



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.

2021 Officers

President, Betsy Palkowsky
Vice President, Mark Brown
Secretary, Linda Esco
Treasurer, David Hessel



From the President – Betsy Palkowsky

A new year brings a sense of hope. After 2020 we all need a renewed sense of getting out and about doing our usual things. Unfortunately, some of our counties are still at the highest level, red, of having Covid-19 in the area. Per our state guidelines this means we cannot have in-person meetings yet. I will let you know if and when these guidelines change. In the meantime, there are many other things you can do to volunteer as an individual. Check out our website for opportunities and AT sessions. Maybe you will be the first person in the chapter to get their TMN re-certification (8 AT hours, 40 volunteer hours).

A look back and forward

Thank you for your dedication to the Texas Master Naturalist Program. Despite the many challenges we faced last year our chapter members contributed 5,638 hours (\$129,674.00 to TPWD) and 1364 AT hours! I hope we can beat these numbers in 2021, staying safe and maybe getting to meet in person at some point in the year.

Stay healthy and happy!

January 23 Chapter Meeting (Virtual meeting using WebEx)

10:00 – 11:30 - Chapter meeting

11:30 – 12:00 - Break/social time

12:00 – 1:30 - AT presentation

1/23 Advanced Training Presentation: White-tailed deer are one of the most iconic game species across Texas, and, arguably, the entire U.S. With approximately 5.3 million deer occupying nearly every county in Texas, they are part of most ecosystems we manage. The presentation will cover the 3 main components of quality deer management: age, genetics, and nutrition, as well as specific management practices that can be implemented on your property. We will also discuss how these practices may qualify in a management plan for a 1-D-1 Wildlife Tax Valuation.

Presenter: Clint Faas is the Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist for Wharton and Fort Bend Counties.

2021 GLC Training Update

2021 GLC Training Coordinators – Karen and John Gardner
Email: txmn.glc.tc@gmail.com

It is time! The 2021 Training Course for the Gideon Lincecum Chapter is about to start. Our first class will be Monday, January 25th and it will be virtual. The state office has set guidelines for meetings and we adhere to them carefully. But we are working hard to make our virtual classes educationally experiential and interactive within the group. We have 17 trainees this year and at least one from all 5 counties in our area.

Last year we had to go virtual about halfway through the semester and while there was a big tech learning curve for everyone, it still worked well. The virtual graduation party was a hoot. We are hoping that only the first part of this year will need to be virtual, but we are prepared to be flexible.

We have lots of activities planned and we are working to make sure we can do our field trips within the guidelines. You probably remember the field trips you got to take at your training – everyone says they are a highlight of the course.

A new feature for this year is the Chapter Buddies. These are chapter members who have offered to be a contact person for one or two of the trainees. This is one of the limitations of virtual teaching is how to ensure that trainees have a feeling of connection to the chapter and the state organization. Chapter Buddies will primarily be an extra resource for the trainees and share their experience of being a chapter member. Well off we go, wish us luck, and hope that the Class of 2021 has fun and is successful.



A Fond Farewell to a Cherished Chapter Member-Carol Montgomery



*April 2015 at the Burton Cotton Gin Festival:
Carol shared her collection of Oak leaves to help
us distinguish between the many kinds of trees
in the area.*

“It is with a heavy heart that I share this information. Carol Montgomery, a long-time member of the Gideon Lincecum chapter and big supporter of the Texas Master Naturalist program, passed away at her home on December 25, 2020. Carol was doing what she loved doing, working on her property. Her enthusiasm and wonderful smile will be missed.” - Betsy Palkowsky

“So sad to hear this. Carol was a member of the second GLC Training Class in Spring of 2006. I first met Carol before I became a Master Naturalist at a Wildlife Practices workshop at Cooper Farms (as it was called then). I thought she was just the “spunkiest” person I’d met! She talked about her land and all that she had done and still had plans to do, much of it by herself. She had a dream about her retirement place and she made it happen. She will be sorely missed.” - Chris Morrison

