



The GLC Tidings



From the President – *Betsy Palkowsky*

What happened to slowly easing into over 95 degree temperatures? Summer officially started last week but it felt like it got started in early May. The plants in my gardens and yard are very confused. I've had fall blooming plants profuse with flowers in late April and early May. The hardy through the summer plants look like they have had enough. They just can't take the heat. I guess it's a sign that we're supposed to go on vacation or do indoor projects. If you do have outdoor projects remember to be weather wise: work outside in the morning, wear sunscreen and/or long sleeves and a hat and don't forget to drink water or gatorade if you're out for over an hour.

Traditionally, summer is a slower time for our chapter, but there is no shortage of ways to stay involved and get those service hours. Here are just a few activity areas:

- Maintenance at our pollinator gardens (the weeds don't seem to mind the heat) see the [website for dates](#)
- Contact Earl Mills to help with moving picnic tables from Stephen F Austin State Park. TPWD has tables they need to dispose and offered them to us. We can use these at a few of our projects.
- July 12 Workshop led by Donna Mueller, Youth Education Director. All the details and a pre-workshop survey are in this newsletter.
- Planning for the August Scholarship Award season

July Chapter Meeting and AT program

Attend the chapter meeting, **July 21st, 2018 from 9 - 10:30, followed by advanced training from 11 – 1**. The meeting is being held at the [Fayette County Extension Office](#), 255 Svoboda Ln, LaGrange, TX 78945--5190

We have two speakers for our AT session and remember these are free and open to the public so bring a guest!

- Connie Barron, a registered nurse, will present "**Be Prepared: First Aid for Hike Leaders**". Connie has been a Master Naturalist in the Texas Hill Country since 2009. As a nurse, she realized that leading hikes with inexperienced groups can require some simple first-aid. Connie created a program to help other naturalists "be prepared" for those incidents that can happen on the trail. Come learn what to pack and how to use it should someone in your group require first-aid assistance.
- William Hood, Wildland Interface Specialist, Texas A&M Forest Service, will present "**Preparing for Wildfires**". William will talk about how to protect your home, wildlands and community from the devastation of wild fires. This presentation is pertinent to all of us as we head into the hottest and driest months of the year.

See you at the chapter meeting (unless you are on an exciting vacation, in which case, we want pictures!).

GET READY – GET SET – GO – Annual Meeting 2018



Michelle Haggerty, Mary Pearl Meuth and many others have been busy preparing for this year's annual meeting for quite some time. The meeting is October 26 – 28 at the Sheraton Georgetown Hotel and Conference Center. The [twentieth anniversary](#) event will be very special for all Texas Master Naturalists™. Visit the [meeting website](#) to see more details of what's in the works so far. Registration should open in early August and field trips fill up FAST so sign up early.

Stephen F Austin State Park Project – by Tom Shaughnessy, Project Leader

Native Grasses and Pollinator Exhibit Garden: After a big start out the gates in spring, the warm summer months are upon us. The chapter's last big step was to amend the soil with a big pick-up bedfull of a mushroom compost soil mix. Much progress was made in preparing the 2,000 sq. ft. bed for planting; however, a decision was made to delay the big plantings until fall and spring. The hot summer days are not conducive to establishing new plant growth. In the meantime, as of press time, volunteers will have completed 2 rounds of herbicide treatment and sowed the bed with a native wildflower seed mix to establish a bit of groundcover until planting can resume.



A special thanks to Pete Berkenhoff with the Bluebonnet Chapter of the Master Gardeners for not

only bringing his garden tiller to help on the project but for operating it as well. We could not have done it in such short time without it!

In support of TPWD's mission *to manage & conserve our natural resources*, the group working on June 14 was able to prevent a pocket gopher outbreak at the park. Under the guidance and watchful eye of "The Gopher's Worst Nightmare" (BR Koehler), we spotted a pocket gopher that had hitch hiked from the dirt yard in the load of compost. The lone gopher was spotted, captured and secured.

The Gideon Lincecum Chapter will also be assisting the park in hauling away unwanted and used picnic tables sitting in the maintenance area. These metal-framed wood topped tables will be refurbished and placed in various other chapter project locations, namely along the Winedale Nature Trails and the Indian Creek Nature Area. Thank you SFA SP!

Thanks to all who participated. Keep an eye on the calendar for future exhibit garden work days and new park projects in the fall. Happy Trails!

