

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



Gideon Lincecum Chapter

The GLC Tidings

From the President – Cindy Hobbs



Exciting times for the Chapter: the Winedale Pollinator Project looks fantastic. We had reporters out there recently taking pictures for the local newspapers highlighting our garden and the Bayer “Feed a Bee” program from which we received \$5000.00 in support of our Chapter’s efforts. Watch for more “good news” coming soon.

We have accepted a new honorary chapter member. **Speedy**, the desert tortoise, was found in the backyard of a rental property my brother owns. Since he had no idea what to do with it, he brought Speedy to me. I am setting up a habitat for it in my side yard and reading up on what to feed it. Don’t let the photo fool you, it is very small. We can use him/her as a classroom ambassador in the future.

After schools let out and the heat of summer engulfed us, our projects slowed down somewhat but there is still lots to do and lots to learn. Always keep an eye on the calendar on our website!

My foster greenhouse plants are doing very well. Once they are large enough they can go to new homes at the next garden we create. The sunflowers are blooming as are the partridge peas. Check out our Facebook page for pictures AND please share your photos too.

We did such a good job of running the AgriLife TMN store at last year’s annual meeting that we’ve been asked to repeat our success. Once again, we will need lots of help and you can earn lots of hours. Please let me know if you are interested and available.

As always this chapter would not be as successful as it is without you, our members. I appreciate all of you. See you out and about.

July Chapter Meeting & Program: “Soil for Water”



Our Summer chapter meeting and Advanced Training program will be on Saturday, July 15, 2017 at the Fayette County Extension Office in La Grange. The meeting starts at 9:00 a.m. and the Training begins at 10:30. This is free and open to the public. **“Soil for Water”** will be presented by **Thomas Schroeder**, a Sustainable Agriculture Specialist, Southwest of the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT).

This is a new outreach and demonstration program by NCAT whose mission is to help people champion small-scale, local and sustainable solutions to promote healthy communities and protect natural resources. The program teaches people how to ‘read the land’ and understand the world of microorganisms beneath the soil, and how that world determines the condition of our landscape. Landowners are learning new ways of increasing water infiltration, storing carbon in soil and restoring dead soils to life.

Thomas' information will enlighten those emphasizing naturalist and/or agricultural land management. He has worked over the years helping people from farm to grocery store to restaurant. Come learn more about recent discoveries in soil science.

LEADERS WANTED: Nominations Open for Executive Positions in our Chapter

The Texas Master Naturalist mission statement is: **Volunteers seeking to provide beneficial management of natural resources through education, outreach and service.**

It is the mission of the Nominating Committee to provide beneficial management of the chapter by asking members to use their individual natural resources to reach out to others through their service to the chapter. Many members of the Gideon Lincecum Chapter have reached certification status through volunteering in various positions of administering the chapter.

Being part of the GLC-TMN chapter administration gives you a great advantage in obtaining volunteer hours, knowing where to find answers to often asked questions and establishing how the chapter can serve the needs of the five counties our chapters encompass—especially the county you might live in.

The Chapter Handbook of Operation defines each of the elected positions (on our website <https://txmn.org/glc/members-section/chapter-policies-and-procedures/>).

Please contact any member of the nominating committee: Cindy Rodibaugh, cindyr@devonindustries.com; Christine Morrison, SraChris48@aol.com; Charlotte Von Rosenberg, quebefarm@yahoo.com; Leada Dietz, leadadietz@epix.net. Nominations are still being accepted and we'd like to hear from you.

We would like to thank our current Officers: President, Cindy Hobbs; Vice-President, Karen Woods; Secretaries Debbie Copeland and Cheryl Karr; and Treasurer, Chris Morrison and all those who have been contacted regarding accepting a nomination.

Snakes Starring on Facebook



Ann Smith Ray: Had a visitor on the porch today. How would you ID it?