“Such sad news. Ah, to lose someone who has contributed so much. No doubt a great loss for TMNGLC and our conservation world but especially for all whose lives she touched. Sending prayers. Godspeed!” - Cathy Nolte

“She was a special lady, I hope I’m as active when I’m older!” - Cindy Hobbs

“I’m very glad I had the opportunity to know and learn from Carol. I remember talking with her in her kitchen one day. She was preparing for bicyclers riding from Houston with Jerry Lewis bike event to stay overnight. She was so interesting and fun. I have very fond memories of her.” - Cindy Rodibaugh

“We are so very sorry. Carol was one of the “founders” of the Indian Creek Nature Park in Burton and such a fun, knowledgeable worker there and at the annual Cotton Gin Festival. I loved working with her and learning from her. RIP Carol.” - Lori Buffum

“I am so incredibly sorry to hear that. She was one the first Master Naturalists that I met when I came to Brenham. I was always impressed by how tough she was and how hard she worked. Truly one of a kind”. - Natalie James

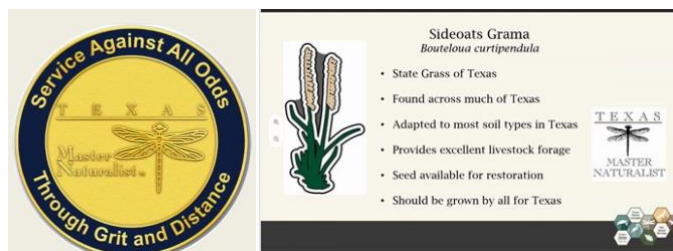
“Carol and I took the Master Naturalist course together. She was an amazing woman who cared deeply about the environment. She was a great friend to many and was always the first to volunteer if help was needed. The world needs more people like her.” - Paula Page

“We enjoyed seeing Carol in Burton many times after working at Indian Creek, eating lunch at the White Horse. She always had a ready smile and greeting and asked how things were going. I will certainly miss her.” - Ann Ray

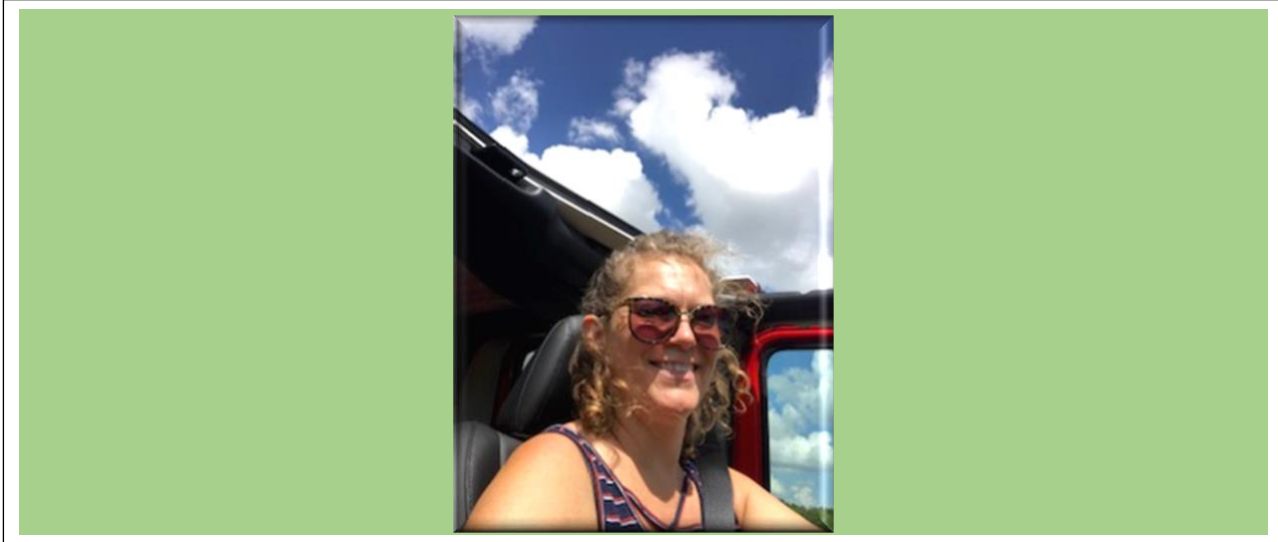
“So sorry to hear this. I have so many fun memories of Carol. When I was studying to become a Master Naturalist, we had a class that included snakes. I remember Carol walking around the room with one of the larger ones draped around her neck!” - Carol Paulson

