



Photo by Patricia Moody Harveson

Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education

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IN MEMORY OF WESLEY BRIAN LITRELL

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PALESTINE – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department wildlife biologist **Wesley Brian Littrell**, 32, of Athens, was killed May 21, 2010 in a tractor-related accident on the Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area in northwest Anderson County. He leaves behind an unfinished legacy of habitat conservation.

“Wes was a biologist’s biologist, most content when carrying a drip torch, reseeding an old field with native grasses, disking a fire break, thinning a stand of post oaks, and sharing his passion for the land and the habitat that he loved with all who would listen,” said Carter Smith, TPWD executive director. “I trust we may all take some measure of solace knowing that Wes died on the WMA while doing the work he loved best. He will be missed dearly by his colleagues inside the agency.”

Littrell’s mark can be seen in the native grassland fields he had a hand in creating in East Texas.

“Wes was known for his passion about native habitat management,” said Jeff Gunnels, area manager at the Gus Engeling WMA and

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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



Remembering a Friend & Looking to the Future...

Many of you heard the news about Wes Littrell passing within days (if not hours) of the tragic accident. The wildlife profession has lost a great advocate, a great teacher, and a great manager.

As you read the cover story of Wes and his accomplishments you will see that he was one of the most dedicated wildlife biologists in Texas. Wes exemplified professionalism and was an active member in the Texas Chapter. I first got to know Wes at a Texas Chapter meeting some 4 years ago and it didn't take long in that initial visit to realize that Wes lived and breathed his job. We came to discover that we shared common friends, interests, and philosophies. But being on opposite sides of the state, Wes and I did not see each other too often. I do remember though running into Wes again at the Galveston meeting. He went out of his way to make sure that I (as incoming President) knew that he was willing and able to serve the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society in any way that he could.

Wes was dedicated to his job and his profession. So much so, that Wes' family decided to establish the Wes Littrell Memorial Fund with the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society is also a family....a close-knit family. We may not see fellow family members but once or twice a year, but we are still a family. **As one family member to another, I encourage each of you to join me by making a donation to the Wes Littrell Memorial Fund.** Your donation can be made to the Wes Littrell Memorial Fund and mailed to Dr. Terry Blankenship, Texas Chapter TWS, at P.O. Box 1400, Sinton, Texas 78387.

In this issue you will find several articles that focus on our history and our future. This past winter, the Texas Chapter acknowledged Ray Matthews with a Special Recognition Award. Ray provided the Chapter one of the most valuable resources anyone could provide—a detailed history of our Chapter. After 35 consecutive TCTWS Annual Meetings, Dr. Nova Silvy has also contributed a nice article about the changes he has seen in our Chapter. Some of his observation might surprise you. Lastly, you will find an article by TPWD Human Resource Specialist, Joe Beach about launching your professional career through internships and networking.

Since 1993, your Texas Chapter has conducted the Conservation Camp. During that time, the Camp has introduced >300 students to Texas ecosystems, conservation principles, and wildlife biology and management. Each year a new cohort of high school students are hand-picked to participate in one of the best educational programs in Texas. Co-chairs for the Camp, Drs. Selma Glasscock and Jim Gallagher assembled an impressive group of volunteers for the camp that travelled across the state and descended on Welder Wildlife Foundation Refuge.

Hats off to each of the Chapter members for their unwavering dedication to educating our youth!

Louis A. Harveson, President

IN MEMORY OF WESLEY BRIAN LITRELL

Littrell's supervisor. "He was 'Mr. Habitat.'"

When he came to the WMA in December 2006, Littrell's focus was doing the work needed to create demonstration sites he could then share with landowners to make landscape level impacts in native grassland conservation.

Gunnels added. "Wes was a doer who didn't just come up with ideas, but took the lead in getting the job done."

Like the native warm season grasses he sowed, Littrell's reputation in the conservation arena was growing



and spreading across the state. Other professionals began seeking his advice on native grassland conversion and restoration.

"He enjoyed working with landowners and showing them what they could accomplish in habitat improvement," said Gunnels. "He also liked working with kids and teaching youth about habitat conservation."

