



Gideon Lincecum Chapter Texas Master Naturalist™ *NEWS*

June, 2012

From the President:

Congratulations to the Graduates of the TMN-GLC class of 2012



I thoroughly enjoyed the celebration and look forward to working along side all of you.

The evenings have become loud with the sounds of insect life. The Rodibaugh grounds seem to have a lot of cicadas! There are a few frogs in the background, occasionally. I remember during the very, VERY dry days of last year, it was soooooo quiet! It is good to hear these critter noises. I have also seen three families of barn swallows fledge and two families of bluebirds. I am surprised the bluebird family is still here.

I've acquired a new respect for spiders. I do not know what kind of spider this is, but it took

on the scorpion. This challenge took place behind my front door.



Can you see this little spider had this scorpion by the tail?

I watched this contest for quite awhile.

Eventually, the spider hung the scorpion by his tail and left him wiggling. Sorry, humanity intervened.

I'd like to share with ya'll

an article Cecil Rives sent me from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists titled, "Tallgrass Harmony; Buffalo Roam as Oil Pumps". The successful coexistence of tallgrass, buffalo, and oil pumps is a great success story.

<http://www.aapg.org/explorer/2012/06jun/tallgrass0612.cfm?zbrandid=4051&zidTpe=CH&zid=11869928&zsubscriberId=1001017108&zbdom=http://aapg.informz.net>. Thank you Cecil.

I'd also like to share that both Mr. Farhrenthold and Kristine Uhlman, who provided our chapter program on May 19, complimented the audience on their interest in the weather analysis and Texas Well Owners Network (TWON) presentations given. Each of them was very pleased with the thoughtful and intelligent questions.

The school year has ended---time for summer camp. Due to many budget cuts, there are fewer summer camps available. Our help has been requested to support a 4-H youth education program in Fayette County. The GLC executive committee has approved sponsoring two (2) 4-H members to attend the Fayette County 4-H Wildlife/Fishing Camp which involves a rafting trip down the Colorado River to learn about river history, ecology of the riparian system and the importance of preserving water. I met with the 4-H & Youth Development county extension leader and discussed her program agenda. Our chapter will contribute \$60 to sponsor two 4-H members.

While we're on the subject, Aaron Weishuhn has been selected to attend the Youth Range Workshop this summer as a junior leader and has asked for our sponsorship. Kara Matheney, the Colorado AgriLife Agent, introduced Aaron to our chapter last year. We sponsored Aaron to last year's TSSRM Youth Activity and he demonstrated his enthusiasm for rangeland knowledge by earning several awards, which he shared with us at our September 2011 chapter

meeting. He's an outstanding young man, currently planning to graduate from Columbus High School in May 2013 and attend Texas A&M University College Station with a major in rangeland ecology. I hope you will be available to meet him when he reports from this year's camp. The executive committee has approved to give Aaron \$150 needed to complete his camp costs. He has received partial sponsorship from the Colorado County Beef and Forage Committee.

There is **no chapter meeting scheduled for July** due to Winedale's Shakespeare Summer Camp performances.

Find a niche. There is much to do. See you at the next workday.

P.S. I received a request for the physical locations of the chapter volunteer projects for those unfamiliar with the territory. The Festival Hill Invasive plant project is conducted at the Festival Hill Institute immediately east of Round Top on Rt 237. The Indian Creek Nature Trail is behind the Burton Cotton Gin in Burton Texas. If you Google Festival Hill, or Burton Cotton Gin you will find a map.

In the future, I will attempt to include the physical address when I send out announcements. The chapter needs a publicity committee. *Any volunteers?*

Cindy



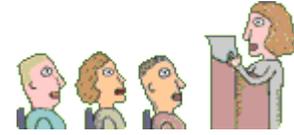
My adopted green house grasses seem to be doing OK, not quite ready for the field. How are yours doing?



A Good Recruitment Tool

Contributed by Bill Dudley, recent GLC TMN program graduate
And Judy Deaton, GLC TMN Outreach

Columbus Lions Club Meeting



A big Gideon Lincecum *Thank You* to Colorado County Extension Agent, Kara Matheney, for arranging this opportunity. Kara spoke briefly to the Columbus Lions Club about TMN and introduced Judy Deaton and myself for our presentations.