“Bee Surprised” – by Lori Buffum



I love watching the bees moving from blossom to blossom in our yard and have captured a few photographs as they crawl deep into a snapdragon or hang on to a salvia spike while they gather pollen or just begin to wake at sunrise after sleeping on a stem overnight or use their legs to comb the pollen onto their little saddlebags. Many I could identify generally as bumble bees or carpenter bees or honey bees but as I explored further, out by our pond or along the roadside, or at the edge of the woods, I discovered so many others – bright metallic green or sleekly striped yellow and black or ones tinier than my pinky fingernail.

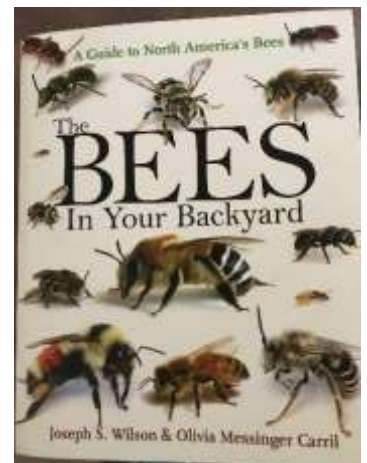
Fascinated by the world of native bees (I will leave the honey-makers to others), I began to study details about our local residents. I follow a couple of websites/Facebook groups and have watched several webinars but just recently, I treated myself to a WONDERFUL book: ***The Bees in Your Backyard – A Guide to North America’s Bees*** by Joseph S. Wilson & Olivia Messinger Carril. Full of pictures and divided into sections by species, the text is very readable and entertaining with little story boxes highlighting a bee fact. I leave it on my coffee table and pick it up often to

leaf through and read a little section or look up something or study the pictures.

Here are just a few things I’ve learned:

- Male members of the Eucera tribe, “long-horned bees”, have exceptionally long antennae – almost as long as their $\frac{3}{4}$ ” bodies.
- You may see an aggregation (a group of many) of homes as ground-nesting bees find good habitat.
- You may also see an aggregation of bees gathered on branches resting together.
- Bees have six amazing legs and each pair is designed with special tools: hindlegs have hairs for pollen storage and grooves for wing cleaning; midlegs are structured as brushes and combs to gather the pollen; forelegs are used as antennae cleaners.
- Male bumble bees camp out at night, hanging tight to branches or stems to sleep until the sun warms them in the morning.
- Nine species of Bombus are found in Texas: American, Golden Northern, Two-spotted, Southern Plains, Common Eastern, Brown-belted, Black and Gold, Sonoran, and Variable Cuckoo.
- Scopa is the term for electrostatically charged pollen collecting hairs on a bee’s body. The area is frequently on hind legs but may also be on the abdomen.
- The taxonomic trail to the bumble bee is Animalia, Arthropoda, Insecta, Hymenoptera, Apidae, Bombus.
- Antennae are comprised of the scape which anchors the antennae to the head, the pedicel which acts as a ball joint, and 10 or 11 flagellomeres which are connected segments covered in microscopic hair and pits that allow the bee to “smell” his/her world.

I could go on and on. Have I tantalized you enough to embark upon your own bee study? Maybe I can do a “Top Ten Presentation” at a future chapter meeting to share my native bee discoveries. Meanwhile, take a look around you and be prepared to “bee surprised”.



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

On Saturday, May 12 David & Julie Itz and Sheri Wilcox met to work in the pollinator garden at WoB. We planted 20 milkweed seedlings received from Monarch Watch earlier in the week: Antelope Horn Milkweed (*Asclepias asperula*), Green Milkweed (*Asclepias viridis*) and Zizotes Milkweed (*Asclepias oenotheroides*). We also purchased some zinnias to replace the ones planted in 2017. The garden was weeded and the sidewalk was swept. Several park visitors stopped to ask about the plants in the garden. With the irrigation system now working, we hope the new plants will get established.



Antelope Horn Milkweed



Green Milkweed



Zizotes Milkweed

On June 23, it had been 5 weeks since the last work day and we had a good amount of rain, so there were plenty of weeds and they were fairly easy to pull. David and Julie Itz were the only Master Naturalists working, so we weren't able to completely finish weeding the beds. The park was busy with the Juneteenth Heritage Celebration. There will be plenty to do at the July workday. We also observed more insect activity in the garden this month: moths, wasps, dragonflies, cicadas and ants.