Littrell joined TPWD as a student intern in 1996, became an agency employee in the State Parks Division at Eisenhower State Park, was hired in 2001 as a wildlife biologist in northeast Texas counties along the Red River, and was the lead biologist at the Gus Engeling WMA since 2007.

Wes Littrell is survived by his wife Lynne who is expecting their first child in November; parents, Mike and Lynne Littrell of Tom Bean, TX; brother, Brad Littrell and wife Jenny of Hutto, TX; niece, Madilyn Littrell; grandfather, Oscar Wetzels of Tom Bean; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Gary and Malinda Bender of Cresco, PA; brother-in-law, Randy Bender and wife Gwen of Mountainhome, PA; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

The family has requested memorial donations in Wes' name be made to the following wildlife conservation organizations:

Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Welder Wildlife Foundation
Wes Littrell Memorial Fund
P.O. Box 1400
Sinton, TX 78387

Texas State Chapter, National Wild Turkey Federation
Wes Littrell Memorial Fund
121 CR 3131
Decatur, TX 76234



CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE TEXAS CHAPTER

by Nova J. Silvy

This spring in Galveston, Texas, I recorded my 35 consecutive year in attending the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. During these years, I have seen membership changes within the Chapter, many for the best, but some have been disappointing. My first meeting was in San Antonio, Texas (1975) when Dr. Eric Bolen was President. I had known Eric for several years prior to coming to Texas, but it was Drs. James Teer and Sam Beasom who invited and encouraged me to join them at the meeting. I had been a member of TWS since 1965 and had been active with the Student Chapter at Kansas State University and with the Illinois Chapter prior to coming to Texas in fall 1974. I was in awe of the number of people attending the meeting in San Antonio and very impressed with the quality of the papers being presented by professionals and graduate students from all over Texas.

During my first couple of years attending the Texas Chapter meetings, I was greatly impressed by graduate students of Dr. James Kroll and the quality of their presentations. As the years have passed, James has left the Chapter which has been one of my major disappointments with the Chapter: too many professionals or groups of professionals have left the Chapter during my 35 years. Of special note is the current lack of federal biologists that attend the meeting, especially those from federal wildlife refuges. During my early years, Claude Lard was a key player and always present at the meetings. The Claude F. Lard Visitor Center at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge currently bears his name. Refuge Manager, Frank Johnson, at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge also was an icon at each meeting. Frank's legend lives on through his daughter, Lee Ann Linam (with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; TPWD), who has been very active with the Texas Chapter. In the early history of the Chapter, federal employees

were very active within the Chapter. Frank Sprague (one of 18 historical figures of the Texas Chapter) and Gary Valentine (President in 1984) of the old Soil Conservation Service, Fred Knowlton (President in 1970) of the old Animal Damage Control (ADC) Program originally under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and John Stransky (President in 1977) of the U.S. Forest Service provided leadership from federal agencies. However, too many federal employees are currently discouraged from or not given permission to attend the meetings. This is a disservice to these employees as they are missing current information of trends, research, management, and policies within the profession. And more importantly, what is happening around Texas. Also, it is a disservice to all wildlife professionals attending Chapter meetings, for unless you are currently working with these federal agencies, you are unaware of their activities within Texas. It has been 26 years since a federal employee (Gary Valentine, 1984) has been President of the Chapter; this needs to change.

Enough about the negatives; positive progress has been substantial during my 35 years. From my first visit, TPWD biologists have been active leaders of the Chapter. From Dr. Jim Teer serving the first 2 years (1965 and 1966) as President, TPWD employees have served as President during 17 of the Chapter's 45 year history with Alan Cain (TPWD) currently serving as President elect. The first woman President (Linda Campbell) of the Chapter was a TPWD employee. Bob Cook as Executive Director of TPWD encouraged (by paying application fees) all TPWD employees to become TWS Certified Biologists. Many other TPWD employees were stalwarts of the Chapter including Dan Lay (Texas Chapter historical figure) who helped organize the Texas Chapter.

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IN MY YEARS...

