

In this issue...

From the President	1-2
National Volunteer Week	2
On the Horizon Meetings	3
TMN-GLC Class of 2019	3
Interesting Citizen Scientist Activity	4
What is in the Grass?	4
Wildflowers are Abundant this Year	5
Washington on the Brazos Work Days	6-8
Sharing Nature with Hundreds of Kids	9
BISD Update	10
Quail Necropsy Day	11
San Felipe de Austin Historic Site	12-13
Stephen F. Austin State Park	13
Cotton Gin Festival	14
Shubert House Work Day	15
Invasive Plants Workshop	15
Booming and Blooming Festival	16
Birding on a beach in Mexico	17-19
Is that a Sprout a Weed or Wildflower?	19
Can you claim your money?	19
Membership Update	20
20th TMN Annual Meeting	21
Grants Update	22
Some Calvin Fun	22
Resources	23

From the President – Betsy Palkowsky

I think it's safe to say Happy Spring. But, you never know with the way the temperatures have gone from cold to hot and vice versa lately. The good part about this cooler weather is that the wild flowers are lasting longer or taking longer to bloom so everything looks great in my gardens and fields. The cooler weather helps when we have so many outdoor spring activities to volunteer at; outdoor classes, festivals, gardens, hiway cleanup, citizen science projects and various workshops. Thanks to all of you that manage and work on the many opportunities we have and to those of you that work in your own way. Together we make a difference in our community and give back to the Texas Master Naturalist™, [Texas Parks and Wildlife](#) and [Texas AgriLife](#) organizations.

Comings and Goings



By the time you read this newsletter we will have 20 graduates of this year's training program. As with every class each person has different interests in what they wanted to get out of the class and what



they want to do with the knowledge they have gained. I hope to see many of the graduates out in the field or at an AT session so that they can become Certified Master Naturalist soon.

Many of you are familiar with the wide variety of Brenham ISD programs our chapter has offered and/or helped with over the last



10 years. This effort could not have been successful without the dedication and devotion of Carol Paulson (and of course many others) to the kids and the program. As she moves on to be closer to her family we welcome Debra Healy as the new coordinator of this program.

Give both Carol and Debra a hug and a big thank you for all of their time spent working on this much needed effort.

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

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK



Thank You Texas Master Naturalists!
Here's how we made a difference in 2018:



NEW VOLUNTEERS

Over 900 new volunteers were trained in 2018, spread across 48 chapters across the state of Texas.



OUTREACH

Last year, 390,936 youth, adults, & landowners interacted with 5,265 active volunteers. Over 6 million people have been impacted by Texas Master Naturalist volunteers to date.



TRAILBLAZING

111 new trail miles were developed or maintained last year. To date, over 2,321 miles of trails have been impacted.



MAJOR MILESTONES

In 2018, we had the first ever 3 volunteers to individually reach 20,000 hours of accumulated volunteer service during their time with the program.



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

Texas Master Naturalists provided \$11.2 million for the state in 2018, raising the total contribution of the program to over \$102 million.



www.txmn.org



Cindy Hobbs has stepped down as AT Director. Thank you, Cindy, for taking on this role as we transitioned to new officers and directors. Mark Brown, our VP, is now the AT Director. B.R. Koehler has joined the AT committee. Please use the [Advanced Training Request Form](#). Submit to the [Advanced Training Committee](#) at least 7 days prior to the training date. This is only necessary if the training falls outside of the sponsored events listed on the Chapter website calendar.

Another big thank goes to Deb Hinze as she took on the reins of this year's training program, due to Jeb Lapeyrolerie moving out of state. Deb did a great job handling the ups and downs of the program. Being the Training Director takes patience, flexibility, good-naturedness, good people skills and other skills to ensure success. Every year is different, and Deb did a fantastic job guiding this year's class. I look forward to working with Karen and John Gardner as they take over the program for 2020 and 2021. They have been attending many of the classes to see how things are done. I'm sure they will do a great job.

