



Photo by Louis Harveson

Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education

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TEXAS' FLORA AND FAUNA: Prescribed Burning by Dr. D. Lynn Drawe



Photo by Bonnie Warnock

Prescribed burning has become a topic of much discussion in recent years in the state of Texas. There are those who have a great fear of fire and those who believe in the concept that fire has been a part of our Texas ecosystems since the beginning of time. In this article, I hope to convince at least one naysayer that fire is safe, beneficial, and economical as a wildlife habitat management tool.

Some question why we burn. Promoters might answer 'because I have always

burned' or 'because I like to burn'. Logical reasons to use fire include:

- Fuel management
- Reduction of the possibility of wildfire, i.e., safety
- Removal of excess litter
- Green up forage for grazing/browsing animals
- Improvement of wildlife habitat
- Suppression of woody plants

What is prescribed burning? It is the use of a burn prescription similar to those written by a medical doctor when

a person is sick. We analyze the situation (wildlife habitat) and prescribe the conditions for burning to achieve a goal. Why not call it a controlled burn? A controlled burn could be a tissue burned in a beaker in a lab where there is no goal other than keeping the fire contained. Prescribed burns are designed to achieve a management goal for the user. A written management plan is an integral part of a prescribed burn.

In 1997 a group of about 60 private, university, and agency individuals met in Kerrville to discuss the possibility of forming a Texas Prescribed Burning Coalition to seek legislation creating a burn law for the state. The Coalition's legislative committee was successful in obtaining passage of HB 2599 in the 1999 session of the Texas legislature. This legislation stated the right of Texas landowners to burn on their own property, set up the Texas Certified Prescribed Burn Manager (CPBM) program, created the Texas Prescribed Burn Board (PBB) to be housed under the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), and created the Citizens Advisory Committee to PBB. HB 2599 requires that each CPBM carry a \$1M liability insurance policy specifically covering his prescribed burning activities.

The PBB consists of 5 private landowners from throughout the state plus TDA

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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

Happy New Year!

I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and were able to spend quality time with family. Christmas break always goes by too fast. Just when you feel revived after spending a few days hunting and you're able to take advantage of some quiet office time with the students and other faculty away – BAM – the holidays are over and everything is as busy as it was before the break. Maybe someday I will figure out how to catch up.



Speaking of being busy - our 46th annual meeting of the Texas Chapter is approaching fast, and the committees have been busy getting ready for a great meeting. The registration form went out before the holidays and is included in this newsletter, so make sure you register early to take advantage of the early registration fees. Also note that the room block at the Galveston Island Hilton (our host hotel) is reserved until January 17th which is another reason to get your registration and reservations in early. Our meeting will be held at the Galveston Convention Center which is right next door to the Galveston Island Hilton. In conjunction with our annual meeting will be a GIS/GPS workshop. Visit our web page and this newsletter for more details and registration information.

Our annual meeting is coming together nicely. We had 148 abstracts submitted which will provide a full slate of interesting talks. The theme for our plenary session is *Invasive Species: The next great threat to wildlife and habitat*. The impacts from invasive species on our wildlife and wildlife habitats have increased over the last several decades. As a result, invasive species considerations are playing a larger role in how our wildlife management practices are carried out. Our Plenary Session will expose this highly relevant issue by some of today's leading experts.

The committee chairs have invested much time in planning and preparing for you to enjoy a quality meeting in Galveston. The success of the annual meeting results from a team effort and I cannot thank the committees enough for their selfless contributions. I hope you all consider their efforts as you enjoy this year's meeting. Also, I hope at some point that you all consider becoming active in the Texas Chapter. It is rewarding and the chapter can always use new folks to lead the way. One important way to contribute is to be sure to vote in our election for Executive Board members. Each member is sent a ballot via the mail, so make sure you vote for those nominees that you think will keep our chapter as the nation's largest and strongest.

It has been an honor serving as president of the Texas Chapter over the past year. My tenure has been rewarding because of being immersed in new issues and having the opportunity to meet many new people in our field. I have enjoyed working with our outstanding executive board and superb group of committee chairs on a variety of issues and responsibilities that the Texas Chapter dealt with this year. As my presidency comes to an end, I look at those that follow me and know that the Texas Chapter will be in very capable hands over the next 2 years. Thanks to all of you that have helped make the past year a successful one. I look forward to seeing you all in Galveston!

