



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.

2020-2021 Officers

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

From the President – Betsy Palkowsky

I'd like to thank all of you for making 2019 a phenomenal year for our chapter. Through your efforts we contributed 6050 volunteer hours submitted as of the end of November. I'm confident 2020 will be even better as we add new members through our upcoming training program and new projects such as San Felipe de Austin Historic Center, project led by Mary-Helen Giles, citizen science projects such as butterfly monitoring and cedar pollen monitoring and of course our continued efforts with the many different existing projects. Check out your options: <https://txmn.org/glc/members-section/gideon-lincecum-chapter-volunteer-opportunities/>

The December Volunteer Appreciation gathering was attended by 50+ chapter members and guests. It was a fun event to recognize our efforts as master naturalists. We had more time to visit with each other than we normally do when we're out in the field or at chapter meetings. Thanks to all the cooks who shared in filling us up. The food was so good Mary Ann Butler has volunteered to create a chapter cookbook. Send Mary Ann (dbutler@cvctx.com) one of your favorite recipes to be included in the cookbook.

2020-2021 Executive Directors: Betsy Palkowsky, President; Mark Brown, Vice President; Pam Green, Treasurer; Linda Esco, Secretary

New Marketing Director: Ken English

Chapter Reminders, by Betsy Palkowsky

- Annual Chapter dues of \$20.00 were to be paid by Dec 30th If you haven't already paid your annual dues (\$20.00) please do so using PayPal (on the chapter website in the Members section) or by check written to TMN-GLC and send it to Pam Green, 8221 Cedar Hill Rd. Brenham, TX 77833
- Record your volunteer hours in [VMS \(https://txmn.org/glc/members-section/logging-volunteer-training-hours\)](https://txmn.org/glc/members-section/logging-volunteer-training-hours). We need these entered ASAP so that we can run our annual report for the state.
- Officers, directors and project leaders should attend the Monday, January 20, 2020 Training Program Orientation, 1:00p.m. – 4p.m. at the Washington County VIP Building. Project Leaders are encouraged to setup a project display so students can learn about volunteer opportunities they can get involved with. Please let Nita Tiemann know you are attending to ensure she orders enough food for this session.

January Chapter Meeting and Advanced Training

Saturday Jan. 18, 2020; 9:30a.m. – 11:00a.m., followed by Advanced Training at 11:30a.m. Meadows Foundation Conference Center at the Winedale Historic Center, 3738 FM 2714, Round Top, TX 78954

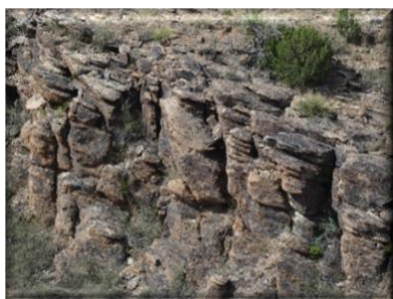
Christmas at Winedale, Jan Hughes

Saturday the 14th of December a "Merry" group of volunteers helped out with the "Christmas at Winedale" event. The group did some outreach, passing out flyers to people interested in joining the Gideon Lincecum Chapter of TMN. We also had fun with the kids showing them how to make pine cone bird feeders. It was a beautiful and fun filled day for all. Keep your eye out for a new project we are working on for Winedale as well to be announced after the new year.



The Chihuahuan Desert Center, by Betsy Palkowsky

A hidden gem in Southwest Texas took my breath away. The [Chihuahuan Desert Center](#) offers topographically and biologically diverse examples of the desert and mountain of West Texas. My husband, Doug, visited the center last year. He said I was going to love the place and he was right, as you will see with my glowing review below.



Visitors start learning about and seeing the beauty of the area as soon as they get out of the car. Walk the trails and learn about the flora, fauna and geology via a self-guided or volunteer guided tour. The mining exhibit provides visitors with a bit of history in the not too distant



past and a close up of mined specimens that will thrill the professional and amateur geologist.



