The GLC Tidings

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OCTOBER 2023

IN THIS ISSUE

TEXAS Master Naturalist
Gideon Lincecum 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 – 10/27/2023

Chapter Meeting – 11/18/2023

From the President

Sheri Wilcox

As I write this message, your chapter leaders are looking toward to the upcoming strategic review of our chapter operations. The last few years have been dominated by the need to move forward despite many restrictions caused by the Covid pandemic. We have learned how to operate new technologies. Zoom has become an everyday word and we have learned how to communicate with one another using Owls. Having, I hope, gained some mastery of our new reality, it is a good time for us to take stock of our chapter. What goals should we set for the next few years? What is working well and what could be improved? What types of projects are our members interested in supporting and how should those projects be funded? Members of the board of directors along with chapter members who volunteered to serve on our strategic review task force will be meeting to consider all these questions. As we move forward, I encourage each chapter member to get involved in this effort. After all, our chapter exists to serve our collective vision of how we can be, as so eloquently stated by Margaret Mead, that small group of thoughtful, committed individuals who can change the world. We will be hosting a chapter-wide discussion of these issues at our November meeting. Watch your email for more details and come prepared to speak your mind.

Despite the summer heat, our project leaders have kept our outdoor projects on track. I applaud all of you who have mowed and weeded and tidied our various pollinator habitats despite the unprecedented heat. What impresses and astounds me, both in our chapter projects and in my home habitat, is the resiliency that our native plants have shown throughout this incredible drought. Based on the latest U.S. Drought Monitor report, all five of our chapter counties are in an exceptional drought, the highest category. Yes, our native plants are showing some stress, but my native grasses and forbs are blooming, providing vital resources for wildlife. By contrast, chapter member John Gardner aptly described walking across a non-native lawn as walking on potato chips. I hope that many of you have taken the opportunity to purchase some native plants from our partner organization, the Fayette Prairie Chapter of the Native Prairies Association of Texas.

From the President (continued)

Fall will bring more opportunities for chapter members. Our Education Team continues to work to develop and upgrade our educational materials. Our first Education Expo was a big success. Members explored six different education programs that are available to take to classrooms and other groups. Our Education Director Karen Gardner maintains our calendar of educational programs, both group presentations and informal educational events. If you know of a group that would be a good candidate for our science-based nature programs, please get in touch with Karen.
Fall is also the season when we plan to train our next class of Texas Master Naturalists. The Training Committee is putting together another stellar list of speakers and field trips. Registration is now open for our 2024 class. Your help at recruiting events is always appreciated. All it takes is a willingness to share your story with others. Watch for emails asking for volunteers for upcoming events. And, if you know someone who would be a good candidate for our next class, encourage them to join our group. Information and an application are available on our website, www.txmnorg/glc (click on the Join Us tab).

I hope to see each of you soon at a chapter meeting, volunteer project, or advanced training program.

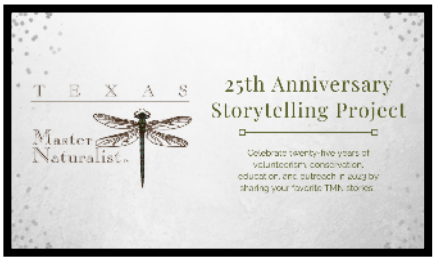
Sheri

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING

State Information

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

Nov 14, 2023, 12:00 p.m. CST
General Topic is to be announced.
[Register here!](#)



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 became 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/blog/25th-anniversary-storytelling-project/#storytelling

TMN License Plate - 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 those who earned awards at the September 16 meeting as follows:

Initial Certification: Jim Kelley and Carey Soderstrom from the 2023 Class.

Annual Recertification for 2023 (Texas Ecoregions Pin):

Carol Daniels	Chuck Linton	Barry Zeluff
Ken English	Ann Ray	
Vicky Greene	Karen Mahoney-Woods	

Special recognition goes to Barry because he also achieved Initial Certification earlier in 2023 and logged at least an additional 40 vol. and 8 AT hours within the same year. A member can only achieve this "double certification" once, by doing it during the calendar year of their initial certification. Hats off to you, Barry!!

