



The GLC Tidings

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From the President – Betsy Palkowsky

I hope this issue of the **GLC Tidings** finds you safe, sane and enjoying the outdoors before summer sets in.

I know the Covid-19 pandemic has brought many challenges to our usual daily routines. At the same time, it has provided us with time to reflect on what is important to us and what we can be grateful for. I haven't been home since the first part of March which is hard on some days. At the same time, I am grateful for the unexpected opportunity to spend quality time with my daughter, son-in-law and grandson again. Sharing my love of nature with my grandson at the nearby Denver parks and in the backyard has introduced both of us to new things. I hope you're getting time to see and appreciate new things too.

Chapter Meeting and AT

We will not have a May chapter meeting due to the continued personal distancing mandates from Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD), Texas A&M AgriLife and Texas Master Naturalist (TMN).

May AT session

Mark your calendars for our first online chapter AT session which will be held on **Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.** Details for joining this session will be sent separately.

Birds and Habitat Management

Trey Barron, Wildlife Diversity Biologist will present an overview of some of the birds that can be found locally, and what we can do to manage for some of the species of concern on properties of all sizes. A field trip was originally planned for this presentation. Hopefully, we can get Trey back for a field trip at another time.

Trey began his career with TPWD in 2011 in the Texas panhandle. Trey is now the Wildlife Diversity (non-game) Biologist for Region 4 and is focused on species of greatest conservation need. He received his Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology and Master of Science in Biology from West Texas A&M University.

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

Congratulations to the 2020 Training Program Graduates, by Betsy Palkowsky



The 2020 Training Program will be remembered for a long time as one of the most interesting classes for our chapter. The Training committee not only made some planned changes to the program to give the trainees more hands-on experiences, but they also had to adjust to the no face-to-face meetings for the last month of the program. The flexibility and results of the trainees has been wonderful. I am proud to announce we have **21 new Texas Master Naturalists** in our chapter. Congratulations to...

Chuck Babb, Patti Brown, Norbert Dittrich, Gayle Durie, Judi Flynn, Bruce Ford, Kathe Forrest, Joanna Hagler, Ellen Hardin, Cathy Ingham, Chip Ingham, Charlotte Leissner, Margaret Lisle, Mary Jane Moore, Alejandro Morua, Susan Schroeder, Lynn Showers, Robbie Showers, Denise Turner, Lenore Williamson and John Williamson.

A huge thanks goes to the Training Committee. Karen and John Gardner for their strong leadership and ability to adjust to changes on the fly with the super help of the rest of the training committee, Lori Buffum, Peggy Cadenhead, Linda Esco, Chris Morrison, Nita Tiemann and myself. Everyone stepped in to assist wherever help was needed throughout this challenging time.

A special thank you goes to Kara Matheney and Stephanie Rudolph. These two started working with Karen and John back in August to line up great instructors for the year. They didn't stop there as they continued to help with printing materials, securing meeting locations, finding new speakers when some were no longer available AND ensuring the class continued even though we couldn't meet face-to-face. Next time you see either of these folks give them a big hug for their amazing support.



MEMBER PROFILE: BETSY PALKOWSKY

About Me: I grew up in a big family (3 brothers and 3 sisters) in Illinois and moved to Texas in 1977. I developed, managed, marketed large software products/ development groups for the oil and gas industry for 38 years. My husband and I bought our Twenty Acre Woods near Round Top about 10 years ago. We've been living here full time for two years. I'm a big Great Pyrenees (we have three) and wildlife management fan. I love learning how to make our twenty acres a great place for all sorts of critters. Each year and each season is a new experience.

Being a part of the Texas Master Naturalist organization has taught me a tremendous amount about the ecosystems in our area, introduced me to some wonderful people and given me an opportunity to give back to our community.

Favorite thing about being a Texas Master Naturalist: The passion of the people involved with the organization.

Favorite critter: Carolina Wren

Favorite place in Texas: Home



MEMBER PROFILE: KEN ENGLISH

About Me:

In 2004, my wife and I began a search for property and a house in the country for family gatherings that was within a reasonable driving distance of College Station (we are both Aggies). We chose the Brenham area as our most desired area. In the process of purchasing our 40 acres, our realtor discussed property tax options with us. That was the first time we heard of the wildlife valuation opportunity. Upon purchase of our place, we embarked on our journey into wildlife management. I retired from Architecture and Construction Management in 2018, and then set a goal to become a Certified Master Naturalist. I graduated from the GLC Class in 2019.

Favorite thing about being a Texas Master Naturalist: The people! It is a joy to know and learn from folks with a similar passion for nature, its care, and sharing that passion with children and adults.

Favorite critter: Carolina Wren

Favorite place in Texas: Other than where we live now, the first place that comes to mind is a campground my family went to when I was growing up--a campground called Mormon Mill off a back road between Marble Falls and Burnett.

