



Photo by Aaron M. Foley

*Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education*

Number 171 • October 2011

## TEXAS' FLORA AND FAUNA: Untangling the Knot



Photo by Tony Amos

If you ever find yourself on the beach on Padre Island in late summer, with the early morning sun rising out of the Gulf of Mexico, you will be amazed at the extraordinary amount of life that congregates along the shore. Besides the impressive sight of dense groups of small fish getting attacked from every angle by finned and feathered predators just off the beach, you could see, stacked along the water's edge for miles and miles, millions of birds. Some are staging together to migrate south, others are arriving from breeding grounds in the north to spend

the winter, still others are just stopping to eat and rest. Mixed among these is a very interesting, relatively obscure shorebird known as the Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*).

One of the two North American subspecies, *C. c. rufa* primarily breeds above the Arctic Circle and winters in the southeast US, Brazil, and in Tierra del Fuego, Chile, in South America. The South American migrants undertake a journey, as the crow flies (or as the Knot flies), of approximately 9,000 miles... twice a year. That is quite a trip for a bird that only weighs 1/3 of a pound! During their epic journey, Red Knots have to stop in areas with high densities of food sources to rest

and refuel for the next leg of their migration. The Texas coast is one of these stopover areas.

Red Knots begin to arrive on the Texas coast around late July, though they are usually not seen in great numbers until a couple of months later. While it is a drab gray-brown and white during the winter, the Red Knot is strikingly beautiful when it is seen in breeding plumage. The back is dappled brown, black, and chestnut, and the breast is a buffy chestnut, or "red" color. About the size of an American Robin, the Red Knot can often be seen feeding at the water's edge. The Texas coast provides large densities of Coquina clams, which are regularly exposed in the sand by retreating waves. The Red Knots swallow Coquina whole, crushing and excreting the clamshells rather than regurgitating them like many other bird species.

Though its long-distance migratory flights prove the bird is tough and resilient, Red Knot populations have seen a serious decline. Delaware Bay, in the northeast United States, is another key staging area during the spring migration and is believed to support up to 90% of the Red Knot population, where they feed heavily on Horseshoe Crab eggs.

*Continued on Page 3*

TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE  
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EDITOR, JENNIFER M. KORN

*Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Newsletter is electronically 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 (Jennifer Korn, jennifer.korn@students.tamuk.edu) by the 15th of the preceding month. Change of e-mail address should be sent to the Listserv Coordinator (Cristy Burch, cburch@tpwd.state.tx.us). 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



September tends to be an exciting time of year. With fall just around the corner and hunting season on its way we have a lot to look forward to. However, this September has not been without its tragic events. As many of you are aware, a catastrophic wildfire ravaged Bastrop State Park and areas in and around Bastrop. The fire destroyed thousands of homes and over 30,000 acres. Unfortunately, two of our Texas Chapter members, Meredith Longoria and Kelly Bender, lost their homes during this destructive fire. Meredith and Kelly have been long standing mem-

bers in the Texas Chapter and volunteered throughout the years to serve on various committees to help move The Texas Chapter in a positive direction. During this unfortunate event these ladies are not only working to put their lives back together, but also continue to put conservation on the ground day in and day out as wildlife biologists for Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, providing assistance to landowners and other concerned about the fire impacts on wildlife in the Bastrop area. While these ladies do their part to help wildlife recover from this devastating fire I encourage you to consider making a contribution to aid Meredith and Kelly in their recovery.

If you would like to make a donation you may send a contribution to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, with a notation for "TPWD Employee Relief Fund" at the following address: "Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, TPWD Employee Relief Fund, 1901 North Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201".

I also wanted to take this time to mention that stalwart Texas Chapter member, Misty Sumner, suffered a severe rattlesnake bite in late August. Misty has been recovering from the bite for nearly a month and has just arrived back home. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers as she works through the recovery process. I know a motivational e-mail or phone call will go a long way to help Misty get back to what she does the best...working with private landowners to help them manage the West Texas wildlife resources and representing the Texas Chapter.

On a lighter note, I hope you will make plans to join me in Fort Worth, at the Radisson Hotel - Fossil Creek for the 48th annual meeting of the Texas Chapter, February 23 -25, 2012. Amy Turner, program chair, has done an outstanding job developing the plenary session and secured a great set of speakers to engage the Texas Chapter in what is sure to be a lively discussion about the relevance of the North American Conservation Model. In addition, the Texas Chapter will be hosting a joint meeting with the Southwest section and we have scheduled a session focusing on "Wildlife Research and Management along the Southwest Border". Take a moment to prepare those abstracts and get them in before it's too late.

Looking for a little professional development? Consider attending one of several workshops activity chair, Kevin Schwausch, and his committee has been putting together. They've planned what sounds to be a very informative wildlife disease workshop as well as a TWS certification workshop for those seeking their associated or certified biologist certification. For those students and recent graduates there will also be a "Find Your Dream Wildlife Job" workshop to prepare you for seeking employment in the wildlife profession. Be looking for upcoming announcements regarding these workshops.

Finally, in this newsletter you'll find information about our upcoming annual meeting as well as last calls for student awards, Excellence in Conservation Awards, abstract submission for the technical and poster sessions, as well as the slate of excellent candidates who have volunteered to be considered as new officers in the upcoming year. Take a few moments to browse through the newsletter as it is full of information you'll not want to miss.