Milestones for cumulative hours –

- 250 Hours: Denise Turner
- 500 Hours: Ken English
- 1,000 Hours**:** Nita Tiemann

Don't have this one yet? There is still time! It only takes 40 Volunteer Service hours and 8 Advanced Training hours to earn this beautiful 2023 recertification Texas Ecoregions pin. Do the hours by December 31, 2023, and it is yours! I think it's the prettiest of all the pins offered so far, and you are only able to earn it with hours accrued in 2023.

Others who achieved Initial Certification this year may still earn the 2023 recertification pin also. We're all rooting for you!

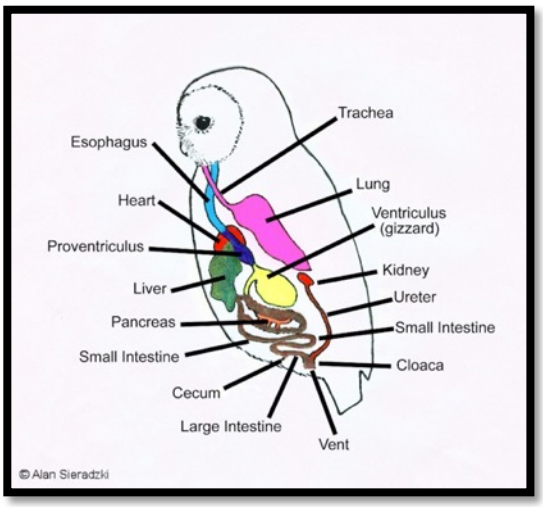
Thank you all for the many hours you put in to fulfill the TMN mission! Together we are making things better for generations to come.

Adventures & Observations

Owl Digestion – submitted by Susan Vanderworth

We have always enjoyed the "Who-cooks-for-you?" call of the barred owls on our property. But recently, I found that one had left us a surprise. Within a few feet of our back porch under a tall pine tree, I found an owl pellet. I first heard of these when my children were in middle school and had the owl pellet dissection assignment in their science class.

An owl pellet is the undigested fur, hair and bone that is expelled (upchucked) by the owl. Owl pellets are typically 1-3 inches long and oval shaped. As they have no teeth, they swallow their meals whole.



Once it has passed through the esophagus, the food enters the pre-gizzard or proventriculus where chemical digestion begins. The coarse materials are pushed to the gizzard or ventriculus where they are compacted by muscle contractions. The digestible parts pass on to the intestines. The pellet is moved back up to the pre-gizzard where it may remain for up to 10 hours before it is regurgitated. Because the pellet partially blocks the digestive system, new prey cannot be swallowed until the pellet is ejected.

All raptors have a similar digestive process. However, owls produce the largest pellets. First, their digestive juices are less acidic making digestion less complete. Also, other raptors tend to pluck their prey to a much larger extent than owls.

These pellets store the history of what the owl has recently consumed. This is the detective work of those middle school students. As they pull apart the ball of fur and feathers, these bone pieces are revealed. There are online lesson plans which include charts showing the bones of rats, moles, screws, and birds - the common meals of owls. Packets of 10 owl pellets can be purchased for $30. So, my next question is, who collects these and how?

As for *my* owl pellet? My daughter is coming for a visit this weekend and she said she wants to be my lab partner. I'll let you know what we find.

Teaching Moments

Education Expo at the summer potluck gathering, Aug 20, 2023

The Education Team provided stations for several of our current learning projects for hands-on experience with these activities. The aim was to increase the pool of volunteers who can lead an activity when our chapter is asked to provide an educational program.



Homegrown National Park®

The September 16, 2023, GLC Chapter meeting included a presentation by Trey Granger on the Homegrown National Park® (HNP) organization, founded by Doug Tallamy and Michelle Alfandri. The aim of HNP is to restore biodiversity and create native habitats one yard at a time by using native plants in home landscapes.

