



The GLC Tidings

From the President – Betsy Palkowsky



I hope all of you survived the cold snap that started off the new year. [Ed.Note: as of this writing, watch out, another “snap” is here!] The only things that look good in my garden are the native grasses and all the birds hanging out at the feeders.

I’d like to thank all of you for a very successful 2017. It’s amazing what like-minded people can do when they work together. See Leada’s article on the details of our accomplishments.

This year brings a number of changes to our chapter such as the updated *Chapter Operating*

Chapter Officers 2018: Treasurer, Leada Dietz; Secretary, Linda Esco; President, Betsy Palkowsky; Vice-President, Earl Mills.

Handbook (COH). [You will find it on our website.] I recommend all of you take the time to read how we are organized and how we operate as a group. Feel free to contact any of the board members if you have questions regarding the COH.

Speaking of board members, this is the second big change for this year. The great team led by Cindy Hobbs over the past six years has passed the reins to a new set of executive officers: Betsy Palkowsky-President, Earl Mills-Vice President, Linda Esco-Secretary and Leada Dietz-Treasurer. We also have some changes in Director positions and project leaders as shown below. Gosh, there are so many ways members can get involved; what will you do in 2018?

Directors

Past President - Cindy Hobbs

Advanced Training - Cindy Hobbs

Communications - Lori Buffum with the assistance of Sheri Wilcox on Website

Marketing - Tom Shaughnessy and Madeline Johnson covering Publicity and Outreach
Membership - Chris Morrison
Training Class - Jeb Lapeyrolerie and Deb Hilton
Volunteer Service Projects - Cindy Rodibaugh
Youth Education - Donna Mueller (includes AG Safety Day, Scholarships, Science Night projects with the assistance of Carol Paulson on BISD and LANDS programs)

Project Leaders

Adopt-A-Highway - David & Mary Ann Butler
Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR - Terry Rooney
Bellville and Flatonia Science Nights - Lori Buffum
BISD Outdoor Learning (includes L.A.N.D.S.) - Carol Paulson
Indian Creek Nature Park - Judy Deaton
Hospitality - Nita Tiemann
Mill Creek Watershed – Linda Nations
Monument Hill - Karen Woods
Native Prairie Restoration - Charlotte Von Rosenberg
Prescribed Burns - Dave Redden
Steven F Austin Park - Tom Shaughnessy
Washington-on-the-Brazos - David & Julie Itz
Winedale Garden & Trail - Ginny Welch

For those of you who don't know the new executive team, we are recent graduates of the 2016 (Leada and myself) and 2017 (Earl and Linda) classes. Leading this organization wasn't exactly what I thought I would be doing when I took the class two years ago. I thought I would learn more about being a good steward of our 20 acres and help with various projects the chapter is involved with. I am honored that the last set of board members have such confidence in me and the rest of the new executive team.

Other Highlights: It was so nice to see so many folks at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation get together held at SPJST (aka Cooper Farms) in Ledbetter. Around forty of us enjoyed good food, meeting new chapter members, getting to know each other better and ringing in the holiday season. The 2018 Training Class is full thanks to the training committee and in particular, Jeb Lapeyrolerie and Deb Hilton for leading this effort. Come out and meet the trainees at the first class scheduled for Monday, Jan 22, 2018 6:00 p.m. at Winedale.

Don't forget we have our first [chapter meeting](#) of the year Saturday, January 20 starting at 9:00 am at the usual spot at Winedale. The AT program topic is water monitoring, details below. I look forward to seeing you there.



January Chapter Meeting & AT Program plus Extended Water Monitoring Workshop

Our January chapter meeting and Advanced Training program will be on **Saturday, January 20, 2018** at the Meadows Foundation Conference Center at Winedale. The meeting starts at 9:00 a.m. and a 1-hour AT program follows.

Meet our newly elected officers; hear about 2017's accomplishments and project plans for 2018; visit the pollinator garden and walk the new trail at the visitor center; stay for the AT program on water quality testing. Guests are always welcome to meetings and programs.

Following the meeting, Michael Jones, Monitoring Coordinator for the Texas Stream Team, will present a two-part AT program on water quality testing.

