



Photo by Louis Harveson

Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education

Number 163 • October 2009

## TEXAS' FLORA AND FAUNA: The Tortoises of Texas



Photo by Richard Kazmaier

One of the most significant days in my life was 23 April 1994. I still remember it vividly, because that was the day I caught my very first Texas Tortoise (*Gopherus berlandieri*) at Chaparral Wildlife Management Area north of Laredo. I had actually come to Texas for my PhD for the opportunity to work on this rather unusual turtle. At the time I really knew nothing about my proposed study organism, and it was startling how poorly the scientific community understood the animal. That very fact was one of the things that

attracted me to the research in the first place, and it is why I have continued to work on them long after the dissertation was finally submitted. Over the years, a handful of people have made significant strides in our efforts to understand this tortoise, but there is still so much we don't understand. Scientifically, it remains the least well known of the four North American tortoises. Outside of science, it has been sad to see how many Texans remain ignorant about such an interesting critter found in their own backyard. Actually, there is

still some confusion about what exactly a Texas tortoise is, and recent genetic comparisons have not yet clarified the picture. In fact, in some analyses Texas Tortoises appear so closely related to the Desert Tortoises (*Gopherus agassizii*) of Arizona and California, that some people like to think of the tortoises of Texas as simply "dwarf" Desert Tortoises (although much to the chagrin of some Desert Tortoise researchers it should be that Desert Tortoises are actually "giant" Texas Tortoises, because the Texas Tortoise was described by Agassiz in 1857, whereas the Desert Tortoise wasn't described by Cooper until 1863).

If you draw a line between Del Rio and Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, you've done a pretty good job of describing the northern extent of the range of this tortoise. They do range down to Tamaulipas in Mexico, but, regrettably, we know essentially nothing about this species south of the border except to say that it is reported to be a common item at the dinner table there. Occasionally, these tortoises show up in other areas, but we're still not sure if those represent remnant populations or escaped/released individuals. Within this range, these tortoises are found in diverse habitats from the Acacia thornscrub communities in the west to the grasslands of the Gulf Coast and the tropical thornscrub of the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

*Continued on Page 3*

TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE  
WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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EDITOR, PATRICIA MOODY HARVESON

*Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Newsletter is published in January, April, July, and October. Contributions on any topic pertaining to wildlife, announcements of interest to members, or Chapter business are welcome and should be submitted to the Editor (Patricia Harveson, pharveson@sulross.edu) by the 15th of the preceding month. Change of address should be sent to the Mailing-list Coordinator (Terry Blankenship, tblankenship@welderwildlife.org). Membership in the Chapter is \$10/yr for students and \$15/yr for regular members, payable to the Treasurer (Terry Blankenship).*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, fall is finally here. After a brutal summer in south Texas, we finally received some well-needed precipitation and our first weather front of the year. I am always amazed at how fast the vegetation responds to a good rain. I finally had to take my lawn mower out of moth balls to mow for the first time in late August. The rains came just in time for teal season too. I hope that many of you were able to enjoy time in the field wing-shooting for teal and dove.



Thankfully, we made it through the hurricane season without incident so it should be smooth sailing for our annual meeting in Galveston next February. After Hurricane Ike's damaging visit last year, I was quite nervous on how Galveston could recover from another devastating storm. Things are progressing smoothly as the committees have been working hard to put together an exciting meeting. I can't say enough about these hard-working members that volunteer their time to make sure the meeting is successful. It's no wonder why the Texas Chapter is recognized as the largest and most active chapter in The Wildlife Society. Our Chapter, Student Chapters, and members have received numerous awards at the national meeting in the past. This year we continue our presence at the awards ceremony at the national meeting as Misty Sumner was recognized as a Fellow of The Wildlife Society for her "exceptional service to the wildlife profession"—congratulations Misty for this prestigious honor!

For student members that strive to be active members or even be acknowledged for their contributions to The Wildlife Society someday, we are providing opportunities to initiate your active participation. The Membership Committee chaired by Selma Glasscock and the Finance Committee chaired by Jena Moon have provided opportunities for Student Chapters to become more active. A few benefits of contributing to these committees include (1) added strength to your student chapter's portfolio when applying for the Student Chapter of the Year award and (2) a free hotel room at the Galveston Hilton for 2 nights during the meeting for the Student Chapter that contributes most to these committees. Letters have been sent to your faculty sponsor detailing the need for Student Chapter participation. We want students to become active in the Texas Chapter because you are our future Chapter leaders.

Best wishes, and see you in Galveston.

***Bart Ballard, President***

## TEXAS' FLORA AND FAUNA

In these habitats, they feed on a wide variety of vegetation, but they show a particular fondness for prickly pear and various legumes like scarlet pea (*Indigofera miniata*).

After studying them for awhile, one thing that is obvious about Texas tortoises is that they apparently haven't read the books. The literature says that it should take 15 or more years for a good, respectable tortoise to reach sexual maturity, but some Texas tortoise populations manage to do it in just 5 years. The other North American tortoises often construct or use burrows for shelter and reuse them extensively, but Texas Tortoises are much more likely to be found sleeping in pallets or forms, similar to rabbits, and seldom reuse them. Additionally, tortoises are typically viewed as rather sedentary animals, but I've observed male Texas tortoises in the western Rio Grande Plains moving as much a kilometer in an afternoon. That's a long way for a turtle that is only 150 mm long, but such movements are not uncommon when a male decides to pay a social visit to a female. Although tortoises are typically thought of as very long-lived organisms and Texas tortoises have been documented living for more than 60 years in captivity, natural predation is high enough that it is very rare to find tortoises older than about 20 years of age in the western Rio Grande Plains. Luckily, their strategy of early age at maturity helps to keep these populations stable. Interestingly, age distributions at some sites in the Lower Rio Grande Valley are skewed to much older ages. And, of course, there's the old mantra

that everything is bigger in Texas, but the Texas tortoise decided to go against that tradition too. It is actually the smallest of the North America tortoises. In fact, if you look at a Desert Tortoise that is the same size as the maximum size of the Texas tortoise (~220 mm in shell length), it might not even be sexually mature yet.



Luckily, a forward thinking Texas legislature formally protected the Texas tortoise in the late 1960's and that greatly helped to eliminate a potential negative impact as a result of rampant collection for the pet trade. Despite that, these interesting beasts have been beset with other problems, and it's current listing as "Threatened" by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department seems well justified. They have largely disappeared from portions of their range, particularly along the coast, where various combinations of agriculture, urbanization, and succession have produced entirely unsuitable habitat. They still persist in robust populations in many places, particularly in the western Rio Grande Plains, but

even on the large private ranches found there, they are frequently crushed by heavy-duty brush-manipulation equipment, die of exposure when they become stuck in high fences, roast in fires made considerably more intense by introduced grasses (particularly buffelgrass [*Pennisetum ciliare*]), and succumb to depredation by an ever increasing raccoon population heavily subsidized by us. Hints of possible outbreaks of Upper Respiratory Tract Disease, which has decimated some Desert Tortoise populations, are also troubling.

