

The GLC Tidings

August 2022

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T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™
Gideon Linsecum
Chapter



<https://txmn.org/glc>
glctmnmkt@gmail.com

Our Mission

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

SAVE THE DATES

Board Meeting – 9/2/2022
Chapter Meeting - 9/17/2022

Oct 7

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER
ENTRY DEADLINE

Send articles or photos to
glcnwsltr@gmail.com

From the President

Sheri Wilcox



What a summer we are having. I hope everyone is finding ways to stay cool while still staying in touch with nature. For me it has been spending my time outdoors in the evening after the sun is less intense. While living through a drought is not ideal, nature always gives us something to observe. With many

water sources drying up this summer, we have seen a real upswing in the number of species visiting our stock tank. Trees and shrubs, especially those with large, thin leaves are hit hard while those with smaller or waxy leaves seem to be faring better.

We normally have a healthy population of green milkweed (*asclepias viridis*) with only the occasional zizotes milkweed (*asclepias oenotheroides*). This year the zizotes milkweed is notably more numerous. Snow on the prairie is thriving in an otherwise brown landscape. I would love to hear your observations of how the drought has affected your property. Our Facebook page is a great place to share what you are observing.



If you have not already done so, now is the time to [register](#) for the **Texas Master Naturalist annual meeting, which will take place in Houston from October 20-23, 2022**. The agenda contains many interesting and educational field and classroom sessions. My biggest problem was choosing between sessions taking place at the same time. You can't do it all, but there is something to interest everyone.

It is my pleasure to announce that **Karen Gardner has accepted the position of Education Director for our chapter**. Those of you who know Karen will know that she brings many years of experience as an educator to the role. Under her leadership, we hope to offer more opportunities to take our message into our communities. Joanna Hagler will continue working with our educational program in an area near to her heart, curriculum development. Let me take this opportunity to thank Joanna for her service to the chapter during her tenure as Education Director and to welcome Karen to her new role.

From the President (continued)

Plans are underway for our 2023 training class. **We are seeking one or more interested individuals to serve as the Training Director for 2023.** The director's role is to be the face of the program for the training class, to lead the Training Committee, and to serve on the Board of Directors. We have a very strong Training Committee to support the director. Committee members will manage speakers, organize field trips, organize the buddy program, report attendance, and assist with VMS reporting. I will be sending a message to all chapter members describing the director position and the committee roles in more detail. If you are interested in taking on this very important chapter role (or would be willing to understudy the role), please reach out to me (glctmnpres@gmail.com). And if someone reaches out to you to ask you to take on the role, I ask that you consider it thoughtfully. Bringing new volunteers into our program is critical to maintaining the vitality of our chapter.

Our summer social at Winedale was so much fun. The weather cooperated with a light breeze to moderate the heat. The view across the lake was lovely. We enjoyed wonderful food and fellowship. When we meet at chapter meetings or project workdays, we are task focused. The social gave us an opportunity for informal conversation. I am always interested to hear about vacation trips, family events, and activities that our members enjoy outside of Texas Master Naturalists. Thank you to all who were able to attend. A special thank goes out to our Hospitality Chair Nita Tieman, whose able organization of the event was appreciated by all.

Summertime Get Together



We had about 25 there, someone said. I didn't think to take photos until after several had left. Lovely time together, nice breeze that kept us pretty comfortable. Too much yummy food, of course!

Keep an eye on the [chapter calendar](#) as we continue to post both volunteer and advanced training opportunities. As always, if you have an idea on how we can make our chapter stronger, don't hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the board. We are here to serve you.

State Information

2022
#TMNTuesdays

January 11	May 10	September 13
February 8	June 14	October 11
March 8	July 12	November 8
April 12	August 9	December 13



#TMNTuesday [#TMNTuesdays \(tamu.edu\)](https://twitter.com/TMNTuesdays)

Sept 13, 12:00 p.m. CST

- topic unavailable at time of this publication
- check state website or your inbox in September for more details

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
2022 ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 20-23

Registration
now OPEN!



[2022 Annual Meeting \(In Person – In Houston\)](#)

[Registration](#) is open and sessions are filling up quickly

The 23rd Texas Master Naturalist Program Annual Meeting is an event to gather, learn, and celebrate another year of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. This year's meeting is an in-person event at the Omni Houston Thursday, October 20th to Sunday October 23rd.