Judy explained how we, as TMN, try to serve in the best interest of our five- county area through education and hands on conservation efforts. She recounted with great enthusiasm, the many Chapter projects, currently underway and our need for more volunteers to contribute in a variety of worthwhile endeavors. The opportunity to help protect our Natural World is available to all, and we would welcome new members to our next training class in the Spring of 2013.

My comments were on the Texas Master Naturalist Spring 2012 trainee program I was currently involved in. The finest Texas A&M professors and experts from Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. presented classes to us on subjects ranging from Geology to Insects. We are learning the latest information available on invasive species eradication, weather trends, farm pond and range management, harmful insects and even how to identify animals by age old tracking methods.

I hope we have recruited some Lions to our Chapter. Thanks again Kara.

.....Bill

And *Thank You* to Bill Dudley as well Agrilife’s Colorado Extension Agent, Kara Matheney, for this great opportunity to get out our message to the community. Speaking at club events is a wonderful recruiting tool and we should make ourselves available to the extension agents in the future to present such programs. Bill was indispensable at this event and has agreed to take on the responsibility of recruiting for our classes in Colorado County for this year. The Lions Club seemed to enjoy our presentation and asked questions afterward. Bill has spoken to several of their members about joining the Chapter. It would help our recruiting effort to enlist one member from each of our counties to actively seek members for next year’s class. This would enable us to cover more area in the recruiting effort. The volunteer work would comprise attending a number of your local county Agrilife and Texas Parks and Wildlife events and any others that may be relevant. Many of you know the people in your neighborhoods, family and friends and can put the word out. After five years of traveling all over the five county area to all the events, I would like to continue to actively recruit in Washington County and coordinate a recruiting group, the rosters and spreadsheets. We need representatives from Lee, Austin and Fayette Counties. ***Are any of you willing to help?*** If so, contact me: judithdeaton@gmail.com.

.....Judy

Brenham ISD Outdoor Classrooms:

What is Outdoor Classroom?

Contributed by Carol Paulson

Pictures by BISD Sixth Graders

How many of you, when in sixth grade, had the words fungi, hard mast, soft mast, forb or carrion as part of your vocabulary? Well, our Outdoor classroom kids do. On their Scavenger Hunt as part of their Brenham Outdoor Classroom at Lake Somerville, they had to locate those items as well as 27 others. Many of them had never seen a snag, a forb or greenbriar, and those who had did not know what they were called. In addition to outdoor vocabulary, the class that took place in May also took a hike through the woods to look for "Signs of Life". We all know that animals are not usually out during the day, especially when 20 sixth graders are marching through the woods, but we also know that if we look, we'll see signs that the animals are living there.



In addition, a new segment has been added in the past few years to the learning experience. The schools own about 10 hand-held GPS trackers. So the simple art of finding a fixed point has evolved from the compass to the GPS system. And our sixth graders learn how it works. This can result in a fun hobby called geo-caching or in a life saving learning experience. If you use your hand held GPS to fix a starting point before taking off through the woods, you can surely find your way back.

Outdoor Classroom students at this level also learn about conservation. The Birch Creek Unit at Lake Somerville has a wonderful headquarters built to show how a "green system" works. The students learn about water catchment, and solar energy.



As one of the children said to me at the end of the day: "This is so much fun!. It's the best day of my life!" So much fun, but the children don't forget it counts for a science grade.

The next time a flyer is sent out requesting help for Outdoor Classroom, give some thought to volunteering. You will learn a lot yourself and make a big difference for the future of our kids.

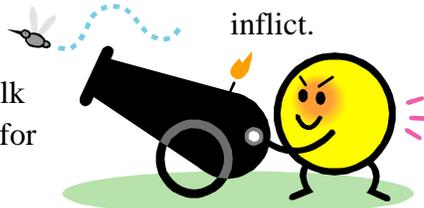
A Master Naturalist Looks at Nature's Remedies

Contributed by Kathy Cihlar

The Perils of the Long Hot Summer

So you want to spend the late afternoons listening to the cicadas, waiting for the lightning bugs, and sipping on something cool. ----Well, if you're not screened in, you begin slapping, swatting and possibly swelling. The bugs have arrived. Your pets are digging and scratching at their fur and you realize the snakes are out feeding too. Welcome to Texas.

