

The GLC Tidings

December 2024

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Our Mission

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

T E X A S



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

From the President



Sheri Wilcox

I am writing this message in the aftermath of the Thanksgiving festivities. I hope everyone had the opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends. I find myself reflecting on the many things for which I am thankful this year. Among those is the opportunity to serve with all of you. Let me send heartfelt thanks to our wonderful board members who so ably keep our chapter running smoothly, to the project leaders whose dedication to their projects is inspiring, and to the many of you who so faithfully answer every call to volunteer.

As I look back on what we have accomplished this year, some themes emerge. Most obviously, 2024 has been the year of the pollinator. We have had so many opportunities to spread the word about the importance of native pollinators to audiences of all ages. From talking about the hungry caterpillar with kindergarteners at Immanuel School to making seedballs with 4th graders at Giddings Intermediate School to presentations at the Bluebonnet Master Gardeners Lunch and Learn to the upcoming all-pollinators program Feathers, Furs, and Farming, our pollinator-loving team has been busy as a bee (pun fully intended). Many of us savor our time in the pollinator habitats maintained by our chapter. From the quiet enjoyment of butterflies fluttering among the blooms to the fiery satisfaction of burning ligustrum removed from a natural area, we are doing our part.

Another theme to our efforts this year is community science. I sense a new appreciation for and recognition of community scientists. Many of us have contributed through long-standing community science programs like CoCoRaHS, NestWatch, and FeederWatch. I have to admire those whose diligent observations over many years have earned well-deserved respect from professional scientists. iNaturalist has become a powerhouse, giving each of us the opportunity to hone our observation skills, learning from one another and adding to a growing database of observations.

(Continued)

Newsletter Entry Deadlines

1st day of even Months

Send articles or photos to
glcnwsltr@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATES

Board Meeting – Dec 6

Volunteer Appreciation Dec 8

In 2024, we saw a resurgence of interest in water quality testing and the creation of a recognized Texas Stream Team group. We supported research into the distribution of one of nature's most elusive creatures, bats, by joining with fellow Texas Master Naturalists across the state under the guidance of TPWD's Texas Nature Trackers biologists in the Texas launch of a bat monitoring program. We expect to have a second acoustical monitor in 2025 that will allow us to add more chapter members to this project. Also coming in 2025 will be the Texas launch of Time to Restore. Led by the USA National Phenology Network, Time to Restore aims to collect data on when specific plants begin to bloom, reach peak bloom, set seed, etc. The goal of this project is to guide efforts to restore habitat for native pollinators. As you can see, there is a community science project for almost any interest.

With warm wishes for a joyful holiday season,
Sheri

2024 Annual Meeting Highlights

Several chapter members attended the 2024 TMN Annual Meeting and shared the following highlights from their experiences.

