THE TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



TEXAS' FLORA AND FAUNA: Desert Bighorns - A Texas Success Story



The majestic desert bighorn is one of the many spectacles you might find while visiting west Texas this summer. Although ewes (females) have horns, it's the large massive curling horns of the rams (males) that give bighorns their name. The desert monarchs can usually be found in some of the roughest, steepest, least hospitable mountains of west Texas. Although, desert big-

horn sheep numbers are increasing and are currently estimated at over 1,500 throughout west Texas, bighorn sheep populations have seen their up's and down's during the past century.

Desert bighorn sheep occurred throughout the mountains of west Texas as early back as prehistoric times. In fact, aboriginal tribes provide pictographs of desert bighorn sheep (or their ancestors) documenting their existence and importance to the early cultures.

One of the first written accounts of bighorn numbers was recorded by Vernon Bailey in 1905. Bailey estimated that bighorn sheep numbers had decreased to 500 sheep. The demise of the sheep was attributed to a variety of factors including unregulated hunting, predation, diseases, and competition with domestic livestock. By 1960, bighorn sheep were extirpated from Texas.

However, because of restoration efforts led by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), desert bighorn sheep are once again roaming the mountain ranges of west Texas. Restoration efforts have included establishment of state owned Wildlife Management Areas (including Sierra Diablo, Black Gap, and Elephant Mountain), captive propagation facilities, over 140 sheep transplanted from Nevada, Arizona, Utah, and Mexico over the last 50 years, and over 300 in-state transplants.

Restoration efforts have focused on partnerships among private landowners, various state and national government agencies, private

Continued on Page 3

TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

WWW.TCTWS.ORG

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT, Louis A. Harveson
PRESIDENT ELECT, Alan Cain
VICE PRESIDENT, Warren Conway
SECRETARY, Scott Summers
BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE,
Richard Heilburn
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Vacant

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

TEXAS' FLORA & FAUNA: Desert Bighorns
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: Louis Harveson2
SW SECTION NEWS4
TCTWS WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CAMP5
STUDENT CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT6
PROPOSED CHANGES TO BY-LAWS7
COMMITTEE CHAIRS8
46TH ANNUAL TCTWS CONFERENCE AWARDS9
UPCOMING MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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).

EDITOR, PATRICIA MOODY HARVESON

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Wow! What a great annual conference Bart Ballard and his crew hosted in Galveston! Bart along with his Local Arrangements team (consisting of Ty Bartoskewitz, Alan Cain, and Yolanda Ballard) provided one of the best Chapter meetings to date. In fact, the Executive Committee received a tremendous amount of compliments on the program, arrangements, entertainment, and catering services of the meeting. Hats off to

all Chapter members who helped make the Galveston Meeting a success!

The Galveston Meeting is certainly a hard act to follow-up. But we're going to try! Please mark your calendar now for 47th Annual Meeting of the TCTWS to be held on 15-19 February 2011 at El Tropicano Hotel in San Antonio, Texas.

I am proud to welcome 3 new members to the TCTWS Executive Committee that will help the TCTWS be the best TWS chapter in North America: Richard Heilburn joins us as Board-Member-at-Large; Warren Conway begins his 4-year commitment starting with the Vice-President post. Scott Summers steps into his new position as Secretary; Alan Cain moves into the President-Elect position; and Bart Ballard grins on as Past-President.

This TCTWS is blessed with professionals that are passionate about their jobs, passionate about the resources they are entrusted with, and passionate about mentoring students. The officers listed above epitomize volunteerism and professionalism.

However, the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society is more than an Executive Board. There are 24 committees within our Chapter and each committee has about 4-6 volunteer members equating to ~100-150 dedicated professionals. If you are not one of those volunteers....you need to be. For this issue, I have included a list of the TCTWS Committees and contact information for those committees. I encourage you to look through the committees and reach out to see if you can help the TCTWS.