Chapter Meeting and AT

You are invited to attend the May 18, 2019 chapter meeting, located at the Fayette County Agrilife Center, 255 Svoboda Ln, La Grange, TX 78945. The meeting is 9:30 – 10:30 and Advanced Training is from 11:00 -1:00. AT topics are 'Aldo Leopold – Green Fire' video and discussion followed by Sheri Wilcox, Ann Ray, Karen Gardner and Ginny Welch presenting overviews of their favorite 2018 annual meeting training session. Bring a sack lunch and join the conversation.

On The Horizon Meetings

Board Meetings

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
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
May 18	9:30-11:00 AM	La Grange Ag Center
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

Congratulations to the TMN-GLC Class of 2019



Left to Right: Steve Thompson, Gerri Hanten, Ken English, Barbara Boucher, Eric Herbst, Peggy Cadenhead, Ellen Morris, Denise Keller, Susan Vanderworth, Katelin Holliday, Marty Schoenemann, Mike Schumann, Ellis Giles, David Hessel, Lori Hessel, Betty Scardino, Mary-Helen Giles, Lorna Mangus, John Elick

Interesting Citizen Science Activity, by Betsy Palkowsky

Julie Itz found this interesting volunteer opportunity.

GLOBE Observer is an international network of citizen scientists and scientists working together to learn more about our shared environment and changing climate. To participate, just download the [GLOBE Observer app](#) and submit regular observations.

The GLOBE Observer Program currently accepts cloud, mosquito habitat, and land cover observations. In August of 2017 GLOBE Observer accepted air temperature measurements for the solar eclipse. (The solar eclipse occurred on Monday, August 21, 2017.)

Review what's involved and submit a new project request to cindyr@devonindustries.com and srachris48@aol.com if you are interested in doing this activity.



What Grass is That?, by Betsy Palkowsky



It is often we find it difficult to distinguish one grass from another especially if there isn't a seed head to look at. I bet most, if not all, of us have seen Little quackinggrass, *Briza minor L.*, this year but didn't know what it was called. I found it in "Common Texas Grasses An Illustrated Guide" by Frank W. Gould. I'm not sure I would call this "common" as I haven't seen it in the 10 years I've been in the area. I do know I'm not alone in this observation since many folks have spotted it all over the place. I guess it loved all the rain we've gotten since last September.

This is a low growing, short-lived, native annual which appears in early spring. This grass is often abundant in moist woodland clearings and along semi-disturbed soils in eastern Texas. It must have been lying dormant in my fields for years just waiting for all of the rain.

Wildflowers are abundant this Spring, by Betsy Palkowsky



The moist and cool weather has brought out more and different flowers than I've observed on my property in years. Here's my list of what I've seen so far this year.
*indicates what was planted or volunteered in my pollinator gardens. As we ask why we see some forbs and grasses come back year after year and why others

don't show up for ages, experts say, "it depends." What's the most unusual forb or grass you've seen this year that you haven't seen before or in a while?



Twenty Acre Woods Forbs of Spring 2019

Antelope horn milkweed Barbara' button Beauty berry* Bergmann's Sage* Black-eyed Susan* Bluebonnets Blue-eyed grass Butterfly bush* Butterfly pea Buttonbush* Catclaw sensitivebriar Chickweed Common sunflower Corral berry* Dwarf dandelion Englemann's Daisy Field ragweed Fleabane Golden eye Golden groundswell	Hedge parsley Indian paintbrush Indian Plantain Larkspur* Loose flowered penstemon Meally sage* Mexican buckeye* Mexican plum* Mountain laurel* Narrowleaf Puccoon Native Lantana* Pink and white gaura* Pink evening primrose Pink smartweed Plains indigo Plains lazy daisy Plains verbena Plumed thistle Prairie bluet Prairie spiderwort Purple Vetch	Rain lily Salvia Greggii* Salvia guaranitica 'Black and Blue'* Scarlet pimpernel Scarlet Sage* Smartweed Spiderwort Spread leaf Aster Stiffstem flax Texas dandelion Texas pink thistle Texas redbud* Texas yellow star grass Violet rubella White Bearded iris* Wild onion Windflower Winecup Yellow flax Yellow Texas-star Yellow wood sorrel
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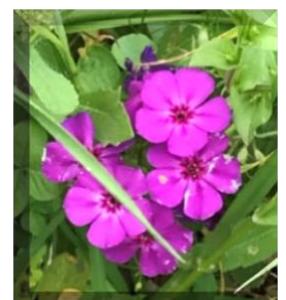
Washington on The Brazos Workdays, by Julie and David Itz

