

The GLC Tidings

June 2026

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From Our President

Jeff Post - President
Washington County

Initial Training Class of 2026 Completed!

We are so proud of our newly certified Texas Master Naturalists. The May meeting was a gathering of chapter members, graduates, family and friends. All were treated to five great presentations by trainees and course completion ceremonies, followed by delicious food and cake. Congratulations and welcome to all the newly minted TMN-GLCers.

May 16, 2026 Training Class Graduation: Rachel Sitka, Lisa Bexley, Ainsley Allred, Pam Heard, Sherri Ahart, Paul Ropshaw, Candice Landry, Kevin Rice, Sarah Williams, President Jeff Post, Nick Balleza, Steve Albert, Susan Patterson, Stacy Cahak, Training Director Connie Shortes, Christine Feehery [also graduated but missed meeting, Karen Newton, John Moore].

NEWSLETTER ENTRY DEADLINE
1st day of even Months
Send articles or 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 – June 26
Chapter Meeting – July 18





From Our Vice President

Wanda Anglin – Vice President

Colorado County

Upcoming 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, family, and new acquaintances 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). We usually begin at 9:30 am, on the third Saturday of odd-numbered months (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov).

July Chapter Meeting and Program

Saturday, July 18, 2026, at 10:00 am, PLEASE NOTE the 10:00 am START TIME

Brenham Public Library (Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library)

100 Martin Luther King Jr Pkwy, Brenham, TX 77833

10:00 am - Business Meeting

11:00 am - Advanced Training Program: **Soil Systems Analysis & Diagnosis by Erik Fritz**

Erik Fritz is founder and director of Edapho, a soil systems analysis and diagnostics firm focused on understanding soil as a living, functional system. His work centers on soil chemistry, biology, hydrology, and system behavior, with an emphasis on identifying constraints that limit plant and ecosystem performance. Erik's background includes applied field diagnostics, soil testing interpretation, and the development of decision-support frameworks used by land managers, restoration practitioners, and project teams working across agricultural and ecological contexts. 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!



Add These Meetings to Your Calendar



September Chapter Meeting and Program

Saturday, September 19, 2026, at 9:30 am

San Felipe de Austin Historical Site Meeting Room,

220 2nd St, San Felipe, TX 77473

9:30 am - Business Meeting

10:30 am - Advanced Training Program: **Walk with Fireflies by Mary Dobberstine &**

Alyssa Goforth, project leads for Galveston Bay Area TMN Glow Patrol Firefly Survey Team --Join these two fellow master naturalists on guided virtual "walks"—from a daytime exploration to nighttime journeys that reveal fireflies in action.

November Chapter Meeting and Program

IMPORTANT! Date changed from 11/21/2026 to 11/14/2026 due to Thanksgiving holiday

Saturday, November 14, 2026, at 9:30 am

The St. Paul Lighthouse, 201 Veterans Dr, Columbus, TX 78934

9:30 am - Business Meeting

10:30 am - Advanced Training Program: **Water Well & Septic Maintenance to Protect Groundwater**

Learn best practices for protecting our groundwater. Presented by Aaron Weishuhn, General Manager of the Colorado County Groundwater Conservation District.

Next Board Meeting

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 9:30 am.

June Board Meeting, Friday June 26, 2026, at 9:30 am, at historic Freyburg Hall, 5701 Freyburg Hall Rd, Schulenburg, TX 78956.





Membership Memo

Chris Morrison – Membership Director

Fayette County

Thank you to everyone who is entering hours in your VMS logbook. Whether they are for volunteer service, advanced training, or training class attendance, they become a part of your permanent record. Recorded volunteer hours are used to help fund government grants for our sponsoring organizations at over \$23 per hour. Advanced Training hours are indicators of which things are of most interest to TMN members, so please keep logging them even if you have surpassed your required eight hours for certification or re-certification. **Please don't hesitate to ask me if you have a question about how to enter something!**

Make sure the OPPORTUNITY matches with your DESCRIPTION of what you did!

Each **opportunity** has a description of what it covers. It's the first thing you see under its name on the form that opens for you to record your service. Before you start putting in date, hours, etc., please take a moment to **look at that description to make sure you have the correct opportunity title.**

Then, make sure **your description of what you did goes with the description of the opportunity.** This is because of the Federal Category associated with that opportunity. Examples below are for commonly mismatched opportunity/service entries.