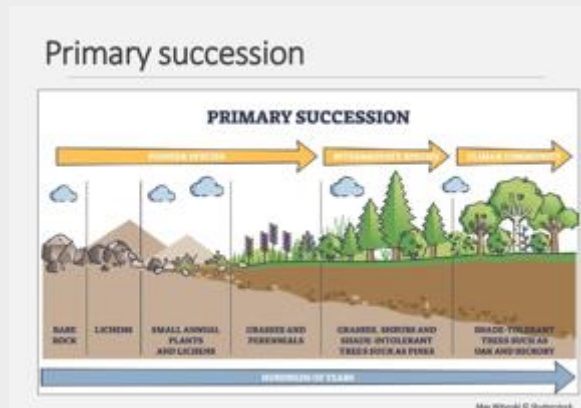




From Sheri Wilcox
2,500 Hour Award Attendee

Ecological Succession: The only constant is change

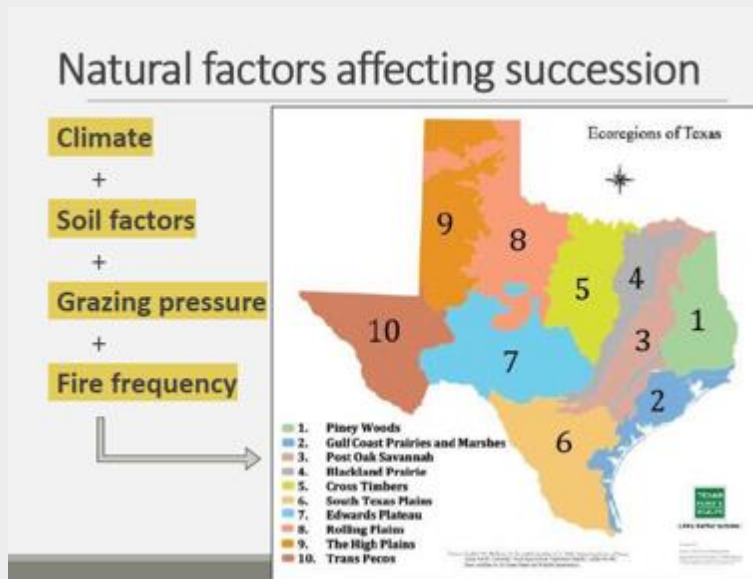
The TMN annual meeting always is an eye-opening blast of information from every discipline covered in our very large textbook and more. The highlight of my 2024 annual meeting (other than touring Spring Lake in the glass-bottomed boats) was a class on Ecological Succession taught by Cindy Howard from the Galveston Bay chapter. Ecological succession, as typically taught, puzzles me. Here is the classic picture of succession:



We have all seen this, right? Nature marching relentlessly forward toward the single goal of a climax forest of oaks. So where does that leave us, the prairie folks? Are prairies just a moment in time, a transition toward something grander like an oak forest? If prairies existed for millennia, maintained by the twin disturbances of bison and fire, the idea that prairies are merely a steppingstone has never fully satisfied me.

This is where Cindy and more current ideas about succession come to the rescue. Succession is influenced by many factors including climate (temperature, moisture, elevation), soil (texture, depth, organic material, soil organisms), grazing pressure (species, intensity, frequency), and fire frequency and severity.

(Continued)



Is this beginning to look more familiar? Putting it all together, here is what it takes for succession to lead to a grassland:

Succession to grassland

High Plains, Rolling Plains, South Texas Plains, Blackland Prairies, Gulf Prairies

<p>Climate *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low annual rainfall • Seasonal variation in temp 	<p>Edaphic/Soil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep loam or clay soils • Nutrient-rich organic layer
<p>Grazing pressure *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High – large grazers • High – insect grazers 	<p>Fire regime *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group II • High intensity • 0-35 year frequency

In other words, the climax state under these conditions is a grassland. Of course, it is much more complicated than I have made it sound here. There are many different theories of succession and combinations of conditions that result in forests, wetlands, and other communities. There is the added complexity of disturbances that create microclimates that yield greater biodiversity. For example, I see many different microclimates on my own property, with different plant communities where there are different elevations (as little as a few inches), soil (clay or sandy loam), and moisture (near the creek or not). We also have to think about the effect of human disturbances (agriculture, fire suppression, development, invasive species) on succession. Disturbances are happening every day, setting back succession in ways small and large. Rather than viewing succession as a march toward a single climax community, it is better viewed as a process of constant change in response to disturbance.

Cindy’s talk delved into all of these issues and more. If anyone is interested in a copy of her presentation, please let me know and I will be happy to share it. If I have piqued your interest in succession, here is a link to a 10-minute video on succession that you are guaranteed to enjoy.

Crash course in Ecological Succession:



[Ecological Succession: Change is Good - Crash Course Ecology #6 - YouTube](#)

From Karen and John Gardner

We attended this year's TMN 2024 Annual Meeting in San Marcos. It was very successful, and we had a great time. There were over 160 presenters with a huge variety of topics. Here are a few sessions we enjoyed.

A sample of the topics include: Interpreting our Backyards – Human Wildlife Interactions; Restoring Native Grasslands; Living Soil - the Universe Beneath our Feet; Turning Master Naturalists into Native Interpreters; Mother Nature's Naturalist Mothers – women in natural history; Mammals and their adaptations to survive; Swamp Rabbits of Central Texas; Geology Foundations of Central Texas and lots more.

We wanted to focus on two in particular. First, "Texas Backyard Wildlife- Stories from A Suburban Wilderness" by Dan Ballard and Jane Hunter, who live on 5 acres in southwest Austin. They have over 65 wired-in security cameras that pan, tilt and zoom. They are placed in trees, on trails, inside nest boxes, burrows, dens and water bowls. They showed a fantastic series of high quality, usually brief, videos of animal behaviors in a variety of situations. They have foxes, coyotes, a wide variety of birds, raptors, armadillos, ringtails, squirrels, owls and more. They are on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TexasBackyardWildlife> so you can get an idea of what they offer.