Bart Ballard, President

TEXAS' FLORA AND FAUNA

and 7 representatives from the state departments associated with burning; i.e., Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board, Texas Forest Service, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Agri-Life Experiment Station, Texas Agri-Life Extension Service, plus Texas Tech University.

PBB was tasked initially with interpreting HB 2599 and writing the rules for CPBMs in the state, a task it completed in 2001. Since that time, additional legislation has resulted in changes in the rules to better serve landowners/practitioners.

The certification process requires both education and experience. To become certified an individual must have participated in at least 30 burns and have at least 3 years experience. He/she must have served as burn boss on at least 5 burns. Education requirements include an intensive, week-long course designed by PBB and taught under the supervision of a PBB-sanctioned Lead Instructor. For certification each student is required to pass the final exam with an 80+ score and must have participated in a hands-on burn during the course. PBB has divided the state into 5 regions for certification based on vegetation type. Certificates are issued for the region in which the individual qualifies. Individuals may qualify for certification in additional regions when they meet the experience requirement and training for each new region. Details of the law, rules, and certification process may be obtained at the TDA web site www.tda.state.tx.us.

Initially, applicants had difficulty obtaining liability coverage. Insurers were hesitant to accept clients in a vocation listed as 'inherently dangerous' in insurance industry manuals. In time, our applicants, with much assistance from PBB, were able to obtain coverage. At present, there are 21 CPBMs in the state, with more in the pipeline for approval and certification.



Fire Effects - Photo by Bonnie Warnock

Additional problems arose in late 2008 when the Governor's Drought Disaster Proclamation was issued. The declaration had nothing to do with prescribed fire, but Commissioners Courts used the declaration as a reason to ban all burning. HB 3315 (2001) allows CPBMs to burn during burn bans. Therefore, as a solution to allow more burning during county burn bans, in early 2009 PBB changed the rules to allow two types of certification (1) commercial and (2) private. The commercial certificate already existed and must be insured by a policy that covers the CPBM throughout his/her area of operation. The new private

certification can be a ranch policy that covers the CPBM only on the land he/she owns/operates.

PBB also developed a template for county commissioner's courts to use in developing burn ban orders. Many courts simply do not want to deal with the liability they perceive in allowing burning during burn bans. They were in the 'chicken little' syndrome pertaining to the use of prescribed fire and were searching for wording to properly allow prescribed burning. The template does this and was sent to all 254 commissioner's courts in early 2009. The template can be found on the TDA web site.

The Texas burn law was created with safety in mind. PBB has strived to keep safety at the forefront of its activities. Wildfires have been of concern during the recent drought and will always be a concern in the state. The worst thing that can happen is that a prescribed burn would escape and cost lives and property damage. To head off this possibility, PBB has taken only the most prudent actions with safety a constant consideration. The most prudent step we can take is to place fuel management in the ecosystems of the state as our top priority. If we properly manage fuel loads, particularly around urban areas and greenbelts, we will prevent many potential destructive wildfires.

*Article by Dr. D. Lynn Drawe,
Chairman of the Texas Prescribed
Burn Board*

ATTWATER'S PRAIRIE CHICKEN

by Mark Klym

Recovery efforts for the Attwater's prairie-chicken reached a new milestone this year when 6 hens raised 21 chicks to 6-weeks of age in the wild. In 2007, 14 chicks were confirmed to have reached the 6-week mark, but this year was different in that two of these hens, and six chicks, reached this milestone unassisted by wildlife biologists.

"Since 2004, chicks hatched on the refuge have been intensely managed by staff and interns at the Attwater PrairieChickenNational Wildlife Refuge" said Terry Rossignol, Refuge Manager and Team Leader for the Attwater's PrairieChickenRecovery Team. "Without any assistance, poor survival of chicks in the wild is the number one impediment to recovery of this imperiled grouse," Rossignol adds.

One of the successful nests was on Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge located in Colorado County near Eagle Lake where 5 chicks were successfully raised by the hen. The other nest where the hen successfully raised 1 chick was on private lands in Goliad County, where birds were reintroduced for the first time in 2007.

Historically, up to a million Attwater's prairie-chickens occupied more than six million acres of coastal prairie in Texas. By 2005, an all-time low of about 40 birds were estimated in the wild.



"This bird is quietly becoming another endangered species success story," says Mark Klym, coordinator of the Adopt-a-Prairie Chicken program at Texas Parks and Wildlife. "Once depleted to fewer than 50 birds, this bird has more than doubled its wild population in just 4 years, despite hurricanes and drought."

