



Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education

Number 167 • October 2010

## TEXAS' FLORA AND FAUNA: The American Alligator



Photo by David Saalfeld

As one of the few wildlife success stories, American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*) have recovered from the brink of extinction. In the mid-20th Century, American alligator populations were severely depleted due to overharvesting, persecution, and habitat loss. After being placed on the Endangered Species List in 1967, populations increased dramatically, and by 1987, alligators were deemed

fully recovered across their entire range. Now, American alligators thrill wildlife viewers as they are one of the most easily viewed large carnivores in the United States. Additionally, they provide a unique hunting opportunity throughout their range where legal harvest followed delisting.

The American alligator inhabits freshwater rivers, lakes, swamps, and marshes throughout southeastern

United States (ranging from North Carolina to Florida and west to Texas), playing a critical role in these habitats as a top carnivore and keystone species. Within some of these systems, alligators construct alligator holes (depressions dug out by alligators using their snout and tail), providing refuge during dry periods. In wetlands that experience prolonged dry seasons (e.g., Florida Everglades), these holes create a source of water for fish, insects, crustaceans, snakes, turtles, birds, and other animals, providing not only a convenient source of food, but also a vital refuge for numerous other species, classifying them as a keystone species.

Alligators are the second largest reptile in North America, with adult male alligators ranging in size from 1.8 to 4.4 m in length and adult females ranging in size from 1.8 to 3.0 m. In Texas, alligators rarely reach sizes greater than 3.6 m, which was the size of the largest alligator we caught as part of a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Stephen F. Austin State University collaborative research projects in east Texas. However, several individuals > 4.2 m have been harvested from private

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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



**'Tis the season...the busy season.**

With the big holiday season right around the corner, the Texas Chapter membership bustles with activity. For the relentless biologists, November and December are exhausting as they scurry to complete surveys; field endless calls; and gear up for an influx of hunters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts to take the field. For students and faculty, November is the last chance to get caught up on grading and lectures, buckle-down and improve their grades, and to finalize end-of-semester reporting.

As you start preparing for your end-of-year activities, please be mindful of our upcoming 47th Annual Meeting. Mark your calendars for February 17-19, 2011 as 500+ TCTWS members will descend on the El Tropicano Hotel, located in the Museum District of Riverwalk, San Antonio. As program chair, **Roel Lopez** has lined up Texas' top conservation leaders to discuss the challenges and successes of "*Managing Public Resources on Private Lands*".

Our Activities Chair, **Bill Adams**, has also scheduled several exciting activities for members including a 2-day immobilization workshop by the highly acclaimed Safe-Capture International, Inc. TCTWS members have been provided a reduced rate for this internationally recognized program. The workshop will be conducted prior to the Annual Conference from February 16-17, 2011 at the host hotel.

And as always, we will have 100+ papers and posters describing research, conservation, and management strategies being implemented across Texas. The deadline for abstract submission is **November 30, 2010**. You will also find "last calls" for student awards (professional development, outstanding student chapter, outstanding student member, poster competition, Cottam Awards, plant ID contest, and the quiz bowl), student scholarships, conservation awards, publication awards, and photo/art contest listed in this newsletter.

If you haven't noticed, the Chapter invests heavily in our future. That is by design. Students have represented about 40% of the Chapter membership over the last 5 years. The Texas Chapter subsidizes membership dues and registration fees for our student members, we provide scholarships and awards for our students, and we have developed mentoring programs for our aspiring wildlife professionals. Students, we hope you take full advantage of these opportunities.

I also wanted to congratulate the Texas A&M University-Kingsville Chapter of The Wildlife Society, as they won (for the fourth time) the Outstanding Student Chapter of the Year Award! Way to go Javelinas!

Lastly, you will find a list of candidate nominees and their respective biographies. Each year, the TCTWS solicits wildlife professionals to run for office including Vice President, Secretary, and Board Member-at-Large. This year the nomination committee has identified 6 highly qualified professionals to help lead the TCTWS. Please take the time to review the biographies of these candidates and be looking for your electronic ballot in December.

*Louis A. Harveson, President*

## TEXAS FLORA & FAUNA

property in Texas. Alligators reach sexual maturity at about 8 to 13 years of age and exhibit a size-specific dominance hierarchy, where larger males and females copulate earlier and more frequently within a breeding season than do smaller individuals. In east Texas wetlands, we found that alligators reach sexual maturity at 9 years of age and experienced faster growth rates than other regions.

Breeding season for alligators begins in spring, where males bellow loudly to attract mates and warn off other males by sucking air into their lungs and blowing it out in intermittent, deep-toned roars. After mating, the female builds a nest of vegetation, sticks, leaves, and mud in a sheltered spot near the water's edge. After she lays her 20 to 50 eggs, she covers them under more vegetation, which, like mulch, heats as it decays, incubating the eggs. As alligators have temperature sex determination, the temperature at which alligator eggs develop determines their sex. Those eggs which are hatched in temperatures ranging from 32 to 34 °C develop into males, while those in temperatures from 23 to 30 °C develop into females. Intermediate temperature ranges have proven to yield a mix of both males and females. The female will remain near the nest throughout the approximate 65 day incubation period, protecting the nest from intruders. When the young begin to hatch they emit a high-pitched croaking noise, and the female

quickly digs them out. After hatching, females will continue to protect their offspring for up to 2 years before they are forced to disperse. However, we estimated that only 40% of hatchlings survived their first year in east Texas. Additionally, only about 25% of mature females are thought to reproduce yearly with few alligators breeding in successive years.

American alligators are opportunistic predators that exhibit a varied diet and are adept at exploiting local abundances of prey that encompass a wide diversity of sizes and taxa, ranging from small insects and crustaceans to large vertebrates. Diets of alligators have been shown to shift from invertebrates to vertebrates as they increased in size. In east Texas, juvenile alligator diets consisted largely of invertebrates (i.e., crayfish, giant water bugs) and small fish, while adult alligators consumed mainly vertebrates (mammals and birds). Additionally, we found that alligators consume large quantities of non-food items including aquatic vegetation, sticks, stones, tent spikes, bottle caps, and fishing lures.

