



*Photo by Bill Broyles*

*Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education*

*\*Revised\* Number 168 • January 2011*

## TEXAS' FLORA AND FAUNA: South Texas National Wildlife Refuges



*Photo by Marvin DeJong*

Climate change, carbon sequestration, habitat restoration and some of the nation's most endangered species are some of the research opportunities being pursued by the three National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) that comprise the South Texas Refuge Complex (STRC). Found in the most southern tip of Texas, Laguna Atascosa (89,398 acres), Lower Rio Grande Valley (99,863

acres), and Santa Ana (2,088 acres) NWRs protect and represent some of the greatest biological diversity in North America. Each Refuge plays an important role in the conservation and restoration of the unique wildlife resources of the lower Rio Grande Valley of South Texas.

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (LANWR) was established in 1946 as a sanctuary for migratory

birds. The Refuge has since become synonymous with the conservation of two wild cats, the ocelot and the Gulf Coast jaguarundi. The ocelot in particular has been the focus of a significant recovery effort to ensure it does not become extinct in the United States. LANWR is home to one of only two known populations of ocelot in the U.S. with the population estimated at 13 individuals. Habitat management on the Refuge and on private lands, as well as possible translocation from Mexico's robust ocelot population, will determine if the ocelot can be saved in the U.S.

Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge makes up the major part of the Rio Grande Wildlife Corridor (wildlife corridor), a project to protect and restore the native wildlife habitat of the delta of the Rio Grande. The Refuge and the wildlife corridor project have strong support from the local population and from city, county and state officials as well as non-governmental organizations, state, and federal partners on both sides of the Rio Grande. This Refuge currently has lands distributed across the Lower Rio Grande delta. A major focus is the restoration of brush-land through the annual planting of more than

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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



Time Flies When You're Having Fun

2011? Seriously! Time...what a funny thing. As I watch my children grow up and say things like "I'm bored" or "There's nothing to do" I can't help but chuckle. Their time will come too. Is time not the most valuable commodity we have?

There are some 5-6 weeks left before our Annual Meeting and the committee chairs and members have been working hard to prepare for the pinnacle of our year. The Annual Meeting is a time to catch up with old friends, meet new ones, and learn about conservation successes across Texas. For me, it is by far the best meeting I attend each year. The energy level of our Annual Meeting is indescribable. Without failure, I walk away from our Annual Meeting renewed and inspired. Texas is blessed to have such a large contingency of dedicated biologist, educators, and students.

Local Arrangements Chair, **Justin Driebelbis**, has been working for almost a year with the staff of El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel to make sure the 47th Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society is one our best yet.

**Roel Lopez**, Program Chair has lined up exciting plenary titled "*Managing Public Resources on Private Lands*" and has coordinated an additional 100 papers/posters to be delivered at this year meeting. Be sure to check out our website as the program will be posted once it is finalized.

In addition to our standard program, **Bill Adams** has lined up one of the best workshop we have hosted in some time, with internationally renowned Safe-Capture International, Inc. hosting a 2-day workshop prior to the TCTWS meeting. The TCTWS is subsidizing this workshop for the first 40 registrants, so please do not wait to register. You won't find a better deal anywhere across the U.S. In addition to the Safe-Capture International Workshop, there are 4 other workshops of symposia that are being held in conjunction tour Annual Meeting including a Riparian Workshop, a Meeting of the Feral Hog Working Group, a meeting of the Texas Tortoise Working Group Workshop, a meeting of the Texas Prescribed Burn Board, and several others.

Student Activities, Co-Chairs **Jen Korn** and **Froylan Hernandez** have scheduled a slate of activities for our 200+ students that attend the meeting. This year, be sure to pay special attention to the registration form as we are requesting some additional information from our mentors and students about their expertise and interests. A list of student activities is included later in this newsletter.

Please take the time now to register for the meeting (either online via the TCTWS website or by mailing the enclosed form) and making travel arrangements and booking your room at El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel. If you haven't experience El Tropicano, I think you'll be pleasantly surprised with the atmosphere (a retro-Cuban thing?), the staff and amenities, and the location (in the Museum District on the Riverwalk).

Thank you again to the TCTWS Executive Board, all the committee chairs and their members, and to the general membership for allowing me to serve you as President during this past year. Is has been a very gratifying experience and I relish every moment.

See you in San Antonio!

*Louis A. Harveson, President*

# TEXAS FLORA & FAUNA

300,000 seedlings of native trees and shrubs on about 500 acres of former farm land. The Lower Rio Grande Valley is one of the most biologically diverse regions in the nation. The convergence of the Mississippi and Central Flyways and the resulting species of temperate, tropical, semi-desert and coastal ecological regions result in an exceptional variety of plants and animals. Eighteen federally-listed endangered or threatened species occur in the Rio Grande delta. Over half of all butterfly species in North America occur here and only two other states have more butterfly species than these four counties. The bird list for the area now totals 522 species making this region a mecca for bird- and butterfly-watchers from around the world.