So, the next time you're driving down a ranch road in southern Texas and see one of the small, brown animated tanks rumbling down the roadway ahead of you, take a minute and reflect on what you are looking at. It's a critter whose lineage goes back to before the age of dinosaurs and animals very much like it were ambling across the plains along with the Pleistocene megafauna. Globally, turtles are now considered to be the most imperiled vertebrate taxa and many species in Texas certainly deserve more attention than they are currently receiving. Hopefully, we can begin to broaden our focus in management of the large properties of the Rio Grande Plains so that this rather unique tortoise doesn't succumb to the same fate as those dinosaurs and megafauna, and future generations can experience their own wild tortoises in the great state of Texas.

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Article and photos by Dr. Richard T. Kazmaier, Department of Life, Earth, and Environmental Sciences, West Texas A&M University.

# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## CANDIDATES FOR 2010 OFFICERS OF THE TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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In accordance with Texas Chapter Bylaws, the Nominations Committee has identified two candidates to run for each office. The By Laws require that the slate of officers be submitted to the membership at least 30 days prior to mailing the official ballot. Additional nominees may be added to the slate by petition signed by six or more members. Additions to the slate must have certification that the additional nominee has agreed to serve. The final ballots will be distributed to members at least 30 days prior to the annual Chapter meeting. Candidates and biographies are included on the following pages.

### **Vice-President Nominees:**

Warren Conway  
T. Wayne Schwertner

### **Secretary Nominees:**

Robert Perez  
Scott Summers

### **Board Member at Large Nominees:**

Richard Heilbrun  
Vicky Sybert

# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## Warren Conway – VP Nominee

### ***Education:***

- Ph.D., Wildlife Science, Texas Tech University, 2001
- M.S., Wildlife Science, Texas Tech University, 1997
- B.S., Wildlife Biology and Management, University of Rhode Island, 1995

### ***Current and Past Professional Positions:***

- Associate Professor of Wildlife Management, Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, Stephen F. Austin State University, 2007- present.
- Assistant Professor of Wildlife Management, Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, Stephen F. Austin State University, 2002-2007.
- Site Operations Manager, Lubbock Lake Landmark, The Museum of Texas Tech University, 2001-2002.
- Instructor, Department of Range, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management, Texas Tech University, 2001.
- Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Range, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management, Texas Tech University, 1995-2001.



### ***Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Activities:***

- Chair of the Activities Committee of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 2009-2010.
- Chair of the Student Activities Committee of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 2008-2009.
- Chair of the Cottam Award Committee of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 2007-2008.
- Member of the Publication Awards Committee of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 2006-2007.
- Member of the Activities Committee of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 2004-2006.

### ***Vision Statement:***

For more than half my life, I lived in the smallest state, where natural resource and wildlife conservation was a genuine concern to most, but management decisions, options, and actual implementation were often constrained by size. Size of fragmented patches of land, size of budgets to execute research and implement management, and size of people's often insular perspective on what they could accomplish at local and regional scales (among others), all influenced how wildlife management was or was not accomplished. As I finished my undergraduate degree, I took advantage of an opportunity to attend graduate school in Texas. Until I took the first of many road trips from Lubbock to Matagorda County to do field work, I had little real understanding or appreciation of the size of Texas. Coming from a state where an hour long drive entailed preparing emergency travel packs, to a state that may take more than a day to cross, I have learned in my 15 years in Texas, the saying "everything's bigger in Texas" really does resonate. From big cities, to big ranches, to big Wildlife Management Areas and National Wildlife Refuges, to big universities, to big natural resource and wildlife management issues; the influence and impact of Texas wildlife professionals extends well beyond the borders of this state, and has for a long period of time.

More to the point, take a look at current and past membership, Presidents, and Officers of The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. All dedicated individuals who volunteered their time and energy to making this Chapter one of the biggest in the country. Many of these individuals currently serve or have served as national and international leaders in

# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

*W. Conway continued...*

our field as naturalists, “on-the-ground” managers and biologists, researchers, academics, journal editors, and mentors. There is a long history of professional excellence in our membership; our contemporaries and predecessors have established lofty standards.

So how do we move forward and maintain the continuity of excellence in our Chapter at local, regional, national, and international levels? How do we, as a Chapter, address and continue to be relevant authorities on increasingly visible resource conservation issues? Engagement...no, not that type, but engaging in communication with one another, with decision makers at the state and national level, with the general public, with private landowners, and with students at all levels. The Chapter has a long history of successful and well informed members and a strong constituency to help shape, mold, and influence wildlife and natural resource management decisions, based upon sound science and research. Through our agencies, universities, and partners, we have many individuals directly and intimately involved with and working towards solutions for many of today’s most relevant issues: harvest regulations for resident and migratory game species; renewable energy; implications of land ownership changes; water rights, resources, and use; endangered species research and management; the impacts of increasingly diverse public constituents on natural resource policy; and natural resource conservation education for youth and the public, just to name a few. We must continue to excel in what we are comfortable with, but engage the often uninformed public in these matters as experts and professionals. When so many of the general public are uninformed, or worse, misinformed, it is incumbent upon members of The Chapter to get our message delivered in outlets beyond our professional publications and venues. I believe The Chapter can, and should, serve as a platform for information delivery in this state and our region, not only to other professionals, but by engaging non-traditional audiences. By engaging these audiences, we can work towards fostering a sense of ownership, pride, and consciousness for natural resource issues. These are big challenges, but these are the current and future voting public upon whom we rely to make informed decisions in the voting booths. I believe the membership of The Texas Chapter can continue to play a major and prominent role in advancing sound, science-based wildlife conservation and management messages. I am honored to be nominated as Vice President of The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and look forward to the potential opportunity to work with and serve our profession and members.

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# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## T. Wayne Schwertner - VP Nominee

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### **Education:**

- BS, Texas A&M University
- MS, Texas State University
- PhD, Texas A&M University

### **Current and Past Positions:**

- Senior Ecologist, BIO-WEST, Inc., 2008-present
- White-winged Dove and Wild Turkey Program Leader, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 2004-2008
- Regulatory Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 2002-2004
- Area Manager, Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 1996-2002
- Ranch Manager and Wildlife Biologist, 5M Ranch, 1991-1992



### **TWS Activities:**

- TxCTWS Board-Member-at-Large – 2006
- TxCTWS Committee Activities:
  - Program Committee Chair – 2005, 2006, 2009
  - Excellence in Conservation Committee Chair – 2001
  - Excellence in Conservation Committee Member – 2000
  - Conservation Camp Committee Member – 2000
  - Conservation Review Committee Member – 1999
- Member of the Texas Chapter since 1987.
- Certified Wildlife Biologist
- Member, Texas A&M Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society – 1987 through 1991

### **Other Professional Affiliations:**

- Society for Conservation Biology
- International Society for Ecological Modeling

### **Vision Statement:**

*“If I have seen further than others, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants.” – Sir Isaac Newton*

I'm sure most of you are familiar with this quote. Looking back over the list of Texas Chapter Presidents, I see a list of giants in wildlife conservation – people like Jack Ward Thomas, Don Steinbach, and Donnie Harmel. From the Chapter's first president, Jim Teer, each has made their contribution to our Texas wildlife heritage. Forty-five names, forty-five people doing their best for the resource and for the Texas Chapter.

