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## Our Mission

Volunteers dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources through education, outreach and service in our community.

## Please

**Pay your dues for 2022**  
[Chapter Members webpage](#)

**Send articles or photos to our  
 Newsletter Editor, Betsy  
 Palkowsky**  
[bpalkowsky@outlook.com](mailto:bpalkowsky@outlook.com)  
[glcnwsltr@gmail.com](mailto:glcnwsltr@gmail.com)

## From the President



It's here, my last letter "From the President". It has been an honor to serve as president of the Texas Master Naturalist Gideon Lincecum Chapter. The members of our chapter, the TMN state leadership and the folks in our community give me hope that we are able to learn, teach others and help the ecosystems around us to last for a long time to come. Thank you for making the last 4 years memorable.

Special thanks to the board members. Some of them are leaving, others are staying, and new folks are stepping in to take their place. I look forward to seeing how the chapter continues to evolve.



Outgoing executive directors, (l-r) Linda Esco (Secretary), Betsy Palkowsky (President), Mark Brown (Vice President), David Hessel (Treasurer)






Jan 2022 – Dec 2023 executive directors, right photo (l to r) Norbert Dittrich, Vice President, Sheri Wilcox, President, Patti Brown, Secretary, and David Hessel, Treasurer

Additional thanks go to Donna Mueller, Education Director, for all her work on the Student Scholarship and 'Bite Me and Leave Me Be' programs as well the many other things she has done for the chapter over the years. Joanna Hagler will be taking on the Education Director's position starting in Jan 2022.

## State News

**2022 Annual Meeting** will be at the Omni Houston Hotel near the Galleria October 20 – October 23. They do not know if it will be an in-person or hybrid

**Service-** Next Virtual Volunteer Fair will be last week of April or the first week of May. Let me know if you have any ideas for organizations that might need TMN assistance and can be added to the agenda

 A graphic for the #TMNTuesday event. It features a date of December 14, 2021 at 12pm CST. The text includes "#TMNTuesday" and a photo of Steve Hall with the title "STEVE HALL" and the subtitle "The Future of Conservation- Will it look the same?".	<p><b>#TMNTuesday</b> December 14, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CST</p> <p>"The Future of Conservation- Will it look the same?" by TPWD Hunter Education Coordinator Steve Hall. Visit <a href="https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/#december">https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/#december</a> for more information.</p>
 A green graphic with white text that reads "TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM COVID-19 Guidelines" and "Stay Healthy".	<p><b>Covid Guidelines have not changed</b></p> <p>Follow local mandates/guidelines</p> <p>Stay healthy</p> <p><a href="https://txmn.tamu.edu/welcome/covid-19-response/">https://txmn.tamu.edu/welcome/covid-19-response/</a></p>
 A screenshot of the AgriLife Learn website. The header says "AgriLife Learn" and "Check out our website and volunteer management resources".	<p><b>AgriLife Bookstore is now AgriLife Learn</b></p> <p>Same Customer Service Email <a href="mailto:learnonline@ag.tamu.edu">learnonline@ag.tamu.edu</a></p> <p>Not all TMN merchandise available yet, adding more soon</p> <p><a href="https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/">Texas A&amp;M AgriLife Learn   Courses, Publications, and Merchandise (https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/)</a></p>

# Membership Memo



**by Chris Morrison**

**AWARDS**

Congratulations to all who earned certification and milestone pins since our September meeting!

 <b>Initial Certification</b>	 <b>2021 Recertification</b>	 <b>500 Hours</b>
Charles Babb Connie Shortes	Norbert Dittrich, John Gardner, Mary-Helen Giles, Randy Hegemeyer, Lori Hessel, Jan Hughes, Jamie Lee Manning, Tim Rackley, Charlie Winker	Tom Shaughnessy

**2021 “Against All Odds” pins** will be awarded to anyone who has recorded at least 1 hour of volunteer time and 8 hours of AT time this year.



