

# The GLC Tidings

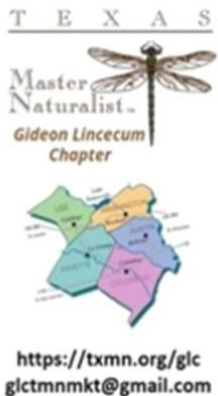
APRIL 2025

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**Our Mission**

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



## From the President



**Sheri Wilcox**



As you all know, our 2025 recertification pin is the greater roadrunner. While the real roadrunner does not cry “Beep, Beep” like the roadrunner of cartoon fame, it does travel at a speed of more than 20 miles per hour, making it the perfect

symbol for the energy and enthusiasm I see at each of our events. March saw our chapter leading the way at two of our largest educational events of the year, the Brenham Land, Water, & Wildlife Expedition and the Giddings ISD 5<sup>th</sup> grade field day. Between these two events, we helped give more than 550 students a day of learning and exploring our natural world. Be sure to look for the pictures from these events elsewhere in this newsletter. By the time you read this newsletter, the Brenham pig pluck will be on the books for 2025. Mark your calendars for one more large field day for the Giddings ISD 4<sup>th</sup> grade on May 9.

Spring also brings many opportunities for outreach events at community festivals. In March, chapter members hosted a booth at the Independence Historic Buildings Tour. The kids had a great time making bird feeders. In keeping with the historic theme of the event, we also showed visitors how to make oak gall ink like that used by William Barrett Travis to write his famous “Victory or Death” letter from the Alamo and shared a taste of tea made from our native yaupon. There are many other outreach opportunities coming up in April. These events are a fun and easy way to spread the word about the Texas Master Naturalists and to encourage visitors to engage with nature. Watch your email for opportunities to volunteer at the festival of your choice.

Spring is often described as the season of new beginnings. My challenge to you this spring is to try something new. My new endeavor for 2025  
(Continued)

**Newsletter Entry Deadlines**  
**1<sup>st</sup> day of even Months**

Send articles or photos to  
[glcnwsltr@gmail.com](mailto:glcnwsltr@gmail.com)

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Board Meeting – April 25**  
**Chapter Meeting – May 17**

is bluebird boxes. We transitioned our property near Washington-on-the-Brazos from traditional agricultural (cattle and hay) after the drought of 2023 left us with little but bare ground to wildlife management. Bluebird boxes fall within the category of supplemental shelter. I quickly discovered that this is not as easy as it sounds. First, bluebirds seem to be very picky about their houses – facing east, 100 yards apart, facing toward a fledge tree, but not too close to that tree and so on. Second, every other creature in nature seems to want to eat them or steal their homes. Making those stovepipe predator baffles is a project in itself. But the houses went up in February and we eagerly awaited the arrival of our bluebirds. Out of our 10 boxes, one was almost immediately populated by a bluebird family. Yay! Success! But, as I grumbled to my bluebird mentors (Ken English and Barbara Boucher), I appear to be much more successful at hosting wasps than bluebirds. I would love to hear your stories of your latest learning adventure in our next newsletter.

One of my favorite springtime experiences is to see the succession of the wildflowers along the roadsides and in the fields. The coreopsis and bluebonnets blooming now will soon be followed by black-eyed Susan and horsemint and on through to the liatris of the fall. I end this month with Rachel Carson’s more elegant description:

“There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature – the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.” —Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

-Sheri



*Photo by Carol Gaskamp (new wild bluebonnet patch on the creek bank in my pasture)*

## From the Vice President



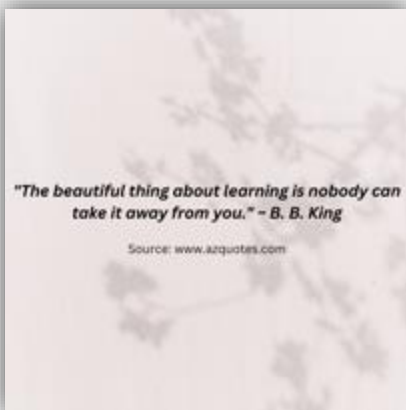
- Swee Leng Rapatz

The May 17 Chapter Meeting which coincides with the 2025 Trainee Graduation will be held at the Winedale Historical Complex. The AT component of the Chapter Meeting will focus on a Carbon Sequestration study conducted by the University of Houston Coastal Center and Resource Environmental Solutions at Deer Park Prairie. A representative from BCarbon, a nonprofit carbon registry and climate research center, will conclude the presentation with their measurement focused protocols to bring simplicity, reliability, and scale to the market for nature based (soils, forests and wetlands) carbon credits.

