



The GLC Tidings

From the President – *Cindy Hobbs*



Well here we are, another spring in Texas. After the winter we've had I am half afraid to see what summer has in store for us. I hope it isn't blazing hot.

This is our busiest time of year so there are many volunteer opportunities available in the next few months. Check out our website for something you would be interested in. Some activities won't involve our chapter, like the Bird Count, but you get credit for partaking in any activities we post to our website.

Now is the time for anyone interested in being a board member to let our nominating committee coordinator know,

Cindy Rodibaugh. Please consider filling one of these positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Jerry Gips has done his two years as training director so we will be looking to replace him as well. It's a great group and I have found it very fulfilling. If you have questions about what each job entails please ask the person holding the position now or better yet look at our Chapter Operating Handbook, all position descriptions are in it.

Graduation for class 2017 nears. Please watch for the information on the website about graduation. It's very exciting to be graduating our biggest class to date. All chapter members are invited to help celebrate!

The Cotton Gin Festival is coming up fast. This is a great event and lots of fun. The date is 22 April 2017. Please plan to attend and help with our table in Burton.

I want to thank all of you that make this chapter a success, we couldn't do it without you.

Save the Date When They Graduate!



Graduation Night Monday, April 24th 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Fayette County AgriLife
255 Svoboda Lane
La Grange, Texas



Did You Hear?

The March AT program following the Chapter Meeting was a big hit. ***“Birding by Sight, Vocalizations and Wing Sounds”*** was presented by **Jane Tillman** of the Travis Audubon Society and President of the Native Plant Society of Texas (Austin Chapter). Jane spoke on basic bird identification, use of field guides, phone applications, eBird and website sources and treated us to recordings of bird vocalizations. The morning wrapped up with a field trip on the grounds of Winedale where the birds were singing and calling and Jane was continuing to teach and help train our ears. *[Thanks to Mary Chavoustie for the photo.]*

Speaking of birds...

Donna Zapalac Mueller captured this wonderful shot of Bald Eagle Poppa protecting the nest. This is on the Colorado River Ranch near Ellinger. And, from Betsy Palkowsky comes the Cedar Waxwing.



More in Tune with Nature - Jim Wilson

We bought a house with a water well.
Fearing finite supply in the hole,
Every time I open a faucet,
I worry there will be no water,

Though the well is linked
To the underground aquifer
That stretches for miles—
Replenished by every rain.

Our old house had Steamboat Mountain water.
The water source I knew—was water
Bought from the city of Abilene.
The water came from Ft. Phantom Lake.

The lake was also replenished by the rain,
But I could visibly evaluate it.
Daily, KTAB-TV showed me lake levels.
So I didn't fret.

I know God's water cycle supplies both.
I know it is variably dependable,
I know God rains on the just and the unjust.
But I still can't see down that hole.

[a poem - Born 9/23/15 edited 5/11/16]



Logging Your Hours is About More than Another Pin – *Leada Dietz*



If logging your hours feels like a pain, and you don't really care about all those recognitions, here is another perspective on why it is so important. Opportunities linked to parks, like Monument Hill, can leverage those volunteer hours when applying for grants. How do they know how many hours we donated? All components of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department use different aspects of the same Samaritan VMS system, so the Monument Hill grant writer can find out how many hours of volunteer time were spent there. On a larger scale, TPWD can leverage volunteer hour totals in any of their programs to help justify and get funding for that program from state or federal agencies or grant money from foundations for particular projects.

Update on educational outreach reporting: There are two volunteer opportunities, **outreach booth** where we interact with whoever walks through the display, and **educational group presentations**, where we have a captive audience for a period of time. Example of Outreach Booth would be the upcoming Cotton Gin Festival, example of Educational Group Presentation would be a BISD program or a county Ag Safety Day. In addition to our volunteer hours, we also need to report **impact data** for those opportunities, which is a total of how many adults, youth, male and female we reach. If more than one volunteer is involved, decide beforehand who will report the impact data in the VMS system since it is reported only one time per event.