The recovery of American alligators throughout their range has provided a unique opportunity for harvest of a large carnivore and reptile. However, management strategies of this species are often difficult due to geographic variability in growth rates, habitat use,

survival, population densities, food availability, and diet. Therefore, current research is attempting to provide baseline data on inland alligator populations, assess the impacts of current harvest regulations, and elucidate potential differences between inland and coastal populations within Texas. These findings will hopefully provide sustainable harvest strategies for these populations. For example, current harvest strategies remove a high percentage of larger size class individuals. By removing large, presumably dominant, individuals from the population, smaller alligators are no longer inhibited from breeding, potentially leading to decreased clutch size, hatchling survival, growth rates, and nest success. Therefore, current research suggests that harvest within these wetlands needs to be more selective, where intermediate size classes (e.g., 1.2 – 1.8 m) should be targeted to lessen pressure on dominant individuals.



David Saalfied is a PhD student at Stephen F. Austin State University.

## IN MY YEARS...

### “IN MY YEARS”

*by Gene T. Miller, wildlife biologist*

First of all, I want to thank all the readers who take time to at least scan over the musings of a guy who loves wildlife and land, and has had “the calling” for a little over three decades. My close friends will appreciate the tact I’ve taken with “less is more” in this piece that I am humbled and honored to write.

#### ***Scouting was a natural connection***

Growing up in San Antonio in the 1960s and 70s as a baby boomer, I was blessed not only with God-fearing parents and family, but men and women Scouters who gave of their time and weekends to nurture young boys with a love of state, country, God, and the outdoors. The campouts, pack and troop meetings, endless projects, and lots of help selflessly given enabled me to attain the rank of Eagle Scout in April 1967, followed by a trip to Philmont Scout Ranch that summer. I discovered from a moon-lighting high school biology teacher that Texas A&M had a degree in Wildlife Science. I could not wait to get home and write to College Station. The catalogue came and there it was...I was hooked.

#### ***“For Cow’s Sakes, Close Our Gates”***

Old Man Rudy Koehler had leathery skin (never wore shirt except in winter) and charged Dad, brother Mark, and I all the Popular Mechanics magazines we could bring plus 2 plugs of Dark Brown Mule chewing tobacco for dove hunting on Saturday afternoons on his place east of San Antonio. I remember mesquite prairie, lots of croton or ‘teaweed’ as he said, a stock tank...and doves! Mark and I would blast away with the .410 and 20-gauge and manage to take home some doves. Mom fixed those breasts and made gravy. That gate sign of his made an indelible mark on me for future dealings with landowners as a state wildlife biologist and hunter. He was a fine old German man, lived

alone, hardly went to town, and loved the old homeplace with wood cook stove and cistern for drinking (a big old Lone Star Beer vat as I recall). He claimed that a western diamondback rattlesnake could and would “run a man” for miles. He was an old time blacksmith and could “forge weld” as I saw him demonstrate to Dad and us on one of the many trips.

#### ***“We are the Aggies, the Aggies are we”***

Spring of 1970 came, I graduated from Sam Houston High School on the southeast side of San Antonio, and we went to A&M. All you did in those days was sign up and pay the \$50 tuition for the first semester, tell them if you wanted to be in the Corps, and show up. Brother Mark, two years behind me in the Class of 1976 (with brains and good looks), opted for civilian life and was a coop student in Mechanical Engineering. Not me...no sir! Corps of Cadets, all the “good bull” anybody could take, a wildlife degree with graduation on time in 4 years, and commissioning as an officer in the U. S. Marine Corps. I’m not sure how, but it all happened in May 1974. I missed Vietnam by 3 weeks and went to 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

#### ***“Producing Quality Whitetails” aboard ship***

I think it was on one of those 6-month cruises that Mom sent me a new copy of “Producing Quality Whitetails” by Al Brothers and Murphy Ray. I wrote Murphy Ray and asked for advice on getting a wildlife job after active duty (no intention of being a “lifer” in the Marine Corps). I received a letter and it looked like a real neat woman’s handwriting to me, so I thought his wife did it for him. Years later as a TPWD biologist, I was going through old files



**Drs. Don Steinbach (L) and James Cathey (R) present Gene Miller with Honorary Life Membership Award in 2007.**

*(continued on next page)*

## IN MY YEARS...

and saw identical handwritten correspondence by him... sure enough, he had written back in person. He said to "get on any way you can and make a hand," and it worked, just not quite the way I'd planned. Charles Petersen, the Base Game Manager at Camp Lejeune (300,000 acres of coastal habitat and woods) befriended me and introduced me to folks with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission in Raleigh. After leaving active duty as a 1st Lieutenant in June of 1977, making a trip home to pay off the student federal loan and buy a truck, I returned to North Carolina and started to work as a temporary wildlife technician at Troy, North Carolina on July 1, 1977. I found a good little house to live in with board walls, an Atlanta wood heater and all the wood I could burn, and a fishing pond down below it in the woods. It was an old slave shack that had been cut off from the main house and rolled down the hill with mules and logs. The night sounds out there in the country were therapeutic for a lonesome Texas boy. Rent was \$50 a month and the place was fully furnished. Gasoline was \$0.77 per gallon....highway robbery!

### ***"More Sport for More People with Equal Opportunity for All" in the Old North State***

One of the greatest times of my life was the 8½ years that I was privileged to work for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. That first assignment turned into a permanent position that led to two more promotions, a wife Marie, and our first baby girl, Leslie Anne (now grown, married, and the mother of our little grandson). Work assignments were in the Southern Piedmont, Southern Appalachian Mountains (Western NC), and the Northern Piedmont, just south of Danville, Virginia...all on public lands. I am indebted to the many wildlife biologists, technicians, and wildlife enforcement officers of that agency who helped shape and round out my perspective and appreciation of hunting, trapping, and the motto of "More Sport for More People with Equal Opportunity for All." (I did not say fishing because back home in Texas, Dad had dosed us up pretty good with camping, and fishing trips to rivers, lakes, and the Texas Coast). I am especially grateful to Mr. Hal Atkinson, Jr., retired Chief of Wildlife Management; to Mr. Denton O. Baumberger, Wildlife Biologist, retired; and, to Mr. Mike Seamster, Wildlife Forester and Wild Turkey Program Leader, retired for being major influences in my professional development. It was there that I began learning how to use a "bag of tools" (degree in Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences) as a Pittman-Robertson baby. I had the pleasure of meeting and knowing early "movers and shakers" in the newly-formed National Wild Turkey Federation which began in Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1973 before moving to Edgefield, South Carolina several years

later. And, it was there that I first met a slender and rather scruffy-looking fellow that had achieved some notoriety as a turkey biologist in South Carolina during 1970-80. He came to North Carolina as our new Executive Director in 1980...his name was W. Vernon Bevill.

