



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

Summer is definitely upon us as the temperatures soar and we have the weekly rainstorms we used to get in the late 1980's. Usually, Summer is a slow time for our chapter projects. Not this year! We have multiple pollinator gardens that need help, the hi-way clean-up crew did a great job again, and chapter members are participating in new advanced training programs, citizen science projects, and outdoor training initiatives. We're finalizing plans for our October 11, 2019 fundraiser (see more info in article below) and work has begun regarding next year's training class (with a few students already enrolled.) I'm sure I missed something but you can see despite the heat and rain we're always learning, teaching and doing something to make a difference in our community and give back to the Texas Master Naturalist™, [Texas Parks and Wildlife](#) and [Texas Agrilife](#) organizations.

Chapter Meeting and AT

You are invited to attend the chapter meeting being held July 20, 2019, 9:30-11:00, at the Brenham Library, 100 Martin Luther King Jr. Pkwy, Brenham, TX 77833. Advanced Training is from 11:30 - 1:00. Bring a sack lunch and join the fun.

Advanced Training

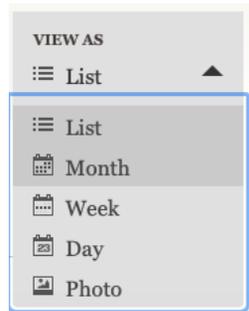
Gene Luhn, one of our own chapter members, will present an extensive set of slides on resident and migratory birds of Fayette County. He will give a brief description of the bird, identifying characteristics, habitat and information about photographing wildlife. Mary Ann Weber, Director of the Houston Audubon Raptor Center, will provide more information about the birds Gene has presented and she will have 12 to 15 live raptors for us to observe and interact with. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the birds around us and see live raptors up close.

Gene Luhn has been a Texas Master Naturalist for over 10 years. He is an avid nature observer, citizen scientist and photographer.

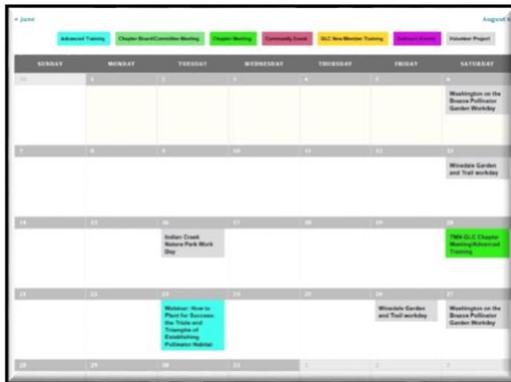
Visit the [TMN GLC website events page](#) regularly to see what activities are coming up that you might want to be a part of. Once on the homepage, click the following header:

What's New in TMN GLC?

You have the option of viewing events by list, month, week, and day.

