



The GLC Tidings



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Our Mission

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

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

From the President

Betsy Palkowsky

What a difference in weather from this time last year. It was 81 degrees mid-February last year. This year, I'm ready for warmer temperatures and less rain. I've never seen my property so wet since we bought it 10 years ago. A positive about all the rain is it looks like we're going to have a bumper crop of wildflowers.

It happens this time each year, Feb-May are the busiest few months of our chapter service activities; from outdoor school activities, to maintaining pollinator gardens and trails, from individual citizen science projects to group outreach opportunities like the Cotton Gin Festival. There is something for everyone to get involved in. Take a look at some the project updates in this newsletter or check out our [website](#) with [volunteer opportunity dates](#) and [project details](#).

I'd like to welcome the students of our 2019 training program. It's great to see the enthusiasm for learning and being good land stewards. A special student has joined the class this year. Katelin Holliday is at Blinn College studying wildlife management. She's the first, of I hope many, Blinn students to join the program and pledging to become a certified Texas Master Naturalist.



The March 16, 2019 Chapter Meeting will be very short, 9-9:30 as we are hosting an all-day 'Invaders of Texas Workshop' (see details below) following the chapter meeting. Join us at Camp Kubena, [2001 WALDECK Rd, Ledbetter, TX 78946](#)

Blooms Before Bluebonnets, by Betsy Palkowsky

Blooms Before Bluebonnets

Before there are bluebonnets there are a wide variety of early spring bloomers that don't always get noticed unless you are looking down all of the time during walks. This is something I'm guilty of every day as I walk my three dogs. I often miss what's going on around me as I want to see what's new in the fields or on the roadside. Since I've become a master naturalist, I try to learn 10 more wildflowers, grasses, trees or shrubs each year. So far this year I've found four early bloomers that I haven't seen before. Most of these are tiny plants that would normally go unnoticed except this year there are lots of them and you can't help but see them.



Tiny Bluet, *Houstonia pusilla*, it is typically only 2" tall, but can be taller under moist fertile conditions. It can be overlooked because it's so small. They bloom January through April. This photo, found on my property, shows a colony of little flowers. They are all over my property this year which is why I didn't miss seeing them as I looked down during one of my walks.



Windflower, *Anemone berlandieri*, blooms February to April and is usually the first white flower in the spring. The plant 4 to 16 inches high and the bloom is 1 ½ inches across. The picture on the left shows the petal-like sepals that can be white, pale blue or pink with lavender on the outside.



Yellow Star Grass, *Hypoxis hirsute*, blooms February to May. The plant is 3-8 inches tall. It grows in a variety of soils found in pastures, open woodlands, savannahs, prairies and meadows. The flower is often confused with grass when the bloom is not visible. It is an early source of pollen and nectar for bees and butterflies.

Drummond Phlox, *Phlox drummondii*, blooms February to June. The low upright annual is typically 4-20 inches. They come in a variety of colors; red, pink, blue and purple. They often grow close to old homesites. This explains why I found them in abundance on a trail at Washington on the Brazos State Park.



Sources: 'Wildflowers of Texas' by Geyata Ajilvsgi, 'Range Plants of North Central Texas – A Land User's Guide to Their Identification, Value and Management' by Ricky J. Linex, 'Wildflowers of the Texas Hill Country' by Marshall Enquist

ON THE HORIZON MEETINGS

Board Meetings

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
March 1	10:00 AM	La Grange Ag Center Small Conference Room
May 3	10:00 AM	La Grange Ag Center
July	No Board Meeting	Falls on Friday, July 5 th
September 6	10:00 AM	Winedale
November 1	10:00 AM	Winedale

Chapter Meetings with AT following the meeting

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
March 16	9:00-9:30 AM	Camp Kubena (short mtg due to 'Invaders of TX' AT)
May 18	9:30-11:00 AM	Winedale
July 20	9:30-11:00 AM	Brenham Library
September 21	9:30-11:00 AM	La Grange Ag Center (Large Conference Room)
November 16	9:30-11:00 AM	Brenham Library

Upcoming AgSafety Awareness Days, by Donna Mueller

Come and Join us for a fun time with Fayette, Washington, Austin and Colorado County ISD & Private Elementary age youth! Meet and make new acquaintances. Lots of smiles, OOHs & AHHS and volunteer hours! Lunch & refreshments will be provided for all volunteers! All events will be categorized in VMS as 'Educational Group Presentation'.

