



Gideon Lincecum Chapter Texas Master Naturalist™

October
2009

NEWS

TOP TEN

Mary Evelyn Sorrell

We are creating a very special evening event on **February 20** to show some Top Ten projects. So now is the time to begin developing your idea into a presentation!

To refresh everyone's memory, the idea is to study one particular flora or fauna of Texas, preferably of our region. Then develop 10 common examples of it to present to our Gideon Lincecum (TMN-GLC) chapter to teach us about it. Last year Jonell Parker presented a PowerPoint show of 10 different Wintering Waterfowl, naming each bird as she showed the slide. Carol Montgomery presented 10 common wildflowers of our region. One member is preparing a PowerPoint on 10 common dragonflies.

Ideas for topics include: native grasses, trees, forbs, wild animals, birds, grasshoppers, and soil types. Label each example (and for the permanent document to be kept in the TMN-GLC archives, please cite your references, whether they are from books or web sites). To make this easy, limit your "show and tell" to about 5-10 minutes.

Ideas for the presentation format include: a poster board with images large enough to be seen from the back of a room, a slide show, audio or visual DVD, a Web site or a PowerPoint presentation. Your project can then be disseminated through e-mail, the Web, or shown at future meetings and public events.

The evening event on February 20 will consist of plenty of "getting to know you" socializing and a potluck supper, and then several members will present their Top Ten presentations. We will continue to plan these gatherings throughout the year as other members let us know they are ready with their Top Ten. You will receive **Volunteer Service**

credit for your Top Ten project making this a total winner all the way around.

If you want to prepare a Top Ten project and have never done one before, we will match you with an experienced Gideon Lincecum member to assist you. Please e-mail Carol Montgomery at carmont@industryinet.com or call her at 979-278-3809 Office or 281-989-7698 Cell for your mentor's name and contact info.

If you want to present a Top Ten project at the February gathering (or a future event), please contact Mary Evelyn Sorrell at mesorrell@gmail.com or 512 632 1418. We are looking forward to our members' Top Ten projects. It is a value-added feature of the Gideon Lincecum chapter.

See Carol Montgomery's "Texas Wildflowers," on our [Web site](#), along with Jonell Parker's Top Ten on "Migratory Water Fowl."

**NEXT MEMBERS'
BUSINESS MEETING**
*Saturday, November 21
9 am at Winedale*



NEXT PROGRAM
*Saturday, November 21
1 pm – 3 pm*
FREE and open to the public

Conservation Easements
Don Steinbach

Native Prairie Recognition Program
Charlotte von Rosenberg

INDIAN CREEK WORK DAY

Carol Montgomery

Five of us - three MNs (David Vogel, Martha Koslosky, and Carol Montgomery) and two friends (Karen Rives and Melinda Saxton) - met on Saturday morning, October 17, at Indian Creek to cut new growth, put Remedy on stumps, and plant Turks cap plants. We gathered wood for two areas in the first developed area to serve as berms to slow down the flow of water from rain. In the new area, we marked the area around the large tree. Then we cut stumps that were sticking up in the path. Lastly, we put mulch on all the new trail area.

The museum volunteers have mowed for us, so the area really looks good. It is ready to be used. Unfortunately, one of the benches has been stolen, but I will make another one. Now that the area is useable, we will work to promote it. I encouraged the museum staff to guide folks there who came to visit the museum. Stop by to see it!



HOUSTON TOAD PROJECT

Toad watchers met at Winedale on a brisk Saturday evening, October 10, to learn the techniques we will use to determine if our target toad can be found in our area. Paul Crump, from the Houston Zoo, was back to teach us how to use the instruments and how to record the data we'll gather when the survey begins in the early spring.

We were assigned routes that we will use to identify likely spots for our toad. Two or three people will work in teams to gather data at 1/2 mile intervals on evenings after a rain.

In preparation we will learn to distinguish the various calls of the frogs and toads in our area, with the help of a CD and some practice.

If you would like to get in on this project, contact [Dave Redden](#).



NATIVE PRAIRIE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Charlotte von Rosenberg

After welcome rains and cooler weather, two more site visits are scheduled in search of native prairie remnants. Start looking on your property now for native grasses in bloom. Identification is much easier when blooms and seed heads are present. At the November 21 TMN program, Charlotte von Rosenberg will discuss the Native Prairie Recognition program and how to identify some of the grasses that might indicate a native prairie.

**TEXAS
NATIVE
PRAIRIES**

The Tallgrass Prairie once covered an area from San Antonio north to Canada and included some 142,000,000 acres. Today, less than 1% remains as a result of changes in land use over the past 200 years. Wildlife depends on this prairie habitat for food and shelter. Some flora and fauna are found nowhere else. A prairie remnant may contain more than 300 species of grasses and wildflowers including the "big four" grasses, Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Indiangrass and Switchgrass, some of which can grow to 8 or 9 feet.