Along the banks of the lower Rio Grande is Santa Ana NWR, established in 1943 as a sanctuary for the protection of migratory birds. Considered the ‘jewel’ of the National Wildlife Refuge System, this essential ‘island’ of thorn forest habitat is host to nearly 400 different types of birds and a myriad of other species. Before dams and control structures significantly reduced the flow of the Rio Grande, periodic floods cut shifting channels into the delta creating crescent-shaped oxbow lakes, referred to as ‘resacas.’ Santa Ana’s management program mimics the historical flooding of the Rio Grande, maintaining the flood-forest

and providing crucial nesting and feeding habitat for birds, watering holes for animals, and homes for countless amphibians, reptiles, crustaceans and insects. With more than 95 percent of the original habitat in the lower Rio Grande delta cleared or altered, Santa Ana is a reminder of the semitropical thorn forest that once dominated the area.

STRC strives to increase the number of applied wildlife management studies conducted within the boundaries of all three Refuges. Together, with its partners, STRC is currently funding research on many projects,



*A rare glimpse of a male ocelot available for adoption through the Adopt-an-Ocelot Program administered by the Friends of Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. Photo by USFWS.*

including: carbon sequestration potential of native woodlands, the potential effects of climate change on habitat management, effective treatments for brushland restoration, availability of ocelot prey, use of replanted woodlands by migratory birds, and the history and recent perspectives of habitat management in the Tamaulipan Biotic Province of

South Texas.

Both Laguna Atascosa and Lower Rio Grande Valley NWRs are land acquisition Refuges – they have been authorized to acquire additional lands in order to meet the habitat objectives of wildlife resources. They have existing authority to purchase an additional 64,000 and 32,000 acres, respectively. This additional acreage will be part of a larger conservation landscape, together with partners, to ensure that we protect wildlife corridors and maintain a functioning ecosystem. The Refuges coordinate and plan strategically with partners to determine which lands provide the “best bang for their [conservation] buck” by assessing needs of trust resources, impacts of sea level rise and climate change, potential offsets of carbon sequestration through brush restoration treatments, transportation and wildlife crossing needs, and the affects of urban growth and border issues on conservation. STRC encourages the scientific community to consider the large land-base available on STRC for your research projects and to collaborate with us on applied management research in South Texas.

For more information on the South Texas Refuge Complex, please visit <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/txrefuges.html> or <http://www.friendsofsouthtexasrefuges.org>

*Article by Mitch Sternberg, wildlife biologist with US Fish & Wildlife Service.*

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES WITH NRCS-TEXAS

*by Rodney-Hyatt*

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If you are interested in production agriculture, you can have a rewarding career with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) working with land managers (primarily farmers/ranchers) helping them develop and implement natural resource management plans to improve or maintain the productivity of their land.

The NRCS offers two employment opportunities for agricultural majors. One is the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP). It is primarily for college students who can work at least two summers in the program prior to their graduation date. This program provides work experience which is directly related to the student's academic program and career goals. Participants in the SCEP must sign a Student Educational Program Agreement and must successfully complete at least 640 hours of career related work with the NRCS prior to completing their degree.

The NRCS-Texas employs about 20 new SCEP participants each summer. The open period for accepting applications is early October to mid November each year. Copies of the Student Trainee Job Opportunity notice are provided to 13 universities in Texas that offer degree programs that can qualify students for a professional position with the NRCS. The notice is also provided to all NRCS employees in Texas. The announcement provides details concerning information needed in order to submit a complete SCEP application. Students selected for participation in the program need to plan on working with the NRCS each summer until graduation. Those who fulfill the SCEP requirements, and meet the educational requirements for a professional position can be converted to permanent status with NRCS in Texas following graduation.

While the SCEP is a great way for the agency to prepare students for future professional positions, the NRCS in Texas fills most of their professional positions using the Career Intern Program (CIP) appointment authority. The CIP is for applicants who have completed their college degree, or those who lack only one semester of course work in order to graduate. NRCS-TX accepts CIP applications on a continuous basis throughout the year. Students or graduates may contact the following NRCS-TX Human Resources Staff Members to request a CIP application:

- Tiffinie Meyer – (phone 254-742-9934) or (email – [tiffinie.meyer@tx.usda.gov](mailto:tiffinie.meyer@tx.usda.gov))
- Sue Elliott – (phone 254-742-9930) or (email – [sue.elliott@tx.usda.gov](mailto:sue.elliott@tx.usda.gov))
- Rodney Hyatt – (phone 254-742-9931) or (email – [rodney.hyatt@tx.usda.gov](mailto:rodney.hyatt@tx.usda.gov))