Washington on the Brazos Workday – March 23, 2019

Sheri Wilcox, Julie and David Itz worked in the Washington on the Brazos Pollinator Garden on the March Workday. It was the height of bluebonnet season, so lots of visitors came to the park that day to take photos of bluebonnets.



Other wildflowers including Indian paintbrush, Drummond's phlox, spiderworts, asters, primroses, false dandelions, Texas toadflax filled the fields along the walking paths.





In addition, bike riders training for the April MS 150 ride, who had begun their morning training ride at Brenham High School, were stopping at Washington to take a break.



In the garden we observed plants greening up and sprouting out. The orange honeysuckle is blooming profusely this year. Unfortunately, we're fighting an uphill battle with ragweed which has spread throughout the garden.



And the bluebonnet plants in the pollinator garden were ready to bloom.

In addition to weeding, trimming, sweeping the walks and tidying the beds, we planted Tahoka daisy, Plains coreopsis and Zinnia seeds to replace the plants that have died. To give butterflies, bees and birds a place to get water, we placed a couple of shallow dishes filled with small rocks in the pollinator garden to catch rain water and hopefully the overspray from the irrigation system.



Washington on the Brazos Workday – April 13, 2019

With the prediction of strong thunderstorms and rain on April 13, the WoB Workday was cancelled. Instead Julie and David Itz travelled to WoB the day before to put in replacement plants that were purchased at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Plant Sale earlier that day.



Winecup (*Callirhoe involucrate*) Engelmann Daisy (*Engelmannia peristenia*) Sharpsepal Beardtongue (*Penstemon tenuis*)

Meanwhile, more plants were blooming and putting out new growth in the pollinator garden.



Purple Passion vine (*Passiflora incarnata*) Red Yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*) Texas Bluebonnet (*Lupinus texensis*)

It's a great time to visit Washington on the Brazos and enjoy the beautiful wildflowers while the weather is pleasant. We hope more Chapter members will join us on our Saturday Workdays; the next one will be May 11.

Sharing Nature with Hundreds of Kids, by Lori Buffum

What a busy Winter/Spring it has been for our Brenham ISD Outdoor Education programs! We have worked with more than a thousand kids out at Lake Somerville, at Brenham Elementary's outdoor classroom, in their school labs, and in their classrooms, with 3rd, 5th, 6th, and 8th graders. You read about some of the Winter activities in the last newsletter but since then, March and April have been packed with opportunities to support the fantastic and unique BISD curriculum-based outdoor classroom days and science-focused lab experiences.

Natalie James (curriculum specialist for the whole Brenham school district) coordinates every single one of these days and has provided training sessions for our volunteers to help us learn to be effective and focused as we work at each of the various "stations" and with each of the different grade levels. TMNer Carol Paulson has been our GLC project coordinator for many years and always an active volunteer on "park" days. She has seen the program develop and evolve over the years to what is currently a finely-tuned machine. Her partnership with Natalie and her commitment to volunteering and recruiting volunteers are two of the main reasons for the success of this incredible, ground-breaking youth education program. Project leadership is now transitioning to Debra Healy who has also volunteered with the program for many years. Each day at the park, we see about 120 kids, so we try to have 6 or 7 Texas Master Naturalist volunteers to help. There is a dedicated group of chapter members who enjoy working with kids and put in hundreds of volunteer hours with the BISD program.