*Alan Cain, President*

## TEXAS' FLORA AND FAUNA

Commercial harvesting of Horseshoe Crabs throughout the 1990's not only reduced crab populations, but had a severe impact on Red Knots as well. It had so much of an impact, in fact, that Red Knots are now a candidate species for addition to the Federal Endangered Species list. Today, biologists have recognized the need to learn more about the plight of the Red Knot.

Shorebird research is tough. It is hard to keep up with a bird that flies from the Arctic Circle to the southern tip of South America and back again every year. Out of necessity, researchers rely on ever-improving technological advances to track the birds in order to assemble a more

precise picture of their migration patterns. Though we know some of the critical areas for Red Knots: Delaware Bay, the Gulf Coast, Tierra del Fuego - there is much more that we don't know. In 2009, researchers began capturing Red Knots in Texas on Mustang and Padre Islands and fitting them with geolocators: small devices that record daily photoperiod. Though not as accurate as GPS, a geocator allows for an estimated location to be derived based on the recorded data. In 2010, 5 Red Knots (4 adults and 1 juvenile) with geolocators were recaptured, and the data turned out to be quite surprising.

It has been assumed that Knots use the Texas coast as a place to rest, gorge on Coquina clams, and then continue on their migration to other parts of the world. However, the data from the geolocators indicated that these 5 birds spent the majority of the year, up to 287 days, on the Texas coast. How can it be that many of these birds may spend the entire winter and then some here and no one knows about it? Biologists have observed Knots on Padre Island flying west over the dunes towards a gigantic wind tidal flat complex in the Laguna Madre. This area is large, extremely inaccessible, and is known to host some

incredible shorebird flocks numbering in the hundreds of thousands during the winter. Could it support a hidden population of Red Knots for much of the year? It is certainly possible. Data from the geolocators also showed that, of the 5 birds re-

captured in 2010, the 4 migrating adults flew straight through the mid-continent to the breeding grounds and back again. Unfortunately, once the Knots crossed the Arctic Circle, the 24-hour summer days did not allow the geolocators to function, so their exact breeding grounds remain unknown. However, this migration pattern brings up another question: are the Red Knots that call

Texas home a different

breeding population than the ones that fly up the Atlantic coast through Delaware Bay?

More research is necessary to get definitive answers. A combination of tracking devices and methods should provide a more thorough geographic context, while resighting of marked birds will help clarify population size and demographics for this group of birds. So next time you are on a Texas beach, take a good look at the shorebirds and see if you can pick out a Red Knot. Try to imagine what these birds go through every single year on their incredible journeys. These remarkable little travelers have probably seen a lot more of the world than you or I and, hopefully, will continue to do so for a long time.



Photo by Winnie Shrum



Article by Owen  
Fitzsimmons, MS  
Biologist, Coastal Bird Program  
Coastal Bend Bays  
and Estuaries Program

## THOUGHTS FROM THE WILD

### R. DOUGLAS SLACK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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The next legislative session is just around the corner. Yegads! We just saw legislators leave Austin a few months ago! Although our legislature only meets every two years, they will begin the process just after the first of year in 2012. State natural resource agencies will begin intense budget planning for the forthcoming legislative session that convenes in 2013. The Texas Chapter will be represented.

If you need an incentive to come to the annual meeting in February 2012, we have a spectacular plenary session focusing on the Public Trust Doctrine and ultimately its impact on wildlife conservation in Texas. Our nationally known speakers for the plenary session will address questions about the applicability of the "North American model" to Texas, and does the traditional understanding of the model disenfranchise parts of the current conservation community?

We plan to ensure that area legislators and key legislative staff members are invited to our meeting. The few months that I have been involved as Executive Director, I have found it surprising how little some policy makers know about wildlife as a public trust. We also have plans to publicize the plenary session in the Dallas/Fort Worth area in hopes of attracting conservation writers and area conservationists.

The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a player in natural resource policy-making decisions in Texas. Whether issues deal with endangered species, deer management, or wetlands restoration, our approach as professional, science-based contributors is appreciated by decision-makers. The Texas Chapter is the largest state organization in The Wildlife Society, and the extent and diversity of expertise of our membership matches it size. Unfortunately, the President, officers, board members, and the Executive Director are not familiar enough with all of our members to be able to direct key policy-makers

to those individuals that could most effectively answer their questions.

As a result, the Executive board of the Texas Chapter asked Scott Summers to develop a membership expertise data bank. Scott has worked with the Executive Committee of the Texas Chapter to create a data bank to collect information about our membership. With this data base, we will be able to quickly direct policy makers to those members that can provide sound input regarding critical natural resource issues.

