

The GLC Tidings

April 2026

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NEWSLETTER ENTRY DEADLINE

First day of even Months
Please email articles and photos to:

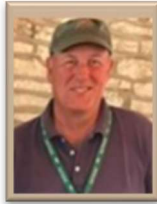
glcnwsltr@gmail.com

OUR MISSION

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

SAVE THE DATE

Board Meeting – April 24
Chapter Meeting – May 16



From Our President

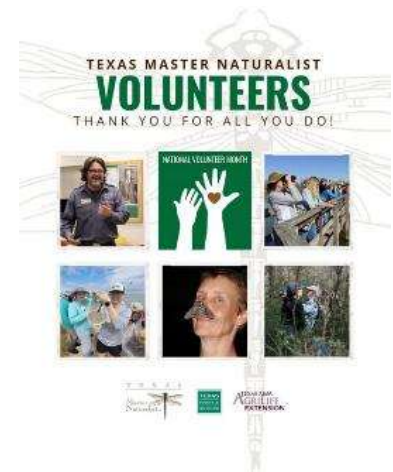
Jeff Post

Washington County

April 19 to 25, 2026, is National Volunteer Week. A week we recognize volunteers from around the nation for their contributions to our communities, including the over 7,000 hours by our own Gideon Lincecum Chapter members in 2025. Volunteerism is at the core of being a Texas Master Naturalist. Thanks for all the volunteer work you have done and continue to do.

During this month I challenge you to try participating in one of the many volunteer opportunities that you may not have tried in the past. Our list of volunteer opportunities is extensive. The Communications and Volunteer Projects Committees have been working hard to update the project descriptions on our website. Be sure to check out the Volunteer Opportunities and the Events Calendar pages for ideas and information.

One type of volunteer opportunity is to help with the Chapter administration by serving on one of the board committees. We have several standing committees that assist board members with their duties. Everyone is probably aware of the Training Committee that does a great job each year helping Connie Shortes put together the new member sessions. We also have committees for Volunteer Service Projects, Membership, Education and others. If you think you might be interested in working with any of these committees, reach out to the respective board members. We currently need an additional member for the Volunteer Service Projects committee. This committee evaluates any potential new projects and helps with supporting our existing projects. If you think you might be interested, contact Jaci Elliott for additional information.





From Our Vice President

Wanda Anglin

Colorado County

Chapter Meetings and Programs

Many thanks to fellow TMN GLC members who make suggestions for chapter program topics and speakers. Ideas are always welcome...send your ideas to glcvpres@gmail.com.

Invite friends and family to our Gideon Lincecum Chapter programs. The programs and meetings are always free and open to the public. They are held at various locations throughout our five counties (Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Lee, and Washington) usually at 9:30 am, sometimes at 10am, on the third Saturday of odd-numbered months (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov).

May Chapter Meeting and Program

Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 9:30am

Fayette County Agrilife Extension Building, 255 Svoboda Lane, La Grange, TX 78945

- 9:30am - Business Meeting
- 10:30am - Advanced Training Program: 5 presentations from TMN GLC Class of 2026 on a variety of topics that have inspired them to research and share.
- Following the presentations, we will celebrate the achievements of our 2026 TMN GLC Class as they graduate! There will be cake!



July Chapter Meeting and Program

Saturday, July 18, 2026; please NOTE 10 am START TIME

Brenham Public Library (Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library), 100 Martin Luther King Jr Pkwy, Brenham, TX 77833



- 10:00am - Business Meeting
- 11:00am - AT Program: **Soil Systems Analysis & Diagnosis by Erik Fritz** founder and director of Edapho, a soil systems analysis and diagnostics firm focused on understanding soil as a living, functional system. Erik will offer insight into what goes on under the soil surface and how we can take actions to promote improved soil function. Bring your questions about your soil problems!

Next Board Meeting: Friday 4/24/26, at 9:30 am, at Gideon Lincecum Cabin, 5355 Longpoint Rd, Burton, TX 77835.

All chapter members are welcome to attend Board Meetings. TMN GLC Board Meetings are typically the last Friday of even numbered months (Feb, Apr, Jun, etc.) at 9:30am. Meeting locations change monthly and dates and times are occasionally rescheduled, so check the chapter calendar on the website to confirm. Board meetings are usually about 2 hours long.



Membership Director

Chris Morrison
Fayette County

Membership Memo - Logging your hours on the VMS

Everyone should be using the new *eRecruiter* (VMS) to post their logbook entries at: https://tpwd.samaritan.com/custom/1353/volunteer_login If you make a mistake, logbook entries can now be deleted by the volunteer for "Not Yet Approved" entries. Look on your logbook (Report Your Service) page for the teeny-tiny **red** trash can next to "edit" under each entry.

As always. . . please be very specific when entering hours in VMS to make sure all hours will be valid for government grants. When recording hours, "**Describe your service**" calls for a **VERB** in your response! Volunteer service or attending an AT presentation is an **ACTION**, but we also need to know what you **DID**.

