



The GLC Tidings

From the President 1

2022 Training Program, by Connie Shortes and Chuck Linton 2

Membership Memo, by Chris Morrison 3

State News..... 5

Member Profile, Chuck Babb 6

Summer Highlights..... 7

Summer in San Felipe, by Tom Shaughnessy..... 8

Indian Creek Nature Area by, Ann Ray 9

Protecting Our Teammates! by, Ginny Welch .. 10

Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge by, Terry Rooney..... 11

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site by, Julie and David Itz 12

La Grange Agrilife Center 13

Zippy Spider Aspirations, by Judith Denton 14

Tiny-Tiny, by Judith Denton 15

Late Arrival, by Jon Watikins..... 16

Chapter Resources 17

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



It’s hard to believe we’re in the third quarter of the year. Like the rest of this year, volunteers have been busy with a wide variety of service and learning. The length of this newsletter reflects of some of the activities that folks have been involved with.

Please read the “special edition” celebrating our accomplishments. If you are still looking for something to do the rest of the year is full of Texas Master Naturalist opportunities.

I hope to see many of you in the coming months.

Chapter Meeting

Saturday, November 13, 2021, 9:30 a.m. at Camp Kubena

- Executive Board Member Election Nominees
 - Sheri Wilcox, President
 - Norbert Dittrich, Vice President
 - David Hessel, Treasurer
 - Patti Brown, Secretary
- General business meeting
- AT Speaker: Taylor Abshier, Ducks Unlimited

Chapter Volunteer Opportunities

Our website calendar is packed with opportunities for folks with a wide variety of interests. Check it out <https://txmn.org/glc/events>



October 21-24th, 2021

In-person Registration closed

Online registration open thru Oct 24th

2022 Training Program, by Connie Shortes and Chuck Linton



The new 2022 training directors, Connie Shortes and Chuck Linton, are looking forward to meeting our new members in January 2022!

A terrific group of experts are lined up as speakers for the upcoming sessions, and field trips with some of those experts are planned, as well.

There are still a few spots available in the class, so don't delay if you'd like to participate in this training and become a Texas Master Naturalist. Get more information and register on the chapter website, [here](#).

Here are few things you can expect in the 2022 training class:

- Learn best practices in restoring native prairie vegetation and controlling invasives from Texas Agri-Life extension specialists.
- Walk a beautiful state park with a local woodland ecologist and forester from the Texas A&M Forest Service.
- Discover the beneficial role of fire on the land, including on your property.
- Hear from top climate experts at Texas A&M Atmospheric Science about what you need to know to prepare for the future impacts of climate change in our area.
- Identify our area's birds, insects, reptiles and mammals, including hands-on experiences. (Yes, you'll even have an opportunity to pet a snake - if you want to!)
- Learn how to engage and educate the public, especially kids, to foster appreciation and care for our native flora and fauna.

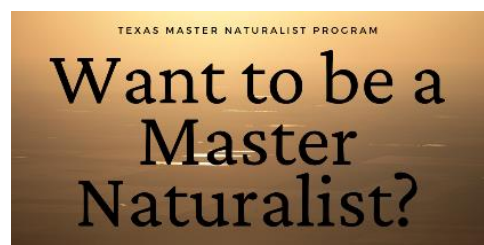


Join Us – Enroll in 2022 Training Class

Lori Buffum · September 5, 2021

The first step to becoming a Texas Master Naturalist is to take our chapter training class. The 40-hour course begins January 22 and sessions will ...

[Read More](#)



Membership Memo, by Chris Morrison



Project Restarted

SFA State Historic Site Native Plant Garden project is activated again. Mary Helen Giles is leading the work to clear out and maintain that area at the **San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site Visitor Center**. You should see the project in your drop-down list on VMS. Remember that this is NOT at Stephen F. Austin State Park, where we also have a native plant plot.

