



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

Where did the year go? It started with our training program in January where we graduated all attendees. You might have met some of our new chapter members at one of the projects you work on, our chapter meetings or summer picnic at the Cotton Gin, or our recent fundraiser. If you didn't meet them at one of these occasions perhaps you will see them as we close out the year at our annual volunteer appreciation gathering December 8, 2019 (more info below).

Chapter Meeting and AT

You are invited to attend the chapter meeting being held Nov 16, 2019, 9:30am-11:00am, at the [Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library](#) 100 Martin Luther King Jr Pkwy, Brenham, TX 77833.

Advanced Training is from 11:30am - 1:00pm. Tim Siegmund, TPWD Private Lands Program Leader will present, "Managing for Diversity". Tim discuss the impacts of drought, grazing, and fire and how we use those currently to mimic historical processes that shaped our landscape and in turn provide habitat and habitat structure that our native wildlife evolved with over time.

SAVE THE DATE!

Chapter Holiday Celebration
 and Volunteer Appreciation Gathering
 Sunday December 8 beginning at 2 pm
 New Ulm Lion's Club

Information from the State Organization, by Betsy Palkowsky

- THANK YOU to all Texas Master Naturalists who have contributed their time and energy to learning, teaching and serving the natural resources in Texas. Your efforts have made our program renowned throughout the country. Twenty years, 48 chapters, 12,000 trained volunteers and 4.4 million hours of service - these numbers cannot begin to express the impact that the Texas Master Naturalist Program has made on the natural resources and citizens of Texas. Check out "[The Texas Master Naturalist](#)" video a tribute to you and all the other Texas Master Naturalists
- 2019 certification pins have finally been made and distributed to our Members Director, Chris Morrison. Chris will be handing these out at the upcoming chapter meeting
- The 2020 certification pin is the American Bumble Bee. These pins are already available for Chris to order for next year
- The TXMN license plate is currently being reviewed by TXDOT. The process takes about 3 – 3 ½ years. We're on year two and Mary Pearl Mueth has another form she will submit before the end of the year that should get us to the next step. Final image of the plate will be shared once it has been approved by TXDOT
- 2020 Annual Meeting, October 16-18, Omni West Hotel, Houston, Texas

GLC Chapter at the TMN State Conference



FIRST PHOTO LEFT: Ron Peach and a corn snake at the TMN Annual Conference

SECOND PHOTO RIGHT: Front Row: Linda Esco, Marcia Braun, Karen Gardner, Mary Ann Peach, Donna Mueller, Sheri Wilcox, Ron Peach.

Back row: John Gardner, Ann Ray, Betsy Palkowsky, Chris Morrison, Ginny Welch.

Lefty Yarnold-A Dedicated Texas Master Naturalist



"I just learned that Lefty Yarnold passed away suddenly Friday, October 25. It is a sad day for all that knew him. Words are not enough to convey what a wonderful soul Lefty was. My introduction to Lefty, and of course LuAn, was at one of my first Texas Master Naturalist classes. I will never forget how kind, encouraging, and helpful both of them were at the time. Over the past few years I have grown to appreciate their love for each other, for nature, and indeed for all of us who have been lucky enough to work with them." – Betsy Palkowsky

"What a gift to have worked with Lefty and LuAn on so many TMN projects over the last 5 years. Lefty had such a sweet and gentle nature and an engaging way with kids of all ages. He and LuAn became my friends and my mentors through the TMN organization and had a tremendous impact on our chapter's work with Brenham school district's outdoor education programs and with Washington County's annual AG Safety Day. I will miss him so much and I know many in the Gideon Lincecum Chapter feel that loss. Love to LuAn and the family." – Lori Buffum



[Please see the obituary page for Lefty at Brenham Memorial Chapel:

<https://www.brenhammemorialchapel.com/obituaries/harold-lefty-yarnold>]



Lefty (and his sweet wife and sidekick LuAn) joined our TMN chapter in 2010 and this year had almost achieved his 1,000 hour milestone; but, I think he often put in more hours than he recorded because he had such a passion for the projects he worked on. Several years ago, the Yarnolds designed and produced a series of trifolds depicting and describing aspects of Texas Nature. Those wonderful, colorful posters led to the creation of a scavenger hunt/bingo game that was so fun for kids and families at the Washington County AG day and the Bellville and Flatonia Science Nights. Those trifolds have

proved to be a lasting resource for our chapter to use at many other events too. What a special legacy!