Eight years after its birth, the first university employee (Dr. Ernie Ables) became President of the Chapter. Including Dr. Ables, 23 university employees have or are (Dr. Louis Harveson, current President) serving as President of the Chapter. Disappointing is that no woman university employee has served as President. However, the greatest change in membership has been with university students which currently comprise over half of all attendees at Chapter meetings. And gender of these students is about equally distributed between the sexes. The Chapter has encouraged students membership through reduce registration fees, scholarships, and Wildlife Quiz Bowl competitions, recruitment of students through summer camp programs, and recognition of outstanding student chapters. I also have been impressed by the increase in number of student chapters at universities in Texas. This development should continue to provide the quantity and quality of wildlife professionals needed in the future. Although much better than my earlier years with the Chapter, the number of professional women attending the Texas Chapter is not consistent with the number of female students that attend the meetings. Much progress still is needed in this area of membership.

Private organizations such the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation (Terry Blankenship, President in 2003; Selma Glasscock, President in 2005) have served the Chapter in many ways. The Welder Wildlife Refuge has hosted many a summer conservation camp for high school students and trained many K-12 teachers in matters of conservation.

On a personal note, I am proud to have taught undergraduate and graduate students or served on graduate committees of 10 of the 44 current or former Presidents of the Chapter, 3 of which a chaired or co-chaired. Many other former students have served or are serving the Chapter well over the years. On a second note, age of membership has changed or maybe I am just getting old. With the greater number of students attending, I know it is not all about my age.

Lastly, the most notable change in membership has been the number of participants at Chapter meetings. Numbers attending used to be less than 150, but now reach over 500 individuals. A great part of this is due to attending students.

As I look back on my 35 years with the Texas Chapter, I realize that I have been associated with many exceptional individual wildlife professionals. Many have passed from us and many are still active. In their own right, they were and are leaders of the wildlife profession, in not only Texas, but the nation and world as well. Beside the great scientific presentations, great socials, and great banquets, the Texas Chapter is really about the individuals whom attend. These individuals have, are, and always will be special and are the reason that I attend these meetings. I always look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones at our next meeting. Can you believe it has been 35 years since we were in San Antonio? See you there.



Dr. Nova J. Silvy is a Regent's Professor at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas; former President of The Wildlife Society and TCTWS; and recipient of the Aldo Leopold Award.

TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

by Raymond C. Mathews, Jr.

The service award that was presented to me at the TCTWS 2010 Annual Meeting in Galveston will mark a milestone in the history of my career that I will always cherish. Dr. Louis Harveson, Chapter President, asked me to write this article explaining what motivated me to take on such a monumental task and the value of such a document. The history of the TCTWS was a story that required summarizing the detailed files covering 40 years that your officers and archivist painstakingly maintained. Your contributions to the science, management, education and conservation of wildlife resources in the state of Texas are monumental. It was an honor for me to tell your history, from the earliest efforts in 1947 following WWII to organize members of the parent society in the state until it was finally chartered in 1965, and throughout the 40 year history, the organization has grown and advanced in many diverse ways. Although I have been a research biologist for a 40-year career myself, I have taken a keen interest in the history of my professional societies in the past decade. Perhaps it is in part because I wanted to make sure that those who had contributed to professional societies were

remembered for their work, and that the contributions of each society would be appropriately documented. Thus, in the case of the TCTWS it is your work that is being honored in the History of the TCTWS document that I wrote, and I want to thank you for letting

a new Chapter in Texas by Dan Lay, Regional Representative of the TWS; the earliest known formal letters and memorandums in archives dating back to 1959 concerning the formation of the Texas Chapter; and a formal organizational meeting and petition submitted to the parent society in 1965 that actually got the Texas Chapter going.

Milestones of the 1960's included the first Annual Meeting held in College Station with a symposium topic "Introduction and Spread of Exotic Game Species in Texas." Earl Rudder, President of TAMU, was the banquet speaker. I was a fishery and wildlife biology major at TAMU then and as member of the Corps of Cadets had great respect for Earl Rudder and my fellow aggie wildlife majors who in return regularly made me do push-ups until I collapsed. Their history is not prominent in my document. In 1968, the Chapter held the 1st joint Annual Meeting in conjunction with the 33rd North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Houston, which helped many wildlife professionals learn about the new Chapter. The 1st Resolution was passed in 1969 requesting that the TWS Regional Representative discuss remitting a portion of the current dues to



Ray Mathews, Jr. (left) receiving TCTWS service award from Bart Ballard

me be a part of that. I would like to point out some of the prominent milestones in the Chapter history that should stand out in your mind as a legacy of milestone accomplishments.