[2022 Annual Meeting \(tamu.edu\)](https://www.tamu.edu/tmnp/2022-annual-meeting)



Order YOURS Today!!!

ANYONE can purchase this plate and \$22 of each \$30 annual plate fee comes directly back to the Texas Master Naturalist Program for continuing our mission.

The plate is available for purchase on the website:

Personalized plate (\$70): <https://www.myplates.com/design/personalized/passenger/texas-master-naturalist/>

Non-Personalized plate (\$30): <https://www.myplates.com/design/background/passenger/texas-master-naturalist/>

Member Profiles

Norbert Dittrich



About Me

I grew up in the country between Moravia and St. John, Texas. There I learned about the stewardship of the land and growing cotton, grass and cattle. Additionally, I learned some of the differences between how country and city people think. I attended Moravia Grade School, Bishop Forrest High School and The University of Texas. My wife and I have one daughter and two grandchildren. Recently I retired from a private grant making organization which supports basic research in chemistry

Why TMN?

In 2002, we purchased a cattle ranch close to St. John and quickly converted it to a wildlife management ranch. TMN is an organization that promotes land stewardship so I can do my small part in the TMN mission.

TMN-GLC Projects

I current serve as the Chapter's Vice President. I am also involved with the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute test plot near Cat Spring and Seed collection at Atwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge. I've also helped with some prescribed burns.

Favorite thing about being a Texas Master Naturalist

I enjoy meeting, working with and sharing best practices with individuals that are making the land more habitable to native wildlife.

Favorite critter

I don't think there is a critter I do not like. I even like copperheads. If I had to pick five favorites, they would be bobcat, painted bunting, roadrunner, cottontail and crow.

Favorite Place in Texas

Our 81 acres in St. John. I love to travel, but there is no other place I would rather be.

Favorite Big Trips

Japan with our granddaughter and safari in Tanzania with our grandson. The landscape and animals in Antarctica & South Georgia almost made us feel we were on a different planet.





Carol and Greg Gaskamp

About Us

Carol is a retired nurse educator and public health nurse, and Greg is a retired Lutheran clergyman. We have 2 sons and 6 grandchildren. We are both native Texans, met in college and lived in the Midwest for the first 25 years of our marriage, returning to Texas in 2001. We moved to Washington County July 2020 to live in the house Carol's great-grandparents built in 1883. We have 50 acres (pastureland).

Why TMN?

Our interest in the TMN program is in being good stewards of our little piece of Texas. Carol has gardened for many years and in preparation for what to do when retired, she took a course in herbalism, thinking we could grow culinary and medicinal herbs on the farm. The TMN program has deepened our understanding of the interconnection of plants, animals, soil, water, etc. and the human role to be a good steward of creation.

TMN-GLC Projects

We've volunteered to help at the Washington-on-the-Brazos pollinator garden, and Carol has a couple of virtual projects with the Coastal Prairie Conservancy, and assists with the chapter newsletter.

Favorite thing about being a Texas Master Naturalist

One of Carol's favorite things about becoming a TMN is meeting like-minded people who have a keen interest in the natural world and preserving it for the future. And Greg likes having a shared family activity.

Favorite critter

Carol's favorite critter is the vulture – they eat things that would kill humans! Greg's favorite plant is the oak tree – he has grown a number of saplings from acorns.

Favorite Place in Texas

Where we are living now – gently rolling hills, pastures dotted with cattle grazing, raptors soaring overhead, wildflowers in season, a bend in the Brazos River about 3 miles away.

Favorite Big Trips

A 2006 study trip to Palestine and Jerusalem to learn about conditions for the Palestinians and relations between Arabs and Jews in the Middle East, and a 2016 pilgrimage trip to Peru that included a hike through the Kiswarani valley in the Andes (elevation 14,500 feet) and exploring Machu Picchu.

Adventures and Observations

The Black Witch Moth

By Dottie Schoeneberg



While cleaning a hutch on my back porch in the middle of July, a flying creature came out and greeted me. At first, I thought it was a bat the way it whizzed by my head. It then landed on a porch pillar and then my windowsill, so I was able to study and identify it.