TMN Annual Meeting

Are you registered for the 2021 TMN Annual Meeting October 21-24, either virtually or in person? To log your hours for attending the sessions,

1. Use “**AT: TMN State Meeting Advanced Training**”. (Note the exception for Tx Water Specialist in the next topic.)
2. Put all the hours you attended in one **day** together. No need to list each session separately.
3. In the description, put a shortened **title for each session** you did that day.
4. You don’t have to put the presenter because you only have a limited number of characters for the description box, then it cuts you off.
5. Do not put opinions on how wonderful it was, what you think you’ll do with the information, that your grandchildren watched it with you, etc.

Texas Water Specialist

Are you a certified Texas Waters Specialist? Or do you have some training hours towards the TWS certification? Are you doing volunteer work on an approved TWS project? Those hours count as TMN hours, either AT or volunteer, but it is important to pay attention to how you are logging them.

For AT hours, please use the VMS opportunity “**AT: TX Waters Certification Training**”, no matter if it was a webinar, in person, or a part of a larger gathering such as the state TMN meeting. This is the way the Texas Waters Specialist program keeps track of their participants. Be sure that your description includes something that references water or aquatic stuff. If it doesn’t, they will not allow your hours to count for TWS certification.

For volunteer hours, if you have told me that you have or are working towards certification, you should see a check box somewhere on the page where you enter a specific volunteer event that says something like “This activity qualifies for Texas Water Specialist”. Be sure to check that box if the hours you are entering are for work on one of the TWS-approved projects. **If you don’t see that box, and you think you should, please let me know ASAP.** In the description of your service, be sure you include something that references water or aquatic stuff.

For information on the Texas Waters Specialist program, please see <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram/texaswatersspecialist>. Note that there are some **modified requirements for this COVID time**, so it might be easier for some of you that haven’t completed your TWS certification to do so. There doesn’t seem to be a time requirement for how soon the training must be completed once it has begun.

Trash Pick

If you walk on public roadways and pick up trash as you go, you can log those hours as TMN volunteer service under **Adopt-A-Highway**. We expanded the definition of our project to include public spaces other than just the designated 2-mile stretch of Highway 159.

Native plants, native seeds, native prairies, exchanging seeds – aaacck! Where do I log it?

We have lots of native stuff going on in GLC, and it has become a bit confusing. We've tweaked two of the "native" opportunity titles, and hopefully this will make it easier to figure out where to put your hours. Bonus is that they are now all one right after the other in your dropdown menu.

- **Native Plant Seed Collection and Sharing** – Members collect native seeds for the purpose of sharing them with other members, chapter projects, or other chapter activities. May include travel time for delivering seeds to other members.
- **Native Prairie Restoration for Fayette Prairie Chapter of NPAT** – Work done with the Fayette Prairie Chapter to restore native prairies
- **Native Seed Project for CKWRI** – This used to be called Coastal Prairie Native Seed Project. It includes work to maintain and harvest grass seeds at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute test plot near Bernardo. It also includes harvesting of positively identified native seeds from native stands of prairie at other locations within our chapter's area, packaging and tagging them, and supplying them to the CKWRI representative for use in their research.

Releasing rehabbed animals from the rehabilitation center in Houston on your property – is an approved volunteer service project. Use "Out of GLC Area Natural Resource Management" as your Opportunity.

Outreach Booth is **NOT** what to use if you are recruiting. If you are recruiting new members for the next trainee class, log your hours under **Administrative Work / Recruiting**.

For AT entries - please remember that your description must tell the topic, the presenter, and who put that program on (what organization sponsored the program). If it was part of the New Landowner series, then say so. If it was the program for a burn association, name the association. If the title may be misleading in that it doesn't sound like something that fits in with our Mission statement, please give just a bit of description as to why it does fit the mission (such as the recent TXDOT webinar on bridges – it had information on bats and bridges, but that wasn't in the title). Try not to use acronyms because they are easily mis-read or confused



with another entity. Do not put in how you felt about the presenter or the material. You are limited to 255 characters, including spaces.

