



The GLC Tidings

From the President – *Cindy Hobbs*



Another Annual Meeting is behind us, the biggest to date. Gideon Lincecum had more members in attendance than ever before and it was a great weekend. I managed to NOT spend a fortune at the silent auction; many thanks to those who donated items this year. Next year's Annual Meeting will be closer, in Georgetown, 26-28 October 2018. It is Texas Master Naturalist's 20th Anniversary so they will be blowing it out. I plan to attend and you should too.

The AgriLife store was a huge success. Last year we sold just under \$7K; this year we sold \$12K worth of merchandise. I can't thank Christine Morrison, Karen Woods and Betsy Palkowsky enough for their dedication to the store. Thank you ladies, thank you! All our

members in attendance came by to help between sessions. Thank you all for making the store and our chapter a success. Note that we bought more TMN tablecloths at the meeting; we now have a tri-fold and tablecloth in each county, available at your local AgriLife office.

November's Chapter Meeting on the 18th, our last for 2017, has a full agenda with elections, proposed revisions to our *Chapter Operating Handbook*, presentations by scholarship recipients, and chapter business wrap up for the year. Our AT program is "Top Ten" presentations by our own chapter members. Spread the word and bring a friend!

Have you checked out our projects lately? Washington on the Brazos looks good. Dave and Julie Itz have taken over as leads on this project. Indian Creek in Burton really looks great thanks to Judy Deaton and team. (I had more paint on me than the sign did but, it's painted.) Winedale is ahead of schedule and the pollinators are taking full advantage of the garden. Thank you Betsy Palkowsky, Ginny Welch, Jerry Gips and Cathleen and Patrick Dunne. Stay tuned to our website for scheduled work days at these projects and many more during late fall and winter.

As this is the last "From the President" article I will write, I want you to know it's been an honor to serve as your President. Four years came and went very quickly. I was a success because of you, the chapter members; nothing gets done without you. You make me and the chapter look good and I am very grateful. Don't forget the Christmas Party, on December 2nd or 3rd, details coming soon. Hope to see you out and about.

November Chapter Meeting & “Top Ten” Program

Our November chapter meeting and Advanced Training program will be on **Saturday, November 18, 2017** at the Meadows Foundation Conference Center at Winedale. The meeting starts at 9:00 a.m. and the program at 11:00.

The business meeting includes the election of officers, a wrap up of 2017, reports on our volunteer service projects, recognition of members’ accomplishments, discussion of revised *Chapter Operating Handbook*, treasurer’s report and much more. All chapter members are encouraged to attend (and earn volunteer hours for being there).

Our slate for next year’s officers to serve a 2-year term beginning January 1, 2018: President – Betsy Palkowsky, Vice President – Earl Mills, Treasurer – Leada Dietz and Secretary – Linda Esco.

Top Ten

Our AT program features three of our members giving “Top Ten” presentations. Revealing their research on specific topics, **Bernadette Hancock** will discuss “*Top Ten Endangered Species*”; **Donna Hobbs** will present “*Top Ten Native Plants*”; and **Tom Shaughnessy** will inspire us about the “*Top Ten Reasons to be Outside*”. Our speakers are recent graduates; they’ve jumped-in with their enthusiasm; let’s be sure to come and show them our support. Who knows? Maybe you will be inspired to develop your own TOP TEN. The program is free and open to the public, so we hope you will invite a friend to join you.

What’s this about “Top Ten”? by Karen Woods and Cheryl Karr

The “Top Ten” program was created several years ago as a way to help people continue their education in specific areas of Texas nature that particularly interested them; e.g. bugs, birds, trees, grasses. Have you ever been asked, “What kind of bird is that?” and/or “Why is Chinaberry so bad?” After all, you’re an ‘expert’, now that you’ve become a Master Naturalist, right? **Ha!** I don’t know about you, but each day I learn what I don’t know in this ‘Naturalist World’ we inhabit!

People who have engaged in a Top Ten project report that they get personal enrichment from delving into a topic they are drawn to and from sharing that research with their fellow Master Naturalists. Then that work can become a teaching tool for the public for future presentations. Some have developed a ‘test’ to further engage their audiences and have fun. Presenters get AT hour credits for their research and volunteer hour credits for giving the presentations. It’s a win-win for all! Talk to one of us, Karen, or Cheryl, if you have an idea for a top ten report that you would like to pursue.



ANNUAL DUES FOR THE GIDEON LINCECUM
CHAPTER ARE \$20 PER PERSON. PLEASE
PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2018 BY JANUARY 1.

Pay now online or in person to Treasurer,
Chris Morrison.

