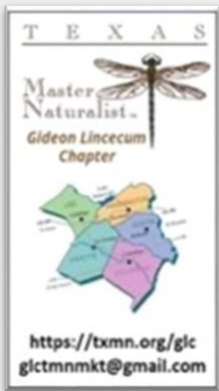


The GLC Tidings

December 2025

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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 DATE

Board Meeting – Jan 9, 2026
Chapter Meeting – Jan 17, 2026

From the President



Sheri Wilcox

It is very appropriate that I am writing this message, my last as your chapter president, during the Thanksgiving holiday season. I am truly thankful for the opportunity to have become better acquainted with so many of our members as we have worked together on chapter initiatives. Many of you have become friends as well as colleagues.

My thanks go out to each of our outgoing officers. Vice President Swee Leng Rapatz has taken us to some new venues for our meetings and exercised her creativity in organizing a wide variety of chapter advanced training programs, from nature photography to soil science to conservation easements. And she has been tireless in sending out advanced training opportunities so all of us can be sure to find something of interest. Secretary Betty Scardino, both outgoing and incoming Secretary, has kept us organized and well informed about all of our chapter events. Treasurer Karen Dean has kept on top of our chapter finances, giving us a clear picture of how we are spending our money.

Each of our board members has my thanks for their devotion to their areas of responsibility. Without their dedication, we could not educate both students and adults, recruit and train new members, communicate effectively with our members and the public, support a wide variety of volunteer projects, or record our achievements.

To each member of our chapter, I say thank you for the support that you have given me and our chapter over the past four years. We have an outstanding group of incoming officers. Please join me in thanking them for stepping up to serve as the next leaders of our chapter. I look forward to joining all of you in giving them our support as they lead our chapter into its next best years.

(continued next page)

Ralph Waldo Emerson inspires us to gratitude in his poem titled *Grateful*:

Cultivate the habit of being grateful
for every good thing that comes to you,
and to give thanks continuously.

And because all things have
contributed to your advancement,
you should include all things in your gratitude.

From the Vice President



Swee Leng Rapatz

I would like to thank Chapter members and the Board for all your support during my two-year term. I've enjoyed the challenges and wish Wanda Anglin the best as she takes our Chapter's Advanced Training to a higher level cognizant of our TMN mission.



From the Treasurer



Karen Dean

Once again, dues will remain the same for 2026, a great value at \$25.00 per year. The [link](#) to PayPal has the payment option for 1 person or 2 persons.

Membership Memo



Chris Morrison, Membership Director

Pins! – Congratulations to these GLC members who will receive their pins at the Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on Sunday, Dec. 7.

- Initial Certification – Tabatha Carey
- 2025 Recertification – Patti Brown, Cathy Nolte, Jennifer Prihoda, Tom Shaughnessy, Denise Turner

If you have **not recertified for 2025 yet**, you still have time! Hours may be earned up until Dec. 31. Please log any 2025 hours in VMS soon, but definitely by Jan. 10.

Recording Your Hours in VMS – Things stressed at the TMN Annual Meeting:

- You MUST write something in the Describe Your Service box! Auditors will not allow it to be used for grants if it is blank or doesn't have enough information.
- Keep in mind Who, What, When, Where, and Why when logging your entries.
 - Who** did you do the work for? (Who sponsored the event?) Sometimes the sponsor is in the title of the opportunity, so you don't have to repeat it in the description.
 - What** did you do? This doesn't have to be detailed, but enough to tell us what you did that allows you to be credited with hours.
 - When** is taken care of by the date you had to put on the form.
 - Where** did you do the work? (or attend the meeting or program) We don't need the specific address. Or was it virtual?
 - Why** doesn't always apply. If you are doing work to prepare a presentation you are going to give, be sure to say what that presentation is about and where it will be used.
- Avoid Acronyms!! Acceptable ones are TMN, TPWD, and pretty much nothing else. You know what they mean, but I may not, and the auditors might not!
- Citizen Science (other) work must be tied to a specific project, and you need to name the project plus tell what you did, etc.
- If the name and/or location of the project is in the opportunity title, you don't have to repeat it in the description. If it's something generic like Adopt-A-Highway, though, you need to say where you did the work.

- If you add time for travel to and from the site, you don't have to specify how much of your time is travel. But you do have to add "plus travel" to your description.

Please ask me if you are unsure of how to log something. I'd rather tell you in advance than write you an email later on how to correct your entry.

Thank you for recording your hours! Each volunteer hour that is approved by the auditors is used to qualify for federal grants of over \$23 for our sponsoring agencies.

