



The GLC Tidings

From the President – *Cindy Hobbs*



There are many projects going on in this great weather and all need volunteers. I know Indian Creek in Burton needs ongoing assistance, and the Winedale project is moving along and needs all the help they can get. The Attwater NWR is active again and Stephen F. Austin State Park just got approved as a new project site. All five counties have AG Day with their schools and we need helpers in each county. This is what we do; our mission is to reach out, make people aware of the splendid and wonderful things about nature, educate them and instill the wonder for our natural world. If you can assist on any of these projects please check our chapter website for details and contact the project organizer.

Questions continue to pop up regarding how to report and what to report for hours. Please report all your volunteer hours through the VMS system. For students who have just graduated, you may now begin to acquire and report AT hours. Check the website for help with the VMS.

We are looking for volunteers to take the leadership positions coming available next year. The nominating committee, chaired by Cindy Rodibaugh, would like to present candidates by the July chapter meeting and we will vote as a chapter on the new officers in September. This will allow plenty of time for the new slate to get all the information that they need before the January 2018 turnover. Jerry Gips has done a great job in the last two years as Training Committee Director. It is time for someone new to take the reins. There are many ways you can volunteer to help with chapter "administration" so step up and join us.

To our latest members, our graduates, the training is truly just starting. You will learn so much more while volunteering on different projects, attending chapter meetings, or working on committees. Stay informed, get involved, and enjoy the benefits of working together for Texas nature!

May Chapter Meeting & Program on Zika virus & tick-borne diseases



Chapter meeting and Advanced Training program on Saturday, May 20, 2017 at the Winedale Meadows Education Center near Round Top. The meeting starts at 9:00 a.m. and the Training begins at 10:45. This is free and open to the public. Come learn updates about Zika virus, tick-borne diseases and more from **Sarah Gunter** and **Shannon Ronca**, both Postdoctoral Associates at Baylor College of Medicine National School of Tropical Medicine. They will present "**Emerging Vector-Borne Disease: A Texas Perspective.**" Bring a sack lunch and join us.

LEADERS WANTED: Nominations Open for Executive Positions in our Chapter

Use your brain instead of your back to earn volunteer hours. There are ways to earn volunteer hours that do NOT require going out in the humidity and stressing our knees. Our Chapter is looking for leaders. Between now and the July Chapter Meeting, according to our Bylaws we must compile a slate of Officers who will promote and improve the benefits of membership in the Gideon Lincecum TMN Chapter. Offices to be filled are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers have an “eye in the sky” view of the whole chapter and all that we do. You can have real input on the organizational level. Nominate others or nominate yourself.

When was the last time you had a look at our Chapter Operating Handbook? The Chapter Operating Handbook defines the duties and terms of office for each of the elected positions (on our website <https://txmn.org/glc/members-section/chapter-policies-and-procedures/>). **Have a look!** You will be amazed at all that we do.

Go ahead. Read it! The Chapter Operating Handbook is the blueprint for how our Chapter works. The Table of Contents shows a snapshot of all Offices, Directors, Duties and Committees, etc. Serving as an Officer you will be involved in the management, emphasis and direction of our Chapter. You will also get to spend plenty of time hanging out (in air conditioning) with fellow Naturalists.

A slate of proposed officers will be presented at the chapter meeting, Saturday, September 16, 2017. We look forward to seeing Your Name on that slate. The chapter will vote on the slate on November 18, 2017.

To sign up or recommend someone else, contact any member of the nominating committee which includes: Cindy Rodibaugh, cindyr@devonindustries.com; Chris Morrison, SraChris48@aol.com; Charlotte Von Rosenberg, quebefarm@yahoo.com, Leada Dietz, leadadietz@epix.net.