**TMN ANNUAL MEETING ADVANCED TRAINING**

Were you registered for the 2021 TMN Annual Meeting October 21-24, either virtually or in person? You can view the recorded sessions on the Annual Meeting website for 90 days. After that, they should be available on the TMN YouTube channel. You may log hours for viewing the recordings until the end of April 2022 as follows:

1. Use **“AT: TMN State Meeting Advanced Training”** unless the session qualified as training for Texas Waters Specialist, and in that case please use **“AT: TX Waters Certification Training”**.
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.

**LOG YOUR HOURS**

Please try to get all your 2021 hours logged in VMS by December 31. We’ll be having our Volunteer Appreciation and Recognition in January, and you want to be sure your name is called out!!



Thank you for logging your hours in VMS within the 45-day limit. Each volunteer hour earns over \$23 in federal grants for our sponsoring agencies. Each hour either helps our chapter to function or advances the mission of TMN - a win for the environment!

## Member Profiles

### Lori Buffum



**About Me:** Born and raised in Northern California, where I also went to college (University of California, Berkeley), got married to a fellow native Californian, Jim, and birthed our daughter Ariel. Then, our little family moved to San Antonio TX then to Colorado Springs CO then to Naperville IL then to Sugar Land TX and 15 years ago, landed on our little slice of land out here in Bellville, happy to call ourselves Naturalized Texans.

**Why volunteer for Texas Master Naturalist:** All my life, I've loved the outdoors and exploring Nature wherever we lived and traveled. My parents taught me that as we camped and hiked on family vacations. Jim and I carried on those traditions as we raised our daughter. Friends in Sugar Land were Texas Master Naturalists and their activities sounded like a perfect match for me. Joining TMN was my retirement gift to myself after more than 35 years in the "work" world.

**TMN-GL Projects:** When I first joined TMN-GLC (Class of 2014), I went to lots of different projects, but then gravitated to all the "outdoor education" events coordinated with the school kids at Brenham ISD. Youth education at all levels remains my focus. In addition, having served as newsletter editor, website manager, Facebook group administrator, and photography hobbyist, my passion for communications led to my current job as Communications Director.

**Favorite thing about being a Texas Master Naturalist:** I consider it a privilege to work with all those who share such a kinship with Nature and who value learning and teaching about all the natural aspects of Texas and beyond.

**Favorite critter:** Everything in its particular season! But I have a special love for trees and lichen, butterflies and bumblebees, herons and hawks.

**Favorite place in Texas:** Our little 5-acre homeplace with its forests and meadows and pond. And all the wonderful and diverse state parks where we have camped and hiked.

**Favorite big trip:** We've been lucky to have traveled quite a bit around the US (several moves and many road trips) and around the world (Mexico, Canada, France, Scotland, Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, several Caribbean islands). We look fondly back at adventures behind us (through our photographs) and enjoy planning adventures that are ahead of us.

## Ann Ray



**About Me:** I grew up on a cotton farm near Odem Tx with an Aggie dad and English-Spanish teacher mother, the middle of five kids. After getting a B.S. at UH I taught eighth grade math then was a homemaker, babysitter, substitute teacher, Mary Kay lady, stitchery teacher, homeschool teacher, WW leader, etc. for five decades.

**Why volunteer for Texas Master Naturalist:** I think TMN chose me rather than me choosing it! After retiring to Sealy in 2015, I applied to several volunteer activities listed in the newspaper, but TMN was first to take my money and tell me when and where to show up and when I did, I knew on the first night that “these are my people”.

**TMN-GL Projects:** Currently I am consumed with directing the work at Indian Creek Nature Area in Burton. I also enjoy working on the quarterly trash pick-up in Rutersville.

**Favorite thing about being a Texas Master Naturalist:** My favorite thing about being a TMN is finding other people who care about and admire Earth.

**Favorite critter:** Picking my favorite critter is nearly impossible so my dearest triumvirate is panda-polar bear-bison, I think because I love to travel and I’ve had to go so far to see them.