1. If you say you manned the GLC booth at an event and talked to people about the TMN program and our training classes, that is recruiting. Use **Administrative Work / Recruiting.**
2. If you say you manned the GLC booth and talked to people about skins and skulls, rocks, monarch butterflies, bird nests, or others, use **Education Informal** (people wandering by, staying as long as they want, moving on at will). You may also have mentioned our program, but your main focus was engaging folks with the displays.
3. If you say you manned the GLC booth at the Boomer festival at Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge, you **cannot use the Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge opportunity** because the description of that Attwater opportunity says you are assisting staff with habitat maintenance/restoration and other projects as assigned, including our pollinator/grasses garden. You would need to choose **either Administrative Work/Recruiting or Education Informal**, depending on what you are going to write to describe what you did (see #1 and #2).
4. If you say you presented 'Bite Me or Leave Me Be' or helped to run the bingo educational scavenger hunt during one of the county Ag Safety Days, that is **Educational Group Presentation** (organized groups of people stay with you for a designated time and all move together on to the next presentation). This is also the opportunity you use if you are making a presentation to the Lion's Club on growing bluebonnets or other topics. The key is it's a captive audience.

Congratulations to these members for their TMN Award Pins!

Initial Certification – Mike Schumann and Katie Tagliavia.

2026 Recertification – Chuck Babb, Marcia Braun, Lori Buffum, Jaci Elliott, Kathleen Graham, Marvelyn Granger, Trey Granger, Cindy McMorrان, Frank Michel, Galin Morgan, Cheryl Noland, Dottie Schoeneberg, Diana Sellers, Sam Walton, Jim Weatherly.



250 All-Time Volunteer Hours – Galin Morgan



Brenham ISD Field Day Report

Lori Buffum – Communications Director
Austin County



The weather spirits sure gave us a break on May 6, 2026. Thanks to the Texas Wildlife Association folks for all their organization and hard work setting up the Brenham Expedition Day! We so appreciate partnering with TWA, TPWD, AgriLife Extension, and Brenham ISD. Special thanks to the Kolkhorst family and other dedicated community members who made this event happen.

The morning was a bit of a mad scramble to move TMN volunteers around but WOW, you all pitched in and adapted beautifully. Thank you especially to those of you who took on station leadership roles. When I walked the circuit (2.3 miles around by the way), I saw everyone doing

a wonderful job engaging seventh grade students in hands-on learning.

We worked with more than 300 students at 18 stations and had close to 40 volunteers—now THAT’S a field day!



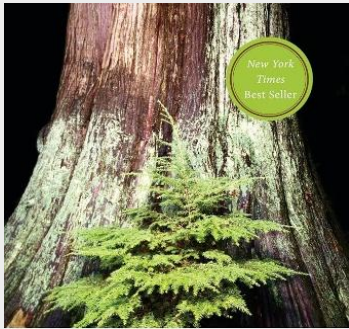
Book Review by Two!



Krystyna Westfield

Washington County

Finding the Mother Tree By Suzanne Simard



FINDING THE MOTHER TREE

Discovering the
Wisdom of the Forest

SUZANNE SIMARD

When I was re-starting my college career a few years ago, I came across *Finding the Mother Tree*, and it opened up a new field of study for me: mycorrhizal fungi. Author Suzanne Simard writes about her journey from working with the logging industry in Canada to realizing that clear-cut and re-planted areas were failing, to changing her career path to research, and using her results to advocate for change in the industry. The book is not just about her research (though that is a large part of it) – we also follow her struggles with being a woman in forestry, fighting the established norms of previously known science, and personal struggles such as her battle with cancer.

Simard, a self-described “forest detective,” came from a family that for generations had logged areas of Canada. She noticed that established methods of leaving some trees and dead branches behind seemed to promote the regrowth of healthy forests. Fresh out of college, Simard started work with a big logging company that engaged in clear-cutting practices, followed by planting a monoculture of one type of tree and attempting to destroy any other plant life around the seedlings. Simard observed that these replanted fields were not recovering and seemed to have a low success rate (but the logging companies didn’t care – they were just fulfilling the current laws of the land). During her time with the logging company, Simard researched mycorrhizal fungi, using her field observations field to bolster her theories.

Simard attempted to suggest changes to her logging company’s business model, such as leaving some old growth trees untouched and planting seedlings based on the biome, not on what would make the most money, but she didn’t have the scientific evidence to back up her theories. Her supervisors became frustrated enough with her pushback that they let her go.

Luckily, a job doing silviculture research for the Forest Service opened, and Simard was able to begin to do research to find better ways to help forests recover from logging. She eventually won “a research grant to test whether conifer seedlings needed to connect with the mycorrhizal fungi in the soil to survive.” Her research took her even further, finding that different species would share nutrients and warning messages between them, which led to her concept of the “mother tree.” The mother tree helps to nurture all the seedlings around her, sending out nutrients and water through the mycorrhizal network. In addition, Simard found that when an older tree was dying, it would push out as many nutrients as it could to the surrounding plants.

Simard fought with logging companies and policy makers to try to get them to recognize her results, and at first, they resisted, but foresters were already recognizing the importance of changing modern clear-cutting practices, choosing to take the easy route. Only in the last decade has the work of Simard (and other researchers) finally begun to make real change in the logging industry and Canadian law. She finishes her book with a call to action, asking everyone to add more greenery to their lives.

