



# Gideon Lincecum Chapter Texas Master Naturalist™

December  
2008

## NEWS

### 2008 HOLIDAY PARTY

*Saturday, December 6*

Forty Master Naturalists and friends attended the third annual chapter holiday party last weekend. The party was a huge success, thanks to the efforts of hosts, Jonell Parker, Carol Montgomery, and Randy Reddemann. The dining hall of the Winedale Historical Complex was the perfect setting for the festivities.

Gene Luhn and the Hilgers prepares to fill their plates.



The dessert table was an attraction for Richard White.

Jonell Parker leads us in a getting-to-know-you game.



Linda Behrend is an excited winner of one of the door prizes.

### NEW CHAPTER COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

At a brief business meeting during the holiday party, "new" officers were elected. We also adopted new committee structure, allowing for the work of running the chapter to be distributed among a greater number of people. The Vice President's duties have been divided into Vice President, Advanced Training Committee and Program Committee. Outreach Committee has been divided into Publications and Recruiting/Publicity.

#### 2009 Officers

President	Dave Redden
Vice president	Randy Reddemann
Secretary	Monterey White
Treasurer	Larry Hilgers

#### 2009 Committee Chairs

Membership	Martha Koslosky
Program	Debbie Copeland
Advanced Training	Bill Deaton
Volunteer Projects	Ed Koslosky
Training	Jacquy and Raye Pearson
Publications	Jan Redden
Recruiting/Publicity	Judy Deaton
Historian	Cindy Rodibaugh
Host	Carol Montgomery

### Volunteer Hours Reports



Volunteer hours reports through December 15 are due in to Martha Koslosky now. Texas Master Naturalist depends on accurate reports of each chapter's volunteer activity in order to influence allocation of state funds to support the organization. Please send your hours in whatever form you have them to Martha. [martha@koslosky.com](mailto:martha@koslosky.com). Even if you have no hours to report, please let us know that asap so that we can complete the report to the state on time. *Martha Koslosky*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, Dec 13, Noon-4 pm—**  
**Christmas at Winedale**, a nineteenth century holiday celebration for the whole family. Free, at Winedale Historical Complex

**Saturday, Jan 17, 8 am—Pancake Breakfast**, followed by chapter business meeting at 9 am. Fortify yourself with a delicious breakfast and stick around to find out how you can be involved in the chapter's activities. Pancake chef will be Randy Reddemann—at Winedale Historical Complex.

**Saturday, Feb 7, 9 am—**First session of 2009 Training Class, at Winedale.

## 2009 TRAINING CLASS

Training sessions will begin on Saturday, February 7, at 9 am, with an orientation for the new members, at Winedale Historical Complex. Chapter officers and advisors will be introduced and there will be a field trip.

Committee chairs and project leaders should attend and be prepared to talk briefly about their activities.

All members are welcome to attend any of the training sessions they need to make up from previous years, for no additional cost. If you are attending a session for the second time, you may count it as Advanced Training. You'd be surprised how much you can pick up the second time around! Additional field trips will be added and all members are encouraged to come to those.

See the 2009 [training schedule](#) on our web site.



**Just a  
Reminder...**

### MEMBER DUES ARE DUE

Send your check for \$25 for each member household to:

Larry Hilgers  
401 Rolling Hill Rd.  
LaGrange, TX 78945

Make your check payable to  
TMN GLC

## VOLUNTEER UPDATES

### *You Might Be A TMN If....*

You leave home at 5:00 am on a Saturday morning and drive 3 hours to help restore a bird sanctuary. Dave Redden, Carol Montgomery and the Kosloskys did just that on November 1.

The Quintana Bird Sanctuary was covered with 4 to 5 feet of salt water and also suffered some wind damage from Hurricane Ike. We helped remove the damaged parts of trees and cut back some of the vegetation in hopes that it will recover from the salt water. Dave used his trusty Kubota tractor to reposition a walk bridge that floodwaters had floated.

It was a long day but we have the satisfaction of knowing we contributed to the restoration of this vital stopover for our migrating birds. Next year it will be interesting to re-visit to see how nature repairs itself.

*Martha Koslosky*

## INDIAN CREEK NATURE AREA

For those of you who want to participate in this project but who haven't been able to attend the scheduled work days, there are ongoing projects that can be done by volunteers whenever they can find the time in their own schedules. Here are some suggestions:

- Put Roundup or Remedy on poison ivy and waxleaf ligustrum stobs. (especially those growing in the paths or within 10 feet of the paths.)
- Add mulch to the trails.
- Pick up trash. (There is old metal, paper, plastic, wire, etc., throughout the area.)
- Cut waxleaf ligustrum from around the large oak tree in the center of the trail and to the left of the gully.