### AT Training Opportunities

*Note: When recording AT hours include the program sponsor, title, presenter, and that it is virtual.*

Date, Time, Topic	Registration
April 9, 7 p.m webinar Bat Flights and Night Lights: The Impact of Light Pollution on Bats	Go to <a href="#">link</a> for registration. Record your AT hours to AT: NGO Workshops and Programs on Wildlife Conservation and Land Stewardship.
April 10, 7 p.m webinar How to Love a Forest	Go to <a href="#">link</a> for more more information and registration. Record your AT Hours to: AT: NGO Workshops and Programs on Wildlife Conservation and Land Stewardship
April 22 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Texas Riparian & Stream Ecosystem Workshop Industry City Hall Industry, TX <b>RSVP by April 15</b>	Go to <a href="#">link</a> for more information and registration. Record your AT hours as: AT: AgriLife Land Management and Wildlife Conservation Workshops and Programs.
April 25, 9:30 a.m. -1 p.m. Native Seed Propagation Workshop Lee County Extension Office, Giddings	Go to <a href="#">link</a> for more information and registration. Record your AT Hours to: AT: NGO Workshops and Programs on Wildlife Conservation and Land Stewardship. (Cost \$30)



# Membership Memo



Chris Morrison, Membership Director

## **At the March GLC meeting**

The Roadrunner has arrived! Congratulations to these members who have already earned their 2025 recertification pin: Lori Buffum, Marcia Braun, Marvelyn Granger, Frank Michel, Jon Watkins, and Sheri Wilcox.

More congratulations: A 250 All-Time Volunteer Hours Milestone bronze dragonfly pin was awarded to Barbara Boucher, Carol Gaskamp, Marvelyn Granger, and Cathy Nolte.

## **All Things VMS**

- Identifying the project is critical when you are putting in hours for field research (planning, leading or participating in data collection intended to further scientific understanding). We cannot put in hours for observations for anything but an approved project. We do have some specific opportunity titles in our chapter's dropdown for some of the approved Field Research projects such as: Bat Project Acoustic Monitoring, CoCoRaHS, Colorado River Watch, NestWatch, and FeederWatch. When you use these opportunity titles for your entry, you don't have to name the project because the name is already in the opportunity's name.

The biggest number of hours for field research, though, are logged using 'Citizen Science (other)' opportunity. When you use this one, you MUST include in your description the name of the project you are doing the observation for.

An example is the Great Backyard Bird Count. If you are participating, it's logged using Citizen Science (other), but you must write "Great Backyard Bird Count" as part of your description. You also need other information to briefly describe what you did. We can monitor the hours put in by doing a search for those words in logbook descriptions. By having the words "Great Backyard Bird Count" in your description, we are certain that the hours entered are for an approved project and so they will be approved. Oh, and remember that you can't just say GBBC – write it out!

- Lumping different activities together – don't do this. If you participated in Great Backyard Bird Count and tested water on Yegua Creek the same day, those must go in separate logbook entries. Yes, they are both Citizen Science (other), but they are totally different projects.

As always, **thank you** for logging all your hours. Each volunteer hour logged is worth over \$23 in grants for our sponsoring agencies, TPWD and AgriLife Extension. Plus, it's impressive when we can say to a legislator, for example, that TMN volunteers put in thousands of hours every year for nature in Texas!