The best thing about their work is that they are willing to share it. They handed out a 10 page list of videos. They want people to use them – they are free. Here is their contact information: texasbackyardwildlife@gmail.com and website: TexasBackyardWildlife.com.

The next topic was "Better Lights for Better Nights," which was excellent information from the Dark Skies of Texas group, and they had a fun and educational activity. After sharing current information on the Dark Skies programs, each attendee got a handout and a specific lighting situation to audit. I got to do the parking lot safety lights. We had questions to answer and we made recommendations based on the audit we conducted. The lights I reviewed needed to have shades around the edges to focus the lighting down where it was needed. Everyone did a different light and one thing that was very interesting was that more than half of the nighttime lights were on during the day.

Another wonderful presentation was "Mammals and Their Adaptations to Survive". Melissa Felty provided Scat, Tracks, Skins and skulls of various animals to help with the ID of the animals. Another discussion was the ways various animals adapted to survive in their environment. Examples were running fast, jumping higher and fur colors to match the local landscape.

We also got to ride in the Glass Bottom Boats!!!



From Sheril Smith
First Year Certification Attendee

The TMN annual meeting was my first, and it was sort of like an organized explosion of so many interesting people, topics, and venues. Not enough hours in the day to take it all in. And the best food I've ever tasted from a large hotel food service. Kudos to Hayes County TMN for a great job hosting this year!

My favorite session was "Vibrant Lichen Studies" presented by Zane Liston of Hayes County. While I already understood that lichens were composed of algae and fungus, I was surprised to learn that Cyanobacteria can also serve as the fungal partner, and that the lichen also may incorporate other microbes it has picked up from its environment, forming its own little ecosystem. And while lichens are well known for their role in soil formation, they are also good indicators of pollution, suffering degradation in urban areas.

My second and third favorite sessions were Junipers that Benefit Limestone Groundwater and Unique Geology of the South Texas Sand Sheet. Fascinating!



From Karen McClure
First Year Certification Attendee
Pictured with Jeff Post

The annual meeting offered so many choices of topics that it was hard to choose which ones to attend. But there were also so many people there that you couldn't always get your first choice. Every presentation I picked was excellent, so I don't think you can go wrong on that front, and I ended up hearing about some topics I knew nothing about. One of those topics was herbariums. I attended two talks about herbariums. One was by the Houston Botanical Garden and just mentioned their herbarium as part of the talk, but the other was by the Fort Worth Botanical Garden, and they took us outside and let us pull up plants in a vacant lot next to the hotel. Then they demonstrated how to flatten the plant in a press and how to attach it to paper. Information about the plant and location were looked up on iNaturalist and added as notes to make a Botanical Specimen. They had recently begun digitizing some of their specimens and brought samples of those. They found they had samples submitted by John Muir and other famous naturalists. Once you make your Botanical Specimens, you can submit them to one or more herbariums which are libraries of plant specimens. These libraries allow researchers to view the specimens and in some cases even take material to run DNA tests on. They provided information on how

to pick plants and who to send them to. I'm looking forward to checking out an herbarium and even making some specimens of my own to document all the non-native plants in my yard so that I can revisit them in the future when they are hopefully no longer around.

Also recognized at the annual meeting:



Ann Ray
1000 Hour Service Award Attendee



Introducing...the 2025 Certification Pin

Beep Beep! Meet the Bling for 2025

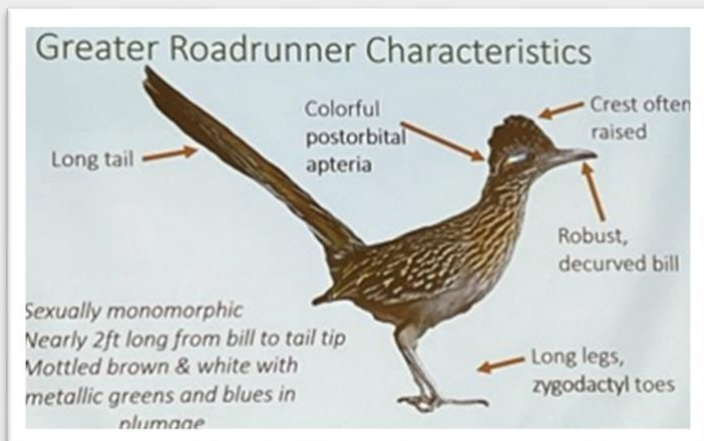
By Lori Buffum

(with credit to Tania Homayoun, TPWD)