**Favorite place in Texas:** “in them old cotton fields back home”

**Favorite big trip:** It’s hard to pick just one favorite trip. So I’ve chosen 4 trips; driving the AICan highway alone to Alaska and back, staying in a local missionary’s home ten days in Nepal, visiting my Acadian ancestors’ farm and environs in Nova Scotia, and China!!!!



# Fall Adventures



## Exploring Mineral Wells by Jaci Elliot

If you like paddling, hiking, bike riding, botany, archeology, or even psychology, there is something to explore in Mineral Wells.



The town is named for its import product, well water with a high mineral content (reportedly curing a crazy old lady back in the day).

Recently my husband and I and another couple camped at Lake Mineral Wells State Park and had a pretty packed three-day stay. I paddled nearly the entire perimeter of the lake, during three separate launches.

All of us rode part of the Rails to Trails Trailway. We only went a few miles this trip, as the path's maintenance had been somewhat neglected from my previous experiences.

Less time on the trail allowed us to ride up to and walk around the lovely Clark (Botanical) Gardens, which has an arboretum featuring trees from every state and an extensive model train display. We hiked several miles of park trails one day and circled the campground loop while watching an incredible lightning storm that evening.

Just outside the town, we dug for 300-million-year shark's teeth and trilobite at the free and open-to-the public Mineral Wells Fossil Park. We only found crinoids, ancient sponges and clams; it was still worth the effort.

Back in town we enjoyed brick-oven baked pizza and sampled the Crazy Water (for sale by the bottle or five-gallon jugs).

**Not a bad way to spend a few fall days in Texas!**





## Kayaking the Elm Fork Creek by Ann Ray

I attended the kayaking event held on Sunday at the state meeting in Irving. I was inspired by Amy Martin’s keynote speech to experience more of the area.

About 40 Texas Master Naturalists had a wonderful six mile kayak trip on Elm Fork Creek, a tributary of the Trinity River. Mike, owner of Paddle Masters, two Paddle Masters employees and a LLELA employee gathered just below the Lewisville Dam at 9am Oct. 24. We were well equipped and given safety training by Mike and Erin of Paddle Masters. The waters of the waterway, dug by the corps of engineers, and the Elm Fork Creek of the Trinity River are swift and has many fallen trees in the six mile stretch we were to maneuver. Mike said the goals were to have fun but not get our hair wet.

I enjoyed getting to know others and finding out who knew the waters. Most of us had never kayaked this area before and one participant had never kayaked at all.



About 9:45 we set out and I was amazed at how quiet the ride was. There was no way you would know you were near a large metropolitan area. Since the dug up part was completed in the ‘50’s, it looked as fully natural as the actual creek. I tried to identify trees since I went to several classes about the trees and vines of North Texas. We saw nests of blue herons and a couple of vultures.

My concentration was mainly on the obstacles, one of which I came in sharp contact with! It took about 20 minutes, but Mike got me upright and untangled again and I did not get my hair wet but everything else was! And that water was cold!



We had one snack stop after several hours and boy were my legs wobbly!

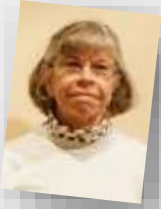
After 5 hours, our journey ended but not without a dramatic ending. The man disembarking in front of me was able, with help, to stand but then fainted on the dock. After first aid from several and a trip to the ER in an ambulance, he let us know he had been released and was feeling okay. What a relief!

**My biggest takeaway was never paddle alone, have a whistle and use it in case an emergency arises.**

## Teaching Moments

### A Thoroughly Amateur Mushroom Enthusiast

by Lori Buffum



On my walks out back into the forest, I'm always on the lookout for fungi peeking up between the fallen leaves or clinging to the trunk of a snag or "dancing" on the edges of a stump. Finding colorful mushrooms always delights me and presents me with photograph challenges. The real challenge lies in the process of determining their names, their IDs, their families.



The field of mycology (the study of fungi that includes mushrooms and yeast) is vast, fascinating, complex and might, according to Paul Stamets, "help save the world". [Two wonderful publications by him are *Mycelium Running* and *Fantastic Fungi* but you can find him on websites and YouTube and in film specials.]. WOW! The more you learn about mushrooms and their place in the natural world, the more there is to admire about the fungi whose "fruit" pops up above ground to spread its seeds and spores (and alerts us to its existence dressed up in an amazing array of shapes and colors).