What did all of these people have in common? Simple. They shared a belief that the wildlife resources of our state, our nation, and our world were worth conserving, and a vision to make it happen.

# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

*T.W. Schwertner continued...*

So what is my vision for the Texas Chapter? It is a vision of increasing relevance – relevance to our members and to the world around us.

Like many of you, I look out on the world and see a wildlife management landscape much different from the one I entered as a young professional. There is more emphasis on non-game and endangered species, and smaller landholdings. And there are exciting new techniques to be brought to bear on conservation challenges. Sometimes it seems like we have to work as hard as we can just to keep up.

I envision a Texas Chapter that works hard to assist its members in their continued professional development, whether they be wildlife managers, academic researchers, or student members. I want to further the tradition I started as Program Chair of encouraging presentations that speak to practicing biologists, while continuing to promote the presentation of sound scientific research results. And I want to make sure we continue to encourage and support our student members, and help in their development as young professionals after graduation.

I also envision a Texas Chapter that continues to be relevant to addressing the conservation issues of the day. We are the experts! We should have an active role in today's environmental policy debates. Of course we must maintain our scientific objectivity, but we can't let that objectivity silence us. We cannot be afraid to let our voice be heard. I want to see the Texas Chapter strengthen its publicity and outreach efforts that promote the Chapter as the face of professional conservation in Texas. And I want the Texas Chapter to be a go-to source of information about wildlife management in Texas. The Wildlife Conservation Camp is a tremendously successful program in this arena, and I want to continue to strengthen it as we seek new opportunities in areas such as teacher training workshops, field days and symposia.

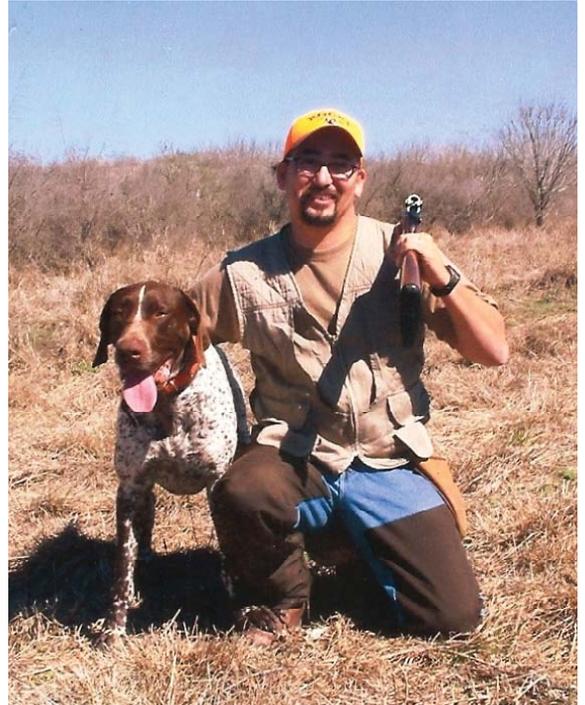
I make no pretense to being a giant. I am humbled by this nomination and the thought that I am being considered to stand among the leaders of the Texas Chapter. But I do pledge to work hard to advance the cause of professional wildlife management in Texas. I simply ask your support as we move forward to face today's conservation challenges, just as the Texas Chapter has always done.

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# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## **Robert M. Perez - Secretary Nominee**

Robert Perez is the Upland Game Bird Program Leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He is stationed near San Antonio in a little town called La Vernia. Robert went to work for TPW straight out of college and over the past 16 years has worked in South Texas, the Hill Country and for Austin Headquarters. He completed graduate research on bobwhite quail survival and has been involved with numerous upland game bird research projects and publications. Robert is active in both governmental and non-profit conservation organizations at the National, Regional, and Statewide scale. He is a member of Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Quail Unlimited and the National Bobwhite Technical Committee. Robert was raised in South Texas and received his B.S. and M.S. from Texas State University. Robert is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys bird hunting, bird dogs and fishing.



### ***Past committee positions include:***

- Chair, Activities Committee for the TCTWS (2006-2009)
- Chair, Public Relations, Information, and Education Committee, National Bobwhite Technical Committee

### ***Current positions include:***

- Chair, TPWD Lesser Prairie Chicken Technical Team
- Member, Rio Grande Joint Venture, Tamaulipan Brushland Technical Team
- Member, Steering Committee, South Texas Bobwhite Brigade
- Member, Advisory Committee to the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch
- Member, Steering Committee, Alamo Area Chapter of Quail Unlimited

### ***Service:***

- State Coordinator for the National CP33 Monitoring Program, 2005 to 2008
- Herpetology Instructor for the Alamo Area Master Naturalist Chapter, 2000 to present
- Instructor, South Texas Bobwhite Brigade, 1998 to present
- Coordinator/Instructor, Making Texas Tangible, Region 20 teacher workshops, 2006
- Instructor, Texas Wildlife Association LANDS Field days, 2005
- Instructor, Advanced Habitat Management Workshop, King Ranch, 4-6 March, 2004

### ***Vision:***

The TCTWS promotes excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. Part of this promotion should include an active role in national and state natural resource policy and regulation. My vision for the Texas chapter includes an expansion of education to incorporate more position statements, letter writing, and policy and regulation meeting attendance and input.

# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## Scott Summers - Secretary Nominee

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### *Education:*

- BS, Wildlife Biology, Texas State University, 1994

### *TWS Activities:*

- The Wildlife Society (TWS), member since 1992
- Wildlife Damage Management Working Group, member 2006-present
- Working Group for a Steady State Economy, member 2006-present
- Texas member for TWS (appointed) Ad Hoc Committee on Secure Border Measures

### *TCTWS Activities:*

- Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, member since 1995
- Board Member At-large 2009
- Chair, Conservation Review Committee 2009
- Chair, Finance Committee 2008
- Chair, Exhibits Committee 2007
- Member, Scholarship Committee 2006

### *Other Activities/Affiliations:*

- Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society 2004-present
- Texas State University Student Chapter of TWS, member 1991-1994
- Treasurer 1993-1994
- Texas Ornithological Society 2003-present
- Texas Farm Bureau 1995-present
- Audubon Society 1999-present
- Texas Lobbyist for State Wildlife Grants 2003
- President Twin Lakes Chapter 2003-2005
- Treasurer Twin Lakes Chapter 2005-2007

### *Current and Past Positions:*

- Field Biologist, The Nature Conservancy, 1998-present
- Avian Field Technician, South Australia, 1998
- Avian Field Technician, George Sutton Avian Research 1997
- Wildlife Ranch Manager, El Asilo Ranch 1995-1997

### *Vision Statement:*

About 5 percent of Texans are hunters, and that percentage is shrinking. We enjoy one of the best economies in all of the U.S. By some estimates, Texas is expected to grow to a whopping 50 million (from 25 million) people well before I retire—I'm 39. In part, it is the vast natural resources that make Texas attractive to more business and industry. Without more hunting opportunities the growth in wildlife interests lies in the non-hunting segment. So it goes without saying that, "Texas wild places and things need you more than ever", words shared recently by Carter Smith,



# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## *S. Summers continued...*

executive Director for Texas Parks and Wildlife in his letters to the TPW magazine. I agree. I would also add that Texas needs the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society more than ever too! We can't expect that wildlife management will always be guided by the best science-based decisions. I have discovered that wildlife bills frequently do not originate from people like us—professionals with a high stake in wildlife laws. Rather, they come from citizens who lobby their state politicians, who then turn the requests into laws, leaving us out. I'm sure those people who requested the bills have high stakes too, but not sure they were at all trained in wildlife management. Bottom line, I expect more of the same from influential politicians. These folks are faced with more laws and law complexity than ever before, that I'm not sure science ever comes to mind. But I would surely like lawmakers to think of us when powerful wildlife-related bills come to the floor of our capitol.

I am an advocate of more science where practical when it helps everyone understand key components of wildlife management. I will listen and let your voice be heard, regardless of your professional stripe. I want to know when decisions affecting us are made on economics versus science. I understand and can respect that difference. I can't imagine that there is a special interest group more thorough or scientifically knowledgeable than us. Despite having differences on certain subjects, we generally want the same thing: The best possible wildlife management, based on rigorous and practical science to serve all Texans!

Many with a great deal of institutional knowledge already have or will retire soon from our profession. The younger bunch replacing them will have to step up into leadership roles faster than they should or desire to. I think this society is the perfect forum to help ease this epic transition. I will help find ways to appeal to new, experienced, and retired professional leaders so we can keep everyone active and involved in our affairs. It would be a tragedy if the most experienced leaders faded into retirement completely. Continued involvement begins with our newsletter, summer camp, and annual meeting.

Too often, many of us can not voice our opinion on wildlife laws for fear of professional repercussions. So, I would like to see the Board finally fill the long vacant Executive Director position so we can have stronger positions on relevant issues, leveraging our scientific knowledge and values to best plan for growth in Texas.

I wish we could go back to the days of simplicity, like when taking a doe deer with my sister required us to use a doe permit! But my guess is we will have to brace for more laws and law complexity as we move ahead into the future. If elected, I promise to be an energetic forward thinker, a listener, and counselor helping the Executive Board with decisions coming our way that matter to you!

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# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## Richard Heilbrun-Board Member at-Large

### *Education:*

- B.S., Wildlife & Fisheries Science, Texas A&M University
- M.S., Wildlife & Fisheries Science, Texas A&M University
- Certified Wildlife Biologist

### *Positions Held:*

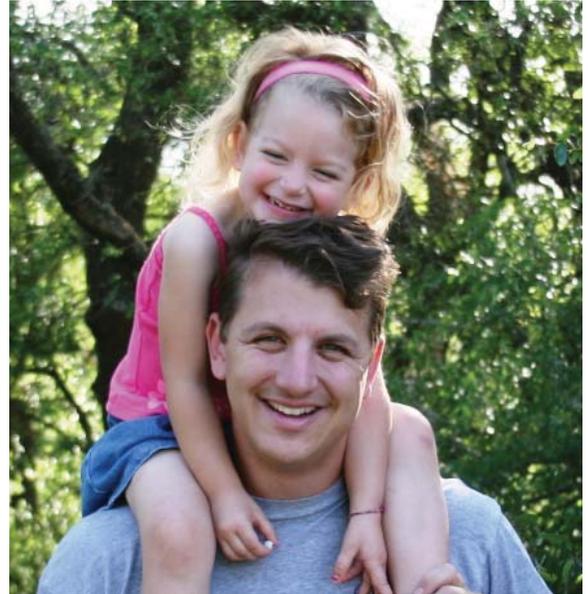
- Urban Wildlife Biologist-Texas Parks & Wildlife Department; 2004-present
- Regulatory Wildlife Biologist-Texas Parks & Wildlife Department; 2002-2004
- Rob & Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation Fellow; 1999-2002
- Technician-Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute; 1999
- Intern, Welder Wildlife Foundation; 1999

### *Current and Past TWS Involvement:*

- Texas Chapter of TWS, Member, 1999 - present
- National TWS, Member
- Texas Chapter of TWS, Member, 1999 - present
- Conservation Camp Instructor, 1999-present
- Scholarship Committee Chair, 2004
- Photo, Art, and Video Contest Committee Chair, 2005
- Conservation Camp Co-Chair, 2005
- Conservation Camp Director, 2006, 2007
- Activities Committee Chair, 2006
- Education & Outreach Committee Chair, 2009

### *Vision Statement:*

We seem to be in a constant state of flux as wildlife professionals. While I try to pacify the monster known as Change, I can never quite shake the foreshadowing of declining funding sources, changing of the Texas citizenry, and loss of constituents in the natural resources. The message is clear, but the solution for us as a Chapter is not. How do we make wildlife conservation a priority for the average citizen? How can we recruit new wildlife enthusiasts into our community? Did you know that more Americans hunt or fish than play tennis, soccer, baseball, and basketball combined? Then why, in a social, urban setting, are people afraid to talk about their weekend outdoor plans for fear of being ostracized? While the Chapter does a great job in everything we do, we have an opportunity to be advocates for our message in the public realm. It is indeed a daunting task, but through new and creative programs, we can begin this process. In 2008, together with David Veale (TPWD), I launched a joint venture between TPWD and TCTWS to develop a Mentored Hunting Program for urban residents. We recently received funding from the Harvey Weil Foundation to continue the program over the next 2 years to mentor new hunters and to re-engage lapsed hunters. Among the first participants were 2 female graduates of the Becoming an Outdoor Woman Program, an Austin father who needed a "hunting refresher" before he took his son hunting (which he did this year), a Houston medical student who had hunted only once as a teenager, and an avid hunter from Spain who needed an introduction to our system here in Texas. All lived in urban areas and had no traditional "avenue" into wildlife-related activities. These folks went back to their communities and boasted about the great time they had in their gentle reintroduction to the outdoors. As Board member at-large, I hope to assist the Board in developing programs like these to increase our presence in our communities and to adopt "Change" while holding onto those things we already do so well.



# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## Vicki Sybert -Board Member at-Large

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### *Education:*

- B.S.—Microbiology/Chemistry, Texas State University, 1981.
- M.S.—Wildlife Biology/Aquatic Biology, Texas State University, 1990.
- Ed.D. ABD—Science Ed./Curriculum and Instruction/Educational Leadership, Texas Tech University.

### *Current and Past Positions:*

- Regional Interpretive Specialist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Region 1 Wildlife Division, 1998- present.
- Lecturer, Texas Tech University, Science Ed., Instructional Planning, 1992-1997.
- Coordinator, Texas Tech University, Field Based, Pre-service and Student Teaching, 1992-1997.
- Project Assistant, Texas Tech University, Minority Math Science Education Cooperative, Tech Prep Curriculum Development, EXXON Energy/Natural Resources Curriculum (Valdez Mitigation Project), 1992-1997.
- Science Teacher, San Marcos CISD, Secondary Science, San Marcos High School, 1985-1992.
- Graduate Assistant, Texas State University, 1981-1986.

### *TWS Activities:*

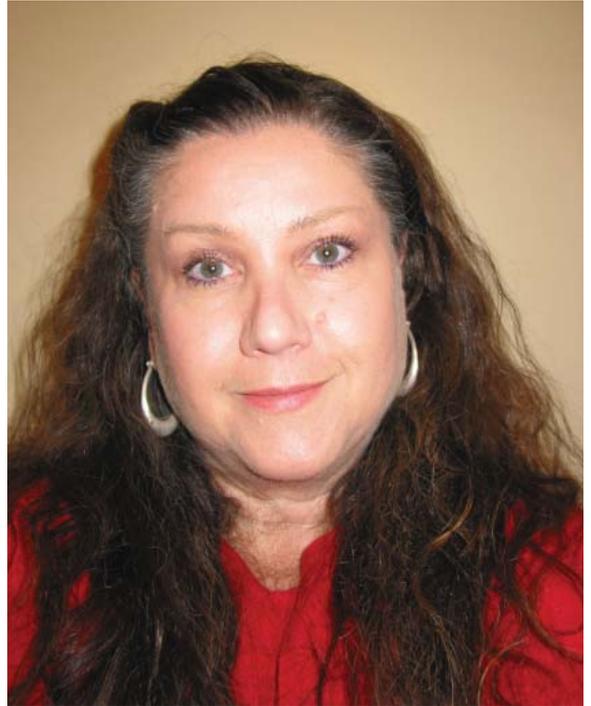
- The Wildlife Society, Member, 1981-present
- Southwest TX State University Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 1982-1987
- Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 1982-1987, 1998-present
- Exhibit Committee Chair, 2009
- Program Committee, 2007
- Cottam Award Committee, 2000

### *Other Professional Affiliations:*

- State Committee Member, Wildlife Alliance for Youth
- Facilitator, Project WILD, Aquatic WILD, Leopold Education Project
- Advisor, South Plains Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists
- Informal Science Education Association of Texas
- National Science Teachers Association
- Science Teachers Association of Texas
- Texas Science Education Leadership Association

### *Vision Statement:*

A career in wildlife management, conservation or natural resource protection includes much more than completing a degree program, acquiring a job and going to work. We have the good fortune to be employed in a profession that is also our avocation. Our professional and personal self-concept, what we do, who we are and what we believe are practiced everyday and completely entwined in our personal and professional identity. I believe that as professionals, we are



## OFFICER NOMINATIONS

*V. Sybert continued...*

personally responsible for our own professional development. Professional development includes staying current and knowledgeable in the content and context of our work, staying abreast of issues, impacts and threats to the resources we value, promoting the identity of the profession and recruiting and mentoring the wildlife biologists, conservation managers and natural resource specialists in successive generations. The Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society is a dynamic organization that embodies each of those facets of professional development. The Board Member At-large is responsible for overseeing the education and outreach duties of the Chapter, promoting a positive public image of the Chapter and seeking to educate the public on important wildlife conservation issues. I believe reaching new audiences, increasing the visibility and respect for our professional organization, and providing accurate information through a variety of media to educate the public are important and achievable goals. I am honored to be nominated for the office of Member At-large. If selected, I commit to make sure that we continue to be well represented at our traditional events, seek new and expanded venues to reach new audiences, promote current and explore potential education programs and make available the most accurate and engaging materials for display and dissemination that reflect the membership of our organization- who we are, what we do, and what we believe.

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### MISTY SUMNER NAMED TWS FELLOW



Misty Sumner, an active member of the Texas Chapter since 1982, was recognized as a Fellow of The Wildlife Society at the 16th Annual Conference in Monterey, CA, September 20, 2009. The Fellows Program recognizes members who have distinguished themselves through

exceptional service to our profession. Misty is only the third TWS Fellow from Texas and only the third female so recognized.

Most of Misty's TWS activities have not involved elected office positions and she does not seek the limelight. Her notable accomplishments, such as creating the student shadow and student mentor programs in the Texas Chapter TWS and helping to create similar activities at the TWS Annual Conferences, could go largely unnoticed. Her selfless contributions as teacher of hundreds of high school students in TWS and TWA educational programs do not receive recognition in newsletters or with president's plaques. Misty is the epitome of active members that creatively engage and contribute significantly to our profession.

### GARY WAGGERMAN (1942-2009)

A Memorial Ceremony was held for Gary Waggerman at the Estero Llano Grande State Park on Saturday, September 19, 2009. The ceremony was followed by a tree planting and scattering of ashes.

The Gary Waggerman Memorial Scholarship has been established, as Gary wished, to provide funding for university graduate wildlife research projects selected by the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Persons wishing to contribute to this scholarship fund should make out checks to GARY WAGGERMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP and mail to Wells Fargo Bank, Attn. Ryan Kelso, 7101 W. Hwy 71, Austin, TX 78735. Donations can also be made by depositing a GWMS check at any Wells Fargo Bank to account number 7708114678. This may be the easiest for people who do online banking.



Gary L. Waggerman (1942 - 2009) served as a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department wildlife biologist for 33 years. He managed the Las Palomas Wildlife Management Area in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas and was internationally known for his work with white-winged doves, wildlife habitat restoration, and birding tours in Texas and Mexico. Land he once lived on and managed is now part of Estero Llano Grande State Park.