Donna Zapalac Mueller: Think that's a Texas Rat Snake, Laura Vandivier Sherrod your professional opinion please...

Laura Vandivier Sherrod: Correct!

Joe Green: By the shape of the nose and tip of the tail (not short and stubby)



... more snakes starring on Facebook

Lori Buffum: Seems to be snake day. Here is our big visitor today after he/she slithered off to coil under the Mexican heather. Pretty sure a Rat Snake though markings quite different. Laura Vandivier Sherrod ?

Laura Vandivier Sherrod: Plain bellied water snake

Lori Buffum: Wow thanks. Pretty far from our pond but not surprising with the hunt for food necessary since pond quite low.

Betsy Palkowsky: That is one big snake!

A Snapshot of a Half Year of GLC Volunteer Effort – Leada Dietz, Membership Chair

What can 119 active members of a Texas Master Naturalist chapter accomplish in six months? Volunteer hours totaling 3,620 by 86 volunteers by June 30 is only part of the picture. The other part of the picture is the joy, determination, grimaces and grins on members' faces as they put in those hours. Let's look at some of the ways we volunteer.

There are basically three categories of volunteer opportunities, field research, natural resource management, and educational outreach. Field research includes CoCoRaHS, (<https://www.cocorahs.org/>) with 9 volunteers logging 77.5 hours, Colorado River Watch with 5 volunteers logging 78 hours, Hummingbird Roundup with 10 hours by 2 volunteers, Three volunteers spent 33.5 hours on Nest Watch, and 10 volunteers put in 222.25 hours on Project Feeder Watch. Looks like our members like bird watching!



Natural Resource management covers the service projects at the various parks plus our 2 miles of State Hwy. 159 from Rutersville toward La Grange, which saw 7 volunteers spend 26.25 hours cleaning up this spring. Our newest project at Stephen Austin State Park had only 2 volunteers logging 8.25 hours, but that will change. Our second newest, a pollinator garden at Winedale, saw 22 people put in 426.7 hours. Washington on the Brazos pollinator garden saw 2 volunteers put in 74 hours, a big drop from last year's 477 hours by 17 volunteers who labored to establish it. Winedale's maintenance hours will also be a lot less than the time and work needed to establish it. And Stephen F Austin State Park hours will increase dramatically if the proposed pollinator garden is approved.

[Photo: Mary Chavouastie, Class of 2017, working at SFA State Park]

Indian Creek saw 13 volunteers work for 97.15 hours, Monument Hill had 12 volunteers spend 57.5 hours, Attwater had 8 volunteers put in 133 hours, and 10 volunteers spent 51.25 hours on Native Prairie Restoration.

There are three main educational outreach opportunities. BISD saw 17 volunteers share 338.25 hours with their students, and other educational group presentations saw 18 volunteers spend 168.65 hours. Our various community outreach booths were staffed by 11 volunteers for a total of 74.75 hours.

Find the website useful? Enjoy the newsletter? Like having brochures and display boards to grab and go to an outreach event? Annoyed by those emails saying you logged your hours wrong? Appreciate that training class that prepared you for being an effective Master Naturalist? Thirty five volunteers logged 1,863.25 hours minding the details that keep this chapter humming.



Dragonfly pins and Turtle pins awarded thus far this year:

First year (initial) certification: Linda Esco. There are a number of other new graduates who are close.

Recertifications: Lori Buffum, Debbie Copeland, Judy Deaton, Cathleen Dunne, Laura Fisher, Jerry Gips, Royceanna Kendall, Donna Mueller, Carol Paulson, Betsy Palkowsky, Terry Rooney, James Weatherly, Jim Wilson, LuAn Yarnold, Harold Yarnold. And again, there are a number who are close, or have the volunteer hours but still need AT hours.

Hours milestones: Five people reached the 250-hour mark: Cathleen Dunne, Patrick Dunne, Debra Healy, Betsy Palkowsky, Greg Walker. Tom Yates received his 500-hour pin, and Lori Buffum her 1,000-hour pin.