As always, I encourage everyone to log all your hours in VMS. After a federal audit, those hours are submitted to qualify for a federal grant that pays for the TMN program, so each one is important! Thank you for all you are doing for the program and for our environment!

As always, thank you for entering so many of your hours in VMS within the 45-day limit. Each volunteer hour earns over \$23 in federal grants for our sponsoring agencies, and they need the money!

State News



2021 Annual Meeting: Project Fair Presentations

October 12, 9 – 11 a.m. CST

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/>

NOTE THE TIME CHANGE FOR THIS #TMNTUESDAY



October 14th, Virtual Nature Venture Registration closes

All profit goes towards helping with annual meeting expenses

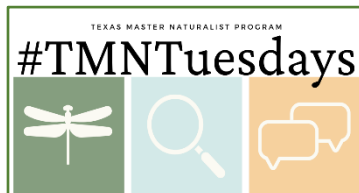
<https://raceroster.com/events/2021/50596/virtual-nature-venture>



Learn how to get set up for Hybrid Annual Meeting

Coffee Hour sessions are available so that you can learn how to setup WebEx and your home office for a successful annual meeting

Session details will be sent out soon



November 9, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CST, **Nate Fuller – Bats of Texas**

December 7, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CST, **Steve Hall 3R's of Hunting & Fishing**

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/>



Covid Guidelines have not changed

Follow local mandates/guidelines

Stay healthy



AgriLife Bookstore is now AgriLife Learn

Same Customer Service Email learnonline@ag.tamu.edu

Not all TMN merchandise available yet, adding more soon

[Texas A&M AgriLife Learn | Courses, Publications, and Merchandise \(tamu.edu\)](https://www.tamu.edu/agrilife/learn/)

Member Profile, Chuck Babb



About Me: I was born in Wisconsin and got to Texas as soon as I could! I loved the Sciences (Biology, Botany, etc.). I attended Texas A&M. I didn't graduate, but you know what they say...once an AGGIE; always an Aggie. Gig'em! I met the "Love of my Life", Sharon in Huntsville. We've been together since 1975! We have raised 3 kids and have 6 GRANDS; makes us MawMaw & PawPaw.

I love the outdoors and being in it as much as possible. I was a Boy Scout and a Scoutmaster in Brenham with Troop 158. I have worked with Grace Lutheran School in Brenham as an Outdoor Education Counselor for 25 yrs. Teaching and helping people to know about safety is also important to me. I was a Red Cross Instructor for numerous years in CPR/FA, Paddle sports (canoe and kayak), and Water Rescue. For the past 25 years I have been and continue to be a Canoe, Kayak, and Swift Water Rescue Instructor with the American Canoe Assoc. I love to paddle White Water all over the USA!

AND NOW, I retired from making the "Best Ice Cream in the Country" after 35 yrs. Guess where I worked? So, I have time to travel to see and be in the outdoors a lot more. Also, I became a GLC-TMN in 2020 to learn more about the outdoors around me and to volunteer time to teach or help others know about all the different ways we can preserve and identify the Nature around us.

TMN-GL Projects: I have enjoyed working with Monument Hill State Historic Site, Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site, Brenham ISD Outdoor Education. I would like to develop a project for Grace Lutheran School (Outdoor Education). First, would be starting a Pollinator Garden at the church and school property.

Favorite thing about being a Texas Master Naturalist: Being able to identify and understand so many things in Nature that I did not know before becoming a Texas Master Naturalist and volunteering time to help others understand this, too.

Favorite critter: Roadrunner...He is my favorite cartoon character!

Favorite place in Texas: Big Bend...such a diverse ecosystem

Favorite big trips: I love floating, hiking/camping and driving the 4WD trails in Big Bend National Park. Also, visiting my son; Marcus and family in West Virginia where we hike, camp and paddle. But, most of all traveling to our Arkansas Mountain Home in the Boston Mountains.

