



Photo by Jennifer M. Korn

*Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education*

Number 175 • October 2012

## TEXAS' FLORA AND FAUNA: CWD: Chronic Wasting Disease



Photo by USGS

Ask a biologist, a hunter, an outdoor writer, or deer enthusiast about Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and you are likely to get an earful about the epidemiology and management of the disease, and at times, controversial discussion among the various stakeholders. However, I think we all agree we would rather not find CWD in Texas or any place in North America. Unfortunately, our luck has run out, as the discovery of CWD in wild mule deer in far West Texas this July (2012) joins Texas in the ranks of 20 other states and two Canadian Provinces. Although hopeful this day would not happen, it did not come as a complete surprise. Big Game Program staff with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) received notification

from New Mexico Game and Fish Department in early February 2012 that CWD had been detected in 3 mule deer tested that were harvested by hunters in the Hueco Mountains, within several miles of the Texas border. Since mule deer research indicates mule deer may move to 25 miles, it was reasonable to assume that these mule deer may have ranged into Texas. This ultimately elevated staff concern that CWD could be present in mule deer populations in far West Texas. Summer sampling in West Texas by TPWD, Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), and USDA APHIS staff, with the full permission and cooperation of landowners, confirmed CWD was present in Texas after 2 out of 31 mule deer sampled turned up positive.

CWD was first recognized in 1967 as a clinical disease in mule deer in a Colorado Division of Wildlife research facility in Fort Collins. CWD received little attention over the next several decades until 2002 when it was found in Wisconsin, and five other states. Response to the detection of CWD varied from state to state. Some state wildlife agencies attempted to eradicate the disease through intensive population reduc-

tions of native or captive deer herds, while others sought containment by restricting movements of live deer and carcass parts of harvested deer.

CWD is a bit of an anomaly as far as wildlife diseases are concerned. The disease is believed to be caused by a misfolded protein called a prion. Prions are unique from other infectious disease agents including viruses, bacteria, fungus, and parasites in that they contain no detectable nucleic acids (DNA and/or RNA). As such, an infected animal does not illicit an immune response and prions cannot be destroyed by conventional methods used to fight infectious agents. Once a prion infects a healthy animal it causes normal proteins to misfold, creating a chain reaction that infects other normal proteins, ultimately causing cell death. Prions are found throughout the body of infected animals but generally concentrate in nervous system tissues such as the brain and spinal column as well as lymphatic tissues. It is thought that the prion structure is extremely stable, thus resistant to denaturing by chemical or physical agents and making disposal and containment of infected prions difficult. CWD was classified as a Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) in 1978. Other diseases in the TSE family include scrapie in sheep, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease) in cattle, and

*Continued on Page 3*

TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE  
WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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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 \$15/yr for students and \$25/yr for regular members, payable to the Treasurer (Terry Blankenship).*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Here we are in late October, and fall weather and hunting seasons have already begun. I hope each and every one of you have an opportunity to get out and enjoy the Texas fall weather – and get a chance to pursue, view, and enjoy Texas wildlife. Since our last newsletter, many of our members have returned to school, finalized landowner management plans for the upcoming hunting season, and perhaps have taken some well deserved trips to various parts of this great state. With all of the anticipation of deer season, waterfowl season, quail and many others, do not forget that what happens in Washington impacts our wildlife resources here in Texas, but throughout the country. With the election season around the corner, many of us have been watching the news, debates, paying attention to the details, and carefully considering the choices we have for our elected officials. I am not stumping here – as my welcoming marks at the 2012 February banquet can attest, my political skills are less than well developed, but I am reminding all of our membership to take part in this important American right. Get out and vote.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has become a major issue and an extremely hot topic, with a renewed focus upon this disease in Texas, it is important to be knowledgeable and vigilant. Moreover, with deer season right around the corner, please be informed. You are the professionals that need to be the bridge that clarifies perceptions with truths for the public. Please see Past President Alan Cain and Mule Deer and Pronghorn Program Leader Shawn Gray's article in this newsletter detailing transmission potential and impacts of this disease. It is important that we remain informed and up-to-date on this issue.

In this newsletter, you will find calls for papers for our upcoming meeting in Houston, as well as calls for nominations for many awards, including Publication Awards, Honorary Life Membership, Clarence Cottam Award abstracts, as well as applications for Student Scholarships, Photo and Art, among others. Program Chair Chris Comer and I are looking forward to working together to develop the program, and we anticipate a great number of posters and oral presentations for this year's meeting. We look forward to working with the different Committee Chairs as we near February. Be on the look-out for registration information and details that will be posted on the website soon!

