The GLC Tidings

October 2026

Table of Contents:

From Our President	1
From Our Vice President	2
Membership Director	3
Communications Director	4
Facebook Features	5
Lori Buffum Reaches Milestone	8
Winedale's Newest Resident	9
Operation Outreach	10
Our New Education Director	11
Flora and Fauna	11
Water Matters	18
Calendar - Save The Dates	19
State Information	20
Chapter Resources	20

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 – October 30
Chapter Meeting – November 14



From Our President

Jeff Post
Washington County

If you missed the September Chapter Meeting at Stephen F. Austin Historical Park, you missed a great presentation on fireflies by our fellow TMNs from the Galveston Bay area. You also missed several updates on chapter activities, projects, and new board members. I'd like to highlight our two new board members:

Tabatha Carey: Tabatha is taking over as Education Director from Karen Gardner. Tabatha was previously an educator and administrator and will bring some great skills to the role. She joined TMN-GLC in 2025 and has been embracing the volunteer spirit. Karen has done a great job in the role for several years and promises to stay involved with the education program. Thanks to Tabatha for volunteering to take on the role and thanks to Karen for her years of dedication to the program.

Drake Rangel: Drake has agreed to take on the role as Chapter Advisor. He is the TPWD Biologist for Fayette County and will be representing TPWD on our board. We look forward to Drake's input, support, and guidance. Drake is a familiar face to many of our members through his various activities in and around Fayette County. His presentations on venomous and non-venomous snakes in our area are well known.

I hope you will be able to make it to the chapter meeting on **November 14**, for another interesting presentation and chapter updates, but also to be able to spend some time socializing with your fellow master naturalists. ***(Please note that this is the SECOND SATURDAY of November.)***



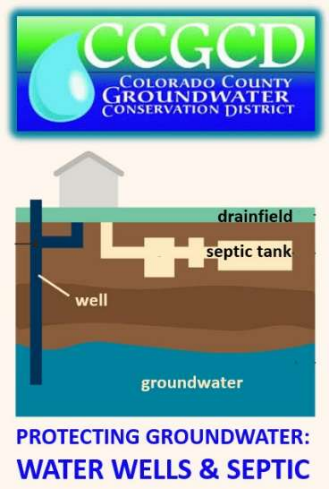
From Our Vice President

Wanda Anglin
Colorado County

Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Programs

Many thanks to fellow TMN-GLC members who make suggestions for chapter programs and speakers! New topics are welcome…send your ideas to glcvpres@gmail.com.

Invite friends, family, and new acquaintances to our programs that 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 10 am, on the third Saturday of odd-numbered months. **(See week change for November 2026.)**



November Chapter Meeting and Program

IMPORTANT! Date changed from 11/21 to 11/14 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**

Water well and septic system owners will learn best practices for protecting groundwater. City water users will learn more about these systems so they may help others understand how to maintain healthy water supply and waste systems. This program will be presented by Aaron Weishuhn, General Manager of the Colorado County Groundwater Conservation District.

Lunch after our meeting: Several chapter members joined our speakers for lunch after the September meeting. We all enjoyed ourselves so much, a few of us would like to try to create a new tradition. If you wish to lunch following the meeting (after tidying the room), we will see you at Hound Song Brewing Co., 535 Walnut St, Columbus, TX. Menu: https://www.houndsongbrewing.com/menus.

December Event



Join us for a Happy Holidays gathering to celebrate our chapter and its volunteers over the past year. All chapter members and significant others are invited. Watch your email for a TMN-GLC Google Group notification and event invitation to learn additional details about RSVPing, what to bring, and what to expect. Attendance earns service hours (record meeting time plus travel to VMS code: Administrative Work / Chapter Meeting).

January Chapter Meeting and Program

Saturday, January 16, 2027, at 9:30 am

Chappell Hill Historical Society Museum, 9220 Poplar St, Chappell Hill, TX 77426

- 9:30 am - Business Meeting
- 10:30 am - Advanced Training Program: **Miyawaki Method**

Come enjoy the nostalgia and beautiful architecture of the 1927 High School building that now houses a museum featuring exhibits of local interest. Following our business meeting, Raj Dharamshi of Houston's Urban Green Initiative (UGI) will present the Miyawaki Method of planting developed over 50 years by Japanese botanist Dr. Akira Miyawaki. This method increases soil health and speeds succession to grow forests 10 times faster, 30 times denser, and 100 times more biodiverse than conventional planting.

Board Meetings

All chapter members are welcome to attend board meetings. TMN-GLC board meetings are typically the last Friday of even numbered months at 9:30 am.