Part 1 – Part 1 of the AT program will be a one-hour introduction to water quality monitoring. This classroom program will provide program participants with a basic understanding of monitoring methods. This training is open to all chapter member and guests.

Part 2 – Part 2 of the AT program will be four hours of additional training for individuals interested in becoming a Texas Stream Team Certified Water Quality Monitor. This training includes a hands-on instructional session covering monitoring methods in a classroom and field setting. The Certified Trainer explains how to handle the monitoring equipment and demonstrates the tests. The trainees then perform the tests under the close supervision of the Trainer. Adherence to safety and quality control procedures is emphasized. Trainees are then provided with an opportunity to conduct the monitoring procedures in the field. Safety and quality assurance considerations in monitoring and site selection are emphasized. The volunteers conduct the tests with limited assistance of the Trainer. The Trainer carefully observes the trainees' procedures, answers any questions, and corrects obvious mistakes. When the Trainer believes each trainee has successfully completed the three training phases and the training packet is completed and signed, the trainee is then considered a Texas Stream Team Certified Water Quality Monitor.

Participants who complete both Parts 1 and 2 of the AT program will be certified as Texas Stream Team Certified Water Quality Monitors. Participants who plan to attend Part 2 should bring a lunch, if desired, as there will not be a break to go out for lunch.

All chapter members and guests are welcome to participate in Part 1 of the AT program. Individuals who participate in Part 2 must be willing to commit to monthly water testing for at least one year. If you are interested in monitoring a location outside of the Mill Creek Watershed, a new monitoring location can be established through the Texas Stream Team.

Stars in the Lawn – by Judy Deaton

The other day, while walking under the reclining oak in my front garden, I happened upon this sight which, at first, had me hunting for a hoe. I thought I had crossed the path of another wily tarantula that I normally give a wide berth, but he was really close by my front door. A shiver reminded me that this was just not the right weather for Sir Spider to be out hunting for his ideal lady, nor had anyone been burning grass, so I summoned the fortitude to reach down and flip him over. Not a wiggle. Then I noticed dark brown sepal-like "legs". I took him inside and went through all the search engines and friends on Facebook to finally find that he is an Earthstar fungus - *Gastromycetes* (probably *G. triplex*) or "stomach fungus" (yuck) and is related to puffballs. It occurs here in lawns on decaying wood. They come in many earthy shades of brown and gray and have a central puff ball full of spores. In moist weather, the fungus resembles my tarantula, but in dry conditions the exoperidium closes up to protect the spores. The spores exit the gleba (puffball) via an ostiolar (pinhole in the top of the puffball). I had great fun putting it in water and taking it back out again



GLC Volunteers Rock! – by Leada Dietz, 2017 Membership Director

In 2017, 89 volunteers put in 6,498.08 volunteer hours, worth \$149,454.69 to TPWD; reached 4,622 people through various educational efforts; impacted 323.3 acres through prescribed burns, and 4.65 trail miles in the Winedale and Monument Hill projects. They also amassed 1,187.58 advanced training hours.

This is an increase over 2016 of 9 active volunteers, 250.78 volunteer hours, and 218.18 AT hours. We also reached 1,576 more people and supervised burning 212.3 more acres than we did last year.

We saw 13 initial certifications, 3 from the class of 2016 - Patrick McLaugherty, Linda Nations, and Terry Rooney; 10 from the class of 2017 - Marcia Braun, Steven Capan, Linda Esco, Juliana Itz, B. R. Kohler, Charlene Koehler, Earl Mills, Patricia Mills, Charles Winker and Ginny Welch. Five of those new certifications put in enough volunteer and AT hours to recertify as well: Marcia Braun, Linda Esco, Terry Rooney, Ginny Welch and Charles Winker.