Dragonfly



Moth



Red Wasp



Black Wasp



Cicada exuvia

Plants blooming were: American Basketflower, Butterfly Gaura, Cherry Sage, Englemann's Daisy, Gayfeather, Greenthread, Huisache daisy, Indian Blanket, Joe-pye Weed, Lemon beebalm, Purple coneflower, Texas Lantana Turk's Cap and others.

The next WoB workday is 9-11 am on Saturday, July 28. We'd love to have more chapter members join us.

Out on the Prairie at the Refuge - by Terry Rooney



On a hot day in June, TMN-GLC volunteers worked out at the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge. "Collected purple prairie clover and soft green eye seeds. Dedicated group with Charlie Winker, Maryanne and Ron Peach, Charlene and BR Koehler, Diana Kies and Earl Mills. Brandon, the Refuge biologist showed us their seed collection system and always provides names of plants and explanations of management efforts."

Tiny microbes perform big job for plant health – *an excerpt*

There are hundreds of thousands - if not millions - of organisms in just a handful of soil. The **Soil Science Society of America** (SSSA) June 1 **Soils Matter** blog explains the important role of soil microbes in freeing up soil nutrients for plants. <https://soilsmatter.wordpress.com/2018/06/01/how-do-soil-microbes-influence-nutrient-availability/>

"Soil is rich with biological diversity and complexity that is not immediately apparent to the unaided eye," writes blogger Caitlin Hodges, Pennsylvania State University. Soil microorganisms make nutrients available for plants in three ways:

"Recyclers" break down plant and animal matter. "They turn the world's refuse into the building blocks of life," Hodges says. "The maintenance of plant-life would be nearly impossible without these hard-working organisms."

"Miners" work on extracting nutrients from rocks and minerals. They excrete a substance with "a special pH and other key characteristics specially formulated to bind and extract nutrients like phosphorus, calcium, and potassium." Plants need these minerals for healthy growth.

"Refiners" are rhizobia bacteria. "These 'nitrogen-fixing' bacteria take inert nitrogen gas in the atmosphere (N₂ gas) and convert it to the plant-available ammonia and other nitrogen-rich organic compounds," Hodges says.

How can you get more of these microorganisms? Using crop residue, compost, and mulch, and planting legume crops, help create a thriving environment for these vital helpers.

Doe with her Fawn in Flatonia – photo from Scott & Cindy Rodibaugh



***Youth Activities Program Workshop AND Survey –
by Donna Zapalac Mueller, Youth Education Director***

Howdy to you all!! TMN let's TALK!! What should we DO? Where do we want to GO? How do we Get'er Done? We are having a workshop and anyone interested in being a part of the overall Youth Activities, Education & Outreach programs is encouraged to attend. We need your input to discuss and volley our thoughts.

Date: Thursday July 12th **Time:** 10 AM - 12 PM **Place:** Fayette County AgriLife Extension Office, La Grange
What to Bring: A Salad for the Luncheon and your opinions, observations, ideas . . .

Youth Activities Survey -- Please answer the following questions regarding any or all portions of the Youth Activities Programs - Scholarships, AG Safety Days, Science Nights, BSD program, scat/track display, bingo game, composting display, enrichment sessions, gardens on campuses, etc. Your replies are important and will guide our discussions during the workshop.

What should we START doing? What should we STOP doing? What should we KEEP doing?

PLEASE email your surveys to: donnaz.mueller@icloud.com Thank you for your interest and cooperation to make our Youth Educational Programs the BEST!

Membership Memo - by Chris Morrison, Membership Director

Thousands of Hours: Wow! Have GLC members ever been busy bees! So far this year, **91** of us have given almost **4,340** hours in volunteer service to our chapter and its many projects. We learned new things by spending **625.5** hours at Advanced Training opportunities. The rest of our 121 members have plenty of time left to put their skills to work this year.

Our projects help give the community a sense of who we are and what we are about, and most of them teach about the natural world around us. We put over **440** hours into citizen scientist work (ex: CoCoRaHS, Mill Creek Watershed Stream Team, Colorado River Watch, Nest Watch & Project Feeder Watch). Many cars go by daily and see the Adopt-A-Highway signs with our name on that clean stretch of roadway (**42.5** hours). Our pollinator projects at Brenham ISD schools, Indian Creek, Schubert House, Stephen F. Austin State Park, Washington on the Brazos, and Winedale (**735** hours) have provided members and the public hours of watching the birds, bees, and butterflies flit around the native plants. Trails and signage at these encourage even more exploration of the sites.