COLORADO COUNTY AG DAY

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PROGRAM LEADER
April 23	8:30-2:00 PM	Colorado County Fairgrounds	Donna Mueller donnaz.mueller@icloud.com

FAYETTE COUNTY AG DAY

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PROGRAM LEADER
May 9	8:30-2:15 PM	Fayette County Fairgrounds	Donna Mueller

WASHINGTON COUNTY AG DAY

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PROGRAM LEADER(S)
MAY 15	8:30-2:00 PM	Washington County Fairgrounds	LuAn and Harold "Lefty" Yarnold

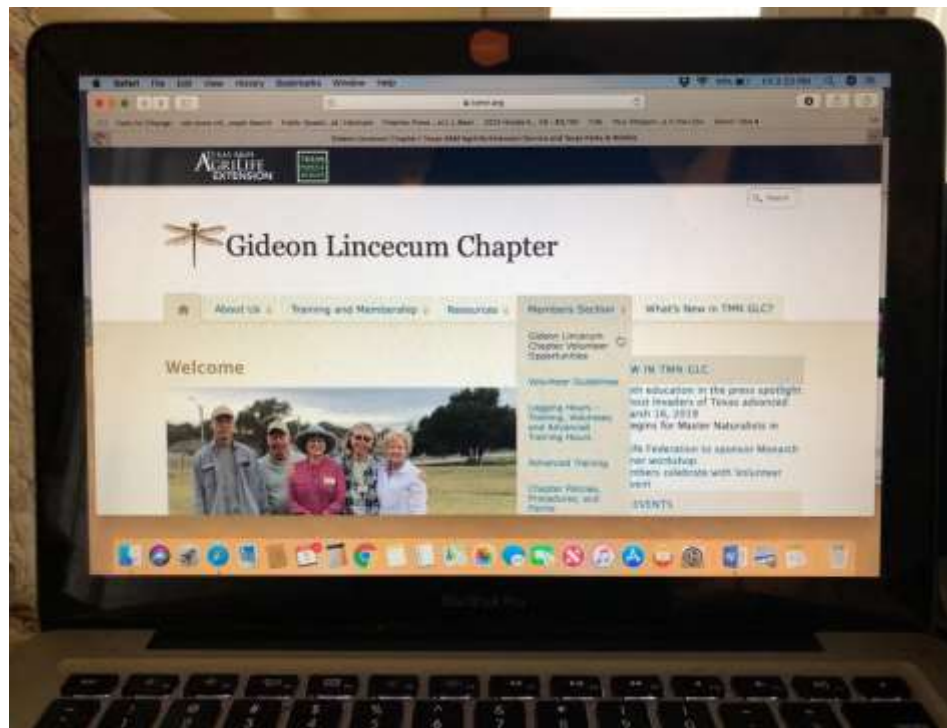
* Please contact Lefty & LuAn Yarnold at lharnold@aol.com

AUSTIN COUNTY AG DAY

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PROGRAM LEADER
MAY 21	8:30-2:25 PM	Austin County Fairgrounds (located in Bellville)	Dr. Jim Wilson

There will be spiders and critters there too. Please email Dr. Jim at jwilson@abilene.com to volunteer.

It's on the Website, by Sheri Wilcox



While not as instantaneous as Facebook, the TMN-GLC website is your resource for TMN information. Start with the home page at txmn.org/glc for all things TMN-GLC.

