



## The GLC Tidings

### From the President – Betsy Palkowsky

My oh my, what a busy few months since our last newsletter. I'm sure I'm not the only one in the chapter that is looking forward to the slower months of summer. We have touched over three thousand students and adults through our outreach and service efforts in the past few months. Check out our Facebook group to see some of the highlights.

Additionally, we welcomed 20 new members to the chapter during our graduation/marticulation session April 30th. This is a nice group of people with a wide variety of backgrounds and TMN interests. I look forward to seeing them again at chapter meetings and on our various projects. Thanks go to Jeb Lapeyrolerie and Deb Hilton for pulling together another great program.



I am always learning when I volunteer and it was no different when I helped out at a few Brenham ISD activities. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade quail necropsy class was no different. I admit I am not smarter than a seventh grader in this subject. But I did catch up with some of them. By the end of the long day it was no big deal to help the students learn what's inside one of these small birds and quickly identify and properly pronounce various internal organs. Some of the comments I heard from the kids were: 'Thank you', 'What do you do?', 'What company do work at?' (great chance to spread the TMN motto), 'This was fun', 'It wasn't as bad as I thought it was going to be' (I agree), 'Can we dissect its brain?'

LANDS Water Day with Brenham ISD eight graders was another learning opportunity for me and the students. We

spent the day at Larry and Joann Dougherty's place near Gideon Lincecum's home in Longpoint. I helped with macro invertebrates and saw kids light up when they found something in their nets. I learned a few new words and got to know some of our sponsors and partners better.



The plant "sale" at the Cotton Gin Festival in Burton was a big success. We received \$100 in "in kind" donations which will go to the Bill Deaton Scholarship fund. Our booth with a variety of interesting topics (thanks to all that brought educational material) drew in over 50 folks. Thanks to the rain manager, we were able to stay dry throughout most of the event.



There is no end to the many ways we can give back to our community through learning, outreach and service. Before things slow down in the summer months, there is still plenty of Spring work to do. Check our website calendar for volunteer service opportunities in the weeks to come.



*As always, the time you put into the various aspects of the chapter is appreciated.*

## May Chapter Meeting and AT program

I invite you to attend the chapter meeting, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 9 - 10:30, followed by advanced training from 11 – 1. The meeting is being held at the **New Ulm Lion’s Club Center, 1722 FM 109, New Ulm, Texas 78950**. This month’s topics:

Donna Mueller, TMN-GLC Youth Education Director, will present her ‘Bite me or leave me Bee’ program. This is an educational awareness program designed to familiarize you with potential hazards in nature. It will teach you what you can do to help deter the spread of potential lethal viruses, protozoan infections and to recognize venomous fauna. Awareness topics include rabies, venomous snakes & spiders, Chagas disease and the Zika virus.

Kathryn Hokamp, Butterfly Entomologist, Cockrell Butterfly Center, Houston Museum of Natural Science will present information on a new Texas Butterfly Monitoring program. The Texas Butterfly Monitoring Network is a long-term citizen science project formed in cooperation with the [North American Butterfly Monitoring Network](#). Kathryn will explain how you can become a part of this interesting citizen science program that records and assesses the movement of butterflies throughout Texas.

## Meet the Graduates – Class of 2018

Congratulations to our 20 newest Texas Master Naturalists!



[From left: Jeb Lapeyrolerie (Training Co-director), Annette Holdeman, Rachel Spurr, Rory Johnston, Karen Bookout, Tom Bookout, Amy Nini, Pam Green, Penny Hendrix, Luther Moore, Greg Lecklitner, Jon Watkins, Jamie Lee Manning, Janice Hughes, Karen Gardner, Randy Hegemeyer, John Gardner, Don Hinze, Deb Hilton (Training Co-director), Diana Kies, Robert Youens]

## The Parasitic Paintbrush

Indian Paintbrush (*Castilleja indivisa*) -- "All right, y'all: Time to learn a new word! Indian paintbrushes — those beautiful flowers often seen dotting fields of bluebonnets with fiery red — are "hemiparasitic." That means they dig their roots into neighboring plants to steal nutrients, making it especially risky to transplant these colorful annuals. A Texas native that also occurs in neighboring states, *Castilleja indivisa* is a member of the snapdragon family, and its color comes from bracts rather than petals. These bracts are leaflike parts situated around and under rather inconspicuous whitish-yellow flowers on the upper third of the plants. The whole ensemble resembles a paintbrush dipped in crimson-orange pigment. No wonder they're naturals at painting a landscape!" - *Text from the Wildflower Center; photo from Lori Buffum*