October's Board Meeting is on **Friday, October 30, 2026**, at **9:30 am**, at the historic **Nelsonville Brethren Church, 332 Nelsonville Church Rd, Bellville, TX 77418**. This church was built in 1874 by Czech-Moravian settlers. It is close to the site of the first Czech protestant worship service ever held in Texas, which took place in 1855. Plus, this architectural masterpiece is located roughly across the street from fellow TMN-GLCers Marvelyn and Trey Granger's Nellie Gail Ranch. As you pass by you can stare enviously at their beautifully restored prairie.





January's Board Meeting (postponed from December due to holidays)
Friday, January 8, 2027, at **9:30 am**, at Eleanor's Cottage behind the Schubert-Fletcher House/Lee County Museum, 183 E. Hempstead St., Giddings, TX.



Membership Director

Chris Morrison
Fayette County

Congratulations to our members who have achieved certifications and milestones! Pins and certificates were awarded in September to the following:
Initial Certification certificate and green dragonfly pin – Steve Albert

2026 Recertification bobcat pin – Tabatha Carey, B. R. Koehler, Charlene Koehler, Donna Mueller, Tim Rackley, Betty Scardino, Jim Wilson, and Barry Zeluff.

1,000 All-Time Volunteer Hours – Ken English

Many, many thanks to all of you for your patience with the continual updating of the Samaritan VMS program by TPWD. The latest “Onboarding” process will surely be completely ready for us soon. Hang in there!

Please continue to record all your hours in VMS. Don’t stop just because you’ve reached your 40 hours volunteer and 8 hours AT goal. Every volunteer hour we log is eligible to be matched for over $23 in federal grants to our sponsoring organizations.



Communications Director

Lori Buffum
Austin County

Help us get the word out about our 2027 chapter training class. The image below contains a QR code that connects to our chapter website "Join Us" page. Share them with your friends, neighbors, on your social networks and with your local media connections.





Facebook Features

Cheryl Noland
Washington County

If you don't belong to our Facebook Group, please join! When you do, be sure to answer all the questions so your group membership can be approved. We've been busy these past two months reporting from our many project sites! Find us at https://www.facebook.com/groups/TMNGideonLincecumChapter

August 3: Wanda Anglin joined Jacquie and John Pritchard to pick up trash at the chapter's Adopt-a-Highway site on the Colorado River. The result was three bags of trash, a bag of aluminum cans to recycle, and a broken ice chest. They also reported a burned-out mattress on the riverbank to TXDOT for pickup. They cleaned under the north side of the bridge and down the road to the railway. Pretty good for three-digit heat! There will be a chapter-wide pick-up day in November.



August 4: Frank Michel, Raconteur Par Excellence, was bringin' Nature and History together at Winedale Historical Center.





August 13: The Steven F. Austin, State Park, wildscape pollinator garden is looking great! The Esperanza (*Tecoma stans*) is in full bloom, we harvested some Illinois bundle flower (*Desmanthus illinoensis*) and blanket flowers (*Gillardia*), weeded a bit, and members used handy little hoops to keep leggy plants from dripping onto the sidewalk. The team received lovely comments from the park superintendent. On hand were B. R. and Charlene Koehler, John Pritchard, Sheri Wilcox, and Wanda Anglin.



August 15: Wanda Anglin, Maria Dahlberg, and outreach Director, Ken English with skins, skulls, and scat at the Back 2 School Bash in Columbus.



August 21: Manning the TMN-GLC outreach booth at *the Wildlife and Woodlands Post Oak Savannah Wildlife Habitat Management Workshop* in Cat Spring, Texas, Ken English, Donna Mueller and Nancy Dunnahoe enjoyed visiting with landowners of all ages.



August 25: Removing vines in our riparian pollinator spot at Beason's Park in Columbus is tough work, but so rewarding as we uncover beautiful native trees, giving them a chance to live a less stressful life. Many thanks to our project leader Christine Feehery, and volunteers John Pritchard, Maria Dahlberg and Wanda Anglin.



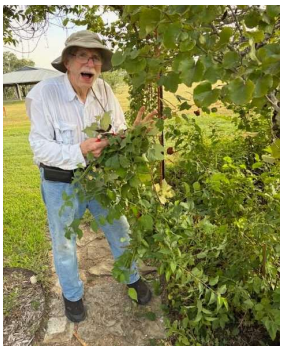
August: Sheri Wilcox reporting from the "field." Here's a photo from the recent workday at Washington-on-the-Brazos. If you want to see some true tough Texas natives, the plants currently blooming at WoB fit the bill. These flowers are going strong after two years of construction. Bulldozers cut a ramp and sidewalk through the garden, and workers trampled it as the shortest route between points A and B. Debris was mixed into the planting beds, the irrigation system was cut off during construction, and the whole garden is surrounded by an asphalt parking lot. Superstar plants include Maximilian sunflower (*Helianthus maximilian*), Turk's cap *(Malvaviscus arboreus* var *drummodii*), Texas lantana *(Lantana horrida*), Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*), and Texas Wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*). The August work crew was David and Julie Itz, Galin Morgan, and Sheri Wilcox.