*(continued on next page)*

## CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

Professional positions including competitive degree programs for jobs filled with NRCS-TX on an annual basis are as follows:

- Agricultural Engineers (Ag Engr) - Agricultural or Civil Engineering majors
- Rangeland Management Specialist (RMS) - Rangeland Management, Rangeland Ecology, or Range Science majors
- Soil Conservationist (SC) - Agronomy, Plant Science, Forestry, Wildlife Biology, Environmental Science, or Natural Resource Management majors
- Soil Scientist (SS) - Soil Science major or Agronomy major with Soil Science option

Educational qualification requirements for professional positions noted above can be found at the following Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Qualification Standard requirements website:

- Ag Engr - <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/Standards/IORs/g0800/0800.htm>
- RMS - <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/Standards/IORs/g0400/0454.htm>
- SC - <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/Standards/IORs/g0400/0457.htm>
- SS - <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/Standards/IORs/g0400/0470.htm>

Wildlife Biologist (WB) positions are typically filled by qualified employees who are working with the NRCS as a RMS or SC. The OPM Qualification Standard for WB positions can be found at the following website:

- <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/Standards/IORs/g0400/0486.htm>

Applicants seeking employment with NRCS must have US citizenship, and must have a valid state Driver License.

***Rodney Hyatt***  
***Human Resources Officer***  
***USDA-NRCS-TX***

### USING THE OUTDOORS TO HELP PREPARE STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE

*by Gustavo Gonzales, pre-college advisor with Communities in Schools*

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This summer 45 middle school students from Southwest ISD in San Antonio had the opportunity to participate with a TRIO-Talent Search Pre-College Summer Academic program that prepares underrepresented students from disadvantaged backgrounds for higher education. As a dedicated sportsman and conservationist I decided to include outdoor learning opportunities to help inspire and motivating these young students to consider degrees and careers that involve a science background. I have found that there are many opportunities available for students to pursue scholarships and internships in outdoor science related fields which makes sense to pass this on to my students. Not only does it help them become more educated but it can also increase their chances of graduating from high school and getting accepted into college. At the same time it might just motivate these students to look at outdoor activities as a positive way to invest their time rather than joining gangs or hanging out with their peers drinking alcohol or doing drugs.

In order to successfully complete the task of providing such a quality educational program, I had to research additional funding opportunities in the community and found that San Antonio Water Supply (SAWS) offered a mini-grant that would help provide financial assistance to educational programs that encouraged conservation or environmental science learning. So I wrote the grant and we received a check for \$420 that covered the transportation and admission to take 45 students from 3 different middle schools to Mitchell Lake Nature Preserve in south Bexar County. Here students had the opportunity to shadow scientific professionals with experience in plant, animal and natural sciences. The

students were broken up into 3 separate teams and explored the beautiful scenic nature preserve while conducting hands on scientific activities. At one station, students took a sample of pond water and examined and identified micro organisms that were living in this environment. They took soil and air temperatures in 4 different natural environments of the preserve and learned about plant / wildlife identification. The staff at Mitchell Lake Nature Preserve was very attentive and helpful at making this important outdoor learning opportunity a success. After a long morning of performing hands on scientific data collection, the students were treated to an outdoor picnic in one the preserve's nice shady picnic areas. I would have to consider this day a success since the students appreciated the opportunity to view wildlife in it's natural habitat and at the same time learn about career opportunities that involve science.

In addition to the field trip to Mitchell Lake the students also participated with a presentation from Texas Wildlife Association educator Koy Coffey who also provided more opportunities for the students to do team building activities outdoors and learn about wildlife management / conservation. I am proud to be part of an organization that allows me the opportunity to pass on such great educational opportunities to many deserving students. My goal as a Pre-College Advisor is to inspire and motivate students to look outside the box when considering careers and degrees to study at a University. At the same time learn valuable conservation skills that can not only make them a better citizen but also help them achieve academic success and valuable members of our future community.

## SEEKING A BROADER PERSPECTIVE

*by Jena Moon*

Leadership in the wildlife field involves not only hard work and dedication, but also collaboration, listening and learning – and often learning by trial-and-error. Adaptive management decisions, after all, are based on those trials.

The Wildlife Society's Leadership Institute, which I attended from May to September 2009 as a refuge system representative, reminds participants that being a good leader requires excellent interpersonal and communication skills and also a keen eye for ecological issues. While the keen eye may be intuitive for many biologists, the Leadership Institute improved my ability to recognize ecological issues as they resonate with varied constituents, including landowners, state and local agencies, nonprofits and academic institutions.