I can assure you that I will use this Membership Expertise data base during the next legislative session and during the rounds of hearings that occur prior to the next session. Our Chapter needs to continue to be players in natural resource decision-making in our state. I encourage you to look for the Membership Expertise Survey and respond by following the web link. Cristy Burch, Information Technology Chair of the Texas Chapter, will be sending instructions for completing the survey later this fall. Your contribution will help ensure that we can **Keep Texas Wildlife Wild!**



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## CHAPTER BUSINESS

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM SOUTHWEST SECTION

*Submitted by Carol Chambers, TWS Council Representative*

Here's news for the Southwest Section. Organizers for the Association for Fire Science asked me to partner with their Southwest Fire Ecology Conference (Feb 27-Mar 1, 2012) by featuring a special session on wildlife and fire. I asked Ken Cearley (TX), Shaula Hedwall (AZ), and Leland Pierce (NM) to represent the SW Section and serve as co-chairs to develop the session. Given the recent large fires in the southwest, it will be timely to talk about T&E species management and other topics relating to fire impacts and management of wildlife. In addition, Selma Glasscock and SW Section board members are organizing a SW Section meeting in conjunction with the Texas TWS meeting to be held in February. We plan to continue this practice, alternating SW Section meetings between Texas and Arizona/New Mexico meetings. To better connect our students, I'm working on a Facebook page for SW student chapters. I intend the Facebook page as a place to post information about jobs, fund raising ideas, meetings, and provide a forum for our students to network. I'm leading the organization of a Women of Wildlife (WOW) reception to be held during the Annual Conference in Hawaii. This first ever mixer will feature photographs of women wildlifers, a WOW button, but primarily is an opportunity for building relationships and recruiting, retaining, and promoting women in the wildlife profession. I have also been asked to serve on a science peer review panel for TWS, to be completed in October. And look for the next SW Section newsletter soon.

As always, TWS at the national level is getting a lot done. We have approved 3 revised position statements on Feral and Free-Ranging Domestic Cats, The U.S. Endangered Species Act, and Scientific Peer Review of Agency Decision Processes and approved the final position statement on Animal Rights Philosophy and Wildlife Conservation. A technical review on Management of Large Mammalian Carnivores is in its final draft. The TWS career brochure to be completed in early 2012 will feature 18 careers in the wildlife profession and will be a downloadable pdf from the web site. The fall issue of Wildlife Professional will be out soon and feature wildlife challenges in Hawaii

and articles related to climate change adaptation. The US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and USGS contributed to the climate change articles and Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Hayes agreed to write the introduction to the climate change articles. The national office is working on a redesign of our web site to launch in 2012.

You can find out what's happening at the 2011 Annual Conference in Hawaii at <http://wildlife2011.abstractcentral.com/planner.jsp>. Don't forget the upcoming IV International Wildlife Management Congress (July 2012) in Durban, South Africa. I'll hope to see you in Hawaii and there. Our membership was at 10,146 members as of August 31 so we are ahead of 2010 membership levels. Can we make it to 11,000 by end of 2012? Don't forget to renew!



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## 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 narrative explaining why the nominee is deserving of the award, along with curriculum vitae of the nominee (if possible) to: Jena Moon, Box 358, Sabine Pass, TX 77655 or jena\_moon@fws.gov. The deadline for nominations is 29 October 2011.

#### 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, pictures are appreciated along with nomination. Please submit a letter of nomination explaining why the nominee is deserving of the award to: Jena Moon, Box 358, Sabine Pass, TX 77655 or jena\_moon@fws.gov. The deadline for nominations is 29 October 2011.

#### 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 letter of nomination explaining why the nominee is deserving of the award, along with curriculum vitae of the nominee (if possible) to: Jena Moon, Box 358, Sabine Pass, TX 77655 or jena\_moon@fws.gov. The deadline for nominations is 29 October 2011.

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### PUBLICATION AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

This is the second call for nominations of exceptional publications that include a Texas Chapter, TWS member as one of the top three authors. Categories include:

- Books (published 2008 - 2011)
- Peer-reviewed Journal Articles (2008 - 2011)
- Technical Publications and Bulletins (2008 - 2011)
- Electronic Media (i.e. websites, CD's, and DVDs)

The deadline for submission is 31 October 2011. To nominate a publication, please submit 5 copies to the Publications Committee Chair: Randy DeYoung, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, MSC 218, Kingsville, TX 78363; email: randall.deyoung@tamuk.edu; tel 361-593-5044.

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

### HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE SEEKING NOMINEES

The Honorary Life Membership Committee is seeking nominees for this honor. The Texas Chapter is blessed with numerous members who have made outstanding contributions to wildlife conservation on a state, national, and/or international scale. These individuals deserve the recognition of their peers for their outstanding long-term service to the wildlife resource.

To be eligible a nominee should have been (1) active for 20 or more years in the wildlife profession as an employee of a natural resource agency, academia, or a private organization as a wildlife biologist or consultant; or an effective non professional activist. (2) He/she should have made significant contributions to the Chapter and/or the Profession and/or wildlife conservation of Texas.

To act on a nomination the Committee needs:

1. A reasonably complete vitae for the nominee which should contain his/her full name (present position, organizational affiliation, address, phone number), and a reasonably complete history of professional accomplishments.
2. One or more letters of nomination from close friends or associates.

Nominations should be kept confidential, especially from the nominee, but you can enlist the assistance of your co-workers. Many people have vitae that they use for various purposes. Surreptitiously obtain one. If there isn't one available, patch something together, with the help of friends, associates, and spouses. From those nominations received the committee can select one or more recipients to be honored at the 2012 annual meeting. Dossiers of people not selected this year will be filed for future consideration. Please take a moment right now and consider who among your coworkers qualifies and deserves this honor? Set some time aside on your calendar to gather the data to support his or her nomination.

Deadline: 7 December, but act now!!!

