

The GLC Tidings

AUG 2023

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T E X A S

Master
Naturalist
Gideon Linsecum
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 – 08/25/2023

Chapter Meeting – 09/16/2023

From the President



Sheri Wilcox

This month's message is a mishmash of TMN events, both local and state. Despite the heat, our volunteer projects have been continuing to enrich our lives and those of the people we serve.

Be sure to check out the posts on our Facebook page and elsewhere in this newsletter for more information. We have lots of events coming up as well. The website calendar is your source for lots of interesting, advanced training and volunteer opportunities.

Registration is now open for the TMN annual meeting held this year in **McAllen, Texas from October 12 – 15, 2023**

(www.txmn.tamu.edu/2023-annual-meeting/).

The list of topics is wide-ranging. I know I always have a hard time choosing which of many enticing programs I will select.

Saturday will be an exciting day, with an all-conference field trip to the East Foundation's El Sauz Ranch (www.eastfoundation.net) to view the annular solar eclipse and experience the beauty of this remote ranch, home of the endangered ocelot. Its arid thorn scrub environment is very different from our central Texas tallgrass prairies.

Next up on our local agenda is our first Education Expo and summer gathering on **August 20th starting promptly at 2:00 p.m. at the Winedale Conference Center.**

Our Education Team has been working hard to update and organize our educational programs. Come and experience some of our most popular educational programs on display and see how easy it is to pick up an activity and present it to your favorite adult or youth group.

Share a potluck meal with chapter members (tea and water provided by the chapter) and earn two hours of advanced training too.

From the President (continued)

People are the heart of our chapter; we couldn't operate without our volunteers. I want to thank those who have recently stepped into leadership positions and to ask you to consider taking on one of our open positions.

Thank you to Carol Gaskamp, who has been working with Betsy Palkowsky to create the GLC Tidings. Carol will be stepping into the newsletter editor's position.

CJ Claverie, Class of 2023, has taken on the role of Winedale project co-leader. Thank you to CJ for working with this project. We are still looking for a co-leader for this project, which is an important relationship for our chapter. There is something for everyone at Winedale. In addition to the pollinator habitat that graces the front of the visitor center building, we have the nature trail that leads to a small pond, a prairie restoration, and educational opportunities. Please talk to Jaci Elliott, our Volunteer Projects Director, if you would like more information.

Treasurer – The nomination committee has been working hard to identify candidates to serve on our executive board for 2024-2025. We continue to seek a candidate to take on the role of treasurer. If you are able to balance a checkbook and make a household budget, you have the skills to be our treasurer. Contact Betsy Palkowsky if you would be willing to serve as our treasurer.

Strategic review ad hoc committee – As I mentioned at our July meeting, we will be reviewing our chapter operations, including how our chapter will be funded and where our time and talents are best invested. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact me. We will be seeking chapter-wide input, including through a town-hall meeting, later this fall.

I appreciate all of you who make our chapter work, whether by maintaining a pollinator habitat, serving on a committee, volunteering to create and present an educational program, balancing our books, finding our speakers, recruiting new members, cleaning our highways, or decorating for our events. Working together we can accomplish so much more than any of us alone.

Sheri

**THANK YOU FOR
VOLUNTEERING**

State Information

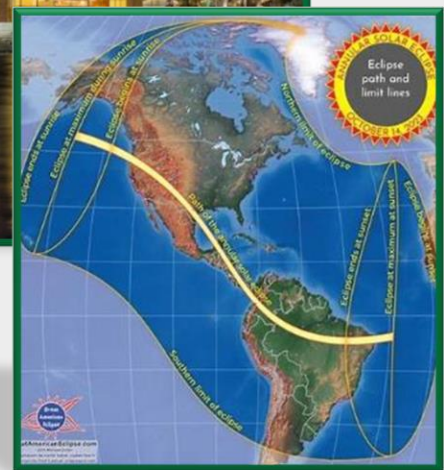
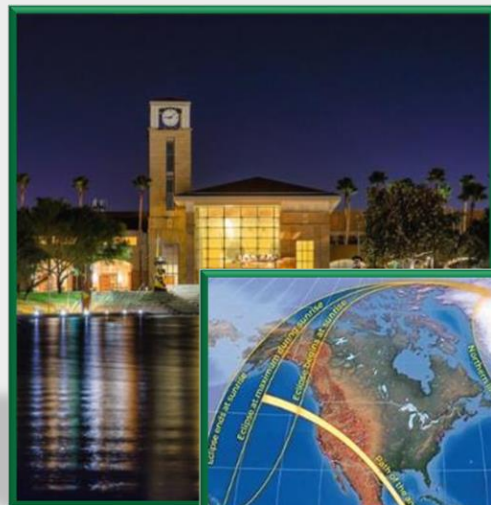
REGISTRATION IS OPEN AND CLASSES AND FIELD TRIPS ARE FILLING UP QUICKLY.