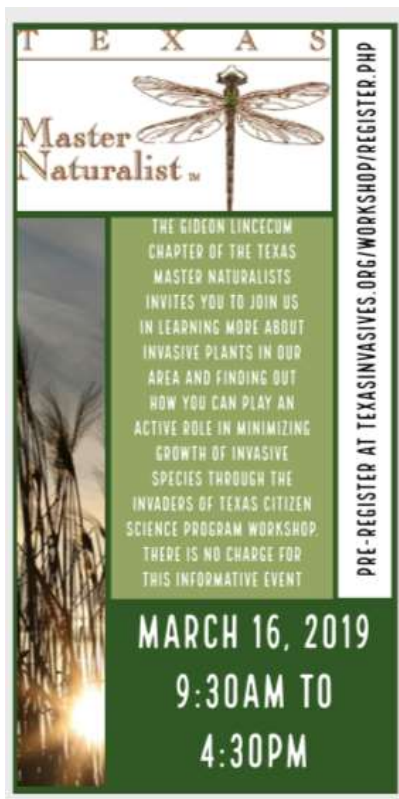
- **Do you have a free afternoon and wonder what fabulous TMN volunteer and AT opportunities are available? It's on the website.**
 - The next five upcoming events are displayed on the right side of the home page.
 - Click View More at the bottom of the upcoming events list to go to the full website calendar. From there, you can display the month view (select the drop-down list on the upper right and choose month). Entries are color coded (volunteer, AT, chapter meeting, etc.). You can even search for your favorite volunteer activity using the search box at the top of the calendar.
- **Do you want to know who is in charge of your favorite project? It's on the website.**
 - Go to About Us in the top menu, then select Officers, Board Members, and Project Leaders.
 - For more information about the project, see the Members Section under Gideon Lincecum Chapter Volunteer Opportunities. This page contains a synopsis of each approved volunteer or citizen science project and lists the project leader and VMS category.
- **Do you need to submit expenses for reimbursement or request AT approval for a seminar you plan to attend? Check out the new fill-in forms.**
 - Under Members Section, select Chapter Policies Procedures, and Forms
 - The new fill-in forms are at the bottom of the page. These forms allow you to complete the form on your computer, generate an email to the appropriate approver, and attach receipts or flyers directly to the email. What could be easier?

- **Did you miss one of our wonderful newsletters or do you wonder what happened at the meeting you could not attend? Find** the archives on the website under the Members Section.
- **Do you need help finding something on the website or do you have a suggestion for improving the website? You** can even contact your website editor. Look under About Us, then Officers, Board Members, and Project Leaders.

The next time you have a question or need information, remember – it's on the website.

Become a Gideon Lincecum Invader, by Judy Deaton

The Chapter will be holding our third Gideon Lincecum Invaders Workshop at Camp Kubena near Ledbetter on Saturday, [March 16th](#). It will be an all-day training session from 9:30am to about 4:30pm. In March of 2011 we trained 15 members and in May of 2014 we trained 22 members so the group is 37 strong at present. The workshop is a very informative day and everyone leaves with a good knowledge of our local problems with invasive species. We certainly don't want to be planting them in our gardens! Once trained we should be good citizen scientists (pull off the road and get out the smart phone!) and help with this mammoth undertaking. It is best to carry a smart phone to enable you to input your findings on the spot and there is an app from texasinvasives.org to make that very easy. We should all know how to identify and report invasive species and to know the plants that need to be removed in our projects like Monument Hill and Indian Creek. The workshop is open to the public and to all other organizations. Pass around the word, as it is good AT experience. The last workshops were very successful. (See the attached photo). If you want to attend please reply to Judy Deaton. jadtmn@gmail.com.



Book and Podcast Review, by Lori Buffum

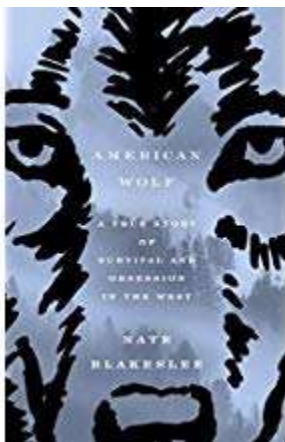
Recently, Texas A&M Forest Service's podcast, "Trees Are Key with Paul Johnson" celebrated a milestone. As of February 7, the free, weekly podcast has received more than 100,000 listens.