The moth *Ascalapha odorata*, commonly known as the black witch moth was my discovery. It is usually found from the southern United States to Brazil and is the largest noctuid in the continental US. The one I observed measured 7 inches from wing tip to wing tip.



Folklore of many Central American cultures associate it with death or misfortune.

However, in the Bahamas they are locally known as money moths or money bats, and if one lands on you, you will come into money. Similarly, in South Texas, if a black witch lands above your door you will supposedly win the lottery.

Hmmm, guess I should have bought a lotto ticket when it was up to 1.337 billion dollars. Oh well, I felt rich just to have seen such a beautiful and unusual creature.

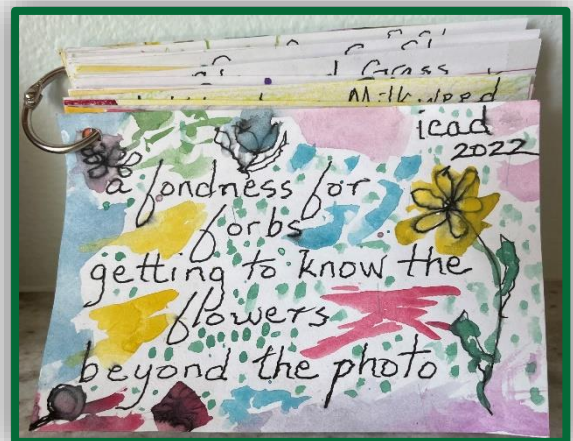
“A Fondness for Forbs” – A Creative Challenge

By Lori Buffum



This June/July was my 6th year participating in the Index Card A Day (ICAD) project. I love being part of this creative community of people from all around the world, rising to the challenge of

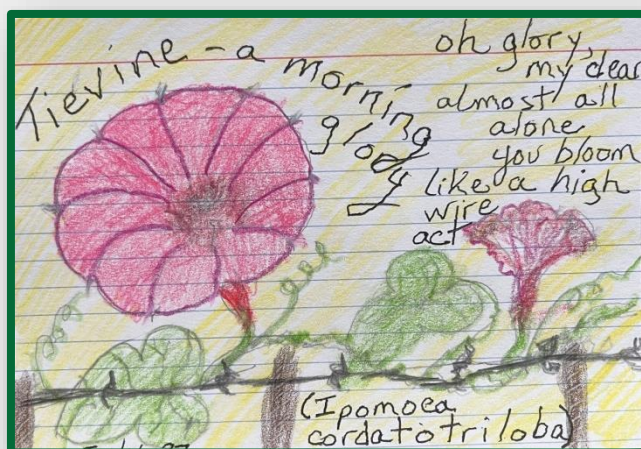
creating “art” every day for 61 days on a simple index card canvas. We share our cards on Instagram and on a private FB group where the commentary is fascinating, thoughtful and supportive.



As you can imagine, many of my cards in past years have been Nature oriented but this year I decided I wanted to create a series of “artful” flash cards featuring the many forbs (wildflowers) I have taken photos of, hence my theme: a fondness for forbs. Each card features a color drawing, the common name, the scientific name, and a Haiku (structured poem with syllable pattern of 5-7-5). My ICAD 2022 collection consists of 74 cards total (I created quite a few other cards in between forb days), 40 of which are forb flash cards (see samples in photos).

Gosh, I learned so much through closely studying the flower structure, looking up the taxonomy, and describing the spirit of the flower through poetry. And now I have a set of cards (collected on a ring – see photo) to refer back to and maybe even share with others as we go on wildflower walks. The daily discipline really helped me accomplish my goal and supportive comments from fellow ICADians buoyed my spirits throughout those two months.

The Texas Master Naturalist program encourages us to learn about a particular subject that interests us and then share the “top ten” things we learned with others. Well, I now have a “top forty forbs” in my back pocket, so to speak. So, fellow TMNers, let’s hear about what you have a particular fondness for and the creative ways you are getting to know more about the Nature around us. [P.S. If you want to know more about the ICAD project, I would love to chat with you.]





The Heron Who Lives on Deer Run Road

By Lori Buffum

We see her (or him) almost every day during the summer season. She preens as she roosts in the trees (sometimes there are 2 together -- perhaps her mate?), hunts as she perches on the raft in our pond, calls raucously from the forest, stalks through the grasses at the edge of the water, or stretches tall at the top of a snag, surveying her habitat. She is a green heron, *Butorides virescens*, and we are so happy she likes her home here on Deer Run Road (near Bellville).