We encourage the re-establishment of native grasses and plants by assisting with prescribed burns, growing native plants in the greenhouse to supply our projects plus give away to the public, and working with staff and other volunteers at Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge (**470** hours). We reach out and educate others, particularly the younger ones, with our participation in Science Night at several school districts, Farm Safety Days in each county, Brenham ISD Outdoor Education (including L.A.N.D.S.), and the West of the Brazos 4H Contest, plus our outreach booths at events such as the Cotton Gin Festival in Burton. These educational activities totaled **1,294** hours!

And lastly, members put in over **1,355** hours so far planning, participating in chapter, board and committee meetings, and seeing to the details that keep our group functioning. It's a BIG job! **Remember that every hour you log is used to obtain matching funds from grants, so keeping track of what you do and putting it into VMS is crucial for the Master Naturalist Program.**



Certifications and Milestones: All those hours add up to certifications, re-certifications, and milestone awards. Initial certification after graduation is marked by a green dragonfly pin.

Those re-certifying each year after that receive a distinctive pin for that year. This little cat is the ocelot pin for 2018. Do you have yours yet?

Cumulative hours over multiple years are marked by dragonflies of different metals.

Members who have certified or who have achieved milestones in the first 6 months of 2018 are:

Initial Certification – Deb Hilton, David Itz, Julie Itz, B.R. Koehler, Charlene Koehler, Jeb Lapeyrolerie, Robert Mott, Linda Nations, Jim Riviera, Tom Shaughnessy, and Ginny Welch.

Re-certification for 2017 – Wes Davenport, Allen Ginnard, Karen Ginnard, Madeline Johnson, Chris Morrison, Jennifer Pihoda, Ann Ray, Ginny Welch, Charles Winkler, Karen Woods.

Re-certification for 2018 - Marcia Braun, Lori Buffum, Debbie Copeland, Wes Davenport, Judy Deaton, Linda Esco, Deb Hilton, Madeline Johnson, Royceanna Kendall, B.R. Koehler, Charlene Koehler, Robert Mott, Carol Paulson, Terry Rooney, Dottie Schoenenberg, Nita Tiemann, Charlotte Von Rosenberg, Jim Weatherly, Sheri Wilcox, Jim Wilson.

250 hour pin – David Butler, Mary Ann Butler, Ron Peach, Terry Rooney, Tom Scanio, Ginny Welch, Charles Winkler

500 hour pin – Debbie Copeland, Chris Morrison, Betsy Palkowsky, Nita Tiemann

1,000 hour pin – Cindy Hobbs, Carol Paulson, Jim Weatherly

Congratulations and hurrah for all our dedicated volunteers. More pins will be awarded at the next meeting in July. Is one going to be for you??

A VMS Note - The box labeled “Describe your service or training:” on the screen when you enter your hours is **important**. At the chapter level, we might need that information to approve an entry. The state uses those notes to verify and validate that the hours are applied to the appropriate category and opportunity. When they pull data for submission for their federal grants, they look for wording that could raise eyebrows or cast doubt on the appropriateness of the hours. If the wording in the box doesn’t match the category, they can’t count your hours. That is why I might ask you to put more information about the topic of the AT course you took or about what you did for a certain volunteer activity. – Chris Morrison, Membership Chair

What will you Donate for the 2018 Annual Meeting Silent Auction?

Let’s start thinking about the silent auction held every year at the Annual Meeting (October 26-28 this year). Money raised by the silent auction is used for TMN project grants, scholarships to the annual meeting, and to bring in speakers and trainers for future annual meetings.

We are asking each TMN chapter to donate a minimum of \$100 in items or cash to the auction. Many types of items are appropriate (cash will be used to purchase great items at below market prices and/or to package items attractively). Here are some ideas from previous auctions:

- Travel packages, vouchers and gift certificates for trips, tours, experiences, hotels and sights
- Items and gift certificates solicited from businesses
- Outdoor gear, tools, nature guides, books about nature and generally anything related to nature
- Hand crafted items such as art, paintings, sculptures, photographs, jewelry, wood objects
- Theme baskets and grouped items. These may represent your region and members may join together to complete these; for example, coastal, birding, kitchen, hiking, cooking, reading, etc.