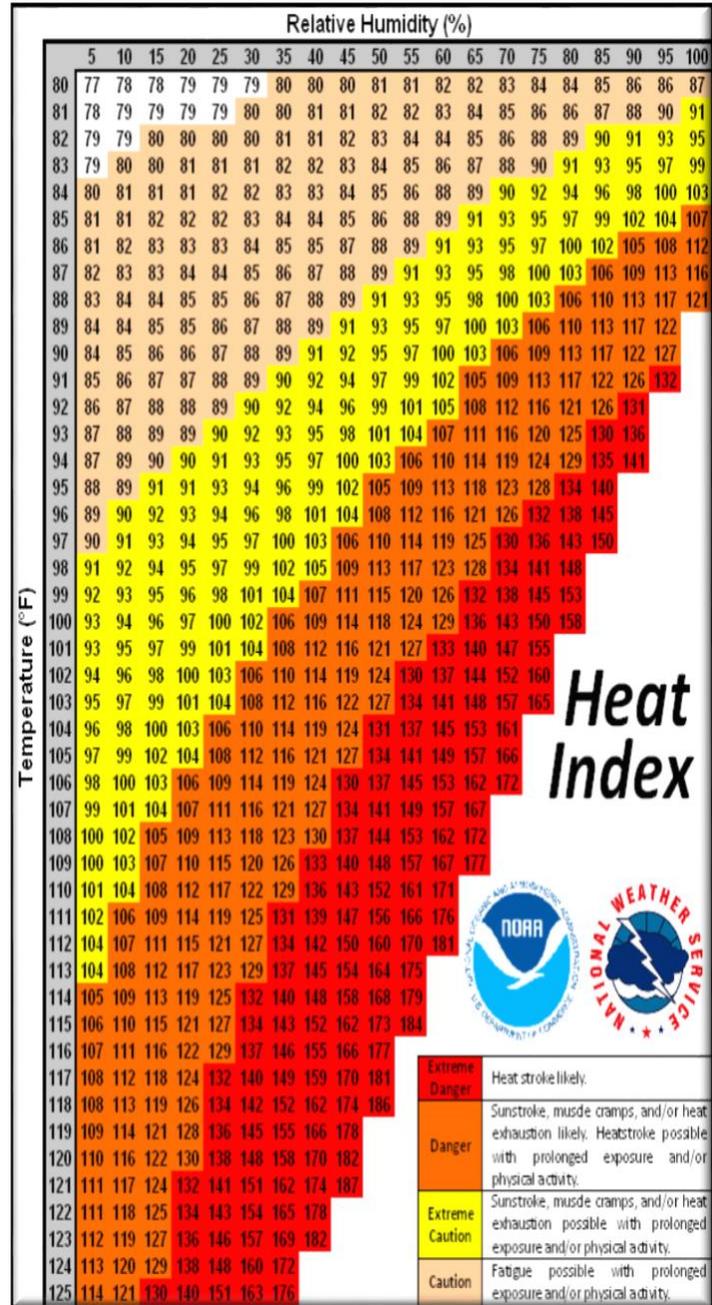


Monthly View breaks down events by category: Chapter Board/Committee Meeting, Chapter Meeting, Community Event, New Member Training, Outreach, and Volunteer Project.



Mary Ann Weber has been teaching about birds for over 20 years. She studied Wildlife Biology and Forestry at Virginia Tech. Before working for Houston Audubon, Mary Ann created and managed Wind Rock Wild Bird Rescue in Montana. She is currently the Director for Houston Audubon Raptor Center.

FRIENDLY REMINDER OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEAT INDEX



Scholarship Awarded, by Betsy Palkowsky



Lanette Williams contacted Mary Pearl and myself to see if the chapter could repeat the generosity we showed them a number of years ago in the way of a scholarship for travel costs to the National Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP.org) contest.

This year the Fayette County 4-H team won the state competition and will be headed to nationals this month. The chapter's board members unanimously agreed to award the Fayette County 4-H team \$500 to help with some of the costs in going to national contest.

We (the board members) hope the team and their coaches Bobby and Lanette Williams do a great job in Junction City, Kansas this July 14-17.

TMN-GLC Picnic and Cotton Gin Tour, by Betsy Palkowsky

You are invited to tour the Cotton Gin, Museum and Indian Creek Park and share in some good food and company.

When: July 13, 2019

Tour: 10:00 a.m. for the first 20 folks (another tour will be provided if needed)

Picnic: 11:00 am

- Meat (chicken and sausage) is provided
- Please bring a side dish
- BYOB excluding tea, water and ice (yes beer/wine is allowed)

Where: Cotton Gin Museum

307 North Main Street

Burton, TX 77835

An RSVP to bpalkowsky@outlook.com is appreciated

Spouses and other guests are welcome. Please RSVP with the number of people attending so we know how much meat to provide. This is a social event and does not qualify for volunteer service hours.

You must RSVP with #attending so I know we have enough meat. This does not count as volunteering.



Best Wishes to Carol as She Moves on to New Adventures, by Lori Buffum

Carol is my friend and that won't change. She has been one of my mentors in the TMN program and that has had a big impact on my involvement with the chapter. She is a wonderful role model for working with kids in all the outdoor education projects and that has helped me learn to be a helper and a leader on those BISD days. Although she is moving out of our chapter area and we will miss her, especially on those kids-at-the-park days, she leaves a legacy for us to honor.

