



Gideon Lincecum Chapter Texas Master Naturalist™

October
2008

NEWS

WINEDALE TRAILS

Dave Redden

Following our chapter's May 17 business meeting, several members toured the Winedale grounds with Mary Evelyn Sorrell, Director of the Winedale Center for American History. She showed us the Lincecum marker put up by Ms. Ima Hogg, as well as the historic McGregor house and the Biegel cabin that have been moved to the site. We also made a brief excursion into the natural area looking for remains of the old nature trails that were begun years ago by Bob Pickens, a local retired geologist.

Since then, Dan Anderson and Dave Redden returned to Winedale and met again with Mary Evelyn Sorrell to review maps that Bob Pickens made. Dave, Dan, Cindy Rodibaugh, Jim Weatherly, Randon Dillingham, Don Stuart, and Jan Redden have explored and defined portions of the trail between the McGregor house and the Biegel house. The trails have been partially cleared and flagged for future work.

A meeting in mid-September with representatives from the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center has resulted in a change of plans for the trails. Other work is being identified and we will likely start up again in November.



Dave and Cindy check out their position with a GPS.

Note: They are NOT lost!

Advanced Training Opportunity FAYETTE LAKE BIRDING TRAIL TOUR

Saturday, October 11, 9 am-noon

Meet at the amphitheater at the beginning of the Birding Trail at [Oak Thicket Park](#), Fayette Power Project Lake, to hear about the aquatic life of the lake from Gene Luhn and about the forestry/vegetation from Daniel Lewis. Then we'll go on a guided tour of the Birding Trail. Gene and Daniel will help us identify the plants we find along the way. Maybe we'll even see some birds! (See map on Oak Thicket Park [web site](#).)

Contact [Gene Luhn](#) for more information and to RSVP. Optional lunch will be at Joe's Place Restaurant in Fayetteville after the tour.

See our [August newsletter](#) for more information about the park and the power plant.
~Gene Luhn

CZECH HERITAGE NATURE AREA PROJECT

Martha Koslosky

A grant has been received from Texas Parks and Wildlife for \$161,000 and from the City of La Grange for \$50,000, to construct a nature area at the Czech Heritage Museum.

After endangered species and archeology studies have been made, trails and an access road will be mapped out. The next step will be to construct a gazebo at the start of the walking trail. After that our chapter will have an opportunity to get involved.

Unfortunately Hurricane Ike has altered the schedule for TPWD in getting the survey and mapping completed but once that is done, we can get started. Stay tuned for further updates.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursdays, Oct 2, 9, 16, and 23—BISD 5th grade Outdoor Classroom Contact [Joy Nutt](#) to volunteer.

Saturday, Oct 4—TPWD Expo See [web site](#) for details.

Saturday, Oct 11, 9 am-12 noon—Birding Trail Tour at Fayette Lake

Thursday October 16, 1:30 pm—Herb Society work day at McGregor House at Winedale. Contact [Belinda Weatherly](#)

Friday, Oct 17, 9 am-2 pm—LANDS program (Texas Wildlife Association) Assist leaders with wildlife activities for 7th graders. (See pg. 4) Contact [Dave Redden](#).

Friday, Oct 17, 1:30 pm—New Landowner Meeting Tree farming and vineyard tour, Austin Co. Vineyard in Cat Spring. Call [Philip Shackelford](#) 979-865-5911x249 for details or see [Austin Co. AgriLife Newsletter](#).

Thursday, Oct 23, 6pm-9pm—Butterfly Garden and Bee Seminar In Sealy, at Hill Center, sponsored by Austin Co. Horticulture Committee. Register with [Philip Shackelford](#) at 979-865-5911x249. Meal provided.

Friday, Oct 24-Sunday Oct 26—Annual State Master Naturalist Meeting at Mo-Ranch, Hunt, TX Registration information [web site](#)

Monday, Oct 27-Thursday, Oct 30—BISD 7th grade Outdoor Classroom, Nails Creek State Park. Contact [Joy Nutt](#) to volunteer.

Saturday, Nov 15, 9 am—Gideon Lincecum Chapter business meeting at Winedale

Friday, Nov 21, 1:30 pm—New Landowner Meeting Rangeland inventory, with Dr. Baron Rector, TAMU; plant identification, grass and plant selection, range condition guide; at Jim Willis Ranch. Call [Philip Shackelford](#) 979-865-5911x249 for details.

Saturday, Dec 6—Holiday party-watch for details!

DAMAGE TO BIRD SANCTUARIES

Dave Redden

In his September 27 column in the *Houston Chronicle*, Gary Clark described the damage that Hurricane Ike did to our favorite birding spots in the Gulf Coast area: See [Coastal Sanctuaries Desperately Need Help](#): Read the article to discover what needs to be done to restore these areas.

We are working with the [Gulf Coast Birding Observatory](#) to find a day when volunteers from our chapter can help with clean-up efforts. Watch for details in an e-mail message to come soon.

For now, the best way to help may be to contribute money. You can join GCBO [online](#) also – just \$50 for the family membership.



