

The GLC Tidings

From the President – *Cindy Hobbs*



2016 was a very successful and busy year for the chapter; I think we would make Gideon Lincecum proud. Indian Creek (Burton) has never looked better. Judy Deaton and crew no sooner got it put together and the rains came. After letting everything dry out they were right back out there cleaning it up and putting it back together. You put in 271.3 hours on this one project. Great job, Judy and crew.

The Winedale project is moving forward. We have only just started and have logged 161.65 hours already. There is much work to be done yet, but Cathleen and Patrick Dunne and project members look forward to great progress in 2017.

Washington on the Brazos looked fantastic this year, great job everyone. You put in an amazing 477 hours on this project. It shows. I attended one of the classes arranged for the public and was thrilled with the turnout and information provided. Many thanks to project leads Karen and Allen Ginnard. I am excited to seeing what's up for 2017.

Many hours were put in at the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge. Between building pens, gathering seeds, and cleaning up after the devastating rains/flood, you have logged a whopping 574.35 hours! Great job everyone. Unfortunately, we seem to be in a losing battle trying to save our prairie chickens but will continue our work on this refuge, home to many species of birds and a variety of prairie and riparian ecosystems.

[“From the President” is continued on page 2.]



Chapter Meeting and Watershed Program in January

Join us Saturday, January 21 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. Our AT program is **“Mill Creek Watershed Protection Plan – Update, Implementation Plans & General Watershed Management,”** and our guest speaker is **Jennifer Cary**, Watershed Coordinator with Texas A&M Extension Service. The Plan is a partnership program formed in 2014 by stakeholders (anyone who lives, works or has an interest in the Mill Creek Watershed). The

Watershed is in Washington and Austin Counties where two forks combine near Bellville and flow into the Brazos River, and it covers approximately 400 square miles. The aim is to improve water quality throughout the Watershed so that bacterial levels are *below* state standards. It also seeks to “enhance functionality and health of Mill Creek.” Over the

years, Jennifer has worked with several local, state and federal agencies in Texas, California and Utah in ecotoxicology and outreach education. Her enthusiasm is contagious! Spread the word and invite a friend to join you.

From the President *[continued from page 1]*

The Brenham ISD outdoor education support continues year after year. Volunteers logged 246.35 hours in our quest to engage and educate our children about our great state and its resources. Thank you, Dave Redden and Carol Paulson who have led this project through many changes and enhancements. I can't wait to see what's happening for this year.

To give you an idea of where we spend our time and energies, below is a partial list of the projects we are engaged in and the volunteer hours dedicated to each last year.

Outreach Booth - 154.6 hours. I credit the success of filling our 2017 training class to these hours. We have a record 27 students and several on a wait list. A special thank you to Donna Mueller; she rocks these outreach events.

Prescribed Burns - 218 hours, a great practice for the land. Dave Redden is our lead on this.

Feeder Watch - 182.5 hours, Nest Watch – 110 hours, Hummingbird Roundup – 137.5 hours. Thanks bird lovers!

CoCoRaHS - 168 hours by the weather watchers.

Native Prairie Restoration – 112 hours

Colorado River Watch (LCRA) – 125 hours

Monument Hill – 92 hours

Adopt a Highway – 83.5 hours; many thanks MaryAnn and Dave Butler

Forest Restoration Seed Collection – 17 hours

Educational Group Presentations – 82.75 hours

Citizen Science Other – 72.75 hours

Chapter Business Meeting – 417.6 hours

Administration – 1,873 hours, it takes a lot of time to keep the chapter going!

There are other smaller categories that I didn't list. I couldn't be prouder or happier with our chapter. While attending the President's Breakfast at the Annual Meeting, I sat and listened to other presidents complain about lack of involvement and left there beaming. THANK YOU, GIDEON LINCECUM CHAPTER for a FANTASTIC YEAR. – *Cindy Hobbs*

In December, Charlotte von Rosenberg found this vining milkweed going to seed. This pod continued opening and releasing seeds exactly like antelope horns. The seeds are floating around the house on their parachutes.



Receiving the 4000-hour Volunteer Service Award – *Dave Redden*



I was pleased to represent TMN GLC at the state meeting in October in receiving the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for reaching the 4000-hour volunteer service milestone. Since I began working with TMN in 2005, it has been a goal to achieve this level of service. The idea of having recognition from the President of the US seemed like a worthy goal.