September 2: Weaving together Nature and History at San Felipe de Austin Historic Site, Frank Michel and Sheri Wilcox help visitors learn about oak gall ink and then let them try their hands at writing their own "historic documents." This is part of the Nature Walk at 2 pm on the last Sunday of each month. New volunteers are encouraged to join in.



September 12: Carey Soderstrom reported from the chapter's Pollinator Garden at the Winedale Visitor's Center: "We had an awesome workday on September 11. Sheri Wilcox delivered our new signs, and we had a great group of volunteers: John Pritchard, Sam Walton, Karen Dean, Laura Smith, Jim Weatherly, Jeff Post, Sheri Wilcox, and me!"





September 17: Wanda Anglin writes: “Really appreciated and enjoyed Diana Kies' project update on Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge at our chapter meeting. Our team is doing great work out there every Friday in partnership with the Coastal Prairie Chapter. A recent milestone was the release of flying birds from the Sutton Avian Research Center in Oklahoma to the refuge...amazing.”



September 30: We had over two hundred home-schooling visitors today in Burton at the Texas Cotton Gin Museum and Indian Creek Nature Area. Thanks to Ann Ray, Judy Deaton, Mike Schuman, his dog and quail, Steve Albert, Dottie Schoeneberg, Galin Morgan and Frank Michel, the students now know a lot more about the natural world.



September 26: After a two-year hiatus caused by the construction at Washington-on-the-Brazos Historic Site, the maintenance staff was able to reconnect the irrigation system for our pollinator habitat. The Gregg’s mistflower (*Conoclinium greggii*) exploded with the added water, much to the delight of Queen (*Danaus gilippus*), Long-tailed Skipper (*Urbanus proteus*) and Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*) butterflies. We installed the first round of our new individual plant signs too. The crew for our workday included Julie Itz, Sheri Wilcox, Carey Soderstrom and Galin Morgan.



Lori Buffum Reaches Milestone

Karen McClure
Washington County

At this year's Annual Texas Master Naturalist Meeting in Waco, a very rare event will occur. Lori Buffum, Gideon Lincecum Chapter class of 2014, will receive a polished gold dragonfly pin with ruby for completing over 4000 volunteer hours as a Texas Master Naturalist. She is only the second person in our chapter's twenty-year history to earn this honor. The first person was Dave Redden, one of the founding members of our chapter. He reached 4000 hours in 2016, and Lori Buffum wrote the Facebook post about it. I sent Lori a long list of questions about her time in TMN and then took her to lunch to discuss them. What follows is a look into Lori's history with the Gideon Lincecum chapter in her own words.

Getting Started

A friend, recently retired from the Texas Heart Institute where I was still working, was excited about an organization she had joined that was focused on wild animals (her passion) and all things "Texas Nature." The more I learned about the organization, the more intrigued I became, so when I retired in December 2013, I signed up for the 2014 training class. I was hooked from day one and attended every Monday night class and every field trip, graduating in May.

I believe I first started using iNaturalist when it was introduced in the TMN training class but immediately adopted it in my everyday life and on all our travels. One of my most exciting observations was right along my neighborhood roadside – a Timber Rattlesnake stretched out on a tree limb. Using iNaturalist gives me the opportunity to learn about everything around me wherever I am AND to contribute to scientific research.

Projects

Adopt a Highway out on 159 was my first in the field workday. Next, I worked at Indian Creek when we established the terraced pollinator garden. I also helped with the garden at Washington on the Brazos. Then, I started volunteering at the outdoor education events with Brenham schools and that became my passion. Early on, I also volunteered to help with the chapter newsletter, the chapter website, the Facebook group and I took pictures of the training class. That eventually led to an opportunity to be appointed Communications Director. I love being involved with a variety of activities whether it's being at field days with school kids, being a member of the training class committee, working on the chapter website, or coordinating volunteer teams for events. I am proud to help the chapter and our members fulfill our state mission.





What Keeps Her Volunteering

Being with kindred spirits; learning from each other; giving back to Nature; keeping my brain active; having a job (actually many "jobs") after retirement; getting a new pin each year; contributing to the vast scientific database of our natural world; teaching; working with children; . . .There is an endless variety of things you can do with the TMN program depending on your individual interests, passions, time, skills. And, I love working with people who share the same devotion to the "Land Ethic."