This property has been designated as a remnant of the Tallgrass Prairie by the Gideon Lincecum chapter of Texas Master Naturalist™ in recognition of the landowner's commitment to the stewardship of our ecological heritage.

T E X A S
Master Naturalist
Gideon Lincecum Chapter

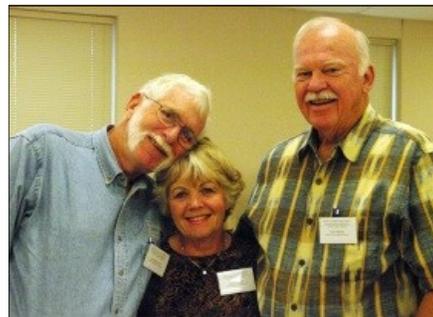
AgriLIFE EXTENSION
Texas A&M System

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

Artwork has been approved for the sign that will be given to owners of certified prairie remnants. The metal signs will be presented to the property owners by the Native Prairie Restoration committee and can be displayed on an owner's gate.

Members Jim and Belinda Weatherly, and Charlotte von Rosenberg will receive signs and certificates for their properties.

Gideon Lincecum TMNs were well represented at the South Central Texas Water Conference. Photo by Monterey White



RECERTIFYING IN 2009

Martha Koslosky, Membership chair

These people have earned their gecko pins for recertifying in 2009:

Judy Deaton
Martha Koslosky
Ed Koslosky
Carol Montgomery
Jonell Parker
Randy Reddemann
Dave Redden
Jan Redden
Cecil Rives
Cindy Rodibaugh
Charlotte von Rosenberg
Jim Weatherly
Monterey White

I am sure that there are others who have earned their 40 hours of volunteer time and 8 hours of advanced training, but I have not received their hours. Please start working on your hours forms. A good cut-off time would be around Christmas. I would like to receive your final list before the end of the year so that I can start accumulating the information for the annual report which is due in mid-January. Thank you.



HOLIDAY PARTY **Saturday, December 5** **Winedale**

We will gather for food and frivolity, along with the election of officers for the coming year. A nominating committee, chaired by Monterey White, will present a slate of officers.

Please donate nature-related items that can serve as door prizes. These can be books, plants, feeders, seeds, bird boxes calendars. These prizes should not be valuable, just something that a nature nerd might enjoy. Contact [Jonell Parker](#) with questions.

Dear TMN Friends,

Judy Deaton and I have finished the 2008-2009 scrapbook. The final page will be a compilation of every class picture to date.

If you don't find your picture in one of the class pictures, I hope you will find yourself in the volunteer and advanced training pictures throughout the book. The completed scrapbook will be on display at the annual state Texas Master Naturalist meeting.

I'd like to thank all of you who contributed photos and journaling.

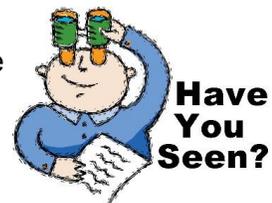
I'd especially like to thank the following people for their specific contributions to the scrapbook and library of the TMN-GL Chapter:

- Norman and Wanda Hubbard submitted early pictures and documents.
- Dave and Jan Redden aided my computer education and provided photos.
- Bernie Bennett supplied our library with CDs of the 2009 training classes.
- Gene Luhn provided some beautiful photos. (Wait till you see his fantastic photos of a green tree frog, and the Texas lizard!)
- Marilyn and Charles Eppler provided memory sticks.
- Judy and Bill Deaton helped with page compositions using special computer techniques in a lovely workroom in their home.
- Scott Rodibaugh put up with me throughout this effort. He was very tolerant and helpful.

Cindy Rodibaugh, Historian/Librarian

MISSING

Two CDs made during the 2009 training classes are missing from our Library. The missing CDs are the Plant class, April 6, 2009, taught by James Varnum, and the Ornithology class, April 27, 2009, taught by Gary Fritcher. If anyone knows where these CDs are, please contact [Cindy Rodibaugh](#).



ANNOUNCEMENTS

STATE TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST MEETING

October 23-25, at Mo-Ranch in Hunt, Texas

EXXONMOBIL GRANT

Our chapter recently received a grant from ExxonMobil for \$1500. ExxonMobil made this grant in recognition of the volunteer activities of retiree Dave Redden.

2010 TRAINING CLASS

The next training class will begin with an orientation class on Saturday, February 6 and end with graduation on May 17. Most of the classes will take place at the Meadows classroom at Winedale Historical Center.