*Photo - Just a few of the "gang" from a couple of years ago: L to R - Ann Ray, **Debra Healy**, Robert Mott, Lori Buffum, Betsy Palkowsky, **Carol Paulson**, Dave Redden. Just to give you an idea of the scope of this program, here's what happened in the first 4 months of 2019.*

- Four Fridays at Brenham Elementary – 6 different stations for Kinder through 4th grade
- Three days at Birch Creek Park – 3 different stations for 6th graders
- Three days at Nails Creek Park – 3 different stations for 3rd graders
- Two days at Birch Creek Park – 3 different stations for 5th graders
- One day at Brenham Jr. High – Quail dissection lab
- One day at Brenham Jr. High – Deer pluck lab
- STEAM Night at Brenham Elementary – 2 stations for this district-wide evening showcasing Science, Technology, Arts, Mathematics



We hope lots more of you can join us next Fall when "outdoor education" is back in session. As always, check the GLC website events calendar for upcoming opportunities.

BISD Update, by Debra Healy

Our chapter, Gideon Lincecum (GL), wants to thank Carol Paulson for the dedication of 8 years of being the Brenham ISD liaison with GL. She spent a tremendous amount of her time working for us and successful programs for the schools.

On March 20,2019, we GL, worked with Brian Roberts on the L.A.N.D.S program deer pluck dissection with BISD 8th graders. Besides the aroma, the project was a success.

On April 2-4, 2019, our group worked with 6th graders at Birch Creek SP. Our volunteers followed curriculum ideas that would help the students on their TAKS test.

On April 9-11 2019, our volunteers were at Nails Creek SP leading the 3rd graders. Scats and Tracks, wild flower identification walk, and charades were played with the students. Everyone had a good time.

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) for all BISD Elementary Schools was held the evening of April 25, 2019. We had wonderful volunteers who engaged the students and their parents in Scat and Tracks as well as composting.

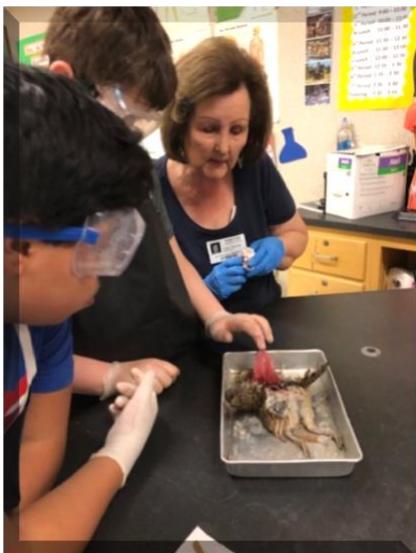
I want to thank all the volunteers throughout the spring season for helping make the Outdoor Education of BISD a success.

Deer Pluck Session



Quail Necropsy, Dottie Schoeneberg

On March 6th, five TMN members (LuAn and Lefty Yarnold, Robert Mott, Jon Watkins and Dottie Schoeneberg) participated in the quail necropsy for the 7th graders at Brenham Jr High. They helped students learn by taking a bobwhite quail and exploring the internal and external adaptations of birds. They also compared them to humans and other organisms. The day was quite fascinating for all who participated. This was under the direction of the L.A.N.D.S. Program.



San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, by Karen Ginnard

Our Gideon Lincecum Texas Master Naturalists began a new project in Austin County, working with the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site (SFA SHS) there by the Stephen F. Austin State Park.

San Felipe de Austin, a town founded by Stephen F. Austin in 1823, played a pivotal role in events leading up to the Texas Revolution, yet this story is not nearly as well-known or understood as others in the chronicles of Texas history, including the Alamo and San Jacinto.