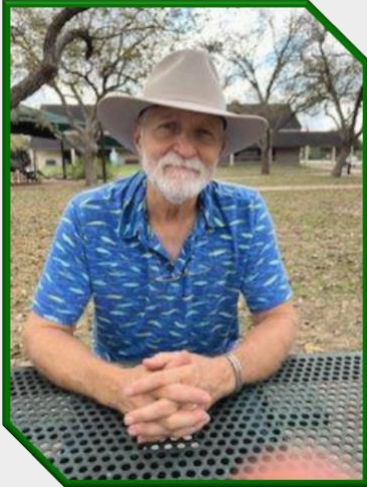
Election of New Officers at November Chapter Meeting



Officers for 2026-2027 elected by acclamation: Wanda Anglin, VP (with Swee Leng Rapatz), Sheri Wilcox (with incoming Pres Jeff Post), and incoming Treasurer Karen McClure (outgoing Karen Dean not pictured), Secretary Betty Scardino (not pictured) will continue.

TMN-GLC 20th ANNIVERSARY: Celebrating Long-time Members

As part of the ongoing celebration of the chapter's 20th anniversary, interviews with long-time members will be included in the newsletter. Connie Shortes interviewed Daniel Lewis, class of 2008, for this issue.



Daniel Lewis was a forester with the Texas A&M Forest Service until he retired a few years ago. He became a member in 2008, and since his retirement, he's been able to be more active in our chapter. His expertise on trees and forest management has been invaluable to our chapter and we are lucky to have him as a fellow member!

Why did you decide to join Master Naturalists initially?

I have always been fascinated with all facets of the natural world from trees to insects. As a kid, I knew my grandmother appreciated (or tolerated) my interests. So, when I moved to West Texas as a child, my mom, having a sense of humor, would allow me to mail my treasures to my grandmother. She, I am sure, loved getting a letter from me, only to open the envelope and find one of my treasured insects smashed and dried inside. So, the interest was always there.

My education as an Arborist and Forester provided me with a good amount of information on wildlife management, soil science, biology, and of course, tree and forest management, including disease and forest pest management. I realized that I could easily supplement my education by joining Master Naturalists. I thoroughly enjoyed it. Even the topics I did not expect to enjoy turned out to be very interesting.

Texas Master Naturalists allowed me to plug into a local network of nature loving people and find good friends. Like all of them, I'm a lifelong learner. I'm glad I can be more active now that I'm retired.

What are some of your favorite naturalist activities?

My favorite activity is just being in the woods and being able to slow down, look, listen and examine. To squat down and just quietly observe. To watch and identify birds, plants and insects. Taking time to enjoy the opportunity to absorb the beauty of a place and wonder and take samples or pictures of things I observe. Then go home and research what I've observed or collected.

What chapter projects are you most interested in these days?

I enjoy opportunities to share what I know about trees and land management with others. I've done tree ID walks for chapter members at Stephen F. Austin State Park and Indian Creek. I also teach Forest

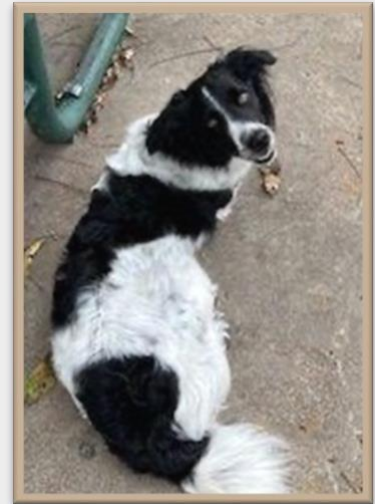
Ecology to each new chapter class, which includes a forest walk. I always enjoy education projects working with kids and adults that focus on trees, brush management and invasive species control.

What are some land stewardship activities that you are engaged with on your own property?

I have been clearing a lot of dead cedar trees and trying to establish an assortment of trees around my property. I'll be planting 20 burr oak seedlings soon. And of course, I wage war on huisache, mesquite, yaupon holly and silverleaf nightshade.

What do you do for fun?

I like to spend time with my daughter and my 93 year old mom. And I enjoy Charlie Lewis, my border collie/springer spaniel mix dog. She's smart and full of energy. Now that I have trained her, she's a great companion.



New Member Profile

Meet Class of 2025



John and Jacquie Pritchard, Newbie Texas Master Naturalists - Class of 2025. John spent most of his career in the corporate world, some in construction and some with a friend's family business -- all in management and oversight. He retired early to manage care for a family member. Jacquie recently retired from a Texas Educator career -- High School Theatre Arts teacher... a "Drama Mama."