At an outreach booth, it may be most efficient to create a cheat sheet listing adult, youth, male, female, and each volunteer simply puts a hash tag for each adult, youth, male, female you interact with, then add up the totals to report at the end of the day. Small educational group presentations, for example a garden club, can be done the same way. For large educational group presentations organized by a school or a county Ag. Safety Day, the designated impact reporter simply asks the organizer for their attendance data because they are already collecting it for their own purposes.

There are two other kinds of impact data to report in some instances: **acres affected**, as in a prescribed burn, and **trail miles** as in a trail clean up. Again, only one person per opportunity should report those impacts.

[For help using the VMS reporting system, contact Leada Dietz, Membership Chair at leadadietz@epix.net]

Burning for the Health of the Land – *Dave Redden*

On March 5, TMN GLC members Mary Ann and Ron Peach, Gary Buckwalter, Chris Morrison, Mark Brown, Kevin Church, and Dave Redden helped a landowner near Fayetteville with a prescribed burn to assist in restoring native grasses.



Wildlife Legislation Introduced into Congress – *Betsy Palkowsky*

The "Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2016", bill HR 5650, was introduced to Congress in July 2016 by Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska). This bill was developed over three years by wildlife and industry representatives. Per the bill, it is in the interest of our country "to retain for present and future generations ... a wide variety of fish and wildlife, to recover species of fish and wildlife ... and to prevent fish and wildlife species from declining to the point of requiring Federal protection." The bill will be reintroduced to Congress this year. Once it has been presented Congress has up to 22 months to consider and vote on the bill.

Why is this bill so important? This bill says that diverse fish and wildlife populations are vital to our nation's infrastructure and economy. which re-iterates the statements made by wildlife conservationists and industry leaders. If passed, this bill would dedicate \$1.3 billion from existing revenue source towards sustaining our most imperiled species. The money would be required to be spent on "species of greatest conservation need" and mandates that state fish and wildlife agencies are the appropriate stewards of those funds. These agencies would work with the conservation community in their states to implement their state-specific Wildlife Action Plan, helping to manage more than 12,000 species of concern nationwide.

In Texas, these funds can only be used to implement the Texas Conservation Action Plan, TCAP. (for more info read "Ensuring the Wild Conservation Summit" found in the January "GLC-Tidings" newsletter). The TCAP provides a roadmap to recover imperiled species and their habitats. If the bill is passed the funds can also be used for education, research, outreach and technical guidance to land owners, land management and others provided these activities benefit "species of greatest conservation need". The TCAP lists more than 1,300 species in their list.

This bill will help Texas wildlife and thousands of individuals, businesses and organizations that spend every day stewarding our natural resources to ensure they are here for current and future generations.

[Resource: "Landmark Wildlife Legislation Introduced to Congress", by Richard Heilbrun, Certified Wildlife Biologist, Conservation Outreach Program Leader, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department]

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



pollinators already.

Allen and I had to do a rush job clean up just before the Texas Independence Day celebration at the park in March, and since a workday would have conflicted with at least two others scheduled in advance, we didn't send out a note. However, we will have volunteer opportunities scheduled for 2017 in the very near future, so keep an eye out for our schedule. We're waiting for confirmation that we'll have water before committing to a plan.

Our site at the park has been officially designated as a Monarch Waystation, and we've received the signs and certificate indicating this status. We'll be displaying the Monarch Waystation signs in the garden in the near future. We've also begin placing our plant identification signs in the garden as we recognize the plants coming up, and we'll continue to do so as the plants either come up or are replaced.



Many of you remember that we were somewhat plagued last year by water issues at the park. The park staff, despite their best efforts, just couldn't seem to keep water working in the garden and we lost some plants as a result. We experienced this off and on several times in the spring and summer -- sometimes due to storms, and sometimes due to maintenance issues. Well, the water is currently working, according to Cathy Nolte, Park Superintendent and Texas Master Naturalist, but the sprinkler heads need adjusting / fixing and the park expects to have those repairs completed soon. The rain expected in the next few days will surely save some of the young plants just emerging, but we'll have to be sure we have an operational water source for what is promising to be a long, hot spring and summer season!

Thanks to all of you for your hard work! We're looking forward to a great 2017!! Happy pollinating!
[Thanks to Charlotte von Rosenberg for the pictures.]