There were 44 recertifications in 2017: Marcia Braun, Gary Buckwalter, Lori Buffum, David Butler, Mary Ann Butler, Debbie Copeland, Carol Daniels, Wes Davenport, Judy Deaton, Leada Dietz, Cathleen Dunne, Linda Esco, Allen Ginnard, Karen Ginnard, Jerry Gips, Steve Jackson, Madeline Johnson, Royceanna Kendall, Karen Mahoney-Woods, Chris Morrison, Donna Mueller, Carol Paulson, Betsy Palkowsky, Mary Ann Peach, Ron Peach, Jennifer Prihoda, Ann Ray, Dave Redden, Cindy Rodibaugh, Terry Rooney, Susan Scanio, Tom Scanio, LaDot Schoeneberg, Nita Tieman, Charlotte Von Rosenberg, Greg Walker, Belinda Weatherly, James Weatherly, Ginny Welch, Sheri Wilcox, Jim Wilson, Charles Winker, LuAn Yarnold, Harold Yarnold, Tom Yates.

Eleven people reached milestones this year. Jerry Gips, Cathleen Dunne, Patrick Dunne, Debra Healy, Betsy Palkowsky and Greg Walker received 250 hour pins, Madeline Johnson, Karen Woods, and Tom Yates received 500 hour pins, and Lori Buffum and Donna Mueller received 1,000 hour pins.

And what did all those people do to earn all those hours?

Projects total: 2,107.13 hrs.	volunteers	hours
Adopt a Highway	12	88.5
Attwater	15	306.25
Indian Creek	18	166.85
Monument Hill	12	67.75
Native Prairie Restoration	18	106
Prescribed Burns	9	199.15
Stephen F. Austin State Park	4	16.25
Washington on the Brazos	11	171.5
Winedale Landscape Project	28	984.88

You will notice that Winedale had a tremendous amount of time invested to complete a big new project that received some serious outside funding. Stephen F. Austin State Park continues to suffer from flood damage, hopefully it will soon be recovered enough to resume the projects planned for there.

County Natural Resource Projects total: 166.5 hrs

These are Master Naturalist activities in any of our five counties that are not part of one of the above projects

Citizen Science total: 816.25 hrs.

CoCoRaHS	12	188
Colorado River Watch	5	143
Hummingbird Round up	2	33
Mill Creek Watershed	3	14
Nest Watch	4	70.5
Project Feeder Watch	11	278.75
Other Citizen Science	9	89

Education/Outreach total: 895.65 hrs.

BISD/LANDS programs	22	497.5
Educational Group Presentations	21	196.65
Outreach Booth	24	201.5

To learn more about each of these volunteer opportunities, check out the website, <https://txmn.org/glc/members-section/volunteer-activities/>

Administrative work total: 2512.5 hrs.

This includes attending chapter meetings, work at state convention store, and all the hours put in by officers and others on publicity, lining up speakers for chapter programs, organizing the training class each year, website, newsletter, and all the other behind-the-scenes work that keeps the chapter operating smoothly.

Monument Hill 2017 – by Karen Woods

As many of you know, we have been actively involved with Monument Hill in La Grange with our invasives removal project since 2013. Two to three times a year, we cull through the Park to remove those Nasty Nandina, Caustic Chinaberry and Lowly Ligustrum.



This past year has been more quiet on the invasives-removal front, as we have been focusing on completing the Interpretive Trail. April/June saw a major milestone: We set the last of the interpretive signs. After 3+ years of plant/tree identification, research, trail-planning and muscle-work, we completed the first phase of the project this year. ***“We couldn’t have done it without the Master Naturalists,”*** said Dennis Smith, Park Superintendent in an interview with the Fayette County Record.

People who have walked the trail this year have highly complimented the work. Our group should be proud to have sponsored this worthy project! A BIG THANKS TO ALL who have supported the work at Monument Hill. I have been very pleased and proud to be a part of this valuable cause.

We will continue our invasives work as we develop the second phase of the Interpretive Trail, beginning in January.

Frosty Fascinations Shared on Facebook – by Terry Rooney, Deborah Copeland and Dave Redden



Photo left posted on Facebook by Terry Rooney.

Terry Rooney: This white ice webbing recently appeared all over the stems of the scarlet sage. [January 2 in Austin County]

Deborah Copeland: Yes, it looks like the ice ribbons on frostweed. According to Mr. Smarty Plants at the Wildflower Center scarlet sage does form these ice crystals as well.

