



Gideon Lincecum Chapter Texas Master Naturalist™

February
2009

NEWS

ELINOR JACOBS BECOMES HONORARY MEMBER



Monterey White, Elinor Jacobs and Dave Redden

For several years, Elinor Jacobs has welcomed Master Naturalists to her home near Long Point where she has restored a cabin used by Gideon Lincecum as his work room. Elinor was always gracious and entertaining with her stories about our eccentric chapter namesake. On February 2, Monterey White and Dave Redden presented Elinor with a token of our gratitude for her hospitality. She received a certificate declaring her an honor-



Elinor and the 2007 Training Class

ary member of the Gideon Lincecum chapter of Texas Master Naturalist, along with a dragonfly pin.

Gideon

Lincecum was a naturalist who made his way from Georgia, by way of Mississippi to finally settle in Long Point, Texas, around 1845. It was

there that his interest in natural science flourished. He is known to have corresponded with well-known scientists, including Charles Darwin.



Gideon Lincecum's cabin

He published numerous articles in scholarly scientific journals and came to be recognized as a thorough and respectable researcher, in spite of his lack of formal education.

INDIAN CREEK WORK DAY

Saturday, February 14, 9 am

Carol Montgomery

We will meet at 8 am for breakfast at Jacquy's, at the intersection of Main and Washington. If you prefer to come to the work site directly, it is behind the Burton Cotton Gin Museum. Our project Saturday will be to add mulch to the trails, cut invasive plants, haul plants to the burning pile, put Remedy on unwanted plants, pick up trash, and work on the foot bridge.

Tools to bring: rake, shovel, wheelbarrow, chain saw, loppers, gloves, water.....maybe a lawn chair.

We usually work until noon, but you may leave sooner, stay longer. You will earn volunteer hours credit, including your travel time. See you there!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS!

Linda Binns	Walter Matuska
Tom Drummond	Ruth Mercier
Charles Eppler	John Moore
Marilyn Eppler	Don Murray
Jerry Frazier	Carol Paulson
Elisa Henderson	Albert Pecore
John Guidry	Wilda Pecore
Amy Jones	Eunice Siegmund
Mary Jones	Susan Solari
Cheryl Karr	Mary Evelyn Sorrell
Pam Kavieff	Linda Warburton
Vicki La Rue	Lynda Wickliffe



Master Naturalists-in-training learn to determine the clay content of soils from Dr. Christine Morgan.

TRAINING SESSION SCHEDULE

Monday, Feb 9 - Hydrology/Soils

Monday, Feb 16 - Geology

Monday, Feb 23 - Ecology Concepts,
Ecosystems and Ecoregions

Monday, March 2 - Weather/Climate

Monday, March 9 - Rangeland Ecology

Monday, March 23 - Forest Ecology

Monday, March 30 - Aquatic Systems
Ecology/Ichthyology/Pond Manage-
ment

Saturday, April 4, 9 am - Plant ID field trip

Monday, April 6 - Plants

Monday, April 13 - Ornithology

Monday, April 20 - Entomology

Monday, May 4 - Mammals

Saturday, May 9 - Graduation

Please check our [web site](#) for updates to this schedule and for more details. Remember that you can make up any sessions you missed in previous training classes, or repeat classes, if you like. Soon a video of the first orientation session will be available. Watch for more details.



Geometry & Botanica:

Quilts from Winedale's
Historic Collection

A Special Exhibit at
Winedale Historical Complex

Feb. 15 - Feb. 28, 2009

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

If you are interested in taking a basic 35 mm digital single lens reflex photography workshop, please contact Gene Luhn for details. geneluhn@sbcglobal.net or 713-305-6443.

*Send your news items and comments
about the NEWS to [Jan Redden](#), editor.
Thanks!*



Volunteer Opps Coming Soon!

***BRENHAM ISD OUTDOOR
LEARNING CENTER***

Nancy Oertli and Deborah Lansley

Recently the Gideon Lincecum chapter of Texas Master Naturalist agreed to work with the Brenham School District on their Outdoor Learning Center, located on the Brenham Elementary School campus on W. Blue Bell Rd. Currently in its early stages, the OLC is designed to provide students in grades Pre-K to 4 with a place to learn about the outdoors.

Sitting on approximately 10 acres, the OLC contains a large sloping area designated for Blackland prairie restoration along with a wetland area. Nearby is a Butterfly Garden which is tended by the 4th graders. Several more garden areas are planned, including a Sensory Garden for our youngest learners, an Alphabet Trail, with plants for our kindergarteners, a cotton patch, and a native plant garden.

