



The GLC Tidings

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From the President – Betsy Palkowsky

It's been a brutal summer from a temperature and lack of rain perspective. I hope all of you have found indoor projects or travel to cooler locations to keep you comfortable. Hopefully, cooler temperatures are in store once get through September (typically one of hottest months). With September comes fall school programs. Be on the lookout for announcements from Debra Healy regarding upcoming BIRD and LANDS activities. Other fall items include our October 11th fundraiser, [What's a Landowner to do?](#) and the [state annual meeting](#). For other volunteer learning and serving opportunities Checkout our events calendar <https://txmn.org/glc/events/>

Chapter Meeting and AT

You are invited to attend the chapter meeting being held September 21 ,2019, 9:30-11:00 AM, at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Fayette County, [255 Svoboda Ln Rm 134, La Grange, TX 78945](#). Advanced Training is from 11:30 - 1:00 PM. Wizzie Brown will be back to teach us about 'Native Bees'. Bring a sack lunch and learn more about the nature around us.

As always, the public is invited to this free program and we encourage all chapter members to bring guests and/or invite their neighbors. Learning about native bees from an outstanding speaker is a wonderful opportunity to spread the word about our Master Naturalist mission.

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

First Timer's Scholarships, by Betsy Palkowsky

If you are thinking about attending [the annual meeting](#) for the first time our chapter has scholarship funds available that cover the registration cost. Attending the meeting is a wonderful way to meet other master naturalists from across the state and attend a wide variety of classes that are provided. The Saturday night dinner and awards presentation is special too as we celebrate dedication and time everyone has given in the past year. You might even get to meet someone that has over 10,000 hours of lifetime volunteer hours.

Contact me at bpalkowsky@outlook.com if you are interested in receiving one of the available scholarships.



Obscure Bird Grasshopper, by Betsy Palkowsky



It's as big as a hummingbird! The Obscure Bird Grasshopper, *Schistocera obscura*, is in the Acrididae family. It should probably get a new name like, obvious bird grasshopper, as it's really big: females are between two and two and half inches long. Like most insects in this family they vary in color and eat just about any long-leaved plant. The grasshopper in my yard was sitting on a Redbud leaf. I didn't see it eating this tree, but I'm convinced it devoured all the leaves in the Almond tree not too far from the Redbud.



Like most locust these grasshoppers can be seen in swarms. Thank goodness this one appeared to be on its own. There are enough other smaller grasshoppers on the property that I don't need a swarm of these giants too.

(Sources : iNaturalist, Wikipedia and <https://bugeric.blogspot.com>)

2019 GLC TMN SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

Announcing the 2019 Gideon Lincecum Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist (GLG-TMN) Scholarship recipients. The 2019 GLC TMN Scholarship in the amount of \$1000 is offered to one eligible recipient per county for Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Lee and Washington Counties.

The Recipient Requirements:

- Must be an active 4-H member in good standing within the multi-county area.
- Must be attending an institution of higher education; or college or technical school beginning Fall 2019.
- Must have completed a 4-H Record Book three of the last four years.
- Recipients are required to attend a Chapter meeting during the Fall 2019 to share an update with the membership and receive scholarship payment.

Donna Mueller is the chapter's contact and will facilitate arranging these opportunities for each recipient.



LEFT PHOTO: Debra Healey presents the chapter's scholarship award to Marshall Wagner at the Washington County 4-H Family Night on August 2, 2019 at the Washington County Fairgrounds Event Center.

RIGHT PHOTO: Lori Buffum and Linda Esco present the chapter's scholarship award to Haley Guerrero at the Austin County 4-H Awards Banquet the evening of August 17th at Kenney Agricultural Society Hall.

Not Pictured: Fayette County – Alyssa Otto; Lee County – Jordan Marek

No Recipient: Colorado County

A Fascination with Wings, by Lori Buffum

As I observe and study and photograph dragonflies, butterflies, and bees, I try to learn a little something more about these critters and so recently, I embarked on a little research into their wings. All of these insects have 4 wings – a pair of forewings and a pair of hindwings.



Dragonflies use their wings to propel themselves up, down, forward, back, sideways, and at a hover, and can fly farther and faster than most insects. That maneuverability can be attributed to their ability to use their two sets of wings together or independently. Their powerful, though fragile-looking wings are composed of chitin (say it like a pro: kite-en), a component of the insect exoskeletons. Running through the chitin structure is a network of veins that provide strength and flexibility (and give the wings their lacy design when viewed closeup). The smooth, thin chitin structure gives the dragonfly wing its glassy look – especially evident when you see it at rest with its wings outstretched catching the sunlight. [*Great Blue Skimmer at the pond*]



Let's look at bee wings. Like dragonflies, bees have a pair of forewings and a pair of hindwings composed of chitin membranes with a network of veins in between. Bee forewings are usually larger than the hindwings and shaped differently to fold neatly on top of the hindwing when the bee is not flying. Here is a fascinating feature: bee wings have Velcro! There is a short row of hooks (called hamuli) on the midsection of the hind wing that connect to grooves in the front wing when the bee takes flight so the wings beat together. Their flexible wings can beat up to 230 times per second and move in a sweeping motion front to back. Bees use their wings not only for flight but also for moving air at their hive or nesting site, and for buzz pollination (effectively releasing the pollen from a "stingy" flower). [*American Bumblebee on Zinnia*]