#### **YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO DESERVES TO BE HONORED THIS WAY!!!**

Direct questions or send nominating materials to:

David Hewitt

Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute

700 University Blvd. MSC 218

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Kingsville, Texas 78363

361-593-3963 (phone) 361-593-3924 (fax)

david.hewitt@tamuk.edu

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR THE 48TH ANNUAL MEETING OF TCTWS, A JOINT MEETING BETWEEN TCTWS AND THE SOUTHWEST SECTION OF THE TWS

### PRESENTED PAPER AND POSTER PRESENTATION

Abstracts are now being accepted for the technical paper and the poster presentation sessions at the 2011 Joint Meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society. The theme for this year's meeting is **"The North American Model, Is It Still Relevant?"**

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.

There will be a special session for the Southwest Section of the TWS entitled "Wildlife Research and Management along the Southwest Border." This session will include invited talks and technical paper sessions. Presenters wishing to present in this section should indicate, where requested, your preference for session. Papers not accepted for the Southwest Section special session will be placed in the TCTWS sessions and presenters will be notified via email.

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 2011.**

Please indicate, where requested, your preference for presentation format (i.e., paper, poster, or no preference) and session. 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: Amy Turner, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 2805 N. Navarro, Suite 600-B Victoria, Texas 77901.  
E-mail: [amy.turner@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:amy.turner@tpwd.state.tx.us).

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 should review the instructions for Cottam submissions posted on the website, <http://tinyurl.com/cottamaward>. Abstracts should be submitted via the abstract submission website, <http://tctws.tamu.edu/>. See page 11 for further instructions.

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR THE 48TH ANNUAL MEETING OF TCTWS

#### ***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**

JONATHAN G. YOUNG, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Department of Animal and Wildlife Sciences, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX 78363, USA

SCOTT E. HENKE, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Department of Animal and Wildlife Sciences, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX 78363, USA

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.

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

### STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications are now being accepted for the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society scholarship program. Three undergraduate and 3 graduate-level scholarships worth over \$7,000 will be awarded at the annual meeting in 2012.

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 submission mailed directly to TCTWS will be disqualified. Chapter advisors are listed in the students section of the TCTWS website.

Applications must be received by the scholarship committee chair no later than 1 December 2011; postmarks are not accepted. Mail applications to Michael Janis at 109 South Cockrell St.; Alpine, TX 79830. 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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### MEMBERSHIP VOLUNTARY SURVEY

Membership Committee announces voluntary survey aimed at gathering members' wildlife expertise areas

Experts on various science-based wildlife subjects and issues may be contacted to leverage our knowledge to help shape key wildlife legislation through our Executive Director. Data gleaned from participants will be kept in a data file by the Membership Chair. Members participating in the survey must share their email and phone contacts. All information will be kept in confidence, viewed only internally by the TCTWS President, Executive Director, Information Technology Chair, and Membership Chair. Prizes (drink cup and can holder w/logo) will be awarded at the meeting to survey participants who complete it, and have kept membership dues current in TCTWS.

Thank you,  
Scott Summers  
Membership Committee Chair

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

### CLARENCE COTTAM SUBMISSIONS

#### *Call for Abstracts & Requirements*

The Clarence Cottam award is given to recognize outstanding student research. Papers and Presentations at the Annual Meeting will be judged for significance and originality, creativity of research design and implementation, quality of methodology, validity of conclusions, and neatness and conformity to JWM style and format. A \$500 scholarship is given to the winner by the Welder Wildlife Foundation. Second and third prizes will be awarded if more than 6 papers are accepted, and are sponsored by the Texas Chapter. A maximum of 8 papers will be included in the competition, excess submissions will be included in the regular sessions.

Deadline for receipt of abstracts is midnight 30 November 2011. Cottam entries will accepted through the TCTWS Annual Meeting Abstract Submission website: <http://tctws.tamu.edu/>

The abbreviated abstract should follow instructions outlined in the general call for abstract submission from the program committee. Cottam entries must also submit an extended abstract through the website. For additional information regarding submission guidelines, visit <http://tinyurl.com/TXCottam> or contact Richard Heilbrun at [Richard.Heilbrun@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:Richard.Heilbrun@tpwd.state.tx.us)

#### *Extended Abstract:*

The extended abstract must be <3 pages, double-spaced 10-12 pt., and in the style and format of the Journal of Wildlife Management (JWM). First give the title in all caps, double space, and then give authors and their affiliation. Capitalize all authors name and state abbreviations. After authors and their affiliation have been given, double space, start with the word "Abstract:" then begin the abstract. Do not indent any part of the abstract. 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.

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.

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

### ANNUAL MEETING STUDENT ACTIVITIES FORT WORTH, TX 2012

**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. Do you think you can unseat the current champs? Which student chapter will emerge as this year's winner? Don't miss the announcement of the top Texas Student Chapter at the banquet Friday evening. Please request applications from the committee Co-chair Bart Ballard, [bart.ballard@tamuk.edu](mailto:bart.ballard@tamuk.edu) and complete 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 Stephen F. Austin State University won the competition in San Antonio. 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 2012-2013, 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: Bart Ballard, [bart.ballard@tamuk.edu](mailto:bart.ballard@tamuk.edu); or Fidel Hernandez, [fidel.hernandez@tamuk.edu](mailto:fidel.hernandez@tamuk.edu), 700 University Dr. MSC 218, Kingsville, TX 78363.