Carol Paulson was a member of the GLC Class of 2009 and jumped right into volunteer service at Brenham Elementary's Outdoor Learning Center when asked if she would help with conducting "What do Trees do for You?" sessions. She was hooked! Working with the kids became her passion and the BISD program continued to evolve over the years as seeds were planted (literally – in vegetable gardens AND figuratively – in programs designed to tie in to each grade's curriculum) and outdoor education grew more and more robust. Carol claims that (as often happens) she was designated BISD projects coordinator at a team meeting during a few moments when she went to the Ladies' room. Well, she took up the reins and never looked back. And, she enthusiastically recruited me and many others to share her joy in sharing the wonders of Nature with children.

About a year into her membership, she also volunteered to put together the chapter newsletter, assembling photos and articles highlighting all the many activities of our Gideon Lincecum group. When I joined GLC in 2014, I really appreciated learning about the program through those colorful and newsy issues. By then, Carol was looking for some help since she'd been doing the newsletter for about 4 years. I demurred but began writing an article for each issue and Carol was so encouraging that she finally convinced me to become the newsletter editor. She is very supportive and persuasive!



Her favorite thing about being a Texas Master Naturalist: "The kids – seeing those eyes light up at their realization that they are learning something very cool about the magic of nature in the world around them. It happens with 1st graders and it happens with 8th graders and I loved being there with them, helping them learn, and seeing their joy."

Her favorite critter: "Birds – I love all kinds of birds. And, my new house will have bird feeders (or I would not be moving there!)."

Her favorite place in Texas: "The beaches of South Padre Island where I can play endlessly with my family and explore the ocean and the dunes. But I also love all the little towns all over the Texas Hill Country and have probably been to most of them – gosh, it's time to plan a Girls Weekend up there!"

Her favorite big trips: "Every place I've gone – Spain and Portugal, Australia and New Zealand, and most recently, Africa. Next it might be France and England but I haven't seen Oregon or Washington either. Hmmmm – but this year, it's my new house in Fulshear."

But, it's time to wish Carol the best as she moves on to new adventures. Thanks, Carol and we promise to keep lighting up those kids' eyes. [Photo: Carol with one of the garden flags, a going-away gift from the Chapter.]

Washington on the Brazos Workdays, by Julie and David Itz

Since the last newsletter report, there have been two workdays at Washington on the Brazos State Historic Park: May 11 and June 15. In between the workdays, David and I worked in the garden on May 18 and 25 tackling the explosion of ragweed. Sheri Wilcox, who worked in the garden both workdays, reported that the ragweed population is now manageable. At the June workday, Sheri was joined by Diana Yarzagaray, who has signed up for our 2020 GLC MN Training Class and is eager to get started volunteering. We have decided that with only 2-3 volunteers working in the garden each workday, we need to schedule workdays more often than once a month during the height of the growing season in order to keep up with/ahead of the weeds, plant growth, clean up, etc., perhaps every three weeks from late March through July or August.



One of the most spectacular plants blooming in the garden in May was the Standing Cypress (*Ipomopsis rubra*). While we worked in the garden, several visitors and park staff commented on it as they walked by.

In May we didn't notice many bees and butterflies, but hopefully as the flowers increase we'll see more pollinator activity. The few pollinators I saw were usually too fast to catch a photo of, so this was the only one captured on my iPhone, a Duskywing (*Erynnis*).

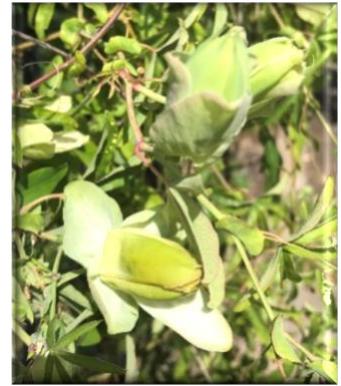


A few plants were blooming in early May and setting seeds or berries later in the month, including the Red Yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*):





the Purple Passion Vine (*Passiflora incarnata*)



and the Orange Honeysuckle (*Lonicera ciliosa*)



The Partridge Pea was beginning to pop up in May, but this year we're trying to keep it under control by limiting the plants to more specific areas in the garden. Last year it crowded out many of the other plants, so we'll see how successful we are. May is a great month to view many different plants blooming in the WoB pollinator garden:



Lemon Beebalm
(*Monarda citroidora*)



Indian Blanket
(*Gaillardia pulchella*)



Black-eyed Susan
(*Rudbeckia hirta*)



Turkscape
(*Malva viscosus arboreus*)



Giant Coneflower
(*Rudbeckia maxima*)

After the June 15 Workday, Sheri reported that the Standing Cypress, May Night Salvia, Mealy Blue Sage, Cosmos, Lanceleaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), Turkscape and Indian Blanket were still blooming. A few of the milkweeds that were planted in the past year are still alive, hopefully working on establishing their root systems. She collected seed heads from the Giant Coneflower and Horsemint and hopes to propagate the Standing Cypress, so we'll have blooms again next year. We're planning to continue collecting seeds from other plants in the garden to share with other GLC projects. Our next Workdays will be from 9-11 am on **July 6, July 27** and **August 24**. Come join us!