“Loved by all who knew her - and that was many. RIP” - Charlotte VonRosenberg

2020 Service Against All Odds Pin/2021 Re-certification Pin



MEMBER PROFILE: ELLEN HARDIN



About Me:

My family and I moved to some property just outside La Grange in 2006 with two small kids – they have since flown the coop. We have cows, chickens, a lone surviving duck, dogs and cats (and hopefully goats and guineas one day). I became a Master Gardener to help work with all the flowerbeds and gardens and now I have joined the Master Naturalists to learn to work on the land as a whole. I love learning and can never get enough. I'm also actively involved in the Fayette County Community Theatre and volunteer with Second Chance. I enjoy reading, playing guitar and playing disc golf. But most days I can be found in my own backyard.

Favorite thing about being a Texas Master Naturalist:

I loved the field trips when I was an intern at the beginning of 2020. I can't wait for things to get back to normal and be able to go out and learn more in nature again.

Favorite critter:

Hummingbirds – they remind me so much of my grandmother and spending summers with her in Arkansas

Favorite place in Texas:

My own backyard!

Favorite big trips:

Road trips anywhere with my family. The last one was Thanksgiving 2019 to Big Bend. Both my kids were soon going to be graduating from college and we thought we should spend one last Thanksgiving together with just the immediate family. Little did we know we would be quarantined together for months soon thereafter! We also make a semi-annual trek to Lake City, CO. I can't wait to get back there again.

Washington on the Brazos Workday, by Julie and David Itz

There were only two volunteers for the December Workday at our Chapter's pollinator garden in front of the Visitor Center at Washington on the Brazos, but thanks to the volunteers who came to help in September and October, the garden was in good shape. The extra help earlier in the Fall meant that in December, Sheri Wilcox and Julie Itz were able to complete the work needed to get the garden ready for winter.



The only "critter" we saw was this Ermine Moth *Estigmene*.

While much of the garden looked dead, if you looked closely you could spot plants beginning to sprout out, getting ready for Spring. 2021 will be the year for the biennial Standing Cypress to make their impact felt as they are sprouting up all over the garden!



Meanwhile, the Giant Coneflower and Basketflower are popping up. We're still trying to nurse along milkweeds planted in 2019 and 2020. It looks like the Zizotes and the Antelope Horn are the only survivors, but we'll be on the lookout for others who may make a reappearance this spring.



At the upcoming January 30 and February 20 Workdays, we're planning to work on containing the Maxmilian Sunflowers and Frostweed. We may transplant plants that need to be moved to another spot in the garden and we were planning to add a few native grasses to the pollinator garden to help highlight the variety of our native plants.

We collected seeds last summer and fall hoping to give them away at the GLC booth at the annual Texas Independence Day Celebration at Washington on the Brazos. Unfortunately, the 2021 Celebration has been cancelled, so we have seeds available if other GLC projects need them. If you're interested, contact Julie for a list of seeds from WoB. Come join us at our next scheduled Workdays: January 30 and February 20.

Off on the Right Foot 2021 Style, by Tom Shaughnessy

My upholding the tradition of a First Day Hike on January 1st has to endure. Stephen F. Austin State Park's participation in the national Annual First Day Hike event was cancelled by park staff hours before the last stroke of midnight 2020. Good or bad it, was weather related and not another 2020 surprise. Time to implement PLAN B.