Lefty and LuAn loved working with kids, and kids from kindergarten to 8th grade loved having the Yarnolds lead them on wildflower hikes out at the parks or teach them about the biology of deer or quail in their school labs. They helped new members of the chapter feel welcome and faithfully attended chapter meetings to greet old friends and new, always learning more about the world around us and sharing that knowledge with everyone. Many members remember working with them at our greenhouses as we grew plants for our many pollinator gardens. And they were there when the gardens were first started at Washington on the Brazos.



We will miss your smile and kind nature, Lefty; you leave a hole in our Texas Master Naturalist family!" – Cindy Hobbs

Brenham School District Programs in Full Swing, by Debra Healy and Lori Buffum

“Cubs in Nature” got rolling Friday October 11 at Brenham Elementary just as the cold front thundered through. But the morning was a 6-station success thanks to the adaptable volunteers: Jim Wilson, Robert Mott, Peggy Cadenhead, Lori Buffum, Carol Corlis, and a bunch of FFA students. The program was repeated at Alton Elementary and then at Krause Elementary with 3rd and 4th graders.

The mornings consisted of rotations through stations: Project Feederwatch (bird observations), Journaling (age-appropriate and season-appropriate Nature observations), Storytime (reading a book and discussing with kids), Stretching & Breathing, Movement Challenge, and Critter Connection (introduction to critters in our environment).

Lots of volunteers are needed as we begin “phase 2” starting November 22 at Brenham Elementary. See our chapter website event calendar for details.

BISD 6th graders began their day of outdoor education meeting station leaders (Tuesday October 1 at Birch Creek State Park on Lake Somerville). We all survived the unseasonal heat and enjoyed taking kids on a GPS hike, exploring the ecosystem, and analyzing the green-built park headquarters. Led by BISD’s Natalie K. James and TPWD’s Joy Nutt, TMN-GLC volunteers included Ann Smith Ray, Jon Watkins, Marty Schoenemann, Carol Corlis, and Lori Buffum. At the Wednesday and Thursday sessions, more volunteers helped out, including Peggy Cadenhead, Debra Healy, Mary-Helen Giles, and Betty Scardino. And we appreciated the help of wonderful FFA students!!



Once again, adaptability was key as we had to change our hiking trail when we learned a bridge had been washed out just a few days before we arrived. But we all took it in stride and thanks to several good ideas from the new volunteers, Marty, Peggy, Betty, made some nice improvements to the programs.

[Photo: American Beautyberry along the trail.]

LANDS Quail Field Investigation Day coming up soon: Tuesday November 19 in Burton. We need lots and lots of volunteers to come out to the beautiful Long Star Ranch to help support this program for Brenham 7th graders. Please check our chapter website event calendar for all the details.

Stephen F. Austin State Park, The Barred Owl Trail, by Tom Shaughnessy

This twisty but relatively flat trail is named after Stephen F. Austin State Park's unofficial mascot, the Barred Owl. Hikers may not always SEE a Barred Owl on this .65 mile hike but are almost guaranteed hearing the common evening "Who cooks, who cooks for you?" call of this silent flying night time hunter.

This trail is often recommended by park staff and volunteers when visitors are looking for a relatively short but adventurous hike. The Barred Owl Trail allows hikers to experience all of the ecosystems that have developed in the park through the years. Beginning at the trailhead near the camping loop take in the native grasses in the clearing and trees in the upper hardwood forests. As you continue your way to the Scenic Overlook be sure to take time and smell the numerous wildflowers along this section (but don't pick!). Next, it's selfie-time! The Scenic Overlook is perfect for the family picture or selfie with the Mighty Brazos River below in the background.

Continue your adventure into the forest and notice the changes in the plants and trees as the trail descends down. Close to the river you get an up-close look at Los Brazos di Dios or, The Arms of God, as the river was named by Spanish explorers. The Barred Owl Trail at this point is the closest trail to the river in the park. Imagine only 20 years ago this section of trail was actually part of the Brazos River Bottom. 2 years ago, it was also part of the Brazos River Bottom, submerged under 30-foot Brazos floodwaters! The numerous Sycamore Trees with their cardboard-like bark and the winds rattling the leaves of the giant Cottonwood Trees are all indicators of a "new" forest (compared to the older hardwood species found in the center of the park.) The final stretch of Barred Owl Trail will lead you back towards the upland forest where you may continue your hike by taking a northeast bearing on Ironwood Trail or southwest on Ironwood to bring you back to the trailhead.