Sometimes, seeing her from afar, we mistake her for one of the big turtles that like to climb out of the water to sun on the banks. That's when she is all gathered up and hunched over waiting patiently for a meal to swim close. But there is no mistaking this beautiful bird when the sun brightens the iridescent green feathers on her back or when the russet neck and chest feathers fluff out as she stretches to her statuesque heron form or when the massive talons grab on to a branch to support her weight.



Mostly silent, except for a loud KRA WK alarm call, the heron is so well camouflaged in the surrounding forest that we don't know if there is a nest nearby though we suspect there might be. If so, it would be a gathering of twigs protecting 3-5 pale green-blue eggs that would hatch in about 20 days.

Our pond is small (maybe 70 feet across) but is such a tremendous ecosystem that we are devoted to keeping it "alive" despite the unrelenting drought. Here at our house, we have had nary a drop of rain for more than 50 days (as of 8/6/2022). Since there is no natural water source for the pond, we have periodically added water from our well. Years ago, we put an aerator in the pond and that running every night helps maintain a healthy oxygen level. So, all the pond critters are pretty healthy and the whole food web is working to the heron's advantage.

The heron only has to "share" her food with the great egret and the great blue heron who come occasionally to spear a fish or a frog or with the rare belted kingfisher who swoops down in flight to catch unsuspecting fish feeding on insects at dusk.

We hope the green heron returns year after year to share our home here on Deer Run Road.

The Texas Botanical Gardens & Native American Interpretive Center

By Betsy Palkowsky



My husband and I have travelled through Goldswaithe, Texas numerous time as we travelled across Texas. Multiple time we told ourselves we need find and visit the “Texas Botanical Gardens” in Goldswaithe. We didn’t realize it was right before our eyes as we went through town. It’s a part of the visitor center.

This hidden gem is worth a short stop on a long trip. What the town has done with a small piece of land is simply amazing. If you ever go through Goldswaithe take a break and visit the folks at the center and take a walk along the path of representing the plants and the ancient peoples of the area.

Learn more about this oasis visit www.legacyplaza.org, [Legacy Plaza - Home](#) | [Facebook](#)

“Every plant tells a story and conveys a soil’s history – the rock from which it came, its past use and perhaps even its overuse. These plants on the rangeland have a purpose and a story – their value is interwoven with the American Indian.” - Melissa Sturdivant

Found on the cover of the J. Waddy Bullion Gardens Plant Identification Guide – Goldswaithe Visitor Center

TEXAS Botanical Gardens & Native American Interpretive Center

MISSION

The mission of Legacy Plaza is to provide a dynamic, interactive, life-long learning experience while identifying and preserving the prehistoric and environmental aspects of this rural region of Texas.

The Ancient Texans

The people who called our state home 600 - 10,000 years ago are the focus of the Native American Interpretive Center and surrounding Botanical Gardens. Embedded clues remain in central Texas today and give evidence of the presence of these ancient peoples. It is the purpose of The Center to showcase and celebrate these ancient Texans, their lifestyles, and their use of resources and plants.

“Something as small as a spark can start a large and roaring fire. Just like an idea can result in a major project or a great success. Legacy Plaza is an outstanding example of how an idea can ignite a community into action and bring all of us together for a common purpose.” — Robert E. Lindsey, III, City Manager, Goldswaithe, TX

Water and Plants

The lives of prehistoric hunters and gatherers were inextricably connected to waterways and the surrounding indigenous plant life. Creek beds and rivers provide drinking water and food that was necessary for their survival. Many of the plants consumed and used by ancient peoples in prehistoric times are still found growing in Mills County on the Colorado River, the Center’s location.

pestle. These visible clues are remains of a vital era of our Texas history that may be discovered and explored through the Interpretive Center.

Conservation and Stewardship

The Texas Botanical Gardens and Native American Interpretive Center will feature sustainable design, use local materials in construction, conserve water, preserve natural resources, and promote appropriate land and plant use. In this way, the legacy of our ancient ancestors will endure, and their “green” lives can inform and guide our choices in contemporary times. ■

Integration

A primary goal of the Center is to display the lifestyles of Ancient Americans in an integrated and interactive manner, rather than in isolated exhibits. This format demonstrates that ancient peoples’ social, educational, spiritual, and cultural lives were more interrelated than compartmentalized.