Why Texas Master Naturalists? We stalked Frank Michel on many Nature Walk-a-bouts at San Felipe de Austin Historic Site where we also soon met Sheri Wilcox. We were intrigued and surprised by the unique features of the plants/ trees, the varied uses and usefulness to all natural life- including humans, and the archaeological significance of certain species and planting locations. Before this, Jacquie says her experience was with her mother's banana plants and her own several potted cacti. She thought all plants were "Native." Frank and Sheri spoke highly of TMN and the Gideon Lincecum Chapter. John figured Frank and Sheri felt we would stop stalking them if we got tied up for several months in the TMN_GLC training..... Nope, we still shadow them.

What TMN Projects? We have been, are, and rotate between participating with:

- Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge
- Stephen F Austin State Park Visitor Center Garden
- LaGrange AgriLife Center Garden
- Washington on the Brazos Native Plant Garden
- Pioneer Garden at San Felipe de Austin Historic Site
- LaGrange-Monument Hill Nature Trail
- Elder Prairie Nature Preserve- Native Prairies Association of Texas
- Brazos River Clean-up
- Colorado River Boat Ramp Area Trash Pick up
- Adopt A Highway – Columbus, Tx
- Texas Wildlife Assoc- Brenham's Land, Water & Wildlife Expedition
- Education Exhibit Table Events

Favorite thing about TMN? For us both, once getting past the inundation of knowledge from sources, we learned to let various "niches" just settle over us. We are fascinated and amazed at the interconnectedness of life and ecosystems and understanding that we don't have to know everything or remember everything. We can be aware and enjoy what is before us in nature, and can seek out more info from the good people we've met and the resources online we've learned about. We enjoy the workdays with welcoming, knowledgeable people-- the human connections -- being outdoors. Jacquie says she's found her "zen" digging in the dirt. It's her therapy. She even constructed and planted her first pollinator garden, and everything lived!! Concerning all of this for John, he has said many times now that "The more I see different things, the more I see things differently." And, when on Nature Walks -Plant & Bird Walks with so many experts, he says, "Give me a coloring book with some names and pictures so I can keep up."

We both agree, it's great to be part of something where prior knowledge and skills are not required. In addition to the service opportunities, what has kept us coming back is the friendliness and willingness of those "in the know" to patiently share their knowledge and passions even when pestered with all our questions.

Favorite place in Texas and Big Trips: All things TEXAS; Natural and Historic. Because of various life circumstances, we've had no big trips per se. What we've enjoyed together through the years are day trips, driving the rolling back roads away from crowds, visiting small towns, and hunting for unique items and meeting interesting people. We enjoy visiting old buildings, historic sites, and finding "mom and pop" eateries along the way.

GLC Projects



Adopt-a-Highway

By Jaci Elliott

On a recent picture-perfect November morning, Linda Ruth Placke, Tabatha Carey, Jeff Post, Karen McClure, Annette Holdeman, Ann Ray and Jaci Elliott met at the parking lot of St. John's Lutheran Church in Ruttersville to conduct a clean-up along our chapter's Fayette County Adopt-a-Highway route.



Although most of our route has been improved (widened and repaved) the construction work has prevented us from regular cleanups these past two years. Since the bridge was still under repair, we decided to clean up the stretch between Windy Hill and Rocky Creek Roads. We managed to collect nine bags of trash, including two feed bags of aluminum recycling. Thank you to the team! It's always good to visit with one another while we pick up—Ann Ray's adventures never cease to amaze! And the results of our efforts are immediately fulfilling.

So, if you like to burn a few calories and assist in keeping our local parts of Texas beautiful, please consider joining one of our TMNGLC Adopt-a-Highway (AAH) projects, either (the Ruttersville route in Fayette County or the route near the Columbus Bus. 90 Bridge in Colorado County. We can always use more hands!

And don't forget you can always record VMS hours under the Adopt-a-Highway dropdown option if you pick up trash along Texas roads other than those on your own property. (I have four circuits near my place outside of Schulenburg that I clean up on a regular basis, and my neighbors are grateful to see me out there). So, it's good PR, too!

Speaking of which, when my husband Doug and I were camping in the Davis Mountains area last month, we spied this clever AAH sign near the Davis Observatory!