Examples – **Attended** a presentation; **wrote** an article; **planted** native plants; **cut down** ligustrum; **burned** a pasture; **taught** a lesson; **advised** my Buddy; **counted** birds; **created** an activity; **pruned** to open up a trail; **showed** children how to make pine cone feeders; **removed** dead plants; **gathered** seeds; **collected** data; **reported** data; **planned** a meeting; **used** iNaturalist to identify an unknown plant; **talked to** attendees about TMN/our chapter; **demonstrated** how to do an insect sweep; **assisted** with skins and skulls presentation; **proofread** the newsletter before publication; **dug up** gamma grass from a freeway widening site to replant in Elder Prairie; etc., etc.

After specifically describing what you **DID**, finish the entry with as many details as possible. Unless it's included in the opportunity title, tell **WHERE** you did it, report **WHO** sponsored it or gave the presentation, and explain **WHY** you did it now, if it's preparation for a future event. For Citizen Science type entries, always say you **REPORTED THE DATA**, and to whom, if it's not included in the opportunity title.

Thank you so much for logging your hours and trying hard to do them correctly. My goal is for every one of the GLC volunteer hours we log to be acceptable to the auditors so they will count towards government grants. AT hours logged help to keep those programs returning, so log them even if you've already put in your 8 for recertification.

Awards - Congratulations to those who earned awards at the March 21, 2026 meeting:

Initial Certification: Kathleen Graham and Laura Smith

2026 Recertification Bobcat pin: Wanda Anglin, Ken English, Jeff Post, Karen McClure, Jacquie Pritchard, John Pritchard, Ann Ray, Jon Watkins, Krystyna Westfield, and Sheri Wilcox

250 All-Time Volunteer Hours: Karen McClure, Jeff Post, and John Pritchard

500 All-Time Volunteer Hours: Wanda Anglin and Denise Turner

2,500 All-Time Volunteer Hours: Chris Morrison

4,000 All-Time Volunteer Hours: Lori Buffum! She is only the second person to ever receive this award in our chapter. Her pin and certificate will be presented at the TMN Annual Meeting in Waco this October.





Lori Buffum
Austin County

Communications Committee

Springing into Action – It’s Field Day Season for Master Naturalists

Friday March 27: Bring 150 kids out to a ranch, mix with 25 volunteers, set up 6 nature activity learning stations and what have you got? Giddings 5th Grade Field Day at the Parker Ranch, a grand day for learning about fishing, quail habitat, insects, watersheds, rainwater, bird diversity, and journaling about nature. Thanks to the wonderful TMNGLC team for making the day so successful.



(For lots more pictures of this day and many more interesting posts about TMN related activities and subjects, see our chapter Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TMNGideonLinsecumChapter>)

Youth Education Events Coming Up

Join us for more field day fun at one (or more) of these upcoming volunteer service days as we work with kids to educate them (and ourselves) about the natural world around us.

April 30 – Giddings 4th grade field day (8 am to 12 noon) on campus.

May 6 – Brenham 7th grade field day (8 am to 3 pm) at the Kolkhorst Ranch.

May 13 – Washington County AG Day at the Fairgrounds in Brenham (8 am to 3 pm). We play Bingo/Scavenger Hunt INSIDE!

Lori Buffum is the volunteer coordinator for these events so contact her for more information and to sign up.





GLC Volunteers are Pictured on Facebook

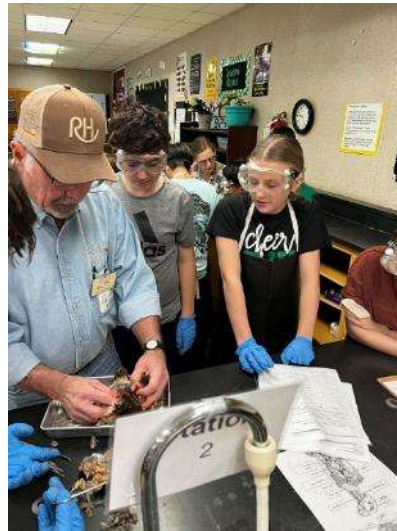
Cheryl Noland
Washington County

April 19-25 is National Volunteer Week, part of National Volunteer Month 2026!

Texas Master Naturalists with the Gideon Lincecum chapter have thousands of reasons to be proud of our service to the TMN mission over the 20 years since the chapter began. Just last year, we logged more than 7,500 hours of volunteer service to the program, worth more than \$176,000 to our sponsoring agencies.



Feb 5 - Gama Grass Rescue off I-10.



Feb 12 - Brenham ISD 7th graders Quail Necropsy



February 13 & March 13 - Sprucing up Gideon Lincecum Arboretum Loop Trail at Winedale





March 19 – Indian Creek Trail Workday



March 19 - Wanda Anglin bryophyte project



March 20 - Working with Friends of Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge



March 27 - Brenham Chick-fil-A's "Kid's Nature Night"

Citizen Science Opportunity - City Nature Challenge Begins April 24

Here is an iNaturalist project we can all participate in to earn volunteer service hours. Texas City Nature Challenge 2026 runs from Friday, April 24 at midnight through midnight Monday, April 27.