Washington on the Brazos Workdays, by Julie and David Itz

September Workday

The September Workday at Washington-on-the-Brazos was a busy day with lots of park visitors and their dogs. Unfortunately, Fall had not arrived yet, so the weather was still summer-like. The change from oversight by Texas Parks and Wildlife to the Texas Historical Commission seems to have been a smooth transition. We were asked to report the number of our volunteers and our volunteer hours to the Park Office at the end of each workday. Sheri Wilcox and David & Julie Itz cut back some of the Maxmillian sunflowers to keep them off the sidewalks, parking lot and road. The lantana, gayfeather, frostweed, rock rose, and Turkscap were blooming. Nutgrass, ragweed and Bermuda grass had popped up, so there was plenty to tackle.



David Itz trimming back the sunflowers Sheri Wilcox planting bluebonnet seeds by the GLC sign

Sheri planted Bluebonnet seed balls by our Chapter sign beside the walkway leading from the parking lot to the Visitor's Center. We hope to have a good display of Bluebonnet blooms next spring when park visitors arrive expecting to find lots of Bluebonnets!

October Workday

The October Workday was cool and cloudy, so it was a pleasant day to work in the garden. We noticed that the bluebonnet seeds planted in September were already beginning to pop up! It has been very dry in the Washington County area, so the pollinator garden has really benefited from the irrigation system that is working well now. Most of the plants are winding down for the winter with only a few still blooming. Gregg's and blue mistflowers have spread and are still blooming; the lantana has put out berries; cosmos, frostweed, turkscap, cherry sage, May night salvia, mealy blue sage, and scarlet sage are still blooming.

We noticed that an animal has been eating a scarlet sage now and then, which might be the same animal that has been lying down in the middle of the Maxmillian sunflowers. Sheri Wilcox and David & Julie Itz cut back the standing cypress and some of the Maxmillian sunflowers. We plan to work on corralling the Maxmillian sunflowers into several more defined areas, rather than letting it spread throughout the garden. Many of the milkweed plants planted last spring are growing, so we look forward to seeing them thrive in the garden. We planted a few seeds to replace or add to the plants we already have in the garden: winecup, Huisache daisy, Indian blanket, black-eyed Susan, American beautyberry, Drummond phlox and blue curls.

We didn't see any butterflies or bees, but we did see three caterpillars, so perhaps the butterflies or moths have been hanging around while we weren't working in the garden!



Future Plans

We would like to create a Trail Map for Washington-on-the-Brazos which would identify trees and plants that park visitors will find along the trails. With only 3-4 volunteers each month, it has been difficult to get started on this project. We would love to have help from Chapter members who can help identify trees, or anyone with experience with mapping and/or GIS. We hope to begin to identify and plot trees at our next Workday, Saturday, November 23 (Thanksgiving Weekend), but if you have experience that you can share with us, we're happy to arrange to meet you another time.

Even if you can't volunteer at WoB, come out and spend some time enjoying the park **WHERE TEXAS BECAME TEXAS!**

Membership Update, by Chris Morrison

Pins - They're finally here! All of you who have earned your recertification for 2019 will receive your Golden Cheeked Warbler pin at the November meeting. For 2020, it will be the American Bumble Bee, and the state already has those in stock.

Our chapter's **Annual Data Review** by the state VMS Administrators is in, and we got very high marks, thanks to all of you.

- 91% of our members reported hours in 2018/2019
 - 2017: 78.2%
 - 2016: 57.3%
- 95.7% of our active opportunities have 2018/2019 hours recorded against them.
 - 2017: 87.2%
- There were 5,334 entries into VMS from our chapter since the previous review.
 - 2016: 79.6%

Texas Waters Specialist Certification – Several of our members are certified or working on certification as a Texas Waters Specialist. AT hours for courses for that certification also count for TMN certification, but you must record them under "AT: TX Waters Certification Training", even if they are a webinar. The Description of

your training must be specific about relating to water or it may not be counted. Always put who sponsored the training, the title or topic, and a few words about what was covered. For volunteer hours, record under the Opportunity Title you would normally use, but be sure to put clearly in the Description that this is for TWS, and what you did. I would recommend you start the Description with “Tx Waters Spec” or at least “TWS”. Hopefully they will be coming out soon with more information on what will count for volunteer hours towards maintaining that Certification.

Describe Your Service or Training – This box is very important when you are entering hours for volunteer service or AT. *This is what the Administrator looks at to determine if you should be approved or not approved.* The State Admins look at it to see if they can use that time to get certain grants. Certain certifications within TMN or TPWD require hours to obtain or maintain that certification, and the description box must reflect that it goes towards that certification. For AT, remember the 5 W’s - Who, What, When, Where, Why.