What a treat it was to “meet” the bird that inspired our Texas Master Naturalist recertification pin for 2025, the Greater Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*). Tania Homayoun, Natural Resource Specialist with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, entertained and educated us with her presentation at the TMN Annual Meeting in October. Mark your calendars for the February TMN Tuesday when Tania will give that wonderful talk again. Don't miss it!



How many of us have had the privilege of observing the roadrunner in its natural habitat? We get excited when we see one occasionally running across the road in our neighborhood here in Austin County but, gosh, hardly knew much more about them than what we learned from the cartoon featuring a coyote and a roadrunner, beep beep!



Geococcyx californianus is a member of the Cuckoo family (Cuculidae) with 147 species spread around the world. Our Texas native is best recognized by its long tail and sharp beak as it stretches out in typical racing position (capable of running 20 mph). Here are a few distinctive characteristics:

They can be talkative, with a vocabulary of coos, barks, and rattles (but nary a beep). And adaptable, with physical characteristics well suited to arid habitats, like being able to reabsorb water, excrete salt, and cool their brains. And what do they eat? Well, just about

any animal they can catch, including insects, snakes, birds, rodents, frogs. But watch out, roadrunner, because you are both predator and prey (for snakes, hawks, and yes, coyotes). The roadrunner mates for life and stakes out a distinct territory for its family, generally nesting high in thickets of small trees or shrubs. Choosing a mate even involves a “wedding gift”.

Although the population of the greater roadrunner is historically stable across its typical habitat, there are still many threats it faces: habitat loss (urbanization), encounters with pesticides in food, proximity to roads and solar installations, human predation (mistaken as threat to game birds like quail).

In Native American stories and traditions, the roadrunner represents courage, strength, and endurance. Those traits, exemplified in the noble bird chosen for rewarding recertification will inspire all of us as we work to fulfill the Texas Master Naturalist mission in 2025.



From the Education Team



Image from publicdomainpicture.net

From Lori Buffum, Education Team Member:

Once again (year 13?), Brenham Junior High School will be conducting quail necropsies in their 7th grade science labs and our chapter is being asked to provide volunteer helpers. The date is **Wednesday December 18.**

We always appreciate the dedicated experienced volunteers who work at this event, but this is also a great opportunity for new members to "shadow" a more experienced member as you work with a small group of students learning about quail anatomy and the bird's place in our ecosystem. We will provide lots more information (including study guides) to the chapter volunteers.

Let [Lori Buffum](#) know if you are available and interested.

From the Communication Team

Thank you to all who responded to the survey about the newsletter! Your input provides direction for organizing the newsletter and adding new features in 2025.

Lori Buffum, TMN-GLC Communications Director
Carol Gaskamp, TMN-GLC Newsletter Editor

Member Profiles

Bill Fisher, Class of 2024



About Me:

I am a native Houstonian and attended the University of Texas on a tennis scholarship from 1972-1976. After a short stint as a teaching pro with Laver-Emerson tennis (I taught alongside Rod Laver and Roy Emerson) I switched to being an employee benefits broker. I owned my firm for 30 years before merging with Higginbotham in 2012 and retiring in 2015. I've been married to my lovely wife Denise for 46 years and we have two grown children and 4 grandchildren. My favorite activities include golf, tennis, and whitewater rafting.

Why TMN

I've always enjoyed the outdoors. My parents were big fans of our National Parks, so we visited many as children, and I was hooked. I was looking for an organization that focused on the outdoors that would allow me to conserve and promote nature.

TMN Projects:

I help maintain the gardens at the Fayette County Agrilife Center, the Schubert House in Giddings, and the nature trail at Monument Hill.. My favorite TMN projects are the activities conducted with Brenham Junior High. I participated in the pig pluck and two all-day activities teaching the kids to fish and learn about predation.

Favorites thing about being a Texas Master Naturalist

The people. I learned a lot from the formal classroom time; however, I've learned even more from fellow TMN members who are always willing to share their knowledge on becoming good stewards of our natural resources.