Some points Trey presented included:

- Use keystone native plants for your ecoregion. Find keystone plants via plant databases:
  - Native Plant Society of Texas (https://npsot.org/)
  - National Wildlife Federation (https://gardenforwildlife.com/collections/all-products),
  - Audubon Society (https://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds)
- Plant generously, using a variety of plants that bloom over seasons
- Avoid using herbicides and fertilizers
- Get on the HNP Map by registering your yard at the HNP website

For more information, visit the HNP website, https://homegrownnationalpark.org/

Possums vs Opossums

by Deb Miller (GLC Chapter Presentation, 7/15/2023)

The English colonists living in Jamestown derived the word opossum from the Virginia Algonquian peoples word *apasum* which means “white dog” or “dog like beast”.
Are POSSUMS and Opossums the same thing? *Nope!*

This is the Australian possum; it gets its name from the English word opossum. Sir Joseph Banks, a British botanist, thought that they looked enough like the American opossum to give it a similar name. However, kangaroos and other Australian marsupials are closer related to the possum than our Virginia opossum.

The Australian possum looks like a cute cross between a squirrel and a koala bear. Very huggable and just plain cute.
Possums are found in Australia, the Indonesian islands of New Guinea, New Zealand, and China. Possums are herbivores Their colors range from golden brown, silver-gray and black, and they have a bushy tail.
Possums are friendly toward humans.

And then we have the North American Virginia Opossum which I admit is somewhat aesthetically challenged. Although in this picture it looks cute. They are the only marsupial in the United States and Canada. Although the possum and the opossum are both marsupials, that is where the resemblance ends.

Opossums are nocturnal, which means they are awake at night and sleep during the day. Look at their extremely large black pupils, prefect for seeing in very low light situations.

Opossums are omnivores, leaning heavily towards carnivore. Their diet consists of fresh carrion, snakes, including poisonous, rodents, beetles, insects, grubs, earthworms, slugs, frogs, eggs, plants, fruit, and grains. Some of these things we don't particularly want in our backyard. They are very opportunistic and will help themselves to Fido’s and Fluffy’s food on the back porch or make a feast out of the garbage from the can that the raccoons tipped over. They are Mother Nature’s garbage disposal. They also have a high need for calcium so they will consume the skeletons of rodents, snakes, and roadkill.
Opossums have excellent memories and can recall past food sources. They have shown amazing problem-solving abilities in scientific research studies. They have been able to complete mazes a lot faster than other species.

Their habitat is mostly woodlands, but they can be found in just about every environment. They prefer to live in hollowed out trees and logs, but they will take advantage of wood piles, rock piles, live under buildings, in attics and the abandoned dens of burrowing animals.

The opossum's feet are rather unique; they have 5 toes on each foot and the hind feet having a clawless opposable thumb. They have soft delicate skin on their feet and small nails. They are not capable of doing a lot of hard digging. They have sometimes been seen feeding themselves with their paws just like a hand. The opossum, despite how they may appear are actually very clean and healthy animals. They clean themselves much like a cat and they are resistant to most disease, including rabies. It is extremely rare for an opossum to get rabies because of their lower body temperature that may inhibit the rabies virus from surviving.

Their unique anatomy allows them to grasp branches in a manner like a human hand. Along with their finger like feet they have a long hairless prehensile tail. They use their tail almost like a 5th digit, to help them climb and keep themselves from falling out of trees. The opossum will use their tail to gather leaves to carry back to their dens when they are out foraging. As a rule, adult opossums do not hang upside down from a branch by their tails, but sometimes the youngsters will do it for a short time. Their tails don't have the muscle structure necessary to hold their weight. And to squash an old wives' tale, they do not sleep upside down hanging by their tails.

They have a unique form of self-defense. When they encounter a threat they will run, growl, belch, urinate and/or defecate. If none of those actions garner the response they were hoping for, they will involuntarily "play dead". They will go into a catatonic state. They fall over, their lips will be drawn back to bare their teeth, the tongue will stick out and they will drool. Their eyes will be closed or staring blankly. The opossum will emit a foul-smelling odor from their anal glands. This state of unconsciousness can last anywhere from a few minutes to 4 to 6 hours, which can leave them vulnerable.