Dave Redden: Here are some frostweed pictures I took the morning it got down to 18 degrees here (Jan. 3). The ice is very delicate. Just a touch and it crumbles. It looks like cotton was strewn all about in my woods. [January 4 in Washington TX]

Photos below posted on Facebook by Dave Redden.



The Prairie is Sleeping - by Charlotte von Rosenberg

Little Bluestem is in full display of copper color right now. If there is a field of Little Blue you can pick it out from the landscape – its color is so vibrant, a refreshing break from the dull color of frozen KR bluestem. There are still a few seeds hanging on, but not much. In March the wildflowers will start. There will be a transformation. We will schedule opportunities for flower ID. Spring is not far away.

A greenhouse planting will take place at Blinn greenhouse sometime in February. Our very first planting at Brenham High School greenhouse took place on February 23, 2011! (Who remembers that? So much fun!) We had almost 100% germination and survival. Then there was the year that the roof blew off the greenhouse and our plant babies froze. Blinn greenhouse is climate-controlled and safe from frost.

We need to decide what to plant and where – for what objective. I would like to time our planting so that young plants can be set directly into the soil like last year with no need for “bumping up”. Everybody hang on to your seeds. Let’s get an inventory and report at the January 20 meeting. More research/planning on the timing is needed there. Let’s put our heads together. Pollinator plants? Prairie grasses? Tree seedlings? How about bird food plants? I just read in National Geographic that 2018 is the Year of The Bird. How about that! This will be a great new year on the prairie!



PHOTO: Snow on Bushy Bluestem on the edge of our pond –
Lori Buffum

Our Chapter Website: <https://txmn.org/glc/> – by Lori Buffum & Sheri Wilcox

We try to keep our chapter website up to date with everything a member needs to know about chapter meetings and training, getting involved in volunteer projects, finding continuing education opportunities, reading meeting minutes and newsletters, paying your dues, contacting officers or committee chairs or project leaders, understanding how to log your hours, and how to help educate others about our mission as Texas Master Naturalists. Please visit often and if you see anything amiss or have trouble finding what you are looking for, let us know. We are the website team: Lori Buffum (buffumhl@gmail.com) and Sheri Wilcox (sheriawilcox@gmail.com).

2018 VMS Updates – by Leada Dietz

- 1) Starting this year, **if you have not updated your profile in VMS, including birthdate, address and contact information**, TPWD will not be able to arrange for your background check and **you will not be able to work on any TMN-GLC project**. The TPWD background check is done for free by the Texas Department of Public Safety.
- 2) Several Volunteer Opportunities have been removed because they were confusing the system. The very first opportunity, “administrative work,” now contains a dropdown box that includes “chapter business meeting” and “state meeting.” Therefore, “chapter business meeting” and “state convention store” have been made inactive as of 12/31/17 so that hours logged there remain in the totals but nothing can be logged there going forward. Use the “administrative work” opportunity and make the appropriate choice from the dropdown box.
- 3) There is a new category under AT. Instead of logging research for a Top Ten under “AT-research in support of volunteer service projects,” log it under “AT-top ten presentation research.” We hope to make the revitalized Top Ten presentations something of value to the larger community as well as to ourselves and this way we can track the hours devoted to it. The actual presentation is still logged under Volunteer Opportunity “Educational Group Presentations.” And for the listeners at a chapter program, it remains “AT-TMN chapter program.”

Forgot to pay your dues? 2018 dues are \$20 per person. Pay online via PayPal or send a check or bring your \$20 to the chapter meeting. Please stick with us; we don't want to take you off our roster!

Our Pollinator Garden and Nature Trail at Winedale – by Ginny Welch

Happy New Year, everyone! Here is a bit of our “hopeful visions” for continuing to develop our project at Winedale in 2018, and beyond.