Favorite critter

My favorite critter is the Eastern Hognose. I love watching them work through all their antics before finally giving up and playing dead. My least favorite is a tie. Copperheads due to the pain I endured while being bitten by one last year and armadillos for the damage they caused while digging for food in my front yard.

Favorite place in Texas

My place on top of the bluff in La Grange where I can see almost 20 miles on a clear day.

Favorite big trips

My favorite outdoor trips include a three-day dogsledding trip in the Boundary Waters in Minnesota for my 50th birthday, camping with a small group in the Galapagos Islands, whale-watching in Baja California with blue and gray whales, and raft trips through the Grand Canyon and Futaleufu River in Chile. A week in Yellowstone/Grand Teton National Parks in the middle of winter was also amazing. The park was deserted.



Jeff Post, Class of 2024

About Me

I was born and raised in Ft. Worth. I received an Ocean Engineering degree from Texas A&M and worked for Chevron for over 35 years before retiring in 2020. During my working career I was involved with design and construction of offshore oil and gas facilities. I worked in Houston, California, Alaska, Canada, England, West Africa, Brazil and Kazakhstan.

Why did you pick TMN

We moved to the area between Brenham and Burton in 2023 and own 9 acres of land. The area around us is all grazing land and we were looking for a way to support wildlife amidst this agriculture area.

TMN Projects

I enjoy working with Carey and CJ at the Winedale Pollinator Garden. I also work with Ann and the team at the Indian Creek Nature Park in Burton and try to get to Washington on the Brazos to support Julie and David when I can. I also volunteered to help with the silent auction at this year's annual meeting which was a lot of fun.

Favorite thing about being a Texas Master Naturalist

I like helping out at natural areas around where we live and TMN provides lots of opportunity for that. I'm also constantly taking advantage of the numerous education opportunities. I love it when the various things we learn about appear in our backyard.

Favorite critter

Earlier this year we saw an otter while kayaking up Nails Creek from Lake Somerville which was very exciting. A few weeks ago, I saw a Grey Fox on our property. We don't have habitat on our land for an otter, but we can continue to try to improve our natural habit so that it can help support foxes.

Favorite place in Texas

I like all of Texas. Big Bend, Fort Davis, and Balmorhea Springs is an incredible area to explore.

Favorite big trips

We been fortunate to travel extensively. It's hard to pick a single spot. Photo safaris in east and south Africa have been incredible. South America trips to the Amazon and Pantanal provide lots of nature watching. The Mayan ruins at Tikal were also fabulous.



Karen McClure Class of 2024

About Me:

I grew up in the burbs of Los Angeles and have spent most of my life living in either Texas or California. My husband's job took us to Canada, England and Brazil and those were fun experiences. I worked doing data processing for Gulf Oil and then Chevron before finally finishing my degrees in business. By then we were overseas and when we returned to Texas I started buying and managing rental properties. I closed the business in 2018 when we retired.

Why did you pick TMN as an organization to volunteer with?

I read "Nature's Best Hope" by Doug Tallamy and then "The Origin" by Irving Stone. They had a big impact on me, and we started planting natives in our Houston yard and taking every class the Houston Arboretum offered. The first year we got so many Monarch caterpillars I was stepping over them in the grass. I was hooked. We moved to Burton and got more land and can't wait to see what we can grow out here. Being new to non-urban life there is a lot to learn, and Jeff and I joined many organizations to speed that along, but the Master Naturalist Program has been where we have spent most of our time.

What TMN Projects are you involved with:

My volunteering for TMN was scattered across many projects at first and I really love all citizen science projects. But once the Bat Monitoring Project got going, it filled many hours. I did the data processing for our chapter.

Favorite thing about being a Texas Master Naturalist:

There are two favorite things. The first is probably the answer everyone gives: the people are great. We have met so many kind, interesting, fun and hardworking people on our journey through the training. The second is the variety of the programs. I can't imagine ever running out of new and interesting things to learn, try out and teach to others.

Favorite critter (or plant, insect, herp, fish, bird...):

This changes regularly but my current favorite critter is the scissor-tailed flycatcher. I had seen them at the Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge sitting on fences and they are pretty, but now they are in my backyard, and I know that they do crazy flips and sound like turkeys when they are catching bugs.