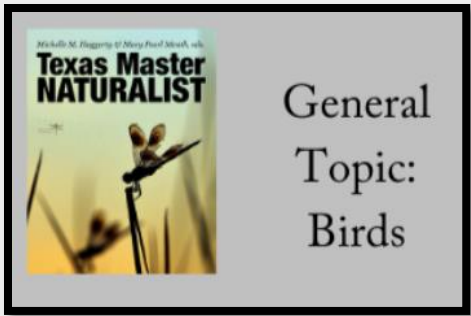
Don't miss out on the chance to attend this year's annual meeting. It is sure to be one of the most memorable meetings so far. Not only is it our 25th anniversary but there is a special all day off-site field trip to witness the annual solar eclipse at a private ranch.

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	Pre-Event Field Sessions
	Chapter Leadership Luncheon
	Afternoon Concurrent Advanced Training Sessions
	Welcome Dinner
Friday 10/13	Field Sessions
	Concurrent Advanced Training Sessions
	Keynote Address
Saturday 10/14	Annular Solar Eclipse
	All Day Off-Site Conference Location
	Annual Awards Reception & Dinner
Sunday 10/15	Post-Event Field Sessions
	Contest Awards
	Morning Concurrent Advanced Training Sessions
	Conference Wrap up by Noon!

[HTTP://TXMN.TAMU.EDU](http://txmn.tamu.edu)





General
Topic:
Birds

#TMNTuesday [#TMNTuesdays \(tamu.edu/tmntuesdays\)](https://tamu.edu/tmntuesdays)

Sept 12, 2023, 12:00 p.m. CST

General Topic is Birds.

[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 June. To see the full list of members who have achieved certifications and milestones, visit our chapter website: <https://txmn.org/glc/about/glc-milestones/>

Initial Certification

Green Dragonfly Pin and Certificate

Debra Salcedo

Karen Dean

Class of 2022

Class of 2023

Recertified for 2023

The Texas Ecoregions pin

Peggy Cadenhead

Jaci Elliott

Debra Healy

Julie Itz

Frank Michel

Betty Scardino

Connie Shortes

Nita Tiemann

Belinda Weatherly

Jim Weatherly

Jim Wilson

250 Hours All-Time Milestone

Bronze Dragonfly pin

Chuck Babb

500 Hours All-Time Milestone

Pewter Dragonfly pin

Susan Scanio

“Selfless action is a source of strength”

Mahatma Gandhi

Adventures & Observations

Cicadas

Marvelyn Cable Granger



From my front porch today. The intricate details of the cicada are simply amazing. Unlike other bugs that can have “crunchy exoskeletons and wings,” teneral cicadas have a nutty, green, almost peeled shrimp-y look, taste and texture similar to the crustaceans. “You can add them to any of your favorite dishes,” says Borgerson. May 19, 2021.

While I appreciate knowing my options and might be more appreciative in an apocalypse, for now I will stick with plants.

Frank Michel

Add them to compost. You can mix dead cicadas and their empty shells into your compost pile or bin, where their potassium- and nitrogen-rich exoskeletons can improve organic matter.



Betsy Palkowsky

I heard then watched this cicada killer wasp catch its prey. I tried to follow it to its nest but it eluded me and my camera. From my experience they aren’t aggressive, but they are quite large and scary. And they love cicada to feed to their larvae.