Summer Highlights



Donna Mueller

These little Green Tree frogs (*Hyla cinerea*) are my favorites...enjoying the sun.



Deb Hinze

I've never seen this before. She's carrying her baby.



Ann Smith Ray

This big tiger swallowtail really caught my eye today. It was amazing to see how quickly it flew across the street to my neighbor's then back around my house and back to the same cosmos near our driveway.



Ginny Welch

I am awfully proud to be a TMN and am proud of our Mission!



Mt. Rainier in the cityscape



Seattle Community gardens with innovative beehive designs

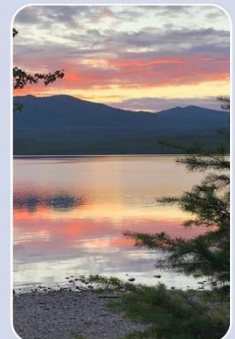


Seattle interesting and accessible art on neighborhood streets



Glacier National Park

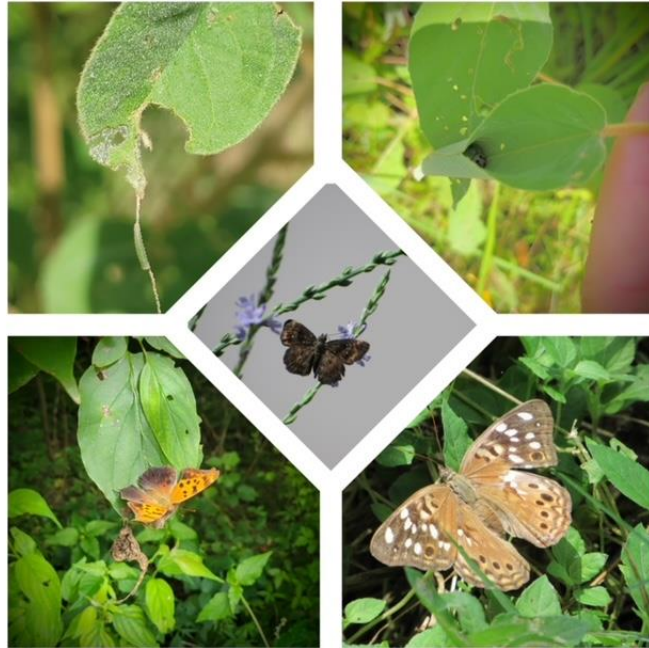
probably my favorite of our national parks, and always stunning with its views and wildlife.



Jaci Elliott



Summer in San Felipe, by Tom Shaughnessy



Cicadas, Sulfurs and Skippers, Snakes and Sunflowers.

A few things that don't take a break at Stephen F. Austin State Park in San Felipe, TX

The Gideon Lindecum Chapter (GLC) Native Wildscape Project outside of the park headquarters and park store is in its third year of growth. Three years ago, chapter volunteers planted or seeded the prepared bed with anticipation of the space becoming an area that all visitors to the park could enjoy and learn more about native plants indigenous to the Brazos River Bottom in San Felipe. Today it is obvious that the intense TMN training and group experience has paid off. While not every species has survived those that did have done so in hearty fashion.

- Early in Spring of 2021 the area was practically overgrown with bright blue knee-high Bluebonnets.
- Indian paintbrush blooms were sprinkled about just to brighten things up a bit, hearty survivors of the big freeze
- Next came blankets of Coreopsis, Bee balm and Coneflowers just to name a few
- All of the woody perennials are in the game plus a few guests. Texas pecan and various Ash species are wanting to take root as well. Unfortunately, TPWD guidelines won't allow trees that close to a structure
- The native grasses, including the official Texas State Grass – Sideoats Gramma, are greened up and happy.
- Next in line are the Maximilian sunflowers, Mexican hats, Lantana and Acanthus

Each new visit to the Native Wildscape Project reveals a new lesson and experience. Whether it be the anticipation of new blooms for a new season or the curiosity of survival rates for native milkweed plantings, there is a never-ending display of change.

Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you! ~Frank Lloyd Wright

Speaking of summer heat, some like it HOT! The hotter the better!

The dainty flyers called butterflies thrive in the mid-day Texas heat. Unlike moths that fly at night, butterflies need heat to fly. Before they can even take off after a night spent under a leaf, they must wait for the sun to dry their wings. This was evident during the July 24 annual butterfly count sponsored by The North American Butterfly Association.

The Brazos Valley portion includes areas around the Brazos River in Austin and Waller Counties and begins at steamy Stephen F. Austin State Park. GLC Master Naturalists participate in this event led by a lepidopterist and fellow Master Naturalist from East Texas. We always leave with a better understanding, broader knowledge and new sightings and leave behind a few pints of perspiration.

The 2021 San Felipe area portion of the butterfly survey, including SFA SP and San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, turned up a satisfying 27 butterfly species. The results are compiled in NABA's archives and used for research for years to come. Some of the highlights were:

- Goatweed Leafwing, *Anaea andri*, adults, eggs and larvae on their host plant
- Woolly croton
- Dozens upon dozens of Sulfurs flitting about the sennas and numerous Skipper species

Although the heat is still on, the days are getting shorter. It won't be long until all the eggs have hatched, the host plants have lost their leaves and the migratory butterflies have taken off. Now is the time to fill the water bottle, grab your field guide and hunt our colorful quiet flyers.

Indian Creek Nature Area by, Ann Ray



What's new at Indian Creek Nature Area in Burton? Erosion blankets!

Thanks to Connie Shortes for the idea and William of Texas Home and Land Outfitters, we have about 100 feet of jute erosion blanket placed at Indian Creek Nature Area.

Our two acres was used as a dump for many years. There is exposed broken glass to be removed before we can put down mulch over exposed roots and then the jute blanket secured over that.



The tree canopy, less all the ligustrum, is gorgeous. Seems like each time we work we discover the beauty of another big oak, Bois d'arc or dogwood.

Ligustrum removal continues at our two-acre site albeit more slowly with the summer weather. There is still an opportunity for a small new project with our neighboring one acre owned by the City of Burton if there is someone out there looking for a project to head. It has some gorgeous trees on Indian Creek and the well-used part.



Protecting Our Teammates! by, Ginny Welch

A group of us decided to meet at Winedale between 8 and 8:30 a.m. on Saturday-last to give ourselves a little more time to work before the clouds broke up and let the sun come shining thru. (It wasn't enough! the temp jumped from 81 F to 89 F before we could get the first bag filled with weeds we'd pulled, and there were acres more to go.) We'd each arrived wearing our hats, gloves, and lugging our water bottles for "fuel" stops along the nature trail between fields of unattractive weeds (aka, "Johnson Grass").



Before we knew it, it was 10:30 and we had intersected our two paths under a big pecan tree where we could all sit down for a minute and finish draining and refilling our water bottles before getting back on our trails. Already, members were showing some signs of fatigue but we all dutifully jumped up and headed out again.

An hour or so later we began breaking up and some started home, but there were 5 who had further agendas at Winedale so stayed on. Two went out together to harvest grass seeds, one stayed on the nature trail to finish up an area the group had been working on, and 2 stayed on to check the irrigation system in our Pollinator Garden.

The problem was, we didn't all have a buddy to work with the "entire" time. Suddenly we heard a weak little voice calling out for help. Fortunately, we heard her and saw her not too far away where she had dragged herself to a partially shaded place near the Pollinator Garden. We rushed over and realized she was greatly overheated and was dizzy with blurred vision, so we carried glasses of water and some ice over to where she was sitting and poured water down her throat while putting ice in paper towels and applying it to her neck and head to try and cool her down fast.

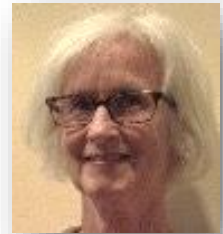
She was recovering after about 20 minutes, so we stayed to sit with her and just calmly visit while we allowed her to make sure she was okay.