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

### 2nd Call for Abstracts for the 46th Annual Meeting of TCTWS

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Abstracts are now being accepted for technical paper and poster sessions at the 46th Annual Meeting of The Wildlife Society - Texas Chapter. The 46th Annual Meeting will be held February 18-20, 2010 in Galveston, TX. Papers presenting the results of wildlife field investigations and analyses, as well as topic reviews of interest to wildlife students and professionals in Texas are encouraged. Abstracts should be submitted electronically by email as a file attachment (Microsoft Word format) to alan.cain@att.net. **Deadline for receipt of abstracts is 30 Nov 2009.**

#### **Papers**

Contributed papers will be scheduled at 15-minute intervals. Presentations should therefore be limited to 10-12 minutes in order to allow time for questions and comments. Speakers in oral sessions will be notified of the day, time, and location of their presentations, and instructions on how to prepare for the sessions. Oral presentations must be in Microsoft PowerPoint format.

#### **Poster Presentations**

Posters presenting the results of wildlife field investigations and analyses are highly encouraged. An award will be given to the best poster presentation in undergraduate and graduate categories - these will be judged on topic originality, scientific procedures, quality of display, accuracy of conclusions, and response to questions from judges. Space may be limited, so quality of abstract may prioritize acceptance. Abstracts should be submitted electronically by email as a file attachment (Microsoft Word) to alan.cain@att.net. Deadline for receipt of abstracts is 30 Nov 2009.

#### **Required Abstract Style**

Abstracts, including author and title line, are to be no more than 250 words. The words "Poster Session" or "Oral Session" must appear in the upper left margin of the abstract. Abstracts should follow "The Journal of Wildlife Management" format. First give the title in all caps, double space, and then give authors and their affiliation. Capitalize all authors' name and state abbreviations. After authors and their affiliation have been given, double space, start with the word "Abstract:" then begin the abstract. Do not indent any part of the abstract. The abstract should be a single paragraph. In cases of two or more authors, place an asterisk after the name of the person presenting the paper. Abstracts should include a statement of objectives, brief description of methods used, concise presentation of results, and a summary of conclusions/inferences drawn. The Program Chair will notify persons submitting abstracts soon after their receipt.

#### **Sample Abstract:**

##### SURVEY FOR BLOOD PARASITES IN INCA DOVES FROM SOUTH TEXAS

SAMANTHA K. YELTATZIE\*, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, TX 78363 USA  
ALAN M. FEDYNICH, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, TX 78363 USA

*Abstract:* Inca doves (*Columbina inca*) are a native species of South Texas, which are locally abundant in urban areas. Unfortunately, little is known about the factors that may impact their populations such as predation, disease, and parasites. To learn more about factors that may influence the health of this species, we initiated a survey to determine if Inca doves in South Texas have blood parasites. Inca doves were live trapped using wire cages on the Texas A&M University-Kingsville campus and surrounding the city of Kingsville. At the time of capture, Inca doves were aged and sexed, banded to identify recaptured birds, sampled using blood from the leg vein, and released. Two blood smears from each bird were made on microscope slides. Each slide was preserved, stained, and examined under 1000X magnification for 15 minutes each (30 minutes/bird). Forty-one Inca doves were captured between June and October 2000. No blood parasites were observed on the smears. Our findings suggest that Inca doves were not infected or at least were not demonstrating active infections in the peripheral blood during summer 2000.

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

### PUBLICATION AWARDS - 2ND CALL FOR SUBMISSION

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This is the second call for nominations for publications that include a Texas Chapter of TWS member as author or co-author and were (or will be) published within the last three years. Categories may include books, journal articles, bulletins, popular articles or other publications.

**The deadline for submission is November 15, 2009.**

To nominate a publication, please submit 4 copies to:

**Tim Fulbright**

**TCTWS Publications Committee Chair**

Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute

700 University Blvd., MSC 218

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Kingsville, TX 78363

timothy.fulbright@tamuk.edu

### STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS - 2ND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

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Applications are now being accepted for the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Scholarship Program.

Three undergraduate and 3 graduate level scholarships will be awarded at the 2010 annual meeting in Galveston.

**Scholarships total \$7,250.00.**

Scholarship guidelines and applications can be found at [www.tctws.org](http://www.tctws.org) under the Students tab. Scholarship applications must be submitted through your TWS Student Chapter advisor. Chapter advisors are listed at [www.tctws.org](http://www.tctws.org) under the Students tab.

The deadline to get scholarship applications to the Scholarship Committee Chair has been changed to **1 December 2009.**

**As of 1 October, no scholarship applications have been received. Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to take advantage of these scholarship opportunities and submit applications by the 1 December deadline.**

## Clarence Cottam Awards - 2nd Call for Student Abstracts

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*Abstracts are now being accepted for consideration in the Clarence Cottam Award Session at the 46th Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society in Galveston. This session is devoted to promoting and recognizing excellence in student research.*

### **Clarence Cottam Award Eligibility:**

Graduate and undergraduate students are eligible to enter. Students who have graduated since the last annual meeting are also eligible if they are members of the Texas Chapter of TWS at the time of the annual meeting. Students must be the senior author of the abstract and oral presentation. The work being reported must be primarily that of the student. Research projects should be nearing completion so that results and their interpretations can be included. To ensure that students present 'final' results, they will be limited to one Cottam presentation per academic degree (M.S./Ph.D.). Additionally, only students that are affiliated with a Texas college or university at the time of research OR students that have conducted field work in Texas, but are affiliated with a non-Texas based college or university, are eligible.

### **Judging Criteria:**

The judging of Cottam Award presentations will be conducted in two phases. First, Cottam Award abstracts are reviewed by committee and ranked numerically. The highest rankings will be invited to present their papers for the competition; the number of presentations will be dependent upon the number of submissions, number of available slots, and the quality of the extended abstracts. Second, Cottam Award presentations will be reviewed using a standardized form (adopted and modified from TWS). Seventy-five percent of the score is from the presentation and 25% from the abstract.

### **Extended Abstract:**

The extended abstract must be < 3 pages, double-spaced 12 pt., and in the style and format of the Journal of Wildlife Management (JWM). First give the title in bold, all caps, double space, and then list authors and their affiliation. Capitalize all authors' names and state abbreviations. After authors and their affiliations have been given, double space, start with the word "Abstract" in bold font then begin the abstract. Do not indent any part of the abstract. The abstract should be a single paragraph. Abstracts should include a statement of objectives, brief description of methods used, concise presentation of results, and a summary of conclusions and inferences drawn. Do not include tables, appendices, or a literature cited section.

### **Abstract Submission Requirements:**

***Deadline for receipt of abstracts is November 30, 2009.*** Extended abstracts can be submitted as hard copy (4 copies) through regular mail, or as a PDF file attached to an e-mail (email submission preferred). Hard copy or PDF file format are preferred to facilitate accurate representation of formatting. The presenting author's last name and the words "Clarence Cottam" must appear in the upper left margin of the abstract and in the subject line of the e-mail, if electronic submission. Abstracts should be submitted to Andrew Kasner, Department of Biology, Wayland Baptist University, 1900 West 7th Street, Plainview, TX 79072; Email: kasnera@wbu.edu; Phone: (830) 480-2770. Additionally, students must submit one (1) abbreviated abstract (<=250 words) to the Program Chair by November 30, 2009. The abbreviated abstract should follow instructions outlined in the general call for abstract submission from the program committee and should be labeled "Cottam Award Entry" in the upper left hand margin. For additional information regarding the Clarence Cottam Award, follow the scholarship link on the TCTWS web page ([www.tctws.org](http://www.tctws.org)) or contact Andrew Kasner.