Commemorating the location where, in 1823, Stephen F. Austin established a headquarters for his colony in Mexican Texas, San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site and new museum share the stories of early settlers in this region. Today, visitors can walk in the footsteps of these early pioneers at what was the social, economic, and political center of American immigration to Texas before independence. San Felipe de Austin didn't survive the war for Texas independence -- it was burned by its own residents as they evacuated during the Runaway Scrape of 1836.

The historically significant site is surrounded by a number of landscape areas which need to be assessed and maintained for native plantings. The site staff is looking to the expertise of the Texas Master Naturalists to advise as to which plants need to stay and which ones need to be replaced. Since the grand opening ceremony on April 27, 2018, much of the grasses and flowers in the native landscape areas has flourished. A visit to review the site on April 4th, 2019 highlighted a need for spring cleaning of the beds, removal of plants that did not flourish or are not desired, removal of invasive plants, and replacement of some plants that did not survive their first year. In addition, there are fire ant beds to treat, non-native plantings to consider eliminating in the overall plan (long-term), and the need for expertise regarding the grasses, trees, and flowers at the site (a special thanks to Charlene Koehler and Charlotte von Rosenberg for some early grass expertise!). In general, this is a large front-loaded project with a need for thoughtful consideration for future maintenance and artistry. We will have access to a maintenance staff member in the future, whose position is currently open. Thankfully, sprinkler systems are in place and functioning.

We began the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site project with workdays on April 13th and April 18th, with heavy rains forecast to come through on both days. Fortunately, the storms did mostly move through before we started our workdays and a total of 18 volunteers were able to donate approximately 53 manhours over the two days. Our volunteer force for the first workday included a troop of 7 Scouts and their 3 leaders, which helped tremendously. On the first workday, we removed two heaping pick-up truck loads of weeds. On the second workday, we removed 15 large contractor bags of weeds. For both days altogether, we estimate we completed approximately 28% of the work to be completed in phase 1, which is just the removal of weeds and invasives. We completed removal of most weeds, invasives, and undesired plants on the two berms close to the building. We still have a huge workload to do the same for the parking lot beds.

The parking lot beds have a real challenge with invasive plants, especially Deep-rooted Sedge and Brazilian Vervain. In addition, there is a large quantity of 'trash grass' that needs to be removed, but for now, we're just targeting removing invasives and weeds, as well as cutting back deadwood. The longer-term plan will include removal of the unknown and undesired grass, and replacement of non-native plants. The photos showing the site as it looked when first opened and the parking lot beds now show just what a challenge we have ahead! The good news is that there were also large quantities of native wildflowers sown at the site in

the fields, and on both days, they were in lovely display! If you haven't had a chance to visit, the museum and grounds are well worth the trip-and you can also see what our GLC TMN group is accomplishing at Stephen F. Austin State Park across the road under the wise project leadership of our very own GLC TMN Tom Shaughnessy!

Stephen F. Austin State Park, Tom Shaughnessy

Did you know that Stephen F. Austin State Park is part of the official UTC (Upper Texas Coast) Birding Trail? Yup, Site #102 and part of The Katy Prairie Loop.

Did you know that Stephen F. Austin State Park once had an olympic size pool with a hive dive, a shower house and a hamburger stand?

Did you know that Stephen F. Austin State Park has an agreement with the Texas Historical Commission that helps protect the park's cultural resources relating to the settlement of the San Felipe de Austin colony?

TMN volunteers at the Stephen F. Austin State Park Headquarters have made great progress this Spring in creating the Native Wildscape Pollinator Interpretive Garden. The project began last summer. What once was a neglected pond feature is forming into a display of native habitat and a nectar & pollen source for pollinators. There is still work to do as we continue to add native (to the area) perennial plants, signage and begin design of a rain water harvesting system for irrigation.

Our project has also received a financial grant from The Native Plant Society of Texas and a grant in the form of plants that included 50 native milkweed sprigs from Project Monarch Watch.