Three-toed Box Turtle, by Betsy Palkowsky



As usual I was looking in the wrong direction to see what was going on around me. Luckily, my dogs Sasha and Cody have a better nose for critters that are near than I do. We came upon this wandering three-toed box turtle after another heavy rain. After taking a few photos, I put it down near our pond and never saw him (or her) again.

The three-toed box turtle (*Terrapene carolina triunguis*) is a subspecies within the genus of hinge-shelled turtles commonly referred to as box turtles. It gets its common name from its back feet, which have three toes. As a subspecies of box turtle, it has a hinged shell that enables it to conceal its limbs and head within its body entirely. These turtles are native to southern-central United States, and the

Missouri state reptile.

No wonder it was happy on my property; they like humid areas such as marshes and grass lands. These little guys (about 5 inches) are unlike most box turtles as they will wander from familiar surroundings and migrate to different areas to maintain a preferred level of humidity. They like to be near shallow water so that it's easy to drink, soak, hydrate, and hunt for insects. I guess if I look closely, I might find this one wandering around the grasses and marshes that are near our pond. (Sources: Wikipedia and www.boxturtles.com)



IMPORTANT NOTE ON STATE PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE!

Watch for a questionnaire coming soon from the state Texas Master Naturalist Program. The state is taking a close look at the current curriculum to determine how well it meets the program's needs and how well members retain the material presented. Please take the time to answer the questions. You might find you remember more that you imagined or you might be motivated to explore new topics. Our responses will help the state in efforts to constantly improve the master naturalist program. (New graduate will receive a separate questionnaire.) Once you complete the survey, you may log 1 hour of volunteer service under the category of Chapter/Program Administration. All surveys should be completed by August 1st. Thanks in advance for your participation.

Time to start thinking about Scholarships, by Donna Mueller

2019 GLC-TMN Scholarships will be awarded in August to qualified candidates that meet GLC-TMN guidelines set by the Scholarship Committee. The selections processes will start in July.

The Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Lee and Washington county banquet/awards ceremonies are being planned in each of our 5 counties. Venues and dates will be posted on our chapter website as soon as the Agrilife Agents make them available. We are looking for chapter representatives for each of our 5 counties, to present a TMN-GLC Scholarship Certificate for \$1000 at each of the County 4-H Banquet/Awards Ceremony to the selected 4-H recipient.

This is a great way to meet and greet the 4-Hers and the families in your home county. The majority of the counties have a banquet with a meal. It is truly enlightening to see and hear about what our area youth are accomplishing and contributing to our society, state and country.

Please contact me if you are interested in being a chapter representative.

This is a perfect event to set up our outreach information and let your neighbors know what a TMN does and how we educate the public. Please text or call at 979-966-2612. Two of last year's winners are shown below with chapter representatives Tom Shaugnessy (L) and Karen Woods (R).



“What’s a Landowner to Do? A Plan for Your Land.” by Linda Esco

Plan to join our Gideon Lincecum Chapter as we present the seminar, “What’s a Landowner to Do? A Plan for Your Land.” We’ll start our daylong seminar at 8:30am on October 11, 2019 at the Washington County Fairgrounds Event Center. It’s only \$30 if you pre-register and \$40 at the door which includes a catered lunch. All the profits for this event will go toward our scholarship programs. Plan to join us for a fantastic day and a great cause.