## 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 47th Annual Meeting in Fort Worth on February 23-25, 2012. Please see below for contest rules.

### ***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, 2011** 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: Stephanie Damron, [stephanie.damron@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:stephanie.damron@tpwd.state.tx.us); or Meredith Longoria, [meredith.longoria@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:meredith.longoria@tpwd.state.tx.us).

## CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

### STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

The wildlife program, housed within the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture at Stephen F. Austin State University strives to create well-rounded wildlife professionals that are prepared to enter the workforce the day they walk across the stage at graduation. Through student organizations such as The Wildlife Society and Ducks Unlimited, students are able to gain valuable field experience and meet wildlife professionals



that give them a competitive edge when applying for jobs. Wildlife management courses are typically accompanied by outdoor labs where students learn traditional wildlife identification and management techniques and strategies by gaining practical knowledge in the field that compliments classroom learning. The wildlife professors work to ensure that there are multiple opportunities for students to work with both federal and state agencies, as well as privately owned enterprises. Students are encouraged to volunteer as well as to apply for summer internships. Once “internship season” is here, Stephen F. Austin State University students travel to all corners of the U.S., from the alpine interior of Alaska, to the coast of Maine, from Ontario to the Gulf of Mexico, students from Stephen F. Austin have represented

the campus at a national level. The SFASU chapter of the Wildlife Society has numerous activities designed to promote social interaction between its members and professionals and to provide opportunities to those members for professional development. The chapter organizes volunteer opportunities at public events such as the JAKES event, which is a public outreach event put on by the Wild Turkey Federation.



Also, through a lecture series at bi-weekly meetings, the members of the SFASU chapter are able to meet and learn from professionals in different wildlife fields. The fall semester holds high expectations for all the members of the student chapter. There are many volunteer opportunities such as opportunities to use rocket nets, assist in alligator research, and even spot light surveys. All is not work, however, the chapter will put on its second annual banquet this November, and will send students to the Texas State chapter meeting this spring. For their part the students of the SFASU chapter have represented themselves well, by coming in first at last year’s state chapter quiz bowl competition. Also the chapter will attend The Wildlife Society Northeast section student conclave this spring.

## CONSERVATION CAMP



### FUN, SUN, AND...NO MOSQUITOS!

Admittedly, we would all gladly tolerate a few mosquitos in exchange for much needed rain, but looking on the bright side – This year’s TCTWS Wildlife Conservation Camp was mostly deet free! During the week of July 17-23rd, 27 high school students and 50 wildlife professionals and college students converged at Welder Wildlife Refuge for another successful camp! We set a few records this year: 1) largest number of campers accepted, 2) highest number of female campers (40%), and 3) record temperatures which kept staff members repeating “drink more water” all week long!

Students hailed from across the state and from very different backgrounds: 33% from a rural farm or town of less than 2,000 people, 37% from a town or city of 2,000-24,999 people, and 30% from a city with more than 25,000 people.

Some of the students’ favorite activities included bird mist netting, seining in the bay, dolphin and shrimping watch, plant id/pressing, trapping rodents, clay shooting, insect collecting, spotlighting, archery, necropsy, animal tracking, and fly-tying. Overall, students showed a 30% increase in general wildlife conservation knowledge after completion of the 7-day camp. Even more encouraging, 24 of 27 students said they would like to pursue a career in wildlife conservation because of the camp. Although most of the activities were familiar, we rearranged the schedule so more professionals could teach without committing to the entire week. We would love to have your help next year! Stay tuned for a date and place...

# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## CANDIDATES FOR 2012 OFFICERS OF THE TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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:**

David Hewitt

Roel Lopez

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

Jena Moon

Annaliese Scoggin

### **Secretary Nominees:**

Justin Dreibelbis

T. Wayne Schwertner

# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## DAVID HEWITT, VICE PRESIDENT NOMINEE

### ***Education:***

PhD Virginia Tech 1994  
MS Washington State Univ. 1989  
BS Colorado State Univ. 1987

### ***Employment:***

Professor and Stuart Stedman Chair in White-tailed Deer Research, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute. Texas A&M University-Kingsville, 2006-present  
Assistant/Associate Professor, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute. Texas A&M University-Kingsville, 1996-2006  
Post-Doctoral Fellow, Berryman Institute for Wildlife Damage Management, Utah State University, 1995-1996  
Lecturer, Humboldt State Univ. 1994-1995  
Teaching Assistant, Virginia Tech, 1993-1994  
Research Associate, Texas Agriculture Experiment Station, Uvalde, TX., 1989-1990  
Research Assistant, Wash. State Univ., Pullman, WA, 1987-1989



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

Chair, Honorary Life Member Committee 2011  
Chair, Resolutions Committee 2009  
Chair, Membership Committee 2007  
Member, Conservation Awards Committee 2006  
Chair, Publications Committee 2005  
Chair, Resolutions Committee 2001  
Member, Resolutions Committee 2000  
Member 1996-present