Mycelium is the vegetative body for fungi that produce mushrooms. When compared to a plant, mycelium is the root system, and the mushroom is the flower (or fruit). Mycelium consists of the growing 'stem' cells of the fungus which continuously branch out to form vast networks – Nature's original world wide web. I would not call myself a mycologist and even hesitate to use the word mycophile (a devotee of mushrooms) so let's just agree on sharing an enthusiasm for spotting these fungi fruits and trying to learn some of their names.

There are toadstools and parasols and caps and feet; teeth and shelves and puffballs and fairy rings – and those are just a few of the more "common" names. When I use the iNaturalist app trying to get just a genus level ID, sometimes I don't even see a common name, so I have fun making up my own, like "dancing skirts" or "sun's rising" or "pumpkin time".



Mushrooms may pop up anytime of the year but fall and spring after a rainy period is a great time to go hunting. I try to practice “do not disturb” hunting because what you see above ground is the fungi hard at work reproducing itself, breaking down decaying material, and providing critical elements of habitat (food, shelter, water, space) for myriad little critters living in that forest or field environment.



Who likes to eat mushrooms? Turtles, squirrels, deer, opossums, foxes, rabbits, mice, and myriad insects – in other words, just about everyone! Mushrooms are a source of food AND medicine for humans too, but an important rule for all of us enthusiasts is **look, don't touch, never sample** unless in the presence of a confirmed professional expert in edible mushroom ID.

Here is a gorgeous collection of photos of Texas mushrooms with locations and IDs:  
[https://www.asergeev.com/pictures/k/Texas\\_mushrooms.htm](https://www.asergeev.com/pictures/k/Texas_mushrooms.htm)

And I came across this website that's chock full of helpful articles, pictures, tips, recommendations, and more – just browse through and enjoy:  
<https://healing-mushrooms.net/texas>

Have fun gently poking around in the leaf litter in your part of Texas and share what you discover with all of us fellow fungi fanciers.

# Volunteering Highlights

## Washington on the Brazos Project

by Julie Itz



### October Workday

Sheri Wilcox, Swee Leng Rapatz, Clay Kartye, Tim Rackley, and Carol Gaskamp collected Partridge pea, Maximilian sunflower and Standing cypress seeds.

There was quite a bit of croton, random grasses, and tie vine. Frostweed was the star attraction for the pollinators this month and the blue mistflower is still blooming well. The grass bed has exceeded expectations and the Indian grass was glorious. Tim filled and packed the armadillo burrow. Carol moved the sad *Liatris* from the shade under the tree and we hope they will do better in full sun. The bluebonnets are coming up well and have spread quite nicely.



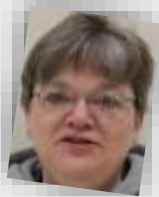
Two views of the new Native grass demonstration area in the WoB pollinator garden

### November 6 Workday

Sheri Wilcox, Carol Gaskamp, Swee Leng Rapatz, Annette Holdeman, Denise Turner, and Julie Itz were surprised to see how the garden has already gone into winter mode. We worked on cutting back dead stems without seed heads. The grasses are enjoying their new home so much that some of them had to be cut back. Next June we plan to trim some back to keep them from getting so tall in the fall. Lanceleaf coreopsis, Standing cypress, Engelmann's daisy, Giant coneflower are all sprouting up along with a good crop of Bluebonnets. We planted two more coralberry bushes in the shade under the large live oak and our visiting armadillo finally moved on. Mealy blue sage, White mistflower, Blue mistflower, Gregg's mistflower, Cherry sage and May night salvia are still blooming.

### December Workday has been cancelled

We look forward to seeing GLC volunteers back in 2022! January 22 and February 19 will be our next workdays in the garden. The Texas Independence Celebration at Washington on the Brazos will be February 26 and 27. The Gideon Lincecum Chapter hosts a booth, so plan to volunteer to help out that weekend.



