



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 was hoping I didn't have to repeat my opening statement from our last letter. Like you, I wanted us to be back to our usual programs. Unfortunately, life is still a challenge for us. The newsletter has information on Texas Master Naturalist™ work guidelines while we are still in the Covid-19 pandemic mode of operation. Please read and honor the guidelines for your safety, the safety of your fellow chapter members and the public you might come across during your activities while working on TMN projects. Our actions reflect the commitment we have made to the TMN program.

With that said, there is a lot you all have been doing and learning. Chris Morrison's VMS report highlights how much you have done despite having to keep your distance from each other. There is a lot you can still do. Check out [our calendar](#). The state site has a page dedicated to [ideas for volunteering at a distance](#). And you can submit a [new volunteer activity request](#) if you see something that isn't already approved.

Chapter Meeting and AT

Mark your calendars! We will have an online chapter meeting Thursday July 16, 2020 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. I will send information about the meeting separately.

We will not have AT after our chapter meeting. There are so many online choices for you at this time. There are a number of upcoming sessions posted on [our calendar](#) and on the [state calendar](#). Again, the AT committee is happy to review anything that hasn't been approved. Send your requests to tmnglcat@googlegroups.com for review and approval.



State COVID-19 Update, by Betsy Palkowsky

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 the following for TMN gatherings/events:

We are still in Phase II

- Inside meetings
 - adhere to the 25% capacity guideline.
 - Maintain 6' distance
 - Wear mask as a courtesy to attendees (if not mandated by local authorities)
- Outdoor activities/gatherings
 - *6' Separation*
 - *Group of 10 or less gathering*
 - *Spacing between Groups or Rotating shifts of 10*
- Sign-in Lists – Contact Training
 - All gatherings/events should have a sign-in sheet with contact information. This sign-in sheet should be given to the site manager (e.g. Winedale site manager, TPWD park manager) to hold for one year. It allows the site manager to notify others that might have come in contact with any attendee diagnosed with Covid-19
 - If TMNs only – names only collected or pre-registration information collected prior to event/gathering
 - If some public – work with local Extension staff to determine who manages sign-in list
- Additional information can be found here [Texas Master Naturalist COVID-19 response page](#)
- I will inform you of updates when I get them



2020 Annual Meeting

When: October 14th-17th, 2020

Where: From the comfort of your home office, back patio or reclining chair

Agenda and Website Launch – mid July	Virtual Field Sessions
Registration – open early August	Virtual 5K Fun Run & Fundraiser
<i>Early bird deadline – Sept 15</i>	Awards & Contests – will be sent out early July
<i>Close registration – October 1</i>	Chapter Advisor Award nomination
Registration cost – between \$40 - \$80	Chapter Project Fair



MEMBER PROFILE: CINDY RODIBAUGH

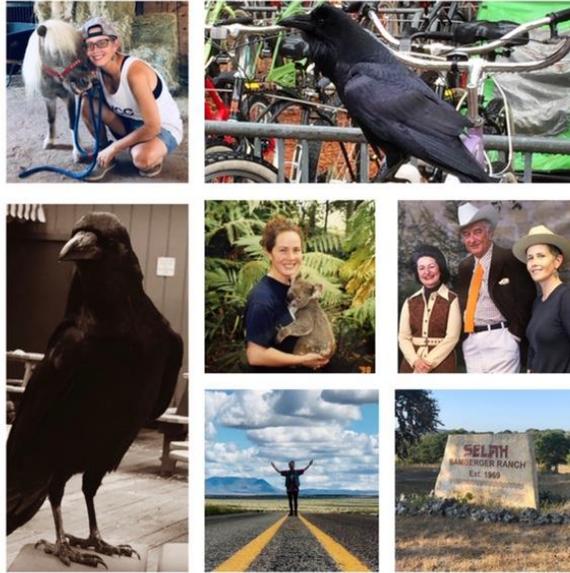
About Me: In 2004, my husband and I bought 32 acres in Fayette County near Flatonia. I am a retired nurse of thirty years. As a new land owner, I was fortunate to find the Texas Master Naturalist program and start to learn how to manage and improve our land. Graduating the training academy in 2008, I have proudly served the chapter in various leadership positions including Historian, VP, President, Training Committee Chair, and currently as Volunteer Service Project Director.

Favorite thing about being a Texas Master Naturalist: Learning about myself along the way, while being able to learn from other TMN volunteers has been rewarding. Participating in a prescribed burn gave me a profound sense of satisfaction!

Favorite critter or wildlife experience: Seeing a black-headed vulture land just outside my window where my cat was sleeping on the floor. The cat was oblivious to the bird casting its evil and ominous shadow over the cat. The vulture stood for several minutes looking at the very still cat through the window.

