

The GLC Tidings

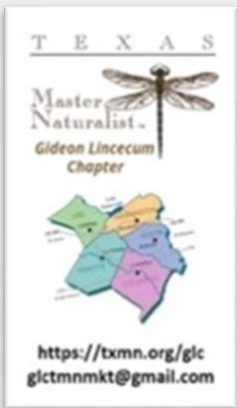
AUGUST 2025

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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

I am delighted to begin this month's message with the news that our GLC Texas Waters Group has been recognized by the Brazos Valley Council of Governments with an Environmental Management and Planning Award under the category of Environmental or Conservation Stewardship. Under the able direction of Chuck Babb and Tayvis Dunnahoe, our group collected approximately 1621 pounds of trash from the area surrounding the Highway 105 bridge over the Brazos River on May 21, 2025. Every piece of trash collected is one more item that does not end up entangling our native wildlife or spoiling our coastline and the Gulf of Mexico.



(Continued)

Newsletter Entry Deadlines
1st day of even Months
 Send articles or photos to
glcnwsltr@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE
 Board Meeting – Aug 29
 Chapter Meeting – Sep 20

While we wait out the searing heat of summer from our air-conditioned living spaces, now is a great time to get in some advanced training hours. Our Vice President Swee Leng Rapatz has been sending information on many in-person and virtual training opportunities coming up in the next few months, culminating with our own TMN annual meeting in College Station on October 16-19, 2025.

The Lee County Wildlife Expo was a great success with presentations on a variety of topics, including those from our own chapter members:

- Tom Shaughnessy speaking on native bees,
- Jeff Post and Karen McClure debuting a new presentation on attracting bats, and
- Lori Buffum and Sheri Wilcox describing how to design a native pollinator habitat. [picture of Lori speaking included]



Our partner organizations have some noteworthy programs in the next few weeks. I encourage you to consider attending those you are able.

- August 15 – Steve Nelle will be speaking about his new book, *Lessons from Leopold*, at the Washington County Wildlife Society annual fundraiser. Steve is a long-time Texas conservationist. Many of you may be acquainted with his work on riparian restoration.
- August 21 – The La Bahia chapter of the Native Plant Society is hosting Dr. Will Godwin, who will be speaking about the unique Hidalgo Falls area of the Brazos River north of Washington-on-the-Brazos.
- August 22 – The Fayette Prairie Chapter of the Native Prairies Association of Texas is hosting a workshop titled Five Tools of Prairie Restoration, which will give attendees another opportunity to learn how to apply Aldo Leopold’s five tools.

I have been reading Steve Nelle’s book in advance of his talk at the Washington County Wildlife Society meeting. It is a series of short essays, so I find myself carrying it with me to enjoy during those otherwise tedious moments of waiting that occur throughout our days. One theme that comes through in many of the essays is that land stewardship is an experiment unique to each tract of land and the land steward who cares for it. I am sure I am not alone in believing that the list of things I would like to do will always outrun the list of things I have time to do. So how do we choose? My battle with Johnson grass continues, and probably always will as long as birds fly and creeks run, bringing new seeds with them. But we have had some successes in beating it back. I hope that this fall will bring the prescribed fire that didn’t materialize last winter because the weather conditions never aligned. Clearing out the accumulated thatch will open the ground to the sunlight needed for new growth. For now, what I am choosing is subtraction, removing hindrances to give nature the opportunity to heal the land. I think Steve Nelle would approve. His book is full of nuggets. Here is how he ends an essay called *The Basic Skill*:

It is a high calling to faithfully carry out long-term stewardship responsibilities on a piece of land. For some, it is a life’s work. The work is complex and challenging but also rewarding, personally satisfying, and beneficial to society. May each of us resolve to hone our skills, fortify our efforts, and focus our minds on the goal of taking good care of Texas.

Until I next see each of you, I wish you success in your own land stewardship experiment.

From the Vice President



Swee Leng Rapatz

The August Board Meeting is scheduled for August 29, and the location will be announced on our website. All members are welcome.

The September 20 Chapter Meeting AT component will be presented by John Ferguson, retired owner of Nature's Way Resources. John will be sharing his soil knowledge and personal experience in planting more than a hundred trees on his property in our eco-region. Read about John and his accomplishments on our website.

