



The GLC Tidings

From the President – Cindy Hobbs



Summer is right around the corner and we have many projects underway. Allen and Karen Ginnard have really taken the bull by the horns at Washington on the Brazos State Park; the butterfly garden is well underway and the educational programs have started up. Fantastic job all that have assisted with this project.

Scott Wiley, from La Grange AgriLife will be speaking with us at the May Chapter Meeting. He is requesting a donation from the chapter for a high-speed weather station. We will hear all about it and decide if we can/should donate to the cause.

Our 2016 class has completed and we welcomed 25 new graduates to the chapter. Thanks to Jerry Gips and his training committee for the wonderful job they did getting the largest class in our history trained up. It's a huge undertaking and I appreciate all the time and effort that went into it.

Reminder, I have the proof copy of the revised training manual available for \$35.00. These proofs will be replaced with the final product once it's available. Once the final copies come out they will be \$70 each. I have a limited supply of the proof copies so if you want to purchase one, email me ASAP at cndy_hobbs@yahoo.com.

Please check out our website at txmn.org/glc for the latest volunteer and advanced training opportunities. We have much going on from AG Days to bumping up plants in the greenhouse, to planting and beautifying Indian Creek. Pick something you're interested in and get outside. Many thanks to our involved and dedicated members; without you we would not exist.

Lastly, board members, directors and committee chairs, please use our new google groups email (tmnglc@googlegroups.com) for sending out requests for help, work days etc. If it is an on-going project YOU can send it out without going through me. I will receive a copy automatically.

Chapter Meeting & Program for May



All members are encouraged to join us at the May chapter meeting which starts at 9 am. on Saturday, May 21, 2016, at the City of La Grange Randolph Recreation Center.

The program (Advanced Training hours for TMNers) will begin at approximately 10:30 am and is open to the public. Our guest speaker, Dr. Leslie Bush, an expert with identification of edible and medicinal plants used now and in the past, will give a talk on plants and her talk will be followed by a plant walk at Monument Hill. See the event on our chapter website for all the details.

Gung Ho Graduates Are Active Already



Congratulations to the graduates from the Class of 2016, our Chapter's largest class ever. They are a dedicated group as many of them have already gotten involved in projects all across the chapter from Monument Hill to Attwater Wildlife Refuge to the Blinn Greenhouse and Indian Creek Nature Area. We had a new class this year on Archaeology and many students trekked out to Columbus for the makeup class delayed by the floods of April 18. Welcome to the GLC chapter: Joe Green, Melissa Magnuson, John Dennis, Martha Philipp, Adam Magnuson, Don Sauer, Kathy Sauer, John Wantland, Debra Namken, Jack Massey, Lodie Massey, Linda Nations, Sheri Wilcox, Robert Mott, Patrick McClaugherty, Steve Jackson, Patricia Garrett, Cathleen Dunne, Patrick Dunne, Betsy Palkowski, Jim Wilson, Cathy Nitsch, Charles Nitsch, Terry Rooney, and (not pictured) Leada Dietz.

Save this date and plan to join us.

<http://txmn.org/2016-annual-meeting/#Call%20for%20Proposals>



A Huge Shower of Activities Swept us into Spring



Texas Cotton Gin Festival: On April 16, at our tents in Burton, we had a good time engaging families in a Composting station, playing a Junior Naturalist Bingo game, and taking folks down to Indian Creek to walk the nature trail. Lots of chapter members helped in different ways from setting up the tents to making new posters to greeting the public to demonstrating composting and playing Bingo to driving the "tour bus". Thanks to Cindy & Tom Hobbs, Dave Redden, Tom & Susan Scanio, Karen Woods, Judy Deaton, Lefty & Luan Yarnold, Lori Buffum, Greg Walker, Royceanna Kendall, and Cindy Rodibaugh. We learned a lot about what works for outreach for these family events and will expand on our ideas for next year.



Adopted Highway Gets Spruced Up: Our Adopt-A-Highway group worked on March 16 to clean up the two mile of stretch of Highway 159 from Ruttersville towards La Grange. Twelve volunteers picked up 17 bags of trash and while doing that enjoyed getting to know the hard working members in training. Our next Adopt-A-Highway opportunity will be Wednesday June 22. – by Dave & MaryAnn Butler, project leaders.

Attwater PC NWR: Houston Toad monitoring started up again in February and several

chapter members are taking regular shifts to go out with the interns to measure and record the baby toads at each enclosure. This is a Houston Toad – she was discovered during one of the first monitoring trips, having apparently wintered over at the refuge. Watch the website for opportunities to volunteer at the Refuge – there is always so much to be done.



Pollinator Garden at Washington on the Brazos: First came the planning and design, then the digging and weeding and pruning, next came the dirt and the plants, and finally came the mulch. And now, we are seeing bees, butterflies, caterpillars and hummingbirds in the garden created by our chapter members under the leadership of project coordinators Allen and Karen Ginnard. If you haven't been out to Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site recently, head on out to Washington, TX. Check the website for the next scheduled work day or look for one of the Saturday workshops there to get some Advanced Training hours.



