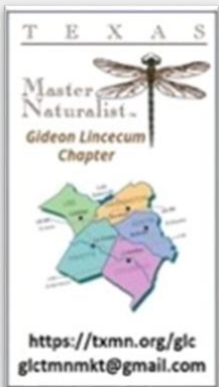


The GLC Tidings

OCTOBER 2025

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Our Mission

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

Newsletter Entry Deadlines

1st day of even Months

Send articles or photos to
glcnwsltr@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

Board Meeting – Oct 31
Chapter Meeting – Nov 15

From the President



Sheri Wilcox

It was a pleasure to see many of you at our September chapter meeting. John Ferguson's presentation on native trees was very timely as fall is considered the best time to plant trees in our area. One of my personal favorites is our native bur oak tree. I laughed at Kathleen Graham's post to our Facebook page describing the bur oak's enormous acorns as nature's Legos. I have been nursing several small bur oaks that I would like to get planted this fall but have been holding off until we get some rain. I enjoyed continuing our recollections from the early years of our chapter as part of our 20th anniversary celebration. Following up on our profile of Belinda and Jim Weatherly in the August newsletter, we will continue to feature some of our long-term members in upcoming newsletters. Look in this issue for my interview with Judy Deaton, a member of the Class of 2008.

Fall always brings a flurry of events and a resurgence of enthusiasm for outdoor activities. We are still experiencing issues with our website chapter calendar, so please do watch your emails for upcoming events. All our pollinator habitats will need some refreshing after the hot, dry summer. The project leaders for those venues will appreciate your assistance at their monthly workdays.

Our educational calendar was kicked off this week with 10 of our members volunteering at the TPWD Youth Firearms and Safety Training held at Nails Creek.



Nita Tiemann at Firearms Safety Training

School tours have restarted at San Felipe de Austin and, in lieu of our monthly nature walk, we are planning a special Nature Creep Show for Halloween on October 25 and 26 at 2:00 p.m. We also will host an outreach booth at the Father of Texas event on November 1, 2025. Our Texas Waters Group will be hosting a clean-up of our new Adopt-a-Highway route in Columbus on Wednesday, November 5, 2025. We are collaborating with our neighboring Coastal Prairie TMN chapter to assist our friends at the Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR. Workdays for that project are scheduled every Friday from 8:00-11:00 a.m. These are just a few of the many volunteer opportunities available. I hope everyone will find the one or many that bring you joy.

One thing bringing me joy now is spending time working on our property near Washington-on-the-Brazos. The optimist in me insists that the mornings and evenings are slightly cooler and that better weather is on the way. My list of projects seems to grow with the prospect of better weather. One idea from Steve Nelle's book, *Lessons from Leopold*, that really resonates with me is the idea that stewardship is not synonymous with wildlife management practices. We are in our second year of wildlife management valuation and so, practices must be completed. Bluebird boxes were put up and monitored (check this one off the list), deer and bird census was completed (check), cut stump treatment of Chinese tallow is underway (check), and so on. But, as Steve stresses throughout his book, stewardship is much more than mechanically applying practices from a list. It is studying and listening to the land. You may laugh, but I truly believe that my hayfield, now corrupted by my nemesis Johnsongrass, is telling me that it really wants to be a field filled with eastern gamagrass, Maximilian sunflower, and other beautiful native grasses and forbs. So, I continue to ponder and experiment. Mow those invaders. Spot spray others. Fill in with native seeds and plants. Plan a prescribed burn to open some bare soil. And so it goes. Steve Nelle, in my favorite line in his book, says, "A little bit of mad scientist blood flows in the veins of most landowners"

Until next time, I wish all of you fellow mad scientists success in your experiments in land stewardship.

From the Vice President



Swee Leng Rapatz

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for October 31, and the location will be announced on our website. All members are welcome.

The November 15 Chapter Meeting will be held at the Lake Somerville State Park – Nail's Creek Unit Pavillion located at 6280 FM 180, Ledbetter, TX 78946 in Lee County. The State Park fees will be waived for our Chapter. The AT portion will be announced. For members who could stay after the meeting and have a bring-your-own picnic lunch, we could walk one of the trails and use iNaturalist to identify both native and invasive plants. This will help with the Park's maintenance plans. The plant ID walk can qualify for Volunteer Hours.