Please also note the call for assistance for this year's TCTWS Conservation Camp (July 11-17, 2010). The Camp is always in need of volunteers, parting gifts, and money. The TCTWS Conservation Camp is truly one of a kind. No other TWS Chapter puts the efforts that TCTWS does in outreach and education. But the Camp doesn't happen by itself. Please contact Co-Chairs Jim Gallagher (830-278-9151 ext 107) or Selma Glasscock (361-364-2643) to find out how you can help with this year's Conservation Camp.

I look forward to working with you to make the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society a model of "Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education".

Louis A. Harveson, President

Texas' flora and fauna

organizations like the Texas Bighorn Society (TBS), the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS), Wild Sheep Foundation, and the Boone and Crockett Club, and university researchers.

These cooperative efforts have resulted in over 115 permits being issued to date to the public hunt system called "Texas Grand Slam", various private landowners, and to the Wild Sheep Foundation for auction. One of the benefits of the bighorn sheep permit program is that the Texas Grand Slam and the Wild Sheep Foundation generate money that directly benefits the bighorns sheep restoration program.

Successful wildlife restoration stories abound throughout history. But the story of desert bighorn sheep is truly Texan. If you haven't had the privilege to view Texas' desert bighorn sheep, your best opportunity is take the driving tour at Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area and proceed to the viewing station south of the mountain. Take a spotting scope or binoculars and enjoy one of Texas' most treasured wildlife species!

Artícle by Dr. Louis A. Harveson, Director of the Borderlands Research Institute, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas.



Photo courtesy of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

SOUTHWEST SECTION TWS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SOUTHWEST SECTION Submitted by Carol Chambers, TWS Council Representative

APRIL 2010

I attended the March Council Meeting in Milwaukee and lots of interest to report. The Wildlife Society Bulletin, published from 1973 to 2006 will be coming back as a peer-reviewed professional publication on management practices that influence wildlife populations or habitat, policies and human dimensions studies. Same name and the journal number will continue from the last number used. Sound familiar? There are lots of things staying the same but there will be something new about WSB – it will be published as an online journal.

The number of members in TWS at the end of 2009 exceeded 9,100 and is growing, closing in on the record of 9,600 in 1992. This represented an 18% increase from 2008. TWS continues to look for new ways to reach members and engage nonmembers to join using online blogs (join a conversation at http:// wildlifeprofessional.org/blog/), Facebook Wildlife Society Facebook Fan Page), and Twitter (I'm feeling old because List Serves apparently are so 'last year'!). To reach college students, TWS will use an Online Mentoring program to match professionals (want to volunteer?! contact me if so and I'll get you to the right person) with students and an online education resource called College Majors 101 that showcases TWS to high school and undergraduate students.

Another item I'm excited about is the idea of better communication among all members. To better reach Section and Chapter members, TWS is exploring a unified membership proposal and California has volunteered to serve as the pilot state for testing how this will work. The idea is to see how easy it is to integrate Chapters, Sections, and TWS members so all members of one unit are recognized by all levels, regardless of their membership. This can help build communication

among members of different levels of TWS but does not require commitment to join other levels. Obviously TWS would like members to join at all levels, but of first importance is making connections. I hope to see this extend to Student Chapters since students could develop a better understanding of the profession.

There is a newly approved position statement on border issues posted on the web that you will find relevant to our section (http://joomla.wildlife.org/documents/positionstatements/Border_Security.pdf). There will be a new technical review forming to look at prescribed fire and wildlife and previously published technical reviews should soon be available free online at the TWS web site.

That's it for now – enjoy the field season!



Southwest Section Representative (2012) Carol L. Chambers Box 15018, School of Forestry Northern Arizona University Flagstaff, AZ 86011

FEDEX: 200 E. Pine Knoll Room 116 Phone: (928) 523-0014 Fax: 928-523-1080

Email: Carol.Chambers@nau.edu

CHAPTER BUSINESS

TCTWS WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CAMP

GREAT NEWS! We are still searching for a few good campers. Spaces are filling quickly so send your applications in today!



Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's Wildlife Conservation Camp Application Deadline Extended – June 4th July 11- 17, 2010 Welder Wildlife Foundation Sinton, Texas

Students who have completed the 9th grade through entering college freshman are eligible to participate in the camp. Campers will experience hands-on activities led by wildlife professionals which include wildlife and plant identification, hunting as a management tool, species diversity, conservation ethics, wildlife capture and survey techniques, wildlife tracking, predator-prey dynamics, white-tailed deer management, fishing, hunter safety, shooting skills, and much more. The week-long camp is especially recommended for high school students who are considering a career in wildlife management or the natural sciences.

To learn more about the Texas Chapter and the Wildlife Conservation Camp, or to download an application, visit the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's website www.tctws.org or click Conservation Camp (http://site.tctws.org/users/wildlife/doc/2010campbrochure.pdf) for an application/brochure.

SEND APPLICATIONS TO:

Wildlife Conservation Camp
Welder Wildlife Foundation
P.O. Box 1400
Sinton, TX 78387
conservationeducator@welderwildlife.org

STUDENT CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

TEXAS STATE STUDENT CHAPTER OF TWS

During this spring semester, the Texas State Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society has been actively involved in events which support wildlife education and outreach to the community. A few examples, our members participated in two events in the closing weekend of March.

Career Development Event:

On Friday, March 26, 2010 members of the Wildlife Society and other students at Texas State University – San Marcos helped out at the Career Development Event held at Freeman Ranch, located on the outskirts of San Marcos. The CDE is an event held annually, where teams of high school students from around the state come to compete by answering questions regarding agriculture and wildlife techniques and management. Various stations are set up, each with an emphasis on different aspects of wildlife knowledge. These career development events build on what is learned in agriculture classes and put the students' knowledge to the test. These events are designed to help prepare students for a career in agriculture or wildlife by testing and challenging the student's technical, leadership, interpersonal and teamwork skills as well as their knowledge of the subject matter.





Bobcat Build:

On Saturday, March 27, 2010 many members of the wildlife society as well as other groups at Texas State University participated in Bobcat Build. Bobcat build is an annual community service day that encourages many students, alumni, and faculty to complete hundreds of projects in San Marcos. The participants tackle outdoor projects such as landscaping, painting houses, cleaning up parks, pick up trash, etc. This is their way of saying "Thank You" for the community's continued support of the university. The project that the Wildlife Society worked on was to improve a nature trail at Texas State University Freeman Ranch. Students worked hard to clear brush, pick up trash, move rocks, mow grass, etc to improve the site and accessibility of the trail. The trail is open to anyone who would like to go for a relaxing walk through the woods. Before the clean up, the trail was in relatively bad shape and not used much. The extensive clean up has greatly improved the trail, and hopefully this will draw more people to use it.

CHAPTER BUSINESS

PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES AND SPECIAL MEETING OF TCTWS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The TCTWS is requesting a change to our by-laws to (1) accommodate electronic voting, and (2) modify membership status of the Treasurer (to be compliant with TWS policy). We have included the proposed changes to the bylaws below. The underlined segments represent the proposed changes.

In conjunction with the Summer Executive Board Meeting, the Executive Committee of TCTWS has called a special general business meeting to vote on the proposed changes to the by-laws. The meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 16, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. at the Welder Wildlife Foundation in Sinton, Texas.

If you are unable to attend and would like to send your vote on the proposed by-laws changes as an absentee vote, please send your absentee vote by July 9, 2010 to Scott Summers, Secretary, DPW Environmental Division, Attn: Natural Resources, 4219 77th Street, Fort Hood, TX 76544.

Proposed By-Laws change to accommodate electronic voting

Article V. Section 1. Clause C

Nomination slate shall be submitted to the membership at least 30 days prior to mailing, emailing, or electronically sending an official ballot.

Article V. Section 2.

Balloting – Official ballots shall be distributed to members at least 30 days prior to the annual Chapter meeting and written, email, or electronic ballots shall be received from the members by the Chair of the Nominating and Elections Committee at least 1 week prior to the annual Chapter meeting and shall be counted by the Nominating and Elections Committee.

Article V. Section 2. Clause B

A signed <u>written or electronic</u> absentee ballot may be submitted to the Secretary by a member prior to the scheduled time for counting ballots.