Today, there are an estimated 90 Attwater's prairie-chickens in the wild at three locations spread out 80-90 miles apart.

"Historically, in the wild, populations would be supplemented by recruits from neighboring populations" says Klym. "Today, we have to rely on zoos to provide young to become the recruits and reestablish viable Attwater's prairie-chicken populations." About 250 captive-bred chicks were slated for release into the wild this year, making it the second highest number of birds released into the wild since the release program started in 1995.

"Things are definitely looking up for the Attwater's prairie-chicken," says Rossignol, "but we are not 'out of the woods' for this imperiled species. The Attwater's is still very critically endangered."

You can help. Zoos rely on donations through the Adopt-a-Prairie Chicken program to help raise these birds for release into the wild. For more information see <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/apc>.

Article and photo by Mark Klym, Information Specialist with the Wildlife Diversity Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

TAKE ACTION TO INFLUENCE WILDLIFE POLICY!

by Mary Kazantseva and Angela Whitney

Comprehensive science-based legislation is critical to safeguarding our nation's wildlife and habitats. TWS' Government Affairs Program works on behalf of its members to give a voice to the views of wildlife professionals in the legislative and policy processes. But we can't do it without you!

To ensure a bright future for wildlife, it is key that management and conservation policy and legislation is based on science generated by wildlife professionals, such as members of The Wildlife Society! We have three great tools to help you get involved in wildlife policy, either at the federal or local level:

1) Check out the Government Affairs Toolkit available on TWS' website. It will give you an overview of the Government Affairs program, how you can write a letter to Congress, and other useful policy information.

2) See the more recent edition of The Wildlifer, TWS' monthly e-newsletter, to 'Take Action' on issues ranging from climate legislation to migratory bird conservation.

3) Check your inbox for Wildlife Policy News, which comes out every other month, to stay up-to-date on the latest policy initiatives.

We appreciate all of your efforts. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Laura Bies, Director of Government Affairs, at laura@wildlife.org.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES....

by Jay Roberson

Of all the articles in the summer 2009 issue on the dangers of spent lead ammunition to wildlife, an inconspicuous commentary by graduate student Chris Ayers from North Carolina State was the most insightful. "Should Science and Advocacy Mix?"

He probably would not appreciate being labeled a 'babe'. But, my limited figurative usage is only meant as compliment. Relative to some of us who are reaching the end of our careers, his advice is strikingly lucid and mature for his relatively young age.

Allow me to extend his warning for good scientific foundation before advocacy to the regulation of lead shot for bird hunting.

In my opinion the wildlife profession barely survived the waterfowl hunting nontoxic shot policy bumbling of the 1970s and 1980s (e.g., policy capriciousness, lawsuits-countersuits, Congressional intervention and mixed messages). As an impressionable and naïve graduate student and new biologist at the time, I remember public professional contradictions from 'Chicken Little' doomsayers (if we didn't ban lead shot now hunting would end) to 'Rip van Winkle' stonewallers (who just as well sleep through it all hoping the problem would go away). What message were we sending hunters and the public?

After 20 years of miss-steps lead shot was finally prohibited for waterfowl hunting in 1991. Hunters resisted with their discretionary time and pocketbooks. Not only did hunter numbers and conservation funding decline but the majority of the public who didn't hunt but were not opposed to hunting were disenfranchised by the public rancor, mixed messages and inconsistent positions. The price our profession paid was loss of objectivity, integrity and support. The seeds of suspicion were sown for which we are still reaping the harvest of regulation distrust and resistance. Do professional biologists have personal hidden agendas? Do we subconsciously or surreptitiously foist our ethical standards upon others by the regulations we write and support? Do we really value the wildlife resource, wildlife conservation and public support?

In my opinion our process mistakes were many. They included a lack of critical thinking, assignment of ultimate

authority and responsibility (command and control), problem definition, explicit objective formulation, alternative selection, risk assessment, policy clarification, and consistent messaging ..., in short, a lack of consistent professional leadership. There was way too much dogmatism and parochialism and too little scientific fact and unified action. For shame! How unfortunate for us whose professional scientific mantra had been objectivity and independence.

I resolved that if a similar issue became my career responsibility, I would do better. Well my turn has come with lead shot restrictions for all bird hunting. Alas, I'm afraid my generation is not doing any better than the previous one. I feel a nightmarish déjà vu. Without agreement either on problem definition, explicit objectives and scientific inference within our professional community, how can we expect the public to understand and take appropriate action?