*Entrance of Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary
~from Gulf Coast Bird Observatory web site.*

Milestones

- **Recertification:** Belinda Weatherly
 - **500 hours:** Jan Redden
-

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/>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TEXAS ALLIGATOR LIZARD

David Vogel



Here's a new volunteer project for TMNs in Fayette County. I've been contacted by two volunteer field associates of a herpetologist at Cornell University who are asking for help locating likely habitat for the Texas Alligator Lizard in Fayette County. This lizard is commonly found

from Travis County westward, throughout the Hill Country.

There have also been documented sightings in Fayette County. The Fayette County population is believed to have migrated down the Colorado River thousands of years ago, and is a distinct and different population from those in the Hill Country.

Favored habitat is the fractured calcareous sandstone, which can be found at "the Bluff" and at Monument Hill State Park. They are attracted to the small, woody understory plants there.

The lizards are more active in cooler weather, and mate in October, so now and into November would be a good time to look for them.

Anyone who is interested in lending more eyes for this effort can contact me for more info. ~David Vogel, 979-966-2494

You can find photos on this site

<http://www.zo.utexas.edu/research/txherps/lizards/gerrhonotus.liocephalus.html>

And a distribution map and descriptive information here:

<http://www.californiaherps.com/noncal/misc/misclizards/pages/g.infernalis.html>

Next Training Class begins
Saturday, February 7, 2009

HERB GARDEN WORK DAY at WINEDALE

Thursday, October 16, 1:30 pm

For those of you who have been waiting for an opportunity to help out at Winedale, but are not able or available to work on the trails yet, here is another type of opportunity: Verena Aesbacher, of the Herb Society of America, Pioneer Unit, is coordinating a work day in the herb garden at the McGregor House at Winedale. Bring your own tools and come to learn about how to maintain an herb garden.

[Belinda Weatherly](#) is our primary contact with Verena, so give her a call or e-mail if you plan to attend and need directions. Otherwise, just show up and they will be happy to put you to work!

CHRISTMAS AT WINEDALE 2008

Saturday, December 13
12 noon-4 pm

Mary Evelyn Sorrell, Director, Winedale
Center for American History

Christmas at Winedale 2008 is an open house of our historic houses and barns, with volunteers dressed in traditional clothing, demonstrating trades and crafts of the Texian age. Entertainers perform on stage in the theatre barn.

We need demonstrators and entertainers and help guiding the visitors during the open house. Also, we could use more volunteers on the day before to set up.

Sunday, December 7, 11 am

Come to help make garlands and wreaths for Winedale houses and barns, using our native plants—especially cedar. Please contact [Mary Evelyn Sorrell](#) if you'd like to help: 9799-278-3530



More Volunteer Opps . . .

***BISD OUTDOOR
CLASSROOM***

5th Grade— Thursdays, October 2, 9, 16 and 23 at Nails Creek Park, 9 am-2 pm

7th Grade— beginning Monday, October 27 through Thursday, October 30 at Nails Creek Park, 9 am-2 pm

Volunteers are needed to help with the activities which are led by teachers and other leaders. Please contact [Joy Nutt](#)

***Texas Wildlife Association
LANDS PROGRAM
for Brenham Jr. High***

Friday, October 17 at Rocky Creek Park at Lake Somerville or Washington County Fairgrounds in Brenham, 9 am-2 pm

Volunteers are needed to help with nature-related activities for 7th graders. Leaders are AgriLife agents and other TWA volunteers. Choose either location. Please contact [Dave Redden](#)

***WILDLIFE
REHABILITATION***

Linda Kay Behrend needs volunteers to help care for animals that were rescued after Hurricane Ike at Curly Q Refuge. Please call [Linda Kay](#) for details.

***ANNUAL STATE MASTER
NATURALIST MEETING***

***Friday, Oct 24-Sunday Oct 26
At Mo-Ranch, Hunt, Texas***

There's still time to register for this meeting which is loaded with Advanced Training and Volunteer opportunities. See the [web site](#) for registration information.

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

***BISD OUTDOOR
CLASSROOM GIFT***

Nancy Oertli, Science Specialist, BISD

The Gideon Lincecum Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists recently contributed \$1000 toward the expenses of the Outdoor Classroom project in Brenham Independent School District. Nancy Oertli, Bonnie Brinkmeyer, principal at Brenham Middle School, and Artis Edwards, principal at Brenham Jr. High accepted the check which was presented by Dave Redden.

Besides financial support, the Master Naturalists contribute hundreds of volunteer hours every year. These dedicated volunteers share their time and expertise with our students to increase understanding of the natural world in which they live.

***Gideon Lincecum Chapter
Earns Grants***

ExxonMobil and IBM have both recently given grants to the Gideon Lincecum Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist™ program. The unrestricted grants from the two companies, totaling \$6500 over the past year, were given as part of ExxonMobil's and IBM's separate efforts to encourage its employees and retirees to participate in community volunteer projects.

Dave Redden, an ExxonMobil retiree, and Randy Reddemann, an IBM employee, report that the grants are already being used to support Fayette County 4-H's WHEP team, the Washington County Wildlife Society, and construction of a prescribed burn trailer for Texas Organization of Wildlife Management Associations (TOWMA).

Future plans include native prairie restoration projects and cooperation with the Center for American History at Winedale in Fayette County and the Burton Cotton Gin in Washington County, in developing nature trails and nature educational areas for the public.