Indian Creek Nature Area: Not only was Indian Creek spruced up for the Cotton Gin Festival, now it's getting a garden of its very own. GLC crews were busy over several work days weeding, pruning, mulching, painting, and labeling plants and trees in time for the April 16 event. Then, Wonder Woman Judith Anne Deaton and her sidekick Dave Redden lead the team to create this pollinator paradise at the entrance to the trail. Come help us plant and tend the garden and take a walk down to the creek. We are right behind the Cotton Gin in Burton.



Fayette County Safety Day: At the Texas Master Naturalist station was all about “Be Aware When You Are Out There.” The team, led by Donna Zapalac Mueller and Laura Vandivier Sherrod, taught the 400 or so kids about things that can “bite”: spiders and kissing bugs and plants and mammals and venomous snakes. Lots of TMN-GLC folks helped out with the presentations or in the background over at the kitchen. What a great day! More county AG days are coming up so get involved with these fantastic youth education events.



Bookmark the TMN-GLC Chapter website: <http://txmn.org/glc/>

Keep your contact information up to date with the chapter. Send any changes or corrections to
glcmembershipcommittee@hotmail.com

Photo Gallery



A two-headed butterfly? from Dave Redden

I recently saw a small butterfly on some rudbeckia plants in our front garden. I could barely see it but as I got close, it appeared to have two heads. I used my phone camera to take a couple of pictures, but couldn't identify it from online sources, so, I sent the pictures to Deborah Copeland, one of our butterfly experts, and got this response.

“Great picture Dave! This grey hairstreak (*strymon melinus*) is one of my favorites. You noticed a unique thing about hairstreaks-- it looks like they have two heads! They move that tail part and trick the predator. I have seen them with that part of the wing missing, but they survived. They are such a small butterfly that you cannot see that detail without

magnification. There are several similar grey hairstreaks, and I think this one is the "Texas or Northern Hairstreak". We used to see these frequently before the 2011 drought. I am glad to see that they are back. “

TMN-GLC Flickr Group

Thanks to Betsy Palkowsky (Graduate, Class of 2016), a photo sharing website has been created for our chapter. The [Gideon Lincecum Master Naturalist Chapter](#) group has been created on the [Flickr website](#). This is a place to share the great nature photos you've taken on your property or in the field, and to ask questions and/or discuss topics you'd like to learn more about. Sharing photos and ideas from our experiences as fellow naturalists enables others to enjoy the things we see and do as we help ourselves and others preserve the land for which we are stewards. Please contact Betsy for assistance with Flickr: email bpalkowsky@outlook.com phone 281-728-3555.

Submitting photos

- ✓ Only Flickr group members (requires Yahoo or Flickr account) can add photos, photo comments and participate in group discussions on the site
- ✓ Adding photos as a Flickr member is fairly easy. I am happy to help anyone get started.
- ✓ There are Flickr apps for tablets. However, these do not have all of the functionality of the full website. You can view and post photos to the site but it's difficult to organize them and add them to a group. Thus, it's recommended that you use the full website to edit and add photos to the group.
- ✓ If don't want, yet another website id, but you want to share photos send them to me at: bpalkowsky@outlook.com
- ✓ Group Rules, shown below, apply to all photos whether they are sent to me or you post these using your own Flickr account

Accessing photos

Photos are on a public site where anyone can see them! Photos can be viewed by Flickr members or non-members using the following link <http://www.flickr.com/groups/tmn-glc> or Flickr search tool using tags: tmn-glc or "texas master naturalist" with "hide inactive groups" turned off. You may also view them using the Flickr tablet apps using the above link or tags in the search tool

Group rules

- ✓ Please include the following with your photos: your name, date taken, location taken and description of the photo
- ✓ Images must be taken by you (or another Chapter member)
- ✓ Images cannot be copyrighted so don't post anything you might want to have copyrighted.
- ✓ Images cannot have children from any of the TMN-GLC interactions (this protects you, the chapter, and the children)
- ✓ Be sure to obtain permission from any persons in your picture (TMN members or non-members) to post them on Flickr. Follow Flickr [community guidelines](#)
- ✓ For Flickr account users: - add the following tags to your photos: tmn-glc, "texas master naturalist" - add other tags that might help find the photo by topic or location - geotag the photo using the "map tool" under the "Organize" option (I'm happy to walk you through how to do this)

Chapter Meetings (and AT programs):

May 21, July 16, September 17, November 19

TMN Annual Meeting:

October 21-23



Monarchs in May: My babies are hatching!!!! Total of 12 yesterday. No deformed wings. I was really worried about OE. Hope there is no infection. – Donna Mueller

This is Thistle:

A Texas Thistle, nature’s art work. Just take a look at the lines, circles & brilliant colors, the tiny grains of pollen. - Donna Mueller



Learning Across New Dimensions in Science – L.A.N.D.S. - Cindy Rodibaugh



Can you see the dragonfly in the grass? Its wings are translucent.