Wow! Congrats to all! And a reminder to log those hours – they matter!

Winedale Project Update – by Betsy Palkowsky

Taking plans from concept to reality involves a lot of patience, compromise and hard work. The Winedale Pollinator Garden project team experienced those over the last few months. The results are what's important and that is a great start to a wonderful pollinator garden in front of the Briscoe Center for American History's Winedale Historical Complex Visitor Center. Thanks to all that helped work on the project. A big thank you goes to the folks of "Friends of Winedale" organization for their generous donations.

The folks that work at the visitor center are elated to have the garden and truly appreciate the effort the chapter members put into creating it. One person commented: "It's so nice to be able to sit on the front porch and enjoy being out there, watching the birds, bees and butterflies."

Tom Shaughnessy (Class of 2017) posted on our [Facebook page](#): "I was at Winedale Historical Complex yesterday and the pollinator garden was alive with pollinators. Mostly Pipevine Swallowtails with a few Cloudless Sulfurs and Eastern Giant Swallowtails. A few bumblebees sprinkled in. I paddled around the lake in the company of different heron species and deer



coming to water's edge for a drink while Shakespeare actors practiced their lines from the dormitory back porch. A BIG Diamond Back water snake played guard to the small boat ramp. Thanks TMN for introducing me to this gem of a habitat



As is often said, "There is no rest for the weary". The

project team is moving on to garden maintenance and phase II and III of the project. Phase II entails moving the Gideon Lincecum monument from the middle of the woods and bringing it closer to the Shakespeare Theatre where it will be visible to all visitors.

This will be done sometime during July. The pollinator beds around the monument will be added in the Fall. A trail from the monument to a pond at the back of the property is part of phase III and this will be done later in the year or maybe next year.

Finally, we will start looking at what else we can do now that we have been awarded \$5000.00 from The Bayer Corporation as part of their 'Feed a Bee' program. A creation of the Bayer North American Bee Care Program, [Feed a Bee](#) is a major initiative to increase food for honey bees and other pollinators, including growing 50 million flowers and providing additional forage acreage. Visit their [website](#) to learn more about this initiative. We are excited to be a part of the program along with the 57 other organizations that were awarded funds this year to help provide more food for native bees and pollinators.

... in the press (and watch for more to come)

As one of the winners of the national Feed a Bee Pollinator Forage Initiative, our chapter is among a very distinguished group of institutions. All of us who participated in the Winedale Pollinator Project should be proud of our national recognition. – Patrick Dunne & Cathleen Dunne

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/feed-a-bee-announces-coast-to-coast-recipients-for-500000-pollinator-forage-initiative-300475706.html>

The "win" was also highlighted in the magazine, *Bee Culture*: <http://www.beeculture.com/catch-buzz-spirit-true-national-pollinator-week-celebration-bayer-announced-first-round-organizations-will-receive-funding-establish-forage-pollinators-across-n>



Who Am I? – by Carol Montgomery

I found this in my cattle feeding trough one evening when I was looking for more hay storage. At first I didn't know if it was a four-legged creature or a two. I did identify it; see if any other TMN can say what it is.

[See Carol'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

Viewing with TMN Eyes – Linda Esco (Class of 2017)

A few years ago, I decided to enter into the quest of visiting all 50 states. That was before I completed the Texas Master Naturalist course. A typical visit to a new state prior to TMN consisted of viewing tourist promoted sites and sampling local food and shopping offerings. Okay, lots of food and lots of shopping.



Last week I made my way to Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania. While I soaked up the history these states have to offer, I found myself viewing them with different eyes. What was that stuff growing in the fields? Were all the flowers I saw native? All the grasses seemed so green, was there an above average rainfall? Did they have invasive species? So now having all these burning questions, I found myself not asking the locals about the best place for dining and shopping but about crops and if they had flower gardens. I found out there's a lot of wheat growing this time of year and like here in Texas, native flowers do the best. And yes that very well could have been a beaver I saw on the side of the two lane road. I also found the same pride in the land that we Texans have and an enthusiasm to educate visitors about crops and farming. So now when I venture outside my state I find I have more to look for and more to learn. And who knows, maybe more to share!