It's been a long hot summer...not just for ambient temperatures but for America's patience...whether it be in the politics of health care in town hall meetings, racial profiling, 'cap-and-trade' or other environmental issues. "Forget decorum and civility..." we seem to shout. "Bring it on!" On the lead shot issue, we're 'bringing it on' by what appears the same dysfunctional process. We appear to be aligning along two extremes – a total prohibition of all lead shot versus no restrictions on shot types at all.

We are becoming intolerant and unwilling to consider the interests or views of others. Incredulously, in some forums we have been incapable of proceeding rationally and methodically - listening, identifying interests, developing multiple alternative options and agreeing on objective evaluation criteria considering the consequences and risks of each. To reason and be open to reason has seemed to flit away as some cottonwood seed in a hot August breeze. Substance and principles seem to be giving way to innuendo and coercion. Positions are becoming more intransigent. Signs of facetious communication and process sabotage are appearing. We are beginning to allow the media to pit us against each other.

Our actions belie that we have no more discipline, objectivity and civility than some of the vested publics we serve. Ideology and emotions are driving the debate with less chance our differences will be resolved amicably. In public meetings we rant about inhumane prolonged wildlife suffering and death by ingested lead toxicosis while bewilderingly oblivious to equally heinous but order of magnitude larger loss by wounding. What constructively are we doing about wounding loss? We

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

continued...

are bent on linking professional relationships with position (substance) and apparently are oblivious to the consequences in terms of public perceptions and support.

The merit and degree of advocacy by scientists is evident in almost every volume of the major ecological journals for the last 20 years. But, Mr. Ayers is right. The need for professional ethics and advocacy by wildlife ecologists is not under debate here. What is under debate is the comfort level with the degree of scientific evidence for it.

I suspect across the spectrum of professional wildlife biologists the frequency of expression of advocacy given the scientific evidence for cause and effect follows the central limits theorem. However, it is helpful to remember that this is subjective, dynamic and scale dependent. At one extreme even the most risk averse among us would advocate an untested new drug when all else failed for a terminally ill immediate family member with the least shred of evidence for it. Conversely, the most risk tolerant among us in similar circumstances would balk at the same drug with a modicum of evidence that the side effects were worse than the illness. Finding the middle ground is the problem. This falls squarely in the realm of conflict resolution not structured decision making. And, conflict resolution is a chronic deficiency in the traditional science education and experience of my generation. Accessing interdisciplinary liberal arts and business expertise in mediation could be a role our professional society should play in resolving this and other internally controversial issues.

I would hope we would provide more dialogue and publish more papers like "The Use and Abuse of Science" (16th annual conference) and "Benefits and Risks of Advocacy: A Code of Ethics and Integrity." Most of us are not able to attend the TWS annual conference due to limited time or funds. However, small forums where joint scientific fact-finding and conflict resolution discussions could take place on this specific lead toxicosis issue would be helpful. State chapter or section discussions could go a long way beyond informed consent. I dare say, we don't even know TWS membership knowledge, opinions and support on this issue. But we apparently feel comfortable enough for Council to approve a "Final Position Statement..." on it (see http://joomla.wildlife.org/documents/positionstatements/Lead_final_2009.pdf).

We certainly can't expect 100% agreement by TWS membership on this issue. However, Council certainly could set an a priori target goal, poll membership online and publish what the level of support is. Ideological differences will

remain because the bases of those ideologies are fundamentally different (i.e., government regulation role in conservation and dictating acceptable societal behaviors such as regulations prohibiting lead shot create demand manufacturers need to vest in nontoxic shot rather than manufacturer's who invest in competitive nontoxic shot alternatives create demand).

But, allowing more open discussion and participation in the process will break more barriers and allowing more of us a stake in the outcome. It would be at least therapeutic to view ourselves as one brotherhood differing relatively slightly overall in experience, world view and philosophy. Then, perhaps, we would 'give more benefit of the doubt' and turn our limited resources more productively toward Action Plans and the business of conservation. The relevance and timeliness of such should appeal to nonmembers as they see their values addressed by the Society.

Mr. Ayers' warning is so remarkable and insightful because he so lucidly and fundamentally draws us to a common basis or structure for this decision. If my older generation fails to provide better leadership on this issue this time around, perhaps his will bring greater objectivity, clarity, critical-thinking, leadership, and consistency of message on much larger more controversial issues like energy development and climate change in the future. He gives me hope these issues will be addressed more efficiently for my children's' and grandchildren's' sake. How fortunate in these contentious times that such gems of grounding, maturity, perception and prudence come from the mouth of the 'babes' among us!