Favorite big trips: Scotland, the Baltic Sea, and Egypt

Quail Necropsy, by Dottie Schoeneberg



On March 4, seven Master Naturalists, Peggy Cadenhead, Joanna Hagler, Ellen Morris, Robert Mott, Dottie Schoeneberg, Marty Schoenemann, and Jon Watkins participated in the quail necropsy for the 7th graders at Brenham Jr. High. This L.A.N.D.S. program was under the direction of Texas Wildlife Association program specialist Brian Robert.

The objective for the day was dissecting a bobwhite quail and exploring the internal and external adaptations of birds. They were also compared to humans and other organisms.

Brazos Bend State Park Pond Life, by Jaci Elliott

With the **Brazos Bend State Park** being temporarily closed, we want to continue to connect with you and share the park with you in any way we can. Today, we want to share our Pondlife Program! This is one of my favorite programs we offer; it's very hands-on for everyone, very educational, messy, and overall fun! There are so many critters that live beneath the surface of the water and we never see. There's a whole other ecosystem down there which supports the life of all water-dwelling organisms. Here is where the food chain begins. Brazos Bend volunteer, David Heinicke, takes you through the whole Pondlife Program and tells you all about the different animals and insects that make up the life of the pond.

Here is a YouTube link to this video so you can share it with your family, friends, classes, or anyone! <https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=VAj0JuJlkyE>

*Video filmed and edited by Park Ranger: Montse Canedo

Complicated life of Queen Butterflies, by Marcia Braun

Back on February 26, my husband and I found what we identified as a Monarch chrysalis. (It was very close to some Tropical Milkweed plants which had been cut back in the fall but were starting to leaf out at the ground.) Nights were cold, so we figured it was doomed. We checked on it until March 9, when there was a butterfly sitting on the empty chrysalis and drying its wings.

Surprisingly, it turned out to be a Queen, not a Monarch. It sat for a full day and a half and took off when the sun peeked through the clouds. At that point another 6 Queens were flying about the yard. That raised lots of questions for further reading. We have several butterfly books – all of which turned out to be skimpy compared with all of the information on line. A lot more is known about butterflies now with Monarch's popularity.

Queen Butterflies (*Danaus gilippus*) are closely related to Monarchs and Soldiers, as reflected by being in the same genus. We don't get as many Soldiers here as other Texas regions further south, so this discussion is mainly about Queens and Monarchs. It turns out that all articles and discussions of Queens are also about their close cousins, the Monarchs.

An adult queen is slightly smaller, a different color of orange – ruddier brownish – and the upper side lacks the dark veins of a Monarch. With wings folded, the Queen's underwing looks veined like Monarch's, but only on the lower or hindwing.

Queens also use milkweed as a host plant, and the caterpillars are striped yellow and black, similar to Monarchs. Monarch caterpillars have a pair of tentacles on each end while Queen caterpillars have an extra pair in the middle. They can look very similar unless you count tentacle pairs. So, what about the chrysalis? The Queen chrysalis is smaller and thinner (useful only in direct comparisons); otherwise apparently identical in appearance. Amazingly, the chrysalis can be up to 100 feet from the host plant. (Right now, we have a Monarch chrysalis on an extension cord 50 feet away from any host plant.)

Queen Life Cycle:

Egg – 4 to 6 days

Caterpillar – 2 to 3 weeks

Chrysalis – 5 to 15 days except for overwintering pupae

Adult – 1 to 3 months

Range: Argentina to the southern U.S. It breeds as far north as central Texas and occurs as far north as Kansas. They are also in southern Asia and Africa.

Mating: Both Queens and Monarchs are easy to sex. The males have a dark spot on each upper surface of the hindwing. The spots are pheromone scales. Queen males visit a type of sunflower

for a chemical that activates their pheromones to entice females in courtship and mating. Incredibly, it actually smells strong enough for people to detect it! (Monarchs don't use pheromones in breeding.) Queens have 3 broods per year in central Texas. The female lays one egg on new leaves of the host plant – most often a milkweed. Milkweeds have cardenolides, a type of steroid that most other butterfly larva can't tolerate. In their evolution, Queens started eating the toxin and incorporating it into their bodies for protection from avian predators. Monarchs evolved the ability later. (Plants in 12 other botanical families have convergently evolved to have cardenolides.) Most birds stay clear, but Black-backed Orioles and Black-headed Grosbeaks in Mexico, where monarchs overwinter, have evolved to be cardenolide-tolerant and 60% of monarch deaths in Mexico are due to them.

If you inspect milkweeds, you'll notice that there are many insects, aphids, etc. that have also evolved as milkweed specialists – and there are whole books about them.

Queens are not as host-specific as Monarchs and will use other plants. A study in Florida with caged birds found that those butterflies are palatable to birds, but they gain some protection by looking like Monarchs.

In my yard, I find mainly Monarch caterpillars, although in the summer, we typically have several Queens feeding on Blue Mist Flower. For nectar, Blue Mist Flower is THE Queen-preferred plant, although they also like others, including Tropical Milkweed and Purple Porterweed.