Photo Left: Lori teaching at an Ag Safety Day. Photo Right: Lori is a photographer herself, and she took this beauty recently.



Four Thousand Hours seems like such a huge goal to me I had to ask Lori how she got there. She said her highest number of volunteer hours in a year was 425 hours for 2020 when she worked with Chris Morrison on the review of the TMN state governing documents in addition to the other chapter activities she was normally involved in. I calculated that reaching 4000 hours in 12 years would take 333 hours a year or 28 hours a month (I'm a data person). I am inspired to join her. The thought of spending 28 hours a month doing something you really enjoy with people you really like seems exciting rather than daunting!

Winedale's Newest Resident



On October 10, 2026 near the Gideon Lincecum monument at Winedale, a young tree got a new home. The burr oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) is one of 250 "Liberty" trees planted throughout Fayette County in honor of our nation's semiquincentennial. Our chapter purchased the tree and selected Winedale as the most appropriate site. Jeff Post and Sam Walton planted the oak. Everyone is invited to pay her a visit next time you are at Winedale.

Here are more tree details from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: Bur oak is a large, deciduous tree with a very wide, open crown. Usually wider than tall, the tree can exceed 100 ft. in height and width. The massive trunk supports heavy, horizontal limbs and rough, deep-ridged bark. Leaves can be up to 9 inches long with a central midrib from which branch veins lead into rounded lobes. Acorns are large, up to 1 1/2 inches broad with 1/4 to more than 1/2 of the acorn enclosed in the cup. The cup has coarse scales and a fringed margin. The acorns are the largest of all native oaks. The common name (sometimes spelled "Burr") describes the cup of the acorn, which slightly resembles the spiny bur of a chestnut.



Operation Outreach



Ken English

Washington County

Summer and early Fall (according to the calendar anyway) had a surprising amount of activity on the TMN-GLC outreach front. Listed below are the events our chapter participated in from June through the writing of this newsletter. These activities are in addition to the efforts of our Education Committee members and volunteers.

- TPWD Wildlife Diseases Workshop
- TPWD Deer Management Workshop
- Lee County Wildlife Association Expo
- Brenham Heritage Museum - Bird Nest ID and Nest Box Tips presented by Ken English
- NPAT Prairie Restoration Symposium
- Colorado County AgriLife Office Back to School Event
- TPWD Post Oak Savannah Wildlife and Woodlands Workshop
- Washington Couty Wildlife Society Meeting
- Brenham Heritage Museum - Beyond the Hive, Texas Native Pollinators presented by Tom Shaughnessy
- National Night Out at San Felipe de Austin

While statistics are not a measure of performance in our efforts, I believe they can be a measure of the public interest in our natural environment and the learning opportunities afforded by our chapter members and the Texas Master Naturalist program. To date, we exceeded last year's documented contacts by 17%! These contacts are not the result of "selling", but of the stories our members tell and the passion we feel for our environment, educational opportunities, and the benefits received by all.

Coming up next is the **Father of Texas Celebration at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site on November 7, 2026.** This day-long event supports the telling of the history of Austin's colony and the leader of that venture, Stephen F. Austin. I hope you can find a little time in your weekend schedule to come out and experience all this historic site has to offer and support our TMN-GLC display by meeting those visiting this event.

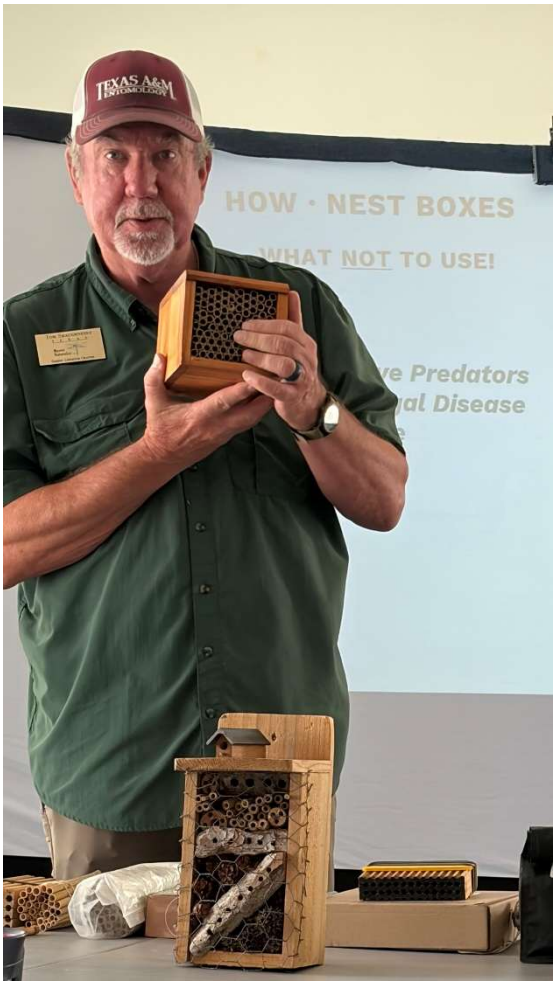
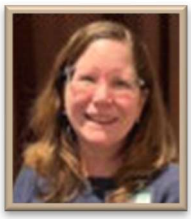