Use your imagination and keep naturalist themes in mind. If it’s something you would like to have, someone else probably would like it too. Items in new condition with a value of at least \$25 may be donated. **Contact Chapter President Betsy Palkowsky for details on how to get donations to the conference.**

A documentary by Dave Redden and his drone: Workday at the Lincecum Memorial Nature Trail Garden, Winedale on May 12, 2018. <https://youtu.be/K-9OW1isCEQ>

Our Beach Vacation – by Carol Paulson (Granny) and Kayla Johnson (almost 8)

We spent our beach vacation last week in South Padre Island, Texas. There were lots of things to find in nature at the beach.

Shells: Kayla found an Atlantic Yellow Cowrie that was not broken. She will be taking it home to California with her to remember the beach. Also, a Chestnut Turban was found by her dad. Granny (Carol) found lots of Calico Clam shells.

We found some bits of coral that were quite unusual. Kayla would like to tell you about all the different shells, but we don't have enough room. Kayla and her cousins dug their hands into the water and put the very small clams shells they found all with some sand and water into a bucket. After awhile they started to open and some weird feet started to appear. We raced them back to the water super quick.



One day we went to the **Turtle Sanctuary**. It was a place full of different kinds of turtles that had been injured, mostly. While they rescue all kinds of turtles, the Kemp's Ridley sea turtle is the one they take care of the most. It lays its eggs on the South Padre Island beach and is endangered. The turtle at the hospital there are injured. Most of them can be rehabilitated, but sometimes they are too injured to go back to the wild. The sea turtle place has built a new special area for those turtles to live. Mostly they have lost flippers from getting tangled in fishing line. This is why you should always take your

tangled fishing line with you and put it in the garbage. Turtles also cannot tell plastic from food and get sick from eating the plastic. There are lots of trash containers on the beach so you don't have to leave plastic there.

Another day we took a boat to see the dolphins in **the Laguna Madre bay**. In the first of the ride, they dragged a net and pulled it up for us to see the marine life from the bay. They let us touch gently, take pictures and then they put the animals back in the water. We saw a small spine sea star, a puffer fish, a butterfly sting ray and several others. We did not see too many Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins but there were some at the entrance from the bay to the Gulf of Mexico. They like to play and dive in the water.

Kayla's favorite thing to do at the beach was to build a sand castle and decorate it with shells. Granny's favorite thing to do was to sit in her beach chair and let the waves splash her feet. Seeing all the nature there was a lot of fun.



Learn more about this very special event to be held the evening before the Annual Meeting:

<https://masternaturalistendowment.org/20th-anniversary-gala/>

Everyone can play a part in making this a success. Please contact

Mary Pearl Meuth, Texas Master Naturalist Program Assistant State Coordinator, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Office: (979) 845-7294, Cell: (727) 366-1144, E-mail: mpmeuth@tamu.edu

What is That? – by Betsy Palkowsky

Many of you know I have a little piece of heaven half way between La Grange and Round Top. We've named it 'Twenty Acre Woods'. It's about 2/3 trees (oak, yaupon and cedar) and 1/3 open fields. We recently screened in the back porch so that I could watch birds, butterflies, squirrels and so on without getting carried away by the mosquitos. In the last few weeks I have seen a wide variety of interesting insects on the porch (happens when you don't close the doors).



Wheel Bugs, *Arilus cristatus*, are true bugs in the Assassin bug, Reduviidae, family. This family includes varying insects such as stink bugs, water striders and bed bugs. Note: the word "bug" is used for all sorts of insects; scientifically it is only accurate when applied to a true bug. We refer to a number of insects as bugs, such as lightning bugs, ladybugs and June bugs which are actually beetles.

Wheel Bugs are one of the largest true bugs in existence reaching a length of up to 1-1/2 inches. They get their name from the spiny ridge (wheel) in their thorax. They move slowly and don't really like being bothered. In fact, this bug kept backing up or going around the stick I was used to get him off the porch. He must have found something tasty as I saw it back on the porch after moving it. Speaking of tasty, wheel bugs are predators, eating beetle larvae, caterpillars, aphids and other soft-bodied insects. I guess it's good I have some of these around because they dine on the hairy caterpillars that are forest and shade trees defoliators.