I appreciate the support provided by the chapter members in making the organization work and providing ongoing opportunities for service. I also thank you for your recognition of this achievement with the gifts of the engraved insulated tumbler and the beautiful dragonfly ornaments which now hang in my hummingbird viewing kitchen window. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you over the years, and I hope I have a few more years of continued service. Now it is time for the 5000-hour milestone! *[Photo: Cindy Hobbs, Chapter President with Dave]*

Prescribed Burn Experience Jan 7, 2017 – *Cindy Rodibaugh*

It is a thrill for me to participate in prescribed burning. I look forward to the company, the challenge of reducing the fuel load, and the renewed growth after the burn. As a flapper, I walk the perimeter of the burn area and watch carefully for any sign that the fire may creep into the fire-break area. Sometimes the smoke gets very heavy.

Carrying the drip torch requires different strength and skill. I have learned that due to varied conditions--uneven ground, wind, temperature, humidity--the burn site presents many unique challenges. Safety is a key issue.

One safety issue is knowing your personal limits. I have short legs and arms. I have learned that with my mobility on uneven ground, lighting grass within arm's length is NOT safe. I have a bandana with a burn hole because an ember landed on it—it was across my face at the time. Thanks to quick action by a teammate, I was not burned. More recently, I nearly lost my balance twice trying to light a strip fire and realized I had ignited grass that I was about to fall into. I blew out my torch and headed for the fire-break. I relinquished my drip torch to the burn boss explaining my deficits and the fire proceeded without incident.

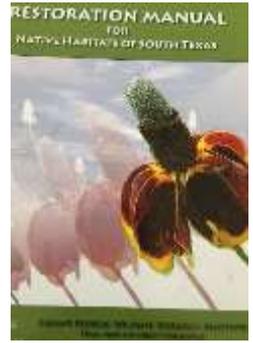
My short stature will not keep from wanting to help with prescribed burns, but I will be careful to put the safety of everyone on the burn team first—including mine. I hope I can carry a drip torch at a future burn when conditions allow.

Dues (\$20.00 annually per person), were due by 31 Dec 2016 for the 2017 year. If you do NOT plan to renew, please let us know. You can still pay your 2017 dues online on our website txmn.org/glc, or bring your payment to the chapter meeting or mail to our treasurer Christine Morrison, PO Box 99, Ellinger, TX 78938. Now that's a bargain at twice the price!

Hay Planting – *Charlotte von Rosenberg*

Here's an update on the Hay Planting Project. Participants are Patrick and Cathleen Dunne, Mark Brown, Steve Jackson and myself. Native Hay Application is an approved wildlife management practice. Step 1 is to prepare a seed bed and set a target date. Step 2 is to loosen and blow out the round bale. Step 3 is using a tiller, aerator or disc with straight blades (cut the ground don't turn it), to anchor the hay, PRESSING it into the ground. Think herd of buffalo passing through.

This *Restoration Manual* from South Texas Natives at TAMU-Kingsville is the best I've seen on the subject. It has a chapter on seeds as well.



“Ensuring the Wild” Conservation Summit - *Betsy Palkowsky*

I attended this Ensuring the Wild Conservation Summit in November on behalf our chapter and found it interesting and enlightening. The Summit was hosted by the [Texas Foundation for Conservation](#) and was attended by approximately 100 conservationists, community leaders and Texas Master Naturalists. Topics of discussion included impending threats to native fish and wildlife, the role of the private landowner and the agricultural community in conservation, history of the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation, and the public trust doctrine.

North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and Public Trust Doctrine Most people are not familiar with this model, which is based on the principle that native fish and wildlife belong to all Americans, and should be managed so these native populations will be sustained forever. The public trust doctrine is a key component, as it establishes a trustee relationship obligating government to hold and manage fish and wildlife for the benefit of all Texans, present and future.

The keynote address was presented by Shane Mahoney, an internationally recognized wildlife biologist, conservationist, and thought leader. “The North American Model is based fundamentally on the principle of public ownership of wildlife and is the very foundation of our conservation successes in the United States and Canada, two countries which now enjoy abundant wildlife, though many common species were on the brink of extinction in the early 20th century,” Mahoney said. “The pressure to privatize wildlife is growing, and we’ve already seen the negative impacts of these efforts in other parts of North America. The Texas conservationists who are drawing the public’s attention to this fundamental wildlife issue are doing a great service to their state and to their country.”

The threat of the privatization of public resource “Those who love Texas fish and wildlife are increasingly concerned about the threat of privatization,” said Dr. Fred Bryant, director of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville and president of Texas Foundation for Conservation. “Native fish and wildlife are no different than our beaches and waterways—they belong to all Texans. We strongly believe our wild natural resources belong to the people of Texas, and we’re committed to engaging Texans in efforts to ensure that the fish and wildlife we all treasure will be around for our kids and grandkids.”