Who Am I? – Karen Mahoney

Karen was fascinated by the sighting of this critter at her place on, of all days, St. Patrick's Day! Can you identify this beauty?

[You will find the answer at the end of this newsletter.]



Bingo in Bellville – Lori Buffum

On February 13, we had a fun, successful time at Bellville Family Science Night engaging the kids with the scat & tracks display and playing "Junior Naturalist" bingo. Thanks team Lori Buffum, Cindy Hobbs, Jim Wilson, Tom Yates, Cindy Rodibaugh & Lefty and Luann Yarnold. This was our 2nd year participating in this event, organized by the Bellville Engineering, Science & Technology Booster Club at the Junior High School. We look forward to being there again next February.



Winedale Project – Breaking Ground – Judy Deaton



On the morning of March 23rd, Patrick and Cathleen Dunne (coordinators), Judy Deaton and Jerry Gips kicked off the new Winedale pollinator garden project by removing some of the very old established lilies and heeling them in for replanting in about two weeks. We discussed the great plan that has been designed and our next workday. The lilies were very deep and difficult to remove so we will definitely need more folks to come out to Winedale as the project progresses. It will be so very beautiful for the public to enjoy. In phases over several years, the Winedale project will also involve trail building and moving a monument to naturalist Gideon Linneceum (yes, our chapter namesake) so it is more accessible to the public.



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 Linneceum 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

Making new friends at the Herpetology class thanks to Wildlife Biologist Laura Sherrod. Photo by class member, Jim Riviera.



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

Many Hands Make Light Work at the Greenhouse – Judy Deaton & Charlotte von Rosenberg



In late February, we had a productive day planting seeds for our pollinator gardens and to sell at the Cotton Gin Festival. Present were Charlotte von Rosenberg, Jim Wilson, Tom and Susan Scanio, Charlene and B. R. Koehler and Linda Nations (who brought the packing peanuts). Bryn Behnke kindly lets us use a table in the greenhouse at Blinn College in Brenham (Rankin Ag Center) for this purpose and will help some in making sure the plants are successful. Great advice! Thank you, Charlotte for making an extra soil run to Walmart. Many seeds truly tested our eyesight. We will send another photo to keep you posted on the success rate. Exciting.

[Update on the sprouts – thanks to Charlotte for the new photo.]



Multi-County New Landowner Education

[Please read the NOTE on the next page to clarify how Texas Master Naturalists can count Advanced Training hours or volunteer hours in conjunction with these programs.]

The Multi-County New Landowner Education program is a series of 8 informational meetings, seminars, and field days designed to make new landowners in Austin, Colorado, Fayette, & Washington Counties aware of what types of agricultural enterprises are best for their property. Participants in the program will hear from experts in a variety of fields about best management practices. This innovative program assists new landowners in understanding the concepts of rural living. The program also serves as a way for new residents of the four counties to network and meet new people in their communities, find out what can be done on their land, and what opportunities they have to serve the community.

The programs will be held on the **third Friday of the months of February through May and August through November**. Each month's meeting will be held at different locations in one of the four counties. The meetings begin at 1:30pm and will last between 4 and 5 hours depending on the topic and possible tour stops. The cost for the program series is \$125.00 per person, \$200.00 per couple for all eight meetings, \$20.00 per person per meeting.

April 21, 2017 Program – Pond Management – SPJST Education and Nature Center (Cooper Farms) in Ledbetter

The second meeting for the 2017 series will take place on **Friday, April 21, 2017** at SPJST Education and Nature Center located at 2001 Waldeck Road in Ledbetter. The goal of this session is to help landowners effectively identify a proper pond site, provide pond construction information, discuss stocking a pond, and help with aquatic vegetation management. This is a great opportunity for any and all landowners to learn from the experts in a classroom setting and have a great opportunity to look at a pond on the grounds. Also, if you have a pond weed you would like identified please bring it and we will be glad to identify it for you. Any plant sample need to be as fresh as possible, include leaves and roots, and flower (if applicable). Don't miss this wonderful opportunity!

