



Gideon Lincecum Chapter Texas Master Naturalist™

April
2010

NEWS

BURTON COTTON GIN FESTIVAL

Cindy Rodibaugh, Vice President and Program Chair

Saturday, April 17 was a great day for a festival and those who made it to the Burton Cotton Gin Festival seemed relaxed and enjoying themselves. Our booth was located in the center of activity and when the tractor pull started gearing up, and the cotton gin's 'Big Bertha' began to get ready to strut her stuff, we got to see it all. It was a fun day and I want to personally thank all of the TMN Gideon Lincecum Chapter members who participated.



MNs prepare to greet visitors to our booth. See more photos on page 2.

SATURDAY, MAY 15

Chapter Business Meeting

9:00 am, Conference Room at Winedale

All members are invited. Come to see how you can be involved in our chapter's activities.

Program

FREE and Open to the Public

1:00 –3:00 pm, Conference Room at Wine-dale

Finding Texas Butterflies

Ro Wauer, distinguished author of more than 170 nature articles for magazines and journals and 25 books, will tell us how to find Texas' butterflies. His talk includes

finding some of the more common and the rarest butterfly species that occur throughout areas of the state.

Wildscapes

Mark Klym, coordinator of the Texas Wildscapes and Texas Hummingbird Roundup programs at Texas Parks and Wildlife, tells how to create a **Wildscape** to attract the disappearing wildlife to our own backyards. He is coauthor of the recently published book **Hummingbirds of Texas** by Texas A&M Press.

His talk covers the special characteristics of various species, such as unique habitats, larval foodplants, and ways to attract certain species.

BURTON COTTON GIN FESTIVAL
Saturday, April 17



The tent team: Bill Deaton, Cecil Rives and Dave Redden, have a dress rehearsal for putting up the chapter's new tent prior to the day of the Festival.



Charlotte von Rosenberg and Luan Yarnold prepare the Native Prairie display.



Dave Redden, Cindy Rodibaugh and Jan Redden (right) help the kids enjoy the nature artifacts. Cheryl Karr's Top Ten display on scat identification was a big hit.



Festival visitors had an opportunity to explore the trails at the Indian Creek Nature Area.

Carol Montgomery and Judy Deaton have some down time at the end of the day.

Congratulations!

**GIDEON LINCECUM
MASTER NATURALIST
2010 TRAINING CLASS**

Graduation Dinner

Monday, May 17, 5:00 pm
In the Winedale Dining Hall

All chapter members and spouses are invited to come and offer congratulations to the new class members for completing their training.

The main course and beverages will be provided; please bring a side dish or a dessert to share. *Carol Montgomery*

What's Your Water Footprint?

Second
South Central Texas
Water Conservation
Conference

Hold the Date
Saturday, Sept 25
8:30 am—3:00 pm
\$15, includes lunch

Washington County
Event Center
Brenham

For more information contact
Washington County
Wildlife Society
info@wcvwildlife.org

Presented by



TOP TEN SOCIAL #2

When: May 29, at 5:30 pm

Where: Winedale Dining Hall (across the parking lot from the Conference Center)

Why: To show Top Ten projects, learn from the projects presented, and enjoy another potluck meal together

Top Ten Presentations

The idea of Top Ten projects comes from believing that: "Master Naturalists should be able to recognize at least ten items in several categories of natural organisms, inorganic materials, plants, animals, features and facts about our area."

Presentation style and format are your choice. However, some options are better than others for sharing. PowerPoint® presentations are the most flexible way to communicate to almost everyone. However you may choose to use other options such as scrapbooks/photo albums, posters, or written reports.

See more in **Guidelines** on page 4.

Contact Mary Evelyn by April 30 to reserve your time slot to present a Top Ten project at the May 29 Social. Priority will be given to first-time presenters.

Potluck Dinner

Bring a main course, side dish or dessert, and your own wine or beer. Tea will be provided. Spouses are welcome to attend.

Questions?

Program: [Mary Evelyn Sorrell](#)

Dinner: [Carol Montgomery](#)

BISD OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Volunteers are needed to help manage the children during the classes.

May 3-6 - Brenham 6th grade (green building, evidence of animal hike, compass course, soils) at Birch Creek

May 11-13 - Brenham 3rd grade (compass, ecosystem, wildflowers, and animal charades) at Nails Creek

Contact Joy Nutt if you can help, (979) 836-1896 or (979) 451-6673.

Joy.Nutt@tpwd.state.tx.us joynutt@texasbb.com

**Volunteer
Opp**

GUIDELINES FOR TOP TEN PROJECTS

Overview

The idea of Top Ten projects comes from believing that: "Master Naturalists should be able to recognize at least ten items in several categories of natural organisms, inorganic materials, plants, animals, features and facts about our area."

Your study can feature either positive or negative aspects of our region. For instance, it could be on the top ten invasive woody plants, or top ten destructive herbivores, or top ten noxious pesticides/herbicides. It can also feature the top/major ten soil types of this region, the Spring/Fall migrating (temporary visiting) birds, or top ten desirable forbs, trees, grasses, etc.

Perhaps at some later time, we will develop a way to test our own knowledge and recognize chapter members who know the various Top Ten items in any given category. This can lead to many advanced training opportunities for programs and workshops in the future. The chapter would like to have future access to your completed project to show at appropriate events, like nature festivals, state conferences, and to schools.

Presentation style and format are your choice. However, some options are better than others for sharing. PowerPoint® presentations are the most flexible way to communicate to almost everyone. However you may choose to use other options such as scrapbooks/photo albums, posters, or written reports. Think about how your material can be shared with others.

Goals

The primary goals of doing a Top Ten project are:

- Self-education.
- Education of other Master Naturalists
- Educating the public when you share what you have learned.

If your project is shared with others, it is important to list the references you used for gathering this information. This includes books, articles, websites, movies, TV programs and individuals. If you have used a direct quote,

attribute it properly. If you use an image from another source, make sure you have permission to use it.

Preparation

Here are some things for you to consider as you prepare your presentation:

What are the key features that allow you to identify the species? (How do you quickly know it is what you think it is, i.e. by shape, color, location, other? For instance, by its beak or tail feathers, grittiness or solubility of a soil.)

- What time of year is it likely to be seen in our area?
- Where is it likely to be seen (on water, prairie, hardwood forest, disturbed soil, etc.)?
- Is it native or non-native? Is it desirable or noxious?
- What is its role in the ecosystem? What other species use it to survive?

Presentation

For the actual presentation, here are some more suggestions:

Introduce yourself. This is an opportunity to get to know each other and to learn who the chapter experts are in various areas. Wear your name tag.

Put your name on your presentation material, even if it is samples in a plastic bag. You want everyone to know who it belongs to and to associate you with being knowledgeable on this topic.

Identify each subject with its common name in writing so all will have the opportunity to see the object with its name. Use the scientific name, too, if possible. If it is easily confused with another common species (such as the Texas thistle and the basketflower), show the key identifying differences between the two.

Gideon Lincecum *NEWS*

Contact [Jan Redden](#) with your story ideas and news items