## Fayette County AgriLife Building Landscape Project

By Cindy Rodibaugh

I want to thank all the volunteers who have helped make the landscape bed at the Texas AgriLife Building in La Grange a success. Over the year we have planted, transplanted, moved plants, weeded, and even had to trim the Redbud tree and the Yaupon at each end of the bed. We've seen successes and failures. I'm still hoping we can get Coneflowers to grow!



At our November workday we removed a few weeds, planted some seeds and moved the Side Oats to a more open spot. It seems the Lantana has a superiority complex and wants to shade all the plants around it. Though there seemed to be too many snails, most of the plants looked healthy and had grown. The biggest surprise to me was the unexpected deterioration of the Frog Fruit. It seems to be reviving but there is no explanation for its retreat.

I was grateful to see the Fall Aster in full bloom in spite of the fact that at our September and October workdays it looked like an animal had been sleeping in the middle of it! The Beauty Berry produced many berries which a Mockingbird visited just as we were leaving. I was unable to get it to pose for a picture☺ The Milkweed had supported a couple of Monarch caterpillars and we hope more will visit next year.

I've learned a lot from the plants and the volunteers who have worked with me. Landscaping with native plants can be challenging and fun.



MONARCH CATERPILLARS



BEAUTY BERRY





## Adopt-A-Highway

by Jaci Elliot

If you like seeing immediate results from your hard work, please consider joining us, Mary Ann Butler and Jaci Elliott, with our TMNGLC Adopt-A-Highway project.

Our final GLC cleanup for 2021 will be December 8 and we had a cleanup back on October 6. Our chapter's two-mile route is located in Rutersville along HWY 159, meeting in the parking lot of St. John Lutheran Church (weather permitting) on the second Wednesday approximately four months out of the year.

We provide trash bags, vests and water. And we recycle aluminum cans and plastic water bottles, too.



Some of the unseen benefits to this project are:

- better getting to know and visit with the person you partner with
- identifying plants and certain critters along the route
- comparing your most interesting finds afterward!

We really can use your help with our chapter's route the next time we meet. Remember, you can always pick up trash and recycling along roadways near your own property for VMS hours and to improve your local area. Jaci has been doing this for the past few years and managed to inspire some other neighbors to do the same!

Mary Ann Butler, long-time project leader for the chapter's Adopt A Highway program, shares the award received from TXDOT for our dedication to keeping the highways beautiful.

Thanks to Mary Ann and her late husband Dave for coordinating this activity for the last many years. The next pickup day is December 8; check the website event calendar and join the team!







## Quail Necropsy Day at Brenham ISD

by Lori Buffum

Ten chapter members were excited to go “back to school” to help Brenham Junior High School 7th graders learn about quail in their science classes. Those talented and enthusiastic folks led groups of students through a necropsy of their bird. Thanks to the teachers as well as guidance from TPWD, TWA, and Texas Brigades students.

On the GLC team: Lori Buffum, Jim Wilson, Jon Watkins, Robert Mott, Tom Yates, Chuck Babb, Carol



Gaskamp, Jaci Elliott, Chris Morrison, Karen Bookout, Mike Schumann. Bravo and thank you!

## This and That

B.R. Koehler shared:

Those of you restoring pastures to native grasses can use this blog on "[How to Read a Seed Tag](#)" from the [Bamert Seed Company](#) blog.

This information is important to know and to save.



**Happy Holidays to you  
and your families**



## Upcoming Opportunities

### December 8 @ 8:00 am - 11:00 am

#### Adopt-a-Highway

St. John Lutheran Church 5743 TX-159, La Grange, TX

VMS opportunity: Adopt-a-Highway AAH volunteers please meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot of the St John Lutheran Church in Rutersville on December 8, 2021

### December 8 @ 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

#### Texas Watershed Steward-Mill Creek- virtual option also

Kenney Agricultural Society Hall 444 Hall Rd, Bellville, TX

AT Opportunity: Texas Watershed Steward, Texas AgriLife To attend in-person or virtually, participants must preregister at the Texas Watershed Steward website at <https://tws.tamu.edu> or by calling 979-862-4457.