- **Who** put on that event,
- **What** topic(s) were covered. If it was several different talks about a broad topic, put title (shortened) of overall event, then the individual topics. Add speakers if you have room.
- **When** is covered in the Date field, so don’t repeat it here
- **Where** is helpful
- You don’t have to put **Why** unless you think the person who approves it needs to know.

For Volunteer Service, it depends on what you are doing, but generally

- **What** did you do? (planted new pollinator plants, led “Insect Bingo” at 5th Grade Field Day, measured rainfall daily, wrote article for GLC Tidings, helped with prescribed burn (drip torch), attended chapter meeting.
- **Where** did you do the service? If it was writing the article at home, you don’t have to say that. But for just about anything else, put where it was – at Washington-on-the-Brazos, at Krause Elementary in Brenham, at my rain gauge, at Smith property near Ellinger, at La Grange AgriLife Bldg.
- **When** is covered in the Date field, so don’t repeat it
- You don’t have to put **Why** unless you think the person who approves it needs to know
- **Travel** – if you are including travel time, please include “plus travel” in the description

Examples of not-so-good descriptions and what a better one might look like:

- AT: TMN Chapter Program:
 - AgriLife Program
 - Native Bees by Wizzie Brown, AgriLife Extension Entomologist. At La Grange AgriLife Building after GLC meeting.
- Educational Group Presentations:
 - Prepare & present program
 - Assisted at Uses for Native Plants station during Austin County Library “Our Wonderful World” event in Bellville. Presented information on traditional use of prickly pear cactus., to students and parents.
- Winedale Project:
 - Pollinator garden
 - Weeded pollinator garden trimmed as necessary.
- AT: TMN Chapter Program:
 - Landowner Summit

- GLC/AgriLife Landowner Summit, Brenham, TX. Heard presentations on landowner liability, ecosystems, riparian areas, feral hogs, and controlling gophers & moles.

Adopt A Highway, by David Butler

The Adopt A Highway volunteers met on October 9, 2019 to clean up the trash on our portion of Highway 159. Mary Ann Peach, Robert Youens, Randy Hegemeyer, David and Mary Ann Butler and our most recent new volunteers Susan Vanderworth and Jaci Elliot managed to pick up 13 bags of trash and a few miscellaneous items. Cindy Rodenbaugh remarked how nice the roadway looked when she drove by it later. Thanks Cindy! It is always rewarding to know that people driving by notice how clean we have left the roadway. Perhaps others driving by will notice that the Gideon Lincecum Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists have been hard at work.

We might have a contest sometime to see who is the quickest to undo the ball of vests that form in the washer after they have been used, dry them, and then figure out how to reassemble them as the velcro strips appear to stick where they choose to.

All vests are ready for volunteers when we meet to pick-up trash on the roadway on Wednesday, December 11th. More details to follow. This will meet our obligation of four clean up days in 2019. Thank you to everyone who has come out over this year to help beautify our roadways!



Volunteer Projects Director Update, by Cindy Rodibaugh

It's time for project leaders to begin considering their budgets for 2020. With the holidays approaching, it's easy to forget or postpone this responsibility but it is necessary for an easier transition to a new year of activity.

We will follow the budget process the chapter has been using for at least 4 years. The timeline is as follows because there may be a change in officers, directors and project leaders at the end of the year who need to submit and approve the proposed budget.

- Treasurer sends out 2019 planned and actual spend to project leaders and board members
- Project leaders submit 2020 planned budget to Treasurer by the first week of December
- Treasurer prepares 2020 planned budget for board review and approval at January board meeting
- Proposed, board approved, budget sent to chapter members for review and approval at January Chapter meeting

Field Observation: Mantis on Metal, by Jaci Elliot

Here's a mottled praying mantis on our new metal building. Hard to camouflage amongst the sheen but he/she has an impressive grip.



Field Observation: Providing Food for Others, by Carol Montgomery

I saw this in my pasture the other day. A deer that didn't make it but provided food for others.