"Trees Are Key" is hosted by Paul Johnson, Texas A&M Forest Service Community Forestry Program Leader. Johnson is a degreed forester and an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist and Municipal Specialist qualified in Tree Risk Assessment and Wildfire Risk Reduction.

Years in the making, "[Trees Are Key](#)" premiered on April 28, 2015, to provide an opportunity for interested listeners to learn on the go, even when they don't have time to read up on forestry and arboriculture topics or attend a workshop.

"We spend a lot of our time behind the wheel of a vehicle or exercising and cleaning. There's no reason we can't use that time to improve ourselves," said Johnson.

The first episode, "[Why Trees Are Key](#)," is the most listened to episode to date. *Source [TEXASGARDENER.COM](#) February 20, 2019 newsletter.



American Wolf: A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West by Nate Blakeslee
I heard the author interviewed on NPR and got the impression this was written in the voice of a particular Yellowstone wolf. Well, not really, but still an enthralling chronicle of the wolves of Yellowstone (introduced in 1995) and their stories set in the context of conflicting interests (the environment, ecological balance, ranching, hunting, wildlife protection, politics, land use, AND MORE). The way the author put everything together makes for a very intimate, personal story.

Washington on The Brazos Workday Highlights, by Julie Itz



We arrived at the Pollinator Garden at Washington-on-the-Brazos to find that feral hogs had visited the garden and had dug up quite a bit of the area, especially under the oak tree. So we had a bit of clean up to do to get the dirt put back into the planting bed and the upset plants placed back in the bed.

David Itz, Luther Moore and Sheri Wilcox worked to add metal edging to areas of the beds that didn't have edging. Julie Itz and Sheri pulled Bermuda grass and weeds, and Luther and David swept the walkways around the garden. It was difficult to tell whether the seeds planted in November had come up, because of the damage from the feral hogs.





Sheri Wilcox weeding



Luther Moore sweeping



David Itz finished sweeping

A few plants were blooming: Brown-eyed Susan, May Night Salvia and Asters. Meanwhile, we observed other plants beginning to send out new green shoots. The Scarlet Sage plants have growing very well since they were planted last November.



Brown-eyed Susan



May Night Salvia



Aster

WoB Workday –February 23, 2019

At the WoB Workday on February 23, Sheri Wilcox and Luther Moore were happy to find no additional feral hog damage in the Pollinator Garden. They did find that the warm, wet weather has encouraged weeds to grow! A year ago, we canceled the February 2018 Workday because the colder winter weather lasted longer last winter, so there were few weeds to pull then. The next day, while Julie Itz was working in the Pollinator Garden, a park visitor stopped to ask if she knew the name of the pink wildflowers growing along the trail from Independence Hall to the Brazos River. When she went to investigate, Julie found several different wildflowers in bloom, including a few Bluebonnets and Indian Paintbrush!



Phlox



Texas Dandelion



Phlox



Texas Baby Blue Eyes



Texas Ragwort



Indian Paintbrush



Redbud



Stemless Spiderwort



It's a beautiful time of the year to visit Washington-on-the-Brazos. **Come join on Saturday, March 23rd!** Email jwiemail@aol.com for more information.

Sealy ISD 6th Grade at Stephen F. Austin State Park, by Tom Shaughnessy

What a wild winter day we had with 200 Sealy 6th graders in the woods in January. Led by project leader Tom Shaughnessy TMNers set up 4 stations for students to rotate through: survival hike, Bite Me Leave Me Be, bingo/scavenger hunt, and mammal tracks/scat. Undaunted, bundled up volunteers were Tom Shaughnessy, Charlene Koehler, Terry Rooney, Cindy Rodibaugh, Dottie Shoeneberg, Betsy Palkowsky, Jim Wilson, Donna Mueller, Annette Holdeman, Ann Ray, and (missed photo) Carol Paulson, and Lori Buffum.



Family Science Nights-Fun for “Kids” of All Ages, by Lori Buffum

Bellville Family Science Night is in the books for the 4th year!! And so is Flatonia (for the 2nd year). Thanks to the wonderful set of colorful posters created by Lefty & LuAn Yarnold, we have fun with “kids” of all ages as they find answers to the Bingo/Scavenger Hunt game to win prizes.