Just a quick tip: If your observations fall under the umbrella of either Houston-Galveston or Austin, your observations will be automatically included. If your observations will be outside of those territories, join the Global project. Refer to the chapter website event calendar for all the details. Learn more at

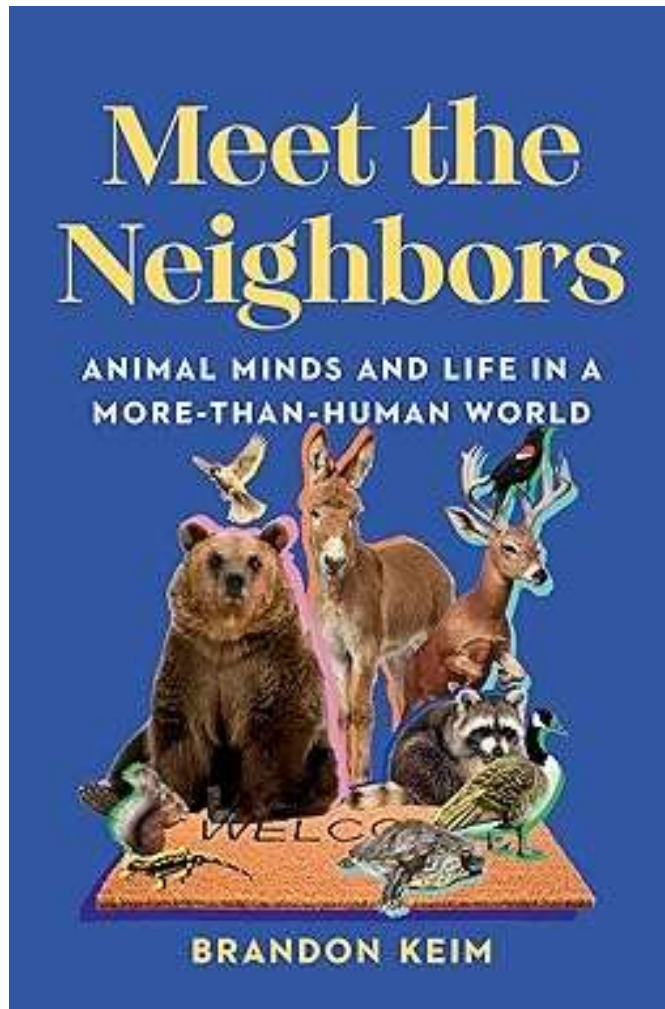
https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/texas_nature_trackers/naturechallenge/





Lori Buffum
Austin County

Book Review



Meet the Neighbors: Animal Minds and Life in a More-than-Human World

by Brandon Keim

“What does the science of animal intelligence mean for how we understand and live with the wild creatures around us?”

As master naturalists, we are already attuned to a kinship with living things in our environment and we already grapple with the many conflicts that arise between humans and wild creatures. For me, this book opened my mind (and my heart) as the author personalized the history and the current state of many of those conflicts by introducing us to individual animals:

- A bumblebee without wings
- An elephant in a zoo
- A female coyote on the edge of an urban neighborhood
- A cormorant with a deformed beak
- An injured racoon

- A gaggle of geese
- A very smart rat
- And many more

By giving “the neighbors” their own stories in the context of diverse human endeavors like pest control, species conservation, wildlife management, animal husbandry, ranching, farming, hunting, ecology, indigenous families and more, the author touched on the difficulties of defining who is a legitimate member of our animal family. At different times in history and in different cultures or societal groups, certain animals may be either reviled or revered (and everything in between).

I learned lots of fascinating details about the many species of animals the author profiled and was both heartened and heartbroken about the situations he described when human animals and nonhuman animals inhabit a shared territory. I enjoyed this as an audio book since the narration gave me an extra sense of a personal relationship with the author.

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. **Carol Gaskamp** interviewed Charlotte Von Rosenberg, class of 2008, for this issue.



Charolotte Von Rosenberg with Pepper

Charlotte and her husband Bill moved from Travis County to Washington County in 2006 to live on family land she inherited, the Quebe Farm, established in 1887. She learned about the Texas Master Naturalist program from extension agent Larry Pierce when she explored changing her land from ag exemption to wildlife exemption. She enrolled in the training class and found instant community, and long-time friendships with classmates Judy Deaton and Cindy Rodibaugh. And she was one of the first in Washington county to attain wildlife exemption status.

Prairies, prairie restoration, native grasses and wildlife management are her loves when it comes to master naturalist interests. Cattle have been off her pasture for 30 years, so she has watched the prairie recover and now finds a forest is growing on that land. She and Bill received awards for prairie restoration, including a Lone Star Land Steward award for the Blackland Prairie ecoregion in 2010, Wildlife Conservationist Award from the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District in 2013, and recognition in 2021 at a *Managing for Livestock Symposium* sponsored by AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife. Bill passed away suddenly in December 2025 and Charlotte plans to carry on with several projects they had begun for the outbuildings on the farm. And she continues to develop and maintain trails for prairie and riparian tours.