Quebe Prairie Summer Update – by Charlotte Von Rosenberg

For those of you who are new to GLC, Quebe Prairie is a native prairie remnant and partner with the chapter. The chapter has shared the prairie with Brenham Independent School District (BISD), Native Plant Society and many others. In 2010, the Prairie Committee at the time, including Judy Deaton, Dave Redden, Cecil Rives, Belinda and Jim Weatherly and Bert Pecore designated 5 native prairie remnants in our area. We awarded gate signs and certificates to the owners to encourage and reward maintenance of these remnants. Remnants are small pieces of the great sea of grass that once covered this area. They were hay fields that were never plowed, being more valuable to produce high protein food for the horses and mules in the early days. The native grasses are very high in protein and require no supplemental food or

water. Belatedly, the value and suitability of these native grasses has been recognized. Restoration efforts are ongoing nationwide.



Prairie remnants must be maintained by burning or baling. Quebe Prairie has in recent years been cut and baled for seed hay in September or October. This schedule allows our chapter to enjoy the bloom time when prairie grasses bloom, flower and set seed. We have enjoyed many plant ID sessions, seed collection efforts and pleasant prairie time.

This year was different. Hay was cut July 6 for forage. [Update from Charlotte: Quebe made 42 large round hay bales of beautiful hay. The haymaker was impressed to learn about Switchgrass. He hadn't seen it before.] To maximize protein content, it is important that hay be cut before the plant begins to bloom and set seed. I will be monitoring regrowth on the

prairie. Meanwhile we have other prairies to see in late summer. Please check the chapter website and watch your email for notices about Prairie Field Days, dates, times and locations this summer. See you on the prairie.



Pictures from the Prairie – by Charlotte Von Rosenberg



Bluebells (*Eustoma exaltatum*) love hot weather, so they are happy and blooming right now. My source, [Gardening with Prairie Plants](#) by Wasowski, calls this annual bluebell Catchfly Gentian or Prairie Gentian.

Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) is a perennial bunchgrass native to the blackland prairie. It blooms from late July to mid-September. In my years of prairie watching I have not seen this plant bloom. This summer I will be specifically looking for this bloom. The seedhead supposedly has the scent of fresh popcorn or cilantro. I look forward to that. Native Americans ground the seeds of the grass to make flour. Many species of birds eat the seeds. This plant is so attractive some nurseries grow it for landscaping.

Austin County Ag Safety Day – by Linda Esco



Do you know the rhymes red on yellow kill a fellow but red on black friend of Jack? How about leaves of three leave it be, leaves of five stay alive? Well if you had attended the Austin County Ag Safety Day you would know that and much more.

On May 16, Donna Mueller, Jim Wilson and Linda Esco had the wonderful opportunity to visit with eager Austin county school children to discuss plant and animal safety.

Donna covered poisonous snakes and included a poster presentation of snakes that can be found in our area. Dr. Jim covered rabies and the need to alert an adult when any suspicious animal behavior is observed. To the children's delight Linda passed around a jar with a live scorpion and a preserved in alcohol black widow spider for an upclose but safe encounter. A huge hit was photos of bites from a black widow as well as a brown recluse. Donna brought a pepper vine to help with leaf identification and explained ones to stay clear of.

With each session lasting only fifteen minutes it was fast and lively. One group of smiling faces left only to be promptly replaced by another, each one of them excited to learn and experience what nature can teach us.

'Tis the Season – Scholarship Award Season - by Donna Zapalac Mueller

2017 GLC-TMN Scholarships of \$500 will be awarded to qualified candidates from each of our 5 counties. The 4-H Awards Banquets will be starting in August. The Scholarship recipients are announced at the banquets.