There are a few natural things that may help get us through the summer without having to absorb too many chemicals or use dynamite to rid us of some of these pests---or treat the bites and stings that they



inflict.

First off let's talk or I should say for attack weak or allergy to the

fleas. It's supposed to be a bad year for them our pets. Fleas are opportunistic and will older animals first. Some animals have an saliva of the flea. The best prevention is a well

nourished pet. Treat from the inside out. Fresh omega 3 fatty acids in the form of fish oil will stimulate the immune response. Herbal powders comprised of equal parts of as many of the following powdered herbs as possible may help: eucalyptus, rosemary, fennel, rue, peppermint, lavender, and chrysanthemum (1/2 part), basil, wormwood, yellow dock. Mix with cornstarch and apply to pet. Remember pets will lick, so best to keep in areas that they can't reach. 'Food grade' diatomaceous earth can also be used on the coat or mixed with the food of horses, cats and dogs. It can also be applied to the yard.

To rid your house of fleas, bathe pets often with a natural herbal soap, spray beds with cedar, vacuum frequently and try placing soapy water in a bowl with a lamp close. Leave the soapy, warm water over night under the light----it will attract fleas.

Mosquitoes are another favorite and really ruin a picnic. A few familiar plants may help out on your patio. You can dry the leaves and place them in bowls around the place. These plants: catnip, rosemary, lemongrass, mint, marigold and wormwood are aromatic and good at repelling those 'skeeters. All but the last two can be rubbed on the skin for more protection. I choose to use them in oil and add essential oils of lavender, lemon eucalyptus or citronella.

Now we move on to the venomous critters, which at our house involve copperheads and scorpions. The treatment for both of these awful pests is high dose vitamin C and the herbal tincture of Echinacea. These two inhibit the histamine response, which stops pain and swelling. Additionally, Rescue Remedy flower essence can be used in emergency situations for panic and

anxiety. This can be taken by the rescuer and victim.

For those pesky gnats, here's a good one. Put apple cider vinegar in a small bowl and add dishwashing liquid---they get in and they can't get out.

Hey if anyone knows how to get rid of #*+! leaf cutter ants please send help, as I am about to resort to dynamite.



Get out and enjoy Nature----KC out.



CALENDAR FOR THE NEXT MONTH OR 2?

Make sure you mark all of these on your calendar. Each opportunity here will increase your knowledge as a Master Naturalist and help to make others aware that our planet needs our help. (The camaraderie is a big bonus too!) These are in date order:

Monday, June 18 –8:30AM – 10:30AM – TMN GLC Roadside Clean-up

Meet at St. John's Lutheran Church, Rutersville

Friday, June 29 - ?AM-?PM "A Celebration of Wildflowers and The Year of The Bat"

A tour of the Lady Bird John Wildflower Center, Westcave Preserve and a Bat Cruise in the evening. RSVP gretalamar@gmail.com or call 979-551-0585

Tuesday, July 10 – 6:30PM "Tracks & Scat – Who is Visiting Your Property?"

A talk by our own Cheryl Karr to help us identify the critters on our property. Round Top Family Library, 206 W. Mill, Round Top, TX

Tuesday, August 14 – "Texas Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation"

A Talk by Susie Rigler, a permitted Wildlife Rehabilitator on animal rescue and rehabilitation.



AND the Award Goes To:

Of all of the guesses I received, no one got them all correct. But the award goes to **Judy Deaton** for 3 correct answers and one really good guess. Here are the identifications made by the people who submitted the pictures:



1.Submitted by Jennifer Prihoda

Sandyland Bluebonnet



2. Submitted by Cecil Rives

Corn Poppy



3. Submitted by Carol Paulson

Scarlett Pimpernel



4. Submitted by Cecil Rives

Texas Toadflax

Cindy's Flower only had one guess – Pink or Purple Paintbrush?



Your signature is now required on your Time Sheets. If you mail them just sign and date them. If you send them *electronically*, then an electronic signature is required. An electronic signature is simply a statement "electronically signed by" (member name), email address and date.

Make sure you RSVP to Margaret Lamar re: the Austin trip.
gretalamar@gmail.com or 979-551-0585