The opossums' life span is relatively short. They only live 1 to 3 years in the wild and not much longer in captivity. They have a lot of natural predators, two legged predators and of course 4 wheeled predators as well.

It seems after their reproductive lifespan of roughly 2 years their body just starts to deteriorate.
The opossums' mating season can start as early as December and continue through October. Most infants are born between the months of February and June. A female opossum may have 1-3 litters each season. She gives birth 11 to 13 days after mating, and she will have anywhere from 8 to 20 offspring. This is the shortest gestation period of any North American mammal.

Baby opossums are called Joeys and are about the size of a honeybee when they are born. They are born blind, deaf, and hairless. They must find their way to their mother's pouch to survive. The female opossum only has 13 nipples and not all of those are always viable. If a Joey doesn't latch onto a functioning nipple it will die. They will triple in size after only one week. Their eyes will open at approximately 60 to 70 days, after birth. They stay close to their mom often riding on her back. Their mother will continue to take care of them until they are 75 to 85 days old, then they are weaned and on their own.

It is estimated that an opossum can survive the venom of 80 rattlesnake bites. For years research scientists have been studying the possibility of developing an anti-venom from specific neutralizing peptides in the opossum's blood. They believe that it could offer an inexpensive alternative to the current snake bite protocol we practice today which could cost around $80,000. As far as I know nothing has yet come to the market, but wouldn't that be amazing!!!

One of the things I observed from Scott's presentation on the Yaupon, was the great interest he got when he talked about Yaupon tea. Well, I thought I would follow his example…Opossum stew! If anyone needs a printout let me know….

And for those of you who don't have a lot of time to spend in the kitchen because you are too busy volunteering at all the Texas Master Naturalist projects.....
So come on, how about a little opossum love!!!

Picture Credits
Possum https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_brushtail_possum
Opossum: https://www.flickr.com/photos/80615491@N08/8488445030/in/photolist-dW6uYw-2aJ9bL-4tx3VG-ahzbLs-77BZQZ-nyw2MQ-4mJinC-2nupuAS-qv593Q-bw4h7g-2kzG8yu-bw4h2v-kcFTec-c2Wzfo-cMKDzw-2o8WiZ6-2nDGpfF-9qhudC-4BsZdT-2kveUfZ-5966WN-bNjLp2-HPnyxc-9Se9ED-bNtFYK-22KWyLV-21Fqafm-JHG6ym-kcJ27m-591WmP-ko2qza-2opoR6E-2kvj3BK-2oCsZ22-2mh96J5-2n41pA3-2kBLdzG-2kQz5r3-2kBGCti-2n41pBW-2n7eAiZ-2mh96H3-2mwZ8iw-2mp3RH1-2kzCAbC-2os9XMj-2oiWFkv-2kook3P-2jJX3ek-2kvfqyN
Canned opossum: https://c2.staticflickr.com/4/3003/2443467902_43114ca811_z.jpg

Volunteering Highlights

La Grange AgriLife Native Plant landscape project

Submitted by Cindy Rodibaugh

The small amount of rain we received south of I-10 did wonders for my sage at home.

However, the blooms at the La Grange AgriLife landscape project seemed to have gotten washed away. The Texas Sage and the Turk's Cap in the foreground are all gone.

Our last workday, Tim Rackley trimmed the lanky branches of the Texas Sage, the Esperanza, and the Beauty Berry on the backside of the bed to clear the drainage space and keep limbs off the building. Vickie Greene and I pulled Morning Glory vine off several of the plants and small unknowns in the front of the bed. After about an hour's work the bed was looking good.

I was at the La Grange AgriLife building on Monday (10/2) and noted our Milkweed has gone to seed. I also noted Sheri Wilcox had replaced our deteriorating sign with a new one. Thank you, Sheri!

In addition to the new sign, there were bees and birds, and some critter has burrowed into the soil under the weed cloth at the base of the Esperanza.