Article V. Section 2 Clause C

The candidate receiving the largest number of votes on the written or electronic ballot shall be declared elected. No one may hold more that 1 elective position simultaneously.

Article X. Section 1.

Procedure – These bylaws may be altered or amended by a majority of the Chapter members voting at any annual or special meeting if due notice of the proposed changes (Article VI, Section 1B) is followed. A member who will be absent from the meeting may file a signed written or electronic absentee ballot (Article V. Section 2B)

Proposed By-Laws change to include Treasurer as a voting member of the TWS

Article V. Section 4.

Term of Office - The officers and Board members must be voting members of The Society, serve for approximately 1 year, be installed at the Annual Meeting, take office immediately following the Annual Meeting, and unless reelected, terminate their duties at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting, or at such time as their successors are elected and installed. The Archivist and Treasurer shall serve for an indefinite term at the will of the Executive Board. Treasurer must be a voting member of The Society.

CHAPTER BUSINESS

TCTWS COMMITTEES....LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN!

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	EMAIL
Activities	Bill Adams	robert.adams@tpwd.state.tx.us
Audit	Dale Prochaska	dale.prochaska@tpwd.state.tx.us
Certification	Chris Comer	comerce@sfasu.edu
Conservation Review	James Cain	James_Cain@tamu-commerce.edu
Conservation Camp (co-chairs)	Jim Gallagher	jfgallagher@ag.tamu.edu
Conservation Camp (co-chairs)	Selma Glasscock	selmaglass@aol.com
Cottam Awards	Michael Morrison	mlmorrison@tamu.edu
Excellence in Wildlife Conservation	Poncho Ortega	alfortega10@neo.tamu.edu
Exhibits	Karla Welch	karlawelch@ymail.com
Finance	Raymon Hedges	raymon.l.hedges@usace.army.mil
Honorary Life Membership	Gene Miller	gene.miller@amaonline.com
Information & Technology	Jon Purvis	jon.purvis@tpwd.state.tx.us
Local Arrangements	Justin Dreibelbis	jdreibelbis@texas-wildlife.org
Membership	Jena Moon	jena_moon@fws.gov
Newsletter	Patricia Harveson	pharveson@sulross.edu
Nominations	Bart Ballard	bart.ballard@tamuk.edu
Outreach	Richard Heilbrun	richard.heilbrun@tpwd.state.tx.us
Photo, Art, & Video Awards	Eric Garza	ericgarza04@gmail.com
Program	Roel Lopez	roel@tamu.edu
Publication Awards	Justin Foster	justin.foster@tpwd.state.tx.us
Publicity	Ryan Walser	ryan.walser@tx.usda.gov
Resolutions	Jim Mueller	mueller@tarleton.edu
Scholarship	Randy DeYoung	karwd00@tamuk.edu
Site Selection	Alan Cain	cain.alan@sbcglobal.net
Student Affairs (co-chairs)	Jennifer Korn	jennifer.korn@students.tamuk.edu
Student Affairs (co-chairs)	Froylan Hernandez	fhernandez@bigbend.net

Conference Awards

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TCTWS 46th Annual Meeting in Galveston, TX

The 2010 TCTWS Annual Meeting was held on February 18-20 at the San Luis Resort in Galveston. A GIS/GPS workshop was held just before the conference. The plenary session was on invasive species. Speakers were Karen Hickman from Oklahoma State University, Matt Wagner for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Tom Stohlgren from the US Geological Survey. There were eight Cottam competition presentations, 33 posters, and 105 paper presentations.



PUBLICATION AWARDS

ELECTRONIC MEDIA:

David Hewitt, editor for: Inside Deer Research, Published by CKWRI; Kingsville; Texas A&M University-Kingsville

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION:

James W. Cain, Paul R. Krausman, John R. Morgart, Brian D. Jansen, and Martin P. Pepper. 2008. Responses of desert bighorn sheep to removal of water sources. Wildlife Monographs 171:1-30.