I am better able to communicate ecological problems, especially one issue that is critical to McFadden National Wildlife Refuge: the Intracoastal Waterway and how it has isolated a 40,000-acre portion of the Salt Bayou watershed. The watershed is shared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the state of Texas and several private landowners.

As part of the Leadership Institute and The Wildlife Society's *Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage* program, I was able to interview Charles Stutzenbaker – Stutz as he is almost always called – a retired state biologist who had spent much of his career trying to reestablish water lows south of the Intracoastal Waterway. He is an amazing wealth of knowledge regarding McFadden Refuge, and he still provides input and advice on landscape level habitat projects and mottled duck efforts. During our conversations, he pointed out that today's ecological challenges are very similar to, if not the same as, biologists faced in the past. And as in the past, the problems are neither easy nor cheap to fix.

On McFadden Refuge, I am working with the Salt Bayou Technical Group, local drainage districts, private landowners and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department employees as we try to implement many management actions identified by Stutz, including restoring the Salt Bayou Watershed and mitigating for the Army Corps of Engineers' installation of the Intracoastal Waterway. Problems identified by Stutz in the '70s and '80s are now full blown ecological problems that

have slow but persistent effects on coastal marshes – effects elevated in recent years due to storm surges and other damages from Hurricanes Rita and Ike.

### *Personal, Professional Relection*

The Leadership Institute offers information on different leadership strategies and great opportunities to network with other professionals. The 15 Leadership Institute participants Wildlife biologist Jena Moon, from McFadden and Texas Point National Wildlife Refuges, TX, participated in a Leadership Institute offered by The Wildlife Society. (Ellen Stutzenbaker) included people from state game and natural resource agencies, the Universities of Florida and Arizona and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The program is especially good for recently graduated professionals who are still determining the direction of their careers.

During my time at the institute, I also worked with The Wildlife Society working group on climate change. Sea Level Affecting Marshes Models (SLAMM) predict that by 2100 McFadden and Texas Point Refuges will be completely submerged. McFadden Refuge is already experiencing shoreline erosion as high as 60 feet per year. I recommended to The Wildlife Society Council that interested parties share information in an organized way online and gather for a conference every three to five years to identify creative funding mechanisms to help on-the-ground managers complete climate change projects in a timely manner.

The Leadership Institute offers a chance for deep personal and professional reflection. Other leadership courses offered in the Service also offer such opportunities, but for young professionals just contemplating leadership options, the Leadership Institute is one to seriously consider.

**Application forms are available at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/leadershipinstitute>.**

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*Jena Moon is a wildlife biologist at McFadden and Texas Point National Wildlife Refuges. TX.*

# TCTWS 47TH ANNUAL MEETING

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### *47th Annual Meeting Information:*

The 47th Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society will be held **February 16-19, 2011**, at the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. El Tropicano is located at 110 Lexington Ave., San Antonio Texas 78205. For more information about the hotel, go to <http://www.eltropicanohotel.com/>.



You may reserve rooms by calling Reservations at 866.423.7814 or 210.223.9461. Hotel room cost will be **\$106 per night\*** for a single or double occupancy room. Reference “Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society” when making your reservation. The guaranteed rate and guestroom block are good through **February 1, 2011**, after which any unreserved rooms will be released. We do ask that you stay at the host hotel in order for us to meet our contractual obligations. **Parking fees will apply for those parking on-site.** Pre-registration must be received by **February 4, 2011**. You may pre-register by mailing in the form in this newsletter, or registering online at the following website [http://site.tctws.org/xs.php?page=meeting\\_1of5&siteid=268&bl=home](http://site.tctws.org/xs.php?page=meeting_1of5&siteid=268&bl=home). The registration fee includes the President’s Reception, Student Breakfast (students only), Past Presidents’ Luncheon (restricted), Awards Banquet, and all sessions. Registration at the meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, February 18th on the first-floor foyer of El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel. Tentative itinerary, preregistration form, and workshop form are included in this newsletter.

***\* The room rate contracted with at El Tropicano is \$106 for singles and doubles and not \$85 as previously published in the newsletter. \$106 is the current maximum state lodging rate for San Antonio.***

# CHAPTER BUSINESS

## PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

47TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY  
 FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>-19<sup>TH</sup>, 2011  
 EL TROPICANO RIVERWALK, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Please Print Name (as it will appear on tag): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Affiliation / Student Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (day): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (mobile): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to participate in the Student/Mentor Program as a: Student \_\_\_\_\_ Mentor \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Interest/Expertise (please check up to 3 boxes)

- |                             |                                 |                    |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| general wildlife management | wildlife education and outreach | captive wildlife   |
| non-game management         | big game management             | habitat management |
| wildlife research           | wildlife/ecological consulting  | urban wildlife     |
| deer management             | game bird management            |                    |

\*\*\*\*Because of seating space limitations, admission to awards banquet is not guaranteed after Feb 4 \*\*\*\*