Butterfly Power – Jim Wilson

Flit ~ ~ ~ Flit	I beg for your return and
You land on my hand	Ache for your touch.
I feel the little pinches	The strength and sensuality
Of your butterfly toes.	Of your body is channeled
My softest finger touch	Through your toes.
Strokes your pale yellow wings.	I see you effortlessly
You preen and flex	Hanging upside down ~ ~
Antennae gyrate.	Defying gravity.
You are proud of your grace	Come back and touch me
And beauty. ~ ~ I feel you	Grasp my hand again
Through my finger to my soul.	Teach me to defy gravity.
Precious cherished feeling	We have come so close.
And then you flit ~ ~ .	Flit in ~ ~ ~ flit out
My eyes and heart follow you	No judgment no demand
Across the driveway to	Just butterfly power.
The high mesquite branch	With you my precious beauty
Near the wind chimes.	Is as close as I have come
	To freedom.

Congratulations to the Class of 2017



This dedicated group of 28 began their studies in January and on April 24th, all 28 completed their course requirements to become Texas Master Naturalists. Now, they are embarked on their next mission: certification, by completing 40 hours of volunteer service and attaining 8 hours of advanced training. Welcome to the chapter!!

Left to right: Steven Capan, Marcia Braun, Bernadette Hancock, Bridget Studer, Jay Hancock, Bill Fleeger, Shannon Miller, Linda Esco, Julie Itz, Loretta Baumgarten, Mary Chavoustie, David Itz, Deb Hilton, Ginny Welch, Ray Allen Williamson, B R Koehler, Jeb Lapeyrolerie, Katrina Packard, Patricia Mills, Charlene Koehler, Earl Mills, Betty Jo Stephens, Donna Hobbs, Scott Winters, Tom Shaughnessy, Jim Riviera, John Studer, Jerry Gips, Training Coordinator, Charles Winker (no photo).

The Birds of Spring

[Wren by Betsy Palkowsky, Rose-breasted Grosbeak by Lori Buffum, Red-shouldered Hawk by Donna Mueller]



The Facebook Foliage Folly Transcripts

Tom Shaughnessy: Can y'all help me ID this tree/shrub? These the pics are from Stephen F Austin State Park but I also have 3+ on our property in New Ulm. They are growing in sandy soil in partial shade near a seasonal creek. The flowers are the size of pencil erasures and seem palatable to bumble bees but not honey bees. Hairstreak butterflies (Theclinae) seem fond of them too. I was thinking rough leaf Dogwood but the blooms don't match. My field guides aren't helping much.



Mary Ann Miller Peach: Check out Farley berry

Mary Ann Miller Peach: I tried to type Farkleberry, but Facebook thought it was a better naturalist.

Lori Buffum: Yes to Farkleberry and thanks Tom for the inspiration to put my rain boots on and trek out to the back of our swampy property this early evening and find our farkleberry in bloom too and look who was there.

Lori Buffum: Vaccinium arboreum Farkleberry also called Sparkleberry

Tom Shaughnessy: Thanks y'all. Today I learned a new tree species on our property and a cupcake chef in London (Farley Berry)!.



Monument Hill Interpretive Trail Signs Final Work Day – Karen Woods



Hooray! We have completed this phase of setting the Monument Hill Interpretive Trail signs!!! A project culminating from a lot of thought, time, research, photography talent, dedication, not to mention sore muscles, sweat and tears (no blood, *thankfully!*).

We were a small group on our April 28 (final) day (there were so many worthy Chapter projects during April), but all went very smoothly, what with fine weather, focus and luck not hitting solid boulder rock! As you can see from the picture, Gary Burkhalter, Bill Fleeger, Terry Rooney, Karen Woods (Greg Walker was there in spirit) and Monument Hill Staffers Duncan, Kenneth and Roger were beaming with finishing with the Texas Live Oak sign.

Again, a **BIG THANKS** to all our other volunteers who have worked on this project over the past near 3 years (*please forgive me and let me know if I have omitted a name*): Cathleen Dunne, Rick Gast, Patrick McClaugherty, Donna Mueller, Ron Peach, Martha & Jim Phillip, Terry Rooney, Don Sauer, Susan & Tom Scanio, Nita Tiemann, John Wantland and Charlie Winker.