## 2025 Trainee Class Fieldtrip

### IF IT WEREN'T FOR SOIL, WHERE WOULD WE STAND?

Contributed by Marvelyn Granger (Class of 2023)

Our 2025 Texas Master Naturalist trainees traveled through soil time with Nathan Haile, a soil scientist and talented instructor with Wildlife Habitat Federation (WHF), as their tour guide.

Texas' native prairies are a testament to nature's resilience. They boast diverse plant communities, thriving wildlife, and, most importantly, complex and varying soil systems. While prairies may appear to be simply open expanses of grass, the real strength of these ecosystems lies below in the soil. Healthy prairie soils are rich in organic matter, teeming with microbial life, and capable of supporting many plant and animal species.

Native prairie soils are distinct in their ability to retain water, cycle nutrients efficiently, and resist erosion. Deeply rooted native grasses enhance soil structure and stability. Unlike shallow-rooted introduced or ornamental species, these native grasses develop root systems extending several feet below the surface, creating pathways for water infiltration and reducing runoff.

Over thousands of years, native prairie ecosystems have played a significant role in developing and enriching soil horizons. The deep-rooted grasses and diverse plant communities contributed to the formation of a thick, fertile A-horizon, rich in organic matter and essential nutrients. Seasonal growth and decay cycles allowed for a continuous input of decomposed plant material fostering soil aggregation. Beneath this, the B-horizon benefited from deep root penetration, enhancing nutrient transport and improving soil structure. The long-term stability of prairie ecosystems led to some of the most fertile and resilient soils in the world which have supported generations of agriculture and ranching. Soil is the reason Austin, Houston, and Dallas are where they are. Unfortunately, tilling and over-grazing have impacted and compacted soil, causing irreversible changes to the soil. Understanding that damage and how to improve our practices is pivotal to our conservation efforts today.

A healthy soil exhibits several key characteristics:

- **High Organic Matter:** Organic matter accumulates through decaying plant roots and microbial activity. This improves soil fertility and moisture retention. Plants fix dirt.
- **Rich Communities:** A diverse microbial ecosystem, including bacteria and fungi, enhances nutrient cycling and supports plant growth. Did you know earthworms can turn the soil every three years?
- **Strong Aggregation:** Well-structured soils resist compaction and allow for efficient air and water movement.
- **Minimal Erosion:** The deep root systems of native plants bind soil together, preventing erosion by wind and water.

As stewards of Texas' natural landscapes, our Texas Master Naturalist trainees learned the crucial role they play in advocating for and implementing prairie conservation practices that prioritize soil health as the foundational element of Texas' ecological well-being. By focusing on the life beneath our feet, we can foster landscapes that support diverse plant life, abundant wildlife, and resilient ecosystems.



## Volunteer Highlights

### Giddings ISD 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day

Contributed by Sheri Wilcox

Hosted at the beautiful Parker Ranch and powered by volunteers from TMN, TPWD, and Texas AgriLife, nearly 150 Giddings ISD students experienced a fun-filled day of learning outdoors.

I had the pleasure of working at the Nature Reflections station, a new adventure for me. Students emulated the early naturalists, recording their observations in nature journals. Some of my favorites were the bee sleeping in a winecup, the bee-mimic robber fly, and the widely varying shades of green in the foliage.

Sugar fueled the students at the Run for Your Life station, where candy represented food stored in the quail's crop. Students had to gather food while avoiding predators to survive. I heard through the grapevine that our assistant state coordinator, Mary Pearl Meuth, was quite a ferocious apex predator.

The stream trailer crew helped students create a river and demonstrated the action of flowing water when they turned on the river. Insects were the object of the insect sweep, with only one net falling victim to some very enthusiastic sweeping. Students tried out their fishing skills, some for the first time, and caught a record number of fish. At the bird adaptations station, bird beaks were simulated with a variety of tools. The students experimented with the tools to figure out which was most effective for collecting different types of food.

The weather was perfect. The students were engaged. The lunch sponsored by the Lee County Wildlife Association kept us going through the afternoon. The volunteers were fantastic, exhibiting enthusiasm and flexibility. It was a successful day all around. If you didn't get a chance to join us in 2025, there is always 2026.