The garden at the Visitors’ Center is in a dormant state at present. [Photo from Fall in the pollinator garden.] As it is somewhat of a “seasonal” evolution each year, we will be choosing plants that will provide forage and blossoms all year round. The majority will be perennials returning every year; some of the annuals will probably reseed each year, and the trees and evergreen plants (like the Knockout roses) will take us through the winter months. We will be making plans for plant varieties to cover and bridge each season, and grow compatibly with their “friends”.

The main thing we need to remember is, this garden has *high visibility* as it is right in front of the Visitors’ Center which has paths for visitors to walk around as they read our plant identification placards and study the plant

identification guide that was researched by Marcia Braun, Patty Mills, myself, and produced so beautifully by Betsy Palkowsky. It has to be looking pristine all the time because it is not “off in the woods” somewhere, but front and center. So we will have regular “spruce-up” days at least twice a month, if not more frequently during the real growing times when weeds abound.

The Nature Trail was constructed at the end of 2017, and looks wonderful. Many, many thanks to Dave Redden and Earl Mills for their expert siting, grading, and additional big machine work spreading and compacting the road base material. The first batch of seeds for native grasses and wildflowers were sown in November,



and we look forward to seeing them as they germinate this year. Plans to sow seeds in areas around the path and in the adjoining pocket prairies are one of our goals this year. Additionally, we hope to add some benches along the path, a picnic table under the big pecan tree by the monument location at the beginning of the



trail, a small natural looking bed area around the monument exhibiting more pollinator plants, and plant and tree identification placards for grasses, flowers, and trees in front and along the trail. These will be used as “educational” tools for self-guided tours as well as a brochure handout, including a map of the trail and plant information with photos we plan to produce.

Foremost on our list is to develop a plan that addresses Bayer’s “Feed a Bee” grant which was so generously awarded to The Gideon Lincecom Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists due to the hard work of Patrick Dunne who wrote the grant application. Bayer’s main focus is to educate and encourage people to restore safe habitat for native bees and

other bees that includes forage necessary to their productive existence. Bees are one of the most important pollinators for crops, flowers, fruit trees, etc. and their population has been dwindling due to influences from pesticides, clearing of land that once provided good habitat, and the purposeful elimination of native grasses and forbes which are the basis of their diet. Patrick and others will be leading us with recommendations for what we can do to provide these things.

Thanks to all our members who toiled for days, weeks, and months to create the start of our incredible and valuable educational community project. Winedale has received letters and verbal compliments from many visitors and neighbors who have come to admire the beauty of The Garden, and promises of a return to explore and enjoy the Nature Trail as it continues to develop. The Staff at Winedale reports that it “makes them want to come to work each day just to watch all the birds, bees, butterflies and other insects as they come to feed on the nectar....not to overlook the fantastic flight of the hummingbirds as they dive-bomb the flowers and each other!”

For all those who I have not named here who were so instrumental in working on each stage of its development, please forgive the omission. (In my next installment, I will include EVERYONE’s names). But, before I sign off, I want to once again thank Jerry Gips for reviving this offer to University of Texas, stewards of Winedale, and “selling” them on the concept of its value for the community and visitors. Come and join us. We have a lot of fun working together! We’d love to have *you*!



Searched online for hours trying to id this fellow then posted my observation to iNaturalist and voila - an id appeared!! Meet Melanchroia chephise the white-tipped black moth in the family Geometridae. - Lori Buffum Nov. 27 in Bellville TX

Cooper's Hawk finishing off breakfast!!! – Donna Zapalac Mueller January 9 in Fayette County.



Brenham School District Outdoor Education Programs & L.A.N.D.S. Days

Starting March 6th, these two programs will need lots of volunteers throughout the Spring. Please watch the chapter website for the event schedules.

Volunteer Hours Through Project Feederwatch - by Terry Rooney

The Project Feederwatch season began in November. But there are still 3 months to go so it's not too late to join. All you need is a feeder, bird bath or plants that attract birds – and an interest in birds. You start by registering at www.feederwatch.org. Counts are recorded for each species seen during the 2-day count period recording the maximum number seen at any one time. You also record temperature high and low and precipitation. Data is entered into your data section on the website. It's totally flexible when you record – don't worry if you are away from your feeders for even weeks at a time.