As all of you know and I hope will learn to apply, **The Mission** of our chapter is: To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.

I commend those well-informed volunteers who showed up on Tuesday, April 5, 2016, to assist as field day instructors for 300 plus Brenham ISD 8th graders around a beautiful tank on a ranch near Brenham. The topic for the field day was Water/Erosion. The TWA-

L.A.N.D.S. coordinator provided lesson plans for the different stations and here they come!!!



Dave Redden and his partner, a TMN and biology teacher from Waco, assisted students in collecting and identifying Macro-invertebrates (animals without backbones that can be seen without the use of a microscope)—a biological analysis of water quality monitoring. I was impressed by the size of the critters they were looking at. **Can you identify the brown form next to her fingernail?**





Lefty and LuAn Yarnold, with Carol Paulson gave instructions on what we learn from water chemistry while demonstrating how to test for dissolved oxygen, phosphates, and nitrates—a chemical analysis for water quality monitoring.

Pat McClaugherty assisted the students in learning about watersheds. Do you know what a watershed is? Do you know what affects a watershed? Pat helped students build their own watersheds from aluminum roasting pans, newspaper, white trash bags, drinking straws, different flavors of Kool-Aid, and water from a spray bottle.

Chris Morrison, with the help of Daniel Haymond,

instructed students on the devastating impacts of erosion using an erosion simulator.



Other stations included a soil horizons station taught by a NRCS Soil Scientist. In a pit dug into the ground, soil properties such as color, texture, structure, and thickness were observable. How soil is layered helps define a soil horizon. Soil profiles and horizons are used to classify and interpret the soil for various uses. TWA experts taught Water Turbidity using a Secchi disc and a Secchi tube. Each student was given a journal to document his/her findings at each station.

I assisted Lefty with one of the water chemistry stations, but my main assignment was to keep time—each station had approximately 25 minutes to deliver their information. I got to blow the horn to signal time for the students to rotate to the next station. What a blast!!! (Sorry, no picture ☹)

The weather was perfect and the students seemed interested which made the day go very quickly. In addition to expanding my learning curve, I had fun. So much to learn; so little time.

P.S. The brown form next to the fingernail is a leech.



Attwater’s Prairie Chicken hatchlings at the Houston Zoo. Later this summer, these youngsters will be headed out to the Wildlife Refuge in Eagle Lake where you, a TMN-GLC chapter member, can get involved in helping this species survive. Check the website for opportunities to work at Attwater PC National Wildlife Refuge.

Texas Master Naturalist Listserv – A Great Resource

The Texas Master Naturalist Listserv is a communications media hosted by Texas A&M for the Texas Master Naturalist at no charge to provide a means of quickly distributing news, announcements, notification of events, grant opportunities and other items pertinent to TMNers. To sign up for this free service (you may unsubscribe at any time) please visit the State TMN website and follow the instructions: <http://txmn.org/staying-connected/sign-up-for-tmn-listserv/>

Poetic Perspectives of a Master Naturalist Trainee - Jim Wilson

Air Mail

Magically appearing with the sunrise,
Zipping and sipping
Among the red-gold bouquet blooms,
Hundreds of flitting postage stamps
Dart over the sprawling bush lantana
In our front flowerbed.
Little first class butterflies
Honoring sweet innocent cameo nature
With symmetrical beauty colors,
Frantically looking for their assigned letter.

Since we have retired (42 years as a practicing small animal veterinarian) and moved to the Burton area, I am promoting my concurrent avocation of many years - writing and publishing poetry.

- Jim Wilson (Graduate, Class of 2016)

Survival of the Flittest

Drawn to the aroma of sweet nectar
Beckoning from the bell
Of a blood red, trumpet vine blossom,
Two ruby throated, emerald green, Apache helicopters,
Planning inevitable preculinary combat—
Hover warily at their predestined petal portal.
Dozens of wall flower,
Virgin, bell blossoms
Wink coyly nearby.
Desire—anger—aggression—
Violence—fear—retreat—then—
With all challengers subdued or bluffed
The victor's lust for self-indulgence
Is smugly satisfied.
Natural traits of the animal kingdom.
Don't deny them. Don't apply them.
With a whir and a flit and a love you,
Rise above them. Admire the grace
Of the single hummingbird spectacle.
Find another of God's creatures
To exemplify proper social interaction.

Chapter Resources Keep You Informed, On Track, and In Touch

Texas Master Naturalist Website <http://txmn.org/> - the state website

Gideon Lincecum Chapter Website <http://txmn.org/glc> - visit often for event listings and more; no login required

TMN – GLC Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/21969044537/> - find us on Facebook and ask to join

Online Volunteer Management System: Go to the state website to log your volunteer and advanced training hours: <http://txmn.org/tmn-vms-users/> and then to the login page: <http://txmn.org/tmn-hours-entry/> You can bookmark the login page for easy quick access to your logbook.

The GLC Tidings newsletter is published 6 times a year. Submit articles and photos to Editor [Lori Buffum](#).