## Expedition Day for Brenham Junior High Students

*A glorious day out on a local ranch with 27 of my best friends (Texas Master Naturalists) guiding 360 7th graders through 9 Land, Water, and Wildlife activity/learning stations. And that's a wrap for our biggest event of the year! – Lori Buffum*

But there are lots more opportunities to be outside with students this spring so check the calendar of events and contact the organizer to participate.

On Tuesday, March 18, in partnership with the Texas Wildlife Association, Brenham ISD, and helpers from Texas Parks & Wildlife, Texas A&M Extension and several other community organizations, our GLC volunteers were stationed around 9 different activities on the Kolkhorst Ranch. The students were divided into small groups and spent the day rotating through the hands-on activities which included Rainfall Simulation, Stream Trailer, Web of Life, Color Scavenger Hunt, Run for Your Life, Quail CSI, Soils, Prairie Ecosystems, and Macroinvertebrate investigation.

Thanks so much to our dedicated "Expedition Team" that includes chapter members who have volunteered year after year for this big event (some for 11+ years dating back to LANDS events) as well as brand new chapter members who are in this year's training class.

Here's the team: Abigail Wright, Amanda Jones, Betty Scardino, Bill Fisher, Chris Morrison, Chuck Babb, Cindy McMorrان, Daniel Lewis, Debra Healy, Donna Mueller, Frank Michel, Georgia Canfield, Jaci Elliott, Jacquie Pritchard, Jim Kelley, John Gardner, John Pritchard, Jon Watkins, Judy Deaton, Karen Gardner, Kathy Lewman, Ken English, Laura Smith, Lori Buffum, Maria Dahlberg, Marsha Carden, Mike Schumann, Nita Tiemann, Robert Mott, Sheri Wilcox, and Tim Brooking.



## Brazos River Clean-Up: Meet Our Project Leads

Contributed by Nancy Dunnahoe (Class of 2024)

On Saturday, April 5, a team of experienced canoeists and river protectors will put in at Hwy 71 and float to Beason's Crossing Park on our first journey along the Columbus Paddling Trail on the Colorado River.

Our mission: to collect as much trash as we see on the waterway.

According to Texas Parks and Wildlife, a merry band of naturalist paddlers might spot egrets, flycatchers, herons, hawks, ibis, killdeer and even a Roseate Spoonbill. Tree enthusiasts can also observe Bald Cypress, Box Elder, Cottonwood, Sycamore, and Willow.

I sat down with our chapter's river cleanup project leads to learn more about the trial run and plans to protect new areas on the Brazos River.

"The goal is to use this first trial run as a learning tool," Project Lead Chuck Babb explained. "We'll take this experience to the team so we can set us up for success in later runs with a larger team of TMN volunteers," Co-Lead Tayvis Dunnahoe added. They expect to organize dual river cleanups on a quarterly basis pending weather and river conditions, so there will be more opportunities to join this effort regardless of paddling experience.

### **What made you want to get more involved in river cleanups?**

**Chuck:** I guess it all started with seeing the "Don't Be a Litterbug!" ad when I was young. Then, as I got into paddling a canoe on the water more, I saw many of our scenic places were just awful. So, I would pick up as much litter as I could. I always encourage people to pick up at least three pieces of trash every time they go out on the water or anywhere they see it, and it will help! Don't be a litterbug!

**Tayvis:** The Brazos and Colorado rivers play an important role in both the history and the ecology of Texas. Having spent some time on both, part of the fun is immersing yourself along the banks of these rivers and nothing takes you out of that more than spotting litter. These rivers are worth protecting, and removing any amount of trash is a step in the right direction.

### **You both recently did a trial run of the Colorado to create a float plan. What did you see and find?**

**Chuck:** We saw a lot of trash at the put-in access under the bridge that can be picked up without even getting on the river. There were debris piles caused by floods that had trash and were hard to get to without possibly capsizing the canoe. We need to be aware of not putting ourselves danger. One large gravel beach/bar had small trash scattered on it. Tayvis and I picked up a broken plastic doghouse there. Also, many larger pieces of scrap metal were in the river. Just before the takeout is an old railroad trestle that has fallen into the river. It's been there for years—too difficult to remove.