<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cicada>

Lori Buffum

Haiku #17 - Silent Cicada
Wrought in fragile bronze
Your carapace left behind
A perfect likeness



Teaching Moments



Education Team Report
Karen Gardner

GLC Goes to Science Camp

Several of us participated in an educational event new to our chapter. We participated in an “Adventure Activity” at the Bellville ISD BEST Summer Science Camp.



Jim Kelley, Carey Soderstrom, Sheri Wilcox, John Gardner, Lori Buffum and Karen Gardner worked at three Activity stations – Tracks and Scat, Animals and their Jobs, and the Scavenger Hunt with Bingo. The camp is for 4th to 8th graders who are very interested in science.

It was a fun and successful event for everyone.

Lori did the Scavenger Hunt with Bingo and got the students to work on identifying characteristics and facts about a wide variety of animals. They learned about the Texas State wildlife symbols too.



During Tracks and Scat, John and Jim taught the campers about identifying “who was here” from the pawprints and scat left behind. The campers learned about the differences between predators and prey and that often the roles change in different situations. A predator can become prey. Then the students did a CSI style activity. John put pawprints from a prey animal and a predator in a sandbox and the students had to determine “who was tracking who?”



Carey and Karen did a new activity called “Animals and Their Jobs” as a prototype. First the campers looked over a series of photos describing different ecosystem problems in specific areas. Some examples: Golf Course with ponds and too many mosquitos, too much



reflected heat in a downtown area and too many rats in a hay barn.

After seeing the photos and examples the students reviewed “Animal Job Descriptions” with photos and a list of their skills. The campers then had to match the ecosystem problem with a natural solution: mosquito-eating birds and fish for golf course, adding shade trees and awnings to downtown La Grange, encouraging snakes, raptors and having a barn cat on the farm. This exercise was followed by a broad discussion of the benefits of wildlife to our daily lives.

Creating, Working and Updating Educational Displays

The Education Team has begun a series of meetings to review, update and create presentations for our educational opportunities. We are working on some of the standard displays and developing some new activities and displays to make learning more engaging.

Education Expo at summer gathering August 20th

The Team will provide stations for about 6 of our current activities and chapter members will cruise through, do the activities and learn about the purpose and goals for our learning events. This will be about two hours of AT per person and a ton of fun.

I hope to see you there where we can connect people and nature.

Volunteering Highlights

Fayetteville Park

By Karen Bookout

Fayetteville's park is a lovely area in Fayetteville donated by Martin Payne about a year ago. It is 0.6 acres and contains a beautiful live oak tree dated by a forester at 320 to 350 years old.

Unfortunately, this spring our tree developed Oak Wilt disease and even after treatment appears to be dying. Not to be discouraged, Martin generously donated a system of raised beds and soil this spring. Additionally, we received a grant from the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPAT). We used this grant money to plant pollinator friendly plants and milkweed which have been thriving and attracting clouds of Queen butterflies.



Native Prairie Association of Texas then offered us an opportunity to plant a portion of the park in native grasses. Of course, we said yes to the offer. Hostyn Nursery agreed to grow these grasses and we were off running. However, the grasses were not ready in May as we had planned. We had to wait until the end of June before we could think about planting the grasses. We weren't ready to plant yet thus we worked to keep plants alive at our site for several weeks. A workday materialized on Friday, July 28th.

Fourteen wonderful volunteers from our chapter, Fayette County Native Prairie Association and elsewhere helped plant the small grasses. In two hours, we dug 106 holes, planted the grasses in each hole and then watered and mulched all of them.

We planted Switch grass, Eastern Gamagrass, Little Blue Stem, and a few Bundle Flowers and Engelmann's Daisy. Water is being supplied via sprinklers and all the original plants were alive at the time of planting!

Wish us luck.





Along the roadside

By Sheri Wilcox

Until recently, a standing Wednesday morning commitment prevented me from joining our TMN Adopt-a-Highway group from clearing our assigned stretch of Highway 159 in Fayette County. I had contented myself with clearing a stretch of Whitman Road that abuts our property in Washington County. But a recent schedule change gave me the opportunity to join Jaci Elliott and Susan Vanderworth for our June Adopt-a-Highway workday.

Yes, it was hot – darned hot – but strangely satisfying to see the road debris filling up our trash bags instead of spoiling the view of the countryside or flowing in a rainstorm into our waterways. We chatted as we walked, enjoying a morning of fellowship. And we found some interesting items. I am told this is not unusual.