A Butterfly in Danger – by Marcia Braun

A Cloudless Sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*) appeared to be stuck to the Purple Porterweed (*Stachytarpheta frantzii*) and was flapping wings but not flying away. I know.... I should have grabbed my phone and videoed the action... instead I grabbed the butterfly and plant for a closer look. In doing so, I freed the Sulphur which took off to visit another flower, seeming unconcerned and all back to normal. The culprit was a Jagged Ambush Bug (Genus *Phymata*) that managed to hide in four tiny purple flowers. Ambush bugs can handle much bigger prey than themselves, including bees and wasps, so butterflies are likely easy prey.



The scientific names are all from iNaturalist. I attended an excellent program at the state conference where Sam Kieschnick, an urban biologist from Ft. Worth, exhorted all Master Naturalists to start using iNaturalist. Since the action took place before the conference, I actually started the bug ID by remembering it was covered in a favorite book, [Milkweed, Monarchs and More](#), by Ba Rea, Karen Oberhauser, and Michael A. Quinn. Further confirmation was made on BugGuide, another very useful website. Always learning!

Our Adopted Highway – by David Butler



The Adopt-A-Highway group met October 11 to clean up our portion of the roadsides of Highway 159 between Reutersville and La Grange. We had a great day starting off with a tailgate breakfast prepared by Patty Mills. After the delicious breakfast, we were ready to start cleaning the roadsides on that delightful cool day. Dottie Schoenberg, Cindy Rodibaugh, Patty Mills, Marcia Braun, Steve Jackson, Ron and Mary Ann Peach and David and Mary Ann Butler worked hard and we cleaned up all of our stretch of the highway leaving it pristine in less than two hours. We were amused at the contents of a quite clever "Ticket" that Steve Jackson found on the highway that a property owner had given to a visitor at the antique show for parking illegally on private property. We were not amused that it was promptly thrown out along the highway.

What is a Background Check and Why is it Important? - by Leada Dietz

Texas Parks and Wildlife Volunteers, including Texas Master Naturalists, are “required to have a criminal background check (CBC) when working on any TMN approved opportunity”; reference Article IV, page 10 of the *Chapter Management and Operating Protocols* document on the TMN website <http://txmn.org>. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will run background checks for TMN if the individual candidate has consented to a CBC and has filled in specific personal information on their volunteer profile in the VMS system. That includes legal first and last names, address, driver’s license number and state, and date of birth.

This is not a new policy. Before the electronic VMS system, there were paper forms to collect this information. Now it is the first and second pages of your volunteer profile. Most of our active volunteers have filled out this information, but some of you, mostly people trained before the VMS computerized system, are not up to date. What is new is that beginning January 1, 2018, they will only run those checks if all the required information is in the VMS system, and people without background checks will not be able to enter their hours. We hate to lose you as volunteers just because of a little paper work. Please contact me, leadadietz@epix.net if you want any help completing this task.

Some of you who have updated your profiles have somehow neglected to enter your birth date. If you saw there were numbers in that spot, you may have just assumed they were correct and moved on to the next blank. However, there is a default birthdate of 02-01-1902 for GLC chapter. And based on transfers in, other chapters have chosen other default dates from 1901 or 1902. This is a place holder needed to get students into the system. It needs to be corrected for the background check to take place.

The TPWD background check is run by the Texas Department of Public Safety. The Texas Department of Public Service (DPS) Computerized Criminal History System (CCH) provides information on arrests, prosecutions and the disposition of the case for persons arrested for Class B misdemeanor or greater violations of Texas criminal statutes, to include crimes of a sexual nature, and includes limited supervision data reported to DPS.

Washington on the Brazos – by David & Julie Itz

Washington-on-the-Brazos was one of several area state park sites affected by Harvey’s heavy rains, which caused additional erosion along the Brazos riverbank. In addition, the path to the Wildflower Loop running alongside the lake was damaged and is now impassible. With so many state parks damaged, it’s impossible to predict when access to the wildflower area can be restored.

On Saturday, September 30, Jan & Dave Redden, Susan & Tom Scanio, Tom Yates, and Julie & David Itz weeded and tidied the Monarch/Pollinator Gardens near the visitor center at Washington-on-the-Brazos. The park is still experiencing issues with the water well pump, so the garden’s irrigation system is still not operating. However, the flowers currently in bloom are attracting butterflies.

After the GLC September workday, Dave Redden received the following thank you email from Cathy Nolte, Superintendent at WoB:



Dave,

I cannot THANK YOU enough for bringing the GLTXMN crew to WOB this past Saturday! What you all achieved is remarkable and makes such a huge difference. The beds are such a positive here and so many people stop to appreciate and admire them, some asking about the TXMN program. Having them cleaned up is a boon and once Entergy gets the work done to the transformer we will be able to make repairs to our well and the irrigation system will be up and running again. As you no doubt know, so many things must fall into place for success to happen. I will keep you informed of our progress with the well.

