



The GLC Tidings



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From the President

Betsy Palkowsky

I hope all of you had a pleasant holiday season. It was nice to see many of you at the 2018 Volunteer Appreciation Event. Celebrating our efforts was a great way to end one year and begin another. I look forward to working with my fellow Master Naturalists in 2019. I hope to see you at one the many volunteer opportunities that start happening this week and into January and February and then in full swing as the weather warms up and school programs ramp up. You will find these opportunities on our [website](#) and in email notifications from Google Groups.

One of the first opportunities available is to join us at the first 2019 training program session where you will meet new master naturalists in training. The first class is being held Monday, January 28 at W. J. "Bill" Rankin Agricultural Complex [1409 Old Mill Creek Road](#) in Brenham. Please join us in welcoming these new members. Send Linda Esco, yogagal16@gmail.com, an email to RSVP.

New Executive Officers and Committee

Thank you to Leada Dietz and Earl Mills for serving as our Treasurer and Vice President, respectively. I appreciate the time and support you have given to the chapter. Pam Green is our new treasurer and Mark Brown is our new Vice President.

We have a new Grants and Donations Committee (see updated Chapter Operating Handbook on our website) that includes Mary Ann Butler (lead), Marcia Braun, Cindy Rodibaugh (projects director) and Pam Green (treasurer). This group oversees the writing and accepting of outside grants and donations. The committee needs one more member. Let me know if you are interested in working on this committee or any other. There are so many ways you can help!

January Chapter Meeting and Advanced Training

Saturday January 19, 2019
 9:30 am - 11:00 am (followed by Advanced Training from 11:30 to 1:30)
NOTE: Chapter meetings now start at 9:30, based on member feedback.
 Camp Kubena: [2001 WALDECK Rd, Ledbetter, TX 78946](#)

Advanced Training Program – Public Invited!

"Highlights from the 2018 TMN State Meeting" A number of chapter members will present highlights of a course they took while attending the Annual meeting. Topics include Dark Skies, Moths, Archaeology dig site, Avian Migration, Why VMS and volunteering are so important, and Native prairies.

ANNUAL DUES FOR THE GIDEON LINCECUM CHAPTER ARE \$20 PER PERSON. YOU MAY PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2019 AT THE CHAPTER MEETING OR ONLINE.

<https://txmn.org/glc/members-section/>

Our Mission

Volunteers dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources through education, outreach and service in our community

Changing of the Money Guard

Leada Dietz, Treasurer

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the chapter as treasurer for the past year. I learned a lot about another aspect of the inner workings of our chapter, and value all the work done by our webmaster and those who keep updating the chapter handbook and operating manual to keep us current with forms and practices.

However, I am stepping down a year early because of my 87-year-old sister's declining health. She won't consider moving out of her apartment, she has fallen several times (nothing serious) and I fear I will need to move back to PA on short notice and stay for a while to help her navigate other living arrangements. Not exactly the behavior you want from your treasurer.



Pam Green [photo left] is stepping up to take over the rest of my term, and she comes with a long history of number crunching and budget planning. So, look for new treasurer contact information on the website.

Meanwhile, bring your dues (just \$20) if you haven't paid them yet and any bills for reimbursement on January 19 to our chapter meeting!

One more reminder regarding reimbursement—we have state sales tax exempt forms on the website in the members' section [https://txmn.org/glc/files/2018/07/Sales-Tax-](https://txmn.org/glc/files/2018/07/Sales-Tax-Exemption.pdf)

[Exemption.pdf](#) Please use them when making purchases!!!!!! I just updated our list of chapter assets (so we have a sense of replacement costs and resources) and over half of those approximately \$2,600 worth of supplies included sales tax.

And what are those assets? Five display trifolds with table cloths for outreach in our five counties, a water testing kit for Mill Creek Watershed and other Texas Stream Team work, a Scat and Track display, and a computer projector for training classes and chapter meetings. We will be maintaining our list of assets on a web page so if you have items to add, let Pam Green know.

Training Class begins January 28, 2019.

Interested students may go online for details and to complete an application:

<https://txmn.org/glc/about/to-apply-for-training-and-membership/>

Calling All Birders

Terry Rooney

Is anyone else interested in birding with other Chapter members? I consider myself just above a beginning birder. I seem to learn the most when I've been on bird walks or classes with others. If you are interested, let me know. We need experienced birders to lead the bird walk in addition to those like me who want to see and learn new birds.

Email me at trooney1955@gmail.com or call me at 713-851-8224. If we can get a leader and a few followers, I'll try to set up a kickoff birding event in the next few months. Also let me know if you are aware of any local organized bird walks so they can be publicized.