Now what makes those butterfly wings so like a painting in flight? Scales, yes, scales that cover both the top and the bottom of each wing. The structure of the wings, underneath all that color, is that same chitin (the same two membranous layers between which run the same kind of vein network). Wing shape varies among butterfly species, but the forewing is generally shaped more like a triangle and the hindwing more like a clamshell. Like with bees, during flight, each pair of wings works as a unit (the fore and hind wings overlap with the hind pressing against the fore). When resting, butterflies hold their wings vertically (making it very tough on us photographers). Now about those scales (and hairs) – they are made of that same chitinous material and thousands of microscopic overlapping pieces are laid down on the wing structure in such a way that they create patterns of color (some of the color is pigmented color, much of it is structural color, observed as iridescence – intense, changing color). And one more fun fact: during migration especially, butterflies are high flyers, using the wind beneath their wings to fly at 11,000 feet or more. [*Eastern Tiger Swallowtail on Mexican Sunflower*]

Next time you see a dragonfly zoom by or a bee working among your flowers or a butterfly warming up in the sun, think about those amazing four wings that carry them out into the world.

Washington on the Brazos Workdays, by Julie and David Itz

On Saturday, July 6, we had a great turn out with Judy Deaton, Jerry Gips, Sheri Wilcox and David & Julie Itz. Even though it was hot, we were able to get lots of cleanup done in the garden. We worked to contain the Maxmillian Sunflower, and Sheri and Judy collected seeds from the Standing Cypress and the Horsemint.



Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyenes*) on Joe-pye Weed (*Eutrochium fistulosum*).



Feral hog damage along the trail just outside the WoB Visitor Center

Three weeks later, on Saturday, July 27, we had the hottest workday of 2019. Sheri Wilcox, Cathy Nolte, Luther Moore and David & Julie Itz came to work in the WoB Pollinator Garden and found that spacing the workdays three weeks apart during the warmer months has kept the weeds under control this year and the desired native plants more visible. American Basketflower, Black-eyed Susan, Giant Coneflower, Lemon Beebalm, Purple Coneflower, Red Indian Blanket, Standing Cypress, and Tahoka Daisy were all ready for seed collecting. Besides the plants and flowers, we enjoyed seeing a few butterflies, spiders and a large caterpillar:



Pink-spotted Hawkmoth (*Agrilus cingulate*)



Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanilla*)

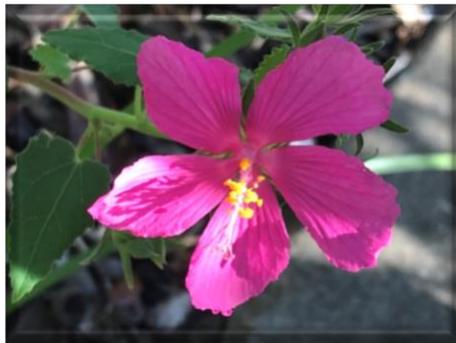


Yellow Garden Spider (*Argiope aurantia*)
One of three Yellow Garden Spiders
hard at work around the garden



Skipper? – Hard to identify this butterfly!
on a Mexican Petunia (*Ruellia simplex*)

The final workday of the summer on Saturday, August 24 was another hot day! But thanks to Sheri Wilcox, Luther Moore, Ken English and Julie & David Itz, we were able to pull the nutgrass, ragweed, Bermuda grass and other undesirables; stake up several of the tall plants; trim back plants that were too leggy or drooping into the roadway or sidewalk areas; and tidy the walkway. Several cyclists commented on the garden and thanked us for our work, while they rode by. The butterflies and bees were happily flitting among the flowers, while a Yellow Garden Spider waited patiently on his web.



Rock Rose (*Paavonia lasiopetala*)



American Basket-flower
Centaurea americana)

A big thank you for all the help from GLC Chapter members who have braved the heat at the Washington-on-the-Brazos Workdays this summer! You've really made a difference and the Pollinator Garden is looking great! We're looking forward to cooler weather at our next Saturday workdays on September 28 and October 26. There should be lots of Maxmillian Sunflower, Cosmos and Partridge Pea in bloom! Come join us!

Texas History is Alive in Our Chapter, by Tom Shaughnessy

We are bounded to the East by the Brazos River and the Colorado River runs through our Western counties. Bodies of water are traditional locations for new civilizations. The 5-county area of the Gideon Lincecum Chapter of The Texas Master Naturalists is rich in Texas history. 4 of our counties are named after men prominent in Texas History. Did you know there are 659 official historical markers in our chapter¹? Currently there are 3 major Texas History sites in our area: San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site & Museum, Monument Hill and Washington on the Brazos. The later 2, along with 4 other TPWD Historic Sites will be transferring from Texas Parks and Wildlife to The Texas Historical Commission as of September 1 of this year. The Gideon Lincecum Chapter currently has ongoing projects in all 3 of the sites.