As in previous years my local Plan B for a dose of Vitamin N (**N**ature) has been public lands. I particularly enjoy spaces with a bit of natural diversity. Locally, the trails at Lake Fayette fit the bill perfectly. With not enough time to coordinate a group hike I ventured on a solo mission to get the new year off on the "right foot". I arrived at the lake's Park Prairie Park mid-morning and was welcomed with sunshine, a breeze and temps in the 40's. I finished the 2.5 hour adventure with my winter jacket tied around my waist and gloves and hat in the pockets. Return temps were in the middle 50's.

There are 2 recreational area on Lake Fayette, Park Prairie and Oak Thicket Parks. Each with their own set of amenities. A 3 mile multi use trail connects the 2 parks. I opted for a short up-and-back hike rather than the longer 3 to 6 mile hike. Beginning at the Park Prairie Park trailhead had me meandering through a wide range of ecosystems in a shorter distance than the Oak Prairie Park trailhead.



With binoculars and a water bottle in hand I took my first step on the right foot into 2021. From the trail head the flat improved trail runs parallel to the bank of Lake Fayette. Numerous migratory waterfowls were dabbling and diving as far as one can see. Soon after the trail leads more inland and I was immersed in a more of a prairie habitat with local upland birds and wintering sparrows flitting about. If Yellow-rumped warblers are you bird of choice were 100's to enjoy. As I ventured on a small group of whitetail deer were grazing in the meadow surprised me with their warning "snorts" before they scampered off. Evidence of other mammals was evident by the tracks and scat along the trail. Soon after the trail leads back towards the lake side. At his point a hiker will encounter an increased number of hardwood trees. Mostly oaks and elms. This is the area where I came upon a beaver lodge on the bank a few years prior.

Sadly, the lake levels have receded and much of the bank is now overgrown with *Arundo Donax* (aka Giant reed), Carrizo or wild cane. The trail twists around the cove and soon the first mile marker appeared on my right. With my mind and body filled with Vitamin N it was time to do a 180°. Time to get the black eyed peas

on the stove to complete the New Year's traditions. I was in no hurry to return to the trail head as I seemed to be pushing the 100's of Yellow-rumped warblers ahead of me in a wave I could not help to meditate on what a blessing it is to be able to experience the natural beauty of our earth as we please and how important it is to protect our resources for the generations behind us. By the way, 27 bird species were recognized! Happy 2021 Trails!

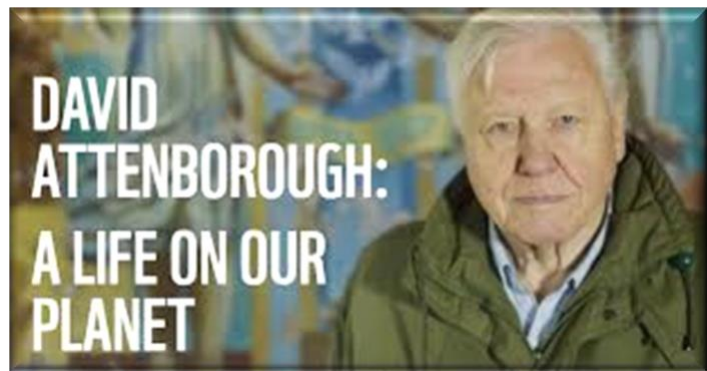
The intention of these hikes is to provide a means for individuals and families to celebrate the New Year by getting outside and connecting with the nature and history of their area.



Side note: In June 2020, The Lower Colorado River Authority awarded a contract to a third party for operation of Oak Thicket and Park Prairie Parks. The operator, Recreation Resource Management, is implementing capital improvements to both parks that includes many upgrades and new amenities for visitors. The improvements are already obvious as I saw on my January 1 visit. There is a \$5.00 per person entry fee.