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

Like many wildlife professionals, I have lived, worked, and participated in TWS activities in many parts of the country. I have not found a state or regional chapter of TWS that has the energy, enthusiasm, and level of active participation of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The Texas Chapter is a tremendous asset to wildlife biologists in the state and increasingly to Texas landowners and youth through various conservation education activities. I would be honored to have the opportunity to serve the Texas Chapter as Vice-President. My goal as a participant in the society's leadership would be to ensure that the Texas Chapter continues to benefit the membership through professional development opportunities, recruitment of enthusiastic new members, and promotion of sound wildlife management. I would also seek to build on the excellent conservation education programs of the Texas Chapter to ensure landowners and youth have the information necessary to manage the state's natural resources. Although the Texas Chapter is a model in many ways as an influential wildlife organization, we should strive to increase our effectiveness. One area where the Texas Chapter could increase its influence is to more actively engage private wildlife biologists. Texas is unique within the United States in having a large number of wildlife biologists working for private entities. These biologists are making decisions that influence the state's wildlife resources. They also represent a wealth of experience that could benefit all members of the Texas Chapter. Currently, the Texas Chapter is not where most of them turn for professional development and networking, and the Chapter would benefit by engaging these professionals.

# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## ROEL LOPEZ, VICE PRESIDENT NOMINEE

### ***Education:***

PhD Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, 2001  
MS Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, 1996  
BSF Forest Game Management, Stephen F. Austin State University, 1993

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

Associate Director, Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources, 2009-present  
Professor, Texas A&M University, 2011-present  
Special Assistant to ADUSD-I&E, Office of Secretary of Defense, 2007-2009  
Associate Professor, Texas A&M University, 2006-2011  
Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University, 2001-2006  
Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2000-2001  
Research Ecologist, URS Greiner Corporation/Dames and Moore, 1999-2001  
Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Forest Service, Sabine National Forest, 1990-1993



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

Co-chair, Program Committee, 2010  
Member, Life Membership Award Committee, 2005  
Co-chair, Program Committee, 2004  
Co-chair, Program Committee, 2003  
Co-Advisor, TAMU Student Chapter, 2003-2006  
Associate Editor, Wildlife Society Bulletin, 2005-2006  
Associate Editor, Journal of Wildlife Management, 2004-2005  
Certified Wildlife Biologist, 2003-present  
Member, 1990-present

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

Texas is blessed with an abundance of natural resources to include open spaces, clean waters, and viable wildlife populations. A rapidly changing environment and increasing human demands are threatening and impacting these natural resources like never before. Challenges, such as habitat fragmentation, invasive species, climate change, energy development, and water demands, are exacerbated by a weakened economy. These comprise but a few of our greatest challenges now and in the years to come. My vision of Texas Chapter is to continue to have a strong and consistent voice in protecting and conserving our natural resources. As a professional society, TCTWS is well positioned to realize this vision via three basic tenets. First, we should continue to train and empower future wildlife professionals. TCTWS plays a pivotal role in the mentoring and professional development of students, the future of the wildlife profession. As Vice President, I will increase the number of training workshops for students and professionals, and greater student-professional interactions at our annual meeting. Second, TCTWS should continue to foster the development and exchange of research and novel ideas among professionals, the general public, and policy and decision makers. The annual meeting is a great forum to facilitate this exchange, and as Vice President, I will work towards annual meetings that promote timely, relevant, and even “thorny” topics for discussion. I would explore the integration of technology for offering members “virtual” opportunities of engagement (e.g., recordings of meeting sessions, webinars, etc.). Finally, we should expand natural resource education with the general public and key stakeholders.

# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## ANNALIESE SCOGGIN, BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE NOMINEE

### ***Education:***

MS Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, 2008

BS Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, 2008

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

Private Lands Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 2010-Present

Associate Wildlife Biologist 2010-present

Regulatory Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 2009-2010

Biologist, Ranch Logistics LLC, Feb.-May 2009

Biology Instructor, Blinn College, Jan.-May 2009

Teaching Assistant, Texas A&M University, Sept.-Dec. 2008

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

Member, Student Activities Committee 2010–2011.

Member, 2004-present

Texas A&M University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 2004-2008

- President 2006-2007, Conclave (Quiz Bowl) Chair 2005-2006

- TWS Quiz Bowl Champions 2006, TCTWS Quiz Bowl Champions 2005, 2006, 2007



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

I am deeply honored to be nominated for Board Member at-Large for the Texas Chapter. In my service to the chapter I pledge to support membership growth across all ages and ranks of wildlife professionals in the State of Texas and to improve the services we offer to our members. It is crucial that The Wildlife Society remains a strong presence in the wildlife field to promote scientifically sound research that can be used to guide future natural resource management. We are blessed to be in a position to improve wildlife education and wildlife and habitat management in this great state. Our chapter is well represented by wildlife professionals of the highest caliber and I hope to be a part of its future.

# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## JENA MOON, BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE NOMINEE

### ***Education:***

BS Wildlife Management, Texas Tech University, 2002  
MS Wildlife Science, Texas Tech University, 2004  
PhD Forestry, Stephen F. Austin State University, 2012

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

Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mcfaddin and Texas Point National Wildlife Refuges, present  
Graduate Faculty Stephen F. Austin State University 2010-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

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

Chair, Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee 2011-2012  
Chair, Membership Committee 2010-2011  
Chair, Finance Committee 2009-2010  
Member, Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee 2004-2005  
Member, 2000-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 NOMINATIONS

## JUSTIN DREIBELBIS, SECRETARY NOMINEE

### ***Education:***

B.S. Agriculture Development, Texas A&M University, 2003  
M.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, 2008