Early milestones in the history of the Chapter included the earliest known document in the archives (dated January 27, 1947) about a meeting to discuss formation of

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CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES

various Sections and Chapters for an operating budget.

During the 1970's, Dan Lay was selected as the first permanent Archivist for the Chapter, and that laid the foundation for being able to write a document on the Chapter history. Since Dan Lay, there have been five archivists: John Stransky, Virginia Cogar, Susan Baggett, Kay Fleming, and Jon Purvis. The Resolutions and Public Statements Committee developed their first position statement strongly supporting the legislation establishing the Big Thicket National Biological Reserve. The TWS certification program was formed in 1978, which gained importance over the years and many TCTWS members have become certified. The 1st raffle was held in 1979 to raise funds, which later became a tremendous source of funds for scholarships to students in wildlife biology.

The first awards for Texas citizens began in 1980, and the Chapter presented the first \$500 student scholarships in 1981. A brochure describing the Chapter's goals and objectives was developed in 1983. The Chapter published the 1982 symposium, "Texas Wildlife Resources & Land Use," which was the 1st of many to be published. The General Endowment Fund was approved by the Chapter in 1984. By 1987, the Chapter had 21 committees, including the Legislative Review Committee that has been effective over the years.

The decade of the 90's had many milestones, including the Chapter's 25th anniversary in 1990. The

membership was 456 in 1991, representing a 63% growth since 1985. The Wildlife Conservation Memorial Fund was established in 1992 to honor deceased professional wildlifers and other individuals with wildlife conservation interest and accomplishments. The all important Wildlife Ecology Camp was sponsored by the Chapter in 1993, and hosted by the Welder Wildlife Foundation. A number of student wildlife camps were developed from this initiative, including the Texas Bobwhite Brigade Camp in 1996. The number of student chapters had grown to six by this time, increasing the depth of importance of the Chapter on young men and women interested in wildlife careers.

The 21st century milestones have already included the Texas Chapter receiving the Chapter of the Year Award in 2002. I began working on the Chapter history in January 2003, and Jon Purvis, Chapter Archivist, showed me the archives that had been maintained for 40 years. The sheer size of the documentation was impressive, and I made arrangements to take increments home with me to work on a few years of historical archives at a time. I remember a feeling of having just accepted a considerable responsibility to document all of this on my spare time and also an awesome feeling holding files with documents that dated back 40 years to the Chapter Charter, and even 50-60 years back to post World War II times when the earliest considerations were given to forming such a Chapter in Texas. I met with the Chapter's Executive Board in

August 2004 with an early draft and presented what I was telling about the history of the Chapter in chronological order. They seemed to like the concept, and I finished my final draft in October 2004, which went out for seeming countless reviews that resulted in much needed edits and additions. The final document was finished in January 2005 after three years of fairly intense archive assessment, writing, historical document and photograph scanning, interviews with members from all different time periods of activity in the Chapter, and a lot of summarizing to document what appeared to me as the important steps the Chapter took in its history up to that point in time. In February 2005, I presented the history document to the membership, and gave a short narrative review of the milestones and recognition of key individuals in the Chapter history. I even gave a certificate to all those "historical characters" in the Chapter who made this society such a success.

My history has been very much intertwined with the history of wildlifers in the TCTWS. Dan Lay and I are both Past-Presidents of the Texas Organization for Endangered Species (TOES), and I ended up with his painting of a Red-cockaded woodpecker with a meaning he said was to impress on us our responsibility to protect and preserve wildlife habitat. Gary Valentine was also active in TOES and the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, and is the only member to be twice awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award by the TCTWS and Outstanding Fisheries Worker

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of the Year by the TCAFS. Gary and I have worked with each other for decades in our professional societies, and that relationship is certainly an honor to me. Dr. Wallace Klussmann is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Texas Department of Rural Affairs, the agency that I work for, and he is a TCTWS Past-President. While receiving my TCTWS service award at the 2010 Annual Meeting in Galveston, I met up with Dr. Mike Tewes, another long term professional associate of mine, to talk about an endangered wildlife award that I was responsible for presenting to a worthy student. He highly recommended Chapter member Jennifer Korn for her doctoral research on endangered Ocelots. As the Immediate Past-President of the Texas Academy of Science, it was my honor to present that award to Jennifer

Korn. These are just a few of my examples of how my history has been intertwined with that of the TCTWS in a very mutually beneficial manner.