### ***"We'll just throw you in the creek"***

One of my assignments in the western mountain region was working with bear hunting parties and contacting as many new ones as possible to collect harvest data from females. This led to many good contacts, coffee, friends, and some threats from those who didn't particularly trust any government man, much less a new one. In one remote camp high in the mountains with a freshly-dressed deer hanging in camp during closed season (and a bear that was "rocked" in the creek under the bank with no tag), the bunch let me know in no uncertain terms that "a wildlife man, warden or not, was not welcome and I could leave or, by God, they would just through me in the creek." Okay.

I asked for one cup of coffee and a chance to explain why I was there...namely, to help get information to better manage the bear population in order to perpetuate the sport and way of live that they loved so much. It took until 11:00 p.m. that night, but I did manage to leave there with dry clothes and a complete bear harvest sample. Though I did not realize it at the time, getting a small glimpse of Appalachian Mountain folks from western North Carolina, north Georgia, and east Tennessee would come into play later in my career.

### ***Ecological sins***

Perhaps no reader has been guilty of this. Unfortunately, they started with me by the deliberate planting of exotic vegetation in many wild lands, namely National Forests in North Carolina and other state game lands...bad invasive stuff like Autumn olive, a fruit-bearing shrub that was supposed to be "just the thing" for wildlife, especially wild turkeys...right. And, I felt good about what I was doing at the time. More sins will be confessed later on in this piece.

### ***Coming home to Texas***

By late 1985, I knew that the Wildlife Conservation Act of 1983 had been passed by the Texas Legislature, which brought all 254 counties in Texas under the full regulatory authority of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. No more were the days of "general law" counties with regulations set by the County Commissioner's Court and "regulatory" counties with regulations set by TPWD. Knowing that information, and the fact that most trained wildlife biologists in North Carolina were employed as wildlife technicians,

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## IN MY YEARS...

plus the fact of TPWD being such a larger organization (theoretically more job opportunities) and a gnawing homesickness within me for the home country caused me to gain employment with TPWD in the Pineywoods Wildlife District (Wildlife Region 3) beginning in January, 1986. Regional Director Bob Van Cleave, District Leader Gary Spencer, and Biologists Roy Oglesby, Dan Boone, Billy Hudgins, Kay Fleming, Brent Ortego, and Jim Yantis were all good to me. There was another new biologist on the Pineywoods project that helped me unload the U-Haul truck into a rent house in Beulah, Texas south of Lufkin in Angelina County...his name was Mike Krueger. So, we went to work with private hunting clubs and the TPWD public hunting lands program on National Forest WMAs and hauled deer from South Texas to many new public hunting lands.

### ***Dog deer hunters***

Besides all that, we completed a dog-deer study and shut down the deer dogs in Southeast Texas for good...right. I had still-hunted deer in the Hill Country during college and thought that was the way to do it, whether with bow, muzzle loading rifle, or modern gun...period. But, I also had good experiences (killed deer) in a dog deer hunting state like North Carolina (eastern half) and had gained an appreciation for the sporting aspect of dog hunting done right (for deer, bear, hogs, raccoons, foxes). It was a big-time social issue in Southeast Texas and I could appreciate where my fellow biologists and state game wardens were coming from, especially as I became more familiar with many folks around Spurger, Votaw, Fred, Kuntze, and Silsbee. I witnessed a TPWD public hearing on the subject one night led by Mr. Horace Gore, then TPWD White-tailed Deer Program Leader and thought, "Lord, somebody needs to put a tent over this circus!" Public hearings in North Carolina had toughened me up some by then.

### ***Dan Lay and Charlie Boyd***

Both of these gentlemen were truly unique individuals and I am proud to have known both of them...Charlie probably better than Mr. Lay. Charlie would blow in and out and was always "whipping and spurring" as he came in asking to use your telephone, stay for a minute, and was gone. After I had worked in the Pineywoods for several years and then finally read Dan's "Land of Bears and Honey," it occurred to me that God had allowed me to work in the mountains of North Carolina as preparation to later be in East Texas (settled by folks from Appalachia). I treasure the letters that I got from Mr. Lay later on before he passed away. I would later work for many years with Danny Swepston, one of his protégés.

### ***Eastern wild turkeys in the Pineywoods***

Other than having a part in the complete restoration of Eastern wild turkeys in North Carolina and later helping to supply Rio Grande wild turkeys from the Panhandle to many western states for restoration, my proudest memory of time worked in East Texas comes from having helped start a process of Eastern wild turkey restoration which continues today. Helping to call in several Texas Easterns to the gun is a close second!

### ***Learning patience in the Panhandle***

"Vini, vidi, vinci!" (I came, I saw, I conquered). When I was promoted to TPWD Technical Guidance Biologist in the Panhandle on March 1, 1989, I thought all that was needed was to give farmers and ranchers the right information and follow up with them, and plans would be carried out without question...simple...right. The Lord used that for 21 years until this past May 31st to teach me patience. What a great run it was with biologists like Dana Wright, Jim Lionberger, Calvin Richardson, Danny Swepston, Vicki Sybert, Chip Ruthven, Jeff Bonner, Duane Lucia, and Heather Whitlaw. Marie and I raised Leslie (oldest daughter) and Mandy (born in Lufkin) here and it has been a good place to live and work until my retirement from Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, complete with pronghorns, prairie dogs and prairie chickens, deers, quails, pheasants, waterfowl, and a few wild turkeys.

### ***Dick DeArment, A. S. Jackson, Bob West and Tommy Hinkle***

All these men were helpful and encouraging to me, and were characters in their own special ways. Dick DeArment was my predecessor in the position, a mentor, and very-well respected by all landowners. He enjoyed a special respect from State Game Wardens that I had not seen displayed elsewhere to the degree that it was evident with him. Mr. Jackson, noted quail researcher and naturalist, was kind enough to sit and talk with me for hours in his home in Canadian. He showed me original onion-skin paper correspondence to-and-from Professor Aldo Leopold, Stokley Ligon, Dr. Walter P. Taylor, and Herbert Stoddard. Bob West was my Regional Director, a good friend, and told me upon arrival in the Panhandle that I was "flying blind in 56 counties." Furthermore, he said if I was smart, I would hook up with old time wildlife technician Tommy Hinkle and start to learn about the country and species from a guy who knew. Hinkle became a dear friend, killed us with his stories (and laughter), and showed me where lots of neat things were.

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## IN MY YEARS...

### ***More ecological sins***

They continued during early years in the Panhandle by planting of shelterbelts on the prairie (out of place) with species like Eastern red cedar and Rocky Mountain juniper, accompanied by all the negative ecological ramifications for grassland bird species.