Jay Roberson is Coordinator of Research and Technical Programs in the Wildlife Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SOUTHWEST SECTION REPRESENTATIVE TO TWS COUNCIL

Carol Chambers

OCTOBER 2009

I've just stepped into the position of Southwest Section Representative to TWS Council and look forward to meeting with and hearing from the many active members in the Southwest Section. I hope to meet you at upcoming state and regional annual meetings. I also look forward to working with members in Mexico and Costa Rica and trying to integrate better with students and professionals from these countries.

Bruce Thompson has been extraordinarily helpful and gracious in making my transition to TWS Council go smoothly. During 3 years, he has many accomplishments and his membership on TWS Council was very highly valued – he will be missed. He has been actively involved in many issues relevant to you such as membership and strategic planning. Thanks Bruce for all you have done for the Southwest Section!

Membership: Membership issues are a priority and I plan on continuing to build membership in student chapters and at state, regional, and national levels and seek approaches that better link us at these levels. I particularly want to encourage our student chapters to participate at the national level by attending annual meetings and will be looking for ways to support student travel to and participation in meetings.

Position Statements: In July, Council approved the final position on lead in ammunition and fishing tackle and this was distributed to states, relevant organizations, and members of Congress. In Monterey, Council approved a draft position statement on border issues among others.

Conference: The 2009 Monterey Conference was well attended with the most registrants since 2001 (over 1600 although we did great in Tucson in 2007!). The conference also had the most exhibitors (54) at a TWS conference and offered for the first time a career fair. The social events at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and the student-professional mixer were great fun (it's hard not to have fun on a beach).

Publications: I have also listened with interest to discussions about our publications – both *The Wildlife Professional* and the *Journal of Wildlife Management (JWM)* are doing well. However I would like your input on whether you see a need to revive the *Wildlife Society Bulletin (WSB)*. The intent was for material that would have been submitted to WSB to be incorporated into JWM. Do you think this has been accomplished? Do you want to see WSB revived?

Please send me your e-mail comments at Carol.Chambers@nau.edu with subject line 'TWS'. If you prefer, you can send written comments at: P.O. Box 15018, School of Forestry, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ 86011.

JANUARY 2010

Happy New Year and new decade. I'm sending this message from an internet cafe in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua. This is my second visit to chase spider monkeys (mono aranas) in Central America with my PhD student. The 85°F days are a dramatic contrast to Flagstaff's snow and below-freezing temperatures. Despite the differences in temperatures, being here reminds me how similar many issues are between this part of Nicaragua and the American Southwest. We worked today with an American who owns thousands of acres of land near the Pacific coast. After a few unsuccessful years of growing corn and sorghum (2 species of parrots discovered and consumed crops as they ripened) he now uses his land for cattle ranching. He has excluded cattle from about half his property (some of the hillsides of older forest) and is working with a company to develop wind energy along the ridgetops to help provide power to local communities. There doesn't appear to be much forethought given to impacts of turbines to wildlife but this is an effort to resolve energy issues in an ecofriendly way. This made me think about habitat encroachment and conversion and alternative energy issues that we're dealing with in the Southwest. And even though it seems such a struggle to take on these challenges, we are fortunate to have laws, lots of resources, and great awareness of resource management issues in the US. So in the coming year when you think about local issues, remember the advantages we have and make the most of them. Here's to a healthy new year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TWS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2010 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Wildlife Society (TWS) is currently accepting applications for its Leadership Institute. The goal of the Institute is to facilitate the development of new leaders within The Wildlife Society and the wildlife profession as a whole. The Institute will recruit 10-15 promising early-career professionals for a series of intensive activities and mentoring relationships. The focus will be on exposing the participants to the inner workings of TWS and increasing the ranks of active leaders in TWS and the wildlife profession.

During summer 2010, participants will engage in a series of activities to develop their leadership skills. Institute members will also attend the 2010 TWS Annual Conference in Snowbird, Utah, in October and participate in various activities, including mentoring and leadership workshop sessions. There is no tuition cost for the program and participants receive free registration for the conference, as well as a travel grant to cover expenses.