Keep an eye out on the chapter calendar and the emails of notification of SFA SP work days. Work days typically are held every other Thursday morning. Contact Project Director Tom Shaughnessy at greenh2o@gmail.com for additional information.



Cotton Gin Festival, by Judith Deaton

On Saturday April 27th our chapter for the 10th year+ participated in the Texas Cotton Gin Festival. This year at the request of the Cotton Gin manager, Steph Jarvis, volunteers engaged kids and families with bees, bats, bluebirds and butterflies. Lots of folks helping with setup, morning shift, afternoon shift, and material prep. A glorious day. Thanks to Judy Deaton for organizing and energizing us.

Volunteers brought materials that we had gathered from our various homes, educational and county facilities to present a display concentrating on Bluebirds (coloring sheets), Pollinators (pollinating artificial flowers with bees on sticks and turmeric "pollen") and taking home butterfly cut outs on sticks that were a big hit.

We had several posters on display on monarch life stages, bee life stages, bats (the teenagers liked this), types of bees and invasive plants. The TMN display board was put up and attracted several adults in particular as we had a giant leopard moth and a rusty oak moth larva (with water and food) doing duty nearby in our brand new insect viewers. We had greenhouse plants on sale thanks to the good care Charlotte gave them since the February planting. Many thanks to the all the volunteers who did double duty this year in two sessions.

Participants: Debra Healy, Charlotte von Rosenberg, Lori Buffum, Jim Wilson, Judy Deaton, Cindy Hobbs, Tom Hobbs, Mary Ann Butler, David Butler, Betty Jo Stephen and Lorna Mangus. Karen Woods.



Schubert House Workday, by Karen Woods

We had a fun and successful work day at Schubert House on March 22th in Giddings. It felt so good to get back in the Spring Swing and clean-up our pollinator garden! Fortunately, Winter did not take too bad a death toll on our plantings from last year, and we planted a Guara and a Texas Buckeye. AND it appears we have new plants generated by the Milk Weed we planted last year!

A big thank to Mary Ann and Dave Butler, Cindy Hobbs, Annette Holdeman and Jan Hughes for digging/pulling weeds and pruning trees and Lantana. We also built-up muscle mass working with the mulch. It was great to catch-up with each other as we worked. Buddy Preuss of "The Giddings Times and News" and Denise Harlan of the Chamber visited us, and we received another nice write-up in the "Times". We expect to return soon to plant more and to start our herb garden and fountain projects before hot weather is upon us.

Please call Karen Woods (281.682.2810) or Cindy Hobbs (979.338.9374) if you would like to be on the special Schubert House call list, or if you have any questions or suggestions.



Invasive Plants Workshop Update, by Judy Deaton

It has been 6 weeks since our very successful Invasive Plants Workshop and it is encouraging to see that generally the new citizen scientists are making an effort to report their findings. Keep up the good work! The new app makes entering data so much easier. Some of you may question the identity of that plant you suspect is an invasive, but are still a little unsure. I encourage the use of the iNaturalist app called SEEK that identifies plants, insects and animals using your iPhone camera. If anyone would like to participate in a day outing to hone their ID skills let me know and we can look into making arrangements.



Booming and Blooming Festival, by Diana Kies

The “Booming and Blooming” Festival took place at the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, April 13th and Sunday, April 14th. The highlight of the festival was the opportunity to view the courtship “Booming” dance of the Attwater Prairie Chicken on the prairie lek. Visitors came great distances to attend this special event. Several were from Belgium, France and Holland as well as throughout the US, ranging from Maryland to Washington state.

The Guest Speaker was Mark Lange, Wildlife Biologist from Texas Parks and Wildlife on “The Role of Fire in the Ecosystem”. Native American Dancers from the Blackfoot tribe shared their heritage with the highlight being the Prairie Chicken dance among others. Refuge staff provided guided tours of the prairie and walking birding and native plant tours.