Photo: 09/09/26, Tom Shaughnessy presented *Beyond the Hive, Texas Native Pollinators*

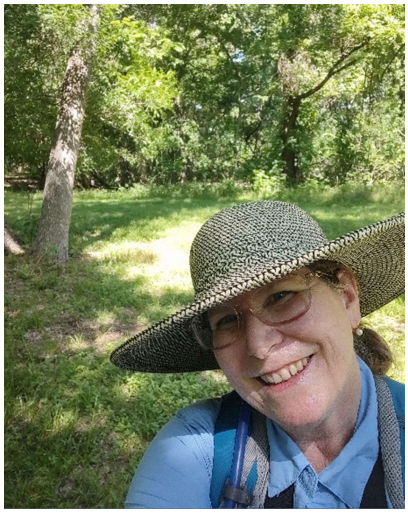
Our New Education Director



Tabatha Carey

Austin County

Recently, long-time Education Director Karen Gardner passed her torch to a member of TMN-GLC's Class of 2025, Tabatha Carey. Tabatha brings a lifelong passion for nature, education and stewardship to the chapter. Her deep appreciation for the outdoors began early, during her years as a Girl Scout from first through twelfth grade—a journey that culminated in earning the prestigious Gold Award. That foundational curiosity about the natural world led her into the sciences, where she explored how nature works and the elegant laws it follows through the study of physics and chemistry.



Drawing on her background as a former physics and chemistry teacher and private school administrator, she is driven to continue educating others about environmental conservation, native habitats, and land stewardship. She is excited to put her administrative, leadership, and teaching skills to work in active service as TMN-GLC's Educational Director.

At home, she is a Christian wife to her steadfast husband, Dean Carey, the proud mother of five amazing adult children, mother-in-law to two gifted sons-in-law, and human companion to an energetic lab-mix named Percy. Currently, she and Dean are enjoying the rewarding process of learning how to best steward their own rural property nestled in Lee County between Lexington and Rockdale.

Flora and Fauna



Diana Sellers

Fayette County

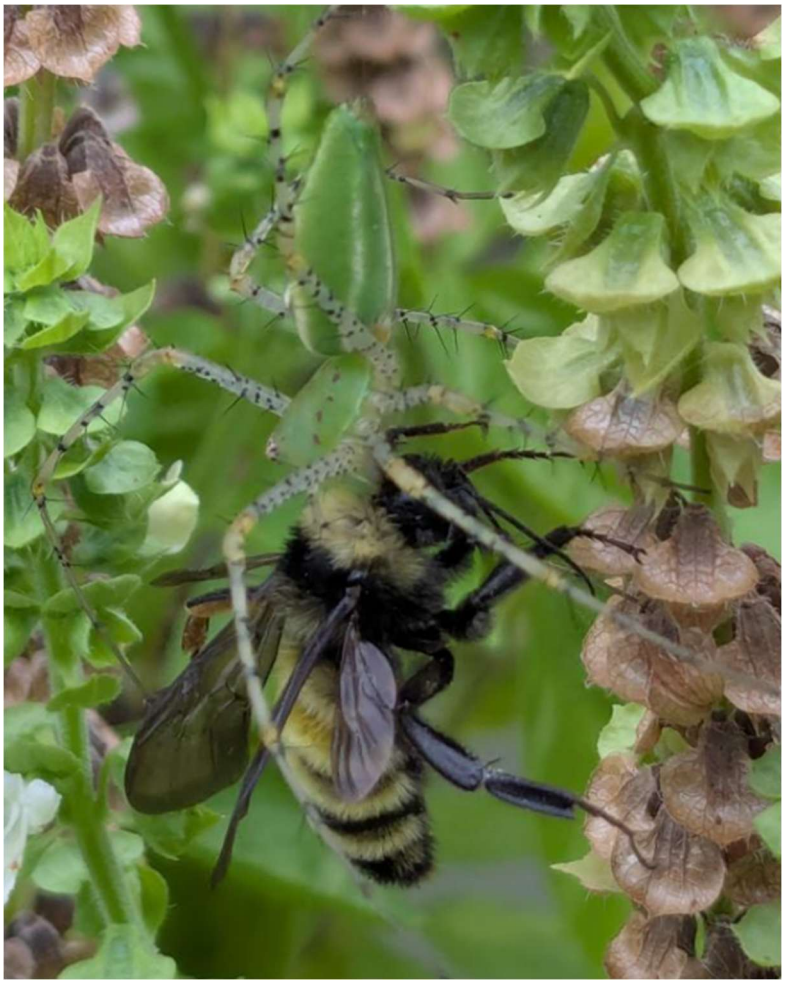
Murder in the Garden

A couple of weeks ago I was roaming around in my garden looking for interesting things to photograph. Specifically, I was hunting for bumblebees. I love bumblebees. Their antics are so funny as they dive