Privatization occurs when ownership of a public resource is transferred to a private individual or corporation. For example, gulf coast fishing for red snapper has become dominated by commercial fisherman. In 2016 the median projected federal season lengths were 48 days for for-hire (range: 38-56 days) and 8 days for private angler mode (range: 6-9 days). Denied access to such resources is only one consequence of privatization. Other potential negative consequences of privatization include unrestricted harvest without regard to natural life cycles of fish and wildlife resources, spread of disease, conflicts between neighboring landowners, inconsistent or non-existent regulatory frameworks, genetic manipulations of species, failure to conserve resources for future generations, and consumption of the resource for short-term gain, rather than long-term management.

Recent threats to privatize wildlife in Texas have galvanized the effort to inform and educate the public about the North American Model and the public trust doctrine. The Texas Foundation for Conservation was created to raise the profile of this critical conservation issue, and increase awareness of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. The board of the Texas Foundation for Conservation is composed of a diverse group of Texans from across the state who are concerned about protecting the public trust doctrine and concerned about impending threats to privatize Texas native fish and wildlife. Honorary trustees include **Nolan Ryan** (Georgetown), The Hon. **Kay Bailey Hutchinson** (Dallas) and The Hon. **Pete Laney** (Hale Center). For more information about the Texas Foundation for Conservation or to get involved, visit <http://www.texasfoundationforconservation.org/>.

Washington on the Brazos Update – *Allen and Karen Ginnard*

The pollinator gardens at Washington on the Brazos have put on their winter coat, so they are not at their best. The recent cold weather has created dormancy in a few more plants, but the good news is that most pollinators aren't looking for food in the garden right now anyway! The bed is doing exactly what it's supposed to do in January – surviving and thriving at a level we simply can't see. This 'below-ground' time of year is vitally important to a healthy garden in the spring.

As a bit of informational 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. Part of the plan for 2017 is to begin replacing some of the older, woody Cherry Sage. As of this report, we have the plant signs for the garden, but we plan to wait until we have new spring plants to put them out.

We held educational seminars in 2016, and will continue in 2017. These sessions are as yet unscheduled. Suggestions for relevant topics are welcome! As of December 31, 2016, 17 volunteers have reported a total of 477 volunteer hours for the Washington on the Brazos Monarch/Pollinator garden project, and 22 advanced training hours for the Washington on the Brazos Workshops and Seminars. Thanks to all of you for your hard work. We're looking forward to an even better 2017. Happy pollinating!

Snake ID Challenge – *Carol Montgomery*

I have two pictures to submit. The first one a coral snake so well hidden in the foliage that it could easily be missed. The second one I identified as a pigmy rattler but I have a friend disagreeing with me. He says it is a puff adder. I would like to know what TMN folks think. The second one is about 10 inches long.



“Make a Difference” Award from Brenham Independent School District – Carol Paulson

The Outdoor Education Program that is part of Brenham ISD supports academic instruction and is in part made possible by the volunteer time that GLC Master Naturalists give to various outdoor instruction programs in the district. Among the programs that we volunteer for are Outdoor Education days at Lake Somerville, L.A.N.D.S. programs and AgriLife programs. In appreciation of that time, we have received Brenham ISD’s “You Make a Difference Award” from the BISD school board. Thanks to the many many chapter members who have worked with these kids over the years!



HELP WANTED

Do **you** live in one of the chapter’s 5 counties and want to stay LOCAL?



Do **you** enjoy being with or around kids/teens and/or are you willing to enthusiastically eat banquet food or hot dogs, frito pie and ice cream?

Do **you** want to give away hugs and smiles and even scholarship money and receive them in return (except the money)?

Do **you** want to earn some volunteer hours that don’t require trail building, mulch spreading, prairie hiking (some herding of kids might be required)?

Then here are some perfect opportunities for you!

Scholarship Facilitator for each county and AG Awareness/Safety Day Coordinator for each county.

Each facilitator/coordinator would



- Recruit committee members and volunteer helpers for the events in their county.
- Develop a rapport/relationship with the AgriLife Extension agent for their county.
- Learn the requirements for presentations at AG/Safety days for their county.
- Communicate event dates to the chapter to post on the website and through email.
- Report back to the chapter on each event.
- Coordinate with Committee Chair for Scholarships and Youth Education, Donna Mueller.

Let’s get going NOW so we are ready for the flurry of activities in Spring and Summer. Contact Donna Zapalac Mueller, email: donnaz.mueller@icloud.com, cell phone or text: 979-966-2612, home: 979-249-3971.

Who is Your Best Friend?

Keep in touch with your Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agents. There is a wealth of information available that will benefit you. The Gideon Lincoecum Chapter covers 5 counties.