Organizers estimated the crowd at Flatonia to number more than 250 and since the venue there is comparatively small, our chapter volunteers had quite a challenge interacting with the families but persevered and made it a great success. The Flatonia team included Lefty & LuAn, Loretta Baumgarten, Lemae Higgs, Donna Mueller, Terry Rooney, and Nita Tiemann. In Bellville, where we had the luxury of spreading out in the gymnasium, we added the “Paws & Poop” display which attracted lots of extra attention. We were excited to give more than 300 attendees a chance to learn a little about Texas nature. Volunteers extraordinaire included Lefty & LuAn, Jim Wilson, Ann Ray, Chris Morrison, Dottie Schoeneberg, Diana Kies, Linda Esco, and Lori Buffum.



Brenham Elementary School Fridays, by Carol Paulson

Last November, Carol Paulson recruited Lori Buffum and Judy Deaton to meet with Natalie James (Brenham school district outdoor education coordinator) to plan a set of nature stations (with 20 minute rotations) for all the students at Brenham Elementary. We settled on 5 topics: Bats, Bees, Bluebirds, Butterflies, and Journaling and began to flesh out the “lesson plans” and materials required for each grade level from Kindergarten through Fourth. Carol took the lead on bluebirds, Judy on bats, Lori on butterflies and then we recruited Jan Hughes for bees and Jim Wilson for journaling. In addition, Stephanie Damron (TPWD) was on board for mammals (skins & skulls).

Friday January 25, 227 2nd and 3rd graders rotated through 6 stations set up outside in Brenham’s very extensive outdoor area that includes pavilions, a butterfly garden, a sensory garden, a grassy area and even a couple of bridges. It was a chilly morning but the kids were enthusiastic and eager to participate in all the different activities. Other chapter members helping the station leaders were Jon Watkins, John Gardner, Karen Gardner, Allen Ginnard, Linda Esco and Annette Holdeman. [Photos thanks to Karen Gardner]

Friday February 1, it was the 1st and 4th grades turn to come out. Another chilly morning couldn’t dampen the enthusiasm of the 254 kids or the volunteers and we had a little crew changeup so the team of helpers included Jon Watkins, Allen Ginnard, John Gardner, Linda Esco, Annette Holdeman, Robert Mott and Jamie Lee Manning. And we were all delighted by the Banner-Press news coverage [thanks to Jon Watkins for sharing the photo].

And February 8: That’s a wrap! The TMN-GLC team brought the outdoor education sessions inside to 127 Kindergartners on a very cold sleety Friday morning. Jim Wilson and Linda Esco led Journaling; Judy Deaton and Allen Ginnard led Bats; Robert Mott and Jan Hughes led Bluebirds; Stephanie Damron (Wildlife Biologist) led Skins & Skulls; Annette Holdeman led Bees; and Lori Buffum led Butterflies.

We all learned so much and appreciated the feedback sessions afterwards. So, as a team, we are looking forward to sharing the lesson plans with the chapter so we could perhaps extend our “nature stations” to other schools.



The Banner-Press

SERVING WASHINGTON COUNTY SINCE 1866

FEATURED

Learning about bluebirds

Lydia Hill/Banner-Press Jan 26, 2019 0



Learning about bluebirds

Nikki King's third grade class listen as Jon Watkins (left) and Carol Paulson of the Gideon Lincecum chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists share facts about eastern Bluebirds during a visit Friday to the Outdoor Learning Center at Brenham Elementary School. The Outdoor Learning Center teaches students about different aspects of nature, such as bees and field journals, as they stop at different stations presented by volunteers from the Texas Master Naturalists and Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Lydia Hill/Banner-Press

Monument Hill Workday, by Karen Woods

On February 15, we had a successful work day at Monument Hill (And we worked off all those Valentines Day sweets!) We set the Palmetto and Black Jack Oak interpretive signs; cleared nandina; cut down a huge ligustrum tree; and bagged-up its seed-berries. We marveled at how the ligustrum had gotten so large, evading our eradication eagle eyes for so long!