Once again, Thank you and your team so very much!

Cathy

Have a Seat – Really, Have a Seat! – by Tom Scanio

I refer you to picture 1 below, titled “Have A Seat”. If you're like me on occasion and Susan on far too many occasions and you don't see anything of real interest in the picture, I refer you to the picture 2 below, titled “Really, Have A Seat”. You can see Susan through the window about 2 feet from the snake, which is the only way you will ever see Susan 2 feet from a snake. We saw this critter a total of 5 times with 2 on that bench. It was often enough to where Susan named it. Meet Bob.

Bob is your basic Texas Rat Snake. Since I met him twice, stretched out against a wall, I could pace off his length at about 4.5 feet. He was pretty laid back and tolerated me very well. However, we have lots of glue traps in the garage and workshop and I knew that someday I would see Bob again on a glue trap. Indeed it happened.

It was a pretty interesting exercise to get him off that glue trap. His front was on a trap inside the garage door and the rest of him was wrapped around the garage wall. It took a non-trivial tug to pull him out. Then I had to use my ever handy Harbor Freight pick up tool to hold the glue trap (sprayed with Goo Gone) in one hand while holding onto Bob right near the trap so I could gently move him around to free him. Bob had about 1 foot worth on the trap leaving about 3.5 feet worth off the trap. He was pretty agitated and was really whipping around so it took 3 or 4 tries to finally grab him in the right spot. After the liberation was done, he slithered off into the flower bed and we never saw him again after that.





*Notes from the Junior Master Naturalist Presentation at the
TMN Annual Meeting
- by Carol Paulson*

Presenters were Kim Iberg and Kathryn Hedges of Lost Pines Chapter
{Notes in italics are Carol's} This Presentation might be available in the future on the Master Naturalist state website as part of Annual Meeting record

Spring 2016

- Started with inviting 5-6 graders from the Middle School who were interested to participate in program
- After school program – snacks provided (*see below*)
- Began with a classroom environment and proceeded to outdoor activity
- Used 2 Saturday mornings during the school semester for Field Trips

Collaboration

- 3-4 adults planning curriculum and field trips
- Needed 1 adult for every 4 JMNs at the meetings
- Ideal total in group is 10-12 JMNs, absolutely no more than 15
- 12 meetings a year bi-weekly or 5/semester and 2 field trips

Expenditures

- T-Shirts (*they are really nice*)
- Paper
- Snacks
- Drawing supplies
- Journal binders (used composition books the first year, are now making binders with the lesson plans incorporated into them) *Binders might be available for purchase from TMN if Michelle Haggerty approves them*
- Awards
- Stickers (still valued even in this age group)
- Badges
- Science tools
- Marketing

After School Help Needed

A program called “Beyond the Bell” exists in the Bastrop area to help with kids who need after-school care. Lost Pines liaisons with them. “Beyond the Bell” provides snacks/drinks.

1. Marketing
2. Registration and payment
3. Flyers, dates & times

Field Trips must have a parent or guardian to provide the transportation.

Miscellaneous

- Forms needed for kids will probably be school permission forms

- Adults must be screened just as we always do
- These are meetings, not classes
- The children are members, not students
- Tuition is charged: last year \$64, this year \$50
- The journals are not homework, they are used for the members to observe and record their observations while at a meeting or at home. Information in the journals can be shared with others at meetings
- Purpose is to Observe & Record their Independent Discoveries
- Presenters are mostly other TMNs – sometimes others
- Don't try to do too much at once.

Suggestions:

- Graduation at a State Park where they are presented with their pins
- You want the older ones (6th grade) to earn volunteer service in their second year by mentoring the younger ones (5th grade).
- Expectation is always that they will achieve Junior Master Naturalist pin
- ADAPTABILITY IS A MUST

I think any of our counties in the GLC area who would like a Junior Program could accomplish this with just a little beginning work and that it would be lots of fun. I know Lost Pines would be happy to help any way they can. Since we already have an established program in Washington County within the school system that is almost identical to this program, I don't see its usefulness in this area. But those of you who have been wanting a youth program where you live could build on the Lost Pines foundation. I would be happy to brainstorm with any of you regarding individual lesson plans, etc. but I can't lead on this. – Carol

The Transformation at Winedale – by Patrick Dunne



“Preliminary Report on the Feed a Bee Grant Initiative at Winedale Historical Center” - A photographic journal of “how our members took a bare lawn and turned it into a magnificent pollinator garden in a matter of months.”

Patrick prepared a report that chronicled the transformation at the Winedale visitor center and discusses progress on moving the Gideon Lincecum monument and building a nature trail at the site.

This project has benefitted from literally thousands of hours of volunteer time from chapter members and several sources of funding from groups and organizations.