One location is particular located in Austin County, The San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, is preparing to launch into their “next big thing”, a living history project at the site projected to start in 2021. The project will be construction of reproductions of 9 of the community buildings that once stood in the town. The original town’s buildings met their fate during the Runaway Scrape in 1836. The colony will be on a 5 acre site just east of the museum. All will be inter-connected with ADA accessibility (the dirt work plan is impressive). The entire project is being funded privately. Mostly from donations sent through The Friends of the Texas Historical Commission.

On August 24, 2019 the site recently hosted an all-day orientation workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to present to interested volunteers an opportunity to be part of “the next big thing”. The project is being led by Mr. Michael Moore, Project Historian. He is first noted as a known Texas historian and second, a consultant to the Texas Historical Commission. He was responsible for planning and building the George Ranch Project in Richmond before starting his consulting business.

Mr. Moore began the orientation workshop with a presentation of the new site and each of the buildings, their significances, purposes and what the needs were in regard to volunteers. Elevation blueprints were shown, and the group then toured the site to get a vision of the property. Mr. Moore presented a timeline of the project stating a targeted completion is March 2021. Currently the planning, architectural design and engineering are complete and now the project is in a final approval stage. After approval the contracting bidding stage will begin. As Mr. Moore stated, “the lumber is still in the forest, but it won’t be long!” There will be nine buildings to be built and areas for interpretation which include: Printing Office/printing the Texas Gazette, School House/Sunday School, Courthouse/Conventions of 1832-1833, Allen Dwelling/Surveying, Town Cannon/Militia, Farmer’s Hotel/Tavern, Farmer’s Hotel/Store, Farmer’s Hotel/Tailor Shop/Seamstress and a Kitchen/Bake Oven

Although completion is 2 years from now the project is significant to our chapter in many ways. Our discussions with site staff have revealed many new ways in which members can further their education and volunteer efforts through new educational and project-oriented activities. As an example, there is a possibility of recreating an early 1830’s pioneer camp near in the bottomland forest using only the natural resources available during that time period. Currently there are many educational assistance opportunities open as well as ongoing maintenance needs on the site property.

For more information regarding the THC project contact member Tom Shaughnessy or The San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site. ¹Texas Historic Sites Atlas



LEFT PHOTO: Interpretive way sign along a path at the building site. **MIDDLE PHOTO:** Site Historian and Project Director Michael Moore points to places where replica buildings will be built depicting a block from the original San Felipe as it appeared in the early 1830s. Villa de Austin will be constructed next to the museum over the next two years. *photo courtesy of Joe Southern, The Sealy News. **RIGHT PHOTO:** The San Felipe Town Cannon (replica).

Field Observations, by Carol Montgomery

On July 31st, I was bitten by a Copperhead. It was 9:30pm at night and I was on my front porch. I never go out at night without a flashlight, but my faucet was 10 steps away, so I decided to turn off the faucet. I had on crocs. I hadn't taken 5 steps till he hit me. I thought it was a wasp sting, but when I got inside and saw the two marks I thought it might be a snake. I looked on the internet and I had a classic picture of a copperhead bite. Within seconds the area around the bite turned blue, then a larger circle around that turned dark red. My foot started swelling immediately. The pain was intense. I live in the country by myself and when I read what the side effects might be, I decided to call my neighbor to take me to the hospital. We arrived in ER in less than an hour and the foot was getting very swollen; also, very painful. All the hospital did was give me pain medication, take blood to check for coagulation (I take blood thinners), have me wait 6 hours, then take blood again. There was no change, so because of that they decided not to give anti-venom. The doctor told me the vials were \$5000 each and I had to start with four. That was an easy decision to make. It's been 24 days since the bite and I have made a full recovery!



Monarch Butterfly Living Dangerously (Or Monarch Taking a Chance), by B.R. Koehler

This photo of a Monarch butterfly perched on an alligator's eye was taken by my brother-in-law Joe Philp, Charlene's brother, while he was boating in the Trinity River/Lost River bottom on the morning of July 26th. The Monarch was totally unaware of its precarious position! With its reflection in the water, this Monarch photo is a once-in a-lifetime shot.



Dear GLC TMNs:

Thank you so much for the great gift of the "4 Seasons" flags. They will be so nice on the lawn of my new house. I am settled in an apartment in Katy for now and watching the progress on my 55+ area home in Fulshear. I hope to move in sometime in the late fall.

I miss you guys, but have enjoyed your posts on Facebook. I love Jim Wilson's poetry and the nature pictures from Lori, Judy, Betsy and others. I'm also following your travels.

Ann Ray, please make sure you post a picture of your re-finished flower beds. I'll be interested to see how you satisfied the HOA and still kept your natural plants. I'll have them problem soon too.

Again, thanks so much for thinking of me. I am always proud to say I belonged to the Gideon Lincecum Chapter.

Carol Paulson

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

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Submit articles and photos to Editor Jamie Lee Manning (jamieleemanning77@gmail.com)**