References: 1. Agrawal, Anurag. Monarchs and milkweed: a migrating butterfly, a poisonous plant, and their remarkable story of coevolution. Princeton University Press, 2017. This is a very readable, technical book.
2. Glassberg, Jeffrey. A Swift guide to butterflies of North America, 2d edition. Princeton Univ. Press, 2017. Great for butterfly ID, but nothing on caterpillars or chrysalises.

Delightful Damsels, by Jon Watkins

The great state of Texas is renowned for many things, not the least of which is the beauty, diversity and abundance of its wildflowers. Texas wildflowers have been the subject of numerous writings, works of art, collections, celebrations and perhaps even a tall tale or two. Some of the state's most iconic wildflower viewing highway routes are located within the boundaries of the region served by the Texas Master Naturalist-Gideon Linsecum Chapter. Although the bluebonnets, Indian Paintbrush, Firewheels and several others are generally considered to be the stars of our annual wildflower show, it is with great anticipation that I await the springtime debut of a delightful damsel...the Prairie Nymph.

Also known by its Latin name, *Herbertia lahue* (Molina) Goldblatt, the Prairie Nymph is a Texas native perennial and a member of the iris family. The plant is upright with grass-like foliage growing 6 to 12 inches tall and is most commonly found in prairies, meadows and pastures. It is considered to be of benefit to wildlife as a source of nectar for bees and other pollinators. Depending on its location, the blooming period for the Prairie Nymph is March to early May. The exotic flowers are formed of three oblong lavender petals surrounding contrasting white center splotches. Once it begins, blooming continues for about two weeks but the individual flowers last only a single day, opening in the morning and closing in the late afternoon.

I observed just a few of these bashful beauties during the first spring season following the conversion of our family retreat to wildlife management use. As our overgrazed pastures become transitional wild meadows, the colony of Prairie Nymphs continues to expand and thrive. I find it peaceful and good for the soul to stay connected to wild places and wild things. I hope for many more days to enjoy creation and to perhaps have other opportunities to catch a fleeting glimpse of the Prairie Nymphs.

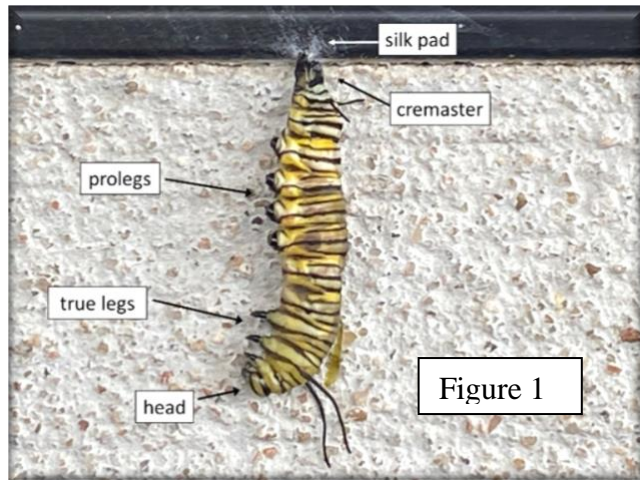


References

- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center www.wildflower.org, Natural Resources Conservation Service plants.usda.gov
- Texas Highways www.texashighways.com, Native American Seed www.seedsources.com

Monarch Caterpillar Predation by Tachinid Flies, by Jerry Gips

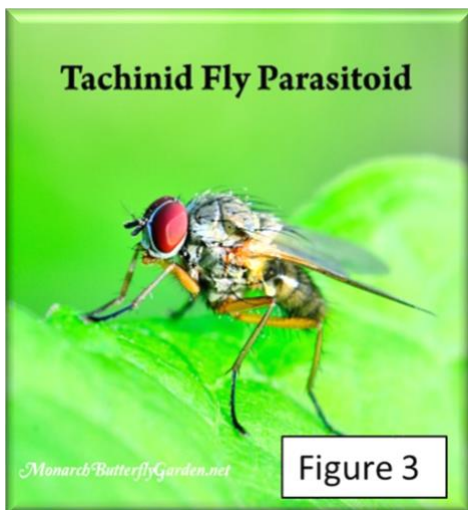
Last week, I had 9 monarch caterpillars feeding on one milkweed plant (*Asclepias asperula*) that was growing about five feet from my front porch. Four of the caterpillars crawled to the porch and up a door or up a chair or up onto the porch roof beam. Only one of the four was able to form a chrysalis before all four died.



The process of caterpillar to chrysalis is amazing. Paraphrased from the website www.journeynorth.org : The larva spins a silk pad. Then it grabs the silk pad with curved hooks on its two hind prolegs. The caterpillar can then turn around and hang upside down, split and wriggle its skin up and then cast off the rumpled larval skin (the skin flick!). However, the newly formed chrysalis would fall to the ground if it did not have the cremaster with its barbed hooks to thrust into the silk. Figure 1 identifies those parts on a caterpillar that died prior to shedding its larval skin.