It seems our native landscape has truly attracted wildlife. What could be more appropriate!

Our next workday will be Tuesday October 17, 2023.

This and That

The swarthy skipper (*nastra iherminier*)

Podcast Review

Submitted by Connie Shortes

As master naturalists, we know the benefit of grasses to our landscapes and appreciate their beauty, but I didn't know they were also important as larval hosts and food sources for a large group of butterflies, *Hesperiinae*, a sub-family of the skipper family, *Hesperiidae*. These are grass skippers - so called because they use grasses as hosts for their larvae. There are 2400 species of them! Grass skippers rest with their wings partially open, and they look like little fighter jets. We've seen them in our gardens, so most of them are not rare or uncommon. (According to Wikipedia, there are 15 on the rare and endangered list.) But they are little and brown, and since we have an aesthetic bias for flashier creatures, like the beautiful monarchs, there isn't much scientific research on them, and we don't know a lot about where they breed and what their caterpillars eat.

I recently learned more about these little brown butterflies (LBB's, for short) when I listened to a podcast called The Horticulturati, hosted by Leah Churner and Colleen Dieter, two landscape designers in Austin. I've taken Colleen's classes at the LBJ Wildflower Center, and she has also consulted with me on my own home gardens. I thought their recent episode called "Grasses for Butterflies" was worth sharing.

The podcast reflects on how difficult it is for gardeners to find native grasses in commercial nurseries. Most of the pollinator garden information out there rarely mentions grasses. The nursery industry has the impression that gardeners are not interested in grasses, so it doesn't promote or produce them, which perpetuates their absence in gardens. The conclusion of the podcast and the resources they cite is that all pollinator gardens, even urban ones, should include grasses, just like a real meadow. And in our original or restored native prairies, knowing that our grasses could be hosting grass skippers could impact the way we manage, mow, and burn them.

Using the podcast and the resource information provided, I made an incomplete list of larval host grasses. Some you would expect - little bluestem and broomsedge hosts quite a few species. But others will surprise you - St. Augustine, johnsongrass and bermudagrass. What? Yes, bermudagrass and St.

Augustine (unmowed/ungrazed and non-cultivar) might be sustaining LBB's. There's so little research, that it could be the case that even cultivars are of use to them.

As Leah and Colleen point out in the podcast, you have to see something (and possibly even be able to name it) to care about it and protect it. So, let's not overlook those LBB's and their need for our native grasses!

Broomsedge - *andropogon virginicus* • Common wood-nymph - *Cercyonis pegala* • Swarthy skipper • Neamathla skipper • Crossline skipper • Delaware skipper • Twin spot skipper • Cobweb skipper Little bluestem • Ottoe skipper, • Indian skipper, • Crossline skipper, • Dusted skipper, • Cobweb butterfly, • Dixie skipper Big bluestem • Argos skipper • Delaware skipper Switchgrass • Delaware skipper Inland sea oats • Bell's roadside skipper • Pepper & salt skipper • Bronzed roadside skipper	Yellow Indiangrass • Pepper & salt skipper Sideoats grama • Green skipper • Dotted skipper Orange skipperling Eastern gamagrass • Bunchgrass skipper Buffalo grass • Green skipper Purpletop • Crossline skipper Green sprangletop • Orange skipperling St Augustine grass (!) - unmowed, non-cultivar • Fiery skipper • Julia's skipper • Southern broken-dash • Sachem • Celia's roadside-skipper • Eufala skipper	Johnson grass • Swarthy skipper • Julia's skipper • Clouded skipper • Eufala skipper Bermuda grass - unmowed, non-cultivar • Julia's skipper • Southern skipperling • Fiery skipper • Sachem Eufala skipper

Related resources:

The Horticulturati podcast: "Grasses for Butterflies" https://www.horticulturati.com/episodes/grasses-for-butterflies

Palmetto: The Quarterly Journal of the Florida Native Plant Society, "Meadows for Home Landscapes: More Than Just Wildflowers," by Craig N. Huegel. https://www.fnps.org/assets/pdf/palmetto/36_1_Huegel_Meadows.pdf