Searching for an Uncommon Oak



Fellow Master Naturalist: In our chapter (Cradle Of Texas, for Brazoria Co.), a few of our "plant guys" have become involved in a fun informal project to study an uncommon oak species called Durand White Oak (*Quercus sinuata* var. *sinuata*). But, we need help in other areas of Texas, so I'm asking that you convey this message to the "plant guys" of your chapter and/or those that use iNaturalist, since the species might be present in your area.

We were intrigued at first by mention of the species in the 1988 book "A Field Guide to Texas Trees" by Benny Simpson, where he mentions the "... 80- to 90-foot giants of Brazoria County". Since none in our chapter knew of any Durand Oaks at all, we set about to find this mysterious oak. And, in one isolated area in western Brazoria Co., we found about 50 large specimens. In that area, they are confined to well-drained calcareous soils, usually perched on the lip of usually-dry ravines that drain into the San

Bernard River. Subsequently, we located many other specimens upstream along the San Bernard where it forms the boundary between Fort Bend and Wharton counties, where it can be locally very common. It also occurs along Waller Creek in Austin, Cameron Park in Waco and at Palmetto State Park and east Texas. The species appears to have a spotty distribution, possibly considered as relic populations in widely-scattered pockets. We'd like to ask for your help, as your members go about their field trips, to report other sightings of the species.

We have used iNaturalist to document representative examples, and would ask that you do the same, enrolling them in "The Oaks Of Texas" project there. Consequently, one means to learn about the species



would be to view the observations already listed there. Large specimens resemble Cedar Elm in bark/trunk appearance, maximum size and growth habit, being easier to spot in the woods in the winter when surrounding trees have lost their leaves. Close-up examinations of leaves and acorns allow easy identification.



As with other species, the botanists have had a hard time agreeing on the taxonomy. The species is also known as *Quercus durandii*, and a similar species is found in the southeastern US as *Q. austrina*. All are called by many similar names such as Basket, Bastard or Bluff Oak. Lastly, the species seems to have a smaller shrubbier cousin in the Hill Country and Cross Plains known as *Quercus sinuata* var. *breviloba* (White Shin Oak), and there is probably an intermediate zone found along the Balcones Escarpment where intergrade specimens might be found. But, given that the large tree version exists in isolated populations along several Texas watersheds, there are probably other pockets of them out there. Let's find them! -- Thanks, Chris Kneupper, TMN, Cradle Of Texas chapter

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/natives/QUERCUSSINUATAVARSINUATA.HTM>

Audubon's "Lights Out" Program

Terry Rooney

Air is habitat. Historically we've thought of the air as something birds move through between habitats. As an example, check what a bird guide like *All About Birds* has to say about aerial species Purple Martins: Habitat type—towns, cities, forest edges, ponds, marshes. Not air.

A recent study led by Kyle Horton, a postdoctoral researcher at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, is offering insights into the hazards birds face in the air. The 2016 study took advantage of a new generation of high-resolution radar stations that can estimate the numbers of birds in the air, their altitude, speed and direction over the ground, and even the heading, or direction the flying bird is pointed. Most birds are almost always below 500 meters [1,640 feet]. And unfortunately, it's where virtually all the human-caused hazards are located.

Combine buildings with the disorienting effects of lights, and the night sky becomes a forest of dangers for migrants, luring them toward windows, causing them to waste time and energy flying off course, or just pulling them down into an urban habitat that may not have enough food for the bird to refuel.

Tall buildings can kill tragic numbers of birds in an evening. And single-family homes, because of their sheer number, kill many millions of birds each year due to collisions. Mortalities are estimated to be 250 M for residences and almost 350 M for buildings. [From Living Bird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Autumn 2018]

Audubon's "Lights Out" program is a national effort to reduce this problem. The strategy is simple: by convincing building owners and managers to turn off excess lighting during the months migrating birds are flying overhead, birds have a safer passage between their nesting and wintering grounds. Turning off bright lights helps birds move on within minutes, as discovered by the Cornell Lab and New York City Audubon during the annual 9/11 memorial in New York City. Every year, by turning the 9/11 aerial light beams off for just 20 to 30 minutes at a time greatly reduces the density of birds in the area. [Audubon Lights Out website]

Houston is joining Chicago, Toronto, New York, and other cities in leading the campaign to prevent bird mortality while conserving energy and saving money. A recent study of migratory birds and light pollution listed Houston as one of the top five U.S. cities for collision risk. Our expansive urban footprint and location on both the Gulf Coast and the Central Flyway are the causes. During the peaks of spring and fall migration, millions of birds are stopping over to rest and refuel.