TECHNICAL PUBLICATION:

Shawn L. Locke, Carl Frentress, James C. Cathey, Corey D. Mason, Rick Hirsch, and Matthew W. Wagner. 2007. Techniques for wetland construction and management. Texas A&M System, Agrilife Extension, SP-316, 20 pp.

POPULAR ARTICLE:

Billy Higganbotham. 2009. Managing the white-tailed deer: a wildlife management curriculum for high school math and science students. Texas A&M System, Agrilife Extension, B6227, 352 pp.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD



David Hewitt, TAMUK

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



David Synatzske, TPWD

LAND STEWARDSHIP AWARD



Frank Yturria - Yturria Ranch (George Farish, II & Mike Tewes)

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER AWARD



Selma Glasscock, Welder Wildlife Foundation

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER AWARD



Terry Blankenship, Welder Wildlife Foundation

OUTSTANDING TECHNICAL PUBLICATION



James Cathey, TAMU, Agrilife Extension

OUTSTANDING ELECTRONIC MEDIA



David Hewitt, TAMUK

OUTSTANDING SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION



James Cain, TAMUC

OUTSTANDING POPULAR ARTICLE



Billy Higganbotham, TAMU, Agrilife Extension

CARL SCHOEMAKER **MEMORIAL** SCHOLARSHIP



Megan Zoch, Tarleton

COLIN CARUTHERS MEMORIAL & DALLAS ECOL. FOUND.



Madeleine Cantu, SRSU

NATIONAL WILD **TURKEY FEDERATION SCHOLARSHIP**



Amy Hanna, TAMUK

CHARLY MCTEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Jonathan Dudko, TAMUC

DAN BOONE **SCHOLARSHIP**



Joy Newton, WTAMU

SCHOLARSHIPS

CARL SHOEMAKER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Megan Zoch, Tarleton State Univ

CHARLY MCTEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Jonathan Dudko, TAMU-Commerce

COLIN CARUTHERS MEMORIAL & **DALLAS ECOLOGICAL** FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP: Madeleine Cantu, SRSU

DAN BOONE SCHOLARSHIP: Joy Newton, West Texas A&M

SAM BEASOM SCHOLARSHIP: Joseph Sands, Texas A&M-Kingsville

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION SCHOLARSHIP: Amy Hanna, Texas A&M-Kingsville

STUDENT AWARDS

STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE YEAR:

1. Texas State University

QUIZ BOWL:

- 1. Texas State University
- 2. Tarleton State University

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE POSTERS:

1. Felix Ayala-Alvarez, TAMUK

OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE POSTERS:

1. Carlos Gonzalez, TAMUK

STUDENT CHAPTER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- 1. Texas State University
- 2. Texas A&M-Kingsville
- 3. Sul Ross State University

CLARANCE COTTAM STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARD:

- 1. Matthew Schnupp, TAMUK
- 2. Nichole Tatman, TTU
- 3. Michael Panasci, TTU

PLANT ID CONTESTS

COLLEGE STUDENT:

- 1. Kelly Haile, TAMU
- 2. Steven Goertz, TAMU

COLLEGE TEAM:

- 1. Texas A&M-College Station
- 2. Texas A&M-Kingsville

STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE YEAR



Texas State University

The second

Texas State University

QUIZ BOWL

TEAM

OUTSTANDING Undergraduate Poster



Carlos Gonzalez, TAMUK

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE POSTER



Felix Ayala-Alvarez, TAMUK

PLANT ID COLLEGE STUDENT



Kelly Haile, TAMU

CLARANCE COTTAM PRESENTATION



Matthew Schnupp, TAMUK

ART



Andrea Walker, John Young, Steven Logsdon, Bart Ballard

HUMOR



William Colson, Wesley Fikes, David Morgan, Bart Ballard

CAPTIVE & CONSERVATION



Daren Riedle, Whitney Priesmeyer, Chris Mungall, Bart Ballard

PLANTS & SCENERY



David Morgan, Dan Walker, Clint Faas, Bart Ballard

WILDLIFE



Ryan Stewart, David Morgan, Susan Cooper, Bart Ballard

WORK RELATED



David Morgan, J. Daren Riedle, Travis Bryan, Bart Ballard

ART CONTEST

ART:

- 1. H.Steven Logsdon, SilverCity,NM
- 2. John Young, TPWD
- 3. Andrea Walker, TAMU

PHOTO CONTESTS

CAPTIVE/CONSERVATION:

- 1. Chris Mungall, Houston
- 2. Whitney Priesmeyer, West TAMU
- 3. J. Daren Riedle, West TAMU

HUMOR:

- 1. David Morgan, Texas State Univ
- 2. Wesley Fikes, TAMU
- 3. William Colson, TAMU-Kingsville

PLANTS & SCENERY:

- 1. Clint Faas, MT7Ranch
- 2. Dan Walker, TPWD
- 3. David Morgan, Texas State Univ

WILDLIFE:

- 1. Susan Cooper, Texas AgriLife Res
- 2. David Morgan, Texas State Univ
- 3. Ryan Stewart, Texas State Univ

WORK RELATED:

- 1. Travis Bryan, Sul Ross State Univ
- 2. J. Daren Riedle, West TAMU
- 3. David Morgan, Texas State Univ.

REMOTE PHOTOGRAPHY:

- 1. Josh Guthrie, TAMU
- 2. Susan Cooper, Texas AgriLife Res
- 3. Josh Guthrie, TAMU

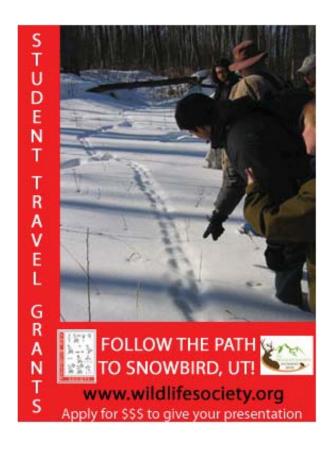
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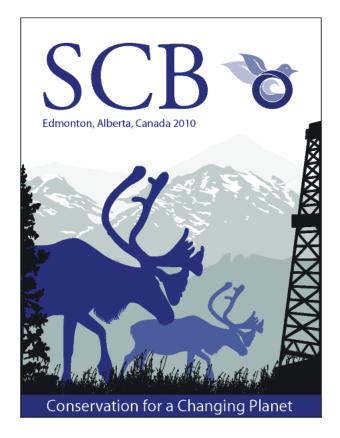
Susan Cooper, Texas AgriLife Res

UPCOMING MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS











THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

5410 Grosvenor Lane • Bethesda, MD 20814-2144 Tel: (301) 897-9770 • Fax: (301) 530-2471

E-mail: tws@wildlife.org

May 30, 2010

Dr. Louis A. Harveson Sul Ross State University Box C-16 Alpine, TX 79832

Dear Dr. Harveson:

On behalf of the members, staff, and Council of The Wildlife Society, please accept my hearty congratulations on the occasion of the 45th Anniversary of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Our records indicate the Texas Chapter was formed on April 30, 1965 and has served as an important stronghold for The Wildlife Society in Texas. The reason for the chapter's longevity is evident in its active participation in wildlife conservation affairs in Texas, and in The Wildlife Society activities. Many Texas Chapter members have served admirably as leaders of the Southwest Section and on TWS committees throughout its history.

The Texas Chapter has played a prominent role in providing continuing education opportunities for wildlife professionals in the state and has provided an important forum for dialogue and networking among wildlifers in Texas. Many students of wildlife in the state have benefitted from the Texas Chapter's programs and gained a foothold on wildlife careers through their involvement in the chapter. The Texas Chapter has established and maintained a strong partnership with other TWS chapters in the Southwest Section, and facilitated communications and joint activities with wildlife professionals in nearby states.

The Texas Chapter has provided leadership and expertise in the resolution of critical wildlife conservation and management issues within the state and has provided encouragement to young professionals to become active in The Wildlife Society at the chapter, section, and international levels.

Congratulations on your many accomplishments and best wishes for another successful 45 years!

Sincerely,

Michael Hutchins, Ph.D. Executive Director/CEO

Mund Huth