A Life on Our Planet, by Jaci Elliott

One of my resolutions is to be more environmentally active. I recently reviewed, "Life on Our Plant" by David Attenborough. I highly recommend for our chapter members to view this documentary. Below is a link to an interview he did on NPR, which explains the focus of the movie. Not only does he chronicle his lifework in making films about nature, he also offers some much needed hope and recommendations on how to change the course our planet is on due to harmful human activities. It is showing now on Netflix. [David Attenborough NPR Message](#)



Feeling Right at Home with the Birds, by Lori Buffum



Project Feederwatch has really helped sharpen my observation skills this winter and has given me an opportunity to log some “citizen science” volunteer hours while staying home. I’ve been feeding birds and watching them practically my whole life and in different parts of the country as we moved around: California, Texas, Colorado, Illinois, and Texas again.

Since joining Master Naturalists in 2014, I’ve made more of a point of studying up on the birds that I see, whether they are in my backyard or on a beach in Mexico, or in a forest in Scotland. Did you know Mississippi Kites catch insects in flight? Did you know Hummingbird wings beat at 50 times a second? Did you know Bluebirds will take over Purple Martin houses? Did you know Sapsuckers make a necklace of little holes around a tree trunk? I’m a rank amateur but enthusiastic bird watcher who can’t tell the sparrows apart and who can’t tell which hawk is riding the thermals, but love spotting old familiar visitors (like the resident cardinals whose favorite time at the feeders is dusk) and can get absolutely giddy at seeing a rare visitor up close and personal (like spotting the Yellow Bellied Sapsucker just outside our kitchen window this morning, girdling the Japanese Blueberry tree).

This is my 3rd year doing the Feederwatch project sponsored by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and so I print out my tally sheet every Sunday and pay a little extra attention to the bird life (and the weather) on our property. As the seasons change, so do the bird populations and behavior so there are always lots of things to look for (and listen to as their vocalizations change

Since November, I’ve observed hundreds of birds in my defined “count” area: (Sometimes I count as many as 40 goldfinches at a time; sometimes I spot just 1 woodpecker off in a tree.) Here is the list on my tally sheet so far:

American Crow, American Goldfinch, American Robin, Belted Kingfisher, Black Vulture, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Chipping Sparrow, Common Grackle, Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Phoebe, Great Blue Heron and Great Egret (at the pond), Mourning Dove, Northern Cardinal, Pileated Woodpecker, Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, Red Bellied Woodpecker, Red Shouldered Hawk, Rufous Hummingbird, Yellow Bellied Sapsucker, Yellow Rumped Warbler

It’s not too late to join the project that goes through March (it starts in November). Find out more at <https://feederwatch.org>

ANT-CESTRY SONG, by Jaci Elliott

For grins, here are the lyrics to a song I wrote about the history of our foe, the red fire ants, called "ANTCESTRY."



In cargo ships from Argentina
Northward to South Carolina
More than a hundred years ago now
Bitten up and seared our toes, ow!
Red imported
They've cavorted
Power shorted
Be deported!
Ant-cestry...non-native antcestry; ant-cestry...don't
claim this ant-cestry

Threat'ning livestock and ground nesters
Causing scratching 'til it festers
Their bite can make you nearly go daft
When it floods they just build a raft
Fiery stinging
Family bringing
Pant leg clinging
Insect slinging
Ant-cestry...invasive antcestry; ant-cestry...don't
claim this ant-cestry

The ants go marching tons by tons, non-stop, non-
stop
Their mandibles are their big guns, non-stop, non-
stop
We fight them off with phorid flies or Amdro, for
their queens' demise
E. O. Wilson, war's not won at all...pratfall...the
gall!

This *Solenopsis* that's *invicta*
Their smaller size just might have tricked 'ya
But pustules and restrictive breathing
Disturb their mound and they are seething
Red imported
They've cavorted
Power shorted
Be deported!

Ant-cestry...non-native ant-cestry; invasive
antcestry; antcestry...don't claim this ant-cestr

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