The Conservation Corner had representatives from The Houston Zoo, Texas Master Naturalists, Texas Master Gardeners, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wildlife Habitat Federation. Mary Parr, Mayor of Eagle Lake, provided information about her area. Native seed packets were available.

The Children’s Art Contest finalists from participating area schools was on display in the Visitors Center. We are hoping to expand to other area schools next year. 2019 Art Contest t-shirts, 2018 Art Contest “Butt” t-shirts and Forever t-shirts were sold by the Friends of the Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge. The Festival Membership Special with t-shirts available at a discount with Membership brought in many new members.

The Kids Corner had Attwater Prairie Chicken pictures, tattoos and masks. The Attwater Prairie Chicken Mascot made an appearance again this year. New this year was an Attwater Prairie Chicken photo cutout and Bean Bag toss. A group from Furr High School was treated to a special tour of the Prairie.

We encouraged visitors to explore Eagle Lake and Sealy while in the area: Eagle Lake’s Depot and Prairie Edge Museums, Sealy’s “Spring Fest” and Texas Master Gardener’s Plant Sale, the San Felipe de Austin Museum and Stephen F. Austin State Park. The numbers of one of the most endangered birds in North America are back up to the pre Harvey numbers at 108 in the wild, up from 30 last year. Check out the Friends of the Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge website for further information, www.attwater.org. We hope to see you next year.



Birding on the Beach in Mexico, by Lori Buffum

Near Xcalak, Quintana Roo, Mexico – March 2019. When we weren't snorkeling at the coral gardens, we were on the beach amidst the coconut palms. This 18-mile stretch of the Costa Maya is protected as the Parque Nacional Arrecifes De Xcalak. I had such a wonderful time watching and photographing the birds and wanted to learn their IDs so I was posting to iNaturalist. Wonderful “discussions” ensued to get the IDs correct and precise and then several of my observations were added to iNaturalist Projects – exciting. Here are a few of my favorites:



A different bird was hanging out on the pier with the gathering of terns. Meet the Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*).

A chance encounter on the beach:
Mexican Parrot Snake or Green-headed Tree Snake (*Leptophis mexicanus*)



Frequent sight soaring the skies,
looking to steal fish from birds who
have worked hard for their catch.
Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)

Woodpeckers at their home high in the coconut palm on the beach. Golden-fronted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes aurifrons*)





Preening and posing on driftwood anchored offshore: Brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

Stalking the tide: Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias)



Birds of these feathers always flocked together, flying swiftly from sand to seaweed to floating log: Ruddy turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)



(*Glaucidium brasiliense*)

The 3 stooges?
Royal tern
(*Thalasseus maximus*)
Whooeep,
whooeep, whooep – she's back to the beach, high in the coconut palm fronds during the day, resting from a night of hunting in the jungle: Ferruginous Pygmy Owl



And these characters created a constant cacophony as they gathered nesting materials for their homes in the palms.
Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)



Is that sprout a weed or a wildflower, by Rob Kamper

Resource: <https://npsot.org/wp/story/2019/11445/>

Posted on [March 7, 2019](#) by [Bob Kamper](#)

Ever wonder whether a green sprout is a weed or a wildflower?

Here's a downloadable guide from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that provides detailed descriptions of how to identify wildflower seedlings of the Great Plains (from Texas through Oklahoma and states to the North) as well as photographs of the leaves separately and with a ruler for scale.

[View the guide online or download](#)

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/mopmcu6313.pdf

Can You Claim the Money?, by Linda Esco

We're all busy, especially with the arrival of Spring and all the volunteer opportunities and property chores! But recently I took a minute to remember a way I could help our Chapter. I remembered that as a retiree from State Farm Insurance I had the opportunity to apply for a Good Neighbor Grant. It took literally only a few minutes to apply. This particular grant is for employees or retirees who volunteer 40 or more hours in a calendar year to a non-profit organization. I was able to apply for both the 2018 and 2019 grants! I'm asking you to just take a minute and think about a company or organization you're affiliated with and find out if you can apply for a grant award. Check it out and if you find one, apply with our Grant Committee then the organization. You never know what you may be entitled to until you try to "claim the money"!