Favorite place in Texas:

Again, this changes regularly, but floating in the Spring/Pool at Balmorhea Springs on a hot Texas day is hard to beat.

Favorite big trips:

My favorite big trip so far was a boat trip on the Amazon River. The Margaret Mee Society arranged for a boat to take 10 people and a botanical watercolor artist on a weeklong trip up the river. We took small row boats out in the mornings to look for orchids and other interesting plants and brought plants, fish and photos back to paint in the afternoons with the help of an experienced artist. I am not a painter, but my work from that trip was worth framing. It was a great combination of two of my favorite things, nature and making art.

Citizen Science Opportunities



Texas is the Battiest

Submitted by Marvelyn Granger

Bats are extraordinary flying mammals, making up one-fifth of all mammal species. Texas proudly hosts 33 of the 47 bat species found in the U.S., with our chapter area home to 12 of these incredible creatures. The benefits that bats provide are tremendous:

- ↔ Biodiversity
- ↔ Insect Consumption
- ↔ Pollination
- ↔ Seed Dispersal
- ↔ Medical Research & Treatment
- ↔ Ecotourism

Yet, like so many wildlife species, bats face significant threats that put them at risk, making population monitoring essential. They are challenged by drought, habitat destruction, poisoned prey, wind turbines, and the spread of white-nose syndrome. By joining continent-wide monitoring programs, we can positively impact conservation decisions and ensure the long-term survival of bat populations. Regular analysis and reporting on their status are vital for effective collective management.

How can you make a difference?

Join our Bat Team! In 2024, our chapter successfully monitored nine properties, leading to the opportunity to expand and manage a second monitor for 18 host properties in 2025.

Become a Bat Monitor Host by hosting a sonar monitor for one week during May or June 2025. Our Deployment Team will set it up on your property in just 30 minutes. You will log the weather for five days, and then we will collect the monitor. Tada!

Look at you contributing to a vital citizen science project!

If you are interested in being a Bat Monitor Host in 2025 or have questions, please email Marvelyn Granger at NellieGailRanchTexas@gmail.com. We will keep you inspired and informed in the spring as we gear up for an exciting second year!



Volunteer Highlights

Lake Somerville Fall Festival 2024

Submitted by Wanda Anglin

Our chapter was invited to be part of the first annual Lake Somerville Fall Festival on Saturday, October 19. We exhibited the skins and skulls and the scat and tracks activities. They were very popular and attracted all ages for great conversations about predators and prey, wildlife conservation, and the Texas Master Naturalist program

We had 100 or more Scouts and many families drop by during the day. It was amazing how much the kids already knew, often more than their parents (LOL). The festival had a wide variety of exhibitors from rod casting to archery to Dutch oven cooking. There was even another Texas Master Naturalist chapter, Brazos Valley.

Many thanks to Tim Brooking, Kent Crawl, Judy Deaton, Randy Hegemeyer, and Jaci Elliott for their assistance helping Wanda Anglin to set up, talk to all the guests, and take down the booth.



Mutual Partnerships with Local Government

Submitted by Wanda Anglin

Editors note: Wanda provides 3 examples of partnering with local governments as a TMN volunteer. This entry is the first example; the others will be shared in future GLC Tidings.

I recently discovered that reaching out to state and county organizations can benefit my TMN work...making it a bit easier and hopefully shedding a positive light on contributions of Master Naturalists. I want to share my recent experiences so that you will be encouraged to find one or two contacts within your county, town, or even the state to create synergy to benefit their organizations and constituents and your TMN work!

These types of contacts seem to be much easier to make in our more rural counties than in metropolitan counties, but when I lived in Houston, I had similar wins. It took longer to find the right processes to follow and the specific people that could help cut through bureaucracy. But, with a little perseverance, it can be done anywhere!

Here are the examples over the past couple of months where, with a few simple emails or phone calls, I was able to get my county's and the state's help and helped the county and state see issues that likely would have gone unnoticed.

Big Win at State Level...Silt Barrier Removal

This is the win with the state that really surprised me at how fast it worked. But it did not take much of my time to report online, so I did it anyway thinking my report probably went into the nether regions of bureaucracy...but it paid off!

Back in August when scouting a water testing site as part of our TMN GLC Water Quality Monitoring Group, I noticed that the construction on FM 109 between Columbus and Frelsburg had been completed a few months before. Although all construction signage had been removed (except at five bridges), the silt barrier remained on all four corners of each bridge area.