Membership Memo



Chris Morrison, Membership Director

Are you going to the **TMN Annual Meeting** later this month?

- Any session you attend is logged as “AT: TMN State Meeting Advanced Training”.
- Put all sessions you attend on the same day in one entry under that date. Description will include at least the topic of each session – you don’t have to put the entire title. Include the presenter’s last name if it fits.
- Volunteering to help with registration or facilitating or something else? Log that as “Administrative Work / State Meeting”. No travel time is added.

Other info –

- If you participated in the **survey** recently sent by Michelle Haggarty, you may count .25 hours volunteer time using Administrative Work, subcategory State Office Project.
- Need more AT hours? **TMN Tuesday** programs happen monthly and may be watched live or as recordings. BUT – they must be 2025 programs to be counted. You may log a recording on the date you watched it but put the date of the broadcast in your description.

Congratulations to these members who earned their **2025 Recertification Roadrunner** pin at the September 20th meeting: Mark Brown, Peggy Cadenhead, Judy Deaton, Julie Itz, and John Pritchard. John earned his Initial Certification earlier this year, so this makes him double certified in 2025!

A **Bronze Dragonfly** pin was awarded to Wanda Anglin and Carey Soderstrom for 250 All-Time Volunteer Service hours.

As always, thank you for recording your hours. Each volunteer hour is worth over \$23 in grants to our sponsoring agencies Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

TMN-GLC 20th ANNIVERSARY: Celebrating Long-time Members

As part of the ongoing celebration of the chapter's 20th anniversary, interviews with long-time members will be included in the newsletter. The August 2025 newsletter featured Jim and Belinda Weatherly, class of 2006, in the member profile. Sherri Wilcox interviewed Judith Deaton, class of 2008, for the October issue:



I recently had the pleasure of spending the morning with long-time chapter member Judy Deaton. Judy is the quintessential naturalist. Her interests are varied and her enthusiasm for all aspects of the natural world remains strong.

After graduating in 2008, Judy was recruited immediately to serve as the chapter's outreach leader. Over the next six years, through 2014, Judy traveled the five-county area recruiting new members. Back then, Judy reports, the chapter recruited mainly through in-person events, and she covered them all. One of her recruits was her husband Bill, who graciously volunteered to take the training a second time when Judy feared the class might not fill.

If you know Judy, you know that she likes bats. Over the years she has made it a mission to educate the public, especially children, about bats. She has bat puppets, bat posters, and other resources to replace fear with knowledge. Many of you know her through her leadership, along with Chuck Babb, of our bat monitoring project. The knowledge gained from this citizen science project will give conservationists the knowledge they need to make good conservation decisions to protect all, but especially those species that are threatened.



Bat Monitoring Project Team



Judy with Ann Ray at
Indian Creek

Another special interest of Judy's is invasive plants. She led the chapter's project at Festival Hill that targeted invasive species removal. Judy organized two Invaders of Texas workshops for chapter members, most recently in 2019. She continues the battle against invasive species at the Indian Creek Nature Trail. Judy has been involved at Indian Creek since the project's inception in 2008. Judy's husband Bill and project founder Carol Montgomery built the bridge over the creek in 2009. Now she supports the ongoing efforts, under Ann Ray's leadership, to rid the woods of ligustrum and other invasive species. If you have not visited this gem of a nature trail, it is worth a stop.

Another favorite project site was at Washington-on-the-Brazos, then a state park and now a historic site. Judy and Bill lived about a mile from the park for 10 years until Bill's death. Judy and her good friend Charlotte von Rosenberg, also a long-time GLC member, led nature walks at the state park. Judy was involved with the initial creation of the pollinator habitat at the park.

When asked about her favorite TMN activity, Judy replied, "teaching the kids." She has been a regular volunteer in a host of educational programs, including the Brenham outdoor classroom, nature programs at Lake Somerville State Park, leading tours of Indian Creek Nature Trail, and more.

After almost 20 years as an active Texas Master Naturalist, Judy points to the people and the fulfillment of working in nature as her motivators. "I love the camaraderie. I love knowing everyone. I love doing the work." We are blessed to have Judy as a member of our chapter.