into flowers drinking up the nectar. Bumblebees however are very difficult to photograph. They constantly move and can see you coming from a long way away and quickly fly away.

The bees were swarming my Thai Basil, which they seem to love, actively moving from flower to flower. Frustrating for a photographer, though. So, I was pleasantly surprised when I came across one cooperative bumblebee. As I moved closer and closer, taking photos all the while, he remained very still. Wow, this is amazing I thought.

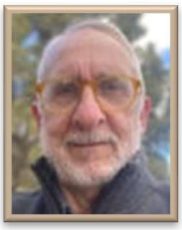
Finally, after obtaining several photos, I moved my camera back and took a long look at the situation. That's when I discovered a murder had taken place and the culprit was still present. Denial of committing the murder was not going to be possible. I had documented the act with my camera. I was both sad for the bumblebee (I'm sure he hadn't expected to die that day) and fascinated with the spider. I sent a photo to iNaturalist and discovered my murderer was a *Peucetia viridans,* commonly known as a Green Lynx Spider.



This is what I learned about the Green Lynx Spider:

- It is a bright green spider usually found on green plants. It is common in the southern U.S., Mexico, Central America, and in many West Indies islands, especially Jamaica.
- Lynx spiders are hunters specialized for living on plants. This species does not use a web to capture its prey. It pounces on its prey in a cat-like manner, which is the reason for the name *lynx*. It is active during the day.
- Late in the season *Peucetia viridans* is prone to change its color from predominantly green to paler yellow, typically with streaks of reddish, suggesting degradation of the tetrapyrrole pigment in the blood.
- The green lynx spider very seldom bites humans, and when it does, its venomous bite, though painful, is not deadly.
- One means of defense is for the female to squirt (spit) venom from her chelicerae, sometimes from a distance of about a foot.

It was scary to learn about the venom spitting habit since I had leaned in very close to the spider to determine if it had punctured the bee with a probe of some sort. After a minute of doing this, I decided it was probably not wise to get too close. It could possibly murder me too.



Frank Michel
Austin County

Photoluminescence

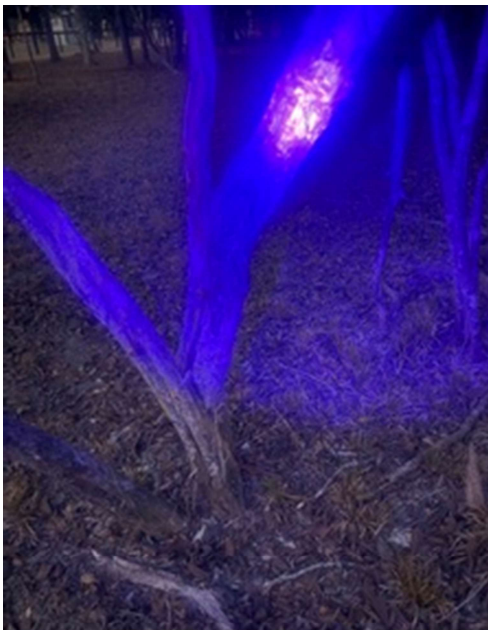


As we (allegedly) ease into autumn, we begin seeing signs of the whitetail deer rutting season. The presence of buck and deer rubs on trees, and ground scrapes on our land marking their "mating territory," begin to show up. In addition to these visual clues, the rubs and scrapes carry a fascinating secret coded language, normally invisible to our puny human eyesight, but clear as day to the deer. It's called "photoluminescence." Scientists, who are still trying to fully understand the "language" of these phenomena, have labeled them "signposts," and tracking them down is an easy, fun way to learn more about them.



Researchers (Ecology and Evolution magazine) have found that these deer markings re-emit a blue-green/greenish-blue light that matches the wavelengths to which receptors in deer eyes are receptive. It is defined as "the process by which an organic object absorbs light of a short wavelength and re-emits it at a longer wavelength."