The history of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society may not have been written if it were not for the foresight of Gary Valentine in recognizing that it was worthy of being documented, and asking me to write it because of my experience in writing the history of other conservation organizations. I was not a member of the TCTWS when Gary asked me to write the history document, but I proudly joined the Chapter after I started working on this project and have continued to be a member supporting your activities. I am indebted to the chapter archivists and skilled reviews by Gary Valentine, Jon Purvis, Nova Silvy,

James Teer, Jim Cathey, Wendell Swank, Ron George, John Baccus, John Stransky, Charles DeYoung, and Neal Wilkins. Without their dedication to this project, it would not have been complete. David Rideout provided pictures of Texas Chapter members in the field at meetings and campfires; which are treasures that capture important moments in time. The entire Executive Board of the Chapter was very helpful in providing guidance and assistance when needed. Finally I would like to thank all of the members of the Texas Chapter for your expertise, dedication to wildlife, helping many students, reaching out to landowners and legislators, and making a history that was well worth telling.

Article by Raymond C. Mathews, Jr.; TCTWS Historian.

Post Script by Gary Valentine

When I think back to the time in Galveston when I suggested to Ray that he consider writing the history of our chapter, my memory takes me further back to the homecoming dance at Auburn University in 1965. My friend, Charlie Dees, wanted to ask Kit Wheeler, the homecoming queen that year, to the big dance. He knew her through the Baptist Student Union, but he figured one of the football players --- Tucker Frederickson, Billy Edge, and Jimmy Sidle --- or some other campus big shot would be her date.

We encouraged him to ask because Kit might accept, and she was such a classy person that she would make him feel good if she did turn him down. Charlie asked her, she accepted and he had an awesome time.

When I asked Ray to consider writing our history, I knew that he had written histories for two other organizations, but he was a member of those. He was not a member of our chapter, so he might decline. Well, as with Kit, he accepted and provided the chapter with an awesome gift.

Even if another word of our history is never written, Ray's work will be invaluable in helping us to understand from where we came and how we got to where we are. I'm in hopes that our chapter's present and future leadership possess the foresight and wisdom to keep our history current.

And finally, while Ray is not nearly as physically attractive as Kit, he is every bit as classy.

CAMP 2010

TCTWS WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CAMP 2010

Imagine the excitement of a young person removing a northern cardinal from a mist net and holding it in their hand, kayaking toward a rookery on open water, or lying under the stars while listening to a pair of barred owl's call. Campers at the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society's 2010 Wildlife Conservation Camp had the opportunity to do just that and much more!

The 16th annual camp was held July 11-17 at the Welder Wildlife Foundation near Sinton, Texas. Twenty-one high school students were selected to participate, 19 from Texas, 1 from Indiana, and 1 from Louisiana. Out of state campers were a first for the camp and their presence added so much to this unique experience. Campers were exposed to various wildlife ecology and management techniques including mist netting, small mammal trapping, wildlife tracking, radio telemetry, seining, invertebrate collecting, plant collecting, and GPS/Google Earth to name a few. They enjoyed shooting sports, spotlighting, and kayaking, a first for many of these kids. We were all fortunate to hear from wildlife professionals from around the state on topics including prescribed burning, digestive systems, the North American Management Model, soils, predator control and human/wildlife interactions, habitat management, and Aldo Leopold's Conservation Ethics. The campers spent a day at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge kayaking and studying bay ecology and water quality which was very refreshing mid-week! Many of this year's campers were interested in pursuing a future in the wildlife field and valued their time to speak with professionals during informal settings such as our campfire talks. The campers maintained their dedication and enthusiasm throughout our full week of activities. Most importantly, everyone treasured making memories with one another and strengthening their appreciation for the outdoors. The Texas Chapter donated a year membership to each camper and we look forward to having them, including top camper Stephen Renard of Dallas, TX, attend the TCTWS meeting in San Antonio to share their experience.