Notable August ATs:

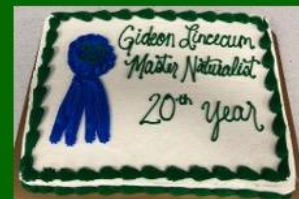
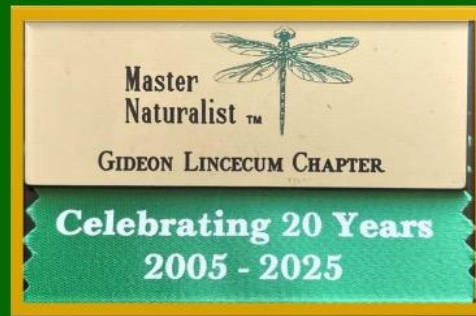
1. Registration is open for the Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP) Level 1 offered by the La Bahia and Bastrop Native Plant Society (NPSOT) Chapters. The class fills up quickly, so register early even though it is scheduled on October 25. Registration details at [NLCPRegistration](#)
2. Register for the South Central Prescribed Burn Association's 4-days hands-on Prescribed Burn Training on August 15, 16, September 5 and 6; details at [PrescribeBurnSchool](#)
3. The Five Tools of Prairie Restoration, offered by NPAT on August 22 will cover all the tools needed for prairie restorations; details at [NPAT5Tools](#)

July Chapter Meeting Highlights



David & Lori Hessel moderated a panel discussion with the Texas Parks & Wildlife wildlife biologists assigned to our 5-county area.

TMN –GLC 20TH ANNIVERSARY KICKOFF



Sheri Wilcox shared some early history of the GLC chapter:

- First training class started on April 16, 2005. The class met monthly, ending April 1, 2006. Twelve trainees began the classes, though not all finished. (After this class, it was decided to shorten the training classes to the present 12-week format).
- Original chapters were Austin, Colorado, Fayette and Washington; Lee County was added in 2008
- Early chapter projects included outdoor education for Brenham ISD (BISD) 5th & 6th graders; assisting with BISD summer camp; clearing trails at Monument Hill and assisting at the Monument Hill Festival of Lights held in December; assisting a Washington County wildlife biologist to distribute clover balls
- In 2005, 9 members logged 595.25 volunteer hours and 171 AT hours

Put a ribbon on your badge: The chapter is helping us all celebrate our 20th year with bright green ribbons to add to our name badges. The ribbons were available at the July chapter meeting so many folks are already sporting them proudly. Get yours at the September chapter meeting or contact President Sheri Wilcox.

Membership Memo



Chris Morrison, Membership Director

Congratulations to the following whose award pins were announced at the July 19 chapter meeting.

Initial Certification Green Dragonfly Pin: Jacque and John Pritchard



Roadrunner 2025 Recertification Pins:

Georgia Canfield
John Gardner
Carol Gaskamp
Donna Mueller
B. Koehler

Charlene Koehler
Karen McClure,
Tom Scanio
Betty Scardino
Connie Shortes

Nita Tiemann
Belinda Weatherly
James Weatherly.

Milestone pins awarded for all-time volunteer hours:

250 hour Bronze Dragonfly: Trey Granger

2,500 hour Polished Silver Dragonfly: Betsy Palkowsky

Things to Note:

Want to know how many hours you have logged? Click on “View Your Log Book” on the Dashboard of your VMS account.

1. Notice that you can choose the **range of dates** to look at by changing the dates on the upper right side of the page. Want to see your all-time hours? Put Jan 1 of the year you joined] through today as your date range. To

see only this year's hours, it will default to Jan 1 of this year through today, or if you've been looking at some other date range, change it back manually to see this year only.

2. When looking at a certain entry, the third column, "approval status," will always say 0 for a TMN member. That's TPWD's approval, not ours, but it isn't clear by the title. To see your hours for that entry, you need to keep scrolling to the right until you come to the column "TMN Hours".
3. Log Book entries are **displayed by the opportunity title**. For example, all your Administrative Work entries will be together, all AT: Chapter Program will be together, all Educational Group Presentation, etc. The **totals** of all approved volunteer, AT, and Initial Training hours will be shown at the bottom of the page; scroll down to it.

Thank you for continuing to record your hours. Yes, it takes a bit of time, but every approved volunteer hour that you log is worth over \$23.00 to our sponsoring agencies. Please contact me if you have any questions. 713-254-9558 GLCTMNmbr@gmail.com.

TMN Annual Meeting

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING
REGISTRATION**

EARLY BIRD
FULL EVENT: \$480
TWO DAY (FRI & SAT): \$455
ONE DAY (THUR, FRI OR SAT): \$305

STANDARD
FULL EVENT: \$530
TWO DAY (FRI & SAT): \$505
ONE DAY (THUR, FRI OR SAT): \$355

MEALS
GUEST MEALS: \$400
AWARDS DINNER: \$85

OPEN NOW!