### ***“If you wear out one pair of cowboy boots, you’ll never leave this country”***

Julius Stevens, old time State Game Warden from Tulia (now retired), advised me of that one day while riding in the truck in my first year or so in the Panhandle. It must be true, as our girls are now grown, married, and have a total of 5 children between them (our grandchildren)! And, we are still here!

### ***“Get Your Mind Right”***

This saying originated with some fellow biologists and wildlife technicians in the Trans-Pecos in reference to indulging in libations after working hours prior to steaks being cooked and dinner ready by ~10:00 p.m. (when I wanted to be in the bed asleep). However, it more correctly applies to my “ecological epiphany” after years of hanging out with the likes of consummate ecologists such as the late Donnie Harmel, Jim Yantis, Barron Rector, Calvin Richardson, Steve Nelle, Jimmy Rutledge, Matt Wagner, and Clint Rollins, plus private land practitioners in Texas. When I finally woke up to the concept of range sites, then Ecological Sites, then priority landscapes like prairie and riparian zones, plus (plant) community scale, I regretted precious time squandered on things other than activities to promote application of fire, planned grazing, and riparian restoration on private lands in my work area. That all changed in the late 1990s, and none too soon!

### ***Riding for the brand***

Even though many mistakes were made and I could always have done more, I tried to do that (“ride for the brand”) as an employee of North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department for a total of 32 years...no regrets and good memories.

### ***Unexpected fork in the road***

I am grateful to National Wild Turkey Federation for making it possible for me to retire from state service on May 31st of this year and start work for them as a Regional

Biologist for West Texas and Oklahoma. My counterpart to the east is former TPWD biologist Scotty Parsons (NWTF Regional Biologist for East Texas); and, former TPWD biologist Scott Lerich, NWTF Southwest Regional Biologist - Arizona & New Mexico). Our mission is conservation of the wild turkey and preservation of our hunting heritage.

### ***Redemption***

As such, I’m working on riparian restoration projects and landscape conservation throughout West Texas and Oklahoma with entities such as the Playa Lakes Joint Venture, the Oaks & Prairies Joint Venture, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Oklahoma Forestry Services, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, and others. Perhaps I can put some of the former “sins” behind me with a 10-year plan to do this conservation work with people in both states.

### ***Texas Chapter, relationships, and mentors***

TCTWS has been a big part of my professional life for the past 25 years, and there are too many names to mention without leaving out someone special...they are all special. A career with Parks & Wildlife Department made it all possible, and it is no secret that I hold the entire Wildlife Division, starting with Director Clayton Wolf and Deputy Director Matt Wagner in very high regard. The same goes for Executive Director Carter Smith and his management team. The relationship between TCTWS and TPWD is strong, and may it always stay that way. If you have not done so, find your place to become actively involved in our chapter to help keep it functioning as the best in the nation! Thanks for reading.

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## CHAPTER BUSINESS

# Call for Abstracts for the 47th Annual Meeting of TCTWS

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### *Managing Public Resources on Private Lands*

#### **Plenary Session**

Future Texas: Pressures, Trends, and Demographics  
*Neal Wilkins, Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources*

Texas' Diversity and Emerging Issues  
*Carter Smith, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*

Role of Federal Programs in Conserving Natural Resources: An Agency Perspective  
*Federal Agency, TBD*

We Can't Protect It All: An NGO/Land Trust Perspective  
*Mark Steinbach, Texas Land Conservancy*

Finding the Middle Ground: A Landowner Perspective  
*Kirby Brown, Texas Wildlife Association*

Preparing the Next Generation of Wildlife Professionals: A University Perspective  
*Fred Bryant, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute*

### PRESENTED PAPER AND POSTER PRESENTATION

Abstracts are now being accepted for the technical paper and the poster presentation sessions at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The meeting theme for this year's meeting is "Managing Public Resources on Private Lands". In addition to the Plenary session, the meeting will offer technical paper sessions, and an expanded poster presentation session for students (undergraduate or graduate) and wildlife professionals. Best poster presentation by an undergraduate and graduate will be awarded as in previous years. Papers/posters presenting the results of wildlife field investigations and analyses as well as topic reviews of interest to wildlife students and professionals in Texas are encouraged. Abstracts should be submitted via the abstract submission website, <http://tctws.tamu.edu/>

#### **Deadline for receipt of abstracts is 30 November 2010**

Please indicate, where requested, your preference for presentation format (i.e., paper, poster, or no preference). For those entering no preference, a decision will be made by the program committee and presenter notified via email. Any questions pertaining to abstract submission should be directed to the Program Chair: Roel R. Lopez, Texas A&M University, 2632 Broadway, Suite 301 South, San Antonio, Texas 78215. E-mail: [roel@tamu.edu](mailto:roel@tamu.edu).

Contributed papers will be scheduled at 15-minute intervals to include time (2-3 minutes) for questions and comments. All presenters will be notified of the day, time, and location of their presentations, and instructions on how to prepare for the sessions. Clarence Cottam presentations will be judged on topic originality, scientific procedures, quality of display, accuracy of conclusions, and response to question from judges. Students wishing to submit instructions for Cottam submissions should review guidelines posted in this newsletter. **Submission to both the Cottam Committee and on-line abstract submission is required.**



### Call for Abstracts for the 47th Annual Meeting of TCTWS

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#### **Abstract Format**

Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words and follow The Journal of Wildlife Management format. Abstract should be concise and include general problem statement, brief review of methods/experimental design, results, and management implications. For statistical significance statement, report P-values only (no need for exact statistical test results). Please follow formatting instructions on the abstract submission website. Program chair will notify persons submitting abstracts soon after their receipt via e-mail.

#### *Short title example:*

**Effect of domestic rabbit urine on trap response in cottontail rabbits**, Jonathan G. Young and Scott E. Henke.

#### *Long Title:*

**EFFECT OF DOMESTIC RABBIT URINE ON TRAP RESPONSE IN COTTONTAIL RABBITS.**

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**Abstract:** Low capture rates of cottontail rabbits (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) are common. We hypothesized that urine as an olfactory attractant would increase trapping success because rabbits scent-mark their territories with urine. We assessed trap response in cottontail rabbits using clean traps (control), traps baited with food, traps baited with block salt and minerals, and traps baited with urine from non-pregnant domestic rabbit does. We caught 314 cottontail rabbits during 2,000 trap-nights conducted from July-August 1996. We captured more cottontails in traps baited with rabbit urine ( $P < 0.001$ ) than in the others, suggesting that olfactory cues are important in the behavior of cottontail rabbits. Capture frequencies were 2.8, 13.4, 17.0, and 29.6% for control traps and traps baited with food, salt, and urine, respectively. Sex ratios of captured rabbits did not deviate from a 1:1 relationship for each bait or for all baits combined.