## Homage to the Texas Dewberry – by Madeline Johnson (Dewberry Devotee)

Black, luscious, prickly, and tasty – that is how I would describe my favorite berry. I love the native dewberry that grows everywhere in Texas. I start looking for the familiar white blossoms in March (well, actually February but that's because I can't wait). I know that this fantastic little berry is just waiting to emerge into the delicious fruit that will be the centerpiece of my desserts in May. I was able to pick enough dewberries in April this year to make two pies, two cobblers, and have fresh berries for my yogurt (and we are just getting started)! Given my enthusiasm for this delightful little berry, I thought it appropriate to pay homage to it (and possibly encourage all of you to pick a few).



The dewberry is a member of the rosaceae family (*Rubus trivialis* Michx). It is opportunistic in its growth habits. If given an opening with a little sun, it will grow and grow. There are times that I think that it may take over our pastures. You will find the largest berries where the soil retains some moisture and the plant has some shade. This means that it mixes well with poison ivy so check out the neighborhood before picking. It is woody with lots of thorns along its branches and I always have to pause and remove a few thorns from my hand while I am picking. Its 5-petal white flowers provide nectar for bees when there is little else blooming. You can see its "rose" features in its flowers and thorns. It is a perennial which is difficult to eliminate when it grows where it is unwanted. The Cedar Waxwings harvest these berries with joy. They perch in a nearby tree, swoop down to grab a berry, return to their perch where they savor the berry, and then repeat the process over and over until there are no more berries in that patch.

Now, for the really good part. You will need 3-4 cups of berries for this classic, easy-to-make cobbler recipe. Preheat the oven to 350°. Melt the butter in the baking pan by inserting it in the oven while pre-heating. Mix together 1 cup of flour, 1 cup of sugar, 2 tsp of baking powder, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of milk. Pour the batter into the pan containing the melted butter. Wash your berries and sprinkle them on top of the batter. Don't you dare stir it! Just drop them on top. Bake for 25-30 minutes. Serve with Blue Bell Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream. Smile and enjoy!

## WATCH A WEBINAR: Bumble Bee Ecology and Conservation



**May 22, 2018 12:00 noon:** Join the conversation to learn the conservation status of North America's bumble bees, threats they face, and conservation measures known to support healthy bee communities. Learn the basics of bumble bee ecology and identification, and the role that important habitat features and land management play in supporting robust bumble bee communities. Presenter: Rich Hatfield, Senior Conservation Biologist, Xerces Society

<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/bumble-bee-ecology-and-conservation>

## Washington-on-the-Brazos -- by Julie & David Itz

On our March 17 workday in the pollinator garden at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, Julie and David Itz, Jan and Dave Redden and Sheri Wilcox worked to tidy the garden and trim back freeze-damaged plants. The five of us posed in front of the Orange Honeysuckle (*Lonicera ciliosa*), one of the first plants in the garden to bloom this spring.



David Itz, Jan Redden, Sheri Wilcox, Dave Redden, Julie Itz

At our next workday on April 14, we found that many more plants had greened up, and more flowers were blooming. Julie, Jan, Dave, and Sheri spent about an hour and a half pulling weeds. Sheri planted three Mexican sunflowers (*Tithonia rotundifolia*) that she had grown from seed.

The next two scheduled WoB workdays will be on Saturday, May 12 and Saturday, June 23 from 9 am-11 am. We welcome anyone who would like to join us pulling weeds and tidying the pollinator garden.



**Cathy Nolte, Republic of Texas Complex Superintendent** Earlier this spring we learned that Cathy Nolte, Superintendent at Washington-on-the-Brazos, will be retiring in mid-June. Cathy began her career with TPWD in 1996 at WoB. She's a member of our Gideon Lincecum Chapter and had this to say about our work at WoB: *"It has been wonderful working with the Master Naturalists on this project and the special programs that have been presented! As an organization, the Naturalists 'talk the talk and walk the walk', accomplishing so much that is beneficial to wildlife and nature in general and great at educating the public! And all who have helped here are superb representatives of the group. Thank you for all you and each Naturalist have done here at WOB, it is greatly appreciated!"* We wish Cathy a happy retirement!