Three of the four caterpillars that ascended onto the porch hung from their hind prolegs (not true legs) as if to form a chrysalis but shriveled and died before they were able to do so. Several thick white threads, very similar to spider silk, hung from or around them. I thought a spider must have gotten them, but my search on the internet suggested they had been preyed upon by a **tachinid fly** and these white threads are telltale signs of tachinid predation. Figure 2 shows these white threads on a dead caterpillar.





The **tachinid fly** looks very similar to an ordinary house fly, perhaps slightly larger. See Figure 3. Though there are numerous species present in our chapter area, they tend to have a hairy body and red eyes.

These flies lay their eggs on monarch caterpillars. The maggots that hatch burrow into their host and feed from the inside out. The caterpillar dies, often while trying to form a chrysalis, and soon after, the tachinid maggots will exit the caterpillar, drop to the ground, leaving long white strands hanging from the deceased caterpillar. If the caterpillar still manages to form the chrysalis, dark spots will form on the chrysalis in the next few days and the maggots will soon emerge. See Figure 4.



Tachinid flies also attack tomato worms, the caterpillars of sphinx moths, and some gardeners will encourage tachinid flies to control these worms on their tomato plants. Maybe it is not a good idea to plant milkweed, which attracts monarch butterflies to lay their eggs, next to tomatoes.

The tachinid fly is one of several invertebrate predators of the monarch. Other insects, spiders, bacteria and viruses can kill. And there are vertebrate predators: some orioles, some grosbeaks, frogs and toads. The poisonous, foul tasting, nature of monarch butterflies and caterpillars is well known. The poison defense is derived from the milkweed sap that the caterpillar ingests (poisonous cardenolides, also called cardiac glycosides). However, it does seem to be more effective against vertebrates than invertebrates. Little research has been done on invertebrate predation.

Of the nine caterpillars feeding on the milkweed off my front porch, four have perished trying to pupate. The fate of the other five is unknown, but with any luck some have survived to carry on to the next generation. And today, I noticed one new small monarch caterpillar on the milkweed. He/She is chomping away on the *Asclepias asperula*.

There are some excellent websites describing the life cycle, chrysalis formation, the amazing multi-generation migration and other information about the monarch butterfly. Three are listed here.

<https://monarchwatch.org/>

<https://journeynorth.org/tm/monarch/ChrysalisFormationMore.html>

<https://monarchbutterflygarden.net/common-monarch-diseases-prevention/>

Phenology at Winedale, by Charlie Winker

If you're a birder, even if you don't keep a Life List you quite likely have a Yard List or a Neighborhood List or a General Vicinity List, at least in your head. Now suppose that, rather than just keeping a single local list, you start a new list each week. Repeat for 52 weeks, compile your lists into a table, and you've documented one annual cycle of the seasonal comings and goings of your local avifauna. If you're more of a plant person, you could record first and last blooms, first budding, or anything else you can observe consistently.

You might even discover additional benefits: (1) if you're trying to improve your ID skills, the weekly repetition provides excellent reinforcement; (2) since you might be adding just a few new species each week the task isn't overwhelming; (3) in order to make your lists as complete as possible, you'll find yourself paying more attention to common or inconspicuous species you might otherwise ignore; (4) the resulting document can be useful in planning field trips, seed collecting events, etc.; (5) in a public setting, it will show visitors what to expect or look for at the time of their visit; (6) it's a good way to make systematic comparisons of different localities; (7) observations of first appearances and unusual or uncommon species reported in iNaturalist are likely to be of interest to professional biologists and serious amateurs who may give you useful feedback; (8) it can be done by anyone starting at any level of expertise; all it requires is time and dedication.

This type of study does have a name: **phenology** was coined in the mid-19th century for "the study of periodic plant and animal life cycle events..." (Wikipedia), but the practice undoubtedly pre-dates recorded human history. Phenological studies by both professional and amateur biologists date back at least to the 18th century, and organized large-scale studies by amateur observers, what today we would call Citizen Science, date back to the late 19th century. Organizations like Ebird, iNaturalist, and the American Phenological Network have brought phenology into the internet age. A bit of Googling will reveal a wide range of projects within the realm of phenology.

My own interest started in 2019 when I decided to get serious about learning our local prairie wildflowers and grasses. Having seen Patrick Dunne keep monthly lists of wildflowers at the **Winedale Historical Complex**, I decided to compile my own observations from near our house into weekly lists. So, half-hour morning dog walks evolved into 1-4-hour field excursions, with each week covering in total a 4-mile loop of country roads plus a neighboring ranch. This year, with improved field skills, I decided to expand my coverage with weekly trips to Katy Prairie Conservancy Indian Grass Preserve (KPCIP) and Winedale, where I've been collaborating with Patrick.