	<u>Pre-Registration</u> (Received by February 4 <sup>th</sup> )	<u>Late-Registration</u> (After February 4 <sup>th</sup> register at meeting)	<u>Total \$</u>
<b><u>Meeting Fees</u></b>			
Regular, Life, & Honorary Life Members	\$140.00	\$165.00	_____
Non-member	\$165.00	\$190.00	_____
Student Member	\$ 85.00	\$105.00	_____
Student Non-member	\$ 95.00	\$115.00	_____

President's Reception (included in registration)	Yes ___	No ___
Awards Banquet (included in registration)	Yes ___	No ___
Past President's Luncheon (Past Presidents only)	Yes ___	No ___

Guest Tickets:  
 Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Guest Fees</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Number</u>	
President's Reception	\$35	_____	_____
Awards Banquet	\$40	_____	_____
Technical Sessions	\$25	_____	_____
<b><u>Chapter Dues</u></b>			
Regular Member	\$15		_____
Student Member	\$10		_____
Life Member	\$350		_____
		Total \$ Enclosed	_____

Please make check or money order payable to "Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society" and mail to: BRI-SRSU, P.O. Box C-16, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Please fill out a separate registration form for each individual (i.e., no group registration forms please). When sending purchase orders for group registrants, please specify for whom the purchase order.

You may register online with a credit card at [http://site.tctws.org/xs.php?page=meeting\\_1of5&siteid=268&bl=home](http://site.tctws.org/xs.php?page=meeting_1of5&siteid=268&bl=home).

Pre-registration must be postmarked by February 4, 2011. Cancellations prior to February 4 will be fully refunded. Registration receipts will be available at the meeting. For questions about registration, contact Lisa Smith at 432.837.8488 or at [lsmith2@sulross.edu](mailto:lsmith2@sulross.edu).

# CHAPTER BUSINESS

## Chemical Immobilization of Animals: Free-Ranging & Captive Wildlife

**This is Safe-Capture's Internationally Acclaimed 16-Hour Chemical Immobilization Workshop, Presented For The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society!**



Over 90% of our workshop participants rate our training programs "excellent"  
- many stating this was "the best workshop they had ever attended!"



**PRESENTED BY:**



**FEBRUARY 16-17, 2011**

**EL TROPICANA HOTEL  
SAN ANTONIO RIVERWALK  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

**HOSTED BY:**

**THE TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

# CHAPTER BUSINESS

## Multimedia Lecture Presentation and Discussion (14 Hours)

- **Custom drug combinations and formulations** which minimize induction times-the time from dart impact until the animal is immobilized. (Dr. Amass has drug combinations and techniques that will safely and rapidly limit the escape potential of most animals within 64 seconds to 3.5 minutes).
- **Proper injection sites** to ensure rapid drug absorption and effects.
- **Capture strategies** to minimize capture stress on the animal, and procedural stress of the operator.
- **Drug delivery technology:** Advantages and disadvantages of the various commercially available darting systems including Pneu-dart, Telinject, Daninject, Palmer, Paxarms, and Distinject. Choosing the system to best fit your needs-maximizing the utility of the projector you already have.
- **Techniques for sighting in dart projectors** to ensure accurate, atraumatic dart delivery.
- **Practical, field-tested modifications** necessary for accurate and consistent results with currently manufactured darting systems and radiotracking devices.
- **Drug dosage recommendations:** The latest in safe, practical, and reliable species-specific and scenario-specific drug and dosage recommendations for free-ranging, trapped, or captive wildlife species.
- **Dosage calculation**
- **How to re-dose animals** incompletely immobilized on approach.
- **"Superconcentrated" drugs:** Where to obtain and how to use them to give you a faster knockdown, and allow you to use smaller, less traumatic darts.
- **Post Immobilization Care of Animals:** How to ensure the correct level of immobilization for an approach which affords operator safety and minimizes stress to the animal. Proper species-specific positioning, techniques of dart removal, and dart wound care.
- **Medical monitoring:** Assessment techniques to ensure the immobilized animal stays physiologically stable throughout the procedure. You'll learn how to monitor and interpret temperature, pulse, heart rate, respiratory rate, capillary refill time, pulse oximetry, capnography-with checklists provided to help keep you organized and on track in the field.
- **Medical emergencies associated with capture and handling:** How to prevent, recognize, and treat bloat, capture myopathy, shock, hyperthermia, hypothermia, seizures, and other complications which can be avoided and managed in association with chemical immobilization.
- **Accidental human exposure to immobilizing medications:** Which drugs are dangerous to humans? What can you expect with accidental human exposure? Standard Operating Procedures to prevent human exposure to immobilizing drugs. How to coordinate with your physician and local poison control to develop protocols should an accidental exposure occur.