## After the Storm – by Julie Itz

On April 29, I visited WoB and walked along the trail leading from the Visitor Center, past the site where the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed in 1836 on my way to the Brazos River. I noted butterflies enjoying the wildflowers in the fields beside the trail.



As the trail got close to the Brazos River, I noticed the large pecan tree was leafing out. They estimate that this tree dates back to the Republic of Texas era, and is unique to this area of Texas, since it is a species native to Mexico.

Passing by the pecan tree, I walked to the area which used to overlook a lake, until Harvey damaged the dam causing the lake to empty. The break in the dam also made the path to the Wildflower Loop area impassable.



Recently, the WoB maintenance staff was able to access the Wildflower Loop area, retrieving and relocating a bench donated in memory of the late Bill Deaton, a dedicated



Texas Master Naturalist of the Gideon Lincecum Chapter. The staff had to cut and chop their way through brush and saplings that have taken over the path. Access to the Wildflower Loop area is possible only by 4-wheel drive park vehicles when the ground is dry enough. In addition, the Loop area has been damaged by feral hog activity. The future of the Wildflower Loop is dependent on decisions at the Regional and Austin divisions of Texas Parks & Wildlife, as well as the allocation of funding, and WoB is just one of many Texas parks that sustained Harvey damage.



## Monetary Musings - by Leada Dietz, GLC Treasurer

As government funding at all levels for environmental concerns decreases, volunteer organizations like ours become more essential to maintaining our homeland and educating our neighbors. In the last two years, we have planned or established many new pollinator gardens (Washington on the Brazos, Winedale, Stephen F. Austin State Park, Indian Creek, and one in Giddings) and participated in a new citizen science project, Mill Creek Watershed. There are start-up costs for such projects.

As a 501c3 tax exempt charity, there are limits on how we can raise money, and Texas regulations governing 501c3 organizations allow for only two "sales" per year. Our two main income streams are dues, \$1,600 in 2017, and training class, which netted \$1,659 in 2017 for a total of \$3,259. Much of the training class income goes to cover its expenses.

Our main outgoing streams are our 4-H scholarships, one \$500 scholarship to each of the five counties for a total of \$2,500, and hospitality supplies for the training class, chapter meetings, and Christmas volunteer recognition event, which was \$925 in 2017. And there are multiple other smaller expenses for educational and outreach supplies.

We do not "earn" enough to cover what we spend. Fortunately, as a 501c3, we can accept donations and apply for grants, which is how we have funded the extensive Winedale projects. As we expand our pollinator gardens to more locations in the five-county area, we will have to continue to seek grants and partners to help with our start-up expenses as well as find other creative ways to raise money within the constraints of our bylaws and 501c3 status.

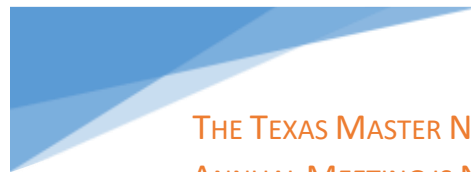
### Grants to Support TMN GLC – by Dave Redden

At a recent chapter board meeting, there was discussion about various ways to raise money for our education and conservation projects. One of the best ways is to apply for corporate grants. Some corporations, such as ExxonMobil, BP, and IBM have contributed to our programs in the past through their support of employee volunteer involvement in activities such as TMN. If you are currently an employee or retiree from a corporation, you might be eligible to apply for such grants. They are usually based on the number of hours you have spent in volunteer work. We encourage all of you to check with your employer or former employer to see if such grants are available. This is a great way to support our chapter and allow us to have a greater impact on the community. Remember to coordinate with our chapter officers anytime you plan to apply for grant funding.

### Bobcat - not the skid steer type



Photo by Earl Mills' son-in-law who was up early calling turkeys at the Mills' place on Waldeck Cemetery Road near Round Top, April 22.