EARLY BIRD: Ends August 31
STANDARD: Ends September 30

FULL EVENT: Includes all sessions, events and meals (Thur. to Sun.) for the entire conference.
TWO DAYS: Includes all sessions, events and meals on Fri. and Sat.
ONE DAY: Includes all sessions, events and meals on either Thur., Fri. OR Sat.
GUEST MEALS: Includes meals ONLY (Thur. to Sun.) for the entire conference.
AWARDS DINNER: Includes meal ticket for Sat. night's dinner ONLY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING, VISIT:
[TXMN.TAMU.EDU/2025-ANNUAL-MEETING](https://txmn.tamu.edu/2025-annual-meeting/)

For more information see <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2025-annual-meeting/>

Member Profile

Meet Jim and Belinda Weatherly, Class of 2006



We learned of the program from a flyer at the Kerrville Arboretum and knew immediately this was what we were looking for.

Belinda is a retired oncology nurse, and Jim spent his career in land development in Houston. We have a son and daughter and six grandchildren. Always volunteering, Jim has been on over 50 mission trips and Belinda has served as chair of several committees for their Houston church.

We were fortunate to be able to purchase remnant Blackland Prairie acreage in Austin County about 20 years ago and have loved learning about it and watching the animals, sunrises, and sunsets.

Our favorite things about being members of TMN are the opportunities to continue learning and being around other likeminded people who love the 'weeds' and 'bugs'.

One or both of us have participated in Monument Hill projects, Burton Cotton Gin Festival, Indian Creek cleanup, Stephen F Austin State Park Pollinator Garden, Winedale Pollinator Garden, assisted with prescribed burns, facilitated a training, class, Brenham ISD Outdoor Classroom, Nest Watch, CoCoRaHS, construction of blue bird houses for speakers and other things.

For our favorite critters, Jim likes bluebirds and Belinda likes spiders.

All of Texas is beautiful so we don't have a favorite spot unless you say whichever part of the natural world we are in at the time. We love Palo Duro Canyon, West Texas, the Big Thicket, Padre Island, Rockport, the Frio River and any prairie.

Community Partnerships

Meet 4H Water Ambassador Lukas Islet, the newest member of the GLC Waters Group

Lukas Iselt, a Giddings High School freshman and member of 4-H since 2019, has joined our Chapter's Waters Group as a 4-H Water Ambassador. He has been assisting members Sheril Smith and Georgia Canfield with the monitoring of the Middle Yegua Creek in Lee County.



Lukas with Georgia Canfield

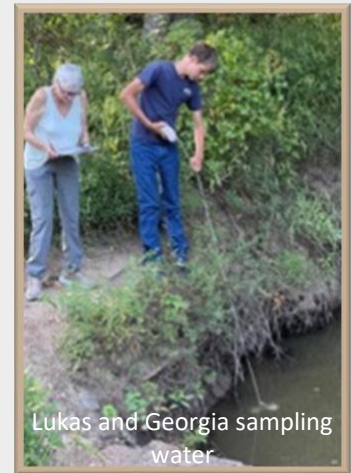
Lukas became a 4-H Water Ambassador after participating in a week-long training program entitled Tier I 4-H H2O Leadership Academy. This involved travel in Texas from Austin to Lubbock, Dumas and ending in Fort Worth. As a participant, he visited many water districts across Texas. Lukas's participation in this program is sponsored by Texas AgriLife-Lee County and Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District.

He also completed the Texas Stream Team Standard Core Monitoring training, the same course GLC Waters group members attended in San Marcos.

In addition, Lukas also learned about riparian restoration along the San Marcos River, geographic information systems and mapping, and well as an overview of Texas water law. Other subjects he was educated about were water storage treatment and infrastructure, and the importance of protecting Texas's largest aquifer, the Ogallala, along with the aquifer's history and the changes to the aquifer that have taken place.

As a 4-H Water Ambassador, Lukas will take part in educating the public, especially young people, about water conservation. In addition to his Water Ambassador responsibilities, he participates in 4-H Wildlife Competitions and is Treasurer of the Lee County Chapter.

Lukas's family is from Lee County where he has lived most of his life. In addition to 4-H, he enjoys fishing, hunting, basketball and shows market broilers at County livestock shows in Houston and Austin.



Lukas and Georgia sampling water

We are happy that he has joined us and look forward to learning from and working with him.