### ***Current & Past Professional Positions:***

Conservation Program Coordinator, Texas Wildlife Association, 2009-present  
Education Program Specialist, Texas Wildlife Association, 2008-2009  
Graduate Research Assistant, Texas A&M University, 2006-2008  
Wildlife Technician & Guide, Wildlife Systems, Inc., 2003-2006

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

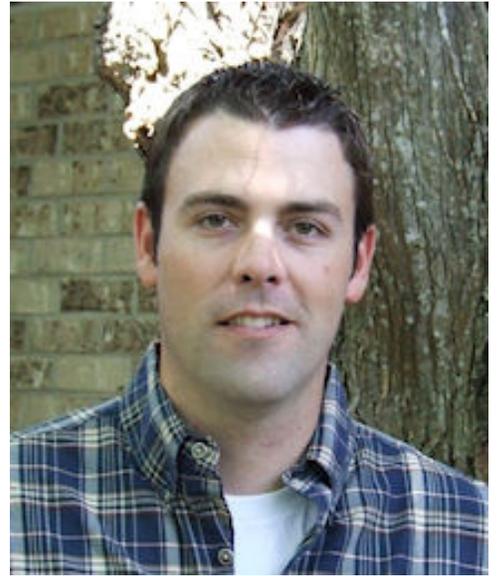
Chair, Resolutions Committee – current  
Chair, Local Arrangements Committee, 2010-2011  
Member, 2006-present

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

For over 5 years now, the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society has been an extremely important part of my professional development. In fact, it is where I first found about a job opening that led to my current position with the Texas Wildlife Association. It is an organization that allows students to learn from one another, hone their public speaking skills and rub elbows with some of the finest wildlife professionals in the world. It also gives professionals a chance to form and nurture relationships with their peers while providing a platform to take action on important wildlife and natural resource issues.

The scientific information that comes out of the wildlife programs of our Texas Universities is top notch and the information exchange at Texas Chapter meetings is priceless. However, we must strive for new and innovative ways to communicate this information to the public so they too can understand the benefit they derive from the natural resources managed on millions of acres of private land across the state of Texas.

I am honored to be nominated for this position and look forward to serving the organization.



# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## T. WAYNE SCHWERTNER, SECRETARY NOMINEE

### ***Education:***

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

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

Assistant Professor of Wildlife Management, Tarleton State University, 2011-present  
Senior Ecologist, BIO-WEST, Inc., 2008-2011  
White-winged Dove and Wild Turkey Program Leader, TPWD, 2004-2008  
Regulatory Wildlife Biologist, TPWD, 2002-2004  
Area Manager, Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area, TPWD, 1996-2002  
Ranch Manager and Wildlife Biologist, 5M Ranch, 1991-1992

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

Faculty Advisor, Tarleton State University Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society 2011  
Board-Member-at-Large 2006  
Program Committee Chair 2005, 2006, 2009  
Chair, Excellence in Conservation Committee 2001  
Member, Excellence in Conservation Committee 2000  
Member, Conservation Camp Committee 2000  
Member, Conservation Review Committee 1999  
Member, Texas A&M Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society 1987-1991

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

“If I have seen further than others, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants.” – Sir Isaac Newton  
I’m sure most of you are familiar with this quote. Looking back over the list of Texas Chapter officers, I see a list of giants in wildlife conservation - people like Jack Ward Thomas, Don Steinbach, and Donnie Harmel. From the Chapter’s first president, Jim Teer, each has made their contribution to our wildlife heritage. People doing their best for the resource and for the Texas Chapter. What did all of these people have in common? Simple. They shared a belief that the wildlife resources of our state, our nation, and our world were worth conserving, and a vision to make it happen. So what is my vision for the Texas Chapter? It is a vision of increasing relevance - relevance to our members and to the world around us. Like many of you, I look out and see a wildlife management landscape much different from the one I entered as a young professional. There is more emphasis on non-game, endangered species, and smaller landholdings. And there are exciting new techniques to be brought to bear. I envision a Chapter that works hard to assist its members in their continued professional development. I want to further the tradition I started as Program Chair of encouraging presentations that speak to practicing biologists, while continuing to promote the presentation of sound scientific research results. And I want to make sure we continue to encourage and support our student members, and help in their development as young professionals after graduation. I also envision a Chapter that continues to address the conservation issues of the day. We are the experts! We should have an active role in environmental policy debates. Of course we must maintain our scientific objectivity, but we can’t let that objectivity silence us. I want to see the Chapter strengthen its publicity and outreach efforts that promote the Chapter as the face of professional conservation in Texas. And I want the Chapter to be a go-to source of information about wildlife management in Texas. The Wildlife Conservation Camp is a tremendously successful program in this arena, and I want to continue to strengthen it as we seek new opportunities in areas such as teacher training workshops, field days and symposia. I make no pretense to being a giant.



## OFFICER NOMINATIONS

ROEL LOPEZ, VICE PRESIDENT NOMINEE CONTINUED...

As Vice President, I will strive to expand external partnerships with key organizations like the Texas Wildlife Association, and expand internal support of our new Executive Director, Dr. Doug Slack, to collectively enable a supportive policy dialogue with the state legislature and increased awareness with the general public on natural resources issues of shared concern. There is much work to be done in facing our new conservation challenges while remembering our conservation heritage. I am honored and humbled to be considered for the position of Vice President. I appreciate and thank you in advance for your support.

