



Gideon Lincecum Chapter Texas Master Naturalist™ *NEWS*

December, 2011



From Your President:

Hi All,

It's hard to believe another year is coming to a close. My mother used to say, "the time goes faster as one gets older". I didn't understand what she meant because I knew every minute was 60 seconds, every hour was 60 minutes, every day was 24 hours and so on and so forth. I have since learned my mother was a very perceptive woman, and youth is sometimes wasted on the young.

It is my perception these last three months have been very profitable for our chapter. I am grateful that I was able to attend the annual state meeting and learn from the excellent instructors that our chapter was able to help sponsor. The keynote presentation was given by Laura Huffman, the Director of The Nature Conservancy of Texas. As I arrived home, I was greeted with a cloud of monarch butterflies feeding on the narrow gayfeather that responded to a recent drizzle of rain. This week I've noticed the black swallow tails feeding on the tropical sage.



Monarch Butterfly

Gayfeather



Black Swallowtail



Tropical Sage

I am very grateful to chapter members Margaret Lamar and Carol Daniels for presenting the program November 12 at Winedale. It has been one of my goals and a great privilege to learn from the expertise of my chapter mates. Margaret has developed a great coordinated program with several local entities to help Brenham Elementary First grade teachers get the kids outside, planting, watching things grow, making dirt, and noting butterflies. Carol provided us with a better understanding of how we can protect our homes from wildfires by landscaping wisely with “fire resistant” plants and avoiding construction techniques that promote air currents, which might carry live embers.

Several members have been working this quarter to develop volunteer projects for next year.

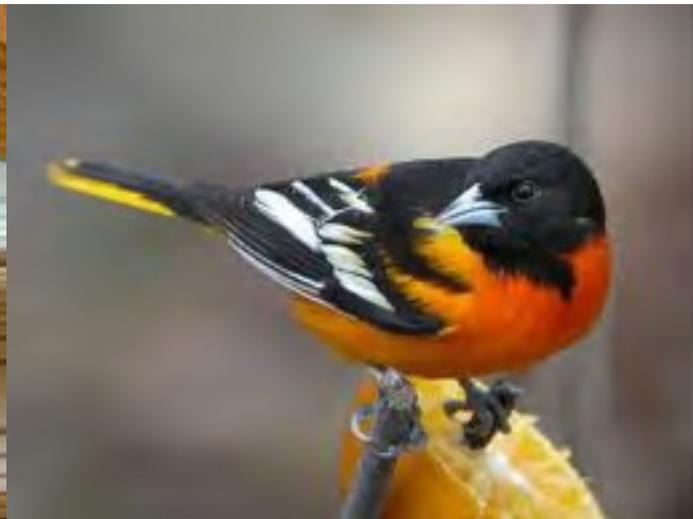
For example, a future volunteer project being considered at Festival Hill involves identification of invasive plants. Can you identify an “invasive” plant? Can you explain why “invasive” plants are not welcome? Elisa Henderson, Judith Deaton, and Carol Montgomery are about to launch a project at Festival Hill that will offer you an opportunity expand your expertise in this field by indentifying, labeling, and even, eradicating the “intruders”. Another example is a greenhouse project at Brenham High School. More information to follow.

Finally, I was also pleased to identify two new visitors to my birdbath, a Northern Flicker, and a Baltimore Oriole.

Northern Flicker



Baltimore Oriole



I look forward to working with ya’ll again next year.

Merry Christmas!

Cindy



2011 HOLIDAY PARTY Friday, December 9

A number of our Gideon Lincecum Master Naturalists and friends attended the annual chapter holiday party on December 9. The party was a lot of fun and many thanks go out to the efforts of Lefty and LuAn Yarnell, Janet Jarrell, and all of those who contributed the great door prizes. We had our party at St. John's United Church of Christ in Burton this year and the facilities were wonderful. Many thanks go to Wes Davenport for procuring the facility for us.

Gideon Lincecum TMNs get to re-connect with one another



Lefty & LuAn Yarnell at the buffett



Election of Officers

During our Christmas Party, as is our annual custom, we had our Election of Officers for 2012:

The results are as follows:

President:	Cindy Rodibaugh
Vice-President	Margaret Lamar
Secretary:	LeMae Higgs
Treasurer:	Carol Daniels



HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

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

Carol Daniels
3701 FM 609
LaGrange, TX 78945

Make your check payable to **TMN GLC**

2012 Training Schedule

Our next Texas Master Naturalist Training class will begin on February 4 with Orientation from 9AM – 1PM. All other classes will be on Monday evenings from 6PM to 9PM, with Graduation taking place on May 7 at 6PM. If you have any questions regarding the schedule or about when a particular topic is being taught, please contact Toni Platt or see our website.

JERRY FRAZIER AND THE DEER RESCUE

Jerry Frazier and his wife have been having an interesting adventure helping to save deer during our drought. Here, in his own words, is his story:

In May of this year, my wife and I had the unsettling experience of finding a new-born fawn walking around our yard. Assuming that it might not necessarily be in harm's way, we decided to take a "wait and see" approach. Unfortunately, the fawn reappeared the next day and we opted to contact the Lone Star Wildlife Rescue (LSWR) for some much needed advice.

They explained to us that fawns can indeed be born in unusual, busy or populated areas. They also suggested, as a general rule, not to automatically attempt to rescue a fawn that is seen moving around during daylight hours. It may well be that the mother will return to the area later in the day. As such, we observed the fawn for an additional day.

The following morning, to our surprise, we discovered that we had actually been observing a pair of twins! Now in our third day, we decided to take them to the rescue facility. The fawn's natural defense is to lie down, curl-up, "freeze," and let their camouflage hide them. However, once found, capture consists of simply carefully picking them up and placing them in a container for transport.