Wild Things: Hawk Tales



From Louie Sellers

About a month ago, I was sitting in a rocking chair on my front porch in downtown Round Top, enjoying the mild weather. I heard something clicking against wood over my right shoulder. Not knowing what made the unexpected sound, I turned my head very slowly to find a large Red Tailed hawk looking at me from about 8 feet away. The sound was the bird's talons clicking on the on the porch rail.

Did you ever notice how large and sharp hawk's beaks are? I felt like prey. I slipped my telephone out of my pocket and shot a couple of photographs from the hip. He watched me for about 90 seconds, then flew away. Having a wild predator watch me from 8 feet away put my body into a special state of alertness until the beautiful bird left. It was a rare and special experience.

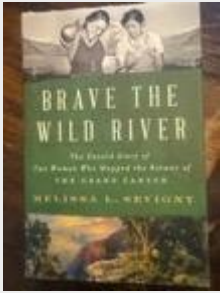


From Jon Watkins

Here is a red-shoulder hawk sitting in a tree at our place. The photo was captured by Liz Watkins during her summer break from Texas State.

Book Review

Book review from Frank Michel



BRAVE THE RIVER WILD: The Untold Story of Two Women Who Mapped the Botany of The Grand Canyon by MELISSA L. SEVIGNY.

In one of my past lives as a docent at the New Mexico Museum of Art & History, I was captivated by at least a small part of the history of the Entrada of the Conquistador Francisco Vasquez de Coronado. While he marched through New Mexico searching for the legendary Seven Cities of Gold, his scouting parties were dispatched throughout the Southwest.

One party, led by Garcia Lopez de Cardenas, guided by Hopi Indians, were the first recorded Europeans to lay eyes upon the Grand Canyon. At first, observing the mighty Colorado River deep at the bottom of the Canyon, Cardenas and his men could not grasp the scale of it, and dismissed the river so far below as but a mere stream six feet across. Later, they would realize the immensity of their miscalculation when a few men tried unsuccessfully to descend into the canyon.

That story and several visits to the Grand Canyon over many years have admittedly made me somewhat of a canyon nerd.

It is from that perspective that I recently read — and now recommend — a book with the self-descriptive title, *BRAVE THE WILD RIVER: The Untold Story of Two Women Who Mapped the Botany of the Grand Canyon* by Melissa L. Sevigny. One does not have to be a nerd, however, to enjoy this read.

The book is almost equal parts, adventure story, history manuscript, botany field guide, and social commentary about the role women have pioneered in science.

The two women, botanists Elzada Clover (no, really) and Lois Jotter, set off to run the Colorado River through the Canyon and to map its plant life. They were accompanied by a zoologist and two amateur boatmen on what turned out to be an epic adventure that, in the days before Internet and social media, captured the country's attention.

Science journalist Sevigny has mined the letters and diaries of the two women and other source material to spin this yarn for us. As the book jacket describes, "Along the way, they were chased by a runaway boat, ran the river's most fearsome rapids, and turned the harshest critic of female river runners into an ally."

The science they extracted from the journey included several new species of plants and would one day become vital for efforts to protect and restore the Colorado River ecosystem.

Another reviewer of this tale, author Allison Hawthorne Deming, wrote that it, “redefines the Grand Canyon not as a testing ground for masculine virility but as proving ground for women’s tenacity and intelligence. Filled with adventure and fresh seeing, it makes a superb contribution to literature of the American West.”

It is a fun and interesting read and, as Coronado’s men so long ago discovered, it’s worth a deeper look.

Calendar Highlights



Calendar link: <https://txmn.org/glc/events/>

As announced at the chapter meeting, check your email for information on workdays etc. as the calendar app continues to be re-developed.

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

Online Webinar Speaker Series
#TMNTuesdays
August 2025
"Combatting Chronic Wasting Disease through Citizen Science"
with
J Hunter Reed, DVM, MPH
TPWD Senior Wildlife Veterinarian

Noon
August 12, 2025

[Register Here](#)

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 - open

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

Brenham ISD Outdoor Education – Lori Buffum

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

River Cleanups – Chuck Babb & Tayvis Dunnahoe

San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site – Frank

Michel

Schubert House Pollinator Project – Karen Woods

Stephen F. Austin State Park – B.R. and Charlene

Koehler

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site – Julie

Itz and David Itz

Watershed and Waterway Protection Water

Monitoring – Wanda Anglin

Winedale Trails and Pollinator Garden – 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](#)

Contact Us

Address: 1305 East Blue Bell Rd Ste 104, Brenham, TX 77833

Telephone 979-277-6212

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://listserv.tamu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=TMN&A=1>