In May 2017, nearly 400 brilliantly plumaged migratory birds were found dead outside the tallest building in Galveston, the result of collisions with the building or from exhaustion related to light confusion. These birds normally migrate at much higher altitudes, but during storms and other weather events, they drop to lower altitudes where headwinds are lowest. This puts the birds at a greater risk of collisions with urban structures. That night in Galveston was one of those nights.

Following this event in Galveston, Houston Audubon developed a "Lights Out for Birds" program where organizations and individuals can receive notifications to turn off lights when conditions appear most threatening for birds. Fortunately, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's BirdCast program supports these notifications. If building managers and residents across Houston can turn off lights during migration or design lighting with wildlife in mind, we can transform this threat to birds into rallying recognition that Houston takes pride in its special role anchoring the Central Flyway along the Gulf of Mexico. Practically, it would also save quite a bit of energy. [Houston Chronicle Sept 18, 2018]

Off on the Right Foot

Tom Shaughnessy

128 feet - 64 “right” feet. That is how we started the New Year. 64 hikers got 2019 off on the right foot on the First Day Hike at Stephen F. Austin State Park on the morning of January 1. The hike aims to create a fun experience for the whole family. People are invited to savor the beauty of their state park’s natural resources with the comfort of an experienced guide so they may be inspired to take advantage of these local treasures throughout the year.

Locally, our chapter sponsored this national event. Tom Shaughnessy along with TMN Sheri Wilcox and her husband and 2 park trail stewards led the group on a one-hour informative hike. During the adventure we learned about the native habitats, plants and animals and the benefits of a healthy bottomland forest. Halfway through the hike the group stopped at the Barred Owl Trail’s scenic overlook for selfies with the mighty Brazos River in the background. Rio de Los Brazos de Dios (or the arms of God) was the name given to the river by early Spanish explorers in a desperate search for water. Young explorers were able to see up close how the river shapes the land in this riparian wonderland.

After returning to the trailhead where the adventure began, we all reminded each other Happy New Year and patted ourselves on the back for a job well done. Many of the enthusiastic hikers, thirsty for more, continued their adventure and kept on hiking into the afternoon.



My hope is that I see some of the hikers on the trail again in 2019 and they continue hiking and learning all year long.

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

Workdays at WoB

Julie & David Itz



On December 1 we had perfect weather for working in the Washington on the Brazos pollinator garden. Even the Cloudless Sulphurs (*Phoebis sennae*) were busy looking for flowers still blooming after the freezing temperatures 2 weeks before. These two found a Turk's Cap bloom to be just what they were looking for!

Gregg's Mistflower and May Night Salvia were still blooming. We cut back many of the Cherry Sage to allow new growth next spring. We thinned out the Cosmos and left Joe Pye Weed, Frostweed and Blue Mistflower which still had seed heads on them. Meanwhile we could see the Giant Coneflower, Rock Rose, Lemon Beebalm, Scarlet Sage, Engelmann's Daisy, Lanceleaf Coreopsis, Indian Blanket, Red Indian Blanket and Standing Cypress had been busy putting on new growth and preparing for spring.

Steve Jackson, Sheri Wilcox and Julie & David Itz continued clipping back the frozen back growth. We've cut back the Maxmillian Sunflowers to about 18" tall to encourage bees or insects who are looking for shelter.

We planted seeds for American Beautyberry, Antelope Horns, Greenthread, American Basketflower, Blue Flax, Mexican Hat, Gayfeather, Prairie Verbena and Winecup to fill in some of the empty spaces in the garden.



Sheri Wilcox planting seeds



Steve Jackson and David Itz taking a break from their work



Julie discovered the first Bluebonnet plant of the season, of course not close to where the Bluebonnets were originally planted!

Our December 29th workday was chilly and cloudy following several days of rain, but four of us were ready to work in the Pollinator Garden. Luther Moore, Sheri Wilcox, and Julie & David Itz worked briefly in the garden, picking up trash, pulling weeds, and cutting back several cherry sage, but the garden is mostly dormant now. The May Night Salvia and Gregg's Mistflower (with some red leaves) still have a few blooms. No butterflies were observed today.



We decided to walk the trail and identify what trees can be seen from the trail. One of the first trees we came to was the “Liberty Tree,” a Red Oak planted in 1987 by the Texas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution in honor of the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution.



Further along the trail we found other oak trees; invasives such as ligustrum, laurelcherry, huisache and cactus; mistletoe and ballmoss was easy to see in the trees that have lost their leaves.

As we came to the river, we arrived at **La Bahia Pecan tree**, which dates back before 1836



when the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed.



The feral hogs have

damaged a lot of the areas at WoB. You can see some of the damage in the photo.