## Clarence Cottam Awards (*continued*)

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

#### **Judging of extended abstracts will be based on:**

1. Significance and originality of ideas.
2. Creativity of research design and implementation.
3. Quality of methodology, including statistical analyses.
4. Validity of conclusions drawn from the results.
5. Neatness and conformity to JWM style and format.

#### **Oral Presentations:**

Clarence Cottam Award Session Papers will be scheduled at 15-minute intervals. Presentations should therefore be limited to 10-12 minutes in order to allow 3-5 minutes for questions and comments. All presenters must use PowerPoint as the presentation medium for their oral presentations; traditional slides and overheads will not be allowed. Presentations must be submitted on disk or CD in accordance with the requirements established by the program committee for general session presentations.

#### **Judging of oral presentations will be based on:**

##### *Scientific Merit*

1. Significance of ideas and originality.
2. Creativity of research design and implementation.
3. Quality of methodology, including statistical analyses.
4. Validity of conclusions drawn from the results.

##### *Presentation*

5. Justification for research and introduction.
6. Clarity of objectives, and hypotheses being tested.
7. Clarity of methods (including analytical procedures), results, interpretation of results, and implications.
8. Quality and clarity of slides and /or graphics.
9. Student's ability to engage the audience's attention throughout the presentation, including fielding questions and staying within the allotted time.

#### **Prizes:**

- 1st place-\$500 provided by the Welder Wildlife Foundation + TCTWS plaque  
2nd place\*-\$200  
3rd place\*-\$50

\* 2nd and 3rd places will be awarded only if 6 or more entries are submitted for consideration.

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

### EXCELLENCE IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AWARDS 2ND CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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#### **EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

The Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee is soliciting nomination for the Educator of the year Award. The Educator of the Year Award recognizes wildlife professionals for outstanding achievements in wildlife conservation education. Please submit a 5-point bullet statement explaining why the nominee is deserving of the award, along with a curriculum vitae of the nominee (if possible) to: Lynn Drawe, P.O. Box 836, Sinton, TX 78387) or electronically to Bart Ballard at bart.ballard@tamuk.edu. **The deadline for nominations is 15 October 2009.**

#### **LAND STEWARDSHIP AWARD:**

The Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee is soliciting nomination for the Land Stewardship Award. The Land Stewardship Award recognizes landowners or other appropriate individuals for their wildlife conservation efforts. Please submit a ½ to 1 page letter

of nomination explaining why the nominee is deserving of the award to: Lynn Drawe, P.O. Box 836, Sinton, TX 78387) or electronically to Bart Ballard at bart.ballard@tamuk.edu. **The deadline for nominations is 15 October 2009.**

#### **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:**

The Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee is soliciting nomination for the Outstanding Achievement Award. The Outstanding Achievement Award recognizes wildlife professionals for their outstanding achievements during the course of their involvement with natural resources management and conservation. Please submit a 5-point bullet statement explaining why the nominee is deserving of the award, along with a curriculum vitae of the nominee (if possible) to: Lynn Drawe, P.O. Box 836, Sinton, TX 78387) or electronically to Bart Ballard at bart.ballard@tamuk.edu. **The deadline for nominations is 15 October 2009.**

### HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP - 2ND CALL FOR NOMINEES

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The Honorary Life Membership Committee is seeking nominations for this honor. The committee will continue the policy of seeking and considering nominees submitted from the membership.

To be eligible a nominee should have been

(1) active for 20 years or more in the wildlife profession as an employee of a natural resource agency, academia, or a private organization as a wildlife biologist or consultant; or an effective non professional activist.

(2) He/she should have made significant contributions to the Chapter and/or the profession and/or wildlife conservation in Texas.

Please submit a complete vitae and one or more letters of nomination from friends and associates to Mike Tewes, CKWRI-TAMUK, MSC 218, 700 University Blvd., Kingsville, TX 78363; michael.tewes@tamuk.edu. **The deadline for nominations is 15 October 2009.**

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

# 2009-2010 TEXAS STUDENT CHAPTER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

*Sponsored by Texas Wildlife Association*

**\*Attention College Chapters of the  
Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society!**

**\*Gain Valuable Experience!**

**\*Be a Voice For Conservation and Earn Up To \$2,000  
Dollars in Support of YOUR Chapter's Efforts!**  
(Total Sponsorship dollars to be awarded is \$5,000)

TWA understands that your mission is to get a good education, gain practical experience, and land a job doing your part for the future of fisheries, wildlife, and the natural resources they depend upon. Why not gain recognition and resources for your chapter in the process? TWA's mission is to educate all persons, especially the youth of Texas, about the conservation, management, and enhancement of wildlife and wildlife habitat, particularly on private lands. TWA serves as an advocate for the benefit of wildlife and for the rights of wildlife managers, landowners and sportsmen in educational, scientific, political, regulatory, legal and legislative arenas.

We want to ensure that the leaders of tomorrow are well equipped and informed! We need your voice! We need your help! TWA and its partners (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas Cooperative Extension, other NGO's, etc.) collaborate in many education venues. You can help make those happen. Wildlife Management field days and seminars, wildlife leadership camps, youth hunts, Texas Big Game Awards Banquets, urban outreach – there's a place for you! We also encourage you to design (or further) your own conservation programs, and increase your involvement in TCTWS sponsored activities.

***By participating, you can:***

- Gain Valuable Experiences.
- Network with Professionals.
- Find Possible Internships and Job Connections.
- Learn Information on Issues Impacting Your Future.
- Network with the Public.
- Establish Professional References.

By participating at certain TWA events and other conservation-

based programs by providing voluntary service and outreach, you will receive points. The top Student Chapter record book will receive the Professional Development Award. There may also be an opportunity for a second and third place awards well.