Early GLC chapter activities include being a Native Prairie Project leader and working with the greenhouse projects at Brenham High School and later at Blinn College for which members germinated seeds, grew and then sold the plants. Her most current GLC activity is hosting groups for prairie walks. Charlotte is also Secretary of the Washington County Wildlife Society.

Another of Charlotte's delights is using the old family farmhouse as a bed-and-breakfast or short-term rental. Some guests have been coming to her place for many years!

Watch the GLC event schedule for future prairie and riparian tours at Quebe Farm; you are in for a treat!

Prairie Walk at Quebe Farm. Photo by Carol Gaskamp



New Member Introductions



Krys Westfield – Class of 2025

My name is Krystyna (Krys) Westfield, and I serve as the Website Content Editor for our chapter, which is a fancy way of saying I spend a lot of time updating our chapter website and making sure the calendar is up to date. I joined the Texas Master Naturalist program in 2025, and you might have met me when I've volunteered for projects such as the Schumaker House, Washington on the Brazos, Stephen F Austin State Park, San Felipe de Austin, Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge, and the Indian Creek Nature Trail. I also enjoy a good citizen science project and try to attend most chapter meetings. I was a last-minute addition to the 2025 class of Texas Master Naturalists, squeaking in from the waiting list just a few weeks from the starting date.

I first discovered TMN in September 2024 while researching the Mill Creek Watershed for a field course tied to my environmental studies degree. The course project involved water testing, plant documentation, and a lot of extra research, which led me to the Mill Creek Watershed Partnership's Analee Epps. Epps recommended Texas Master Naturalists in her communication with me. After poking around the website, I realized that taking the TMN training classes would not only boost my science knowledge, but also give my future job prospects a much-needed experience upgrade.

During TMN training, I was juggling finishing my degree, working full-time as a special education paraprofessional in Brenham ISD, and helping manage life at home with my husband and our four kids. So, my volunteer hours were almost non-existent. Early in the year, I fretted that I didn't have much free time (especially on weekdays) to get my volunteer hours in. After switching to a more flexible role as a substitute teacher, I was finally able to jump in and get more involved. Around the same time, Lori Buffum, our lovely communications director, reached out and invited me to help out with the TMN website. At first, I worried that I wasn't doing enough "real" volunteer work if I wasn't out in the field, but I've come to realize that behind-the-scenes work is just as essential as time spent outdoors. It turned out to be the perfect fit, allowing me to contribute and log volunteer hours whenever I could carve out a little time.





One of my favorite things about TMN is just how much there is to learn. I log into webinars whenever I can and tend to absorb information like a sponge—especially when it comes to native plants. (If you’ve ever been on a walk with Sheri Wilcox, you know that’s a deep rabbit hole in the best possible way.) When I’m not volunteering or updating the website, my family and I love getting outdoors. We often travel with four kids, two dogs, and occasionally even the cat! We make a point to take a big camping trip every spring break - sometimes in a cabin, sometimes in an RV, and occasionally in a tent if we’re feeling ambitious. I enjoy sharing what I’ve learned along the trail, although my family might gently suggest that not every plant needs a full description.

So far, I’ve spent most of my volunteer time educating student groups at San Felipe de Austin, working at the Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge, and keeping our chapter website and calendar running smoothly. Each role has given me a different way to contribute, and I’ve genuinely enjoyed all of it. If there’s one thing I’ve learned so far, it’s that there are a lot of ways to be a Texas Master Naturalist, and not all of them involve being outdoors. Whether I’m in the field, behind a screen, or somewhere in between, I’m grateful for the chance to keep learning and contributing. I’m looking forward to whatever comes next (preferably with fewer calendar conflicts, haha).

Naturalist Notes



Attwater Acclimation Pen Construction and Rehab Project Krystyna Westfield – Washington County

Under the supervision of Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge staff, two Texas Master Naturalist chapters have been hard at work helping to spruce up acclimation pens. In anticipation of the arrival of captive-bred young birds later this year, volunteer workers answered the call for help.

As their name suggests, these large, protected pens are set up to help acclimate the birds to the area before being released into the refuge. This work is a critical step in the successful reintroduction of the endangered Attwater’s Prairie-Chicken. Acclimation pens are used for a “soft release,” allowing captive-bred birds to spend approximately two weeks adjusting to the sights, sounds, and weather conditions of the native prairie before full release onto the refuge. The pens are designed to be predator-proof and movable to reduce disease risk, and regular maintenance ensures they remain safe and effective.