The success of this camp would not be possible without the dedicated volunteers, many of which have been involved for years. We are so fortunate for their devotion to this camp. Their knowledge and passion was evident throughout all the activities during the week. This year's volunteers included: Co-Directors Selma Glasscock and Jim Gallagher, Liz Bates, Terry Blankenship, Randee Corrigan, Mandy Corso, Megan Dominguez, Cathy Ekert, Kirk Feuerbacher, Albert Flores, Kevin Fagg, Dakota Freund, Terry Gallagher, Josh Garison, Kelly Haile, Louis Harveson, Richard Heilbrun, David Hewitt, Larry Hysmith, Dusty Jansky, Jennifer Korn, Mike Leidner, Brock Minton, Kevin Mitchell, Lauren O'Connell, Brent Ortego, Eric Redeker, Sammy Reinhart, Stephen Ross, Denise Ruffino, Annaliese Scoggin, Nova Simpson, Chad Stacey, Ashley Whaley and Michelle Wood.

This camp is truly a rewarding experience for all who participate. We are confident that these 21 young adults returned home with a new found appreciation for wildlife conservation and stewardship that they will share with their community. We encourage you to get involved in next year's camp!



FROM COLLEGE TO CAREER: TIPS FOR LANDING A JOB OR INTERNSHIP

by Joe Beach, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

“Did you land an internship?” “Where will you be working after graduation?” Odds are you will have four or five jobs or internships in the first ten years after graduation. Not all of these jobs may be with the same employer, or in the same state. Life is what happens while you’re making other plans so the following are some ways you can manage your career no matter what life throws at you.

Network. As a member of The Wildlife Society (TWS) and a student, you have four built-in networks: TWS members statewide and nationwide; your professors; Career Services at your college, and fellow graduate/undergraduate students. You will be interacting with fellow TWS members, professors and alumni the rest of your life. Treat them the way you want to be treated. Attend State or National meetings of societies you belong to such as TWS, AFS, TSSRM, CCA, SCB or others. Ask for business cards and e-mail individual thank-you notes to folks who give you their cards, help you out, and so forth. Have a professional e-mail address and voice mail. Resist peer pressure to go drinking or whatnot instead of school work, society meetings or volunteering.

Once you graduate, you acquire another network: the alumni of your alma mater. Joining list-servs of Societies, fellow alumni and professors multiplies your potential contacts in more networks. Gaining real-world experience raises your potential worth to employers who belong to, or look for job candidates on, those networks.

Experience. You may have some real-world experience from growing-up - such as working on a farm or ranch, assisting a fishing or backpacking guide, being a Youth Hunter, in FFA, Texas Brigades, Scouts or as a youth member of a Wildlife Conservation group. You may have been part of a wildlife census or habitat restoration effort on Federal or State Lands or elsewhere. List these experiences, as well as your society memberships, on your application for a Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPWD) Internship and/or application for a Summer/Seasonal job at TPWD’s State Parks. These groups, and others, can give you a variety of experiences that could help your chances of securing a paying job. Paid Summer Student Internships and Summer/Seasonal jobs are great ways to get involved with TPWD and others. Note that Seasonal jobs may be in Winter, Spring or Fall – they may not be Summer only.

Volunteer. Another valuable way to gain real-world experience is to volunteer. For example, I volunteered doing trail maintenance as a freshman in fall at the college I attended on the Appalachian Trail. It was one of the main reasons I landed a job at Yellowstone that summer. TPWD and other Natural Resource Management/Conservation agencies seek applicants who have experience, passion and interest in doing what we do. Volunteer to do this if you have not grown up doing it. If your campus is close to a TPWD State Park -> http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/friends_groups/ lists all the Friends of State Parks groups and how you may contact them in order to volunteer with them. If your campus is not close to a TPWD State Park, look up City, County and NGO Parks and other agencies where you can start. Another way you can get started is through the TPWD + AgriLife Extension Service Texas Master Naturalist program. There are Master Naturalist chapters having new classes all across Texas: <http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu/> is the Program’s home page. Both of these groups give you additional networks of folks to keep in touch with as your career progresses.