There were already 17 fawns at the facility when we arrived and rescue care is rather unique and expensive. As an example, volunteers are required to purchase and transport fresh goat's milk weekly, because cow's milk creates a number of problems for fawns, including fur loss. It was explained to us that, sadly, in times of stress (such as a severe drought) does may be forced to abandon one or all of their fawns. This was never more apparent than the Spring/Summer of 2011, when the Austin County LSWR eventually rescued over 60 fawns. Some were from as far away as Houston.



In the end, after registering with the State, our two little bucks, along with the additional 9 bucks and 4 does, were released back at our place...all were less than 6 months of age and were fully rehabilitated. So hats off to the fine volunteers at the LSWR. If you find yourself needing wildlife rescue help, your local LSWR number is 979/865-0763 or they can be reached at www.lonestarwildlife.org or through a link on our TMN web-site.

[Lone Star Water Forum Follow-Up](#)

The Native Prairie Committee members from Gideon Lincecum chapter are working with Brenham High School and BISD to install a 100 gallon rainwater harvesting system (RWH) at the greenhouse on campus. When we get that done, by April hopefully, we will begin to propagate native plants in the greenhouse. The RWH system was purchased at a fundraiser auction at the **Lone Star Water Forum** in September and donated to the Brenham Independent



School District. The donors (John and Tay Knapp, two GLC members) have asked that recognition of their contribution be minimized in favor of recognition of the **Lone Star Water Forum** (sponsored by a coalition of Washington County Wildlife Association, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the Gideon Lincecum chapter of Texas Master Naturalists™, Bluebonnet chapter of Texas Master Gardeners™, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Wildlife Association, and LaBahia chapter of Texas Native Plant Society). Their goal is to get the effort of these organizations recognized and to further natural resource conservation education any way possible. The presence of the RWH system installed and working at the high school greenhouse will be a high profile project for our chapter to promote awareness of the Water Forum, rainwater harvesting and native plant propagation. We are lucky to live in a community where so many residents are in one or more of these organizations.

Scott Shaffer of Texas Water Savers in La Grange will be helping us to install the system. Scott was the driving force behind the auction of equipment for the Forum in September. He donated his services for part of the auction package. Please let Scott know that we are grateful for his strong support of the Forum .

The first objective for Charlotte von Rosenberg and the Prairie Project Committee is to work with Scott and the school to get the water collection system installed. Jerry Frazier has stepped up to the plate, cleaning out trash and the invading Bermuda grass, figs and chinaberry trees.

The second objective is to get the green house functioning again and plant seeds of native grasses and forbs in April. Jerry's construction and mechanical acumen and experience with greenhouses will be very helpful. It may be slow going at first getting the systems up and running but will be worth the wait.

All of the apparatus for misting and watering systems are present and intact. We just have to hook up this array of tubes and sprayers. The misting/watering system will need a new timer installed. I don't know about you guys, but I think this is a mystery to be solved. The greenhouse has cranks to open and close the windows – an automatic something -or-other that opens and closes the sun screen on the roof and a myriad of other mechanical gizmos.

My primary source for seed planting information is <http://www.scribd.com/doc/28390230/Coastal-Prairie-Plant-Growers-Handbook-March-2010>. Anyone interested in this activity can read this excellent and user-friendly source. We will plant seeds gathered locally by our chapter members. Did anyone collect any prairie grass seeds this fall? Wildflower seeds? The plants we raise will be donated to BISD and the Outdoor Learning Center. We have so much to build on in 2012! Do any of you chapter members have expertise in native plant propagation? Has anyone attended Tom Soloman's clinics of

“bumping up” greenhouse-grown plants? Any TMNs who want to see the greenhouse and the RWH system can call Charlotte at 512-924-3068 or email to quebefarm@yahoo.com . This is a golden opportunity provided by the Knapps, Lone Star Water Forum, BISS, and all the volunteer who made it happen. Thanks very much to them.

Trespassers in Texas Project at Festival Hill

A new Committee has been established in order to help the caretakers at Festival Hill, Round Top with reducing the number of invasives on the property and eventually replace them with Texas Natives. Chairing the committee will be Elisa Henderson, Carol Montgomery and Judy Deaton. They have gotten approval for the project and this is something that those of you interested in learning to identify invasive plants vs. native plants can do and get volunteer hours for your efforts! So far, Dave Redden, Tom Yates and Mary Ann and David Butler have volunteered to help with the objectives of this project. Please feel free to help out – many hands are needed if this project is to be a success.

We will have a sign that will advertise our Chapter and hopefully bring in more people who would like to join our Organization. In addition to the sign, some of the objectives will be to place informative labels at strategic locations to identify invasive plants, eradicating plants that have spread from the bamboo grove and to slowly treat and remove other invasives that have been found there, including ligustrum, Chinese tallow and Chinaberry.

We'll let you know when the next workday is planned and hope to see you there!





Volunteer Hours Reports

Volunteer hours reports through December 15 are due to Carol Daniels now. Please include any projected hours until Dec. 31 in your report.

The Texas Master Naturalist Organization depends on accurate reports of each chapter's volunteer activity in order to influence allocation of state funds to support the organization. Late hours are not accepted by them. So please send your hours in whatever form you have them to Carol - - - - nursecdaniels@hotmail.com. Even if you have no hours to report, please let her know asap so she can make an accurate report to the state on time.

NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR: January 21, 2012 at Winedale from 9AM to 11AM

A program will follow starting at 12Noon

"Tree Health in Drought" will be presented by Joe Blanton

Mark your calendars: February 18, 2012 – Potluck dinner and Top Ten Presentations
Time & Place TBA