Landowner Summit **October 11, 2019**

Washington County Fairgrounds Event Center - Brenham, Texas
Registration 8:00am
Program 8:30am – 3:30pm

8:30 – Welcome and Introductions
Linda Esco, Gideon Lincecum Chapter Fundraising Committee Chairman

8:40 – 9:40am
Understanding Landowner Liability – Agritourism Act and More
Tiffany Dowell Lashmet – Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Agriculture Law

9:45 – 10:45am
Understanding the Ecosystem on Your Land – Plants, Wildlife, and More
Dr. John Tomecek – Assistant Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist

Break – 10:45 - 11:00am

11:00 - 12:00pm
Feral Hog and Nuisance Animal Control Options for Landowners
Jacob Hetzel – Wildlife Damage Management Biologist

Lunch – 12:00 - 1:00pm

1:00 - 2:00pm
Managing Riparian Areas and Understanding Erosion & Management Options
Ward Ling – Extension Program Specialist II

2:00pm - 3:00pm
Controlling Moles and Gophers
BR Koehler – Gideon Lincecum Chapter Master Naturalist and Bluebonnet Master Gardener

Closing Remarks
Linda Esco, Gideon Lincecum Chapter Fundraising Committee Chairman

Evaluations/CEU Certificates
Kara Matheney, County Extension Agent Ag/NR Washington County

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
1305 East Blue Bell Road | Suite 104 | Brenham, Texas 77833
Tel. 979.277.6212 | Fax. 979.277.6223 | Washington.agriLife.org

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners' Courts of Texas Cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at (979) 277-6212 prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

Texas Master Naturalist are Never Just “On Vacation”, by Lori Buffum

My family did some unplanned citizen science work on the Gulf Coast (Surfside Beach) on May 16 when I photographed this unfamiliar bird. Then I realized there was a pair and look what I saw when I zoomed in on one! My brother-in-law Ken was looking up the bird and discovered the GCBO (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory) project studying and banding **American Oystercatchers**. <http://www.gcbo.org/avian-res.../american-oystercatcher-study/>. I sent my photos to the project director and was excited to hear back from her:

“Hi Lori,

Thanks for the oystercatcher sighting! WT was banded as a chick on Galveston Island in May 2014. So far it’s only been seen along Bolivar Peninsula and then your sighting today. I suspect it’s roaming around looking for a mate and a territory to breed in. Can you let me know where you saw it on Surfside, perhaps estimate a latitude longitude? We have a list on our website of all banded oystercatchers so you can look up information about them:

<http://www.gcbo.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/GCBObandingdataweb.pdf>

but I would appreciate any sightings you have of banded birds.

You can also report them to the American Oystercatcher Working Group band resighting database.

<http://amoywg.org/banding-re-sighting/>

Thanks so much! Sue Heath “



The American Oystercatcher, by Jerry Gips

I had the opportunity to go out onto West Galveston Bay to take a look at the islands and spoil banks where numerous water birds lay their eggs and raise their young. I was in the company of Susan Heath, wildlife biologist and Director of Conservation Research for the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (GCBO) and Keith Wise, volunteer for GCBO. The birds breeding on these islands include Laughing Gulls, Brown Pelicans – what a comeback these birds have made since the banning of DDT! – Great and Little Blue herons, Tri-colored Herons, Great Egrets, Cattle Egrets, Snowy Egrets, White Ibis, Forster’s Terns, Royal Terns, Caspian Terns, Black Skimmers, and American Oystercatchers. All making lots of noise!

The oystercatchers (*Haematopus palliatus*) were of particular interest. Susan has been leading a study of these birds for the last nine years. The oystercatcher population on the United States Atlantic Coast is much studied and the life history traits and threats are well known, but little was known about the challenges faced by Oystercatchers in the Western Gulf of Mexico along the Texas Gulf Coast.