Photoluminescence works when specialized glands in a buck's forehead leave a chemical residue on a tree rub. Some trees have a photoluminescence in their cambium (inner bark) that becomes visible when deer scrape off the outer bark. When deer urine goes into a ground scrape, it emits porphyrins and amino acids which can also produce photoluminescence. So, what do these photoluminescent signposts mean? Scientists still don't know. Marking "safe" paths through the forest, and communicating the presence and mating status of other deer are two of the theories. There is a good bit of online material about this topic available for true nature nerds.



Want to see what a deer sees? As naturalists know, deer are crepuscular — most active at dawn or dusk when sunlight is low and visible light has given way to ultraviolet wavelengths. This natural defense helps deer avoid predators who have a hard time seeing them in the dim light. So, take an afternoon walk through the forest and find a deer rub, then come back after sunset with a small, inexpensive UV (or blacklight) flashlight, and you will be amazed at what you'll find. See the accompanying photos and happy photoluminescent trails to you.



Pam Heard
Austin County

Texas Rivers Film Review

I spent a muggy afternoon this week at the Cinemark theater in College Station immersed in the newest documentary by Ben Masters: Deep in the Heart 2: Texas Rivers. This documentary provides a deep dive into the aquifers, springs, creeks, rivers and bays of Texas, with a focus on wildlife and water conservation. Beyond the stunning cinematography, the message in this film is hopeful, with a compelling call for additional conservation measures to preserve, protect and help restore our state's precious water. Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation was a major production partner and conservation collaborator for Deep in the Heart 2: Texas Rivers. The film is magnificent on the big screen and opened in select theaters September 25, 2026. It will be available to rent digitally on Apple TV, Amazon Prime and Fandango starting October 27, 2026. https://deepintheheartwildlife.com/





Nancy Dunnahoe
Austin County

Fascinating Take on How Insects Shape Human Culture

The Aldo Leopold Foundation recently hosted a Land Ethics Live webinar titled, "The Insect Epiphany: How Our Six-Legged Allies Shape Human Culture," with insights from Entomologist, Artist, and Author Barrett Klein. As the description goes, throughout history insects have markedly shaped human culture—from serving as valuable sources of food, pigment, and fiber, to inspiring our greatest feats of engineering, art, and design. Yet, they are vastly underappreciated and deserve our attention as they face significant challenges today. Klein posits that learning to appreciate insects' vital roles in the biotic community can strengthen our own land ethics.

Since I became a master naturalist, I've made it a personal goal to meet two new bugs a day. Thanks to our prairie restoration, we're on our way. With each discovery, I'm reminded to take care, practice patience, breathe deep, and give thanks for all my relations that share this land. Watch the Recording
AT: NGO Workshops & Programs on Wildlife Conservation and Land Stewardship

Ode to Creepy Crawlies



Photo: Bomber bee fly (*Bombyliidae*) – ND.

By Nancy Ajin Dunnahoe

Very often, no one thinks twice about them.

Ew, bugs, they say. *Gross*, they hiss and shudder.

A sudden *thwack!* out of nowhere that startles, and they're showing you with pride how they squished something's guts out.

It had to go, they justify.

Save a bug's life when it could bite and sting? *Nope*.

Kill 'em all flashes red on the neighbor's arsenal of sprays.

It's a slow-going everlasting extinction, repeated until the last lightning bug flashes no more.

Except for the monarchs and honey bees. Put them on a forever stamp.

So pretty, they exalt. *It's the bees that need saving*, they argue, thinking only of the stinging kind that produce amber bottles of the good gooey stuff said to cure all ails.

If only we could admire the thousands of other beneficial bugs hidden in plain sight, like skippers, bee flies, and the shy moonlit moths that persist. . . in spite of.

Contempt before investigation, everything seems to be working against them.

Yet, there are weirdos among us, the amateur entomologists like me, who delight in their magic, who would go so far as to say we *love* them.

A few times in this life, I wanted to shut off my own light, be rid of it, guts and all.

There's too much cruelty, I say. *Too much to take in*, how humans can raze a habitat.

Like watching a wetland of frog songs and dragonfly dances get covered up by concrete.

Now I take time to look, bow down to watch a bug work to give life, and sustain all of ours.

Monster babies I've come to adore, even. And appreciate their gifts of abundance.

To all of them I whisper a protection prayer. Draw an ancient circle to ward off Roundup.

Biting, stinging kind and all, I'd say they've earned our respect.

But for me, it's a deeper gratitude. I owe them my life.