## Hands-On Lab/Practice (2 Hours)

- **Safe Handling and Use of Immobilization Darts:** Assembly, loading, unloading, and cleaning of the various brands available in the US.
- **Use of Safety Equipment** for Prevention of Accidental Exposure to Anesthetic Drugs
- **Safe Handling and Use of Short and Long Range Dart Projectors** including CO<sub>2</sub>, Air, and 22 blank powered projectors
- **Practice and Development of Proficiency with:**
  - **Pole Syringes**
  - **Blowgun Delivery of Anesthetic Darts:** Even if you have never used a blowgun before, you will leave this portion of the program accurate and proficient with this safe, inexpensive, and atraumatic technique of dart delivery.
  - **Radio-Tracking Darts** for efficient location of animals and retrieval of lost darts.

# CHAPTER BUSINESS

## **This is Real Training . . .**

We respect your time and your intelligence, and we know what it takes to be proficient in the field. Our course materials are time-tested to over **8,000** professionals on four continents.

## **You Get the Top Instructors . . .**

Hand picked **Wildlife Veterinarians-Experts** in Chemical Immobilization and Anesthesia and **Outstanding Teachers** as well!

## **You Get Training Materials that Work . . .**

Our presentation is multi-media and hands-on. You hear it in lecture, see it on video, and do it with your own hands. You will also take home a comprehensive 175-page training manual covering all course materials.

## **You Get What We Promise . . .**

Clear, concise information which will guide you to a safer, more successful level of expertise or we will refund your full tuition fee.

*We do not sell equipment, nor do we have contracts with equipment manufacturers. We provide only education in Chemical Immobilization and field assistance, and our recommendations for drugs and equipment stem from practical field use.*

**This workshop is also approved for Veterinary Continuing Education Credit.**

**All attendees receive the all new 175-page manual:**

*Chemical Immobilization of Animals:  
Technical Field Notes 2011*

**Certificates will be Awarded!**

**Our program has been presented since 1989, and is considered by US government agencies to be the standard in Chemical Immobilization training.**

**We have provided training to**

- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Texas Parks & Wildlife
- USDA Wildlife Services
- Dallas Zoo
- M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- New York Division of Fish, Wildlife, Marine Resources
- Beijing Biodiversity Center
- Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
- Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
- New Jersey Fish & Wildlife
- and a multitude of other agencies worldwide!

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

### **TX Chapter of TWS Members Receive \$100 Off The Regular Safe-Capture Registration Fee**

Professional Registration: (Regular Fee: \$625) TX Chapter Professional Member Registration Fee: \$525

Student Registration (Regular Fee: \$350) TX Chapter Student Member Registration Fee: \$250

**CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED!! IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND, PLEASE REGISTER ASAP!!**

**FOR REGISTRATION: E-mail or Call**

**BILL ADAMS, TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE**

[robert.adams@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:robert.adams@tpwd.state.tx.us)

**Tel: 936-569-8547, press 3**

**Look in the January 2011 Edition of the TX Chapter of The Wildlife Society Newsletter  
For More Registration Information!**

Also for further information, please contact:



P.O. Box 206, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572 USA

(608) 767-3071, FAX: (608) 767-3072

Email: [safecaptur@aol.com](mailto:safecaptur@aol.com)

Web Site: [www.safecapture.com](http://www.safecapture.com)