New Member Profile

Meet Katie Tagliavia, Class of 2025



I grew up in various places along the eastern seaboard and gulf coast. Despite all our moves, my family has spent seven generations summering on a small island off Cape Cod. I am well versed in New England coastal plants and animals, but Texas is quite a different environment! I have a BS in Biology from Simmons College in Boston, MA, and a personal passion for Ethnobotany. After university, I followed another passion to fashion design school and subsequently spent the last 25 years in Retail! I owned a 2x winning "Best of Boston" maternity and infant store for 10 years followed by 15 years at Mattel running American Girl stores. After 30 years in Boston, I accepted a transfer to Houston in 2012 with American Girl. My grandfather was from Texas and my family fell in love with Texas. My daughter graduated from Texas A&M in 2020, and my son is currently a senior at The Massachusetts Maritime Academy. My daughter married a young man whose parents were from Lee County and Fayette County in 2019! We bought property in Dime Box in 2023, and I began to learn about being a Texas Landowner. We recently welcomed our first grandson in 2024, and I currently work for Junk Gypsy in Round Top, TX.

Why did you pick TMN as an organization to volunteer with?

I first met some TMN Volunteers at the Hummingbird Festival at Kleb Woods in Tomball in 2022. In 2024, I enrolled in a fall workshop hosted by the AgriLife Extension office in Giddings. I was interested in learning all I could about our new land and the different plants and wildlife that came with it. I met Swee Leng Rapatz at that event and she signed me up for the TMN newsletters! She also included me on distribution lists for all the workshops and happenings! I was hooked and finally had weekends available, so I signed up in 2024!

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What TMN Projects are you involved with: (list current projects you are working on or new projects you are excited to explore)

I have participated at a few educational events such as the Washington County Ag Fair Day. My background with juveniles and events along with my early biology education make this an ideal environment that I am comfortable with. I also have volunteered at the Winedale Pollinator Garden and hope to also get involved in Burton at the Indian Creek Nature Area.

Favorite thing about being a Texas Master Naturalist:

My favorite thing about being a TMN is the continued educational experiences and opportunities! I have a passion for learning and love learning about new plants and animals and the relationship and uses of those species. This program really pulls together an impressive array of resources and educators to share their knowledge and expertise in a genuine desire to grow a collective respect for the land. I also feel an ethical obligation to become the best steward of our small piece of Texas!

Favorite critter (or plant, insect, herp, fish, bird...):

I have always loved hummingbirds. Their sound, speed, and colors are fascinating. I currently have about eight regulars on my feeders. I also like to collect insects that I find: beetles, scorpions, dragonflies. I also have a thing about collecting cicada molts by year! In the plant world, I am currently training all the wild muscadine grapevines on my property and learning how to differentiate the grasses and trees.

Favorite place in Texas:

I'm a fashion and antiques gal, so Round Top has always been at the top of my list! I also enjoy the regular trip to Galveston. It's hard to keep a coastal soul in the country for too long!

Favorite big trips:

In 2021, my husband and I travelled to Rio De Janeiro in Brazil. It was amazing. I spent a day at the Botanical Gardens and was lucky enough to see Toucans! And an amazing orchidarium!

In 2023, I walked the Camino De Santiago along the Portuguese Coastal Route from Porto to Santiago and it was a very intimate way to visit a country. The way the villages cultivated the land along with forests of Eucalyptus trees and foxglove were unforgettable.

GLC Projects



New Adopt-a-Highway Site

By Wanda Anglin

Adopt-a-Highway History

Adopt-a-Highway (AAH) all started in our Lone Star State. In 1963, James R. "Bobby" Evans, a young engineer in the San Angelo District, was in charge of showing an educational film to civic organizations and schools in the area. The film, "Money to Burn," illustrated the harms of littering along the highway. It struck a chord with Evans, but the litter along Texas roads indicated the public was not impressed...yet.

