monthly scheduled workday will be the first Thursday of the month.



## This & That



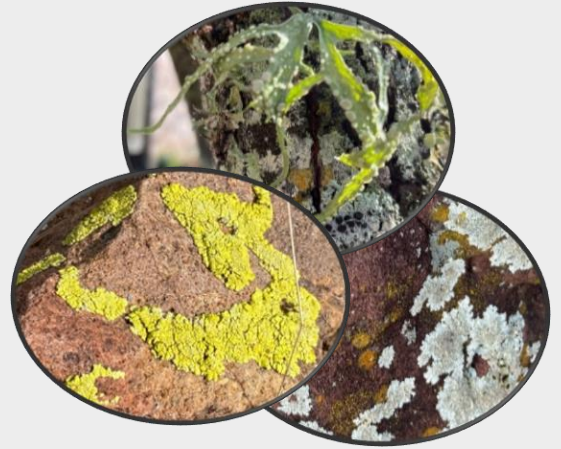
### Lichens'

By Frank Michel

"Alice Algae took a "lichen" to Freddy Fungus, but their relationship is on the rocks because he often drives her up a tree."

Because of lichen's particular sensitivity to pollutants in the air and humidity, they are almost always a visible sign of good air quality.

The more we see of Alice and Freddy the better.



### Always an adventure

By Linda Esco



*There's always an adventure  
Whether quarantined or not  
Just take a deep breath in  
And look at what you've got*

*Your backyard is so so busy  
With critters all around  
Look above and look beyond  
Pay attention to the ground*

*The spider carries her egg sac  
The lizard soaks the sun  
And nature carries onward  
New life always begun*

*The butterflies are busy  
The bees are buzzing round  
The birds are happy singing  
They make a joyous sound*

*So there's no real need to travel  
To hurry out the door  
Cause all around you nature  
Is something to explore*

-Linda Esco, Gideon Lincecum

## Chapter Resources

### Officers for 2022

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 Directors – [Connie Shortes & Chuck Linton](#)

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

Education Director – [Joanna Hagler](#)

Chapter State Representative – Sheri Wilcox

Previous Past President – Betsy Palkowsky

Advisor – [Kara Matheney](#) (Washington County Texas April ife)

### 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 – Donna Mueller

Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR -Terry Rooney

Brenham ISD Outdoor Education – Lori Buffum

Colorado River Watch – open

Family Science Nights – Lori Buffum

Fayetteville Native Plant Project – Karen Bookout

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

San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site Native

Plant Gardens – Mary-Helen Giles

Schubert House Pollinator Project – Karen Woods

Stephen F. Austin State Park – Tom Shaughnessy

Top Ten Presentation – Cheryl Karr

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site –

Julie Itz and David Itz

Winedale Trails and Pollinator Garden – Jan Hughes

### Sponsor Contact

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

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

[\*\*\*Austin County\*\*\*](#)

[\*\*\*Colorado County\*\*\*](#)

[\*\*\*Fayette County\*\*\*](#)

[\*\*\*Washington County\*\*\*](#)

[\*\*\*Lee County\*\*\*](#)



- **Our Chapter Website** <http://txmn.org/glc>
- **GLC Facebook Group** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/21969044537/>
- **Volunteer Management System**; log your hours <http://txmn.org/tmn-vms-users/>
- **Texas Master Naturalist State Website** <https://txmn.org/>
- **Texas Master Naturalist Listserv**; get notices about activities across the state <https://txmn.org/staying-connected/sign-up-for-tmnlistserv/>

### Contact Us

1305 East Blue Bell Road  
Suite 104  
Brenham, TX 77833  
(979) 277-6212