For more information please contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office in Austin, ([979-865-2072](tel:979-865-2072)), Colorado County ([979-732-2082](tel:979-732-2082)), Fayette ([979-968-5831](tel:979-968-5831)) or Washington ([979-277-6212](tel:979-277-6212)). Registration materials and more information can also be found on our website, <http://agrilife.org/coastalbend/program-areas/new-land-owner-information/>

NOTE: From Dave Redden, Advanced Training Coordinator for TMN-GLC

“New Landowner Workshops that are related to naturalist interests are approved for AT* because they are presented by one of our sponsors, AgriLife. However, if the workshops are production agriculture oriented (cows, horses, pigs, improved pasture care and maintenance, fruit and nut production, row crop issues, horticulture related to non-native plants), then probably not. If there is any question, the person wanting to attend should check with me.

Pond management is on the borderline, in my opinion. If you are interested in learning to raise catfish or tilapia for sale or bass for sport fishing, then that is not TMN AT. If you are interested in managing your pond for the benefit of wildlife or wildlife diversity, then it is okay.

Bees are another gray area. European honeybees are non-native insects that produce a really nice product that we all enjoy. If your interest is in going commercial with bees and honey, then I personally do not consider that TMN AT. If you want to raise bees to be pollinators for the native plants as well as the non-native production agricultural plants, that is probably okay. So, it boils down to what your intent is and how you treat it as it relates to TMN.

Check out the general guidelines at <http://txmn.org/glc/members-section/advanced-training/>. If the AT program does not build on the core curriculum from the basic training, then it does not qualify. Find another topic to study more deeply, or don't report it as AT.”

*Advanced Training (AT) Hours: Annual certification requires a minimum of 8 hours of AT and 40 hours of volunteering.

Outreach: If you attend one of these programs as a representative of the TMN-GLC organization for the purpose of chapter outreach/recruitment in order to inform people about the TMN organization and our chapter by setting up our trifold display board or other relevant displays, you may count the time as Volunteer hours.

An Abundance of Sandhills and Sunset – Lori Buffum

Thank you Katy Prairie Conservancy! A small group of us went out on the Indiangrass Preserve in Waller County at dusk on January 26th. The experience of watching flocks of birds coming in to roost in the surrounding fields was magical. One of our leaders did a Sandhill Crane count and came up with an estimate of over 1400 birds that flew into the area. We also saw ibis, snowgeese, a variety of ducks, blackbirds, wrens, phoebes, harrier hawks, great horned owls, and heard a pack of coyotes and lots of frogs as the dark descended. And then there was the incredible sunset. The event was “Coming Home to Roost,” led by enthusiastic and knowledgeable birders associated with KPC. Fantastic!



The Answer to Who Am I? - Luna Moth

- *Actias luna* (Linnaeus, 1758) Family: Saturniidae Subfamily: Saturniinae
- Identification: Hindwings have long curving tails. Wings are pale green, each with a transparent eyespot. Outer margins are pink in the southern spring brood, yellow in the southern summer brood and in northern populations.
- Wing Span: 2 15/16 - 4 1/8 inches (7.5 - 10.5 cm).
- Life History: Adults are very strong fliers and are attracted to lights. Mating takes place after midnight, and egg-laying begins that evening. Females lay eggs in small groups or singly on both surfaces of host plant leaves. The eggs hatch in about one week and the caterpillars are sedentary and solitary feeders. Leaves and silk are used to spin papery brown cocoons in litter under the host plant.
- Flight: One brood from May-July in the north, two to three broods from March-September in the south.
- Caterpillar Hosts: A variety of trees including white birch (*Betula papyrifera*), persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), hickories (*Carya*), walnuts (*Juglans*), and sumacs (*Rhus*).
- Adult Food: Adults do not feed.
- Habitat: Deciduous hardwood forests.
- Range: Common. Nova Scotia west to Saskatchewan and eastern North Dakota; south to central Florida, the Gulf Coast, and eastern Texas.
- Conservation: Not usually required.
- NCGR: G5 - Demonstrably secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
- Management Needs: None reported.
- Taxonomy Notes: This moth is often mistakenly referred to as the Lunar Moth, instead of the Luna Moth. It is also sometimes referred to as the American Moon Moth.

[Source: <http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species/Actias-luna>]

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.

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

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

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