Trail of History

Enthusiasts from school children to scholars have long followed the trail of history that runs through central Texas by hunting for clues that ancient peoples left behind. Visible remnants of their lives surround us. A stone point that appears to have been casually discarded is painstakingly hand-hewn for a particular purpose. Mounds of rock conceal earth “ovens” where ancient peoples once baked fibrous tubers and bulbs such as sotol, lechuguilla, and wild hyacinths. Man-made circular or oval depressions in rock are sites where seeds and nuts were pounded and ground into flour or meal, using a wooden or stone

Texas Botanical Gardens
P.O. Box 513
Goldswaithe, TX 76844
www.legacyplaza.org



A Partially Nostalgic Trip Out West

By Jaci Elliot

My husband Doug and I just returned from a partially nostalgic trip out west—the other parts being an escape from the July heat here in Texas and to visit our son and his wife in Colorado and friends in Arizona. After four weeks on the road and mostly in a tent, (we traveled sans RV this time due to the mountains and high gas prices), it was definitely time to get back, though we did manage to bring a bit of the desert monsoons with us.

I somewhat feared that the adage: “you can never go back” would apply more than I’d like regarding our previous visit 25 years ago to Utah’s Dinosaur and Cedar Breaks National Monuments and the Grand Canyon but, like most wise sayings, it comes from the inevitable truth that our earth is not static.

We did not go back to the same Quarry Exhibit Hall at Dinosaur, because even the housing around the cliffside containing hundreds of fossilized bones (that had started to crack soon after its construction in 1957 due to its foundation being built upon bentonite) was closed in 2006, partially rebuilt and reopened in 2011.



It is still ever so incredible to be able to see and even touch the actual geological remnants of these improbable prehistoric creatures, Apatosaurus, Stegosaurus and Camarasaurus. If you have grandchildren (or, like us, even if you don’t) it is a must-see when in Utah. On our maiden trip we had hiked up a few trails to see the thousand year-old petroglyphs in the area. Those were still there in the canyons, and because this time we had more favorable weather conditions (not to mention more expendable vacation days and income), we rafted down the Green River, spying bald eagles and bighorn sheep.

It was a month sooner on the calendar (never mind a quarter of a century earlier) when we had last explored Cedar Breaks. Back then we arrived at the campground two days after it had opened for the season and with a 15-foot snowdrift along the road and enough snow in our campground to build a snowman. This time, rain threatened, and the forests we drove through, as with much of the pine and alpine areas on our trip, showed the results of recent fires. Park Service employees reminded visitors like us that fire is indeed a part of the growth process, no matter how “unsightly” or “barren” a hillside might appear.



I'll admit the aesthetics were disappointing in places that were previously stunning, but we saw evidence of new growth and several instances of forest service workers cleaning the undergrowth to create teepee-like burn piles for prescribed burns. Unsurprisingly, the ancient bristle cone pines of Cedar Breaks remained gloriously unchanged in accordance with our impatient human timeframe.

No, I didn't think the Grandest of Canyons would be radically altered this trip, but the area we had wanted to hike again was closed for just such a pre-mentioned prescribed burn. No worries, we still managed to hike 14 miles one day and 8 miles the next while rewarding ourselves with a few meals in North Rim Lodge which has a dining room with the best views in the country.



Teaching Moments



Our Neighbors the *Agkistrodon contortrix* (aka The Copperheads)

by Carol and Greg Gaskamp

This summer we discovered we have new neighbors. A family of copperhead snakes has taken residence under our 1880s-era pier-and-beam farmhouse – we’ve seen 3 different sizes of snakes, so assume it is a family.

Every evening about dusk, we see the snakes taking in the last rays of sunlight on the rocks that line the front of our house and porch. They are likely getting ready to go hunting when it is cooler. We are familiar with all the cautions about how copperheads can strike without warning. So we are very careful when walking by their abode, and certainly don’t go out barefoot in the grass. However, we are also becoming familiar with the benefits such a neighbor may provide – namely, rodent control.