# CHAPTER BUSINESS

## TENTATIVE ITINERARY, 16-20 FEBRUARY 2011

Date	Time	Room
<b>Wednesday 2/16</b>		
Immobilization Workshop	8:00 - 5:00	Monte Cristo
Riparian Workshop	8:00 - 5:00	Trinidad
<b>Thursday 2/17</b>		
Registration	2:00 - 5:00	Foyer
Exhibits	2:00 - 5:00	La Habana/Bolivar
Photo Contest	2:00 - 5:00	La Habana/Bolivar
Raffle/Silent Auction	2:00 - 5:00	La Habana/Bolivar
Immobilization Workshop	8:00 - 5:00	Monte Cristo
Prescribed Burn Board Meeting	8:00 - 12:00	Trinidad
Feral Hog Workgroup	4:30 - 6:30	Trinidad
Extension Unit Meeting	12:00 - 5:00	Cohiba
Executive Board Meeting	9:00 - 12:00	Partagas
Texas Tortoise Workgroup	9:00 - 3:00	Romeo & Julieta
General Business Meeting	1:00 - 3:00	Coronado (air walls closed)
Student Plant ID	12:00 - 3:00	Coronado A
Professional Plant ID	12:00 - 3:00	Coronado B
Quiz Bowl	3:00 - 5:00	Coronado (air walls closed)
Student Mixer	5:30 - 6:30	Coronado
Presidents Reception	6:30 - 9:00	Coronado
<b>Friday 2/18</b>		
Registration	7:30 - 5:00	Foyer
Exhibits	8:00 - 5:00	La Habana/Bolivar
Poster Contest	8:00 - 5:00	La Habana/Bolivar
Photo Contest	8:00 - 5:00	La Habana/Bolivar
Student Breakfast	7:00 - 8:00	Monte Cristo
Plenary Session	8:00 - 9:45	Coronado
Cotton Presentations	10:00 - 12:00	Coronado
Past Presidents Lunch	12:00 - 1:15	Partagas
Concurrent Sessions	1:15 - 4:30	Monte Cristo, Trinidad, R&J
Banquet	6:30 - 9:00	Coronado
AM Break	9:45 - 10:00	La Habana/Bolivar
PM Break	3:00 - 3:30	La Habana/Bolivar
<b>Saturday 2/19</b>		
Registration	7:00 - 9:00	Foyer
Exhibits	8:00 - 12:00	La Habana/Bolivar
Photo Contest	8:00 - 10:00	La Habana/Bolivar
Executive Board Meeting	7:00 - 12:00	Coronado
Concurrent Sessions	8:00 - 12:00	Monte Cristo, Trinidad, R&J
Break	9:00 - 9:45	La Habana/Bolivar

# CHAPTER BUSINESS

## Professional Development Workshop Introduction to Riparian Function and Stream Habitat Assessment Texas Chapter, The Wildlife Society, San Antonio February 16, 2011

**Description:** This workshop is designed to provide resource professionals new tools to assess the biological diversity and functioning condition of streams and riparian areas. Assessment protocols such as “proper functioning condition” and “stream visual assessment” will be presented and discussed. The objective of the workshop will be to develop methods that can be used to enhance assistance to private landowners. Discussion will include ways to use these tools to enhance stream and riparian assessment and management in all regions of Texas.

8:30 – 9:00	Introduction, Purpose and Background	Susan Baggett
Part 1 – Basic Riparian Function		
9:00 – 10:00	Stream Hydrology and Fluvial Processes	Kenneth Mayben
10:00 – 10:30	Role of Riparian Vegetation	Steve Nelle
Break		
Part 2 – Stream Habitat Assessment		
10:45 – 11:30	Evaluating Stream Habitats (barriers, complexity, pools, embededness, macroinvertebrates)	Gary Garrett
11:30 – 12:00	Water Quality Indicators (appearance, nutrient enrichment, salinity, temperature)	Gary Garrett
12:00 – 12:30	Wrap-up and Discussion Panel	All
Lunch on your own		
1:30 – 4:30	Field trip to practice stream assessment tools	All



# Plant ID Contest

Texas Chapter TWS, San Antonio

When: Feb 17; Contest Open Noon – 3:00 pm  
(Contest will only take 15 to 20 min)

Open to all TCTWS members

## Categories:

- Young Professionals (5 yr or less)
- Veterans

## Format:

- 25 Fresh specimens
- Plants of the Edwards Plateau-Rio Grande Plains Ecotone
- Common name or Scientific name

Prizes   Fun   Educational   Friendly Competition



## 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

## 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.

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.

## 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).

## SOUTHWEST SECTION

### FROM THE SW SECTION REPRESENTATIVE TO TWS COUNCIL

*By Carol Chambers - January 2010*

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

### THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY ONLINE MENTORING PROGRAM

TWS' Online Mentoring program is a great way to build professional relationships that will help advance a student's or young professional's career, while gaining knowledge from a wildlife professional. Already a professional? We are always looking for mentors to volunteer. It is easy to sign up, just go online to our Online Mentoring Program with your TWS Member ID number and register.

Want to help but don't have the time to contribute? TWS' Online Mentoring Program is the focus for TWS' 2010 Investor's Campaign. If you are interested in being a donor, please send your donations to The Wildlife Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814 with Investor's Campaign in the memo field. Contributions are tax-deductible.



### Soar above the competition!

Being a TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB®) means you have:

- Increased job potential
- Increased credibility
- Recognized training & expertise
- An unsurpassed network of expert colleagues

**APPLY TODAY!**

See program and application at:  
[wildlife.org/certification](http://wildlife.org/certification)  
or contact  
[shannon@wildlife.org](mailto:shannon@wildlife.org)

## 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)

***Become a fan on Facebook at Urban Wildlife 2011***

# WILDLIFE FOR LUNCH WEBINAR SERIES

Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Wildlife Association are co-sponsoring lunch-based webinars every 3rd Thursday of every month throughout 2011.

## *It's Fast!*

Wildlife for Lunch webinars provide sound, science-based wildlife management options delivered by experts to you in the comfort of your own home or office.