This project would not have been possible without the expertise and attentive assistance from **Daniel Lewis**, Staff Forester with the Texas Forest Service. Park Superintendent **Dennis Smith** and Park staffers **Duncan, Kenneth and Roger** sound like broken records expressing their continuous appreciation of our efforts.

Soon we will have an open house/reception on site to commemorate the completion of the trail. Monument Hill will still need our support with invasives removal and the next phase of interpretive signs, so stay tuned!



Who Am I? – as seen on Facebook

Ann Ray: Almost stepped on this guy today! Hognose? About 5 ft. Long

[See Laura Sherrod's answer at the end of newsletter.]

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

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

Update for Washington on the Brazos -- Allen and Karen Ginnard

The Monarch/Pollinator gardens at Washington on the Brazos are doing exactly what they are supposed to be doing. Many of the plants have re-seeded and are in beautiful bloom. Many of the perennials are up and blooming. We purchased some fill-in flowers from the Wildflower Center Native Plant Sale, and these are now established enough to plant. Planning for the work we need to do in 2017 is a bit of a challenge due to the self-sufficiency of the beds and the desire to keep them as 'natural' as possible. In addition, it's important to let the seedlings establish before we begin mulching and cleaning.

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 installing the signs in the garden before the end of May. We also plan to complete the placement of our remaining plant identification signs.

We do apparently have either some soil quality or water quantity issues which we'll work to analyze over the next few weeks. Some of the plants are thriving and look beautiful, while others are struggling and look anemic or thin. Surprisingly, the Mistflower and the Maximillian Sunflower are two that look weak when they were two of our most hardy last year. Also, the Cherry Sage is not looking as good as I'd like to see, although we all recognize we're working with plants that have been in place for some time. We're assessing what needs to be done.

I promised a schedule for the work that needs to be done in this pollinator garden, and I will deliver that schedule before the end of May. Some of you know that Allen and I have adopted two sons with special needs, and life has been very busy since we brought them home in November. However, both are in school now and we're beginning to get to a new sort of 'normal'. We will catch up! Happy pollinating!



INDIAN CREEK SCOOP – *Judy Deaton*

Loving our Bats

All thanks to Jim Weatherly, we recently gained a top-of-line bat box for the nature park at Indian Creek. We put up bluebird boxes in the past and discovered that they encouraged wasps and overwintering spiders and other insects, but the bluebirds and chickadees never really set up housekeeping. Eventually the boxes grew a bit too fragile and we removed them this year. Our new venture is hopefully a way to encourage the insect eating (mosquito eating!) bat population. As we installed the new box, I began to think that we have few members that specialize in bat behavior and that we need to learn their habits, migration and needs. A top ten presentation would be a real asset in generating interest in our little furry flying "mice" especially the Mexican Free-tailed bat. https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican_free-tailed_bat There is a bat sanctuary at Weatherford Texas. <http://batworld.org/> It would be great to get a group of interested TMNGLC members together for a field trip.

Contributions



Thank you to Dave Redden for providing steel posts for the trails and for many valuable engineering suggestions that have made development of the park easier and to Jim Wilson for always turning up to help with difficult work and watering duties. Thanks also to Tom and Susan Scanio for inventing attractive labels for the plants, Dottie Schoeneberg for mowing, Royceanna Kendall for repairing the bridge planks and all the folks who turn out for the hard work mulching trails, weeding, planting and cleaning.

This year we are arranging a larger team to help with pollinator garden watering duties and hope to come up with a more permanent solution to keeping the beds alive during the intense summer heat. The bridge is a little slippery when wet due to algal growth and needs pressure washing and water sealing this summer. The plants are thriving and the butterflies have returned. I have seen sulphurs, queens and a cute white woolly bear caterpillar. We placed an article in the Texas Cotton Gin Museum newsletter and the park is being used much more this year. The Texas Cotton Gin Festival is always a good time to encourage use of the park and our booth was well staffed (under the tents) by Judy Deaton, Betsy Palkowsky, Lori Buffum, Tom Yates, Tom Hobbs, Carol Paulson, and Cheryl Karr. We can be very proud of our efforts.