Favorite place in Texas: Our home in Fayette County. Every day we are able to observe and support wildlife. Recently, a pair of painted buntings came to our birdbath.

Favorite big trips: Alaska. the waters, the hills, the cool clean air, the salmon. I knew I was in God's country. Identifying the advantages and disadvantages of the geology, plant and animal life could keep me sustained and/or entertained for a lifetime!



MEMBER PROFILE: JAMIE LEE MANNING

About Me:

In 2017, before taking over as the primary care partner for my mom, Suzy, I spent over 20 years leading and managing innovative social change organizations. While taking care of my mom full-time, I work a few hours a month at a local art gallery, volunteer at an independent music listening room and mini horse farm. My bliss is exploration in nature, art, music, photography and the healing arts. I have goals to bowl a perfect 300, visit all the National Parks—I have 23 more to go, and one day qualify for the Sr. Games in table tennis.

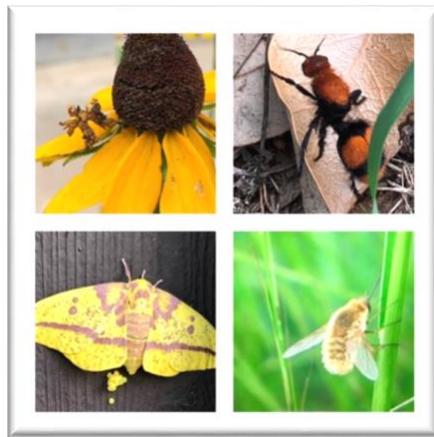
Favorite thing about being a Texas Master Naturalist: The exposure to incredible wildlife biologists, scientists and places like Selam, Bamburger Ranch Preserve. Our visit there in the fall was a life changing experience.

Favorite critter: The Corvidae Family— specifically Ravens and Crows.

Favorite place in Texas: Most recently I've fallen in love with the Lyndon B Johnson National Historical Park.

Favorite big trips: Queensland Australia. I loved visiting the Great Barrier Reef at the Coral Sea and the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary.

Turning Bug Spotting Into Data, by Ellen S. Morris



Raise your hand if you're that person- the one whose place has all the “weeds.” I’m THAT lady on our FM road. I’m not a fan of shearing the land short often, denuding it of its fertile habitat. I explore nooks, walk the crazy patchwork of weeds. You can spot my large hat as I crouch in the pasture, camera in hand if I happen to grab it, reading glasses for close inspections. My mission: well, it can change in an instant depending on what catches my eye- a nest, grass seed, a quick lizard, but I especially like to stalk shy insects. Mostly, I’m just looking and learning.

One minute I’m focused on digging out a patch of dreaded sand burrs, the next I spot a plant I don’t recognize that has a Checkered Skipper resting on its broad green leaf. That’s when I notice that the plant’s tiny yellow flower is actually a minuscule yellow fly on a pale green bud. I manage to snap a sharp photo, and now I see a second little, furry, golden, hovering honeydrop of a fly investigating a nearby stem. Glorious! I upload the photo observations to iNaturalist as my more experienced friends taught me, and narrow down identifications. Doing that, I learn the Skipper’s perch is a Pale Umbrella Wort, apparently very attractive to pollinators. I discover my hovering honeydrop is actually a Greater Bee Fly, and the minuscule guy is a Hairless Bee Fly.

When I read Curt Stager’s May 2018 New York Times article, *The Silence of the Bugs*, I realized that observations on iNaturalist might be more helpful than I would have guessed. Stager makes the case that amateur observations are critical to help amass data to assist researchers in understanding our changing world.

Time spent outdoors--even on these sultry summer days--can be channeled into useful data as we log observations into citizen science project apps. Six-legged-Aggie, NestWatch, GLOBE at Night, Invaders of Texas and a multitude of other projects track nature in our backyards and on our planet. So much amazing information is available via these projects and our connections to TXMN expertise. I’m just one curious, sometimes seemingly crazy lady, a landowner trying to learn more. But in my explorations, and tracking and sharing observations that send data to the experts, maybe it doesn’t turn out to be quite so crazy after all.

Schubert House Pollinator Garden, by Karen Woods

The disruption of COVID-19 was not going to paralyze our upkeep on the Schubert House Pollinator Garden – We ARE a dedicated group! As you can see by the May 8 photos, the garden is in great shape! The native Milk Weed we planted in 2018 continues to stay well established. A BIG THANKS to our Schubert House Vets Cindy Hobbs, Annette Holdeman and Jan Hughes for their expertise and TLC. We fairly quickly dug/pulled weeds, the persistent vine and pruned trees and shrubs. It is always great to catch-up with each other and learn new things as we work. It is about time to set another work day in the near future and, again, 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.