**Tayvis:** Our scouting trip along the scenic loop was highly active with fish, turtles, deer, and an abundance of waterfowl. Unfortunately, there's also no shortage of litter for a larger group to tackle on the next run.

### **What do you hope to achieve by starting a quarterly cleanup?**

**Chuck:** I would like to see the Gideon Lincecum TMN Chapter have not only a Highway Trash Cleanup Project, but also a River Trash Cleanup Project. Together, we are helping "Keep Texas Beautiful," and as Willie Nelson reminded us in his 1989 campaign for our state, "Don't Mess with Texas!"

**Tayvis:** For me, it's about raising awareness. A lot of the time, small litter becomes an "out of sight, out of mind" matter and because the trash that collects along a river's bank is often unseen, it accumulates with

time. My hope is that actively working to pick up even a short run of a river puts it in people's minds to handle their trash with a bit more care. A river is a vital resource that we should all engage in protecting. Get in touch with Chuck and Tayvis to learn more about the project or share your own experience about paddling and protecting Texas rivers.

**Chuck Babb** is a Certified TMN with the Gideon Lincecum Chapter (GLC-TMN Class of 2020) who can scout his way around any Texas waterway. With 40 years of experience organizing canoe and paddlesports events with Boy Scouts of America, Chuck is a certified canoe instructor through the American Canoe Association (ACA) and American Red Cross. He also holds advanced water safety, rescue, and medical certifications as a Level 4 Swiftwater Rescue instructor and Wilderness First Responder.

Recreationally, Chuck has paddled rivers throughout the U.S., including five major rivers in Texas: the Brazos, Colorado, Frio, San Marcos, and Medina rivers. He is an active member of the Arkansas Canoe Club where he conducts canoe and kayak instruction while navigating the Buffalo National River in Northern Arkansas, America's first river to receive this national designation. You can find Chuck kayaking, fishing and lending a hand with beach cleanups along the Gulf Coast, on Matagorda Bay or Bolivar Peninsula Beach.

**Tayvis Dunnahoe** is a GLC-TMN graduate of the Class of 2024. Growing up along the Brazos near Waco, he was inspired at a young age after reading John Graves' *Goodbye to a River*. He has spent decades since traversing sections of the Brazos, Colorado, and Trinity rivers as well as many of the Texas streams and tributaries that feed them. Tayvis's favorite stream, Tehuacana Creek, which flows into the Trinity River, inspired his lifelong fascination with fossils and ancient artifacts. As a former editor and professional writer for trade publications in Houston, Tayvis is now a proud solitary bee steward in Austin County. He also is a member of the South Central Texas Prescribed Burn Association, helping to restore Texas's native grasslands and prairies.



*Chuck balances the find of the day — a castaway doghouse*



*Tayvis grabs the first iconic item of the trip — a Whataburger cup!*

## Community Partnerships

### Girl Scout Jr. Troop Tree Badge Program



By Wanda Anglin

Troop 1568, parents, and co-presenters from the Columbus Garden Club and Bluebonnet Master Gardeners joined me in creating and sharing a Tree Program for their 4th grade girls to earn their tree badge. The scouts were from Austin and Colorado counties.

A Columbus Garden Club member organized and led the agenda at this program that covered a wide variety of topics about trees. The girls attentively listened to a Texas Master Volunteer Entomology Specialist from Bluebonnet Master Gardeners (and President of the Columbus Garden Club) talk about how trees support insects, other wildlife, and humans. She included the health benefits of being around trees. I was invited to talk about parts of the tree. Some were easy (leaves, trunk) and some new terminology (crown, canopy). I also introduced the concept of mycorrhizae and the fungal network's role in plant growth and health as well as how trees can communicate through the hundreds- or thousands-of-miles-long of network beneath the trees.