Austin County AgriLife: 979-865-2072

Colorado County AgriLife: 979-732-2530

Fayette County AgriLife: 979-968-5831

Lee County AgriLife: 979-542-2753

Washington County AgriLife: 979-277-6212

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

How to Identify Poison Ivy – Betsy Palkowsky

This year has been a year of abundance for many things in nature. One of the less desirable things to have a great year has been the poison ivy plant (*Toxicodendron radicans*). Many of us have learned to recognize this vine as we or a loved one is very allergic to its oils. Poison ivy rash is caused by an allergic reaction to an oily resin called urushiol (u-ROO-she-ol). This oil is in the leaves, stems and roots of poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac. For those that aren't familiar with poison ivy or need a reminder the info and photos below can help you as you walk through the woods or clear some of your property.



“Leaves of three, leave it be”

This old rhyme refers to the three predominate leaves found on the poison ivy vine. While there are many other plants with three predominate leaves, this can be a good start at identifying and avoiding the poison ivy vine.

“Hairy vine, no friend of mine” & “Raggy rope, don't be a dope”

Poison ivy vines on trees and shrubs have a furry “raggy” appearance. This rhyme warns tree climbers, brush clearer and others to be wary.

Note: Old vines can be quite large and long with recognizable leaves hidden among the higher foliage of a tree. The oil of the vine is just as potent as the oil on the leaves.



“Berries white, run in fright” & “Berries white, danger in sight”

The berry-like fruit, a drupe, is mature in late fall showing a grayish-white color. Fruits are enjoyed by some birds and animals. The berry seeds are spread mainly by animals and remain viable after passing through the digestive track.

“Longer middle stem, stay away from them”

The middle leaflet has a notably longer stem than the two side leaflets. This is key to differentiating it from similar looking *Rhus aromatic* – Fragrant sumac.



“Red leaflets in the spring, is a dangerous thing”



Often the new leaflets appear red. Later in the season the leaflets are green making them more difficult to distinguish, by color, from other plants. In fall/winter they can appear to be reddish-orange. Note: since we have a year-round growing season you can see reddish and green leaves anytime of the year.

Young plant
Fall colors





“Side leaflets like mittens, will itch like the dickens”

This refers to some but all poison ivy leaves. More mature leaves often have a side notch that makes the leaflet look like a mitten with a “thumb”.



“If butterflies land there, don’t put your hand there”

Some butterflies will land on poison ivy leaves since they are not affected by it, this provides protection from predators that avoid eating it.

Time to Brag and Pat Ourselves on the Back – Carol Daniels

As of December 31, 2016: 80 chapter members reported 6,171.6 volunteer hours and 965.4 AT hours. The volunteer hours are worth \$141,946.00 to Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

We get pins for our achievements to go along with the satisfaction of making a difference for people and nature!

Initial Certifications (Recent class graduates who logged 40 volunteer hours and 8 hours Advanced Training):

Mark Brown, Leada Dietz, Cathleen Dunne, Patrick Dunne, Steve Jackson, Betsy Palkowsky, Jim Wilson, Sheri Wilcox

Recertifications (Members who logged 40 volunteer hours and 8 hours AT in current year – pin of the year):

Lori Buffum, David Butler, Mary Ann Butler, Debbie Copeland, Carol Daniels, Judy Deaton, Cathleen Dunne, Patrick Dunne, Allen Ginnard, Karen Ginnard, Debra Healy, Cindy Hobbs, Tom Hobbs, Royceanna Kendall, Debra Kollmann, Chris Morrison, Donna Mueller, Carol Paulson, Mary Ann Peach, Ron Peach, Jennifer Prihoda, Ann Ray, Dave Redden, Jan Redden, Cindy Rodibaugh, Susan Scanio, Tom Scanio, Dottie Schoeneberg, Nita Tiemann, Charlotte von Rosenberg, Greg Walker, Belinda Weatherly, Jim Weatherly, Monterey White, Karen Woods, Lefty Yarnold, LuAn Yarnold, Tom Yates

The **following awards** are for cumulative volunteer hours from initial certification to date (special dragonflies).

- 250 hours:** Allen Ginnard, Karen Ginnard, Lemae Higgs, Tom Hobbs, Royceanna Kendall, Mary Ann Peach, Jennifer Prihoda
- 500 hours:** Gary Buckwalter, Cheryl Karr, Lefty Yarnold, LuAn Yarnold
- 1000 hours:** Dottie Schoeneberg
- 4000 hours:** Dave Redden



New Year's Resolutions

"My nature related New year's resolution: to begin restoring native trees and grasses on the creek at the back of our property since our new neighbors will cooperate in this effort." – Ann Ray

"Create a top ten presentation on local fungi because I love lichen and mushrooms and such." – Lori Buffum



[Editor's Note: It's never too late to make a resolution or set a goal. Why don't you share your nature-related resolution with us?]

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

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

Gideon Lindecum 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.

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

glcmembershipcommittee@hotmail.com

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

Mark your calendars for Chapter Meetings (and AT programs):

Third Saturday of January, March, May, July, September, November