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CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

Competition. For Internships and for full-time TPWD positions, you compete with candidates from across the US, and with folks who have experience and/or advanced degrees. This is another reason why you want to describe relevant work and volunteer experiences on job applications or résumés. It is why it is crucial to gain new skills or abilities (by volunteering, for instance) and describe them professionally. A variety of experiences shows your flexibility and willingness to learn – two traits all employers seek. Being bilingual in Spanish and English is valuable – Texas Game Wardens receive additional compensation for being fluently bilingual. Speaking of job applications and résumés, many government agencies and some NGO's and private employers require a completed job application (and sometimes other forms, too) instead of a résumé. Know your employer's hiring process so you may compete as best you can.

Social Media. Who has a Facebook, Twitter, MySpace or YouTube account? More and more employers look you up on these Sites before deciding to interview or hire you. Talking trash, showing yourself drunk or using expletives reflects negatively on you and could cost you a job or a job interview. And, for your personal safety, BE CAREFUL what you do/say, and what your friends do/say, on these sites. As important as texting can be, using proper grammar and diction (plus knowing how to write professionally and to proofread what you write) may help you land your ideal job more than texting prowess will.

Now a bit about TPWD Jobs nomenclature:

- Read Job Descriptions – if it says “Preferred Education: Master’s Degree...” means you may have a tough go of it if you only have a BA/BS and no other relevant experience from growing up.
 - Read the “Knowledge, Skills and Abilities” (KSA’s) and see how many of these you meet/exceed. This may help you determine if/how to apply for this job.
 - Sometimes, we hire candidates with BA/BS for our entry-level NRS positions but you may be competing with MA/MS candidates for those jobs. Generally speaking, our “Technician” openings may be good to apply for if you have BA/BS and relevant KSA’s. Some of our Biologists and Park Specialists started as part-time employees and applied for other positions as they came open.
 - Read carefully, thoroughly and follow all instructions. Questions? Contact joe.beach@tpwd.state.tx.us .
-

CHAPTER BUSINESS

EXCELLENCE IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AWARDS

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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 5-10 point bullet statement explaining why the nominee is deserving of the award, along with a curriculum vitae of the nominee (if possible) to: Poncho Ortega-Sanchez, 292 N. County Road 1070, Kingsville, TX 78363. *The deadline for nominations is 29 October 2010.*

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: Poncho Ortega-Sanchez, 292 N. County Road 1070, Kingsville, TX 78363. *The deadline for nominations is 29 October 2010.*

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: Poncho Ortega-Sanchez, 292 N. County Road 1070, Kingsville, TX 78363. *The deadline for nominations is 29 October 2010.*

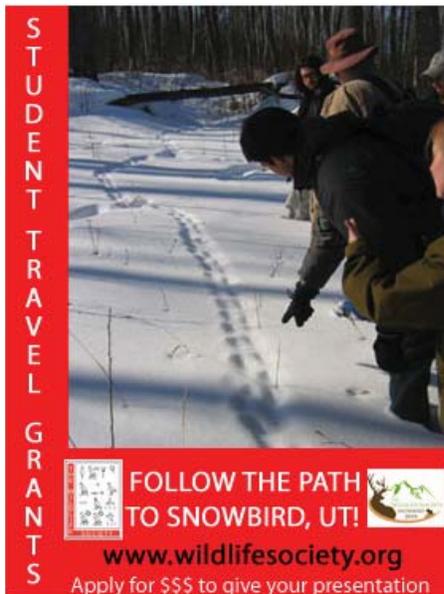
COTTAM SUBMISSIONS CALL FOR ABSTRACTS & REQUIREMENTS

Deadline for receipt of abstracts is 30 November 2010. Extended abstracts must be submitted as a Word or PDF file attached to an e-mail; PDF format is 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. Abstracts should be submitted to Michael Morrison (Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University) at mlmorrison@tamu.edu. All submissions will be acknowledged; if you fail to receive an acknowledgment by email within 3 days of submission please re-contact Dr. Morrison. Additionally, students must submit one (1) abbreviated abstract (<250 words) to the Program Chair. 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) or contact Michael Morrison.