Participation in the Institute is geared toward young professionals, those individuals who are 2 to 3 years out of school and currently working full or part time in a professional position in wildlife management or conservation, who can show evidence of their leadership potential. A small number of slots will also be available for more recent graduates who have shown strong evidence of their leadership potential. All applicants must be members of The Wildlife Society and a Chapter or Section of The Wildlife Society. The selection committee will be seeking to create a diverse group, with participants of varying gender, ethnic, and regional diversity. Selection will be based upon:

- An excellent academic record
- Demonstrated leadership capability or potential
- Demonstrated level of excellence in current position
- Commitment to and involvement in TWS

Applicants should be employed in the wildlife field, or currently in school studying some aspect of wildlife management or conservation. Preference will be given to individuals that are certified as Associate Wildlife Biologists or Certified Wildlife Biologists, or who have submitted such an application to The Wildlife Society.

Applicants should submit the following materials:

- Application form (available at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/leadershipinstitute/>)
- Cover letter, with evidence of leadership capacity or potential, such as previous leadership positions held in TWS Chapters or Student Chapters or in other organizations
- Résumé, which includes a list of publications, awards, etc.
- Academic transcript/s (scanned copy)
- 2 letters of recommendation from supervisors, academic advisors, professors, or others in leadership positions with whom you have worked and who are familiar with your leadership potential, commitment to TWS, and commitment to wildlife management and conservation (should be emailed directly to Laura Bies (laura@wildlife.org), subject line "Leadership Institute Recommendation for [applicant last name]")
- An essay (1000 word limit), which succinctly summarizes (1) your concept of leadership, (2) your aspiration for your role within TWS in 5 to 10 years, and (3) why you are an ideal candidate for the Institute

Application deadline is 1 March 2010. Email all materials (except the application form, which is submitted automatically) to Laura Bies (laura@wildlife.org). Visit www.wildlife.org for more information (click on 'Leadership Institute' on the left).

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

TCTWS 46TH 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:

Prescribed Fire Symposium - April 8-9, 2010 at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. For more information visit <http://www.sulross.edu/brinrm/outreach.htm>

***If you have events you would like to advertise here, please email the newsletter editor.*

46TH ANNUAL MEETING OF TCTWS

46TH ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION:

The 46th Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society will be held **February 18 - 20, 2010**, at the Galveston Island Convention Center and Galveston Island Hilton. The Galveston Island Hilton is located at 5400 Seawall Boulevard; the Galveston Island Convention Center is right next door. For more information about the hotel, go to <http://www.galvestonhilton.com>.

You may reserve rooms by calling 1-409-744-5000 or 1-800-445-8667. Hotel room cost will be \$108 per night for a single occupancy room and \$158 per night for a double occupancy room. Hotel reservations need to be made by **January 17, 2010** to guarantee availability and the contract price. We do ask that you stay at the host hotel in order for us to meet our contractual obligations.

Pre-registration must be received by **February 3, 2010**. You may pre-register by mailing in the form in this newsletter, or by registering online at <http://site.tctws.org/xs.php?page=registration&siteid=268>.

Tentative itinerary, preregistration form, and workshop form are included at the end of this newsletter.

WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT: GPS/GIS TRAINING FOR WILDLIFE PROFESSIONALS

When: **Introductory GPS/GIS Workshop: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm, February 17, 2010**
 Advanced ArcGIS Workshop: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm, February 18, 2010

Where: **Hilton Galveston Hotel/Convention Center**

Two workshops will be offered to Texas Chapter members in conjunction with the 2010 Annual Meeting in Galveston. The workshops will be coordinated and taught by staff of the Columbia Regional Geospatial Service Center, a federally supported extension of Stephen F. Austin State University. The Columbia Center serves as the prototype of regional university-based centers, all of which are dedicated to supplying regional geospatial services in support of emergency response, economic development, and natural resource management. The Center “concept” has been tested during two recent hurricanes impacting coastal and eastern Texas, and built upon lessons learned during emergency responses to the Space Shuttle Columbia tragedy in 2003. Staff and personnel at the Columbia Center have extensive experience in data management, GPS technology and applications, and geospatial data retrieval and manipulation. As part of the Center’s mission, staff regularly provide training in GPS, GIS, and remote sensing. Please see their website for further information (<http://www.crgsc.org/Default.aspx>).