Over multiple workdays, volunteers from both the Coastal Prairie and Gideon Lincecum Texas Master Naturalist chapters, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff, and refuge volunteers came together to repair netting, tighten paracord ceilings, patch holes, remove invasive plants, install predator deterrents such as electric fences and spikes, and reinforce fencing across several pens. Despite February-frozen fingers, sore knees, and plenty of time spent kneeling in what volunteer leader Jean Stipelcovich dubbed the “pray-ery,” spirits stayed high. Stipelcovich perfectly captured the attitude of crews who showed up ready to work, no matter the weather: “Frozen fingers – warm hearts!” Volunteers

participated in morning and/or afternoon shifts, building on one another’s progress with good humor, teamwork, and a shared sense of purpose. Pens were transformed, plans are in place for final adjustments, and most importantly, the refuge is ready to welcome the next generation of Attwater’s Prairie-Chickens.

Once a defining sound of the gulf coast prairie, the Attwater’s Prairie-Chicken has experienced a dramatic decline over the past century. “The sounds of male Attwater’s prairie-chickens could be heard throughout the gulf coast prairies of Texas and Louisiana in the early 1900s, when they numbered to about 1 million birds,” ([Tympanuchus Cupido Attwateri | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, n.d.](#)). Today, the species is found in only two Texas counties. Habitat loss and fragmentation, historic overhunting, invasive species, increasing vulnerability to predators and extreme weather have pushed the bird to the brink, leaving less than one percent of its original coastal prairie habitat intact and making every surviving bird critically important to the species’ future.

Established in 1972 near Eagle Lake, Texas, Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge plays a central role in the species’ recovery. Refuge staff have focused heavily on controlling red imported fire ants (identified as a major factor in chick mortality) beginning in 2014 ([Invasive Fire Ants Make Problems for Attwater’s Prairie Chicken | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 2017](#)). These efforts have paid off, leading to increased native insect populations and improved chick survival; between 2012 and 2016, the wild population increased from 48 to 130 birds. Protecting such a small population requires constant vigilance of the refuge staff to safeguard what remains of this rare and iconic prairie species.



Want to get your boots dusty or just your soul a little quieter? There are plenty of ways to connect with the work happening at [Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge](#). Texas Master Naturalist volunteers work on the refuge every Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and anyone is welcome to join in and lend a hand. Prefer to visit instead? The refuge is free to explore and open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays, November through May; from June through October, the visitor center is open Thursdays through Saturdays, with the same hours. Whether you hike the trails or drive the auto tour, you’ll find wide skies, wildflowers, and abundant wildlife – including more than 250 bird species that use the refuge throughout the year. Bring your binoculars, listen to the prairie, and take your time – because even if you don’t spot the rare Attwater’s Prairie-Chicken, you’ll leave with something just as valuable: a deeper appreciation for the wild prairie and the people working to protect it.



I Swanny! There really were swans in Texas. . .

Marcia Braun & "Gemini" – Fayette County

At our last chapter meeting the reading of Gideon Lincecum's descriptions about abundant wildlife in early Texas were impressive. Many of us in the audience were surprised to hear that there were 1000's of swans wintering along the Texas coast. It turns out that both Trumpeter and Tundra Swans used to be abundant in Texas. Here's a little bit of Swan history as follow-up. (This is a Gemini report.)

Historically, both **Trumpeter Swans** and **Tundra Swans** (formerly called Whistling Swans*) had a significant presence along the Gulf Coast, primarily as wintering residents. While today they are rare sightings in the region, historical accounts and archaeological data confirm they were once a staple of the Southern winter landscape.

1. Trumpeter Swans: A Lost Wintering Ground Before their near-extinction in the early 20th century, the [Trumpeter Swan](#) had a much broader migratory range than it does today.

- **Historical Range:** Records from the 19th century indicate that Trumpeter Swans migrated as far south as **Texas** and the **Gulf Coast** to spend their winters in ice-free waters.
- **Population Collapse:** Decades of unregulated hunting for their skins (used for powder puffs), feathers (for hats), and quills (for writing) decimated the population. By the 1930s, fewer than 100 birds were known to exist in the contiguous United States, effectively erasing their migratory tradition to the Gulf.
- **Restoration:** Modern conservation efforts have successfully increased their numbers, and "pioneer" birds are occasionally spotted again in [Arkansas and further south](#) as they attempt to reclaim their ancestral wintering grounds.

2. Tundra Swans: The Seasonal "Whistlers" The [Tundra Swan](#) is the most numerous native swan in North America and historically wintered along both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, with frequent incursions into the Gulf region.



- **Migration Patterns:** While the majority of the eastern population now winters in the Chesapeake Bay and North Carolina, historical accounts place them in coastal estuaries and freshwater lakes across the **Gulf South**.
- **Resilience:** Unlike the Trumpeter, the Tundra Swan was less affected by settlement because it breeds in the Arctic tundra. However, the [destruction of southern wetlands](#) has altered their traditional wintering distribution.

3. Cultural and Archaeological Evidence Native American Significance: Archaeological sites in the Mississippi Valley and Gulf region, such as the [Swan Lake Site](#) in Louisiana, highlight the long-standing presence of these birds. Swan bones found in Mississippian sites suggest they were used both for food and for **symbolic or ritual purposes**, such as feather fans or bone tools.

- **Audubon’s Observations:** John James Audubon famously documented the [Trumpeter Swan](#) in his journals, noting their presence in the lower Mississippi River Valley and surrounding areas during his travels in the early 1800s.