PUBLICATION AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

This is the first call out for nominations of exceptional publications that include a Texas Chapter, TWS member as one of the top three authors. Categories include: Books (published 2007 - 2010); peer-reviewed Journal Articles (2007 - 2010); Technical Publications and Bulletins (2007 - 2010); and Electronic Media (i.e. websites, CD's, and DVDs). *The deadline for submission is 31 October 2010.* To nominate a publication, please submit 4 copies to the Publications Committee Chair: Justin Foster (Research Coordinator, TPWD Region 2, (830) 238-4483), 2625 FM 1340, Hunt, Texas 78024, or justin.foster@tpwd.state.tx.us

UPCOMING MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



UPCOMING MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Urban Wildlife Management and Planning Conference

Austin, Texas 2011

Hyatt Regency Hotel

Save the Date - May 21-25

This international conference focuses on the challenges and consequences for wildlife when humans are the architects of the ecology of urban environments, as well as the impact of wildlife on humans in urban settings. Conference proceedings result from the contributions of national and international participants in wildlife management, research, and education, as well as urban planning and architectural design. Participants provide contemporary research, design, and management practices targeting urban ecosystems. Sessions include ecological and economic value in urban design; planning for the inclusion or exclusion of urban wildlife; challenges in urban wildlife management, research, and education; urban ecosystem research; and implementation of innovative strategies for co-existing with wildlife in urban settings. The conference provides a diversified and well-balanced exchange of ideas and information of significant benefit to the resource itself, as well as the entire community of stakeholders professionally involved with urban wildlife and their habitats. Conference organizers represent researchers, planners, and practitioners from state and federal agencies, universities, city/county governments, architects and urban planners, and private organizations.

For more information email Diana Foss at diana.foss@tpwd.state.tx.us

Become a fan on Facebook at Urban Wildlife 2011

UPCOMING MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEXAS WILDLIFE SHORT COURSE AUGUST 20-21, 2010

Texas is getting ready for hunting season with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service's first ever Texas Wildlife Short Course August 20-21, 2010 at the Brazos County Exposition Center.

The Texas Wildlife Short Course is designed for both new and seasoned sportsmen alike, providing up-to-date information on various aspects of wildlife management. Educational topics covering white-tailed deer management, the use of infrared cameras for scouting, and what forages to plant for deer and doves will be discussed. Feral hog and farm pond management, and marketing wildlife on your piece of Texas will also be covered. A special session will be devoted to managing wildlife for the 1-d-1 Open Space Lands tax valuation. Special speakers will include Bob Zaiglin, well-known white-tailed deer biologist and Department Chair Wildlife Management Southwest Texas Junior College, Clayton Wolf, Wildlife Division Director, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Ben Koerth, white-tailed deer biologist from the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, Jon Hayes, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Shane Kiefer, Plateau Land and Wildlife Management. Other noted speakers will include Jim Cathey, Extension Wildlife Specialist, Larry Redmon, Extension Forage Specialist, Miles Phillips, Extension Nature Tourism Specialist, and Michael Masser, Extension Fisheries Specialist. Three continuing education units will be provided.

Admission to The Texas Wildlife Short Course is \$75 and included with the price are 1 catered meal (Friday lunch), vendor displays, and a chance to see some of the best deer taken during last year's hunting season. There will also be exclusive activities designed for children.

Following the conclusion of the Texas Wildlife Short Course, the Texas Wildlife Association's Regions 5, 6, 7 (Post Oak Savannah, Pineywoods, and Coastal Prairies) will be holding the annual Texas Big Game Awards Sportsmen's Celebration. The Texas Big Game Awards Sportsmen's Celebration will begin Saturday August 21 with their awards luncheon at 1:00 pm followed by the awards presentation.

To register for the Texas Wildlife Short Course go to the Texas AgriLife Extension Conference Services' web-site at <https://agrilifevents.tamu.edu> . For more information regarding this inaugural event, please call 979-845-2604. For more information on the Texas Big Game Awards Sportsmen's Celebration visit www.TexasBigGameAwards.com

TX CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION MEETING

The TX chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration is having its annual meeting this year in the beautiful piney woods of east Texas. For more information about the meeting, please go to: <http://www.txser.org>; for more information re: submitting an abstract, click on the Call for Abstracts tab on the <http://www.txser.org> webpage.