THE TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST 2018  
ANNUAL MEETING IS NOW ACCEPTING  
PROPOSALS FOR PRESENTATIONS!  
(DEADLINE EXTENDED TO FRIDAY JUNE 1.)  
THE TMN PROGRAM WELCOMES YOUR  
PROPOSALS AS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR  
AGENDA! SUBMIT ONLINE:  
<http://txmn.org/2018-annual-meeting/>

## Membership Memo - by Chris Morrison, Membership Director

What if you discover you made a mistake when you put one of your AT or volunteer hours entries into VMS? If it has already been approved, or if it's beyond the 45-day window, then I'll have to fix it for you. Just send me an email with what needs to be changed.

If it hasn't been approved yet, but the mistake is that you put it in the wrong category, you'll have to delete the entry and put the correct info into a new entry with the right category. The state VMS people have asked the software developers multiple times to change this process, but no luck so far.

If it hasn't been approved yet, but the mistake is anything other than the category, AND it's within the 45-day window, you can make the changes or additions yourself. The procedures for deleting and editing are below.

### To DELETE an entry completely:

1. Log on to your VMS account. From your Dashboard, choose View my Logbook.
2. Find the entry that needs to be deleted. If it hasn't been approved yet, there will be a box to the left of it. Click in that box.
3. Scroll down the page to find the Delete This Entry button and click on it.
4. If you are going to enter new hours, return to the Dashboard and choose Report My Service. Enter as usual.

### To EDIT an entry:

1. Log on to your VMS account. From your Dashboard, choose View My Logbook.
2. Find the entry that needs to be edited. If it hasn't been approved yet, there will be a box to the left of it. Click in that box.
3. Scroll down the page to find the Edit This Entry button and click on it.
4. You will see a screen with your entry on it. Fix what needs to be fixed, then click OK or Submit at the bottom.

Thank you for recording all of the hours you put in. Remember that TPWD can get over \$23 from grants for each of your volunteer hours.

## A Prairie Stomp – by Charlotte Von Rosenberg



It was a beautiful day on the Prairie for the last field day of the GLC 2018 Training Class! Amy Thomsen led our group across Quebe Prairie. We saw Prairie identifier plants such as Maximilian sunflower, prairie plantain, Illinois bundleflower. Warm season native grasses big and little bluestem, Indian and Switch are just now greening up. Our chapter will tour the prairie again in August/September when grasses are in full bloom. At harvest time we collect seed. Special thanks to Amy Thomsen, Debbie Copeland, Judy Deaton and all who helped with ID and Dave Redden for bringing his drone.

## Chester's Revenge – by Judy Deaton

While enjoying a sunny day at the Krause Elementary Pocket Prairie with the bright faces of the fourth graders who were, I hoped, learning the joys of bats, one observant young man pointed, giggling, at my jeans and said, “You have a caterpillar on your jeans!” “Where?” “There, down at the bottom.” Lots of tittering.



Checking out the obvious, I found a soft squishy little critter climbing a denim tree. My first impression was that it might not be good to let him continue his peculiar quest, but on reflection, with 27 smiling faces watching my next move, it seemed to me that this could be a ‘teaching moment’. We *are* Texas Master Naturalists!

“I wonder what kind it is?” Hmmmm. I did not want to show that my grasp of larval provenance was not as solid as the critter’s hold on my blue jeans. “He is so cute. I think I will just leave him alone while we have our talk. He won’t bother me.” And so it went. Chester the Caterpillar remained in place until the last kid bid goodbye to the “fruit bat eats banana” video. Success in hand I piled into my car and drove to HEB for the usual victuals. (*I forgot Chester.*)

Then I piled back into the car for a visit to the tractor repair shop. Then I piled back into the car to hand-deliver a long-suffering, well-traveled thank-you letter to Bluebonnet Electric. They were doing some roadwork outside of Bluebonnet and I was obliged to turn around and wait in a queue for some time to get to the entrance. Phew, I’m there. I slowly crunched in over the gravel into a lovely paved car parking lot relieved to be out of the fray, pulled into a space ... geez! My foot slipped completely off the brake onto the accelerator and my Forester lost its mind. We lurched up the curb and promptly bounced to a halt in the carefully groomed Bermuda lawn.

Stunned, I was sure the sheriff’s office would look upon the episode askance. Feeling elderly and foolish, I went inside sheepishly and delivered my missive to a very nice woman who wondered what in the world was up (I must have been a tad blanched), “Are you here to pay your bill?” “No” “Is this letter to go to the business center or something?” (I think that’s what she said.) “No” “Ok, then what is it?” I woke up. “A thank you note.” “Well then, I’ll just make sure it gets to the right person. Have a good day!”