By way of illustration, the accompanying table summarizes bird observations at Winedale for the first four months (we started two weeks late). Winedale is not currently a hotspot in Ebird, but it certainly could be. A species count of 47 may not seem that impressive, and these reports are only occurrences rather than counts, but then neither of us is a particularly good birder, and we spend more time looking down than up. Thanks in part to the adjoining SCS reservoir, there is satisfying variety for even the beginning birder, but it does call for repeated visits. My favorite recent experience was watching at least two dozen broad-winged hawks ascending two adjacent thermals, when a bald eagle coasted into view overhead, circled me once, then proceeded on its way. It appears that a pair of eagles is currently in residence near the lake, at least for the summer.

If you'd like a copy of the lists to date, please contact me at cdwinker@gmail.com. Also, if you'd like to participate in either the Winedale or KPCIP projects, please contact me or just send me your observations and I'll add them to the tables. I'll discuss some flower and grass highlights in a future newsletter.

common name	week -->	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	2020	1st	# wks
Savannah sparrow				1	1	1	1	1	1								1			1	3	6
Cedar waxwing			1	1			1	1					1	1	1	1	1			1	3	9
Blue jay			1				1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	3	10
Eastern phoebe			1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1		1			1			1	3	10
American crow			1	1		1	1	1	1	1			1	1			1	1		1	3	11
Carolina chickadee			1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	3	14
Northern cardinal			1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	3	14
Red-bellied woodpecker			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	3	14
Northern mockingbird			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	3	15
Turkey vulture			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	3	15
Chipping sparrow				1		1		1	1											1	4	4
Pine warbler				1	1	1	1													1	4	4
Killdeer				1	1			1	1	1					1	1	1	1		1	4	9
Carolina wren				1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	4	12
Black vulture				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1		1	4	13
White pelican				1	1															1	5	2
Great egret					1		1						1							1	5	3
Great blue heron					1	1		1									1	1		1	5	5
Eastern bluebird					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1		1	5	12
Double-crested cormorant					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	5	13
American pipit						1														1	6	1
American kestrel						1	1			1	1	1								1	6	5
Red-shouldered hawk						1	1	1	1								1			1	6	5
Yellow-rumped warbler					1	1	1	1	1					1						1	6	6
Mourning dove						1	1			1	1	1	1			1	1	1		1	6	9
Tufted titmouse						1		1		1	1	1	1			1	1	1		1	6	9
Sandhill crane							1	1		1										1	7	3
Orange-crowned warbler								1												1	8	1
Gadwall									1											1	9	1
Ruby-crowned kinglet									1											1	9	1
Snow goose										1										1	9	1
Greater yellowlegs										1				1						1	9	2
Red-tailed hawk											1				1			1		1	10	3
American robin												1								1	11	1
Barn swallow													1	1	1	1	1	1		1	11	6
White-eyed vireo													1	1	1	1	1	1		1	11	7
Crested caracara														1				1		1	12	2
Cliff/cave swallow															1	1		1		1	13	3
Eurasian collared-dove																1				1	14	1
Grackle sp.																	1			1	14	1
Tree swallow																		1		1	14	1
Broad-winged hawk																	1			1	15	1
White-winged dove																	1			1	15	1
Bald eagle																	1	1	1	1	15	3
Chimney swift																		1		1	16	1
Spotted sandpiper																		1		1	16	1
Blue-winged teal																			1	1	17	1
number of species -->				10	13	13	22	19	20	20	17	17	18	18	20	19	23	23		47	<- total	
Expected seasonality based on range maps:																						
Year-round resident																						
Winter resident/nonbreeding																						
Summer resident/breeding																						
Migratory transient																						
sorted by:																						
1. week of first observation																						
2. number of weeks observed																						
3. common name																						

Adopt a Highway Project, by David Butler



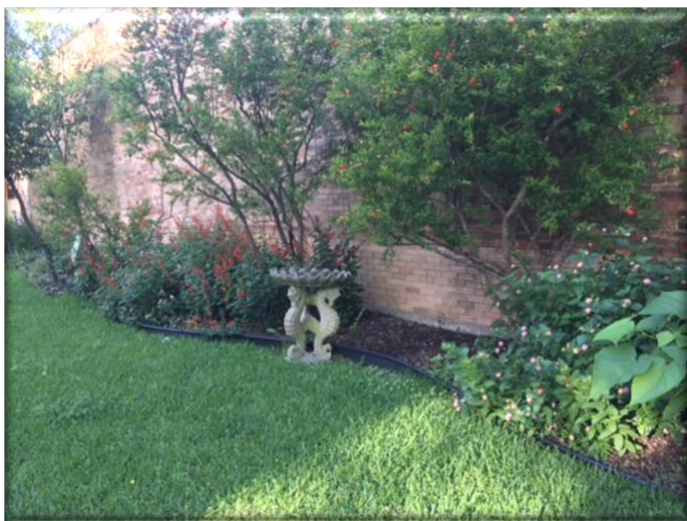
Our **Adopt your Personal Highway** volunteer group met on March 11 to clean up trash along our 2 mile stretch of HW 159. We were one of the few volunteer groups that was able to work on a project before volunteer opportunities stopped. We had a great morning. Nice cool weather as well as eight volunteers that made for getting our entire 2 mile stretch of roadway spotless. In addition to seasoned volunteers Ron and Mary Ann Peach, Dottie Schoeneberg, Cindy Rodibaugh, David and Mary Ann Butler, and Jacki Elliott we were joined by an enthusiastic member in training, Ellen Hardin.

