

The GLC Tidings

From the President – Cindy Hobbs



What an amazing and different summer we've had. All that rain in August has the landscape looking lush and green. Am I in Texas?

If you haven't visited Washington on the Brazos Park, please do. Chapter members Allen and Karen Ginnard did a wonderful job on the pollinator gardens. They have on-going classes scheduled throughout the year. The Turtle and Tortoise class in early September was well received and attended. Their next class is on Birding. Check our website for dates and classes! They count as Advanced Training.

If you read the minutes you know our Chapter was asked to run the AgriLife Store at the TMN State Meeting in Montgomery. I am very proud that our chapter is so highly regarded by the state office. Why? Because of you; without our members' involvement we would be nothing. Thank you all. A few members have already agreed to attend the annual conference and work the store. We could use members in the store on Saturday, even for a few hours. If you can spare some time, please let me know.

The board has set the Christmas Party date and plans are in the works. It is 3 Dec, 2016 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. Invitations will provide all the details but for now, please mark your calendars to enjoy some holiday spirit.

As the heat disappears our projects ramp up. Check our website [TXMN.org/GLC](http://txmn.org/GLC) to see what volunteer and advanced training opportunities are available. See you at the next Chapter Meeting on September 17th.

Annual Conference Registration is open now: <http://txmn.org/2016-annual-meeting/>

Chapter Meeting & Program for September



All members are encouraged to join us Saturday, September 17, 2016 at the Winedale Meadows Education Center near Round Top. The Chapter Meeting starts at 9:00 a.m., and the Advanced Training Program begins at 10:45. This Program is free and open to the public. The topic is "**Elms, Oaks and Ashes of Brazos Watershed: Texas Tough, but Challenged These Days**". Our guest speaker is Minnette Marr, Field Botanist and Research Associate of Plant Conservation with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Bring a sack lunch and join us. See the event on our chapter website for all the details. [The monster in the picture is the Emerald Ash Borer, a threat to our forests.]

Scholarship Season: A Chance to Help Local Youth Programs

Scholarship Committee News

from Donna Zapalac Mueller, TMN-GLC Scholarship Committee Chair

Whew!!! 4-H banquets and scholarship presentations have come to a whirlwind end for 2016!!! As a 20th century 4-H alum myself, I thank TMN chapter representatives who attended the various county 4-H banquets. So many of you were so complimentary about these extraordinary youths. The County 4-H Banquets and Awards represent years-worth of hard work that has come to an end in a chapter of their lives. This is their time to shine; to prepare to move on to the next exciting adventure in life. I'm elated that many of you got to experience this special event.

4-H is not just for those "Country Kids" anymore. There's a host of 21st century opportunities available to the nation's 6 million 4-H youths, covering Archery through Zoology. 4-H Scholarship recipients are asked to come to a chapter meeting at the end of their first year of college to report to us on their progress and how the scholarship was put to use.

The 2016 4-H Scholarship recipients are:

Austin County, Reid Janish, \$500 [top with Cindy Hobbs, Lori Buffum]

Fayette County, Gretchen Kuck, \$500 [with Cindy Hobbs, Donna Mueller]

Lee County, Whitney Whitsel, \$500 [with Tom Hobbs, Karen Mahoney Woods]

Washington County, Kendall Smidovec, \$500 [with Cindy Hobbs]

The 2016 Texas Brigades Scholarship recipients are:

Eli Eichler, Coastal Brigade Cadet, \$250 [pictured below left]

Nicholas Matocha, Buckskin Brigade Cadet, \$250 [pictured below right]



Learn more about 4-H: http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/What_Is_4H.pdf

Learn more about Texas Brigades: <http://texasbrigades.org/>

Identifying and Managing Oak Wilt by Cindy Hobbs

After I had the Forest Service come over to look at some of my old oaks in La Grange, I was stunned to learn that my neighborhood has oak wilt. So far, it's around the corner and across the street. Needless to say, I instantly wanted to learn more. Reference the Texas Oak Wilt Organization (www.texasoakwilt.org). Oak Wilt, one of the most destructive tree diseases in the United States, is killing Oak trees in central Texas at epidemic rate.



Oak Wilt is an infectious disease caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, which invades the water-conducting system in oaks. All oaks can be affected, but it's most seen in Red Oaks (Spanish, Shumard and Blackjack) which are extremely susceptible and may play a unique role in new Oak Wilt infections. White oaks (Post, Bur, Chinkapin) are less susceptible and rarely die from it.