I drove home grateful. Pulling into the garage, I was greeted fondly by my pup and looking so forward to a hot cup of coffee, but I had left my purse in the car. I dragged back out, opened the driver’s door and ... there he was. A schmaze all over the grooves on the slippery brake pedal.

I’m sorry, Chester!

## Try your hand at the NPSOT Native Landscape Certification Program – by Sheri Wilcox

Are you volunteering at one of our pollinator gardens? Our chapter has approved the NPSOT Native Landscape Certification Program as AT for our members. I attended the Level 1 class at Houston’s Armand Bayou on April 28th. TMN-GLC members Charlotte and B.R. Koehler were there too.

Each class focuses on a list of 45 desirable and 5 undesirable plants that are native to the eco-regions of the area where the class is held. The plants were presented individually by NPSOT members who provided information on growing conditions, size, blooming period, and many other qualities. The highlight of the class was a plant walk through Armand Bayou where we were able to see many of the plants on the list. Our guide was exceptionally knowledgeable and engaging, sharing her knowledge of the plants on the list and others we encountered on the walk.

Some of the very interesting things I learned were:

1. How to tell *salvia coccinea* from *salvia greggii*, both of which answer to the common name cherry or scarlet sage. The latter, *salvia greggii*, is a shrub form of *salvia*. I will put that one to immediate use at the Washington-on-the-Brazos pollinator garden.
2. Identified a “mystery grass” that I have been searching for in my grass books. It turns out it is not a grass, but Cherokee sedge. Many probably know the rhyme, “Sedges have edges. Rushes are round. But grasses have joints when no one’s around.” What the rhyme does not explain is that sedges can have leaves and seed heads that make them look very like grass.
3. Heard some fun facts about obedient plant. There are both a spring and a fall blooming form. Its name comes from the fact that blooms will stay in place where you bend them.

[The pictures shown below from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center are reprinted with permission along with credits to the photographers.]



Salvia greggii, Michael Dana



Cherokee sedge, Pete Romfh



Fall obedient plant, Alan Cressler

### Indian Creek Nature Park – by Judy Deaton

During April we had one excellent workday at Indian Creek when we weeded and planted out in the pollinator garden and moved a very large amount of mulch using a skid steer kindly provided by Earl Mills. There were few of us so it was very useful. The mulching of the main trail was completed and the smaller trail was completely remulched. Spreading the mulch was quite an effort, so thanks so much to all our volunteers: Earl Mills, Tom and Susan Scanio, Dave and Maryann Butler, and Jan Hughes. Our thanks also to Jacquy Pearson who mowed the week before. After the work day, we were ready for the Texas Cotton Gin Festival the next day during which a number of us led visitors to the Nature Area to explore. We are heading into hotter weather so we will need volunteers who live reasonably close to Burton to help with the weekly watering duty.

### “Toxic Bee-Killing Hitchhiker Beetles (I Know, Right?)”



Posted on May 7, 2018 by Chris Helzer

<https://prairieecologist.com/2018/05/07/toxic-bee-killing-hitchhiker-beetles-i-know-right/>

Thanks to Mark Brown for sharing this article about the Oil beetle (*Meloe* sp.), a kind of blister beetle. The photo is from <http://texasento.net/TXMeloidae.html#Meloe> , confirming that this bug is indeed in Texas. What a fascinating story about *triungulin*! Read the article.



## *Indian Creek Nature Park Looks for New Project Leader and Here are the Responsibilities*

- \* The Nature Area of about one acre belongs to the Texas Cotton Gin so liaise with Steph Jarvis, manager
- \* Plan yearly activities, improvements and set a budget for the Treasurer/President
- \* Maintain the pollinator garden - this includes a watering schedule during the summer months, planting and weeding - contact the Prairie committee for Greenhouse plants
- \* Maintain the fixtures (bridge, tables, swing, trash can, bench, bat box, signposts)
- \* Maintain the 1/4 mile of trails (weed, mulch, fix log edges as floods can cause wash out). Mulch is delivered free by Bluebonnet Electric. Contact them when needed. Arrange for a member who lives close to mow the grass areas.
- \* Coordinate cleanup of Nature Area and park for the annual Cotton Gin Festival in April. It would be great to organize activities for children at the park from Burton schools.
- \* Write up regular status reports with pictures for the business meetings, website, newsletter, Facebook, etc. and maintain Dropbox project folder.
- \* Establish workday schedule and recruit helpers via website calendar and google group emails (third Friday of month)