After 21 years of thinking about this problem, in 1984 Evans, now the Tyler District Engineer, was driving through Tyler when he observed debris blowing out of a pickup truck's bed. Annoyed by the carelessness and aware that the cost of picking up litter was increasing at an annual rate of 15-20%, he challenged a local group to "adopt" a section of highway. Though the challenge went unanswered, the idea was born.

Evans discussed his ideas with Billy Black, Public Information Officer for TxDOT's Tyler District, asking Billy to take the lead as the Department's spokesperson. Black was responsible for implementing the initial concept well as its operations. Creating a quarterly cleanup cycle for each adopting organization, furnishing volunteer safety training and equipment, and erecting the now well-known Adopt-a-Highway roadside signs that recognize adopters were Black's responsibilities.

On March 9, 1985, the Tyler Civitan Club became the first group to adopt a two-mile stretch of US Highway 69 between Loop 323 and I-20. Within months, 50+ groups in the region – garden clubs and scouting groups among them – joined the program, which would blanket Texas and spread nationwide. Today, international Adopt-a-Highway Day is on March 9th!

Successful public-private partnerships within Adopt-a-Highway today involve 90,000+ groups in 49 states, Puerto Rico, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Japan. Interesting fact: Vermont is the lone outlier without an Adopt-a-Highway program, but has a similar, but unique, procedure for waste removal called "Green Up." It focuses on one day a year of clean-up but offers educational and civic awareness to not throw trash out in the first place.

If you enjoy reading about people who made big impacts with small ideas, check out Mr. Evans' (1935-2023) obituary [<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/dfw/name/james-evans-obituary?id=40888613>] and a proclamation that the Texas Legislature prepared for his family [<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/88R/billtext/html/SR00288I.htm>].

Our New AAH Site

In June, our chapter adopted a new site in Columbus, TX. It is on the north side of Columbus, where U.S. Business 71 crosses the Colorado River. Note this is also a Water Quality Monitoring site for our chapter and the water testers pick up trash monthly for about an hour. If interested in joining them, contact Wanda Anglin, 713 628 6545, wanda.anglin@hotmail.com, to get added to the email that goes out.

Adopting this site was not easy because it is unusual...AAH usually does not adopt bridges. Jaci Elliott, an AAH chapter project lead and Wanda began working with TxDOT to adopt the site. After being told that bridges were not adopted, they did not give up because there is a boat launch below the bridge with an expansive paved parking lot that draws dozens of fishing families, kayakers and canoers, boaters, and locals taking a lunch break in the shade of the bridge. This constant stream of visitors and the winds jostling trash from truck beds as they cross the bridge create a lot of trash right by the river.

Wanda took pictures and wrote descriptions to help TxDOT understand that this was no ordinary bridge and how it was a magnet for trash destined to become flotsam and jetsam on the way to the Gulf. The adoption request was referred to the TxDOT District leadership for a decision. After a couple of months, the request was approved! Wanda will be our project leader for that new site.

Since then, the TMN GLC website has been updated with new AAH site information on the Volunteer Opportunities page: <https://txmn.org/glc/members-section/gideon-lincecum-chapter-volunteer-opportunities/adopt-a-highway/>. Water testers and those interested trash pickup are welcome to show up to pick up trash anytime. Jaci Elliott, Jacquie Pritchard, and John Pritchard have come out two or three times with Wanda to pick up trash. In fact, though not an official AAH site, the areas under the bridge

have been picked up by TMN GLC members since August 2025. Since adoption in June, the small groups doing monthly trash pickups during water quality monitoring sessions have been able to clean up the entire new Columbus AAH, over and under the bridge and down to the railroad tracks.

The TMN GLC contributions are reported to TxDOT after each cleanup session.

Update: The Ruttersville AAH Site

Jaci Elliott will be restarting volunteer service days quarterly to pick up trash on our AAH site on State Highway 159 from the edge of Ruttersville continuing two miles toward La Grange. It was paused for a while due to roadway construction. Watch for announcements and calendar events.

Google Group emails will go out for all chapter-wide volunteer pickup days, and the schedule will be on the TMN GLC website calendar. Let Wanda know if you are interested in being notified when the water testing days are scheduled as anyone is welcome to come out to observe testing and/or pick up trash.

Interested in Water Quality Testing?