*Lewis and Clark named them Whistling Swans based on their wing noise, not their vocalizations.



Gamma Grass Rescue and Rehoming

Krystyna Westfield - Washington County



February 3-4, 2026, in collaboration with members of the Native Prairie Association of Texas (NPAT), TMN chapter members worked to rescue and rehome gamagrass ahead of annihilation via construction. When the news came that construction along I-10 was set to destroy a stand of gamagrass, NPAT was quick to act, and organized this project. Participants spent the first day harvesting gamagrass rhizomes in the Weimar area into large buckets and bags and readying them for

transport. On the second day, the gamagrass was planted in two separate areas of the 203-acre Elder Prairie near Chappell Hill.



Participating Texas Master Naturalist Gideon Lincecum chapter members included: Wanda Anglin, trainee Lisa Bexley, CJ Claverie, Marvelyn Granger, Trey Granger, trainee Pam Heard, Cindy McMorrان, John Prtichard, Jacquie Pritchard, Dottie Schoeneberg, Katie Tagliavia, and Krystyna Westfield. Everyone involved worked together seamlessly, getting right into the hard work of digging, hauling, and planting. The energy and cooperation made the two days fly by and showed what can happen when people care about the land. The leader of this project, Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT), is a non-profit land trust dedicated to the

conservation, restoration, and appreciation of native prairies, savannas, and other grasslands in Texas. Since 1986, they’ve been working to save and steward these special places in Texas. Today, NPAT protects 6,543 acres across the state, ensuring these landscapes remain a haven for diverse wildlife,

pollinators, and native plants. TMN member Marvelyn Granger also happens to be president of the Fayette Prairie Chapter of NPAT, which monitors all five of the TMN Gideon Lindecum chapter's counties (plus six additional surrounding counties).

We were lucky to have Dr. Lynn Loomis out there with our group for both days of the gamagrass rescue. A longtime soils scientist with deep roots in Texas land management and native plant ecology, Lynn was full of insights about gamagrass and the soils it loves, but what really stood out was how hands-on he was. He jumped right in with everyone else, digging, hauling, and replanting, all while happily sharing knowledge and encouragement along the way. A published scientist and award-winning educator, Lynn spent much of his career teaching at Sul Ross State University and brings over 30 years of ecological and soils expertise from his work with USDA-NRCS in the Big Bend region, along with his current work in rangeland restoration across Far West Texas.

If you're new to Texas Master Naturalists, you might be wondering why this rescue and rehoming project was so important. A large portion of the central United States was once covered in huge swaths of prairie. Unfortunately, due to agriculture production and some urbanization, less than 1% now remains of the original native prairies, making them one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world.



Gamagrass is a resilient native prairie species with a broad range across much of the central and eastern United States, extending into Mexico, the Caribbean, and parts of South America. Its deep roots help it survive drought, improve soil structure, and reduce erosion, allowing it to thrive in challenging environments like streambanks, bottomlands, wet prairies, and rocky sites. Gamagrass also provides valuable habitat and seed for ground-nesting and game birds, and it's a favorite forage for cattle, often affectionately called "cattle ice cream" because it's usually the first grass grazed.

Projects like this gamagrass rescue show how much impact a small group of committed people can have when they act quickly and work together. By saving plants that would have been lost and giving them a new home at Elder Prairie, TMN and NPAT members helped protect not just a species, but the living connections between soil, water, wildlife, and people that define our native prairies. In a state where so little prairie remains, efforts like these matter, and they remind us that conservation doesn't always happen on a grand scale; sometimes, it happens bucket by bucket, plant by plant, with dirty hands and a shared commitment to caring for the land. To learn more about NPAT and find out about future projects like this one, visit <https://texasprairie.org/>





A Poem and A Song

Jaci Elliott - Lavaca County

April is National Poetry Month, so I present *Solastalgia*. Philosopher Glenn Albrecht created this term to capture his feelings of remorse at the loss of one's environment due to things such as climate change, habitat loss, extractive natural resources practices, weather disasters, etc. While this condition describes an uncomfortable emotion, especially for those of us who count ourselves as naturalists, I hope that the last lines of my poem inspire a bit of positivity in these challenging times for both our wild and "civilized" worlds.

SOLASTALGIA

By Jaci Elliott

There's a new norm that I don't want to get used to
Where we can't take comfort from things we viewed through
Lenses that weren't always the brightest of rosy
At least there were moments when we could feel cozy
The diagnoses: SOLASTALGIA
Where we crave a vanished nostalgia
When peace of mind gets left behind
No whistleblowing now they've fouled ya'
These days the changes to the world aren't for the best
The constant barrage on nature, a failing test
To our misguided values of what really counts
Profits are prioritized in growing amounts
No solace in SOLASTALGIA
It pains us like Fibromyalgia
When calm and cool are not the rule
It feels like times have disemboweled ya'
The way to correct what has gone horribly wrong
Is to change the tune of this most discordant song
We must work in unison to find harmony
Within ourselves, out with our friends, as family
The remedy for SOLASTALGIA:
We can't just throw in our towels, nah
So we won't quit; we've found our grit
Let's face the moon with our howls, yah!
(Melodic howls)...