There are many recognizable and learning moment plants in the botanical garden and along the trail. If you are into cactus and succulents, you will not be disappointed when you enter the research garden. The visitor center offers more opportunities to learn, purchase need to have guides (or gifts), meet other visitors (even master naturalists) and talk with the knowledgeable and friendly staff.



The executive director, Lisa Fargason Gordon, was an inspiration to me. She has grown the center from nothing to the amazing place it is today. I was able to talk to her for a while and she made me want to work or volunteer for her any time. She offered to provide us with a wonderful experience should we ever arrange a chapter field trip (or maybe a state meeting) out that way.

Big Bend, add this gem to your itinerary, you won't be disappointed.

Located off of Hwy 118, 4 miles SE of Fort Davis, 43869 Hwy 118, Fort Davis, TX 79734, 432.364.2499.

Washington on the Brazos Workdays, by Julie and David Itz

In November we started a new project to identify trees along the trail from the WoB Visitor Center. We photographed, geolocated, measured and described the trees between the Visitor Center and Independence Hall. With the help of David and Julie Itz, Steve Jackson, Sheri Wilcox and Ginny Welch, we were able to form two teams to work on the tree id project, as well as do a bit of clean-up in the GLC Pollinator Garden.



Some of the trees along the trail from the Visitor Center to Independence Hall
Only Julie Itz was able to attend the December Workday, so she concentrated on trimming back some of the plants. Already the spring flowers are sprouting out.



Giant Coneflower



Lemon Beebalm



Englemann's Daisy



Texas Bluebonners

The trail to the Wildflower area has been rerouted and is now open again for the first time in over two years. The park has spread new wildflower seeds, so there should be a lovely view of wildflowers this spring. Please make a point to visit the WoB park this spring.



The new trail at WoB heading where the old pond used to be.



You all are such a super group! Thank you for the great job you do in taking care to have the correct Opportunity Title and date for the volunteer service and AT hours you put in. When in doubt, ask me. Remember to record your Volunteer and AT hours in VMS as soon as possible after they occur, but definitely within the 45-day period.

If you haven't yet put in all of your end-of-2019 hours, please do so **as soon as possible**, hopefully before January 18. Our Annual Report (for 2019) to the state must show all of the hours our members put in, and we need time to approve them and make any corrections necessary.

From the State VMS Admin 4th Quarter Newsletter:

- **No double counting hours for federal grants** – If you are a member of another group that also uses volunteer hours to qualify for federal grants, you can't count your TMN hours for that group also. "Master Naturalist hours should never be used to qualify for federal grant funding of other agencies or groups."
- **Impact Data** – Do you record Impact Data when your 'audience' is Master Naturalists? No, if you are teaching one of the Training Class lessons. Yes, if you are teaching an AT program at chapter meetings or another Master Naturalist setting. Remember that if there are multiple chapter members presenting, only one of you will record the Impact Data.

Field Observation: CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge, by Buford Koehler

Sunset photo of the CoCoRaHS rain gauge in December. I have been collecting and entering rain data for CoCoRaHS for over eight years. Members can receive volunteer hours for entering their data. If anyone is interested in doing this, they can contact me by email at koehlerbr@outlook.com.



Field Observation: Building New Holiday Traditions, by Jan Hughes

Every year my husband and I have Thanksgiving at our house, previously in Washington and now in Round Top. This tradition was started years ago when my sister's boys were young and loved being out on the property exploring.

We had them start picking items up that we could use for a Thanksgiving centerpiece. My sister who is a graphic artist, would arrange whatever they brought back in a basket.

This year those boys are now 22 and 19, but we had some great nieces and nephews attending from Arkansas and put them to the task, handing the torch over. The 19 year old helped out since he had so much experience.

I wanted to share this year's centerpiece and a hope that I could possibly put a bug in other's ears to start the same tradition. It has been fun!





This armored alien grasshopper is officially a **Robust Toad Lubber**. I observed this interesting creature 10 years ago in Marfa, Texas at the Marfa Lights site. I was able to make the identification with the help of iNaturalist.

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

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