Then on to a hands-on Citizen Science activity learning to measure the diameter of trees per standard base height rules of modern day science and arboriculture. Did you know that you measure 4.5 feet from the ground rather than the base of the trunk? Measuring with calipers was demonstrated followed by using tools that everyone has: string and measuring tape to get perimeter then convert to diameter. It was challenging for them to handle a tape measure and get the string level around 30+ year old trees, but they stuck to it, each team of girls working together to measure four separate trees. By the last one, they were able to do the entire exercise without prompting from me or another adult, though giggling seemed to be a prerequisite to task completion.

A Columbus Garden Club member used cuts from a large pine tree to demonstrate how to count rings to determine age (we discovered it to be 26 years old). She and I talked with them about the cambium layer just under the bark being the part that delivered nutrients and water to the tree from the roots. And about how the wood itself is not alive, but more like your nails or hair growing from a specific point on your body. In this case, the cambium. And finally, we talked about why the rings of trees are different sizes (in warm, wet years, the trees put on more girth, in colder, dry years, less growth happens).

After reciting the Girl Scout Tree Promise pledge, each scout received a badge.

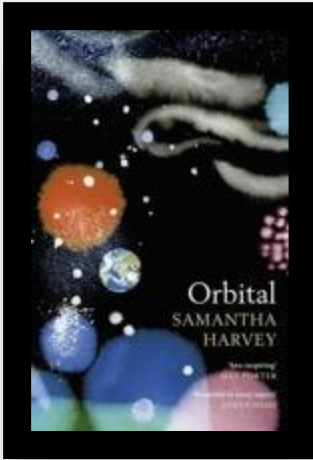
#### THE GIRL SCOUT TREE PROMISE

I promise to be a friend to every tree,  
just like they're a friend to me  
I will plant and protect them through and  
through  
with the help of my loyal Girl Scout crew  
Besides being beautiful, there's more to see;  
or climate change, they hold a key  
They fill our lungs with cleaner air;  
it's our responsibility to care  
That's why I'll advocate for every tree  
Because I need them, and they need me



## Book Review

Contributed by Connie Shortes



High above Earth, six people share nine months aboard the International Space Station – two Russian cosmonauts and four astronauts from America, Italy, Japan, and Britain. As they hurtle through space at seventeen and a half thousand miles an hour, witnessing sixteen sunrises and sunsets each day, their story unfolds not as science fiction but as a love song to our planet.

The book tenderly portrays these four men and two women adapting to life in orbit, where the effects of weightlessness reveal how completely we've evolved for Earth. Their time in space will shorten their lives, their bodies battling the frozen, radioactive vacuum outside their metallic shelter. As Harvey observes, "all beings are living in life-support machines commonly called bodies and all of these will fail eventually."

Earth, itself a spaceship, emerges as the main character, captured in Harvey's intense, poetic descriptions of oceans, rivers, plains, and mountains seen from orbit. Yet this celestial perspective also reveals our planet's wounds: red algal blooms staining the Atlantic, glaciers in retreat, fires burning in the Amazon. One astronaut ponders whether "man's lust for space is curiosity or ingratitude" – a question that haunts this masterful meditation on our relationship with our cosmic home. This book inspired awe and gratitude in me as it sings with love for this planet.

## Wild Things

### What is that? A Different Forb in the Pasture and a Botany Lesson

By Carol Gaskamp



I recently noticed a plant in one section of my pasture that I hadn't seen before. It was short with small, light purple-blue tubular flowers along a thick pale stalk. Using *iNaturalist*, I identified the plant as Dwarf Sorrel Broomrape or *Phelipanche nana*. Since it was new to me, I checked into it further and learned that it is a parasitic plant. Much to my dismay, I also learned that it is on the Texas Invasives species list as Hemp Broomrape (*Orobancha ramosa* or *Phelipanche ramosa*). The pictures of the dwarf sorrel broomrape and hemp broomrape look similar. So, which one is it and does it matter?

A January 2020 entry in *iNatForum* presented ways to differentiate the various genera of *Phelipanche* as they are often misidentified, and once again, I learned how much I don't know about plant morphology and vocabulary to even begin to differentiate the types of broomrapes. However, since hemp broomrape is considered a noxious weed, I will treat this plant as though it is hemp broomrape and pull them up before they spread much further.