Our next two workdays are scheduled for Saturday, January 26, when we plan to install additional metal edging in the Pollinator Garden, and Saturday, February 23, when we will make sure the Pollinator Garden is in good shape for the visitors expected on Texas Independence Day (March 2nd). Come join us!

Executive Officers 2019
President, Betsy Palkowsky
Vice President, Mark Brown
Secretary, Linda Esco
Treasurer, Pam Green

The Winter Solstice Sun peeks through the branches of a grand Pine tree along the road near Bellville. – *Lori Buffum*



Membership Memo

Chris Morrison, Membership Director

Our members have been busy! In 2018, 95 volunteers logged a total of 6,605 hours, worth about \$151,915 in matching grants for our state. We were learning, too, amassing 1,165 hours of Advanced Training.

Over 2,500 hours were spent doing the things that make our chapter & state organization tick, including planning for and attending meetings, officer and director duties, planning for projects, conducting the training class, and running the store at state convention. Projects with the most hours put in were BISD Outdoor Learning (over 800), Winedale (over 500), and Attwater NWR (about 350). These projects took more than 100 hours: CoCoRaHS, Colorado River Watch, Educational Group Presentations, Nest Watch, Outreach Booth, Project Feeder Watch, and Washington on the Brazos SHS. More than 50 hours were put in at Austin County Natural Resource Projects, Citizen Science (other) projects, Native Prairie Restoration, and Prescribed Burns. Six other projects had hours reported. So, hooray! Pat yourselves on the back for another successful year.

Continue to report your hours, please. If you still have unreported hours for 2018 that fall within the 45-day window, get them posted ASAP. We'll be awarding the last ocelot pins to those who re-certified in 2018 at our January 19 meeting.

Reminders:

- If you are entering a partial hour, round it up or down into 15, 30, or 45 minutes, and you will enter .25, .5, or .75 hours. If you are a few minutes over what you actually did, you can round down the next time.
- When entering AT hours from a conference or workshop that has multiple topics covered by different speakers, you only need to submit ONE entry per day that has the total hours you were in classes that day. In the "Describe" box, you will put a shortened title of the conference or workshop, the sponsoring organization, and shortened names of each session you attended.
- Using ACRONYMS – It's better to put the whole name of an organization. Some are very familiar to all, such as TMN, TPWD, & NRCS, so those would be OK. Others may not be so well known to those who approve hours or to the auditors who evaluate the hours. Please spell out the whole name.



Look high, Look low, Look out the way you go

Or In a snap, You'll be in my trap, Covered in a silken wrap

Betsy Palkowsky

BISD Gearing up for an Active Spring Season

Carol Paulson

Before Winter even becomes Spring, Outdoor Education activities with Brenham Independent School District will once again be a major part of our TMN activities.

On January 25, February 1 and February 8, we are manning 5 stations at Brenham Elementary school to teach students in Kindergarten through Grade 4 about Journaling, Butterflies, Bees, Bluebirds and Bats. Many of you have volunteered to lead these stations, have been active in writing/reviewing lesson plans appropriate for the different age levels and are going to actively participate as either team leaders or helpers. With so many children going through each station (approximately 20) at one time, both team leaders and helpers are so necessary and I thank each of you for volunteering your time and energy to share your knowledge. High fives, gratitude and thanks go to Jim Wilson, Jan Hughes, Lori Buffum, Judy Deaton, Jon Watkins, Linda Esco, Annette Holdeman, Robert Mott, Jamie Lee Manning, Linda Nations, Allen Ginnard, and Karen and John Gardener. My mind boggles at how generous you all are with your time.

I know you are all looking forward to Outdoor Education at Lake Somerville too. We will be having programs for 3rd, 5th and 6th graders this Spring. I will get more information to you as soon as I get the dates from BISD.



L.A.N.D.S. program dates are March 6 for Quail Necropsy, March 20 for Deer Pluck Dissection, April 17 for Water Day (need lots of you for this one), and May 8 for the Recognition Dinner. I will be calling for volunteers soon for these dates. If you already know which one(s) you want to participate in, please just e-mail me, Carol Paulson at cspaulson@hughes.net and I'll get you on the list. Watch the chapter website event listing for all the particulars. *[Photo: The TMN-GLC team at LANDS Deer Field Day in December 2018.]*

Thanks to all of you for helping BISD have an outstanding, one of a kind Outdoor Education program.

February Family Science Nights 2019

Check the chapter website event listing for volunteer opportunities of all kinds coming up in January and February. We are presenting our BINGO/SCAVENGER HUNT at 3 different districts this year. We need your help!

Flatonia – February 7th

Bellville – February 11th

Waller – February 19th

The GLC Tidings is published 6 times a year

Submit articles and photos to Editor Lori Buffum (buffumhl@gmail.com)