Come whenever you can to help move this project along. Call me for more specific instructions. (281) 989-7698.

*Carol Montgomery*

## WORKING AT WINEDALE

The trail work at Winedale Historical Complex is on hold for the time being. However, two areas of work have been defined and we can get started on those now. Both are under the general heading of "Prairie Restoration."

### Seed Collection

The plan is to try to re-establish native grasses in the existing Bahia grass pasture across the road from the Meadows Conference Center. This will likely require herbicide treatment to a large portion of the area, followed by burning and re-seeding. We can help by collecting seeds now for this effort.

Starting with an early-succession grass such as silver bluestem is one of the better ways to get the pasture going in the right direction. Almost all of us without climax native prairies have some silver bluestem. So, you can harvest this and store it in a paper bag, preferably in a refrigerated or cool, dry area. Do not let it mold.

Other native grasses that you might have should also be harvested and kept the same way. Label your bags with your name, where the seed came from, and the type of seed. We also have access to the hay from Charlotte von Rosenberg's native prairie remnant for \$4/ sq bale. This should be a good mix of seed of various climax native grasses.

### Removal of Cedar and Yaupon

The other area that we can work on now is clearing eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) and yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*) to make room for more prairie grasses and desirable forbs. In one case we need to clear cedar and brush around the old schoolhouse just for fire safety, but it will also help the grasses. This will require some heavy-duty work with chainsaws and tractors. Clearing brush will be an ongoing task for years. **Dave Redden**



On Tuesday, December 9, a crew of volunteers worked to clear brush from the area near the schoolhouse. Judy Deaton brought her friend, Ann, and there was Don Stewart, Randon Dillingham, Hollis McKinney and Dave Redden. The mountain of brush behind them is the result of the morning's efforts.

### *WHEP 4-H Team Support*

Last spring our chapter supported the La Grange high school 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program team to go the national competition in Stillwater, Oklahoma after they won the state championship.

Several of us in our chapter starting wondering why we did not have a comparable team in Washington County. It turns out that it is just a matter of needing a leader to volunteer to organize the team. So, Joy Nutt stepped forward and has offered to be the coach for the Brenham ISD 4-H WHEP program, and Dave Redden will assist. Larry Pierce, our TAES sponsor, is also involved and will help us. Joy and Dave both attended training for the coaches November 15. Joy has made contact with BISD and Larry Pierce about setting up the new 4-H program. The plan is to begin training the students in January.

Bellville ISD is also beginning a similar program under the leadership of Francis Krebs in Austin County. Francis is not a Master Naturalist, but she has been involved with us on volunteer projects when she used to work with the Austin County Extension office. Those of you in Austin County may want to contact her to offer your support. Bobby and Lanette Williams, from Carmine, are the coaches for the La Grange team. Contact Dave Redden for information on how to reach any of these folks.

*Dave Redden*

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### *Yahoo Group*

Sign up for our chapter's Yahoo Group so you can post your photos, start discussions, ask for plant and animal ID help. We now have 20 members in the group. To join, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/glmasternaturalists/>. This is a restricted membership group. Only chapter members have access.

*Send your news items and comments about the NEWS to Jan Redden, editor Thanks!*

### *ExxonMobil Corporation Supports Gideon Lincecum Chapter*



ExxonMobil has recently given a \$2000 grant to the Gideon Lincecum Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist™. The unrestricted grant was given as part of ExxonMobil's efforts to encourage its employees and retirees to

participate in community volunteer projects. The grant was given to the chapter in recognition of volunteer service by Monterey White, wife of ExxonMobil retiree, Richard White, and secretary of our chapter.

### *CHRISTMAS AT WINEDALE 2008*

*Saturday, December 13  
12 noon-4 pm*

*Bring the family to enjoy a nineteenth century holiday celebration.*

- Enjoy activities throughout Winedale Historical Complex!
- Tour Winedale's historic homes, and take stagecoach and covered wagon rides from house to house.
- Visit the Raven Rangers campsite to experience military life in the Civil War era.
- Watch for the Weihnachtsmann (Santa Claus)! Children can make crafts in Winedale's one-room schoolhouse.
- Be entertained in our theatre barn by the German singers, an oompah band, dulcimer players, fiddlers, Round Top Children's Choir, Shakespeare players, and more.
- View demonstrations, including whittling, quilting, and blacksmithing.