## Citizen Science Opportunities

### Time to Restore Texas

The Time to Restore Texas project was introduced to chapter members attending the March 2025 meeting. David Gwin, Texas Coordinator for Time to Restore, provided training on identifying plant phenology and how to record observations in the Nature's Notebook app. If you missed the meeting, check out the resources and get involved by visiting the [National Phenology Network website](#).

### City Nature Challenge – April 25

Lori Buffum, our chapter's iNaturalist superuser, is promoting GLC members' participation in the City Nature Challenge. According to the iNaturalist website, "The CNC is a four-day bioblitz held every April. Cities around the world compete and collaborate to find species, make observations, and connect people with nature in urban areas. It started in 2016 as a friendly contest between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Since then, it has grown into an international event, with 690 cities and nearly 2,000 local organizers participating last year."

How to participate in the City Challenge:

- Join either a local city or global challenge – Houston, Austin, and College Station/Brazos Valley are all on the [participating cities list](#).
- **April 25-28:** Make observations.
- **April 29-May 4:** Upload observations and help with identifications.

See the [iNaturalist website](#) for more information.

### Brazos River Cleanup & Campout – May 16-19



For more information and registration, go to <https://txmn.org/rbc/brazos-river-cleanup-2025/>

## Calendar Highlights

### Volunteers Needed!

**April 26 Burton Cotton Gin Festival:** Contact [Ken English](#) for more information and volunteer opportunities.

**April 27 Earth Day Outreach at Monument Hill:** Contact [Karen Woods](#) for more information or to volunteer.

Training and orientation to the nature walk with Daniel Lewis, April 15, at 9 am.

**May 3 Honey Bee Jubilee in New Ulm:** Contact [Ken English](#) to volunteer at our booth.

**May 9 Giddings ISD 4th grade on-campus wildlife day:** Volunteers needed for various stations. Contact [Karen Gardner](#) for more information or to volunteer.

For other events, see the Event Calendar at <https://txmn.org/glc/events/month/2024-12/>

### GLC Tidings Newsletter Index

<https://txmn.org/glc/whats-new/newsletters/>

Find information about articles for newsletter issues from 2018 through the most recent. For each article, the index cites the subject, title, and author, and links directly to the issue published on the chapter website.

## State Information



### April 8 Virtual Volunteer Fair

The [Virtual Volunteer Fair](#) will be an opportunity for our partner conservation organizations to present volunteer service projects that need volunteers from a distance or virtually! Save the date and plan to join us on **Tuesday April 8, 2025**, for this series of project presentations showcasing opportunities from across the state and across the spectrum of natural resource topics.

[Register here](#)



### May TMN Tuesday

**May 13, 12-1 PM**

Topic TBA

[Register Here](#)



### TMN License Plate - 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/>

# Chapter Resources

## Officers for 2024-2025

President – [Sheri Wilcox](#)

Vice President – [Swee Leng Rapatz](#)

Secretary – [Betty Scardino](#)

Treasurer – [Karen Dean](#)

## Board Members

Advanced Training Director – [Swee Leng Rapatz](#)

Communications Director – [Lori Buffum](#)

Marketing Director – [Ken English](#)

Membership Director – [Chris Morrison](#)

Training Class Director – [Connie Shortes](#)

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 – [Carol Gaskamp](#)

Website Editor – Sheri Wilcox

Grants and Donations Chair – open

## Volunteer Project Leaders

Adopt-a-Highway – Jaci Elliott

Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR – Susan Vanderworth

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

Schubert House Pollinator Project – Karen Woods

Stephen F. Austin State Park – B.R. & Charlene Koehler

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

Winedale Trails and Pollinator Garden – CJ Claverie and  
Carey Soderstrom

## 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 <mailto:TMN@LISTSERV.TAMU.EDU> [LISTSERV - Subscription Management - LISTSERV.TAMU.EDU](#)

## Contact Us

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