The lesson we all need to take from this is...

DO NOT WORK OUT IN THE HOT SUN ON ONE OF OUR PROJECTS ALONE.

Always have a buddy with you at all times. Additionally, we should all have the phone numbers of all the members we are working with that day, so, in case help is needed there is more than one person to contact. Many of us do not answer our cell phones if we do not recognize the number because we are all subject to telephone solicitations and spam calls, so put the person's name with whom you are working in your Contacts so, in the event there is an emergency, you WILL answer your phone if there is a problem that needs immediate help.

Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge by, Terry Rooney



Another partly sunny, with a nice breeze, day at Attwater Refuge. Charlie Winker,



Tim Rackley and Terry Rooney started off pulling weeds from the native grass bed just outside the Visitor Center. The overwhelming species on the chopping block was cucumber leaf sunflower.

By the way, we have become official. There is now a metal plaque announcing that our TMN chapter maintains the bed.

We quickly graduated from weeding to a more urgent need. We were recruited to help set up the prairie chicken acclimation pens. The pens are constructed with layers of synthetic mesh on the top and sides to keep the chickens safely confined and maybe more importantly to keep the predators away. Many animals would enjoy a prairie chicken dinner. Our mission was to install hundreds of zip ties to the layers of mesh to keep it securely tied to the top and bottom of the pen. We worked on newly constructed pen 5 which will soon be home to captive bred prairie chickens for a 2-week acclimation period. Then the pen doors will be open to let the chickens out into the wild.

The Prairie Chicken hens are monitored with radio tracking devices. The refuge staff can often be seen driving around with their antenna atop their truck. Hope to see some of you at the Refuge at our next monthly workday.



Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site by, Julie and David Itz

Over the Summer, in June, WOB had four productive workdays. Bluebonnet seed collecting, pulling up Maximilian Sunflowers with Tim Rackley. Busy bees, flirty butterflies, and wasps flitting through the garden. Ants building mounds. Mushrooms as evidence how wet the weather proved over the Spring months.



Busy bee!



Swallowtail



Dragonfly

The workdays fell on weekdays, and Park visitors seemed to have more time than weekend visitors to stop and ask questions about the garden, and the Standing cypress was the plant most likely to grab their attention. Almost everyone who stopped, took photos of the Standing cypress.



The Zinnias are performing very well; even though they aren't native, we've allowed them to reseed each year and they do produce a cheerful sight at this time of year. This year most of them are red!

The sunflowers are beginning to bloom, along with Mealy blue sage, May Night Salvia, Lantana, Cherry sage, Partridge pea, Lanceleaf coreopsis, Turkscap. Even the grasses that we planted this past spring are beginning to put up their seed head.



As we got ready to leave one day, we discovered a cicada emerging from its shell on the side of an oak tree.

We've worked hard to keep our milkweeds alive and healthy. It's been a while since we've spotted a Monarch in the garden. But we do notice from time to time that it looks like someone's been munching on a few of the milkweed leaves, so hopefully that's a good sign!

Scheduling more frequent workdays at Washington on the Brazos this spring and summer has been very helpful at keeping the pollinator garden looking its best for park visitors. According to the park staff, visitors really do notice our pollinator garden and are very complimentary. A BIG thank you for all the GLC volunteers this spring and summer; your help makes a BIG difference!

La Grange Agrilife Center

The dedicated work on the La Grange Agrilife Extension Building – Native Plant Landscape Project over the past two years has resulted in a wonderful learning and nurturing environment. Can you name the volunteers in the picture?



Zippy Spider Aspirations, by Judith Deaton



I listen to the radio outside while throwing a frisbee for Sofie and watering the green critters that seem to need it. I grow a small pot of chives that is now a decennarian, if that is a word. It is my friend, although it doesn't produce

sandwich quality anymore. I keep it around as it is pest free and pretty too. The freeze almost took it to herb heaven, but it has rallied beautifully.