A BIG THANKS to Ron and Mary Ann Peach, Nita Tiemann and Greg Walker for giving their all to dig holes, chop, tug and haul. It was also great to work with Kenneth Coleman again and to meet Roger Parker, Monument Hill's new Maintenance Supervisor. We expect to come back late Spring to look for other invasives and identify other plant species to create additional interpretive signs.

Please call Karen Woods, Chair of the Monument Hill Project, at (281.682.2810) if you would like to be on the special Monument Hill call list, or if you have any questions or suggestions.



Fundraiser Committee Update, by Linda Esco

Mark your calendars! The fundraiser lecture, "What's a Landowner to Do? A Plan for Your Land", will be held on October 11th at the Washington County Fairground event room. More details as the event gets closer.

Looking for Lichen, by Lori Buffum



It's not a moss, it's not a fungus, it's lichen and a damp chilly winter day is a great time to find it posing for pictures. In this picture, you can actually see four or five different varieties. I love finding them and studying them and photographing them. Next time you are out and about, see what you can find. You will be amazed!

"Lichens are a complex life form that is a symbiotic partnership of two separate organisms, a fungus and an alga. The dominant partner is the fungus, which gives the lichen the majority of its characteristics, from its thallus shape to its fruiting bodies. The alga can be either a green alga or a blue-green alga, otherwise known as cyanobacteria." -US Forest Service [Here is a great website for learning about lichen: <https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/beauty/lichens/index.shtml>]

Speaking of Lichens...Cindy Rodihaugh sent me an awesome song her husband Scott found while recovering. Cindy sends her heartfelt thanks to everyone that stepped up and help make the Flatonia Science Night a huge success! Enjoy this song called, "The Strangely Popular Lichen Song." The love story of Freddy and Alice!

The Strangely Popular Lichen Song

*Once there was a fungus — Freddy was his name
Said "There's no love for me among us, all us fungi look the same."
So he took himself a courtin' down to where the green things grow
Met some algae name of Alice, and she set his heart aglow*

Chorus:

*Freddy Fungus and Alice Algae took a LICHEN to each other
They grew so very close that now you cain't tell one from t'other
Now those lichens lead a simple life, they never are alone —
Alice does the cookin', and Freddy builds the home
— That's right, this song is biologically correct —
Freddy said "Oh Alice, you've made my life complete,"
But Alice said, "Now Freddy, there's something else we need.*

*Got to have some lichen children — little ones like you and me,”
So they broke themselves in pieces, and that’s how lichens came to be*

Chorus

*So if you’re a lonesome fungus, and you’re hungry too besides,
Better hook up with somebody who can photosynthesize
And if you love each other, as all good couples do,
And take vows of symbiosis, you can be a lichen too!*

Music and lyrics © 1991 by Alan AtKisson – from the album “Whole Lotta Shoppin’ Goin’ On,” Rain City Records, 1999

Return of the River Otter



[River otters](#) are considered a "sentinel species" because they're very sensitive to pollution. By the 1970s poor water quality, unregulated hunting and loss of wetlands had reduced them to a small population in East Texas. But river otters are making a comeback and are now seen as far west as Austin. Watch this video of an [otter having lunch](#) at Fairfield Lake State Park. The otter's return indicates the waterways they enjoy are relatively healthy, and that's good news for us all.

These playful creatures are not always easy to spot, but biologist Jonah Evans offers [otter insights](#) in this article. Look for them on [Texas Paddling Trails](#) and the [Great Texas Wildlife Trails](#) in East Texas. The [iNaturalist map](#) shows places river otters have been spotted, so if you see one be sure and add it to help us keep track of their expanding range. By, Texas Parks and Wildlife Newsletter

Naturalist Observations, by Loretta Baumgarten and Donna Mueller



To my delight (as a Bug Person) this colorful, plump caterpillar was found resting on a post. It seems to be a Luna moth caterpillar. Several weeks before a Luna moth was found on my screen door. What a beauty! By Loretta Baumgarten. Beautiful photographs below courtesy of Donna Mueller. Absolutely stunning!



Resources

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

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