## *Educating Thousands of Kids at County AG Days – by Donna Mueller, Youth Education Director*

### **Thank you to Team Bite Me!**



Nita Tiemann, Cindy Rodibaugh, Steve Jackson, Dr. Jim Wilson and Donna Mueller presented “Bite me or Leave me Bee” to approximately 300+ 5th grade students within the Colorado county ISD & private school system at the Colorado County Fairgrounds on April 26. Topics covered are Chagas, Rabies, Zika, venomous spiders and snakes.

Nita Tiemann, Cindy Rodibaugh, Rachel Spurr, Cindy Hobbs, David & Mary Ann Butler, Donna Mueller and our outstanding TPWD Wildlife Biologist, Laura Sherrod presented “Bite me or Leave me Bee” to approximately 300 - 5th graders within the Fayette county ISD & private school system.

The venue was at the Fayette County Fairgrounds on May 3rd. Ms. Laura introduced her baby raccoons and snakes. Topics covered are Chagas, Rabies, Zika, venomous spiders and snakes. We paid special attention to the mosquito life cycle which is covered in our Zika presentation. According to the teachers our review was perfect timing for the students STARR testing.



Lee County and Austin County AG days were earlier this year and the final one will be Washington County on May 16<sup>th</sup> when we will mix it up a little and play the Bingo/Scavenger hunt game with more than 400 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

## BISD and L.A.N.D.S. Completes Spring Program in Fine Fettle – by Carol Paulson

From March through May, our Brenham ISD and LANDS programs have taught 2,126 children in grades 3 to 8 about various topics related to nature and the land. We have spent time identifying wildflowers with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, as well as scat and tracks. We have dissected owl pellets with 5<sup>th</sup> graders and explored ways to keep our planet green with 6<sup>th</sup> graders. 7<sup>th</sup> graders got a lesson in Quail and Quail dissection in the classroom. We also dissected a deer pluck with 8<sup>th</sup> graders under the auspices of LANDS on March 6. On April 19, BISD held its annual STEM night at Brenham Elementary for the entire Brenham grade school population, parents, and brothers and sisters. The “official” count (by the sign-in sheet) was 305 grade school students, but there were many more there. And they all came by our Scat & Tracks display and our “hands-on” “Make Some Compost” display. Just ask a kid if he wants to learn how to make dirt and see the answer you get! Or if he wants to learn what kind of poop an animal makes!



We had a 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Enrichment Class on alternate Thursdays at Krause Elementary this spring that will wrap up this Thursday, May 10. Judging by the feedback we have received from the children, a lot of what we worked with them about, they really absorbed. They can give you wonderful answers about the Prairie, Bees, Butterflies, Scat & Tracks, Bats, Quail, and more. This was an experiment that we were invited to participate in at Krause and I think it was a success. We hope to expand the program next year.



In addition, we had 374 students from the BISD 8<sup>th</sup> grade who participated in the LANDS Water Day. We had stations that taught erosion, how to test water for purity, finding aquatic macro-invertebrates, and using topography maps.

All in all, we had a wonderful year thanks to the **MANY** volunteers (including several from the Class of 2018) who spend their days with us at Lake Somerville or at Long Star Ranch in Burton. We are looking forward to again separating our volunteer time between Fall and Spring in the 2018-2019 year instead of it all being bunched into Spring.



### VOLUNTEERS CLEAN UP PORTION OF MILL CREEK WATERSHED

As part of our chapter’s commitment to the *Keep Texas Waterways Clean* program, Texas Master Naturalist volunteers (coordinated by Linda Nations and Robert Mott), participated in an Earth Day event that made the local news.

For the full news release, go to <http://kwhi.com/volunteers-clean-up-portion-of-mill-creek-watershed/>.

## Milkweed for Monarchs – by Jerry Gips

Three species of milkweed have been planted, or very soon will be planted, in our chapter’s pollinator gardens and prairie restorations. 200 seedlings were given to our chapter by Monarch Watch, a non-profit education, conservation and research program that focuses on the monarch butterfly, its habitat, and its spectacular fall migration. Monarch Watch ([monarchwatch.org](http://monarchwatch.org)) promotes the protection and restoration of monarch habitats from Canada to Mexico and has been able to offer without charge to non-profits, educational institutions and individuals over 100,000 milkweed seedlings in the Spring of 2018.