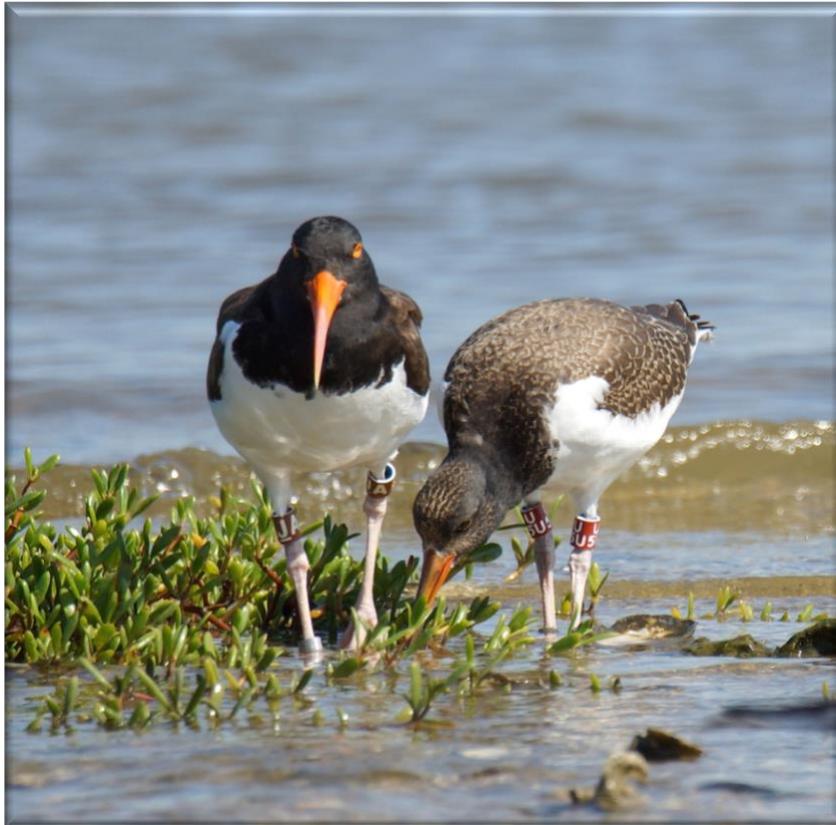
Since 2011, Susan and her team have banded over 350 Oystercatchers on the Texas Gulf Coast and have learned a considerable amount about their distribution and habits. The bands are maroon in color and have an alphanumeric code of sufficient size that can be read through binoculars or telephoto lenses, and therefore individual birds can be followed. At the age of 3-4, oystercatchers begin to breed, but between fledging and breeding age, the young birds wander the Gulf Coast. Adults are non-migratory though they move along the Gulf Coast to favorable feeding areas during the non-breeding season. Very little is known about how they use coastal resources during the non-breeding season or how they pick their mates. We do know that males will remain on their territory throughout the year and females will change mates if they aren’t happy with their situation. Public re-sighting of color bands is extremely important for this program. If you see a banded oystercatcher, please report it to Susan Heath.

Western Gulf of Mexico oystercatchers like to nest on bay islands and suitable nesting areas are at a premium. These islands are mostly spoiled banks where dredging’s from the Intracoastal Waterway have been piled. They are subject to over wash, predators and human disturbance. They often have Laughing Gull colonies and Laughing Gulls are predators on the oystercatcher eggs and chicks. Oystercatchers do better on islands without large gull populations. Brown Pelicans have made a huge comeback and these large birds squash the oystercatchers’ eggs just by walking around. If the islands are connected to the shore at low tide, raccoons, possums, coyotes and domestic cats are predators. Most of the islands in West Galveston Bay are eroding away reducing the suitable areas available for nesting.

Susan knew of an oystercatcher chick on one island that was very late in fledging and we went to check on it. Usually chicks fledge in 35 - 40 days, but this one hadn’t flown going on 60 days. It seemed to have a sore on one leg that was a bit nasty and perhaps the reason the chick had not fledged. Susan caught this oystercatcher chick with a crab net, - great fun to watch! - examined the sore, removed a possible cactus thorn, covered the spot with antiseptic and returned the bird to the island. Time will tell if this chick will fledge or not.

A total of 32 oystercatcher chicks fledged in the study area in 2018. 15 chicks had fledged in 2017. Three chicks have fledged this year and it appears 2019 will not be as good a year as 2017 or 2018.

It is really special to see these birds out in the bay. For more information on how to support the work of Gulf Coast Bird Observatory or consider adopting an oystercatcher pair through donation by visiting www.gcbo.org



American Oystercatcher Adoption Certificate

Each American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) banded as part of GCBO's stewardship project is fitted with a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service aluminum band on the right leg and two identical color bands, one on each leg. The color bands contain a unique two-digit code which allows the bird to be identified without re-trapping it. This allows us to follow each bird throughout the year to determine where it breeds, who it pairs with, whether it changes mates from year to year, and where it goes during the non-breeding season.