Master Naturalists have agreed to help restore a portion of the property to its native prairie habitat. This project is being headed up by Cecil Rives and will begin shortly. Master Naturalists have also agreed to partner with the Herb Society to develop the Sensory Garden.

Work on the Sensory Garden will begin in late February. This garden near the entrance to the school parking lot will provide our primary learners with a chance to see the variety the plant world has to offer. The central bed will be a wagon wheel design, with plants of the primary and secondary colors to delight the sense of sight. The four corners of this garden will contain raised beds that allow students to use their senses of touch, taste, smell, and hearing.

Next Chapter Business Meeting
Saturday, March 21, 9 am, at Winedale Historical Complex. All members are welcome.

***CZECH HERITAGE
NATURE AREA***

Janet Rangel and Ed Koslosky

Recently a contract was signed by the LaGrange city manager and TPWD, that will allow for development of the Trails property at the Fairgrounds (Czech Heritage project).

Before construction can begin an archeological survey will be completed and the possible impact on the threatened bald eagle will be assessed. Gary Fritcher conducted a survey of nesting eagles earlier this month.

When the results of these surveys are assessed, the City of LaGrange will hire an expert to assist with designing the trail system.

Janet Rangel, chapter member and Recreation Director of the City of LaGrange, has also applied for a TPWD Small Community Recreation grant, which will provide for or a proposed playscape pocket-park, a native species plant garden and a gazebo, along with a rainwater capture system, adjacent to the Randolph Recreation Center. We will know in August of this year if the grant application was successful.

There will be plenty of ways for Master Naturalists to become involved with this project as it develops. Watch the newsletter for announcements of advanced training as well as volunteer opportunities.





GIDEON LINCECUM CHAPTER SEMI- NARS

Gene Luhn and Debbie Copeland

Beginning in March, our chapter will present semi-monthly programs, open to the public, at the Winedale Historical Complex. These will be advanced training opportunities for us, and a chance to let others know about our organization. Invite your friends, family and neighbors!

Birds of the Post Oak Savannah and Blackland Prairie

Saturday March 21, 1:00-3:00 pm
Meadows Foundation Classroom
Winedale

Mark McClelland, President of Lost Pines chapter of Texas Master Naturalist, and member of the Audubon Society, will present this program, which will include an introduction to birding, with an emphasis on the birds in our area. If time and weather permit, Mr. McClelland will lead a short "how-to" field trip around the lake area at Winedale.

FYI

**14th ANNUAL HERBAL
FORUM AT ROUND TOP**
**A Celebration of Mediterranean
Herbs and
BAY LAUREL**
Herb of the Year, 2009
March 20 and 21
Festival Hill, Roundtop

Free and open to the public Friday and Saturday are the plant sale, the Thyme Well Spent Gift Shop and the Herbal Forum Book Store. Registration fee for the Saturday programs and lunch.



ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

CHIMNEY SWIFT CONSTRUCTION WORKSHOP

Sunday, March 15, 1:00-4:00 pm

The first part of a free chimney swift tower construction workshop will take place at Chaetura Canyon Bird Sanctuary. The sanctuary is located 1¼ miles SW of Mansfield Dam in Travis Co.

Participants will be introduced to these fascinating and beneficial birds through a short initial program that includes video highlights from a typical nesting season. After this presentation the group will construct a tower nest chamber and then take a walking tour of the sanctuary, which has 16 nesting towers that demonstrate a variety of designs and materials. One tower will be open for the tour.

There will be follow-up activities to install a new tower at Mayfield Park in Austin, with a target completion of April 1.

For more information or to sign up for the workshop, please contact Anne Donovan at ajdonovan@att.net or visit www.ChimneySwifts.org and click on the Chaetura Canyon Bird Sanctuary link.

RAINWATER HARVESTING

Scott Willey, Fayette County AgriLife Extension agent, will organize this training program. Attendees will learn about rainwater harvesting techniques at the AgriLife facilities in LaGrange, with the program tentatively planned for the end of April or the beginning of May.

Further information is promised soon but anyone who is particularly interested may want to check the Fayette Co. AgriLife Extension web site at <http://fayette-tx.tamu.edu> for more details .

*Contact Bill Deaton for more about
Advanced Training. Opportunities.*