### December 13 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am

#### Indian Creek Nature Park Workday

Burton Cotton Gin Museum 307 N. Main, Burton, TX

VMS opportunity: Indian Creek Nature Area Workdays are now scheduled for the second Monday of every month. See the email from Ann Ray for specific goals for each date.

### December 14 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

#### TMN Tuesdays – Noon Hour AT

VMS opportunity: AT: TMN Tuesday (include name of program and presenter in description) - AT credit may be claimed for live presentation or viewing recorded presentation On the Second Tuesday.

### December 15 @ 10:00 am - 11:30 am

#### Plant Party: Riparian Rendezvous

VMS opportunity: AT: Agrilife Land Management and Wildlife Conservation Workshops and Programs

Registration is now open for Plant Party: Riparian Rendezvous Join us virtually on December 15th from 10:00 - 11:30 AM.

### December 24 @ 8:30 am - 9:30 am

#### Winedale workday

Winedale

VMS opportunity: Winedale project We will have a workday to shape up the Nature Trail head. Pulling weeds, shaping up the grasses and possibly we can transplant some plants.

### January 15, 2022 @ 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

#### TMN GLC chapter meeting

Winedale

VMS opportunity: AT: TMN Chapter Program VMS opportunity: Administrative work: Chapter meeting Chapter meetings are held the third Saturday of odd-numbered months.

All events are subject to change so please check [the chapter website event calendar](#) for the latest updates and more details.



# Chapter Resources

## Officers for 2021

President – [Betsy Palkowsky](#)

Vice President – [Mark Brown](#)

Secretary – [Linda Esco](#)

Treasurer – [David Hessel](#)

## Board Members

Advanced Training Director – [Mark Brown](#)

Communications Director – [Lori Buffum](#)

Marketing Director – [Ken English](#)

Membership Director – [Chris Morrison](#)

Training Class Directors – [Connie Shortes & Chuck Linton](#)

Volunteer Service Projects Director – [Jaci Elliott](#)

Youth Education Director – [Donna Mueller](#)

Chapter State Representative – Betsy Palkowsky

Advisor – [Kara Matheney](#) (Washington County Texas AgriLife)

## Committees and Contacts

Hospitality Chair – Nita Tiemann

Newsletter Editor – [Betsy Palkowsky](#)

Website Editor – [Sheri Wilcox](#)

Grants and Donations Chair – [Mary Ann Butler](#)

## Volunteer Project Leaders

Adopt-a-Highway – Mary Ann Butler and Jaci Elliott

Agricultural Safety Days – Donna Mueller

Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR -Terry Rooney

Brenham ISD Outdoor Education – Lori Buffum

Colorado River Watch – open

Family Science Nights – Lori Buffum

Fayetteville Native Plant Project – Karen Bookout

Indian Creek Nature Area – Ann Ray

LaGrange AgriLife Building Native Plant Landscape – Cindy Rodibaugh

Monument Hill State Historic Site — Karen Woods

Prescribed Burning – Mark Brown and B.R. Koehler

San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site Native Plant Gardens – Mary-Helen Giles

Schubert House Pollinator Project – Karen Woods

Stephen F. Austin State Park – Tom Shaughnessy

Top Ten Presentation – Cheryl Karr

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

Winedale Trails and Pollinator Garden – Jan Hughes

## Sponsor Contact

Each county has its own TPWD Biologist and Texas AgriLife Extension agent. We work closely with these sponsors.

Use the following links access the main county contacts working with our chapter.

[\*Austin County\*](#)

[\*Colorado County\*](#)

[\*Fayette County\*](#)

[\*Washington County\*](#)

[\*Lee County\*](#)



- Our Chapter Website <http://txmn.org/glc>
- GLC Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/21969044537/>
- Volunteer Management System; log your hours <http://txmn.org/tmn-vms-users/>
- 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/>

## Contact Us

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