Some other interesting facts we’ve learned about copperheads:

- They are pit vipers and detect prey by changes in temperature and strike at the source of heat. They also strike without warning when threatened.
- Copperheads are diurnal during the fall and spring, nocturnal in the summer, and hibernate in the winter
- They can climb low bushes and trees to reach their prey
- Average length is 2-3 feet, with females being longer. Baby copperheads are 8-10 inches long and are born live.
- Copperheads have two mating seasons a year, in Spring and Fall. For the spring mating season, eggs are incubated in the mother’s body. A female can produce 2-18 babies. In the fall mating season, the female stores the sperm and defers fertilization until hibernation has ended.
- Baby copperheads have fangs and venom, though they eat mostly insects and caterpillars
- Young copperheads are gray in color
- Copperheads are the most frequent source of snakebites, but the venom is mild, resulting in temporary tissue damage in the area of the bite. Children, elderly and people with compromised immune systems may have a stronger reaction to the venom. It is advisable to seek medical attention if bitten. Pets are also vulnerable to copperhead bites.
- Because copperheads eat rats and mice, they also control the disease-causing ticks associated with rodents



Source: <https://www.livescience.com/43641-copperhead-snake.html>



Last month, experts from Texas A&M Forest Service hosted a virtual workshop discussing the current situation across the state, home preparedness, wildfire prevention, and evacuation planning. Now, you can watch the webinar at your convenience by following this link: https://youtu.be/H8k-Rla_o9U

This has been approved for AT

Volunteering Highlights

Unfortunately, there aren't any volunteering highlights this issue. Due to the extreme heat this summer many projects leaders have postponed activities until the heat breaks. Hopefully, we will get some rain and a little cooler weather soon.

Past Highlights



Volunteer Opportunities

Snapshot from our chapter events calendar

CONTACT THE PROJECT LEADERS TO VERIFY DATES AND START TIMES

Events for August 2022

August 16 @ 8:00 am - 10:00 am

[La Grange Agrilife Extension Bldg. Native Plant Landscape Workday](#)

August 18 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am

[Indian Creek Nature Trail Workday](#)

August 19 @ 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

[New Landowner Program – Fruit Trees, Pecans, Grapes for Small Acreage](#)

August 27 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am

[Washington-on-the-Brazos Historic Site workday](#)

Events for September 2022

September 13 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

[TMN Tuesday](#)

September 15 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am

[Indian Creek Nature Trail Workday](#)

September 16 @ 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

[New Landowner Program – Forage Production/Livestock Production](#)

September 17 @ 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

[TMN GLC chapter meeting at Winedale](#)

September 20 @ 8:00 am - 10:00 am

[La Grange Agrilife Extension Bldg. Native Plant Landscape Workday](#)

September 24 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am

[Washington-on-the-Brazos Historic Site workday](#)

This & That



CASES OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

A comparison of commonly confused Northeastern venomous and non-venomous snakes

VENOMOUS	NON-VENOMOUS
 <p>Timber Rattlesnake <i>Crotalus horridus</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognized by a tall rattle, a shovel head, facial pits (see picture), and vertical pupils. Adult length: 36-54 inches Typically a yellowish color with brown or black bands down its back. Found in deciduous forests on rugged terrain. Hibernates in rocky crevices and dens. Endangered in several Northeastern states: NJ, VT, MA, and NH.  <p style="text-align: center;">Facial Pit</p>	 <p>Eastern Hognose <i>Heterodon platirhinos</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinguished by an upturned snout (see picture), lack of facial pits, and round pupils. Adult length: 18-45 inches Variable coloration; can be spotted yellow or all black. Found in woodlands with dry sandy areas. When threatened the hognose will flatten its neck and bring its head up off the ground. It may also play dead.  <p style="text-align: center;">Facial Pit</p>
 <p>Copperhead <i>Agkistrodon contortrix</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognized by a copper/brown/red shovel head, facial pits (see picture), and vertical pupils. Adult length: 24-36 inches Juveniles have tails with yellow tips. Found in forests, rocky outcrops, and farmlands/fields. Endangered in MA.  <p style="text-align: center;">Facial Pit</p>	 <p>Eastern Milk Snake <i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinguished by a Y or V on the top of its head, tapered tail, a lack of facial pits, and rounded pupils. Adult length: 24-36 inches Typically has bands of red/brown/black down its body. Its underbelly is checkered white and black. Found in fields, forests, or rocky outcrops. Has a broad range across the Northeast.  <p style="text-align: center;">Facial Pit</p>
 <p>Cottonmouth <i>Agkistrodon piscivorus</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognized by black "bourglas" bands on its back, a flattened head, facial pits (see picture), and vertical pupils. Adult length: 30-48 inches When threatened the cottonmouth will expose a white mouth. Found near freshwater. Range does not extend further north than Virginia.  <p style="text-align: center;">Facial Pit</p>	 <p>Northern Water Snake <i>Nerodia sipedon</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinguished by dark bands down its body, a narrow head, a slender body, a lack of facial pits, and round pupils. Adult length: 24-42 inches Coloration can be brown, reddish, gray, or black. Found near freshwater. Has a broad range across the Northeast.  <p style="text-align: center;">Facial Pit</p>