Project Feederwatch began in Canada in the mid 1970s. Currently there are over 20,000 citizen scientists contributing data in every state in the US except Hawaii and most Canadian provinces. We provide invaluable bird counts to be sliced and diced for a variety of winter range abundance and distribution bird population maps. This wide-ranging bird population biology cannot be obtained through any other method – and it is important. For example, long-term data from this program showed population declines for the Florida painted bunting allowing state wildlife managers to begin work on recovery.

As I look out the window towards my feeders on New Year's Eve 2017 there are maybe a hundred robins frantically flitting from tree to tree. A single red-bellied woodpecker, northern cardinal and carolina chickadee fly back and forth between the leafless post oaks and the feeder full of black oil sunflower seeds. Texas contributed data from 367 sites during the 2016-2017 season with the northern cardinal the most observed species.

There is an \$18 participation fee. It covers your initial Research instructional packet and a yearend data summary report along with the data tracking and analysis managed through Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada. Feederwatch is almost entirely funded by our participation fees.

Check out their website for feeding and identification tips and educational material. And you can download the free Cornell Feederwatch app to your phone for “on-the-fly” bird identification.



The next GBBC is February 16-19, 2018

Bird watchers of all ages count birds to create a real-time snapshot of where birds are. A fun, free citizen science project for Texas Master Naturalists! <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>

Indian Creek Nature Area and Park 2017 - by Judy Deaton

This year we maintained the terraced pollinator garden at Indian Creek Nature Area and Park. The garden needed to be attended by a team of volunteers working throughout the summer to keep it weeded and watered. The new system we installed of staking out the trail edges has been successful in preventing mulch from washing away due to flooding in the nature area across the bridge and in the smaller trail by the picnic area. Jacquy Pearson has taken over mowing from Dottie Schoeneberg. Several bags of a topsoil that has peat in it and acts as a mulch were used to protect the pollinator bed over winter after we generally cut back summer growth and removed invasive frostweed that turned out to be too big for the bed. A team painted the signpost green, the table terra-cotta red and the trash barrel gray. We had to break up and burn one of the picnic tables due to rot. The bat box still has no bats and we may need to consider relocating it. Ten new native plants from Buchanan's were planted to fill in where the frostweed was taken out. We are waiting for spring to see how the seed and perennials have survived. In 2018, we hope to begin work on extending the trails.

Starting the New Year off on the right foot and a bonus “Happy New Year” from Fayette County Beavers! – by Tom Shaughnessy

John Muir once said, *“Take a course in good water and air; and in the eternal youth of Nature you may renew your own. Go quietly, alone; no harm will befall you.”*

Taking a First Day Hike on January 1 has become as much of a New Year tradition to me as a big bowl of black eyed peas and cornbread. This year was no exception. In normal years, I would lead the First Day Hike at Stephen F. Austin State Park. Unfortunately, the last 2 New Year’s Day have not been normal for SFA SP and the park was closed to the public. So, what’s a naturalist to do? Well, let’s find the next closest public park with a trail system! My search led me to Lake Fayette’s Park Prairie and the Park Prairie to Oak Thicket trailway.

For those not familiar with Lake Fayette, it is a Lower Colorado River Authority Lake and is a cooling lake for the power plant. LCRA maintains 2 public parks on the lake. Oak Thicket Park is the main park and Park Prairie Park is secondary. There is an improved hike & bike trail that connects the 2 parks. The Oak Thicket/Park Prairie trail is 3 miles one way. The trail takes hikers through a variety of habitat including lakeside, riparian, prairie and hardwood forests. My hike began at the Park Prairie trailhead and continued about 2/3rd of the way towards Oak Thicket Park (had to get home and get the peas on!).

I had a squad lined up to join me this year but with near freezing temps in the forecast my peeps bowed out one by one and it ended up being a solo hike. Upon my 10AM arrival at the guard shack at Oak Thicket Park I noticed the place was completely empty save for one lonely truck and boat trailer parked near the ramp. I paid my entry fee, stuck the fee ticket on my windshield and drove to the Park Prairie trailhead. There was not a soul anywhere to be found at Park Prairie Park.