That day's finds included the usual assortment of beer bottles and fast-food refuse, but also a child's plastic pool and a mattress. Too heavy to carry with us, Susan and Jaci wrangled the mattress onto the top of Jaci's car and we proudly deposited it at the pickup site for TxDOT to retrieve.

Watch the calendar for our next Adopt-a-Highway workday and join us.



This and That

What makes a songbird a songbird?

There are number of distinct characteristics of “songbirds” that make them “songbirds”. Here are some of traits these birds have:

- Precise control over a highly specialized vocal organ called a syrinx
- A unique arrangement of toes that makes perching on branches a breeze
- A natural talent for mimicry
- These perching birds that have a distinct toe arrangement that helps them grasp branches
- They are a suborder of passerines called *oscines*
- They come in a wide variety of sizes from the tiniest kinglet to the common raven (yes even a raven)

Read more about the song birds on the Audubon site: [What Is a Songbird, Exactly? | Audubon](https://www.audubon.org/what-is-a-songbird-exactly)

The Trees Telling Stories

The photo shows the base of Big Red, also known as the Big Tree, which lives in La Pine State Park in Central Oregon and currently holds the record as the largest ponderosa pine in the world.

It's over 500 years old, 162 ft tall, with a circumference of 28.9 ft. It takes about 150 years before these trees develop their classic bark - a brown-orange color with distinctive plates and grooves. It's beautiful up close.

https://treestellingstories.substack.com/p/icymi-908?utm_source=substack



Scientist seeks dead Texas butterflies

By Ryan Nickerson
@ryan_nickerson

Julie Dietze wasn't sure if asking people from around the country to send her dead moths and butterflies in further science would actually work.

But since the pilot research went live in April, Dietze and her research lab at Kansas are already receiving specimens from some of the states they are looking to collect from — and they are excited to send a lot more before they stop collecting them in November.

That's why the U.S. Geological Survey is asking residents in Texas, Alabama, Georgia, Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma to mail them deceased butterflies, moths and skippers in order to establish a *Lepidoptera Research Collection*. The collection will help researchers understand the decline of insect populations and will be made available to all scientists within the USGS to conduct future research.

Dietze is a physical scientist who works at a USGS research lab looking for emerging contaminants in the environment. She said she also has a love of butterflies, and moths and is worried about their declining populations.



A Gulf fritillary butterfly enjoys a morning snack last fall in Webster.

Kyle Siskin/USGS via iStock

"We'll never be able to really understand what's affecting their decline unless we get insects from the wild," Dietze said.

Dietze wanted to start off small with six states because each state has coordinated annual feeding operations, and Dietze

wants to see if the assistance they are could be affecting the local population decline. She also chose Oklahoma because it's part of her research butterfly migration pathway.

The USGS is asking people to mail dead butterflies, moths and/or skippers in a reusable

plastic bag to 1021 Billings Drive in Lawrence, Kan., 66044. The insects must be already dead, do not have to be fully dried and should be shipped frozen if they are not sent within three days of their death in order to preserve them.

The lab will not accept any insects that are protected under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species Act or listed as threatened or endangered under state law.

"Collections like this one are important because they have the potential to provide scientists new, and so far from some access to specimens. Without the specimens we'll be far over-reliant on museum specimens and environmental data," Dietze said.

Dietze has thought about making the collection a center between states, but that is still in the works, she said. There is an online registry of the specimens the USGS collects where people can look for the ones they submitted.

"I've also been reaching out to teachers because as we're about to go back to school, maybe teachers can use the project as a science project," Dietze said.

Dietze said people are starting to see a decline in "native species" and she hopes to inspire future scientists with the collection.

"There's some questions you just need a lot of people in order to answer, and citizen science is so valuable in that respect," Dietze said.

The USGS is asking for people in 6 states, including Texas, to send in dead butterflies and moths in order to establish a [Lepidoptera Research Collection](https://www.usgs.gov/science/lrc). The collection will help researchers understand the decline of insect populations and will be made available to all scientists within the USGS to conduct future research. For more information:

[USGS seeks dead Texas butterflies, moths to study population declines \(houstonchronicle.com\)](https://www.houstonchronicle.com)

Volunteer Opportunities

Executive Board Members 2024-2025

We're still looking for one more chapter member to join our executive board. 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 questions you might have about being on the board. So, take a look at the job description below. Contact Betsy Palkowsky or Sheri Wilcox if you are interested in learning more.

