

# March 2011 Newsletter

## From Your President

Hi All,

On February 25, 2011, our state coordinators informed us that it has been proposed at the national level that all funding of state wildlife grants be eliminated. How will TMNs be affected? I don't know, but, I'm looking forward to participating in a two-day chapter coordinator training program, March 30-31, 2011 in hopes of gaining a better understanding. Anyone interested in joining me, please contact Sonny Arnold at: [sarnold@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:sarnold@ag.tamu.edu) or by phone, 979-458-1099.



Each approved volunteer project and our time commitments benefit our communities, as well as individual land owners. As of October 2011, across the state of Texas, there are 37 other chapters that are also learning and implementing beneficial management of the natural resources in their locals through education, outreach and service. I look forward to volunteering with you all to make our 5 county area the best it can be.

*Cindy Rodibaugh*

## January: Burning and Planting



*Cecil Rives (l) an Larry Pierce (r) with the seeding machine*

The new year started with seed planting for the Upland Birding Project. Cecil Rives, co-chairman of the GLC Prairie Committee, and Larry Pierce, Washington County Extension Agent, led the activity. GLC member, Larry Joe Doherty, lent his Truax (no till) drill for seeding the 35 acres. The seed mix provides forage for a variety of birds.

Burning was the other big activity during January. When Washington and Austin Counties lifted the burn ban, our prescribed burn crews were ready. Within 4 weeks, four burns had been completed. Prescribed burns remove undesirable brush and other pasture cover which allows for new growth and new species of forbs and native grasses. As a result a larger variety of mammals and birds will have forage available. Land owned by GLC members, Frank Monk and Judith and Bill Deaton were among the sites burned.



## Program on Water Stewardship: The Individual Landowner and the Municipal Challenge



*Wes Davenport (r) talks rainwater harvesting with Linda Meuth, GLC member*

Water was the topic of the first GLC program in 2011. Wes Davenport, GLC Member, talked about the future of water. He called water the defining crisis of the 21<sup>st</sup> century because aquifers are being depleted below the recharge rate. This is a worldwide problem. In the U.S. it is predicted that 36 states will face water shortages within the next 5 years. Wes also discussed rainwater harvesting, a renewable water source.

This discussion provided the backdrop for Mr. David Van Dressar to discuss the activities of the Fayette County

Groundwater Conservation District. Most of the groundwater in Texas is used for irrigation. There are no recharge areas in Fayette County for the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer. Therefore, what happens in Lee County to protect the recharge areas will be very important to landowners in Fayette County.

It is the duty of the district to monitor use of groundwater to ensure that it is used beneficially. You can find more information about the activities of the [Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District](#) at their website.



*Schaffer (l) discusses water tables with VanDressar*

## February Social and Top Ten Presentations

The 1<sup>st</sup> Social and Top Ten Presentations were held at Winedale on February 19. Carol Paulsen, Chair of the “Top Ten” Presentations Committee, coordinated four interesting and diverse presentations for GLC members.



*American Woodcock in Monterey's backyard*

**Monterey White** showed photos of birds who visited her backyard. The list included the barred owl, the red bellied woodpecker, the American goldfinch, the pine siskin and the fascinating American woodcock shown in the photo.

**Cheryl Kerr** followed with scat identification. The presence of scat is evidence of life and an excellent way to learn which mammals are in the area. Cheryl's exhibit included scat from fox, cougar, skunk, possum, deer, coyote and more.

**Elisa Henderson** presented a list of invasive plants photographed in the Round Top area. She pointed out that humans introduced most of these for aesthetic reasons not realizing that they would spread rapidly. Some of the invasives she discussed are the Chinese Tallow Tree, the Mimosa, Red Tipped Photinia, Chinese privet and Japanese honeysuckle.

By this time, we had covered birds, mammals and plants. What was next? Venomous insects, of course! **Art Wammel** showed photos of black widows, asp, centipede, blister bug and red wasps to name a few. He ended the presentation by sharing that neural toxins found in scorpion venom may be beneficial in the treatment of brain tumors, multiple sclerosis and arthritis.

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities -- April 16

We need your help in staffing TWO events on the SAME DAY! We have been invited to have an education booth at the Antique Rose Emporium in Independence, Texas and at the Cotton Gin Festival in Burton, Texas. If you can help, contact [Cindy Rodibaugh](#).

## Upcoming Event: Invasive Species Program

The Invaders of Texas Citizen Scientist Program is coming to the Gideon Lindecum Chapter on March 26. Mike Murphrey, an invasives expert, will conduct the workshop. The workshop will cover

- identification of the dirty dozen residing in our 5-county area;
- use GPS, compasses, and digital cameras to record data; and
- field safety

You are encouraged to bring your laptop.

**Saturday, March 26, 9am to 4pm,**

Conference Center in Winedale

To register contact Judy Deaton at 936-878-9900

### Chapter Statistics – 2010

- 105 active members
- 17 initial certifications
- 29 re-certifications
- 8 members with 250 volunteer hours
- 1 member with 1000 volunteer hours
- 28 events host be the chapter in 2010

### Next Business Meeting

Saturday, Mar. 19, 9-11 am

Meadows Conference Room

No program following the meeting