Two custom-built workshops are to be offered to Texas Chapter members: (1) an introduction-refresher workshop on GPS/GIS and (2) a more advanced ArcGIS workshop. The first workshop is planned to demonstrate GPS data acquisition-download, GPS data dictionary building, manipulation, and geospatial data-source retrieval and manipulation for members that have limited personal or professional experience with newer GPS-GIS technologies. The second workshop is planned to demonstrate more advanced data manipulation within ArcGIS for members that regularly use geospatial data analyses. Attendees must bring a laptop for either workshop. Each workshop is estimated to take 5 hours, and enrollment is limited to 20 individuals per workshop. Currently, the Center is preparing to hold one introductory and one advanced workshop. However, if interest is great enough, additional workshops may be held.

To inquire about specific topics to be covered, please contact Warren Conway (wconway@sfasu.edu; 936-468-2090).

46TH ANNUAL MEETING OF TCTWS

STUDENT ACTIVITIES IN GALVESTON

There will be a variety of student activities at the TCTWS annual meeting in Galveston. These activities provide the ever-so-important networking opportunities as well as some friendly competition among universities. Please be aware of the following student activities at the upcoming meeting.

- **Student Poster Competition.** As usual, there will be a graduate and undergraduate student poster competition. The posters show the hard work that graduate students are putting forth on their research. Many undergraduate students also showcase their efforts by presenting results from undergraduate research or internship opportunities. Posters will be attended by authors during the professional/student mixer on Thursday evening and during session breaks Friday.
- **Student Chapter of the Year Award.** Which student chapter has shown the most effort and dedication this past year? Applications were sent out to all student chapters to describe the work and community service they've completed in the past year. The applications are being carefully judged by a variety of professionals throughout Texas. Don't miss the announcement of top Texas Student Chapter at the banquet Friday evening.
- **Wildlife Quiz Bowl.** This one usually draws a crowd. Students practice throughout the year for the annual Texas Chapter quiz bowl. Each student chapter picks a team of their elite to answer a variety of wildlife related questions and compete against other student chapters for bragging rights. The quiz bowl will be held at 3:00 on Thursday afternoon. Be sure to arrive early to find a seat and see which student chapter prevails this year.
- **Outstanding Wildlife Student Recognition.** Each Student Chapter has that one student that is always involved and works hard on every task asked of them. At the banquet Friday evening, we will acknowledge the outstanding wildlife student from each university as voted by each student Chapter.
- **Student-Mentor Social.** Most know that networking is very beneficial in becoming a successful professional. Be sure to check the box for student/mentor on the meeting registration form. We will pair students with a wildlife professional at the social on Thursday evening prior to the president's reception. This will be a great opportunity for students to meet professionals and gain insight on what it takes to succeed in this field. Don't forget to also interact with other student chapters and future colleagues.
- **Student Breakfast.** Yet another opportunity to interact with other students. A FREE breakfast will be served for all student members on Friday morning. Be sure to attend and get to know your future colleagues.

These are great opportunities for student members to participate and get involved. For further information on any of these activities, contact Jeff Breeden, Chair TCTWS Student Activities Committee. (breeden@tarleton.edu; Dept. of Animal Sciences, Box T-0070, Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX 76402; 254-968-1950.)

46TH ANNUAL MEETING OF TCTWS

PHOTO, ART, AND VIDEO CONTEST FINAL CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Photo and Art contest will occur during the 46th Annual Meeting in Galveston on February 18-20, 2010. Please see below for contest rules on submitting your photograph, video or art piece.

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:

The deadline for video submissions has past (December 1, 2009). 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.

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM
 46th Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society
 February 17- 20, 2010
 Galveston Island Hilton and Galveston Convention Center

Please Print Name (as it will appear on name tag): _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone (day): _____ Phone (mobile): _____ E-mail: _____

	<u>(Registration Fee)</u>	Basic GIS/GPS <u>17 Feb</u>	Advanced GIS <u>18 Feb</u>	<u>Total</u>
Member	\$75.00 (per day)	_____	_____	_____
Non-member	\$100.00 (per day)	_____	_____	_____
<u>Chapter Dues</u>				
Regular Member		\$15		_____
Student Member		\$10		_____
Life Member		\$350		_____
			Total Enclosed	_____

Please make check or money order payable to **Texas Chapter – The Wildlife Society** and mail to: CKWRI-TAMUK, MSC 218, 700 University Blvd., Kingsville, TX 78363. Please fill out a separate registration form for each individual (i.e., no group registration forms please). When sending in a purchase order for a group of registrants, please specify for whom the purchase order is covering.