I have discovered why it is pest free. Apart from being garlicky, that keeps away crunchy bugs and certain fictional bats, it has a resident eight-legged pal whom I call Chloe. She is creating a quilt in the middle of her web and is so very diminutive that my first impression was that she was a sort of crab spider taking a vacation while waiting for blooms, but she made a web. I affixed my new lens and zoomed in. She is a *Mangora acalypha* that is a species of orb-weaver. What a delicate beauty.



That got me thinking of the various web types. Google.....

There are five sorts of webs and two types of silk. The silk is either drag-line silk, the radials, and eponymous capture silk.

Orb weavers make SPIRAL WEBS: a basic web and a second sticky web. When the web is finished, she very tidily removes the first spiral. I have noticed that they always clean up (eat?) behind themselves when leaving and looking for new digs. Why???

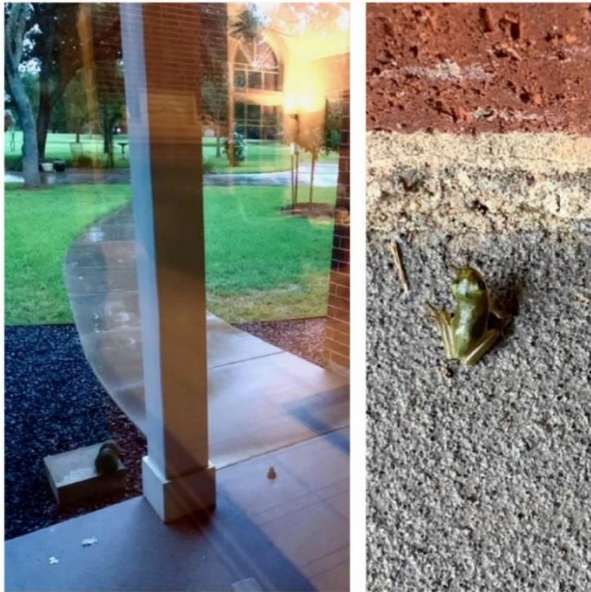
Black widows and house spiders make TANGLE WEBS (cobwebs): no planning at all, just a jumbled mess. Really bad housekeepers, go figure, but great hunters! Why???. Thank goodness house spiders aren't venomous or black.

Something called a Bowl and Doily spider and the Filmy Dome spider (never heard of them but they are North and Central American species called *Frontinella*) make SHEET WEBS: Horizontal and flat woven sheet in July and August in the woods. Maybe that's why they are hard to find. Time for a walk in the woods.

FUNNEL WEBS: Australian, African? Need I say more. OK. Agelenidae, Dipluridae and Hexathelidae. Representatives here are Hobo spiders (don't worry they are in the West and Pacific Northwest) and Dew on the Grass or Grass spiders. Lairs are normally hidden in rocks, vegetation and not sticky as the spider (and its family apparently) would catch itself and its own kids. It lives in the tunnel and leaps out at any unsuspecting roach...yuck. To confuse us more, dew on the grass spiders are sheet making funnel spiders. There is a funnel underneath that pretty sheet on your lawn. If there is no funnel treat for dollar spot fungus. Or not.

TUBULAR WEBS: Same as funnel webs, but there is a long thread that shivers as unsuspecting victims trip and swear at the washing line. Toast.

What sort of web is the one made by that the bolas spider that throws the lasso on its victims??? Now that's a great one to Google. You could spend hours on YouTube watching videos of these little wonders build their masterpieces or better - get out there to observe and wonder (unless they be run over by the mower or swept from the rafters). Does that mean we need to mow in the a.m. or p.m. to avoid busy arachnids? And frogs this year! Always remember to take time to smell the garlic.



Tiny-Tiny, by Judith Deaton

This year the Biblical weather has brought about such a marvelous profusion of greenery that I almost missed baby Kermit (American green tree frog - *Dryophytes cinereus*) on my porch. No more than ½ an inch long he was ambitiously scouring the desert for ants. Bless him. I anticipate a noisy exit from my front door that I have been missing since putting in a new French drain.