Nature Reflections by Master Naturalists



“In this unprecedented moment of pandemic, reflect upon what nature means to you and what benefits it provides you, especially in times like these.”

When the TMN state program put out a call for mini videos (or written pieces) from chapter members in response to the statement above, master naturalists from all over the state got creative and reflective. The result is a wonderful online “library” of personal messages. Look for contributions from Gideon Lincecum members Jaci Elliot, Lori Buffum, Linda Esco, Patti Brown, and LaDot (Dottie) Schoeneberg.

Take some time out, stay inside on a hot afternoon, turn on your computer, turn up the volume, and enjoy meeting your fellow naturalists as they share their nature reflections!

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/nature-reflections/>

“ The Soil Will Save Us” Book Review, by Charlotte von Rosenberg



Here is a very readable book on soil health and where we are now almost a century after the Dust Bowl. Ohlson is a non-scientist who thoroughly explains, in language I can understand, the relationship of soil carbon and photosynthesis with the atmosphere to save us from climate change. She has a go at explaining the chemistry of carbon and soil right off the bat in the early chapters. Plants and photosynthesis are “the lungs of the planet” which is something I can understand.

The eight chapters have titles like Where Did All the Carbon Go? and Send in the Cows. Ohlson discusses conventional agricultural practices and new (again) practices like no-till and cover crop. Soil carbon is that black crumbly tilth that indicates healthy soil structure with healthy microorganisms. The book is full of the author’s reporting about her personal travels to soil conferences in Australia and Africa and around the world. She’s a good story-teller; the best thing I can say about a writer. My favorite thing about the book is Ohlson relating what she experienced and learned in her travels. Like an Anthony Bourdain- Parts Unknown- of agriculture. The most cutting-edge practices and the leaders like Savory and Holistic Management, Rodale and organic gardening and others are discussed most interestingly. The mysteries of compost and compost tea are revealed. One eccentric soil scientist walks barefoot on the soil to evaluate its health... I can see that. With a nod to Aldo Leopold, scientists and ranchers are using cows as “mobile microbe tanks” to help heal damaged soil.

The book is full of different land restoration stories – and stories about the new wave of farmers which the author calls “rock stars” and their stories. This is the “vibrant fringe” where new things are happening outside of the agricultural mainstream. The author ends up on a note of optimism based on the recognition of common ground between environmentalists and agriculturalists going forward. Ohlson tells this story well.

There is a whole lot of digestible information in this compact book. At the end of the book is a list of references worth having on its own. I liked the voice and presence of the author who is engaged, open and informative on the subject of climate change without preaching or spinning. She adds a personal, human presence to a story of carbon science.

***The Soil Will Save Us** by Kristin Ohlson, 2014, 235 pages

A Plan for a Pocket Prairie, by Lori Buffum

Four chapter members sallied forth in the pleasant weather on June 12 to make a start on redesigning and rebuilding the pocket prairie at Krause Elementary. It's an excellent outdoor teaching site and has served us well, but needs refurbishment. Lori Buffum, Charlotte von Rosenberg, Cathy Ingham and Judy Deaton removed an old steel border, weedeated and raked, and spread black plastic over invasives to solarize the area. Our plan is to expand the pocket prairie so it is a useful component of the Brenham schools outdoor education program. As a bonus, just a few yards away, we found the bluebird box occupied by Mom and 4 eggs.

Update: On June 30, Charlotte and Judy went to Krause and checked on our pocket prairie solarizing efforts. It is working well and by summer's end should be ready for construction and planting. We adjusted the tarps that had blown a bit and discussed using recycled elements to make a watering system and pathways through the garden to teach the children the value of recycled components. And, the bluebirds are doing well.



Beautiful Texas Bluebells, by Donna Zapalac



Texas Bluebells (*Eustoma exaltatum* ssp. *russellianum*) out in the pastures along FM 955. Learn more about these summertime flowers: https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=EUEXR

Washington on the Brazos, by Julie & David Itz

The March Workday at Washington on the Brazos was cancelled when the Park was closed by the Governor. Even though the Park was still closed to the public in April, Sheri Wilcox and Julie & David Itz were able to work in the pollinator garden on April 25. Of course, we had weeds to pull (especially Ragweed!) and needed to clean up the bed and thin the Maxmilian sunflowers.