We are trying out a new approach to see how efficient it is to collect material that can be recycled. The highway department district coordinator was quite enthusiastic about this trial approach. We picked up a total of 20 bags of trash. One overfilled giant bag contained mostly crushed beer and soft drinks cans. Jaci Elliott volunteered to take that bag to the Fayette County Recycling plant in La Grange to help sort it out into categories on their site. We all decided it would be most efficient for one person in a team of two should pick up materials to be recycled and the other volunteer on a team to pick up other materials. We will collect in this manner for the next couple of AaH cleanups to see how worthwhile this is. It may result in a significant reduction of what normally is sent to a landfill.

Schubert House Project Update, by Karen Woods

Thank Goodness we had a Spring cleaning workday on Feb 28 on the Schubert House Pollinator Garden, before COVID-19 disrupted and semi-paralyzed all of our lives! As you can see by the April 24th photos, the garden is in great shape! No virus is going to stop Mother Nature! **AND** the native Milk Weed we planted in 2018 is very well established - even the hearty Lantana can't over power it! I hope our Spring-migrating Monarchs found it – we shall see.

A big thanks to our Schubert House veterans Mary Ann and Dave Butler, Annette Holdeman and Nita Tiemann for jump-starting the garden for 2020. We fairly quickly dug and pulled weeds, pruned the trees and shrubs. It is always great to catch-up with each other as we work. As one might expect, however, the ever-persistent vine and other weeds need to be pulled, and the sooner the better. Also, the red salvia has established 'extra successfully', so it needs to be culled. We will set a work day as soon as possible, and we will make sure we work COVID-19 safely!



Please call Karen Woods (281) 682-2810 if you would like some hardy red salvia plants and/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.

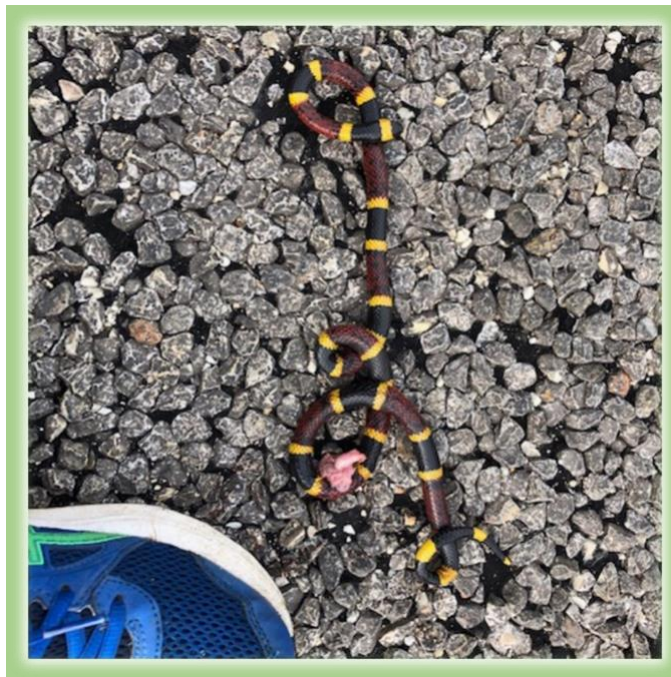
Field Observation: Texas Coral Snake, by Jaci Elliot

On the Tuesday after Easter, I was bike riding on FM 957 in St. John's near Schulenburg when I road past what looked like a dead coral snake. It wasn't moving so sure took a picture with my shoe for scale (no pun intended) and sent the photo to my husband [see photo below]. As I was finishing my ride, my husband Doug, a retired biology teacher, retrieved the snake, which apparently was close to but not quite dead. He texted me as such, but said the snake was now dead and that he had not been harmed just spooked when the snake wiggled after he touched it with a stick.

Upon returning home, I saw he had the deceased serpent on his examining table. With gloves, surgical scissors and a jeweler's loupe my husband carefully took a closer look. He may be of use in future TMN-GLC presentations.

Two days later, during Chuck Sawtske's webinar: "Fangs of Fury", I inquired about the fangs of the Texas coral snake and learned that they are fixed-front fangs, unlike the pit vipers discussed in his presentation. We also learned that coral snakes, contrary to the myth about them having to chew on a person, can easily envenomate without gnawing.

Interesting information to digest.



Field Observation: Aplomado Falcon, by Ann Ray

I met this Aplomado Falcon and its falconer at the Nashville airport a few years back. Their work there is very effective in ridding the airport terminal of other birds.



FASCINATING ARTICLE ALERT! “How other species handle social distancing when someone is sick.”