#### *Contributed Paper*

## 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.*

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

### HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Honorary Life Membership to Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society is based on an individual's achievements and contributions to wildlife conservation and management; and, noteworthy participation in and contributions to the chapter. The Honorary Life Membership Committee is now accepting nominations (Gene T. Miller, Chair, 712 Foster Lane, Canyon, Texas 79015; 806/655-9416 office; gmiller@nwtf.net). A letter placing an individual in nomination should be sufficiently detailed to clearly demonstrate how they have contributed to wildlife conservation in Texas and to Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Additional supporting documentation and letters of support are welcomed. Deadline for submissions is no later than **November 15th, 2010**, and e-nominations are welcome.

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### STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications are now being accepted for the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Scholarship Program. Three undergraduate and 4 graduate-level scholarships will be awarded at the 2011 annual meeting in San Antonio. Scholarships total more than \$8,000.

Scholarship guidelines and applications can be found at [www.tctws.org](http://www.tctws.org) under the Students tab. Scholarship applications must be submitted through your TWS Student Chapter advisor. Incomplete applications or submissions mailed directly to TCTWS will be disqualified. Chapter advisors are listed at [www.tctws.org](http://www.tctws.org) under the Students tab.

Applications must be received by the Scholarship Committee Chair no later than **1 December 2010**; postmarks are not accepted. As of 30 September, no scholarship applications have been received. Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to take advantage of these scholarship opportunities and submit applications well in advance of the 1 December deadline.

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### PUBLICATION AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

This is the second 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](mailto:justin.foster@tpwd.state.tx.us)

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

# PHOTO, ART, AND VIDEO CONTEST CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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

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

### *Photo Contest:*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### *Video Contest:*

Video submissions must be submitted to the committee chair by **December 1, 2010** to be judged by the Photo, Art, and Video Contest Committee. Winning submissions will be announced at the Awards Banquet. Provided there are at least 5 entries, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places will be awarded. If there are < 5 entries, only 1st place will be awarded.

For further information or to assist as a committee member at the conference (i.e. helping at the tables during entry or voting), please contact: Eric Garza at 361-527-3063 or [ericgarza04@gmail.com](mailto:ericgarza04@gmail.com).

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

# 2010-2011 TEXAS STUDENT CHAPTER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

*Sponsored by Texas Wildlife Association*

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

**\*Gain Valuable Experience!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Clarence Cottam Awards - Call for Student Abstracts

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*Abstracts are now being accepted for consideration in the Clarence Cottam Award Session at the 47th Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society in Galveston. This session is devoted to promoting and recognizing excellence in student research.*

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

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

### **Judging Criteria:**

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

### **Extended Abstract:**

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

### **Abstract Submission Requirements:**

*Deadline for receipt of abstracts is 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](mailto: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](http://www.tctws.org)) or contact Michael Morrison.

## Clarence Cottam Awards (*continued*)

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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

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

#### **Oral Presentations:**

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

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

##### ***Scientific Merit***

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

##### ***Presentation***

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

#### **Prizes:**

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

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

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

### Student Activities at TCTWS Annual Meeting San Antonio, TX 2011

There will be a host of student activities and competitions at the TCTWS Annual Meeting in San Antonio, February 2011. We want you and your student chapter to participate in the following activities and events. Many of these require advanced planning and preparation:

**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 student/mentor mixer on Thursday evening and during session breaks Friday. Judging takes place during the mixer Thursday evening. Find information on poster abstract submission in the newsletters call for abstracts.

**Student Chapter of the Year Award:** Which student chapter has shown the most effort and dedication this past year? Texas boasts some of the most active and resourceful student chapters in the nation. Texas State University-San Marcos were crowned Student Chapter of the Year in Galveston earlier this year, and Texas A&M University-Kingsville was awarded National Student Chapter at the TWS Annual Meeting in Snowbird, Utah, in October. Last year's competition was very close. Do you think you can unseat the current champs? Which student chapter will emerge as this year's winner? Applications are being sent out to all student chapter advisors now to describe the work and community service they've completed in the past year. The applications will be carefully judged by a variety of professionals throughout Texas. Don't miss the announcement of the top Texas Student Chapter at the banquet Friday evening. Please send completed applications to Jennifer Korn (contact information below) by December 31, 2010!

**Wildlife Quiz Bowl:** A meeting highlight! Student chapter teams practice throughout the year for the annual Texas Chapter quiz bowl. Last year Texas State University-San Marcos won the competition in Galveston. Can someone dethrone them? Bring your game and come have some fun answering wildlife trivia. The competition takes place on Thursday afternoon. Be sure to arrive early to find a seat and see which student chapter prevails this year.

**Outstanding Wildlife Student Recognition:** Who is the backbone of your club? Who volunteers for every activity? Who keeps you club on track? Each Student Chapter has that one student that is always involved and works hard on every task asked of them. The TCTWS membership wants to know who they are and what they've done for your club. We would like to acknowledge your Outstanding Wildlife Student at the Awards Banquet.

**Student-Mentor Mixer:** Networking is very beneficial to becoming a successful professional. The student-mentor mixer occurs immediately following the quiz bowl and prior to the President's Reception. This is your chance to network! Be sure to check the student or mentor box on your registration form. The undergraduate and graduate student poster judging takes place during the mixer. Come by and meet wildlife professionals and see what research your fellow students have been up to for the past year.

**Student Breakfast:** Still need more opportunities to interact with other students? Do you have input you would like to share with a board member? The FREE student breakfast on Friday morning is your chance. Be sure to attend and get to know your future colleagues. TCTWS officers have invited all student members to a breakfast on Friday morning in San Antonio.

Are there other activities and/or committees sound interesting to you? If you would like to serve on a committee or otherwise get involved with TCTWS or the annual meeting for 2011-2012, contact us or come speak with us at the meeting.

These are great opportunities for student members to participate and get involved. For further information on any of these items, please contact one of the co-chairs: Jennifer Korn at [jennifer.korn@students.tamuk.edu](mailto:jennifer.korn@students.tamuk.edu), 700 University Dr. MSC 218, Kingsville, TX 78363, 817-829-0453 or Froylan Hernandez at [fhernandez@bigbend.net](mailto:fhernandez@bigbend.net).



# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## CANDIDATES FOR 2011 OFFICERS OF THE TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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

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

Jeff Breeden  
Matt Wagner

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

Tyler Campbell  
Jena Moon

### **Secretary Nominees:**

Susan Cooper  
Tim Fulbright

# OFFICER NOMINEES

## Jeff Breeden, Vice President Nominee

### *Education*

Ph.D., Wildlife Science, Texas A&M University and Texas A&M University-Kingsville, 2005.

M.S., Biology, Texas State University, 2002.

B.S. Wildlife Biology, Texas State University, 1999.

### *Current and Past Positions*

Assistant Professor of Wildlife Management, Dept. of Animal Science, Tarleton State University, 2005–present.

Research Assistant, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, 2002–2005.

Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Biology, Texas State University, 1999–2001.

### *TWS Activities*

Member, Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 1998–present.

Member, The Wildlife Society, 2006–present.

Associate Wildlife Biologist, The Wildlife Society, 2007–present.

Secretary, Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 2009–2010

Chair, Student Activities Committee, Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 2009–2010.

Chair, Student Activities Committee, Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 2007–2008.

President, student chapter of The Wildlife Society, Texas State University, 1998–1999

Member, student chapter of The Wildlife Society, Texas State University, 1997–2002

### *Vision Statement*

I often recall my first Texas Chapter experiences as a naïve college student. I remember thinking about what a wonderful organization this is for aspiring professionals. I admired the leadership and enjoyed the networking and presentations at the annual conferences. While in graduate school I began to think more about my future professional life. I started noticing the interconnectedness of the TCTWS leaders, how they worked so well to accomplish the goals of the organization. I wanted to be a part of it.

I then began my professional life, probably forever thinking of life in terms of semesters. I became more involved in TCTWS and was asked to serve as a committee chair and then nominated and elected as secretary. Now I was able to be a part of it and do something. I learned how things worked and what was involved in maintaining this highly regarded organization. The Texas Chapter seems to keep growing stronger and more active in promoting wildlife conservation. There is always a strong group of leaders representing the membership. At each annual conference I can see the stability of the Texas Chapter in recognizing the familiar faces I have seen each year since my first attendance. I also see the tremendous new growth in the ever increasing student attendance at annual meetings. This creates an extraordinary opportunity for networking and professional/student mentoring. This also places higher expectations on the leadership to maintain this progress.

I continue to hear discussion about how to get students more involved in contributing to the TCTWS. In a recent newsletter, Dr. Silyv discussed changes within the organization and how some professionals are not able to attend. These are two issues that have begun to be addressed by recent leadership and I think they should continue. We have higher student representation than ever, but now need to focus on getting them to act. I think we can do this by facilitating more ways for them to be involved outside of the annual meeting. As for professionals, the recent workshops offered each year at the annual meeting seem to be well attended and appreciated. These should continue. More feedback from membership may indicate more ways to make membership in this organization even more rewarding.

As most know, there continues to be a separation from people and nature. It is our responsibility to be the leaders in educating people about conservation. We can do this by continuing to promote youth educational events. However, we need to be more widespread in our dissemination of information. This is where we could potentially get our student chapters more involved. We could, as an organization, promote and support more outreach activities among student chapters throughout the state. This would also require a high level of involvement from local professionals as well. These ideas can and should be expanded upon, but they are a beginning to making membership more rewarding to professionals and increasing the networking opportunities among members and students.

I am honored to be nominated for a position to represent our membership as an officer. I see this as a potential tremendous opportunity and I will continue to work hard to help the organization that has helped me get where I am today.



## OFFICER NOMINEES

### **Matt Wagner, Vice President Nominee**

***Education:***

Ph.D. Urban and Regional Science, Texas A&M University, December 2005  
M.S. Range Science, Montana State University, August 1985  
B.S. Range Science, Texas A&M University, December 1980

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

Deputy Director, Wildlife Division, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Present  
Director, Wildlife Diversity Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 2006-2010.  
Technical Guidance Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 1998-2006.  
Nongame Program Leader, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 1992-1998.  
Biologist, State Parks Division, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 1988-1992.  
Research Associate, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, 1985-1988.

**Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Involvement:**

Chair, Honorary Life Member Award Committee, 2008-2009  
Chair, Conservation Review Committee, 2002-2003, 1997-1999.  
Chair, Local Arrangement Committee, 2000-2001  
Member, Publication Awards Committee, 2000-2001  
Member, Certification Committee, 1996-1998

***Vision Statement:***

I am honored and humbled to be nominated for Vice President of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society. I truly believe that our chapter is the most active, engaged and impressive chapter in the nation. We are growing with a young, energetic membership that continues to inspire me and everyone involved in the chapter. I am excited about the opportunities for our chapter in the years ahead. Opportunities for leadership, education, and commitment to the land, wildlife, and people of Texas. With over 1,200 species of native vertebrates, and 5,000 species of native plants, all existing on 150,000,000 acres of private, rural lands, our great state has a bounty of wildlife and habitat. With this bounty comes great risk. Texas is also home to approximately 200 endangered or threatened species including terrestrial and aquatic vertebrates, invertebrates, and plants. While we have made significant progress in recovering many species of concern such as bald eagle, peregrine falcon, brown pelican, whooping crane, bighorn sheep, black bear, Concho water snake and Kemp's ridley turtle, there are several others that need increased attention and resources, including Attwater's and lesser prairie chicken, ocelot, Houston toad, and numerous fish and other aquatic species. We are entering a new age of conservation. The issues have never been greater, and the needs never more pronounced, than here and now. Invasive species, habitat fragmentation from urbanization, energy, and other development, a warming environment, competition for surface and ground water, not to mention a constrained economic situation, will be our greatest challenges now and in the years to come. The Texas Chapter needs to have a strong, consistent voice regarding issues that affect our natural resources. The lack of an Executive Director has hampered our visibility. We can do better as a chapter to improve this situation.

Ultimately, we should all remember how blessed we are to be in the business of wildlife and habitat management in Texas. We should leverage our personal and professional relationships to communicate with those unattached to the natural world. In fact, our greatest challenge over the long term may be demonstrating the relevancy of natural resource management. I believe we have the experience, skills and work ethic to position the chapter to meet present and future conservation challenges. It will take different people with different skills sets working alongside the seasoned veterans that know how to get things done. It will take teamwork, at all levels, to truly understand and appreciate where we've been and where we need to go.