The garden had greened up since the Texas Independence Day Celebration in early March. Many of the seeds planted last fall/winter were coming up. A few bluebonnets were still blooming, but most were putting out their seed pods, so we're hoping those seeds will sprout next spring. The yucca, purple passionflower, penstemon, and winecup were blooming, and the orange honeysuckle was putting out its red berries.

We found that the two button bushes we planted in February 2018 were thriving and we discovered some phlox hiding among the blue mistflower. We planted more milkweed plants (Green, Zizotes, Showy, Whorled and Tuberosa) and blue flax. The bees and butterflies were very busy, but I wasn't quick enough with my iPhone to catch photos.



Penstamen Tenuis



Winecup



Orange honeysuckle.



Bluebonnet



Salt Marsh Moth



Purple Passionflower



Phlox hiding in the blue mistflower

On May 9, the park was open again and the staff was happy to see visitors returning. Sheri Wilcox and Julie & David Itz were able to continue thinning the Maxmilian sunflowers and pulling the ragweed which is extremely sneaky about hiding among other plants. The Bluebonnets are continuing to put out seeds. The Indian blanket, the Black-eyed Susan and the Blue mistflower are all blooming. We planted zinnia seeds and noticed that the Milkweeds planted two weeks earlier seem to be growing slowly.



Furrow Bee



Yellow Garden Spider.



Gulf Coast Toad

Our scheduled May 30th Workday occurred just days after a major windstorm that caused damage to trees throughout the park. The park was closed for two days while the area around the Visitor Center was cleaned up. Though we were able to work in the garden, the trails were closed to visitors. Sheri Wilcox, Jon Watkins and Julie & David Itz continued weeding and cleaning the beds. We collected Bluebonnet and Coreopsis seeds.



Giant coneflower



Black-eyed Susan



Lantana



Indian blanket



Golden Milkcap



Sheri Wilcox, Julie Itz, Jon Watkins, David Itz

The June 20th Workday began with a little bit of rain, but then cleared off. Jaci Elliott, Julie and David Itz worked on deadheading plants and continuing to trim back the Maxmilian sunflowers. We didn't notice any butterflies, but did see a grasshopper. The park buildings were again closed as the staff was self-quarantining at home, but the grounds were open to visitors. We noticed a sign indicating a downloadable trail map for visitors that shows the location of the original town of Washington.



Maxmilian Sunflower



Yucca and Partridge pea



Greggi Mistflower



Butterfly Gaura

2020 has been a tough year for Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site with several closures due to the Corona virus and bad weather. But the GLC pollinator garden is great opportunity to introduce people to how to use native plants in a garden. Our next Workdays are scheduled for July 25 and August 22 from 9-11 am. Come join us!

TXDOT Adopt-A-Highway, Mary Ann Butler



Good News about our TXDOT Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer Opportunity! The last time our volunteer group met was on March 11 before the Covid-19 pandemic shutdown. After three long months of trash accumulation, we will be able to resume our group volunteering as it fits in with our chapter safety requirements.

Safety procedures will be somewhat different from previously followed. In addition to our usual safety procedures for working along the highway, there will be enhanced recommendations for working around people during the pandemic.

All updated safety procedures will be described in an email to our Google Group. If you are considering being a volunteer and have questions, please email us at dbutler@cvctx.com.

Get ready for our volunteer next trash pickup along Highway 159 from Ruterville towards La Grange on Wednesday July 15 starting at 7:30 am.

You Are Never Too Old to Color, by Karen Gardner

Well, here is an example of not being too old for something “childish”. I want to share with you my new-found enthusiasm for coloring. A fellow birding friend told me about the book “The Sibley Birds – Coloring Field Journal”.

This is a book with line drawings of birds by David Allen Sibley. It has a section with colored versions so when you color in the line drawings there is an example for you to follow.

However, I used my full-sized Sibley bird identification book. My primary interest was to develop my awareness of details when it comes to identifying birds and then of course, there is just an enjoyment of coloring that now has an adult purpose. Great rationalization.



However, I found that it has helped me to notice specific details like how much gray there is on a male cardinal or the white patch just above the beak of a cliff swallow. Thought you might like to have some fun coloring and learning this summer.

Chapter Website Makeover Update

Dear Visitors,
Regarding the Chapter Website Makeover:

Over the last couple of months, the GLC Website Taskforce has been hard at work refurbishing the Gideon Lincecum chapter website in preparation for the transition to the new state template. By the time you read this, or pretty soon now, the transition will be complete, and our website will have a new look and feel.



Remember getting the survey asking for your feedback? Your responses, and additional feedback from chapter board members were very helpful in guiding the restructuring and content editing we accomplished.

The website is designed to serve as a vital resource to chapter members as well as being an engaging site for the public to learn more about the master naturalist program.