Identification is established in four ways, usually used together to confirm the infection. Consult a trained expert. 1. **Patterns of Tree Mortality** – Most live oaks lose their leaves and die over a 1 to 6-month period following initial signs of symptoms. Red Oaks seldom survive oak wilt and often die within 3 to 4 weeks

following initial signs of disease. 2. **Foliar Symptoms** – Leaves will develop yellow veins that eventually turn brown, a symptom called veinal necrosis. Defoliation may be rapid, and dead leaves with brown veins are often seen under the tree for months. 3. **Fungal Mats** – reliable indicators of oak wilt. These spore producing structures most often form in spring on red oaks that developed advanced symptoms of oak wilt the previous late summer or fall. Fungal mats can be found by looking for narrow cracks in the bark of dying red oaks leading to hollow areas between the bark and wood. They often have a smell similar to fermenting fruit. 4. **Laboratory Diagnosis** – oak wilt can be confirmed by isolating the fungus from diseased tissue in the lab. Samples can be submitted to Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab.

Disease Management – Prevent New Infection – cut and dispose of diseased trees immediately. Avoid wounding oaks, including pruning, from Feb through Jun, and paint all wounds and stumps regardless of season. Handle oak firewood carefully, burn all firewood before spring and keep diseased wood away from live trees. **Stop the spread through the root system** – Install a trench at least 4 ft. deep and 100 ft. beyond the perimeter of infection areas to break up root system. Cut or uproot all trees within 100 ft. barrier (except those injected with fungicide). **Inject High Value Oaks with fungicide** - Identify high value oaks close to infected area and have a licensed arborist treat the trees with propiconazole. **Plant New Trees** - plant trees not susceptible to oak wilt, have diversity of tree species that are adapted to central Texas. Avoid wounding oak trees during planting and pruning.

[A good article (shared by Donna Mueller) can be found at <http://www.gardenstylesanantonio.com/2016/08/myth-truth-oak-wilt/>]

Very Hungry Caterpillars



Joyce Stamp Lilly in Washington, TX shares her very hungry caterpillar pictures with us.

Left, the Gulf Fritillary on Passion Flower and right, lots of Monarch caterpillars eating her

Indian Creek Nature Park Flourishing by Judith Deaton



This year we installed a new terraced **pollinator garden**. The slight hill at the entrance was an ideal location for the project as it was a sunny location close enough to water and it would cut down the need for mowing the hillside. We also wanted to emphasize the entrance to attract more local people and tourists and provide a teaching opportunity for the children of the Burton school system. Earlier this year the dreadful floods had all but destroyed our work in the nature area across the bridge but the park survived well. Many hands made quick if not light work of reestablishing the trail system. In planning the terracing we kept in mind the very dry terrain and huge boulder at the side. We decided to employ the permaculture practice of placing landscape timbers fixed by rebar in such a way as to create

four level beds up the hill. We then laid newspapers directly on the ground, soaking them through. This acts as a block to prevent grass and weeds from invading the bed. Several bags of topsoil held down the papers and the beds were then finished off with an inexpensive pine mulch. We also received some black mulch left over from the Washington on the Brazos project which will offset the colors of the plants well. The Blinn College greenhouse beds provided maximilian sunflower, black eyed susan, frostweed, partridge pea, standing cypress, mistflower and we added salvias, winecups, and lantana . We then created a small circular bed around the signpost planted out mostly with different lantanas and a trellis with a native honeysuckle. Four green milkweeds were planted later. We had a surprise when a volunteer tomato grew amongst the black eyed susans and the milkweed is now drawing every aphid in the neighborhood. Jim Wilson and I spent much of July and August keeping the bed watered and ant free during the dog days and the rain was very welcome. The supervisor of the cotton gin brought our water use issue to the attention of the Mayor and they have ok'd our use of the Burton city water. Anyone who has a spare moment is welcome to drop by to see our project and pull a weed or two! Bring your family and sandwiches as the picnic area is now very inviting.

[WHERE IS INDIAN CREEK? Our nature park is in Burton, behind the Cotton Gin, near the Burton water treatment plant. See the actual Cotton Gin in the picture? That should help orient you.]

Volunteer Power – It's Not All About the Pins

Our volunteer hours power the engine of the Texas Master Naturalist program. As of July 2016, we have reported **3,892 volunteer hours** and **500 advanced training hours**. WOW! Certified Texas Master Naturalist means you've graduated from the 40-hour course and done 40 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of advanced training. To recertify each year, you need the 40 volunteer hours and 8 advanced training hours.