By Wanda Anglin

Are you or someone you know interested in water quality? Anyone can be a water quality tester. What's required?

You must be a certified Standard Core water quality tester. Standard Core testing involves performing tests for parameters such as conductivity, dissolved oxygen, pH, total depth, water and air temperature, and water transparency using a chemical Standard Core kit. Texas Stream Team instructors conduct the 5-6 hour training course to certify new water quality testers. Once certified, you are qualified to test for Texas Stream Team and other watershed organizations such as Colorado River Watch Network of the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). The training class is free of charge.

TMN GLC has a waitlist form to enable you or someone you know to sign up for a future Standard Core training class. To get on the waitlist, visit <https://tinyurl.com/water-testing-waitlist>. Anyone waitlisted will be notified via email when a new class is scheduled. The bigger the waitlist, the sooner we will schedule a new class. Note that each person should individually register, so that we have a reliable count of the number of people interested, which can influence scheduling a new class.

The waitlist form has an introduction section with a lot more information such as access to test kits and alternatives to waiting for a TMN GLC class to form. Questions? Email wanda.anglin@hotmail.com.

This training is available to anyone, not just TMN GLC members. So please share this waitlist form with individuals or organizations that may want to become involved in water quality testing.



LaGrange AgriLife Native Plant Project

By Cindy Rodibaugh

The La Grange AgriLife Native Plant project has matured. The yaupon and redbud trees that flank each end of the bed have developed nicely. The Texas sage, esperanza, and beautyberry between them have also tripled in size. The sage is almost as tall as the yaupon.



The switchgrass grew more rapidly than I expected requiring a severe cutback last month. The bush under the redbud is white mistflower. It was only supposed to get 2-3 feet tall. We must have gotten the giant variety! It wants to get up into the tree! It provides a great place for cats to hide—I have been startled by a sudden exit of a cat running out from under it.

We have a scheduled workday on the third Tuesday of each month. At the August clean-up, the crew was excited to find several monarch caterpillars on the volunteer milkweed at the edge of the landscape bed near the Turk's cap and yaupon.



Caterpillars on Milkweed



On our September workday we found more evidence of wildlife. We had attempted to fill this hole previously but apparently the dweller didn't like his habitat disturbed. I'm impressed by how the critter has so eloquently fashioned the weed cloth as an awning for the entrance. I hope to see the critter that lives here someday.

I always look forward to the camaraderie with the volunteers that help maintain this project and am grateful for their expertise.

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The Master Gardeners that maintain the bed on the other side of the entrance to the building share our workday and are a great source of identifying volunteer plants and helping us understand how to care for the existing plants. I have been known to be too eager or aggressive in trimming.

Observing the plants in the project has helped me think about what plants are low-maintenance and which plants I would like to have in the landscape around my home.

Community Partnerships



Texas Native Seeds: Evaluation and Seed Collection Volunteering

By David Hessel

David and Lori Hessel are the contacts for volunteer projects at their 3H Ranch. Please contact them if interested in volunteering (david@threehranch.com or lorievanshessel@gmail.com)

David is sharing the following information from Hayden Taylor, Assistant Director of the Texas Native Seeds Program, Coastal Prairies Region for the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute.

[Texas Native Seeds](#) is a non-profit research and development program dedicated to the restoration of native grasslands. Critical for wildlife habitat, these grasslands are one of the most overlooked ecosystems in our state as far as assistance goes. Creating a seed source to restore these grasslands is the main challenge as it is simply not readily available to conduct on a large scale. Through collections, evaluations, and production, our program requires large amounts of time and manpower. By volunteering in the Coastal Prairies, region Hayden can dedicate time to further create the seed source to restore these grasslands.

Two ongoing projects are available for GLC member volunteers.