Quick Tips:

- Venomous snakes are very rare in the Northeast.
- Snakes are shy creatures and will typically not attack unless disturbed.
- Venom is meant for prey, not protection.
- Non-venomous snakes will also vibrate their tails when agitated.
- All Northeastern species of venomous snakes have heat sensing facial pits and vertical pupils.

Why Are Snakes Important?

- Snakes are an essential part of ecosystems because they act as both predator and prey. Their absence can alter the balance of a food web.
- Snakes control populations of smaller animals. This directly impacts humans because smaller mammals can spread disease, for example the deer mouse that spreads Lyme disease.

Poster Design by Eric Capra
Illustrations by Britzany LeBold

Helpful References

Books

- National Wildlife Federation(R): Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Backyard Wildlife, Expanded Second Edition, by David Mizejewski
- Native Host Plants for Texas Butterflies: a Field Guide, by Jim Weber, Lynne Weber, and Roland H. Wauer (There is also one for moths)
- Native Texas Plants: Landscaping Region by Region, by Sally Wasowski and Andy Wasowski
- Wild Edible Plants of Texas: A Pocket Guide to the Identification, Collection, Preparation, & Use of 60 Wild Plants of the Lone Star State, by Charles W. Kane (This includes non-natives)

On sale now

The 6th printing of the Range Plants of North Central Texas book has been done by BRIT and is available at this link:

https://shopbritpress.org/products/range-plants?_pos=1&_sid=970429ec2&_ss=r



On

Online Resources

- Bumble Bee Watch: <https://www.bumblebeewatch.org/>
- Ecoregions of North America: <https://www.epa.gov/eco-research/ecoregions-north-america>
- Ecoregions of Texas: https://tpwd.texas.gov/.../pwd_pl_w7000_1187a/media/1.pdf
- The Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center: <https://www.wildflower.org/>
- National Wildlife Federation: <https://www.nwf.org/>
- Native American Seed: <https://www.seedsource.com/Default.asp>
- Native Plants by State: <https://nativebackyards.com/native-plants-by-state/>
- Native Plant Society of Texas: <http://npsot.org/wp/>
- Native Plant Society of Texas - Plant Lists By Region: <https://npsot.org/wp/resources/plant-lists-by-ecoregion/>
- Native Prairies Association of Texas: <https://texasprairie.org/>
- Plants for Birds – Audubon <https://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>
- Texas Butterfly Ranch: <https://texasbutterflyranch.com>
- Texas Invasives: <https://www.texasinvasives.org/>
- Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation: <https://xerces.org/>

SEND ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO ADD TO THIS LIST TO glnwsltr@gmail.com

Chapter Resources

Officers for 2022

President – [Sheri Wilcox](#)

Vice President – [Norbert Dittrich](#)

Secretary – [Patti Brown](#)

Treasurer – [David Hessel](#)

Board Members

Advanced Training Director – [Norbert Dittrich](#)

Communications Director – [Lori Buffum](#)

Marketing Director – [Ken English](#)

Membership Director – [Chris Morrison](#)

Training Class Director -
<mailto:tmn.glc.tc@gmail.com>

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

Education Director – [Karen Gardner](#)

Chapter State Representative – Sheri Wilcox

Immediate Past President – 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

Colorado River Watch – Annette Holdeman, Nita Tiemann

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 to 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
<https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/tmn-vms-users>
- **Texas Master Naturalist Program Website** <https://txmn.tamu.edu/>
- **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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