“From ants and bees to mice, monkeys and apes, an array of social animals change their behavior to reduce the risk of spreading infections. Let’s examine ways some other naturally social species protect themselves and their communities from dangerous diseases. Many use strategies that wouldn’t work for humans, while still illustrating that isolating ourselves during an outbreak isn’t as unnatural as it may feel.”

[How other species handle social distancing when ... - ...](#)

Mother Nature News- Russell McLendon, April 9, 2020

Outreach & Marketing, by Ken English

Howdy All!! I trust everyone is staying safe in these times but still finding time to get outside and enjoy spring in some manner.

First, I want to thank our Chapter Members and TMN Trainee Class Members for your enthusiastic response to the Outreach & Marketing events & opportunities that emerged at the start 2020. I also want to thank Geri Kline (Lee County Texas AgriLife), Kara Matheney (Washington County Texas AgriLife), Scott Willey (Fayette County Texas AgriLife), and Stephanie Damron (TPWD), and Jordan Anderson, Texas Historical Commission for making space available for our displays and recruiting efforts at their programs.

The year was shaping up to be active for our Chapter Outreach & Marketing efforts until early March when our current health crisis established itself. Our Chapter brought awareness of the Texas Master Naturalist program to the following events:

- Lee County Landowner Program
- Washington County Wildlife Society Meeting
- Texas AgriLife Extension New Landowner Program – Session 1
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department – Wildlife Valuation Program
- Texas Independence Day Celebration (2 days)

Through the Chapter's presence at these events, our teams gathered the names of 17 folks interested in learning more about the Texas Master Naturalist program and our Chapter. We are sending emails that include Chapter Newsletters, meeting dates, activities, and training updates to hopefully grow their interest in TMN/GLC.

I received valuable feedback from our members based on these efforts at these events. Making sure all the proper materials are in place in our tri-fold packages is a priority. Since the Texas Independence Day Celebration was the first use of our tent canopy this year, it became apparent that Chapter Identity on the canopies and materials for securing these in windy conditions need to be enhanced. I expect these to be in place by the time programs restart. Additional feedback is always welcome.

Under the guidance of the leadership of the Texas Master Naturalist Program and our Chapter leaders, I will be reaching out to the Chapter for volunteers to restart our campaign of raising awareness of the TMN program as events and programs are re-established. Do not be shy about engaging in our outreach, this effort is about sharing your passion as a citizen scientist with folks of similar interests in our natural world.



Scholarship Program Update, by Donna Zapalac Mueller

Given the changes in how we all do business due to COVID-19 there have been some slight changes implemented to the scholarship program. The 2020 Gideon Lincecum Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists Scholarship Guidelines and Applications will be released on Monday, April 27, 2020 to eligible youth (4-H and FFA) in the five county area via County Extension Agents. Applications will also be available for download online at <http://washington.agrilife.org/GLCTMNScholarship>. The deadline for online submission is Friday, May 15, 2020 via the website mentioned above. Applications will be reviewed, and selections made in the days following the online submission. In the past we have been able to share these awards and recognize the recipients at Summer/Fall Awards banquets. We hope to continue to be able to do such but will be waiting to hear announcements from each county about the plans moving forward for these events.

2020 Gideon Lincecum Chapter Texas Master Naturalist Scholarship *Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Lee, and Washington Counties*



Scholarship Guidelines

The Gideon Lincecum Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists (GLC TMN) is a network of Master Volunteers serving Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Lee, and Washington counties who seek to provide beneficial management of natural resources through education, outreach, and service. The 2020 GLC TMN Scholarship in the amount of \$1000 is being offered to one eligible recipient per county for Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Lee, and Washington Counties.

Membership Memo, by Chris Morrison

Member Roster for 2020 - You should have received the 2020 GLC Roster with contact information for all chapter members. Please file this someplace where you can access it easily. If there is an error in your information, or something changes during the year, please email me – srachris48@gmail.com.

NEW: Adopt your Personal Highway? – Do you pick up trash on your walks on public roads? Record that as Volunteer Hours using the Opportunity Title “Adopt-A-Highway”. We do have a designated two-mile section of TX 159 that our chapter maintains as a part of the TXDOT program. We’ve added to the definition to allow individuals to count their time picking up trash on other public roads or public spaces. It falls under the Federal Category of Natural Resource Management because we are improving the health of the roadside for wildlife. When you log your hours, please give the name/number of the road(s) on your route.

NEW: Hours for Nest Box Repair/Maintenance – The state has confirmed that members who participate in one or more of the citizen science nest box survey projects may include in their hours the time spent keeping the nest boxes in good repair.

Webinars – The state has suspended the “no more than 4 hours of webinars count for AT for recertification” while we are under the COVID restraints on face-to-face meetings. Members may earn all 8 of their AT hours for certification from webinars during this time. When you log the hours, use **“AT: Webinars”** and be sure to put the **name of the sponsoring group, title of presentation, and presenter** in the description.

Outreach Booth vs Administrative Work/Recruiting – If you are staffing the GLC booth at an event with the purpose of recruiting new members, it is NOT Outreach Booth. It is **“Administrative Work/Recruiting”**. Please refer to the March 2020 GLC Tidings article and the last page of the VMS for Chapter Members document.