Field Observation: Banded Sphinx Moth, by David Butler

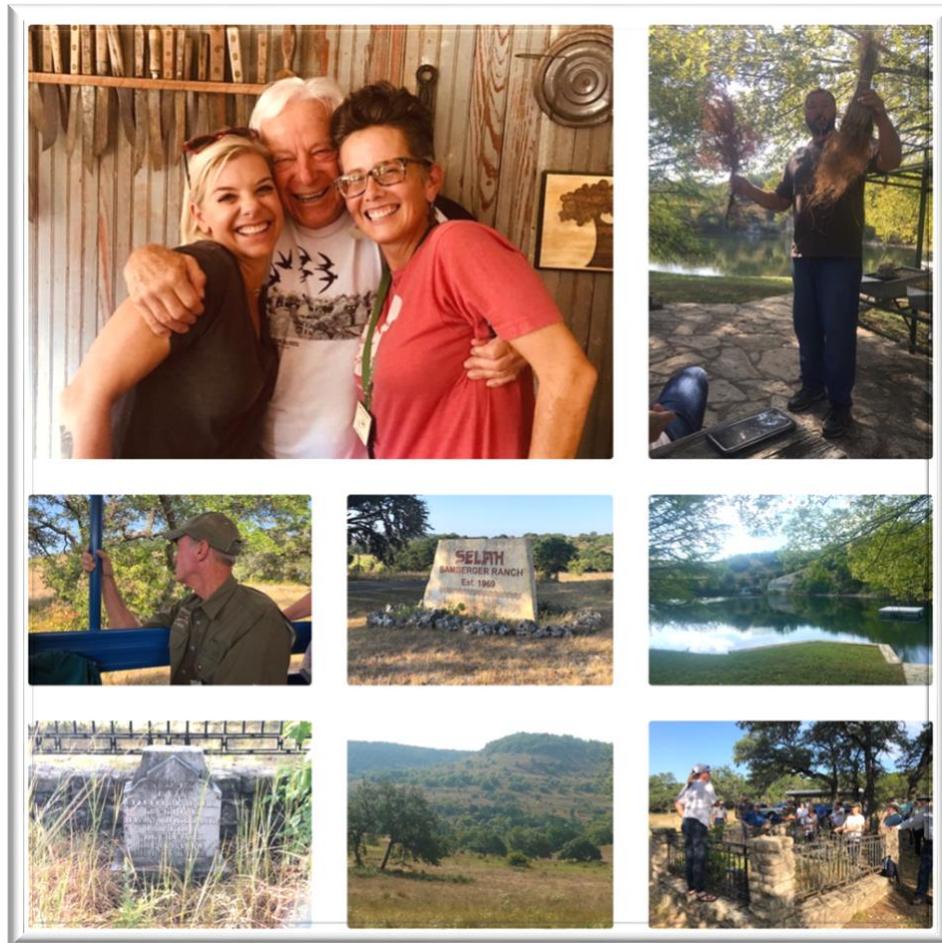
I was clearing out ligustrum from my back fence behind the root cellar and flushed out this critter. It landed on the root cellar window screen and volunteered for a photo op.

Tentatively identified as Banded Sphinx Moth (*Eumorpha fasciatus*).



Advanced Training Reflection: Bamberger Ranch Preserve, by Tom Shaughnessy and Jamie Lee Manning

“In 1969 David Bamberger bought what was “the sorriest piece of land in the Texas Hill Country for the sole purpose of restoring the 5500 acres to its original state. 50 years later it is one the largest habitat restoration projects in the state. Our Texas Master Naturalist group was treated to a private tour. Check out the Chiroptorium, the man-made bat cave! One of the highlights was spending time with Mr. Bamberger as he recollected childhood memories and his heart for contributions to natural preservation and future generations.” - Tom Shaughnessy



“Our visit to Bamberger Ranch Preserve in September was a wonderful day of inspiration and learning. I walked away with a renewed sense of hope that one person can make a difference and the land can repair itself. Getting a chance to meet Mr. Bamberger at the end of the day was a highlight to hear his stories about his family, his mother and his vision for Texas and the rest of the country. A moment that I will forever hold dear. I compiled a highlight video from our tour and posted it on the GLC Chapter Facebook page on October 23rd. I encourage all members to book a tour, if you haven’t already visited!” – Jamie Lee Manning

Become a Master Naturalist! 2020 Certification Training Starts January 20th!



Help spread the word!

The Spring 2020 training season for the Gideon Lincecum Chapter of the Texas Certified Master Naturalist Program will begin on January 20, 2020. The sessions run through April. The training fee is \$175.00 per person and includes all training materials. Class size is limited so please sign up early.

For an application please visit our website or email us for more information:

Website: www.txmn.org/glc, Email: tmn.glc.tc@gmail.com

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)