I am very excited to have volunteers who reside within the respective counties to award the 2017 Scholarships this year. They are very active in their communities and are outstanding representatives for our chapter. Thank you for your volunteer service.

Washington County - GLC Representative, Dr. Jim Wilson, DVM

August 4th, Friday

Colorado County - GLC Representative, Mary Ann Peach

August 6th, Sunday

Austin County - GLC Representative, Linda Esco

August 19th, Saturday

Fayette County - GLC Representative, Donna Zapalac Mueller

August 20th, Sunday

Lee County - GLC Representative, Debra Namken

August 20th, Sunday

Times and locations will be determined soon. If you would like to attend one of these banquets in your county and help with the outreach we do there, please contact me as soon as possible. We must give 4-H organizers a firm RSVP. –
Donna Mueller at donnaz.mueller@icloud.com.

A Benchmark for the Community at Stephen F Austin State Park



A few of us gained a great appreciation for the humble park bench as we joined more than 40 community members to help build a bunch. Thanks to Tom Shaughnessy for organizing the event and for Lori Buffum, Mary Chavoustie, Patty Mills & Henry Earl Mills for representing TMN-GLC.

Tom is a new graduate (Class of 2017) and the current president of *Friends of Stephen F Austin State Park* and the project leader for TMN-GLC service projects at the park. He said, "Park staff was impressed by the turnout from our chapter and are excited about our future projects. A special

thanks to the spouses and other family members who joined us. Job well done. Mission accomplished." And the "Make your Mark in the Park" event got a little mention in *The Sealy News*:

http://www.sealynews.com/news/article_8deb61c8-569f-11e7-863f-3355d265bec2.html



A Flower on the River – by Lori Buffum

On June 11, hiking at Pedernales Falls State Park with my daughter, I came across this blooming Texas skeletonplant (*Lygodesmia texana*) on the rocky trail down to the river. It was the only one I had seen during the 2 days we were exploring the park. And I got an amazing bonus in my photo! A Green Lynx Spider (*Peucetia viridans*) has caught her breakfast.

Here is a wonderful website for reference:

<http://www.spiders.us/species/peucetia-viridans>

p.s. I am thinking of submitting this photo to the contest at this year's TMN Annual Meeting. Many of you have taken some extraordinary photos and should consider entering them too. Look for the entry details here: <https://txmn.org/2017-annual-meeting/#Photo, Art & Media Contest>

The Answer to Who Am I?

Carol Montgomery: It is a black vulture chick. (My first thought was an anteater!!) The last time I looked the mother was on the fence near the feeder and the baby was nowhere around.....unless the mom moved her....she (or he) was a BIG baby!! I found some good photo IDs in my bird books. :)

[Editor's Note: Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus*) lay their eggs directly on the ground, and usually nest in dark cavities such as caves, hollow trees, abandoned buildings, brush piles, thickets, and stumps. A pair reuse successful sites for many years. See https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Black_Vulture/lifehistory#at_nesting .]

Good News is Spreading

- The Texas Master Naturalist Program was honored with the ***Keep Texas Beautiful Civic Organization Award*** during that organization's 50th annual meeting in San Antonio. For more information about the Keep Texas Beautiful organization, see <http://www.ktb.org/about>
- A great article about the Texas Master Naturalist program just came out in the July issue of the ***Texas Co-Op Power Magazine***. <http://www.texascooppower.com/texas-stories/nature-outdoors/home-on-the-range>



Save the date and start your planning!

All the details are on the website and registration will open in early August. Find out what is on the agenda, see contest deadlines, learn more about the location, and start talking to fellow chapter members to team up.

<https://txmn.org/2017-annual-meeting/>

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: <https://tpwd.samaritan.com/recruiter/index.php> . You can bookmark the login page for direct, easy access to your logbook.

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