Membership Update, by Chris Morrison

VERY IMPORTANT! Please **enter your hours in VMS as soon as you can** after an event. The state has really cracked down on enforcement of the 45 day rule, and the program **will not let the chapter VMS administrators enter hours for you that are over 45 days old**. If you wait until the last minute, and there happens to be an error that you need to correct, you will not have time to do that, so it can't be approved. I strongly suggest not waiting more than 30 days to enter hours.

Congratulations go to the following members who have achieved the following so far in 2019.

- Re-certified (at least 40 volunteer and 8 AT hours):
Donna Mueller
Betsy Palkowsky
Lori Buffum
Linda Esco
Deb Hinze
John Gardner
Chris Morrison
Tom Shaughnessy
Jim Wilson
Karen Gardner
Jon Watkins
Marcia Braun
Debra Healy
Ann Ray
Jan Hughes
Julie Itz
Mark Brown
Charles Winker
- Initially Certified in 2019 (40 volunteer & 8 AT hours since graduation)
John Gardner
Karen Gardner
Don Hinze
Annette Holdeman
- 250 volunteer hour milestone:
Sheri Wilcox
Ann Ray
Deb Hinze
- 500 volunteer hour milestone:
Mary Ann Peach
- 1000 volunteer hour milestone:
Betsy Palkowsky
Chris Morrison

20th Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting & Call for Proposals

Texas Master Naturalist



20th Annual Meeting

Join the **20th Texas Master Naturalist Program Annual Meeting**, where we'll gather, learn and celebrate another year of the Texas Master Naturalist program. This year's event, taking place in Rockwall, Texas, will run from **Friday, October 18th through Sunday, October 20th**. The event will be hosted at the **Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakefront Hotel** on the shores of Lake Ray Hubbard just east of Dallas.

The year's Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for Texas Master Naturalist volunteers from around the state to gather, participate in hands-on educational seminars, and receive all of their Advanced Training requirements for the year within one weekend. It's also an opportunity for program participants and supporters to network, share new ideas/projects, and to learn from different chapters from different regions of the state. This year's meeting will also include day trips and training workshops to many local, state and even national refuges/parks, many of which will focus on the diversity of geography, flora, fauna and history this unique area of Texas

Call for Proposals

The **Texas Master Naturalist 2019 Annual Meeting** is NOW accepting proposals for presentations! Individuals wishing to present are invited to submit their proposal on the Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting Call for Proposals website. More information on the process can be found at <https://txmn.org/2019-annual-meeting/>
**information taken from the Texas Master Naturalist website*

Grants Update, by Mary Butler

Congratulations to Tom Shaughnessy and Linda Esco who were awarded grants this year that bring money into our chapter for our approved projects.

Tom's garden grant proposal "Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas" that he submitted to the Native Plant Society was awarded in March. His proposal was one of the 16 of 42 grants submitted that were approved and he was awarded the maximum award of \$400. These funds are being used in establishing a Monarch way station garden at Stephen F. Austin State Park.

Linda Esco discovered that as a retired employee of State Farm who does at least 40 hours of work/year for a non-profit organization she was eligible to receive a \$500/year grant for the organization. She submitted and received the State Farm Good Neighbor Grant of \$500 for both 2018 and for 2019. This money can be used for chapter needs.

Chapter members, please be on the lookout small grant opportunities that would be appropriate for our chapter and notify the Grant Committee or Board of Directors. If possible allow several weeks before the deadline for submission. However, if you see something at the last minute let us or the Board of Directors know. Betsy found out about the Monarch Grant opportunity a couple of weeks before the proposal was due, and Tom put the grant proposal together within less than two weeks. Perhaps similar grants are available.

Some Calvin Fun, by Cindy Rodibaugh



From Calvin & Hobbes by Bill Watterson

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

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