The class schedule will be similar to previous years, with the possible addition of an archeology class and field trip. More hours will be scheduled than are required to be certified, making it possible to miss a class or two.

The class size will be limited to 25 new members.

The Training committee is Mary Jones, chair, Debbie Copeland, Sue Solari, Linda Warburton, Jacqui and Raye Pearson.

Christmas at Winedale

Wreath/garland day
Sunday, December 6, 10 am

Living History Exhibit
Saturday December 12, 12 noon

Volunteer to participate in the Living History exhibit on Dec. 12 or to help decorate on Sunday, Dec. 6. Lunch will be provided and desserts will be welcome.

Barbara White
barbara.white@austin.utexas.edu
979-278-3530

Volunteer Opps

Christ Lutheran Pre-K Day Care Outdoor Learning Center, Brenham

Veronica O' Donnell at USDA NRCS has asked us to assist the school in occasional lessons and collection of nature materials for the school. The school is open to the public and is a non-discriminatory organization. The teachers are already interested in outdoor learning and have ideas for things to do with the kids, but need support in collecting material or organizing learning experiences. These could be things such as what Linda Behrend did at the Rose Emporium a couple years ago - making bird feeders with tortillas - or making feeder trays like Carol Montgomery did at that same event.

These are Pre-K kids. The activities will probably be a half hour to an hour at one time. Veronica is working with the teachers to get some specific ideas that they would like for us to support. If you are interested in helping with this, contact [Dave Redden](#). This can start almost immediately.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Joy Nutt

Fall means Outdoor Classrooms at Nails Creek State Park. We are excited this year to be hosting Outdoor Classrooms for Brenham ISD's 5th and 8th grades as well as the Lands Programs Quail Program and White-tail Deer Program! We will need everyone willing to chip in to make these worthy events successful.

Please let me know if you are able to help and what days you will be available. Most Master Naturalists are assigned to support the primary instructor. Volunteers are needed from 8:30 am until 2:00 pm. You will need to bring a lunch. Contact [Joy Nutt](#) to volunteer. Phone: 979-836-1896.

5th grade-October 23
8th grade-November 17,18, 19
Lands Quail- October 30
Lands Whitetail-December TBA

HYPOXYLON CANKER IN POST OAKS

Daniel Lewis reports that he has noticed an unusual number of dead post oaks this summer and he sends us information about the cause of the problem for many of the trees. He sends us this article from the Forestry web site.

Hypoxylon canker is a fungus that causes cankers and death of oak and other hardwood trees. The disease is common in East Texas and all across the southern United States. Relatively healthy trees are not invaded by the fungus, but the hypoxylon fungus will readily infect the sapwood of a tree that has been damaged, stressed, or weakened. Natural and man-caused factors that can weaken a tree include defoliation by insects or leaf fungi, saturated soil, fill dirt, soil compaction, excavation in the root zone of the tree, removal of top soil under the tree, disease, herbicide injury, drought, heat, nutrient deficiencies, competition or overcrowding, and other factors. Read the [rest of this article](#) on the Texas Forest Service site.



The hypoxylon canker fungus will exhibit several different color phases after an infected tree has died. Here the fungus has taken on a silver-gray appearance on the bole (trunk) of a young water oak (Lufkin, TX).



Do you know this flower? Check out Carol Montgomery's TOP TEN on our [Web site](#)

TMN PROGRAMS SURVEY

Mary Evelyn Sorrell and Debbie Copeland, Program committee

The Program committee invites speakers to present special talks that are educational opportunities for TMN members and for the general public. These currently take place every other month on the same day as our members' business meetings.

Before the Program committee plans for next year's speakers, we would like to poll the membership for their preferences of dates and times for the programs.

Here are some options:

- 1. If the business meetings are on the odd months, programs will be on the even months.***
- 2. Keep the programs following the business meetings. (Business meeting in the morning and program in the afternoon.)***
- 3. Have the programs on a weekday evening. (My weekends are too busy.)***
- 4. Have the programs on a weekend evening. (I don't live close to this region & can't get to weekday meetings even if they are in the evening.) (There are too many other things I need to do during the day—evenings are better.)***
- 5. Have the programs on a variable schedule because we will never be able to get a perfect set-up that suits everyone.***

Other: please give us your idea if it is different from any of the above.

Other than not having the time to come to the programs or that they were presented at an inconvenient time, please give us feedback on what kept you from attending these programs. What can we do to increase attendance of TMN members and students?

You may e-mail your replies to

mesorrell@gmail.com and

copelandluhn@verizon.net.

You may simply reply with the number you prefer, or give us additional feedback. Your vote is important and so are your suggestions.