***Here is the point system:***

- Special Events - Wildlife Expo, TWA Convention, Urban Outreach, School Programs, Etc. (20 - 40 points per event)
- Design and Conduct Your Own Conservation Education Activities (15-50 points; document program planning)
- Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society (TCTWS) Events (Wildlife Camp, Teacher Trainings, etc.) (20 - 40 points)
- Resource Management Activities (TPWD, NRCS, etc activities like prescribed burns, etc.) (10 - 30 points)
- Texas Big Game Awards Banquets – (20 - 40 points)
- Texas Youth Hunting Program Events – (20 - 40 points)
- Texas Brigades Camp – Adult Leader or Committee (10 points per person involved)
- Field Days, Wildlife Management Seminars, Symposia – (20 - 40 points)
- TWA Membership – (10 points per new member)

**\*POINTS ARE AWARDED BASED ON THE NUMBER OF CHAPTER MEMBERS INVOLVED AND THE EXTENT OF INVOLVEMENT\***

Each Club must complete a year-end record book with signed event forms (see enclosed) for each event. Please make copies for use throughout the year. **Record books will be due on January 31 annually.** The Student Chapter with the most points from January 1 through December 31, will be presented with the top Student Chapter Professional Development Award for your Club at the TCTWS Annual Meeting, sponsored by the Texas Wildlife Association.

Please do not hesitate to call or email us with any questions, comments or concerns at (800) 839-9453. Again, thanks for all you do to help champion natural resource education.

Yours for a clean and enjoyable outdoors,  
The Texas Wildlife Association

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

# PHOTO, ART, AND VIDEO CONTEST CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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We are approaching the time of year where we frantically search our hard drives, sit down with our sketch pads or work with wood or clay...for that perfect photograph, art piece or video to enter in the Texas Chapter's Annual Photo and Art Contest. The contest will occur during the 46th Annual Meeting in Galveston on February 18-20, 2010. Please see below for contest rules.

PLEASE NOTE: This year we will be seeing a return of the REMOTE CAMERA photography category.

### ***Photo Contest:***

- All contestants must be members of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

- Photography categories will be 1) wildlife – not including captive animals, 2) plants and scenery, 3) humor, 4) work related, 5) wildlife conservation – captive animal photography of species of conservation concern, and a returning category, 6) remote camera - not including captive animals.

- Photographs should be a standard size (3" x 5" up to 11" x 14"), unmatted, and unframed; cardboard backing is permitted. Please note: Slides will not be accepted.

- Contestants are requested to submit an electronic copy of photographs, if possible, to be used at the Awards Banquet. (A scanner will be onsite to upload digital copies if you are unable to bring a flash drive or CD at time of entry.)

- Art may include original drawings, paintings, carvings, sculpture, poetry, etc. All entries compete in one category.

- Contestants will be limited to 5 entries per category. To help defray the cost of awards, there will be an entry fee of \$1.00 per item.

- Winners will be selected by ballot of members attending the Annual Meeting and announced during the Friday Evening Awards Banquet. Provided there are at least 5 entries: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places will be awarded in each category, and there will be a Best of Show award. If there are < 5 entries in a category, only 1st place will be awarded.

### ***Video Contest:***

Video submissions must be submitted to the committee chair by December 1, 2009 to be judged by the Photo, Art, and Video Contest Committee. Winning submissions will be announced at the Awards Banquet. Provided there are at least 5 entries, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places will be awarded. If there are < 5 entries, only 1st place will be awarded.

For further information or to assist as a committee member at the conference (i.e. helping at the tables during entry or voting), please contact: Jennifer Korn at 817-829-0453 or [jennifer.korn@students.tamuk.edu](mailto:jennifer.korn@students.tamuk.edu).

## STUDENT CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

### WEST TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Don't overlook these *New Kids on the Block*. I'm referring to West Texas A&M University's Student Chapter of the The Wildlife Society. Since 2007, WT's Student Chapter has already made leaps and bounds. With membership at around 45 members this past year, the chapter is looking forward to a bright future.

Chapter advisors, Dr. Richard Kazmaier and Dr. Ray Matlack, are a dedicated and supportive foundation to the chapter and its members. Even with their own teaching, research, and personal obligations, they remain positive and willing to offer any guidance needed.

Members are constantly up to something! Opportunities to get involved are *everywhere*. From alligators to ants, bobcats to bats, porcupines to pronghorn, small mammals to snakes,

or turtles to tarantulas, you are sure to find opportunities to get involved in research! Graduate and undergraduate students are involved in research projects that cover a vast array of wildlife taxa. Members are constantly sharing their research through conferences and meetings across the country, including: the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, the American Society of Mammalogists, Southwestern Association of Naturalists, the Ecological Society of America, and the Turtle Survival Alliance.

If all of that isn't enough for you, even more opportunities are available at "WT" for you to join in on the fun. From trapping and relocating turkeys, to assisting researchers at TAMUK collar mule deer, to helping carry out prescribed burns, to performing necropsies on roadrunners, to volunteering and presenting at Amarillo's "Snake Fest".

Are you still looking for more? You may want to participate in the numerous student trips across the United States and abroad. Class trips routinely take members across Texas, through New Mexico and Arizona, and into Arkansas, Kansas and Colorado. Faculty guided trips have taken wildlifers to South Africa and Panama. These "New Kids" are putting in the hours and the miles in search of experience, professional development, and fun!



### TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY



Since 1978, Texas State University's Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has been dedicated to youth outreach and education as well as supporting responsible wildlife management and conservation. In 2008, our organization contributed a total of 945 volunteer hours at 37 events, including the Texas Parks and Wildlife Expo, the Texas Big Game Awards, and numerous outreach and public school education programs for children. With a member base of 55 undergraduate and graduate

students, we hope to keep up this level of volunteerism in 2009.

In our weekly meetings, we discuss upcoming events and fundraisers. Guest speakers during this past spring included former TPWD Director Andrew Sansom, Lochart State Park interpreter Liz Larue, Ravenstar Outdoor Education Program, and founder of Ranch Logistics, Michael Morrow.

In the spring of 2009 we established a \$500 scholarship fund to be given annually to the most active and determined member of the student chapter. We also sponsored a student at this year's TCTWS Wildlife Conservation Camp in Kingsville. Even with all of these events and activities going on during the spring semester, our quiz bowl team made

it to the championship round at the meeting in Lubbock this year. They put up a valiant effort and we are extremely proud of them!

Many of our members are currently conducting important research in areas of wildlife management and conservation. We also have members currently pursuing internships.

Our commitment to wildlife resources and the community keeps our organization active and ready wherever we might be needed. We hope to set records this year with fundraising, not only to support our organization, but to give back to the very people and wildlife that make our student chapter possible. We anticipate that 2009 will prove to be an exciting and eventful year and we hope to continue our success for many years to come.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

### TCTWS 46<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING, 2010

San Luis Resort in Galveston, February 18-20, 2010



Hotel: <http://www.galvestonhilton.com>

Convention Center: <http://www.galvestonislandconventioncenter.com>

### OTHER EVENTS:

- Tarleton alumni and friends are invited to the **2nd Annual Tarleton Wild Game Dinner** on Friday, October 23, 5-8pm @ Melody Mountain Ranch, Stephenville, Texas. Tickets are \$15. For more information, contact Travis Sagebiel, 830-992-5018, or visit <http://www.tarleton.edu/~wildlifeclub>.