Our wet spring with very warm temperatures had the vegetation aggressively overgrowing the barriers. They looked destined to become permanent trash creating microplastics for decades to come.



A month later I confirmed the silt barriers were still there, so I took photos at each location. Since this was a farm-to-market road, I asked a county representative (the County Judge's secretary) where to report it. She said that would be the state. I did a little searching online and quickly found how to report issues for State Highways: <https://www.txdot.gov/about/contact-us/report-an-issue.html>. I filled out a report in the "Other" category and really thought I would have to keep pushing for months trying to figure out how to get attention on it. A couple of months later, I was headed home one day and saw work crews clearing the barriers. A week later I drove the other direction and saw they had also been removed from the other 2 bridges.

Score! Well, of course, there is the possibility that it was their plan all along to do that construction wrap-up task last and many months after finishing the project, but I am claiming victory on this one!

Wild Things

Featuring....



“Wild Things” is a new nature column that will feature a plant, animal, insect, or mineral—any organic and inorganic natural phenomena in the Master Naturalist domain—in the 5-county GLC area. The purpose is to appreciate what we might find in our own backyard or neighborhood.

Look for the first Wild Things feature in the February GLC Tidings!

Calendar Highlights



Volunteer Appreciation Gathering

Sunday Dec 8, 2-4 PM

Fayette County AgriLife Extension
255 Svoboda Ln, LaGrange TX

- Bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert to share, along with your non-alcoholic beverage of choice. Meat, tea/water provided
- Non-perishable items will be collected to donate to a local food bank, if you wish to donate

For other events, see the Event Calendar at <https://txmn.org/glc/events/month/2024-12/>

GLC Tidings Newsletter Index

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

Find information about articles for newsletter issues from 2018 through the most recent. For each article, the index cites the subject, title, and author, and links directly to the issue published on the chapter website.

Christmas at Winedale

Provided at the request of Winedale, one of our community partners

Two events coming up at Winedale: Quilt Exhibit Dec 6 and Dec 13, and Christmas at Winedale Dec 15:



An Intimate Bond
Clothing and Quilting
in the Winedale Quilt Collection

This year's annual Winedale Quilt Exhibit showcases the quilter as inventive recycler, chronicler of important milestones or the passage of time, and designer of garments inspired by and incorporating quilting techniques.

Friday December 6 — Sunday December 8
Friday December 13 — Sunday December 15

Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Sunday: Noon — 4 p.m.

WINEDALE
BRISCOE CENTER FOR AMERICAN HISTORY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

3738 FM 2714
Round Top, TX 78954
(979) 278-3530
winedale@austin.utexas.edu

Christmas at WINE DALE



Sunday, December 15, 2024 | Noon to 4 p.m.

Join us in 19th-century Winedale! Enjoy crafts and folklife demonstrations, musical performances, a quilt exhibit, hay rides, food and beverages, and more.

CONTACT
(979) 278-3530
winedale@Austin.utexas.edu

WINE DALE
RESEARCH CENTER FOR AMERICAN HISTORY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

3738 FM 2714
ROUND TOP, TX
78954

State Information



#TMNTuesdays 2024



December 10, 2024 12-1 PM Training Class Mentor Programs Showcase

February 11, 2025 Topic: Roadrunners

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

[Register Here](#)



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/>

Chapter Resources

Officers for 2024

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Vice President – [Swee Leng Rapatz](#)

Secretary – [Betty Scardino](#)

Treasurer – [Karen Dean](#)

Board Members

Advanced Training Director – [Swee Leng Rapatz](#)

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)

Committees and Contacts

Hospitality Chair – Nita Tiemann

Newsletter Editor – [Carol Gaskamp](#)

Website Editor – Sheri Wilcox

Grants and Donations Chair – open

Volunteer Project Leaders

Adopt-a-Highway – Jaci Elliott

Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR – Susan Vanderworth

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

Schubert House Pollinator Project – Karen Woods

Stephen F. Austin State Park – B.R. & Charlene Koehler

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site – Julie Itz
and David Itz

Winedale Trails and Pollinator Garden – CJ Claverie and
Carey Soderstrom

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 Management - LISTSERV.TAMU.EDU](#)

Contact Us

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