Take some time to “tour” the gardens next time you are nearby.

Celebrating Prairies in October - Prairie Harvest - by Charlotte von Rosenberg



October was Prairie Month in Texas. If you are restoring your land, perfecting your plant ID skills, collecting seed or want to plant native grasses – now is the time. Native prairie grasses, having bloomed in September, have put on seeds to be harvested in October and November. Seed harvesting will continue into

November. Seeds of switch, Indian and big bluestem are continuing to ripen every day. There is still time to collect seed. [Photos: top left – Big Bluestem, bottom left – Indian Grass, right – Knotroot/Bristlegrass.]



The Prairie Restoration Round Up was held on October 5 in Waller.

Sponsored by Wildlife Habitat Federation and Katy Prairie Conservancy, this Advanced Training event was outstanding. The event will be held again next October 2018. Be sure to mark your calendar. Inspired by this kick-off to Prairie Month our chapter held two Prairie Tour events. First a mounted safari at Pecore Prairie owned by Bert and Wilda Pecore and next a walking tour at Quebe Prairie.

Our supply of prairie grass seeds is replenished. Projects coming up include planting seeds in the greenhouse at Blinn College Ag Center. The planting date is to be determined. Grass seedlings will be used in pocket prairies at Krause Elementary, Blinn campus, Winedale and Washington on the Brazos. Keep an eye on your email and the website for dates.

Hurricane Harvey and the Vegetables - by Jim Wilson

During the storm the okra viciously attacked the peppers. Rooted in adjacent parallel rows, gangling six foot okra bodies lashed three foot peppers. Afterward they said they were sorry.

Even before Harvey, okra had been surreptitiously thrusting serrated leaves over into the peppers. Okra leaves have a subtle toxic effect on pepper plants. Rooted peppers could not move or lean away. One pepper grew into the okra sending a strange suicidal suggestion.

The pepper adhered to bloom where it was planted. The okra said I can eat your blooms and wilt your leaves and still produce pods so prolifically that the gardener will be so puffed up in his ability to grow us he will be proud and love us anyway.

However the gardener supported the underdog too. He cut the okra leaves away from the peppers and berated them for their intrusion.

The okra cried each time and grew sharper replacement intruder leaves.

With a blood-curdling howling wind and rain Harvey came from the northeast. Seeing the okra aggressor as his ally he bent the okra over against the poor peppers doing their best to hold their ground.

All passive peppers rooted in place had to endure the double attack until Harvey passed.

Now it is up to Bell, Jalapeno and me to see what we are made of - repair, grow, bloom and produce again.

How to Run the Store at the TMN Annual Conference - by Chris Morrison

Get Gideon Lincecum Chapter to do it, of course! We have the most amazing group of volunteers who are also just plain fun to be around. For the second year in a row, we were asked to run the “store” that sold Master Naturalist items from the AgriLife Bookstore - quite an honor! Mary Pearl Meuth got all of the items to us, with an extensive inventory sheet, and we took over from there.

Just about all of the GLC people at the meeting helped in some way - at the beginning with setting everything up, being salespersons or giving moral support during their spare time at conference, or at the end for packing everything up. Cindy Hobbs, Betsy Palkowsky, Karen Woods, and Chris Morrison were there full time. Other helpers included Marcia Braun, Linda Esco, Lemae Higgs, Jeb Lapeyrolerie, Patrick McClaugherty, Earl and Patricia Mills, Robert Mott, Linda Nations, Carol Paulson, Mary Ann and Ron Peach, Ginny Welch, and Tom Yates. I hope I haven't left anyone off of the list. This super crew almost doubled the sales total from last year!

We don't get any money from this for our chapter, but those volunteer hours add up to big bucks for our AgriLife and TPWD sponsoring agencies. So I encourage everyone who volunteered their time at the store to submit those hours through the VMS. (You can't count travel time unless you worked ONLY at the store and didn't attend sessions for AT credit.)



Although I didn't get to attend any sessions, I learned so much anyway by looking at the many displays, listening to mealtime speakers, and talking to other Master Naturalists. What a great conference! Can't wait to go next year to Georgetown! And, oh yes, we've been asked to run the store there, too!

[*From the Editor: Where do you want to get involved?* *The GLC Tidings* only touches on a few of the projects our chapter is working on. You can learn about a few more through our Facebook Group posts and if you attend the Chapter meetings, you will hear reports about recent activities. But, we hope you will check our website event listing regularly to find volunteer opportunities. Contact project leaders or board members or officers to offer your help in areas you think are most compatible with your interests. Whether you can give an hour or ten, your involvement is appreciated. And even if you can't “volunteer” right now, we hope you will remain a member (just pay your dues) and stay connected with us.]

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/>.

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