Jim Wilson
Washington County

Jim Wilson is a 76-yr. old, white, male, with no criminal record. He grew up in the Trans Pecos area at Van Horn and graduated from VHHS in 1968. He is a retired Texas small animal veterinarian currently specializing in grass growing, gardening, writing, and public elementary school volunteering in the Burton/Brenham area. He was allowed in the TMN-GLC class of 2016 and by now he has a lot of volunteer hours. His witness protection program has remained intact so far since moving to Washington County in 2015. He is a philosophically conservative republican with closet democratic idealist empathy and therefore has absolutely no credentials to be a poet. However, he has written 600 plus since 2000 and feels compelled to share them with unsuspecting victims. He is looking everywhere for poetry inspiration to share. --J.W.

O Vain Dragonfly

By Jim Wilson

Talented dragonfly clinging to vertical rock faces
and flying backwards with magnificent ease,
Do you know I am here? I see you. I think
you are there. Is my consciousness of more value
than your flying backwards and clinging to rocks?
Do you fly away randomly, or do you consciously
perceive me as a threat even though you are wrong?



I wish I could interview you. How old are you?
What is your name? Are you Larry Dragonfly?
Are you happy?
I have hundreds of simple questions.
Answer me, please.
Who eats you? Who do you eat? Is that ok with you?

I take it for granted that you are not conscious, or a least not
as conscious as me. Are there degrees? Is the only expression
of my consciousness that I can think of these questions?
What could I download to receive your answers?
Did we just have our interview, and I am the one
without reception?

Do you have superior conscious awareness, and am I the one
clinging to a vertical rock face? Are you confused
by my responses that don't make any sense? Do you fly away
out of frustration rather than fear? Is your ego involved?
Such vanity O dragonfly to think that you are the only species
with conscious communication ability.

Grasshopper Grace

By Jim Wilson



I have watched a thousand insect flights
and seldom given one a thought,
but today a butterfly, a bumblebee,
and a grasshopper all in sync flew
through my field of vision.

The grace and charm of the butter's flight,
a definite ten and finals in
"Dancing with the Stars."
The bumble's buzz a whirring B-1 baby
with hover, VTO, and reverse.

But the poor grass hopping hopper,
each flight looks like the fatal flutter,
sounds like a playing card in bicycle spokes,
and lands with a thud heard ten feet away.
God's sweet little insect coordination joke.



Carey Soderstrom
Washington County

"Nature's Stylist": Texas Artist Billy Hassell

While looking online for artistic inspiration a few years ago, I Googled "Images of Abstract Nature Paintings" and discovered a Texas artist I had never heard of, Billy Hassell. I fell in love with his bold colors and geometric patterns in paintings featuring native Texas wildlife and landscapes.

My admiration deepened when I learned that Hassell uses his artistic skills to advocate for conserving and protecting wildlife and the environment. In the past, he has worked with the Audubon Society and the Nature Conservancy, and he's currently partnering with Texas Parks and Wildlife and serving on the Board of Directors for the Big Bend Conservancy. Hassell was also recently named, "Nature's Stylist" by the *New York Times.* Oil paintings, color lithographs, and watercolors by Hassell can be found in galleries across Texas, Missouri, and Colorado (there's one on public display in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport, Terminal D). He currently lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

By chance, in the spring of 2022, I encountered an exhibit of Hassell's paintings in Beaumont at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas (AMSET). The works in this exhibit featured southeast Texas geographical locations and wildlife, focusing on endangered animals and migrating species at risk due to human exploitation of the environment. Art from nature, for nature: poignant, awe-inspiring, vivid. Thank you, Billy Hassell.

(Photos: “Roseate Spoonbills at Sunset” oil on canvas; “Bobcat with Whooping Cranes” oil on canvas)





Water Matters



Wanda Anglin
Colorado County

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 the 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. I am between two 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 via the TexasET mobile app (iOS or Android). To receive a weekly data summary email, click https://texaset.tamu.edu/Account.

More than You Ever Wanted to Know about ET: Evapotranspiration (ET) is a measurement of the total amount of water needed to grow plants and crops. This term comes from the words 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.



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.

Water Quality Testing…Continuing to Grow! Our chapter has 14 certified water quality testers at nine sites across four counties. Want to join our team? Reach out to Water Quality Monitoring Project Lead, Wanda Anglin. Interested in water but not sure what activity you want to be a part of? Contact Sheri Wilcox about Waters Group meetings.

Adopt-a-Highway (AAH) Cleanup Thursday, 11/5/26, 9-11 am in Columbus. Contact Wanda Anglin for more information.

Calendar - Save The Dates



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

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.

October 30 - GLC Board Meeting (chapter members welcome)
November 14 - 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.

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
Outreach Director – Ken English
Membership Director – Chris Morrison
Training Class Director – Connie Shortes
Volunteer Service Projects Director – Jaci Elliott
Education Director – Tabatha Carey
Chapter State Representative – Jeff Post
Immediate Past President – Sheri Wilcox
Advisor – Drake Rangel

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

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

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