Embracing Succession

Carey Soderstrom – Washington County

Three years ago, within the span of a few months, I lost four huge, beautiful Post Oaks in my backyard. The first one was struck by lightning, and the other three were uprooted and fell over one at a time after standing in water when the creek at the back of my property overflowed its banks during a storm.

When I lamented the loss of my trees to a fellow Master Naturalist while volunteering at one of our workdays, he reminded me about “Ecological Succession,” and assured me that nature would eventually fill the void left by my trees in new and unexpected ways. Patience.

Today, the lightning-struck tree is a snag that houses woodpeckers and insects, provides a roost for vultures, and supports a variety of fungi and microbial life. My neighbors have harvested the wood from the other downed trees for firewood, and a hive of wild bees has made a home in one of the holes left in the ground where tree roots once grew. The trees left behind in the surrounding area are thriving in the increased sunlight, and there’s now room to plant new ones (or see what volunteers in the space).



Another type of succession has occurred in my life recently, placing me in the role of our family’s matriarch. This, too, is a kind of natural progression that will bring changes and opportunities that I hope to embrace fully after mourning the loss of roots and branches on my Family Tree.



Pollinator Pop Quiz

Laura Smith - Washington County

On March 7, 2026, my 16-year-old Texas Mountain Laurel (*Dermatophyllum secundiflorum*) was a purple and green haystack buzzing with life. Using my burgeoning naturalist skills, I attempted to identify all manner of pollinators. See if you can match these critters to their photos:

Blueberry Mason Bee (*Osmia ribifloris*)

Eastern Carpenter Bee (*Xylocopa virginica*)

Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*)

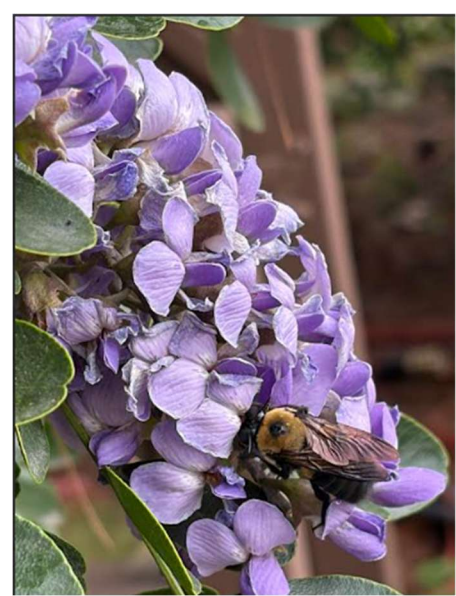
Mournful Thyris (*Pseudo thyris sepulchorlis*)

Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)

Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*)

Southern Carpenter Bee (*Xylocopa micans*)





Community Partnerships



GLC Waters Group

Wanda Anglin – Colorado County

Want to join our Team? Reach out to Water Quality Monitoring Project Lead, Wanda Anglin, wanda.anglin@hotmail.com. You can join our semi-monthly Waters Group Webex at 6 pm on second Tuesdays of odd months. Next Water Group meeting is Tuesday, May 19, 2026. Contact Sheri Wilcox, sheriawilcox@gmail.com to be added to the notification for the meetings.

Mill Creek Spring Stream Cleanup – Bellville Our Water Quality Monitoring Team has been invited to help plan, organize, and promote a Mill Creek cleanup. The public is invited to join this effort. **Event Details: Sat, 5/9/26, 9am, 2245 FM2429, Bellville, TX. Registration Required: <https://millcreek.tamu.edu/event/2026-spring-cleanup/> ONLY TMN GLC MEMBERS may participate in the in-water canoe cleanup portion due to safety and liability concerns. *If you would like to get on the list to be notified about the in-water portion of the project that will focus on tire removal, please contact Chuck Babb, gobcampinganywhere2012@hotmail.com, 979 277 5860.***



How to find AT/Volunteering Opportunities & Get Approved

Wanda Anglin - Colorado County

Every chapter member is automatically subscribed to TMNGLC Google Group, an email list that helps us all communicate important information to the entire chapter. Emails sent through the group are tagged TMN-GLC at the beginning of the Subject line and contain a footer identifying the source of the email. (<https://groups.google.com/g/tmnglc>). *(If you are overwhelmed by the number of emails you receive from TMN GLC Google Group, you can choose to get a daily email that summarizes all the emails for that day from that group. If you want instructions, on how to do this, email glcvpres@gmail.com).* You can also check the Chapter Events Calendar: <https://txmn.org/glc/events/> or our Facebook page to see event listings: facebook.com/groups/TMNGideonLincecumChapter.