Evaluation Volunteering

The Texas Native Seeds evaluation trials at the 3H Ranch in Weimar, TX, have been established for 2025 and volunteer help is wanted to keep these trials clean and productive. For more information, contact either David Hessel or Mr. Hayden Taylor at hayden.taylor@tamuk.edu

Seed Collection Volunteering

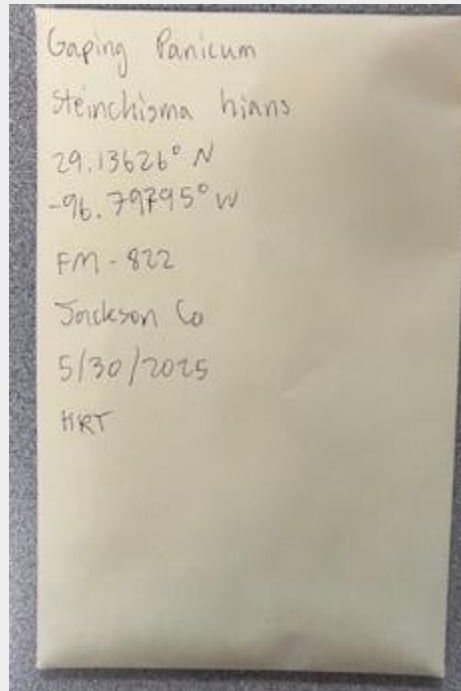
In addition to volunteer work maintaining evaluations, assistance is needed with native plant seed collection. The protocol for native plant variety development is typically three different populations per county to move forward with an evaluation. With Mr. Taylor's region covering most of the Texas coast, acquiring seed on time from every county can be very challenging. Essentially, any native plant seed collection will be helpful. Download a [list of plants of interest](#) for the Coastal Prairies. However, the project will take anything native with ripe seed.

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Envelopes for seed collection are available from Mr. Hayden.

When collecting seeds, include the following information on the envelope:

- Plant common name
- Plant scientific / botanical name
- GPS location
- County and location in county
- Date collected
- Collector's name or initials



From Marvelyn Granger, an invitation to participate in a research study:

Cinthy Veintimilla M., a Ph.D. student in Rangeland, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management at Texas A&M University, is looking to interview landowners who have moved from an urban area to a ranch or rural property within the last 10 years, regardless of property size.

These interviews are part of her dissertation and a broader project aimed at studying how landowners collaborate to improve wildlife habitat and address land fragmentation.

If you or someone you know fits this description and is interested in sharing your experience, please reach out to Cinthy Veintimilla M. directly at cveintimilla@tamu.edu.



Harvesting Little Bluestem at the Tanglewood Prairie

By Nancy Dunnahoe (TMN Class 2024)

“Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) is the ongoing accumulation of knowledge, practice and belief about relationships between living beings in a specific ecosystem that is acquired by Indigenous People over hundreds or thousands of years through direct contact with the environment, handed down through generations, and used for life-sustaining ways. This knowledge includes the relationships between people, plants, animals, natural phenomena, landscapes, and timing of events for activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping, agriculture, and forestry. It encompasses the world view of a people, which includes ecology, spirituality, human and animal relationships, and more.” – National Park Service

In *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*, author Robin Wall Kimmerer, a plant ecologist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, urges us to view the natural world and our relationship with land through the lens of gift-giving. To Tribes and Indigenous Peoples, being in relation to the land is acknowledging the interwoven connection between human beings, nature, and community. The Native-held perspective is that plants, animals, and land are not resources to exploit but rather our relatives to take care of, just as they take care of and sustain us.

Putting this ancient wisdom into practice, a group of volunteers joined Derek Ross, a member of the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Waco, Tawakoni, and Keechi) on the last weekend in September to harvest little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) at the Tanglewood Prairie in Lee County, Texas. The group also included members from Baylor University’s student chapter of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science (SACNAS).



This restored post oak savannah pocket prairie is owned by the Texas Land Conservancy with a conservation easement held by Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT). The preserve is situated along U.S. 77 south and might be easy to miss from the highway if not for the abundance of silver-stranded tall grasses waving in the South Central Texas breeze.

The grass harvest is part of a monumental project to construct the first traditional Wichita/Waco Grass House built in Texas since the Tribe’s removal in August 1859. It will be displayed at the Mayborn Museum Complex at Baylor University, where Ross is the Indigenous Scholar in Residence and Cultural Preservation Board Member, to share the cultural story of the Waco Tribe.

According to Ross, traditional Waco grass homes are made from cedar, willow, and little bluestem. The project began with harvesting cedar poles in Oklahoma for the inner frame, followed by the gathering of little bluestem from NPAT’s conserved prairie.