## OFFICER NOMINEES

### Tyler Campbell, Board Member at-Large Nominee

#### *Education:*

Ph.D., Forest Resources, University of Georgia, 2003  
M.S., Range and Wildlife Management, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, 1999  
B.S., Wildlife and Fisheries Management, Texas Tech University, 1996

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

Research Wildlife Biologist and Field Station Leader, USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services-National Wildlife Research Center, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, 2004–present.  
Graduate Faculty, Dick and Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, 2004–present.  
Post-doctoral Research Associate, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, 2004.  
Graduate Research Assistant, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, 1999–2003.  
Graduate Research Assistant, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, 1997–1999.  
Research Technician, Department of Natural Resources Management, Texas Tech University, 1995–1996.



#### *The Wildlife Society Involvement:*

Texas Chapter Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Awards Committee, 2010 & 2011  
Co-authored 6 articles in the Journal of Wildlife Management, 2008–2010  
Reviewed 9 manuscripts for the Journal of Wildlife Management, 2007–2010  
Feral Swine Symposium Organizer, Wildlife Damage Management Conference, Corpus Christi, 2007  
Certified Wildlife Biologist since 2006  
Member of the Invasive Species Working Group since 2006  
3 scientific presentations at Wildlife Damage Management Conferences, 2005–2007  
Co-authored 3 articles in the Proceedings of the Wildlife Damage Management Conference, 2005–2007  
Member of the Wildlife Diseases Working Group since 2005  
Co-authored 4 articles in the Wildlife Society Bulletin, 2004–2006  
Member of the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group since 2004  
Member of the Southwest Section since 2004  
37 scientific presentations at state meetings, 1998–2010  
17 scientific presentations at national meetings, 1998–2009  
Texas Chapter – Quail Unlimited Scholarship, 1996  
Texas Tech University Student Chapter President, 1995  
Member since 1994

#### *Vision Statement:*

Simply stated, I foresee my grandchildren enjoying a natural world with only minor conflicts between humans and wildlife. This is in contrast to many situations that occur today, in which wildlife and other natural resources are constantly bombarded by human-induced stressors from fragmentation, development, and contamination. On the other hand, agriculture, natural resources, human health and safety, and property are also often threatened or are perceived to be threatened by wildlife. For my vision to become reality, we as wildlife professionals must do a superlative job of managing wildlife populations, conducting habitat modifications, and changing human behavior and perceptions as they relate to wildlife conflicts. To facilitate this, I believe that the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society must continue to be a leader and catalyst in generating scientific information concerning wildlife ecology and management. Furthermore, I believe the Texas Chapter must continue to disseminate accurate and timely information to the public concerning human-wildlife conflict issues and promote science-based communications related to the management of our natural resources. It is a tremendous honor to be nominated for this position. If selected as your Board Member At-Large I will enthusiastically assist the Board in all facets of program development and implementation. I humbly request and appreciate your vote.

# OFFICER NOMINEES

## Jena Moon, Board Member at-Large Nominee

### *Education:*

M.S.- Wildlife Science, Texas Tech University, 2004

B.S.- Wildlife Management, Texas Tech University, 2002

### *Current and Past Professional Positions:*

Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mcfaddin and Texas Point National Wildlife Refuges, 2007-present

Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lower Rio Grande Valley and Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuges, 2004-2007

Graduate Research Assistant, Texas Tech University, 2002-2004

### *The Wildlife Society Activities:*

The Wildlife Society Member, 2000-present

Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, 2000-present

Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Excellence in Wildlife Committee Member 2004-2005

Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Finance Committee Chair 2009-2010

TWS Leadership Institute Participant 2009-2010

Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Membership Committee Chair 2010-2011

### *Other Professional Affiliations:*

Texas Wildlife Association Member and Hunt Master, 1999-present

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Member, 2001-present

City of San Juan Texas Advisory Board 2005-present

Texas Commission Environmental Quality Advisory Board 2006-2008

North American Duck Symposium Student Paper Committee 2006

Ducks Unlimited Member 2006-present

Delta Waterfowl Member 2006-present

Salt Bayou Restoration Team 2007-present

Texas Chenier Plains Prescribed/Wildfire Crew Member 2007-present

### *Vision Statement:*

Working in our profession is comprised not only of hard work and dedication, but of collaboration. Wildlife professionals are constantly forced to push the boundaries while maintaining the ability to adapt and make sound management decisions. Effective communication between other professionals in your field, in addition to current stakeholders; including the general public, private landowners, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations is paramount. I am honored to be nominated for the Board Member at-Large position within the Chapter. If selected I will dedicate my time in office to improving communication and dissemination of information to members of the Chapter as well as the other constituents with Texas wildlife interests in mind. I promise to remain true to our Chapter's heritage and legacy of game management, while continuing to make strides to keep non-game focused management in the forefront of development for the Chapter. Additionally, I will consider it my personal charge to improve the cohesiveness and working relationships of the different voices (academia, state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, former professionals, and others) within the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society. I will work to promote a positive public image for not only the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, but for our profession as a whole.



## OFFICER NOMINEES

### **Susan M. Cooper, Secretary Nominee**

#### ***Education:***

Ph.D. Ecology, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, 1985  
M.S. Ecology, University of Aberdeen, UK, 1978  
B.S. Zoology, University of Newcastle-upon Tyne, UK, 1977

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

Susan Cooper is an Associate Professor of Wildlife Ecology at Texas AgriLife Research in Uvalde. She has lived in Texas for the past 17 years, but prior to that she was a wildlife biologist in Africa, Britain and Alaska. Her scientific interests focus on foraging ecology, resource use and habitat improvement for wildlife. She currently runs several projects involving deer, quail, predators and non-game species. Susan enjoys wildlife photography, travel and spending time outdoors.



#### ***The Wildlife Society Involvement:***

TWS and TXTWS Member  
Judge Quiz Bowl 2003 - 2004  
Committee Member: Student Chapter of the Year 2005  
Session Moderator 2006  
Chair: Photography Committee 2007  
Committee Member: Publication Awards 2010  
Committee Member: Cottam Awards 2011

#### ***Other Activities/Affiliations:***

Steering Committee: Wildlife Program South West Texas Junior College  
Steering Committee: Nueces River Authority Clean Rivers Program  
National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count Organizer 2004-present  
Texas Ornithological Society  
Society for Range Management  
South Western Association of Naturalists  
Texas Ornithological Society  
Buckskin Brigade presenter

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

Wildlife is of great economic importance to Texas. It is crucially important that this irreplaceable natural resource should be managed by well trained Wildlife Professionals. The Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society should be the first place legislators, educators and the public go to for scientifically sound information on wildlife management and conservation in this State. To make this happen we must keep abreast of biological, social and political change and provide the outreach that will enable young wildlife professionals, legislators and the citizens of Texas to understand and appreciate the value of conserving wildlife and wildlife habitats in Texas.