I cannot recommend this book enough, especially for naturalists – we may not have the same ecosystem full of forests, but Texas plants use similar networks to send nutrients and signals to each other. We could each probably identify a “mother tree” or plant on our own land, especially after reading this wonderful book.



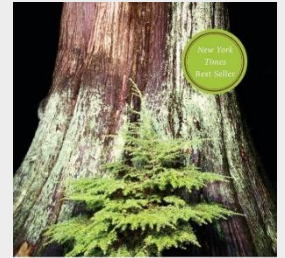
Lori Buffum

Austin County

Finding the Mother Tree By Suzanne Simard

How did I miss reading this book (published in 2021) until just now? Suzanne unwittingly started a revolution in the forest and pioneered the study of the mycorrhizal network (often called the "Wood Wide Web")

and its connections that provide the foundations for life as a tree. I loved taking this emotional, thought-provoking journey with Suzanne. A wonderful mix of memoir and scientific discovery made this book one of my all-time favorite Nature books. If you haven't read it, put it on the top of your TBR list. I'm now looking forward to reading her latest: *When the Forest Breathes*.



FINDING THE MOTHER TREE
Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest
SUZANNE SIMARD



Water Matters

Wanda Anglin

Colorado County



How can I Monitor Evaporation, Weather Patterns and Rainfall to Help Conserve Water? Here's A Source for Average Evapotranspiration Data

Sharing TexasET, is a free resource for determining recent weather, current and average evapotranspiration data, and irrigation watering recommendations. **Disclaimer: This service is related to irrigation crops, grass, etc., but you can use this as information to track what grows in your prairie restoration or unrestored land during low moisture and high moisture seasonal conditions.** (And, like me, you can use it to determine if you should turn the irrigation on or off for your vegetable garden).

How to Get a TexasET Email Alert

Explore this service to see if it is for you. If you find this information valuable. You can set up email alerts for one or more TexasET monitoring stations near you. My property lies between 2 stations so I watch both...and have been able to determine that when it rains north of me, it rarely rains south of me and vice versa. You can access the TexasET station data and station map at: <https://texaset.tamu.edu/> or download the TexasET mobile app

(iOS or Android). If you want to receive a weekly data summary email about a particular station, <https://texaset.tamu.edu/Account>.

Still Wondering Just What ET is? Here's More than You Ever Wanted to Know. . .

Evapotranspiration (ET) is a measurement of the total water needed to grow plants and crops. This term comes from evaporation (i.e., evaporation of water from the soil) and transpiration (i.e., transpiration of water by plants). Different plants have different water requirements, so they have different ET rates.

In 1948, a British scientist named Howard Penman presented a mathematical model for calculating ET using local climate data. The resulting Penman equation has been modified since, but forms of this equation are still used today for this purpose.

Since there are thousands of cultivated plants, scientists simplified matters by establishing a standard ET rate for general reference and use. The standard is referred to as the **potential evapotranspiration ETo (pet)**. This is the "potential" ET since we are assuming the crop is in deep soil and well-watered. A cool-season grass is widely used for this standard crop. The technical term for this is the "**Potential Evapotranspiration of a Grass Reference Crop**" or "**ETo**" for short.

ETo depends on the climate and varies from location to location. Special weather stations are used to collect climatic data for calculating ETo, including temperature, dew point temperature (relative humidity), wind, and solar radiation. The American Society of Biological and Agricultural Engineers has established a standard for weather stations used for calculation of ET. The water requirements of specific crops and turf grasses can be calculated as a fraction of the ETo. This "fraction" is called the crop coefficient (Kc) or turf coefficient (Tc). Crop coefficients vary depending on the type of plant and its stage of growth.

Community Partnerships



TMN-GLC Waters Group is Making Connections

Wanda Anglin

Colorado County

Our chapter now has 14 certified water quality testers testing at nine sites across four counties in both the Colorado River and Brazos River Watersheds. A couple of our testers attend Watershed Protection Plan meetings and have made useful connections with others from groups like Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI). Want to join our Water Quality Monitoring Team? Reach out to Water Quality Monitoring Project Lead, Wanda Anglin, wanda.anglin@hotmail.com.

Interested in water but not sure what activity you want to be a part of? Join our semi-monthly Waters Group Webex at 6 pm on the second Tuesday of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, and Nov. We discuss current projects such as water quality testing, in-water and shore/upland trash cleanups and future projects such as adding a Riparian Evaluation project to our chapter. We also help anyone interested in earning [TX Waters Specialist certification](#). Next Water Group meeting is Tuesday, May 19th. Contact Sheri Wilcox, sheriawilcox@gmail.com to be added to the notification for the meetings.

Calendar - Save The Dates



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



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](#)



T E X A S



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)