Initial (first year) Certifications: Cathleen Dunne, Betsy Palkowsky

Recertifications: Lori Buffum, Carol Daniels, Judy Deaton, Allen Ginnard, Karen Ginnard, Cindy Hobbs, Chris Morrison, Donna Mueller, Mary Ann Peach, Dave Redden, Cindy Rodibaugh, Tom Scanio, Nita Tiemann, Greg Walker, James Weatherly, Monterey White, Karen Mahoney Woods, Lefty Yarnold, Luan Yarnold

Achieved **250** cumulative hours: Tom Hobbs, Royceanna Kendall, Allen Ginnard, Karen Ginnard, Mary Ann Peach, Lemae Higgs, Jennifer Prihoda

Achieved **500** cumulative hours: Gary Buckwalter, Lefty Yarnold, Luan Yarnold

Achieved **1000** cumulative hours: Dottie Schoeneberg

Congrats to all the chapter members who give so much!



From Quebe Prairie by Charlotte Von Rosenberg

Greetings Prairie People! The prairie is in great shape and is almost in full bloom. We will soon announce the dates for visits. [Three awesome pictures: Big Bluestem (below right), my favorite right now is Alamo Switchgrass (left), and Sideways (Sideoats) Grama (below, bottom), state grass of Texas]



Planting a Pocket Prairie

At a Brenham elementary school (Krause) early on a Saturday morning in August, our chapter helped a 4th grade class plant grasses as the culmination of their yearlong study of the native Texas prairie. What a joy to help them leave this legacy as they move on to middle school - and this is only the beginning! TMN-GLC team: Lori Buffum, Dave Redden, Carol Paulson, Jim Wilson, Debra Healy, Steve Jackson, and Tom Yates with BISD Outdoor Education coordinator, Natalie K. James and teachers, students, and families. After many

days of hot dry weather, the rains came gently that morning to help the plants settle in. We planted Little bluestem, Big bluestem, Sideoats Grama, Eastern Gamma, Yellow Indian, Maximillian Sunflower.

It's a Jungle Out There but not after the TMN troops arrived

by Butch Young

Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge near Eagle Lake - Sept 6, 2016. Ron and Mary Ann Peach, Butch Young, and Cindy Rodibaugh spent the morning weeding the Attwater display garden with the new refuge manager-in-training Jennifer Romero.



Bookmark the TMN-GLC Chapter website:

<http://txmn.org/glc/>

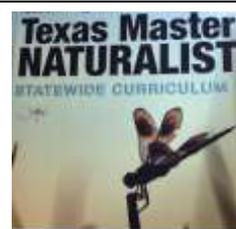
Keep your contact information up to date with the chapter.

Send any changes or corrections to

glcmembershipcommittee@hotmail.com

Make sure you are logging your hours into the VMS

<http://txmn.org/tmn-hours-entry/>



Now Enrolling

Our chapter is now accepting applications for the **2017 Training Class**. Please help spread the word. For more information and to apply online, visit <http://txmn.org/glc/about/to-apply-for-2010/>

Happy Pollinating at Washington on the Brazos by Allen & Karen Ginnard

The pollinator gardens at Washington on the Brazos have put on their summer coat, and the frequent rain has benefited continued plant growth. It's been fun to watch the beds change from season to season, and to learn which plants hit their peak at the various times. Right now, the Maximillian Sunflowers, the Partridge Pea, and the Turk's Cap seem to be really hitting their stride, while the Tithonia Torch is waning somewhat. The Blue Salvia is coming back, and the Mistflower is doing well also. The Tahoka Daisy is looking nice, and the Cherry Sage is... well, it's trying to look pretty. We're going to be staking some of the plants and cutting back others soon. Seed collection is also possible with some of the plants. We continue to observe many butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds on the plants, so all is working well!
[Picture by Donna Mueller of Queen Butterflies on Blue Mist flowers]



As a bit of plan update, the preparation of beds and planting of the Monarch / Pollinator Garden at Washington on the Brazos (WotB) Historic Site and State Park in the 2,000 sq. ft. of bed space allocated to the project was completed in April 2016, with ongoing planting and maintenance occurring to-date. In total, we planted 57 different varieties of plants, with 50 being native Texas plants, and 7 being non-native. There were already some Cherry Sage plants and Daylilies in the garden, which remain. We held educational seminars in Monarch Conservation for children and for adults in May, and have educational seminars on various wildlife topics scheduled for September and October as well. As of this report, we continue to maintain the beds, and still need to source and order the plant signs for the garden. We

anticipate completion of the signs by the end of September. As of July 31, 2016, 16 volunteers have reported a total of 433.5 volunteer hours and 2 advanced training hours for the Washington on the Brazos Monarch/Pollinator garden project. Thanks to all of you for all of your hard work! We are currently in discussion with various scout troops on joint projects to enhance the visitor experience. More to come on those discussions later!