Another first-time visitor to the porch was a *Triatomine*. Thank you, Donna Mueller, for teaching us about the Chagas bug, aka Kissing bug, and the disease it can transmit to humans and dogs. Because of this, I knew as soon as I saw it on the back porch screen that I shouldn't touch it. I did safely collect and put it in a baggie in the freezer. My next step is to send the bug in for identification and testing.

Here are a number of links with helpful information on the Chagas bug and disease:

- [Chagas Disease in the US FAQ](#)
- [Submitting a Triatomine Bug \(Kissing Bug/Cone-Nose Bug/Vinchuca\) for *Trypanosoma cruzi* Testing](#)
- [Informational pamphlet about kissing bugs](#)
- [Informational pamphlet about canine Chagas disease](#)
- [Human testing \(Texas only\) and bugs that have bitten humans](#)
- [CDC's Chagas disease website](#)
- [CDC's kissing bug website](#)
- [Kissing bug control and pesticide options](#)



Beginning August 1, our TMN-GLC website will be accepting applications for the chapter's 2019 Training Class:

<https://txmn.org/qlc/about/to-apply-for-training-and-membership/qlc-master-naturalist-training-application/>

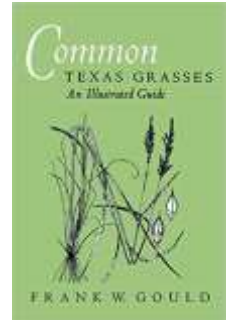
Lost Among the Grasses? Here's Help! – by Charlie Winker

“Grasses are difficult to identify...” - R. B. Shaw

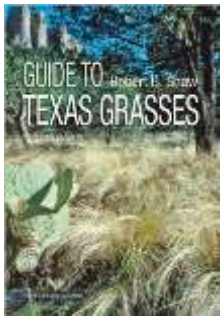
Many wannabe Texas naturalists like me struggle to learn our local grasses, for the simple reason that grasses are tough. Classes and field trips are great but at some point, we head out on our own and realize we need at least one good reference book. Following are some observations and recommendations based on my personal library.



My favorite field companion to date is Hatch, Umphres, and Ardoin (2016), *Field Guide to Common Texas Grasses* (172 species, 323 pages, \$23 on Amazon). Stephen L. Hatch of Texas A&M was a student of the late Frank W. Gould, the ‘dean’ of Texas grass taxonomy. Hatch et al. build on Gould’s (1978) classic *Common Texas Grasses, An Illustrated Guide* (150 species, 271 pages, \$18 on Amazon). To Gould’s fine pen-and-ink drawings, Hatch et al. add color photographs and range maps by county, and devote one page to each species (plus a one-page overview of each genus), making this book easier to flip through than Gould’s. One quirk about Hatch et al.: for branches off the stalk



(culm) that many call “spikes” or “panicle branches” in paspalums, grammas, windmill grasses, etc., they use the acronym “SPUB” for “spicate primary unilateral branch.” But try saying “SPUB” to a biologist and you’ll likely get a blank look. Even Google draws a blank, a rare occurrence.

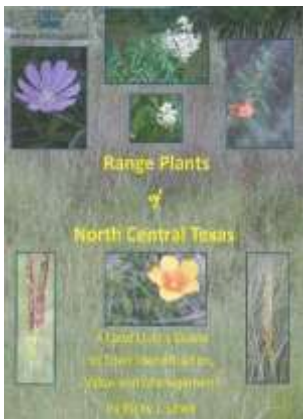


For a desk reference I go to the encyclopedic Shaw (2012), *Guide to Texas Grasses* (670 species, 1080 pages, \$65 on Amazon). Robert B. Shaw, also of TAMU and a former Gould student, builds on Gould’s (1975) *The Grasses of Texas* (523 species, 653 pages, \$43 on Amazon). Organization is similar to Hatch et al., including pen-and-ink drawings from Gould, color photos, and range maps. Speaking of range maps, I like the web site BONAP (Biota of North America Project); for all but a few plant genera you can find a range map by county for each species, covering the conterminous 48 states and part of Canada (<http://bonap.net/NAPA/Genus/Traditional/County>). Here, for example, we



discover that little bluestem (*Schizochyrium scoparium*) is present in 45 states and “not rare” in 43 of those. The BONAP maps distinguish between native and non-native species.