Adopted by: **Susan Heath**
Banded: **2/18/11**
Color Band: **H0**
Weight: **650 gms**
Age: **adult**
Sex: **male**
Location: **West Galveston Bay**



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE GULF COAST BIRD OBSERVATORY

Momma Moose and her Newborn Twins, by Donna Mueller

We have property in Soldotna, Alaska across the Kenai River from the Kenai Wildlife Management area. The moose cows calve in May. They swim the river and have a game trail between our cabin and the outhouse. You never know what you're going to see when you look out the window. Alaska nature at its best.



The Alaskan Moose. This is a yearling, female below. They are absolutely stunning and very large animals. Much larger than the Moose species in the lower 48. The European & Asian earthworm invasion is definitely threatening their grazing in the boreal forests of Canada. Alaska is also in the initial phases of organizing the Alaska Master Naturalist program. Some real amazing people that are becoming fast friends. I love their AgriLife office people. I have a lot to learn about their Flora & Fauna. May 2019, Soldotna, Alaska



Full Strawberry Moon, by Donna Mueller

Things get pretty exciting when there's a Full Moon, and June's Full Moon, known as the Strawberry Moon (in North America), was no exception. Look at it rising in the east at sunset on Monday, June 17th. When the Moon is in its full phase, it lies "opposite" the sun, so as you watch the sun go down in the west, turn around and look for the moonrise. [Watch for July's full moon on the 16th.]



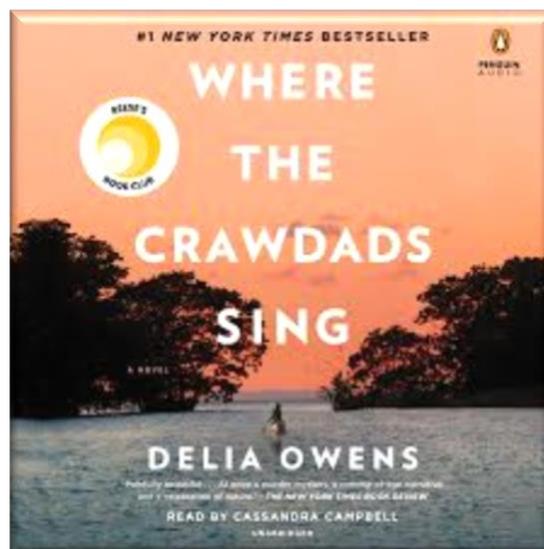
Look before you reach...Bite me or Leave me bee, by Donna Mueller

Cicadas, Oak Trees and Copperheads—welcome to summer in the country. We have a bumper crop of Cicadas this year. It was the right time for their major re-emergence. They are also the Copperhead's favorite snack. Yum-yum! That soothing, lazy, summer-time cicada call is the Copper's dinner-bell. Please look before you reach or step. Photos taken on front porch.



Book Recommendation: “Where the Crawdads Sing”, by Jan Hughes

I wanted to recommend a novel that I just finished reading. The NY Times Bestseller, “Where the Crawdads Sing”, is about a young girl who is abandoned by her dysfunctional family at a young age, living in the marshes of North Carolina. A young boy offers to teach her to read and gives her “A Sand County Almanac” by Aldo Leopold. The book and her interest in all the many living things in the marsh gives her a way to educate herself. There are other things going on in her life which I don't want to spoil, but I thought it was a good book for anyone that appreciates the outdoors to enjoy.



Field Observations from a TMN Transferring Member, by Jaci Elliot

Hello TMN-GLC! My name is Jaci Elliot. I am going to be joining your TMNGLC from the Coastal Prairie Chapter sometime this summer when my husband and I officially relocate to our farm in Schulenburg from our Houston area home. On June 10, my husband Doug and I were hiking at Enchanted Rock State Park the morning after a big hail/thunderstorm when we encountered a feeding frenzy of plain bellied water snakes who were catching minnows that had washed over a creek spillway. Then we spied a tarantula on the summit who was seeking cover. I look forward to meeting chapter members soon!



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 listserv to get notices about activities across the state

The GLC Tidings is published 6 times a year
Submit articles and photos to Editor Jamie Lee Manning (jamieleemanning77@gmail.com)