This year's amphibian explosion has been epic and truly entertaining, except when mowing the lush lawn which is a great reason to devote more area to pocket prairies. I veer constantly and my front yard is beginning to resemble the results of children deciding to cut each other's hair. Best to let it grow like a Covid "do".

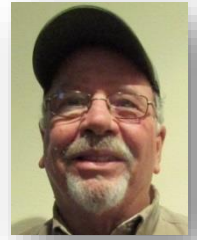
It is now harboring frogs, copperheads, scads of grasshoppers (that have eaten all my veggies) and cicadas. I wonder if frogs' control cicadas. Yep.

During the August heat, I looked for a good way to protect the amphibians. We have all heard of putting out flowerpots, but a new one on me was finding a secret spot, digging a hole and putting in some largish rocks, covering the whole with sticks and resodding ½ of the structure. Sounds great (a British idea) though I immediately thought of snakes. I guess it doesn't really matter what you do. If you provide frog hobbit holes they will come and bring with them their predators. Best to use this idea well away from trafficked areas. Speaking of which, Kermit has pushed off so I can leave the house and let the dog out without dancing around checking my shoes.

References

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/cicadas-brood-x.htm>

Late Arrival, by Jon Watkins



During mid-August we were doing some brush management at our family retreat in preparation for a future prescribed burn. As our work crew prepared to clear the brush beneath a tree, they detected slight movement in the vicinity. I received a text message from the crew stating that they “...found a brand new fawn in the tall grass...”



In order to complete clearing the brush, the crew moved the fawn to a safer, nearby location. They later commented that the fawn was hardly bigger than two hands full and they expressed great concern that it appeared to have been abandoned. As I pondered the timing of this “brand new fawn” discovery, I was eager to further investigate the event. To my knowledge, white-tailed deer fawns are supposed to be born in June...not August.

We have several trail cameras in place on our property, so I checked the memory cards for images of that area. Several pictures from one of the cameras appeared to be of a very young fawn. I emailed two of the photos to Mr. Robert Lehmann, our wildlife management consultant. I asked Robert to review them and offer his opinion as to the age of the fawn.

As a point of reference in estimating the size of the fawn, notice the dark gouge mark on the trunk of the big tree in the accompanying photos. The distance from the ground up to the center of the darkened area was about 27”.

- “It’s a late one.” Appears to be about 14 days old (a brand new fawn).
- Based on approximately 201 day gestation period the fawn might have been conceived around January 20th-25th and born August 8th-August 14th.
- The mom was probably a doe fawn that bred in January when she reached 8 or 9 months old.

In addition, I researched a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department study entitled “The Rut in White-tailed deer”. The study was based on three years of data collected by Wildlife Technicians and Biologists throughout the state.



A few key points to note from the study for the Post Oak Savannah region:

- During the TPWD study period, conception dates for does in the central and southern region ranged from September 30 to January 16.
- The peak breeding dates for the central and southern region were November 10 and 11, respectively.
- Very young doe may not breed until late in the season.
- The majority (90%) of the fawns are born by June 17 in the central area and by June 26 in the southern area.

Based upon these observations and research, I was delighted to inform our work crew that the little fawn had not been abandoned and was actually photographed with mama almost three weeks after being discovered. Considering that most fawns are born in June, this tiny critter has to be considered a late arrival!

References

- Robert Lehmann, Washington County Wildlife Biologist (TPWD, ret.); Wildlife Management Consultant
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/hunt/planning/rut_whitetailed_deer/
https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/hunt/planning/rut_whitetailed_deer/table/

Chapter Resources

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

- Gideon Lincecum Chapter Website <http://txmn.org/glc>
- GLC Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/21969044537/>
- 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 Listserv; get notices about activities across the state
<https://txmn.org/staying-connected/sign-up-for-tmnlistserv/>

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