Successful Spring Cleaning on Highway –*Dave & Mary Ann Butler*

Our chapter Adopt-A-Highway volunteers participated in the “Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off Spring Clean Up” on April 5. Nine of us cleaned up our chapter's two-mile stretch of Highway 159 from Reutersville towards La Grange. Mary Ann and Ron Peach, Marcia Braun, Linda Esco, Ann Ray, Betsy Palkowsky, Steve Jackson, and Mary Ann and David Butler picked up a total of eleven bags of trash and left the entire two miles pristine. It was a beautifully clear and comfortable day to be out working.



The Story of the BISD Volunteers and The Busy Spring – Carol Paulson

Since Natalie James, the BISD Outdoor Education director had a little girl in October and went on maternity leave, all Outdoor Education opportunities were transferred to this Spring. Congratulations Natalie. And congratulations to all the TMN volunteers who stepped up to the plate this year and tackled a really busy schedule and in some cases, double amounts of students.

We started this year by having a Training Day. The TMNs who could, met at Lake Somerville with Natalie and Joy Nutt, our Park Ranger extraordinaire. Those of us who attended found a different emphasis on the children's learning experiences and ways to implement them. It was, altogether, an interesting and helpful day and I hope we have one every year from now on.

On March 8 and 9 we took BISD 6th graders to Birch Creek Park on Lake Somerville to study simple machines (fishing), GPS use, and what makes a "green" building. Since I didn't want to do a hike and I am clueless about fishing, I got the privilege of discussing with our future engineers, architects, and construction workers how they can make a difference in our ecology by using the pointers that the green building presents and thinking of more ideas on their own.

During the last week of March, we had 3 Outdoor Education Days with the 3rd Graders from Brenham, Alton and Krause Elementary Schools. As I indicated before, this took an enormous amount of volunteer effort and stamina and my hat is off to all of those who helped. One of the "funnest" things to do with third grade is to explore for wildflowers and learn how to identify them. Although some of the park maintenance people managed to mow down the area we usually use, it was good to get off the beaten track and see flowers that we don't usually see. Animal charades is always left to our volunteer expert, Debra Healy, but since she could not volunteer all 3 days, Faith Nutt and I watched her and learned. Although I cannot fall on the ground and play dead like Debra, I am pretty good at the rest of it and Faith is always a star. Joy and Natalie did Nature Webs, which everyone gets except me and then we had Carol Corliss with her mammals presentation. Carol managed to borrow a beautiful bear skin complete with claws and head and the kids got to try it on and have pictures. They thought that was wonderful, but they also learned about our state mammal, the opossum and the armadillo as well as many other Texas mammals.

No rest for our hardy volunteers because the very next week we had 2 days of Outdoor Classroom with the Brenham Middle School 5th graders. The newest program presented this year was Owl Pellet Dissection. It was a big hit and we had volunteers wanting positions in that class from the moment it was announced. I was lucky enough to spend a half day learning the ropes. The Science Teachers taught the basics and then we got to the dissection part. It was really helpful for me to listen to the teachers' presentation before beginning dissections because I had forgotten a lot about what I did know about owls and found out some things I never heard of (how can an owl swallow a mouse whole? His mouth doesn't look that big to me!). We also had a lesson on Bug Picking, which Dave Redden organized, set up and

presented expertly. I have always done walks and since I have given them up, I did Bug Picking one day. How much fun can you have letting 5th graders scoop bugs out of a pond and look at them through a macular microscope in order to identify them? It's a very special time when you see the enthusiasm and joy the children get from getting the right answer.