## *It's Easy!*

All you need is a modern computer with a quality Internet connection and a bag lunch. Just point your browser to <http://forestrywebinars.net>, click on the "Wildlife for Lunch" link in the "Upcoming Webinars" section, and follow the instructions.

## *It's Interactive!*

Each web-based seminar is fully interactive and allows you to engage the experts, make comments, and ask questions during the course of the presentation.

*ForestryWebinars.net* is made possible through partnership with Texas AgriLife Extension Service, NC State University Extension Forestry, and Southern Regional Extension Forestry Office



## **Dates** (all times are Noon to 1:00 pm Central Time)

- January 20 – Wildlife Tax Valuation, Jim Cathey
- February 17 – Nutrition: The Pros and Cons of Supplemental Feed, Dave Hewitt
- March 24 – Waterfowl Management, Jim Cathey
- April 21 – Aquatic Weed Control, Billy Higginbotham
- May 19 – Dove Management, Dale Rollins
- June 16 – Texas Deer Lease, Judon Fambrough
- July 21 – Riparian Management, Sky Lewey
- August 18 – Conducting a Deer Survey, Jim Gallagher
- September 22 – Scoring Deer Using Computer Software, Bronson Strickland
- October 20 – Aging Deer on the Hoof, David Brimager
- November 17 – Factors Affecting the Efficiency of Intensive Deer Management, Randy DeYoung
- December 15 – Managing Wildlife & Nature Tourism Enterprises, Miles Phillips

Email topic content questions or suggestions to [b-higginbotham@tamu.edu](mailto:b-higginbotham@tamu.edu)

For more information, visit [www.texas-wildlife.org](http://www.texas-wildlife.org) or [wildlife.tamu.edu](http://wildlife.tamu.edu)

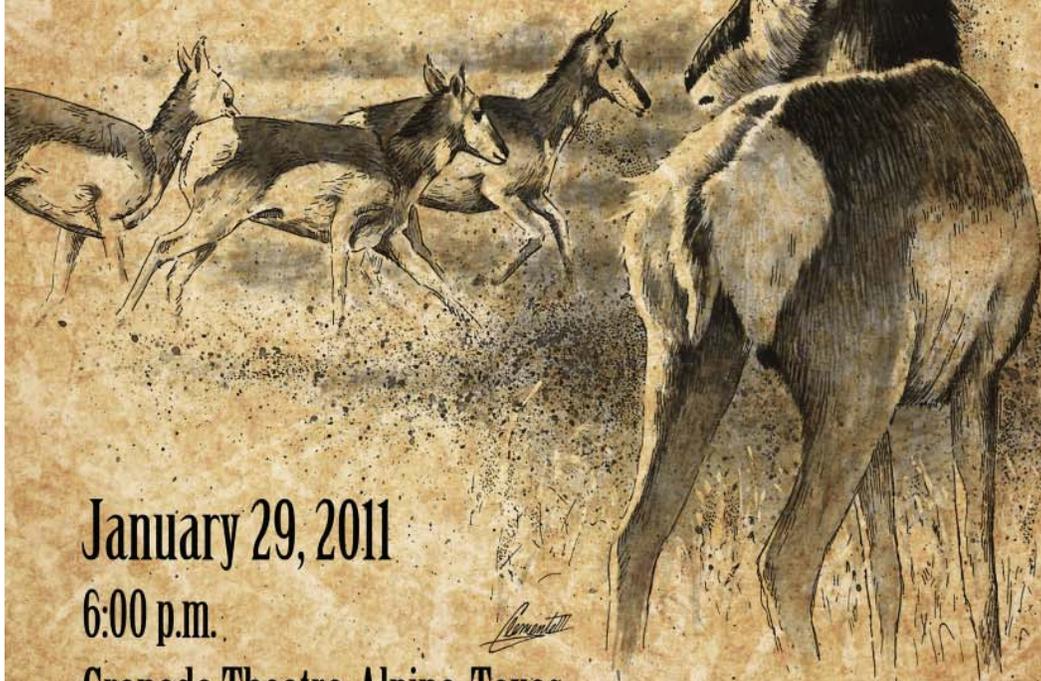
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# UPCOMING MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

# PRONGHORN RESTORATION BENEFIT

Dinner and Dance Featuring

Craig Carter and the Spur of the Moment Band



January 29, 2011

6:00 p.m.

Granada Theatre, Alpine, Texas

\$50 donation

Tickets must be purchased in advance

Tickets available at the Range Animal Science Center and  
Alpine Chamber of Commerce

*All proceeds benefit pronghorn restoration project*

For more information go to [www.sulross.edu/brinrm/pronghorn.htm](http://www.sulross.edu/brinrm/pronghorn.htm)



Trans-Pecos Pronghorn  
WORKING GROUP