List of larval hosts by butterfly, with pictures of the butterflies: http://www.dallasbutterflies.com/Butterfly%20Gardening/Host%20Plants%20by%20Butterfly%20Species.htm

U of Minnesota - Diane Narem - TedX talk about the Dakota skippershttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jPfOkKu9aM&ab_channel=TEDxTalks

This Is Why Trees Always Grow Straight Up

The Growing Leaf Blog post by Alexander Picot Last Updated 9. August 2023

If you've been hiking or trekking lately, you may have noticed something peculiar about the trees around you. Trees on an inclined slope always grow straight up; they don't lean with the slope at all. How are trees able to grow upwards on uneven ground?

Trees always grow straight up because they have **gravity-sensing cells that allow them to judge the direction of gravity and grow accordingly**. Trees are also encouraged to grow straight upwards to attain their maximum height and compete with other trees for sunlight.

Learn more at: This Is Why Trees Always Grow Straight Up – thegrowingleaf

"Collapse": A Book Recommendation

Submitted by Marvelyn Granger

I would like to share "Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed" by Jared Diamond. You may be familiar with "Guns, Germs, and Steel" for which Mr. Diamond won a Pulitzer Prize. If you read this work, you will recognize "Collapse" as a follow-through on the idea of national order but continuing to ask, "But can they last?" He starts by defining collapse as "a drastic decrease in human population size and/or political/economic/social complexity, over a considerable area, for an extended time."

I often jump into books on "feel" letting it speak to me directly rather than being pre-guided by expectations built upon the jacket description or reviews. Expecting this book to rely heavily on the familiar economic and political contributors, I was pleasantly (and sadly) surprised by the number of ecological elements he describes with great care and how far back they reach. And not just the familiar political talking points on climate.

In each section, Mr. Diamond shares detailed examples throughout Earth's human history of costs of poor land management with surprising political and ecological intersections. In school we learned time and again of civilizations that fell to enemies in political wars of battling despots; mostly males hashing it

out far away. It is tempting to think the battle for clean air and a functional circle of life is unique to the Industrial Age. But we did not invent ecological collapse in the last 200 years, though we arguably put a global spin on it. The good news is we have several relevant examples dating back to the Mayans and Anasazi people to guide us to better outcomes.

I found Mr. Diamond's erudite descriptions and arguments to be thought-provoking and most definitely worth reading. I was also struck by how large the gray area is between the challenges we have control over and even drive, and those we don't control yet have the choice to make better or worse. This can make problems all that more complex and challenging to pin down. But the more we understand our vital impact on and connection to nature, the better we can be at identifying and implementing long-term solutions.

"Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed" by Jared Diamond
available in paperback, hardcover, Kindle, and audio

Volunteer Opportunities

Executive Board Members 2024-2025

We're still looking for one more chapter member to join our executive board. Your 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, review 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

Events Calendar Snapshot

October 2023

Oct 6-22 Texas Pollinator Bioblitz
Oct 12-15 TMN Annual Meeting
Oct 17 La Grange Agrilife Extension Bldg. Native Plant Landscape Workday
Oct 19 Indian Creek workday
Oct 20 New Landowner Series – Wildlife Management and Native Prairie Restoration
Oct 21 Washington-on-the-Brazos Historic Site workday
Oct 27 TMN GLC Board Meeting

November 2023

Nov 11 Washington-on-the-Brazos Historic Site workday
Nov 14 TMN Tuesday
Nov 16 Indian Creek workday
Nov 18 TMN GLC Chapter Meeting
Nov 21 La Grange Agrilife Extension Bldg. Native Plant Landscape 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)
- 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/

GLC Tidings Newsletter Index

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

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.

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 Matheney (Washington County Texas AgriLife)

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

Committees and Contacts

Hospitality Chair – Nita Tiemann
Newsletter Editor – Carol Gaskamp
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

➢ **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 Management - LISTSERV.TAMU.EDU

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