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 and receivables
- Manage annual 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
Treasurer Needed**

Events Calendar Snapshot

August 2023

Aug 9 @ 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm [Education Team meeting](#)

Aug 9 @ 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm [Texas Waters Webinar](#)

Aug 12 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am [Washington-on-the-Brazos Historic Site workday](#)

Aug 15 @ 8:00 am - 10:00 am [La Grange Agrilife Extension Bldg. Native Plant Landscape Workday](#)

Aug 17 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am [Indian Creek workday](#)

August 20 @ 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm [Summer Gathering and Education Expo](#)

Aug 25 @ 9:30 am - 11:30 am [TMN GLC Board Meeting](#)

September 2023

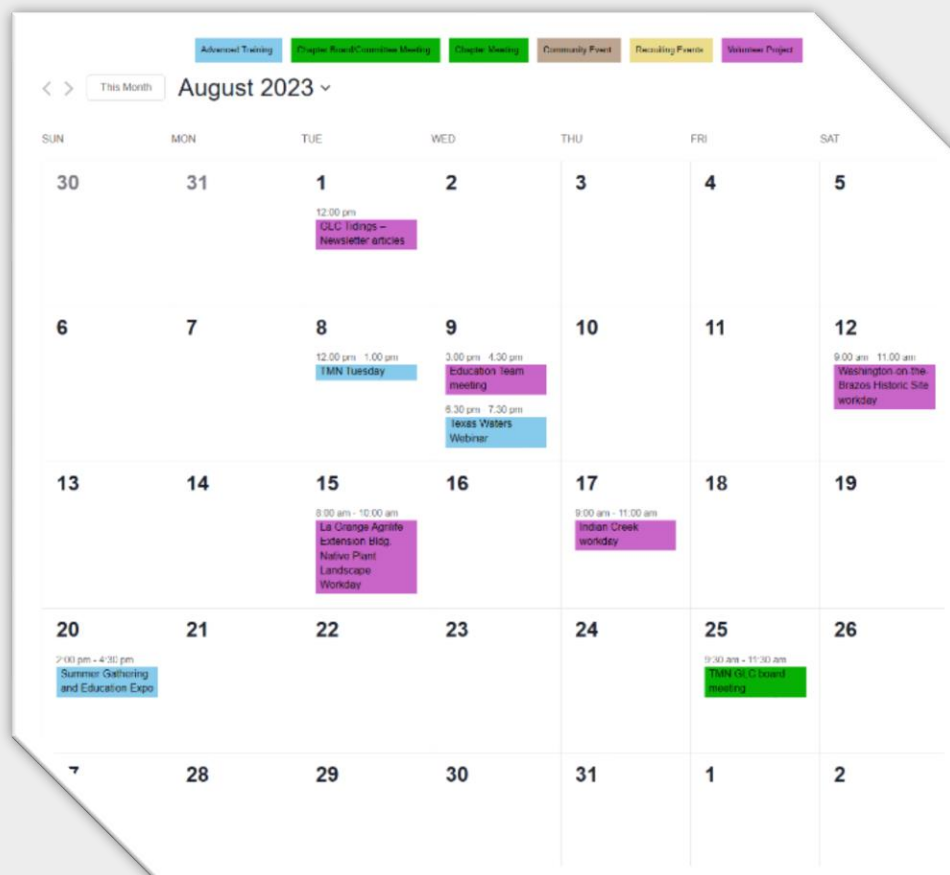
Sept 9 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am [Washington-on-the-Brazos Historic Site workday](#)

Sep 12 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm [TMN Tuesday](#)

Sep 16 @ 9:30 am - 1:00 pm [TMN GLC chapter meeting](#)

Sep 19 @ 8:00 am - 10:00 am [La Grange Agrilife Extension Bldg. Native Plant Landscape Workday](#)

Sep 21 @ 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 – CJ Claverie

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*](#)



- **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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