Why does a column in my Log Book titled “Approved Hours” always show zero, even if the entry has been approved? I asked the VMS Help Desk this question, and the answer is, “Just ignore it. There are a few rare cases where volunteers do need to log hours under some TPWD auspice, but those hours do not count toward TMN awards and re-certification. But they may count towards some TPWD non-TMN awards. If so, they will be able to see them.” *Remember: Please LOG YOUR HOURS within 45 days. Every Hour of Volunteer Time = over \$23 in Federal Grant money for TPWD*

Something new in your Inbox shortly...

Look for the first annual **GLC Member Photo Directory** to be emailed to you just after you get this newsletter! Remember those photos taken of you when you came to your first Training Class session? We’ve gathered them from various hard drives and Dropbox folders, and now those of current members are put into a yearbook-style photo directory. Jamie Lee Manning spent many hours formatting the photos done since 2006 and compiling them into a document. Thank you, Jamie Lee! This should help all of us to put names to faces in our large group that live rather far apart in our five-county area. We hope you will find it useful. If you’d like us to use a different photo of you next year, you can send us one or we can do retakes at chapter meetings. More on that later.



State COVID-19 Update

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are statewide sponsors of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. As such we must adhere to the policies set forth by both of our sponsoring agencies.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has mandated that ALL AgriLife face to face events, programs and meetings be cancelled through May 20th at the earliest. This includes Texas Master Naturalist face to face events, programs and meetings. Because the period may well be extended, all TMN chapters should continue to make contingency plans for no face to face events through the summer out of an abundance of caution. Resource page for updates: <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/coronavirus/> NEW!

May 1-20: All face to face events remain cancelled.

May 18: Additional guidance from the Office of the Governor on reopening the state

- I will inform you of updates when I get them
- Follow state and local and TMN guidelines for personal distancing when you volunteer for any upcoming opportunities
- The state meeting is still planned for this October. The state folks are working on a variety of contingency plans should we still need to follow personal distancing guidelines

Updated State Website

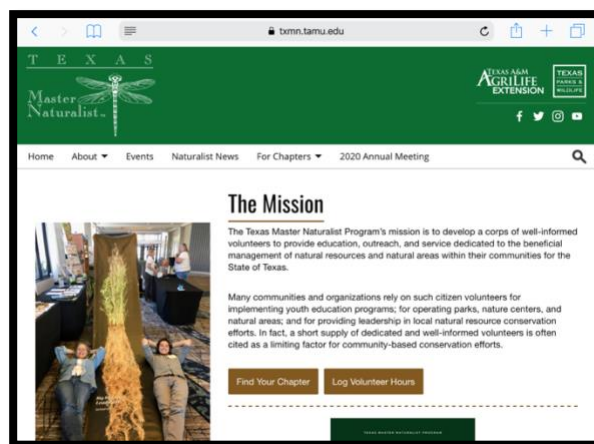
New state website look and feel visit <https://txmn.org> to see the great changes for the state site and what to expect for our chapter website when we move to the new template in July.

Events - <https://txmn.tamu.edu/events/>

There is a state calendar on the new website where chapters can add events, webinars, opportunities to share with statewide TMN members. This is a resource for upcoming AT session (which must be approved by your AT committee first). Our AT committee will look into adding some of our approved sessions to this site.

Newsletter - <https://txmn.tamu.edu/news/chapter-article-suggestion/>

The Naturalist News blog will be heavily used to announce projects, awards, news and other information from the state. TMN Chapters are encouraged to share their news, awards or highlights on this blog. The goal of the blog is to make it easier for state office to share accomplishments, chapter newsletters, and awards won. Submissions to the blog can be made using the link above. Mary Pearl Meuth will review submissions prior to them being posted on the site. I will look into how to make this easy to do this for our newsletter so that we can share our wonderful content with the rest of the state TMN members.



March & April Treasurer's Report

Gideon Lincecum Chapter Meeting				
Treasurer's Report - Pam Green				
March 2020 - Reconciled				
Balance	March 1, 2020		\$	19,792.83
Income				
Dues 2019 - checks/cash		260		
Training class		350		
Total Income		<u>610</u>		
Expenses				
Reimbursements (misc.)		152.27		
Reimburse training class for student		325		
Other		0		
Total Expenses		<u>477.27</u>		
Balance	March 31, 2020		\$	19,925.56

Treasurer's Report - Pam Green				
April 2020 - Proforma				
Balance	1-Apr-20		\$	19,925.56
Income				
Dues 2020 - Paypal		300		
Dues 2020 - Cash/Checks		360		
Donation		400		
Total Income		<u>1060</u>		
Expenses				
PayPal Fee		12.3		
2019 Training Class		383.86		
Reimbursements - misc.		68.85		
Total Expenses		<u>465.01</u>		
Balance	30-Apr-20		\$	20,520.55

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