Some of my fellow TMN GLC members are submitting AT requests to my personal email or the VP email. This can often result in delays as the TMN GLC AT Committee will not receive your request directly. **HERE'S THE OFFICIAL PROCESS:** If you see a training opportunity that you believe applies to our chapter's mission, please submit a request for approval at **least 7 days prior to the training date**. using one of two ways:

- EASIEST: Forward the program details, including flyer if applicable, to tmnglc-at@googlegroups.com.

- ALTERNATIVE: use the Advanced Training Pre-Approval Request Form (on our website under “Member FAQ” then “Documents and Forms”, look under the “Chapter Forms” section. See <https://txmn.org/glc/members-section/chapter-policies-and-procedures/> Submit form to tmnglc-at@googlegroups.com.

You will receive a response within 2-3 days. If approved, the AT Committee will issue a TMNGLC Google Groups email to share the information across the chapter. And the website team will add it to the chapter events calendar. If not approved, you will receive a direct response from a member of the AT Committee explaining the decision. Following these procedures to submit all AT requests to tmnglc-at@googlegroups.com ensures your request gets processed without delays.

Winedale Project, Gideon Lincecum Arboretum and Loop Trail

Wanda Anglin – Colorado County



On February 13 and March 13, 2026, volunteers with the Winedale Pollinator Garden Project took a short hike across the road to the Gideon Lincecum Arboretum that includes a beautiful pocket prairie, trail, pond, and memorial. Winedale Project leader, Carey Soderstrum, agreed to a request to tidy up the memorial at the front of the arboretum and remove tree cages scattered throughout the area. The request was made because a couple of Gideon Lincecum descendants were coming for our March chapter program to present and would be visiting the arboretum.

Carey was unable to attend the February workday but left the crew in good hands with Sam Walton directing a clean-out of the garden edging-delineated area around the monument. Hours were spent uncovering the area that was inundated with encroaching prairie and Bermuda grass. A crew also walked the trail removing greenbriar and intruding limbs to ensure safe passage to the pond. On the second workday, native pollinator plants were added around the monument and a new pollinator “hotel” and birdhouses were installed on the existing poles that dot the trail. Chapter member and nest box builder, Jim Weatherley, joined the team to help put up the new bee and bird houses so all was ready for the Lincecums’ visit.

Did you know? Back in 2017, the original small garden around the arboretum memorial was created along with a short loop trail (a portion of the original much longer trail). Along the inside of the loop trail, the pocket prairie was planted with some trees and posts for bird and pollinator houses. See a 2018 workday video: <https://youtu.be/K-9OW1isCEQ>.

Somewhere along the way, the project lost a leader, and the Gideon Lincecum Arboretum & Loop Trail project was no longer supported. But all that has changed! The TMN GLC Winedale team has decided to add the Loop Trail and the small native landscaping bed around the Gideon Lincecum Arboretum Monument to their project!

Calendar - Save The Dates



The **Event Calendar** on our chapter website is more robust than ever thanks to the efforts of our new Website Editor, Krystyna Westfield. Check the site often for opportunities to earn those AT hours, for volunteer service days at our myriad projects, for upcoming chapter and board meetings and special events. We need all of you to help us keep the calendar up to date and accurate. If you are an event organizer or project leader, let us know if we need to make any corrections to the calendar. Contact Communications Director Lori Buffum or Website Editor Krystyna Westfield.

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

April 24 - GLC Board Meeting (chapter members welcome)
May 16 - Chapter Meeting and Educational Program

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

Earn AT credit for 2026:
2026 #TMNTuesdays

The Texas Master Naturalist Program offers webinars at noon on the second Tuesday of each month. Earn AT credit for watching live OR for watching the recorded presentation anytime.



Join us each month for our #TMNTuesday Webinars!

On the second Tuesday of each month at 12:00pm Central Time, the Texas Master Naturalist Program state office offers an hour-long virtual advanced training event—with fantastic new and returning guest speakers. Scroll down the page and select a month to view upcoming and past webinars.

- Frequently Asked Questions
- WBEEX Guide
- 2021 #TMNTuesdays Webinars
- 2022 #TMNTuesdays Webinars
- 2023 #TMNTuesdays Webinars
- 2024 #TMNTuesdays Webinars
- 2025 #TMNTuesdays Webinars

2026 #TMNTuesdays



Chapter Resources

Officers for 2026-2027

President – [Jeff Post](#)

Vice President – [Wanda Anglin](#)

Secretary – [Betty Scardino](#)

Treasurer – [Karen McClure](#)

Board Members

Advanced Training Director – [Wanda Anglin](#)

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 – [Jeff Post](#)

Immediate Past President – [Sheri Wilcox](#)

Advisor - open

Sponsor Contact

Each county has its own TPWD Biologist and Texas AgriLife Extension agent & sponsors.

Our main county contacts working with our chapter may be accessed via these links:

[Austin County](#),

[Colorado County](#)

[Fayette County](#)

[Washington County](#)

[Lee County](#)



Gideon Lincecum Chapter

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



Online Contact Us Form:

<https://txmn.org/glc/about/contact-us/>

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;

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

(For notices about activities across the state)

Ganoderma sessile