Monarch caterpillars seem to feed exclusively on particular genus and species of milkweed that historically were common and widespread. Habitat destruction has reduced the range and abundance of milkweed and therefore is one significant reason for the greatly reduced numbers of the monarch butterflies. The “free” milkweed program will increase the numbers of milkweed plants across North America.

The three most common milkweed species in our chapter area are *Aclepias viridis* (commonly called Green milkweed or Green antelopehorn), *Aclepias asperula* (Antelopehorn) and *Aciepias oenotheroides* (Zizotes). [Seedlings shown in order left to right – photos by Jerry Gips.]



Our chapter received 100 *A. viridis*, 50 *A. asperula* and 50 *A. oenotheroides* seedlings. Even as seedlings, these three milkweed species show very different leaf shapes. The leaves of the *A. viridis* seedlings are broad and the tips often rounded. *A. asperula* seedling leaves are much thinner while the leaves of *A. oenotheroides* seedlings have a ruffled edge.



Monarch Watch planting instructions suggest planting in groups of three to four seedlings with approximately 50 seedlings per acre. On Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, ten chapter members did just that on the chapter’s Gideon Lincolem Monument Trail prairie and the pollinator garden at Winedale. Those members participating were Ginny Welch, Cathleen and Patrick Dunne, Patty and Earl Mills, Dave Redden (capturing video of the activities with his drone!), Marcia Braun, Jerry Gips, Charles Winker and Linda Esco.

The chapter’s pollinator gardens at Washington-on-the-Brazos, the Schubert House in Giddings and the La Grange AgriLife Building will soon also get new milkweed seedlings.

All of these gardens are looking great this Spring!

## Our First Lee County Project: The Schubert-Fletcher House – by Karen Woods & Cindy Hobbs

**Yea!** We have our first Lee County project: The Schubert-Fletcher Home located at the NE corner and across the street from the Lee County Courthouse in Giddings.

The Schubert-Fletcher Home is registered as a historic landmark. Built in 1879 by August Schubert, a successful business man and civic leader, it is a fine example of Greek Revival architecture. It was later owned by Concordia College and then Roy Fletcher, the first Lee County Treasurer. This timeless piece of history is now being preserved by the county. It further serves as the Lee County Historical Commission, complete with museum, and the office for the Giddings Chamber of Commerce. It is Lee County's hope to restore such a magnificent piece of architecture to its former glory days.



The grounds are in dire need of TLC. And who better to do that than us?!

The Lee County Commissioners, Lee County Judge Paul Fischer and Justice of the Peace Michael York are keen on creating a pollinator garden with a variety of plants, emphasizing natives, of course! *[Plant ID challenge: photo at left of shrub or small tree had a few people stumped until Ginny Welch identified these as Cherry Laurel (Prunus lusitanica). To keep, or not to keep?]* There are separate garden areas, so we can work the grounds in specific phases. We think the project will flow nicely. We will begin on a good-sized bed on the west side of the grounds. A couple of areas will need drip systems. A cistern on the property apparently will convert nicely to a fountain/wildlife water source.

**Our first workday is scheduled for Friday May 11, 8:30 a.m.** We are getting a good initial response, and there's plenty of room for more Eager Beavers. This is a great opportunity to be involved in a TMN project from 'Ground Zero'! Please call Karen Woods (281.682.2810) or Cindy Hobbs (979.338.9374) for further information and/or input/ideas!

### 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/>.

### State Resources Expand Your Horizons

Texas Master Naturalist State Website <https://txmn.org/>

Texas Master Naturalist Listserve <https://txmn.org/staying-connected/sign-up-for-tmn-listserv/> - subscribe to the listserv to get notices about activities across the state

**WANTED: Assistants for this Chapter Newsletter!** If you enjoy working with words and/or pictures and want to put in some volunteer hours helping prepare The GLC Tidings, please contact Lori.

The GLC Tidings newsletter is published 6 times a year. Submit articles and photos to Editor Lori Buffum.

The deadline for the next issue is July 2, 2018.