Our process during the harvest was methodical: cut bunches of tall grass at the root, rake off excess, and bundle for future use in Waco.

Finding my own rhythm of wading through the tall grass as I carried these sacred bundles to the trailer was a kind of meditation—and brought me closer to my own heritage as a descendant of Indigenous ancestors.

Prior to contact with non-Indigenous people in 1541, the Waco Tribe numbered more than 200,000. Today, the Tribe is represented by 3,863 members in Anadarko, Oklahoma, Ross shared.

In addition to little bluestem, visitors to Tanglewood Prairie can observe brownseed paspalum grass, maroon gaillardia, pinweed, lazy-daisy, hog croton, spotted beebalm, mock bishop, soft golden aster, and camphor golden aster, among dozens of other grasses and forb species. Within the woodland area of these 31 acres of preserved post oak savanna are Texas black hickory, blackjack oak, American elm and American beautyberry.

At less than 1% remaining, Texas's native prairies are imperiled, crucial ecosystems that help maintain healthy soils, diverse wildlife, and pollinators. As demonstrated during this landmark grass harvest, they are also sacred sites that hold cultural significance for Indigenous knowledge and traditional ecological practices.

Preserving these traditions and learning from the teachings of elders is universally understood to be good medicine, and I'm grateful to the Fayette Prairie Chapter of NPAT, the Texas Land Conservancy, Derek Ross, and SACNAS for the opportunity to participate in this restorative community experience.



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.

Texas Pollinator BioBlitz October 10-26, 2025

Find and photograph pollinator and nectar-producing plants, and upload photos to iNaturalist, Facebook, Instagram or Twitter

For more information and to register, see [Texas Pollinator BioBlitz](#)

GLC website training application is now live.

The direct link to "Join Us" is <https://txmn.org/glc/becoming-a-master-naturalist/>

Once people read the basic information on that page, they can click to the online application.

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

Ken English shared the following information about an AgriLife Extension program: If you have ever wanted to learn about, or learn more about, the **key laws, regulations, and liability issues around rural land ownership**, this is the program for you! Tiffany Lashmet, the presenter, is the Agricultural Law Attorney for the AgriLife Extension Service and is extremely well versed in all issues related to rural land ownership. While we might not want to get into a deep dive on legal issue, better to be prepared than sorry.

This in-person program will be held on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Brazos County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office at 4153 County Park Court, Bryan, Texas 77802. The cost is \$75.00 per attendee (Registration

link: https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=841530&fbclid=IwY2xjawLGiqllleHRuA2FlbQlXMAbicmlkETEwcHJQdlAwVzdmVUpnb2laAR41KSZIsLlwy57Uv3zps3FfdaomTDK3eZ5IJA_7izxvHc-r_JjdKLeqxsEHQ_aem_5G8bCrgMndlle3a1WlCa1A).

If you can't make her program, you can download her program book from the website at <https://agrilife.org/texasaglaw/files/2022/02/Owning-Your-Piece-of-Texas.pdf>.

TMN TUESDAY: 7 PM FRIDAY OCTOBER 17, 2025

Friday night keynote presentation broadcast **live** from the annual meeting

From Passion to Profession: The Unexpected Power of Volunteering with the Texas Master Naturalists
Speakers: Sam Kieschnick, Lauren Young and Jill Zipperer

Many join the Texas Master Naturalist program to learn about nature, give back to their community, or find a new hobby- but for some, the program is the start of a life-changing journey. This panel features three Texas Master Naturalists whose volunteer experiences transformed their personal and professional paths in unexpected ways. From launching new careers in conservation to returning to school, their stories highlight how volunteering can exceed expectations and open doors to new opportunities.

Learn how these everyday volunteers used their time in the program to forge connections, build confidence, and grow as leaders. Ideal for current and prospective TMNs, audience members will have the opportunity to hear personal stories, engage in a Q&A with the panelists, and gain practical insight and inspiration into how to craft their own journey. In doing so, they may discover that when you give your time and energy to nature, it often gives back in deeply rewarding ways.

[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](https://listserv.tamu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=TMN&A=1)