Community Partnerships



TMN GLC and Keep Columbus Beautiful Team Up at Adopt-a-Highway Columbus

By Wanda Anglin

Last April, TMN GLC approached Columbus Garden Club, sponsor of Keep Columbus Beautiful, to join its Trash Off Day held annually on the first Saturday in April. GLC held two events in one that day. GLC members participated in a riverside cleanup under the north and south ends of the US Business 71 bridge, referred to often as “North Bridge”. They also did an in-river canoe trash pickup trip through the Columbus Loop on the Colorado River, a 6.5-mile paddling trail that winds from the boat launch under North Bridge to Beason’s Crossing Park.

Following that successful joint endeavor that removed a trailer-load of trash from shore and river, the TMN group approached Keep Columbus Beautiful, to team up again.

On Wednesday, November 5, 2025, an in-water clean-up crew of 4 (led by Chuck Babb and Tayvis Dunnahoe) paddled the river picking up trash along and in the river.

On-shore, a TMN GLC team (led by Wanda Anglin) and the Keep Columbus Beautiful committee chair, Marian Schonenberg, picked up trash. They covered the north end of TMN’s new Adopt-a-Highway site in Columbus at the boat ramp entrance off US Bus 71 down to the railroad tracks at Crockett. The site actually extends down to the block where Maria’s Restaurant and Columbus Hometown Pharmacy are, but the massive amounts of trash under the south side of the bridge took more time than hoped so a small team plans to clean the area from the railroad to the south end of the site later this month.

Twelve bags of trash with some big pieces such as a toilet, furniture pieces, fallen road signs, pop-up tent-frame, small fridge door, and some unusual finds including 2 burner phones, 2 unshot shells, and a handmade frog gig were collected. A bag of aluminum cans was recycled.

The Adopt-a-Highway shore cleanup crew included Wanda Anglin, Linda Esco, Trey Granger, Jacquie and John Pritchard, Dottie Schoeneberg, as well as the Columbus Garden Club Keep Columbus Beautiful committee chair, Marian Schonenberg and Wanda’s husband, Frank Piper.

Mark your calendars! TMN and the Garden Club will be teaming up again with a joint project on Saturday, April 4, 2026, for Keep Columbus Beautiful Trash Off Day.



Calendar Highlights



Calendar link: <https://txmn.org/glc/events/>

As announced at the chapter meeting, check your email for information on workdays etc. as the calendar app continues to be re-developed.

GLC website training application is now live.

The direct link to "Join Us" is <https://txmn.org/glc/becoming-a-master-naturalist/>

Once people read the basic information on that page, they can click to the online application.

GLC Tidings Newsletter Index

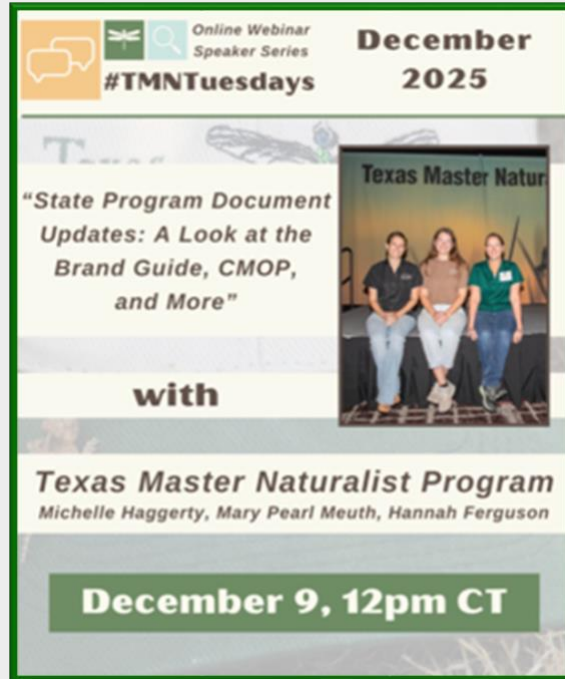
<https://txmn.org/glc/whats-new/newsletters/>

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.



For more information go to <https://txmn.org/rbc/brazos-river-cleanup/>

State Information



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 2024-2025

President – [Sheri Wilcox](#)

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 - open

Committees and Project 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

Brenham ISD Outdoor Education – Lori Buffum

CK TAMUK Native Seed Project – David & Lori Hessel

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 & B.R. Koehler

River Cleanups – Chuck Babb & Tayvis Dunnahoe

San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site – Frank Michel

Schubert House Pollinator Project – Karen Woods

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

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

Watershed & Waterway Protection Water Monitoring – Wanda Anglin

Winedale Trails and Pollinator Garden – 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](#)

Contact Us

Address: 1305 East Blue Bell Rd Ste 104, Brenham, TX 77833

Telephone 979-277-6212

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 <https://listserv.tamu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=TMN&A=1>