T. WAYNE SCHWERTNER, SECRETARY NOMINEE CONTINUED...

I am humbled by this nomination and that I am being considered to stand among the leaders of the Texas Chapter. But I do pledge to work hard to advance the cause of professional wildlife management in Texas. I simply ask your support as we move forward to face today's conservation challenges, just as the Texas Chapter has always done.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TO: ALL STUDENT CHAPTERS OF THE TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE  
WILDLIFE SOCIETY  
FROM: TEXAS WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION**

The Texas Wildlife Association would like to offer your chapter the opportunity to partner up on youth educational programming. We have a limited number of our Texas Critters Discovery Trunks and we would like to have your chapter utilize them in your educational programs.

The trunks would be yours to use from now until May. In order to qualify, please send an email with the following information:

School

Officers' names & contact information

Advisor's name & contact information

In no more than one page (500 words),

- 1) Describe your chapter's current educational outreach efforts.
- 2) Explain why your chapter would like a trunk and examples of how your chapter would use it.

In return for the use of the trunk, we will ask that your chapter provide the following information to TWA:

Report monthly

Average of one contact per month

Ship back by end of May

Responsible for checking inventory immediately after trunks return

Follow TWA reservation guidelines (we will provide these to you)

To apply, send an email with the requested info to Kassi Scheffer at [kscheffer@texas-wildlife.org](mailto:kscheffer@texas-wildlife.org). Applications are **due by November 15, 2011.**

COLLEGIATE

# Discovery Trunks



The Texas Wildlife Association announces the opportunity for colleges and universities across Texas to partner with TWA's Conservation Legacy Education Department to bring natural resource materials to K-12 schools across the state. The Texas Wildlife Association will award three recognized student organizations the use of a "Discovery Trunk" for the Spring 2012 and Fall 2012 semesters. Student organizations focused on wildlife, agriculture, natural resources and science, and education are highly encouraged to apply.



The *Texas Critters* Discovery Trunk teaches students to use field guides and identify various characteristics of native Texas animals from their calls to skull structure. Students will employ critical thinking as well as their creative side while taking part in the TEKS aligned activities. Throughout the lessons, students are encouraged to make observations about wildlife, not only through the materials found in the trunk but those in your community as well, and check off the wildlife they identify on the enclosed "Critter Checklist."

\* TEKS aligned \* Suggested for grades K-6

To apply, contact Kassi Scheffer at [kscheffer@texas-wildlife.org](mailto:kscheffer@texas-wildlife.org) or 800-839-9453.

Applications are due by November 15, 2011.

TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY  
ANNUAL MEETING 2012  
FEBRUARY 23-25  
RADISSON AT FOSSIL CREEK  
FORT WORTH



# UPCOMING MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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WILDLIFE-SOCIETY](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Texas-Chapter-of-the-Wildlife-Society)



2011 Texas Invasive Plant and Pest  
Conference

November 8-10, 2011

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center  
Austin, Texas



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# UPCOMING MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Natural Resources Communication Workshop

The Natural Resources Communication Workshop, sponsored by the Western Section of The Wildlife Society, will be held at California State University, Chico from January 9-13, 2012. The week-long workshop is designed to help natural resource workers more effectively communicate with general as well as technical audiences through personal presentations using computer-generated PowerPoint images. A variety of topics are covered including selecting communication strategies for specific audiences, creating computer-generated graphics, avoiding PowerPoint presentation "pitfalls," handling difficult questions, and solving equipment problems. Application deadline is October 28, 2011 and tentative registration fee is \$749.

Applying for the workshop is easy. On letterhead, applicants should describe: (1) their current position within their agency/organization, (2) how they would use the training, (3) any special reasons why they feel they should be chosen as a participant, and (4) if they already have official agency/organization approval to attend. Applicants should include their address, phone number, fax number, and email address with their application. Professional Credit: Participants receive 1-unit CSUC Continuing Education credit. The workshop is worth 42 contact hours in Category I of The Wildlife Society's Certified Wildlife Biologist Renewal/Professional Development Certificate Program.

Submit applications to: Dr. Jon K. Hooper, Dept. Recreation and Parks Management, Calif. State University, Chico, CA 95929-0560. For more information, contact Jon by calling (530) 898-5811, faxing (530) 898-6557, or e-mailing [jhooper@csuchico.edu](mailto:jhooper@csuchico.edu).

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SOMETHING NEW: TEXAS RANGE WEBINAR SERIES

*Presented by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service  
Ecosystem Science and Management Unit*

The Texas Range Webinar Series will provide science-based rangeland management options through live webinars. Participants can earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) toward Texas Department of Agriculture's Ag Pesticide Licenses for a \$10 fee. For more information or to sign up for e-mail notification of future webinars, go to [naturalresourcewebinars.org](http://naturalresourcewebinars.org). All webinars are from noon-1 pm.

#### *Upcoming Webinars:*

Nov 3 – Rangeland Herbicide Laws

Dr. Alyson McDonald

Dec 1 – Online Resources for Plant ID and Management

Dr. Megan Dominguez

Don't forget...the 'Wildlife for Lunch' webinars are still running as well. Check out "Aging Deer on the Hoof" Oct 20th.

# UPCOMING MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Waikoloa, Hawaii - November 5-10, 2011

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Integrating Wildlife Science and Management

MARCH 2011 ISSN 0022-541X

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