The hike was full of natural adventures. As portions of the trail follows the remote coves I observed many bird species including an abundance of water fowl and even a Ringed King Fisher. Areas more inland, in and amongst the prairie habitat, delivered glimpses of White-tailed deer in their winter gray coats and 100’s of winter sparrows and a sprinkling of Yellow Rumped Warblers (or butter butts as I like to call them).

As I was nearing a point to turn around and head back to the Jeep I noticed something, a peculiar mound of branches, grass and twigs tucked back in a cove and along the bank. The closer I got to inspection the more curious I became. When I was about 10 feet from the mound I noticed that many of the smaller trees and saplings had been gnawed off about 10 inches from the ground. “BEAVER” I thought to myself! Sure enough, a close inspection confirmed I had found a genuine beaver lodge! Although I did not see them, the residents had been busy the night before building their home. Hopefully adding insulation from the winter blast the area experienced during the previous days. Many of the branches were still green and ripe and the mud used to help fortify the lodge still had the wet mud look (and smell) to it.



Feeling that my 2018 was “off on the right foot” I made my way back to the Jeep (although a bit quicker than what I went out with). I am thankful for what I have learned through field work and classrooms and am looking forward to a bountiful 2018 in the great outdoors.

We can all attest to another John Muir quote: *“In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.”* This would include beavers! [LCRA, Park Prairie Website: <https://www.lcra.org/parks/Pages/park-prairie-park.aspx>]

Preparations for Science Nights – by Cindy Rodibaugh

Last year, I volunteered with several other GLC-TMN folks at the Bellville Science Night. Why? Because I was curious about what was being presented to kids. When I saw some of the projects presented by students and the light in their faces as they explained what they had learned, I was inspired.

I recently sat down with the Mrs. Lora Cherry, the “Career and Technology Coordinator, Science and HSTE Teacher in charge of coordinating Science Night at Flatonia, scheduled February 26, 2018 to talk about Flatonia Science Night. Flatonia High School students will be presenting some of their science projects along with some of the community business entities. The goal for the students is to coordinate the problem solving thinking process of scientific investigation to investigating potential career paths. The businesses involved will demonstrate to the students and community the nuts and bolts of their evolution.

Lora tells me approximately 300 people including parents, students, and interested community residents have attended previous science night events. I observed Lora’s senior class students present their projects (which constituted a significant portion of their semester science grade) the last day before the Christmas break. Some of the projects were complex and some were pretty simple. Lora took a group of students to exhibit a project demonstrating the effects of gravity to The American Meteorological Society annual meeting in Austin where they learned not only about a diverse set of scientific disciplines, but also about listening and communicating to others about their project. Explaining to an observer what a project demonstrates can be a complicated task. How do you make people understand? Listening to the observer’s questions and answering appropriately are part of the student’s learning experience.

I left Lora asking myself, how can I, do I, as a GLC-TMN volunteer inspire/teach students, and adults to think about land and environment stewardship? Learning never stops.

Call for TMN-GLC volunteers: Please see the chapter website for details on these two events (and many more).

Bellville Family Science Night – Monday February 12 at 6:30 pm
Flatonia Science Night – Monday February 26 at 5:30 pm



Chapter Resources Keep You Informed, On Track, and In Touch

Gideon Lincecum Chapter Website <http://txmn.org/glc> - visit often for event listings and more

GLC Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/21969044537/> - find us on Facebook and ask to join

Volunteer Management System: Go to the state website to log your volunteer and advanced training hours:

<http://txmn.org/tmn-vms-users/>.

Photo: The intrepid Winedale work crew on January 13th: Ginny Welch reports: “We had a great response and turnout as you can see by the photo. We met at 11 a.m. and were finished at 12:30, exactly. Many hands make light work. I think we all had a good time, and it was good to see everyone after the holidays. Lots of laughter and cajoling were in the air. Hot chocolate was lukewarm by the time people had it, but that was my bad because I hadn’t gotten it hot enough in the first place.”

The GLC Tidings newsletter is published 6 times a year. Submit articles and photos to Editor [Lori Buffum](#).