A last minute addition to our schedule came in the form of Natalie asking us if we could volunteer to help at a First Grade Education Day at Long Star Ranch. The program including a



Listening Walk, a lesson on What is a Food Chain, and a Hiking Scavenger Hunt. Thanks to Robert Mott, Dave Redden, Jan Redden and Alex Ratcliff for stepping up to the plate.

In addition, we had the LANDS Quail Necropsy day on April 18 and the LANDS Water Erosion Day has had to be

postponed twice due to rainout. The Water Erosion Day has been rescheduled for May 16. We were overloaded with volunteers before the first one, but now we need a few more. If you want to make some volunteer hours, have a lot of fun, and learn something for yourself, please check the website for upcoming events.

Our BISS Volunteer Year has been a huge success and I think all of our volunteers were outstanding. Looking forward to more of the same.

AG Days for all 5 Counties – A Tall Order – Donna Zapalac Mueller



The Fayette County Ag-Safety Day at the Fayette County Fair Grounds. Are you smarter than a 5th grader? Some really sharp young people here...knew about Chaga's disease & the Zika life cycle. Thank you to TMN program presenters Cindy Rodibaugh, Debra Namken, Nita Tiemann, along with our Star TPWD Biologist/Herpetologist Laura Sherrod. Debra Healy, Dave & Mary Ann Butler, Karen Woods assisted with keeping everyone fed during lunch. You all ROCK! Thank you sooo much. A program well done!

Ever played
Bingo with
400 4th

graders? Well, we were rockin' it in Washington County at AG day. Our Texas nature guides were Lori Buffum, Lefty & Luann Yarnold, Debra Namken, Jim Wilson, Linda Esco, Cindy Hobbs, and Dave Redden.

Still to come: Austin County, Colorado County, Lee County. Check the website for details. We need you!!!



Prairie Restoration at Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR – Terry Rooney

Chapter volunteers spent a recent morning at Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge cleaning up their native grasses exhibit and transplanting eastern gamma grass to wetland areas. It was an enthusiastic group made up mostly



from the newly minted class of 2017. Thanks to Jim Riviera, Charlene and BR Koehler, Patty and Earl Mills and Terry Rooney for their hard work and camaraderie. The next work day for more "shovel-ready" sweat equity is scheduled for Monday June 5th from 8:00 am until noon. The exhibit at the entrance to the Visitors Center is a show piece for native grasses. The gamma grass transplants, once established, will slow stream bank erosion and increase water retention capacity on the refuge. Attwater NWR protects, maintains and restores more than 10,000 acres of native coastal prairie through the use of prescribed fire, mechanical and chemical brush control and by planting native seeds on former farmland.

Blue Orchard Bees

[Thanks to Cindy Rodibaugh for sharing this article with us. There has been some interest expressed by chapter members to perhaps schedule a workshop during which we could learn more about native bees and construct some native bee “hotels” for our many chapter pollinator gardens. Stay tuned for details.]

<http://modernfarmer.com/2017/04/meet-north-americas-native-pollinator-blue-orchard-bee/>

Meet North America’s Native Pollinator: The Blue Orchard Bee



“You may not know that the honey bee, the beleaguered but preferred pollinating insect, is not actually native to North America. We have our own bees here, and while they don't operate quite like honey bees, that doesn't make them less amazing—or less capable pollinators.”

The Answer to *Who Am I?* – as seen on Facebook

Laura Vandivier Sherrod: Rat snake :)

[Editor’s Note: Texas Rat Snake (*Pantherophis obsoleta lindheimeri*) The Texas rat snake is one of the most commonly encountered species of non-venomous snake in Texas. These are large snakes capable of growing more than 77 inches (2 m) in total body length. The largest individual recorded measured 86 inches (2.18 m). Despite their size, Texas rat snakes are non-venomous and pose no threat to humans. This species is highly adaptable to a wide range of environments including forest, grasslands, suburban areas, and even locations within an urban setting.

For more information, see <http://www.uta.edu/biology/herpetology/Texas%20rat%20snake.htm>]

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](#).