## OFFICER NOMINEES

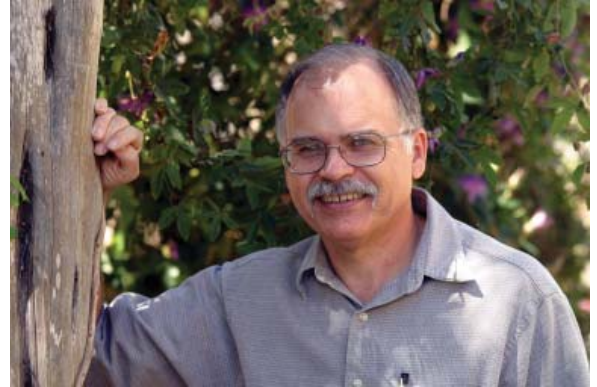
### **Timothy (Tim) E. Fulbright, Secretary Nominee**

#### ***Education:***

Ph.D., Range Ecology, Colorado State University  
M.S., Wildlife Biology, Abilene Christian University  
B. S., Biology, Abilene Christian University

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

Meadows Professor in Semiarid Land Ecology, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, 2000 - present.  
Chair, Department of Animal and Wildlife Sciences, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, 1997-2000  
Chair, Department of Agronomy and Resource Sciences, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, 1992-1997  
Professor of Range Management, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, 1985-1992  
Associate Professor of Range Management, Texas A&I University, 1985-1991  
Assistant Professor of Range Management, Texas A&I University, 1981-1985



#### ***The Wildlife Society Involvement:***

Texas Chapter, TWS member 1983 - present  
Southwest Section of the Wildlife Society member  
National TWS, member 1977-1978, 1981 - present  
TWS Invasive Species Working Group, member 2006-present  
Texas Chapter TWS Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee Chair, 2002  
Texas Chapter TWS Publication Award Committee, Member, 2000  
Texas Chapter TWS Publication Award Committee Chair, 2009  
Texas Chapter TWS, session moderator, annual meeting, 2002  
Texas Chapter TWS, session moderator, annual meeting, 2007

#### ***Other Professional Affiliations:***

Society for Range Management  
Ecological Society of America  
International Deer Biology Society  
Association of Southwestern Naturalists

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

Exchange of knowledge and ideas among wildlife students and professionals, and educating the lay public are essential to assure sustained diversity of wildlife and their habitats in Texas. As a professional society, my vision of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society is to 1) nurture future conservation leaders through professional development and participation in meetings, 2) provide a platform for the exchange of new ideas and research results among students, wildlife professionals, and academics, and 3) develop innovative ways to inform the public about the importance of wildlife conservation to the well being of society. We are faced with rapid change in many facets of natural resource conservation. The Texas Chapter needs to continue to be responsive to the interests and viewpoints of new generations of wildlife professionals, especially those who lack the traditional hunting values and agricultural roots of past generations. The large number of students and young professionals that attend Texas Chapter meetings are a testimony to the vitality of the organization; we must foster continued vitality in the years to come by remaining relevant to their needs. Biological changes are occurring along with societal changes. Wildlife habitat in the State, for example, is shrinking, and remaining habitat is being degraded by energy development and invasion of exotic grasses. At the same time, the ranges of many wildlife species such as green jays and great kiskadees are expanding. All of these changes, social and biological, must be met by a professional society that is dynamic and flexible, and able to adopt new ideas and perspectives, while at the same time respecting our heritage.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

# TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY - KINGSVILLE TCTWS STUDENT CHAPTER

Over the past year, the Texas A&M University- Kingsville student chapter of The Wildlife Society has strived to make sure that both the organization and its members have flourished. Our student chapter has attempted to get involved with as many wildlife and community service related events as possible. Some of our yearly activities include, but are not limited to, volunteering with the Texas Deer Association, Texas Big Game Awards, Texas Deer Study Group, South Texas Chapter of Quail Unlimited (now the Texas Quail Coalition), numerous school and community events in the Kingsville area, numerous ranches around the great state of Texas, and Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute (CKWRI) research and field work. There have been no activities too big or small for our eager and willing members.

The biggest event we have proudly partaken in this year has been hosting the 2010 Western Student Conclave of TWS (April 12th -15th), which revolved around the majestic wonders south Texas has to offer. The conclave was a tremendously successful event with over 100 students joining us from 11 different universities from across the Western United States. Attendees were able to experience many hands-on activities at the Welder Wildlife Refuge, Tio and Janell Wildlife Research Park by the TAMUK campus, and the surrounding Kingsville areas.

These events included radio telemetry, herpetology mark and capture techniques, kayaking, numerous birding tours, and the challenging triathlon. The conclave was a great way to interact with other wildlife students throughout the nation and to showcase many of the marvels our campus, south Texas, and CKWRI has to offer.



Our fall semesters annually consist of multiple deer captures for some of CKWRI's graduate students, in which our chapter is avidly involved in. On the IBC ranch capture this past fall, we sent 20 of our most active members to assist in the qualitative and quantitative collection and processing of both fawns and bucks (3 days, 225 deer) in Laredo, Texas. We followed that expedition up shortly with another deer capture on the King Ranch where we sent 12 different members to assist in another graduate student's research project.

But it's not just about deer down here in Kingsville. We also partake in

numerous research projects dealing with Bobwhite quail, migratory waterfowl, ocelots, Rio Grandeturkeys, predatory hawks and mammals, herps, and vegetative sampling. We take pride in sending our members throughout the state, country and world during the summer breaks to take part in wildlife related internships and employment opportunities. We strive to present the CKWRI's research professors and graduate students with knowledgeable and responsible individuals to assist in their studies year in and out. This past year, at least half of our members took part in these innovative and diverse research projects, with this year looking to be no less.

Not only are we a competitive and state-renowned program, but with this year's current distinction by TWS, we are also honored with being the top society in the nation. This is our society's 4th time of receiving this prestigious award since its introduction, tying us for the most wins in the nation. Five of our officers participated in the annual meeting of TWS in Snowbird, Utah this October and proudly represented TAMUK, CKWRI and the great state of Texas as they accepted this award. We plan on continuing our active program here at TAMUK and ensuring that our members remain competitive in their job markets through our guidance and involvement with CKWRI and state and private agencies.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### TCTWS 47TH ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 17-19, 2011 AT THE EL TROPICANO HOTEL ON THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER WALK



## 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](mailto:diana.foss@tpwd.state.tx.us)

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