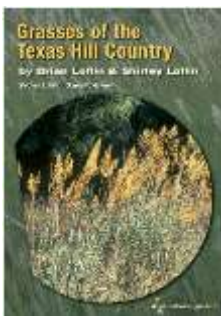
All of the preceding books are primarily for identification and include keys (but to key out grasses you’ll need a good knowledge of anatomy, a decent binocular scope, and a lot of patience, none of which I possess). Don’t expect much on natural history – for that you have the internet and books such as those listed below; identifying to species level is the hard part. None of the grass (family Poaceae) books include the closely related sedges (family Cyperaceae), which we novices can easily mistake for grasses. Remember, “sedges have edges” on triangular stems and are typically bright yellow-green. Use the internet to familiarize yourself with nutsedge and deep-rooted sedge, both nasty invasives.



The following books are less technical with more natural history and practical information; they might be a better place to get started :

Rector, Winn, and Colvin (2003?), *Know Your Grasses* (81 species, 97 pages, \$15 from the AgriLife Bookstore website). My first grass book; arranged alphabetically by common name, which I find quite annoying for comparing closely related species – rearranging the pages to alphabetize by genus (as in most books) would be a big improvement.

Linx (2014), *Range Plants of North Central Texas* (59 grass species plus 265 non-grass species, 345 pages, \$25 from the Botanical Research Institute of Texas website). Despite the name, good for most common grasses in our area (with some exceptions, notably the paspalums), and a generally useful guide to rangeland species.



Loftin and Loftin (2006), *Grasses of the Texas Hill Country* (79 species, 195 pages, \$18 on Amazon). Notable for beautiful full-page color photos of inflorescences (seed heads). Many of our local species are included and, who knows, some day you may visit the fabled Hill Country.

And to decorate your office or classroom, get the wonderful poster *Root Systems of Prairie Plants* by Heidi Natura (\$30 from the Conservation Research Institute website).

Finishing Off the School Year Last May



Class of 2018 team members made Washington County AG day a rollicking success as we played the bingo game scavenger hunt with more than 400 4th graders. Thanks John Gardner, Jim Wilson, Lefty Yarnold, Jon Watkins, Karen Gardner, Annette Holdeman, LuAn Yarnold, JamieLee Manning, Randy Hegemeyer, with Lori Buffum.



Our BISD finale was a warm and humid day at Lake Somerville with Alton 3rd graders. Our intrepid volunteers led the kids on nature hikes, played animal charades, and talked about tracks & scat. With Joy Nutt, our ranger extraordinaire, were Carol Paulson, Dave Redden, Lori Buffum, Jim Wilson, Robert Mott, Karen Gardner, Earl Mills, Diana Kies, John Gardner, and Debra Healy.

DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

July 12 – Youth Education Workshop

July 21 – Chapter Meeting

Early August – Register for Annual Meeting

September 15 – Chapter Meeting

October 26-28 – Annual Meeting

November 17 – Chapter Meeting



Chapter Fundraising Projects – by Betsy Palkowsky

Fundraising is something the chapter hasn't needed to do for a while. We have been fortunate enough to have a healthy balance sheet for the last few years. However, we have added a number of projects and would like to add more that will deplete the surplus in a couple of years. Planning for and executing fundraising activities takes time and a variety of resources. At the last board meeting we had a great session on identifying various ways we could raise funds.

I am currently looking for volunteers to lead the projects listed below. Leadership entails getting a project committee together, defining the scope of the project, planning the project, executing the project and , reporting on project status throughout the life of the project.

Contact me directly (bpalkowsky@outlook.com or 281-728-3555) if you are interested in leading or participating in one or more of the projects. I'd like to have at least two of these in the planning stages this year for execution next year.

- * Native Plant Sale
- * Chapter T-Shirts
- * Gala with a silent auction
- * Members underwriting projects
- * Grants
- * Estate planned endowments
- * Nature/Wildlife -a-thon
- * Guide Books
- * Mini Pollinator Kits
- * Company sponsored employee/retiree programs
- * Fun Run/Walk
- * Raffle
- * Employee/company matching dollar programs for volunteer hours (see the May 2018 *GLC Tidings*)
- * Docent tour at Winedale - 'in kind donation'
- * Picture Calendar
- * National Pollinator Day

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](#).