The website is still a work in progress and as always, depends on contributions from chapter members, so take a look, click through, and let us know your comments, concerns, criticisms and compliments.

Sincerely,
The GLC Website Taskforce: Sheri Wilcox, Lori Buffum, Ken English, Denise Turner

Membership Memo, by Chris Morrison

“AT:Webinar” is what you are to use for all on-line AT hours you report. Please include all of the following in the Describe... box for each webinar:

- The **sponsoring agency** – Such as TPWD, AgriLife, Native Prairie Society, Texas Forest Service, Texas Wildlife Association, etc.
- The **topic** – you may shorten a longer title
- The **speaker** – Put their name. If you have room, you may put who they work for or what their title is.

This is all we want. Don't put how much you liked the presentation or what you plan to do with the information. There is a 255-character limit. After that VMS cuts it off.

Congratulations to these members who have attained these certifications and milestones in the first six months of 2020, as of June 28.

Initial Certification – The first 40 volunteer and 8 AT hours put in after graduation – all are from class of 2019.

- ★ Barbara Boucher
- ★ Ken English
- ★ David Hessel
- ★ Lori Hessel
- ★ Ellen Morris

Recertification for 2020 – 40 volunteer and 8 AT hours this year – Bumblebee Pin

- ★ Marcia Braun
- ★ Lori Buffum
- ★ Peggy Cadenhead
- ★ Jaci Elliott
- ★ Linda Esco
- ★ Julie Itz
- ★ Royceanna Kendall
- ★ B. R. Koehler
- ★ Charlene Koehler
- ★ Chris Morrison
- ★ Donna Mueller
- ★ Betsy Palkowsky
- ★ Susan Scanio
- ★ Tom Scanio
- ★ Betty Scardino
- ★ Dotty Schoeneberg
- ★ Jon Watkins
- ★ Belinda Weatherly
- ★ Jim Weatherly
- ★ Sheri Wilcox

250 All-time Volunteer Hours since becoming a Texas Master Naturalist

- ★John Gardner
- ★Karen Gardner
- ★Jon Watkins
- ★Jan Hughes

500 All-time Volunteer Hours since becoming a Texas Master Naturalist

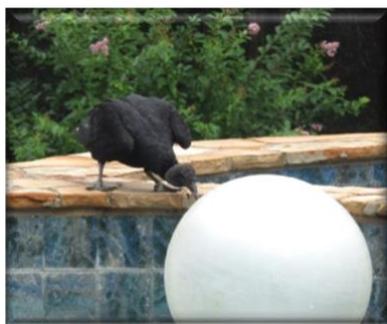
- ★Marcia Braun
- ★Royceanna Kendall
- ★Sheri Wilcox
- ★Charles Winker

Please continue to log your hours into VMS. The state receives over \$23 for each hour you volunteer.

A Surprise Close Encounter with a Vulture, by Lori Buffum

We think curiosity about the big ball floating in the water and the movement of the spillover brought this fella (or gal) down out of the forest on a rainy morning toward the end of June. Unbothered by my walking around taking pictures, this poolside visitor seemed intent on his explorations. Why didn't I think to take a video of this unusual encounter?

A group of 3 black vultures has been gathering in a big old dead tree in our backyard (near Bellville) the last month or so and it's been fascinating to hear them hissing and grunting together. Perhaps this visitor was a youngster out to play before flying and hunting lessons began.



“Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*): With sooty black plumage, a bare black head, and neat white stars under the wingtips, Black Vultures are almost dapper. Whereas Turkey Vultures are lanky birds with teetering flight, Black Vultures are compact birds with broad wings, short tails, and powerful wingbeats. The two species often associate: the Black Vulture makes up for its poor sense of smell by following Turkey Vultures to carcasses. Highly social birds with fierce family loyalty, Black Vultures share food with relatives, feeding young for months after they've fledged.” https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Black_Vulture

Resources

Chapter Resources Keep You Informed, On Track, and in Touch

- *Gideon Lincecum Chapter Website:*
<https://txmn.org/glc/>
- *Gideon Lincecum Chapter Facebook Public Group:*
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TMNGideonLincecumChapter/>
- *Volunteer Management System (VMS Portal):* <https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/tmn-vms-users/>

State Resources Expand Your Horizons

- *Texas Master Naturalist Program Website:*
<https://txmn.tamu.edu/>
- *Texas Master Naturalist Program Facebook Page:*
<https://www.facebook.com/TexasMasterNaturalistProgram/>
- *Texas Master Naturalist Listserv:*
<https://txmn.tamu.edu/about-the-texas-master-naturalist-program/contact/>

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