Registration must be received by Feb 3, 2010. Cancellations prior to Feb. 3 will be fully refunded. Registration receipts will be available at the meeting. For questions about registration, contact Yolanda Ballard (361)593-3934 or yolanda.ballard@tamuk.edu

46th TCTWS Annual Conference - Tentative Itinerary
18–20 February 2008, Galveston, Texas

The 46th Annual Conference of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be held Thursday through Saturday, February 18th - 20th, 2010 at the Galveston Island Hilton and Galveston Convention Center. A registration form is included in this newsletter and must be **received by February 3rd** in order to take advantage of pre-registration prices. The registration fee includes the President's Reception, Student Breakfast (students only), Past Presidents' Luncheon (restricted), Awards Banquet, and all sessions. Registration at the meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, February 18th on the first-floor foyer of the Galveston Convention Center. Please make your reservations now for lodging. Our headquarter hotel is the Galveston Island Hilton (www.galvestonhilton.com) located at 5400 Seawall Blvd right next to the Galveston Convention Center. For reservations call (409) 744-5000 and mention the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society guestroom block. The guaranteed rate and guestroom block are good through **17 January 2010**, after which any unreserved rooms will be released.

Thursday, 18 February 2010

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm	Executive Board Meeting	Tower Ballroom - Hilton
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Set-up	Exhibit Hall
1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Registration	1 st Floor Foyer
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Business Meeting	Galleon
2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Displays	Exhibit Hall
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Photo Contest Submissions	Exhibit Hall
2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Plant ID Competition	Harbor
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Raffle/Silent Auction	Exhibit Hall
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Poster Setup	Exhibit Hall
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Texas Quiz Bowl	Galleon
6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	President's Reception	Grand Ballroom & Foyer

Friday, 19 February 2010

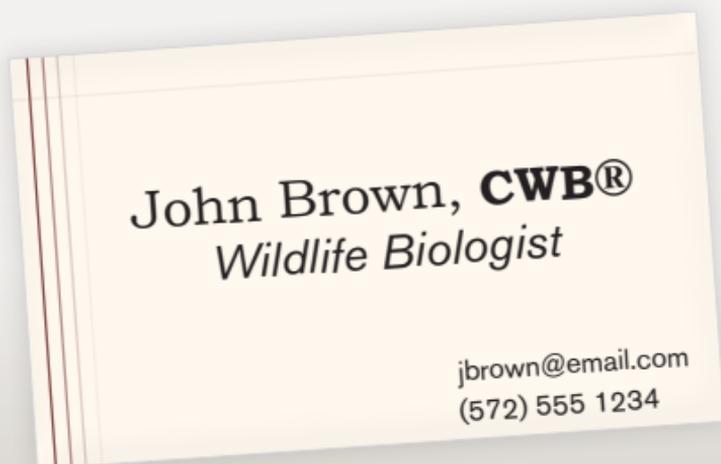
6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.	Student Breakfast	Room - Hilton
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration	1 st Floor Foyer
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Photo Contest Submission	Exhibit Hall
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Photo Contest Judging	Exhibit Hall
7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Displays	Exhibit Hall
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Poster Setup	Exhibit Hall
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Raffle/Silent Auction	Exhibit Hall
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Plenary Session	Grand Ballroom
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Cottam Award Papers	Grand Ballroom
1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Lunch	On your own
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Past Presidents' Luncheon	Tower Ballroom - Hilton
2:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Technical Session	Galleon I
2:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Technical Session	Galleon II
2:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Technical Session	Galleon III
2:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Technical Session	Yacht
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Poster Presentations	Exhibit Hall
6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Awards Banquet	Grand Ballroom

Saturday, 20 February 2010

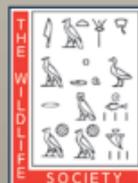
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Fellowship of Christian Conservationists	Tower Ballroom - Hilton
7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Board and Committee Chairs	Tower Ballroom - Hilton
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Concurrent Technical Session	Galleon I - CC

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Concurrent Technical Session	Galleon II - CC
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Concurrent Technical Session	Galleon III - CC
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Concurrent Technical Session	Yacht - CC
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Poster Presentations	Exhibit Hall - CC
7:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Exhibitor Displays	Exhibit Hall - CC
12:00 noon	Exhibitor Take-down	Exhibit Hall - CC
12:00 noon	Adjourn 46th Annual Meeting	

Attention Certified and Associate
Wildlife Biologists:
Flaunt your acronyms!



You worked hard to earn your AWB® and CWB®, so add them to your business card and emails **and stand out from the crowd.**



TWS membership is now required for certifications to remain valid, so be sure to join or renew at wildlife.org