American Bumblebee on Mexican Heather in Bellville garden – by Lori Buffum

Chapter Meetings (and AT programs):

September 17, November 19

TMN Annual Meeting:

October 21-23

Chapter Christmas Party

Saturday December 3rd, 4-8 pm

How to Collect Seeds by Cathleen Witt Dunne

First, for all you wanna-be seed gatherers, **a few preliminary guidelines:**

- You need to have all sorts of books (probably hauling them with you in your car) to identify just what you have found.
- Plants are easiest to identify when they are flowering. You might visit the proposed collection site during this time and photograph the blossom. Then Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center suggests it is a good idea to mark individual plants with surveyor's flagging tape and write down where you found the plants.
- Always get permission from landowners and never collect on public land.
- Never collect seeds from rare or endangered species.
- Take only one-tenth of the seeds in any area to permit the remaining seeds to reseed and continue the stand.

Here is a list of essential collecting tools:

1. A container - mine is a sturdy plastic hard case art supply box. A grocery bag would do just fine.
2. Paper bags (containers) for the seeds themselves. Mine are the lunch bags you get by the hundred from the grocery store.
3. Bull Dog clips or large paper clips to secure the tops.
4. A pen (black ink), or pencil, or a black Sharpie to write on the bag.
5. A pencil box to hold the writing materials or a rubber band to secure them.
6. What to write? (I have a template for seed collection labels)
 - Species name (and Family)
 - Municipality or County
 - Collector
 - Determiner (e.g. who identified the plant)
 - The date of collection and determination
 - Specific locality (verbal description and/or gps coordinates)
 - Habitat (ecosystem or growing conditions)
 - Associated species
 - Any other relevant notes taken at time of collection

And don't forget the essential equipment: gloves, boots, drop cloths, pruning shears, boxes, baskets, paper bags (you may collect in plastic bags but storing in them would promote mold).

When to collect: Mature seeds are usually dark, firm, and dry. During the time of maturation check every few days to collect newly mature seeds. Try placing your paper sack over the seed head and inverting it. Then tie it off or sever the stem with your shears. (After collection, larger pods should be dried in single layers spread on screens, canvas cloths or trays for about three days or longer for some species.)

How to store:

- 50° F OR LESS. Store in the refrigerator until you are ready to plant. If you cannot store them in a refrigerator, choose a place which is cool, dark and dry.
- Protect them from insects by dusting them with insecticide.
- Longevity of seeds varies from species to species. some may be viable for 10 years; others may not germinate after two years of storage.

How to test your seed for viability (germination):

- Place 10 seeds an even distance apart on a damp paper towel
- Leave the damp towel rolled in a warm spot in the kitchen for two to five days
- Lighting does not matter

- Check to see how many have germinated
- The percentage of seeds which have germinated gives you an idea of how viable your seeds are.

Grab a buddy, plan a search trip now to find the seeds you want – photograph the flowers. Check them out later when they go to seed and capture your booty! Good Hunting!

Guidelines for Seed Collecting; Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Avenue, Austin Texas, www.wildflower.org.

Propagating Plants from Seed; Washington State University, Oregon State University, University of Idaho; A Pacific Northwest Extension Publication PNW@0170; G.N.M. Kumar, F.E. Larsen, and K.A. Schekel.

Plant Identification, Chapter 25; <http://www.ibiblio.org/unc-biology/herbarium/courses/CHPT25.html>.

Guidelines for Collection of Herbarium Specimens of Vascular Plants; Royal Botanical Gardens; 680 Plains Road West, Burlington, L7T 4H4; www.rbg.ca; Natalie Iwancki, July 2009.

Preparation of Plant Specimens for Deposit as Herbarium Vouchers; University of Florida Herbarium; Marc S. Frank and Kent D. Perkins; 4 February 2015.

How to test for Seed Germination, Oregon State University Extension Service, Corvallis, Oregon; Author: Judy Scott; Source: Ross Penhallegon.

General Seed Collection Guidelines for California Native Plant Species; Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

TMN-GLC Flickr Group

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. Please contact Betsy for assistance with Flickr: email bpalkowsky@outlook.com phone 281-728-3555. Full instructions and guidelines can be found printed in our *May 2016 GLC Tidings*.



Adopted Highway 59 Gets a Facelift

Thanks to our trash team, the chapter's 2-mile stretch of Highway 59 from Rutersville is all cleaned up again. On September 7th, Steve Jackson, Ron & MaryAnn Peach, Cindy Rodibaugh, David & MaryAnn Butler, Ann Ray, and Patrick McLaugherty took out the trash.

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](#).