But – back to elections. ....also, in this newsletter we have a tremendous slate of Nominations for Texas Chapter Officers. In keeping with the election season-theme above, please take the time to review each nominee's biography, vision statement, and their involvement with the Texas Chapter. This annual election is the lifeblood of this Chapter, and it is a tremendous humbling honor to be nominated, and then get an opportunity to serve. I encourage all members to take the time to read, study, and cast their vote for the next group of Texas Chapter leaders.

Get out and enjoy the fall, and the upcoming holidays season(s), and I hope to see each one of you in February. Until next time,

*Warren Conway, President*

## TEXAS' FLORA AND FAUNA

Cruetzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. CWD is a progressive, fatal disease that affects white-tailed deer, mule deer, black-tailed deer, elk, moose, red deer, and sika. CWD has no vaccine or cure. Although fatal in deer, there is no evidence that CWD poses a risk to humans or livestock. Animals may be infected for years and not exhibit any possible symptoms until the onset of late clinical stages of the disease. Symptoms include excessive drooling, decreased awareness, blank stares, behavior changes, appetite and weight loss, hence the name "wasting disease". No USDA-approved live-animal test for CWD is available. Instead, immunohistochemistry is used to diagnose CWD by measuring accumulations of CWD-associated prion protein in brain tissues in a portion of the brain stem called the obex or the retropharyngeal lymph nodes (photo at center).

Direct animal contact or CWD-contaminated environments are thought to be the modes of transmission to uninfected animals. Prions are shed through infected materials in feces, urine, blood, saliva, and soft-antler material. In early stages of infection, limiting the growth of environmental contamination through the reduction of infected individuals may offer some control in limiting disease prevalence and distribution. There are no known management strategies to mitigate the risk of indirect transmission of CWD once an environment has been contaminated with prions. This makes eradication very difficult, if not impossible, in areas where it has been established for a long period before initial detection.

Implications from CWD are often centered on the potential impacts to wild cervid populations, most notably concerns for population declines resulting from infected herds. Documented prevalence rates in some mule deer populations in Colorado and Wyoming have exceeded 41% and 57% respectively, and coincide with 45% and 50% population declines in these two distinct mule deer populations. Although the populations are declining it is unclear whether CWD is the sole cause of the decline or if other factors are the culprit. Despite these examples, the majority of cervid populations in North America with CWD have relatively low prevalence rates (<10%). Other potential implications include concerns over human safety, economic losses, hunter displacement, wel-

fare of deer, lack of knowledge with potential to influence policy, acceptance of management strategies, and general mistrust of state agencies to manage CWD outbreaks.

Many strategies have been employed around the country to combat CWD with varying levels of success. Eradication is very difficult, but early detection of infected animals is critical if eradication is to be a viable option to prevent disease establishment. Once the environment becomes a reservoir for CWD prions, mitigating the spread of the disease may be the only reasonable course of action. Population reductions may help reduce the dispersion of infected deer to non-infected areas, but severe population reductions by state agencies have been less than popular among hunters and deer enthusiasts in some states, especially in areas where CWD is well established.



Photo by Joe G. Herrera

With CWD now a reality in Texas, TPWD and TAHC along with input from the CWD task force, an esteemed group of wildlife veterinarians, private industry leaders, and state and federal agency disease experts, have taken action to completely rewrite the Texas CWD response plan that addresses disease risk management for cervid populations as well as minimizing impacts to hunting, hunting related businesses, the captive cervid industry, and conservation in Texas. Recommendations from the task force include the creation of several management zones

including a containment zone, high risk zone, and buffer zone. Appropriate management actions will be applied within the zones to mitigate CWD impacts to our big game resources in Texas. Additional efforts will also be made this fall to continue to gather information on disease prevalence and geographic extent in West Texas through hunter check stations and road kill collections. In addition, both agencies have regulation proposals, currently out for public comment, to be presented to their respective Commissions that will regulate the unnatural movement of susceptible species in the three management zones in West Texas. For more information about CWD or TPWD and TAHC's response plan and proposed regulations please visit the following websites, <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/cwd> or [http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal\\_health/cwd/cwd.html](http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/cwd/cwd.html).

Article by

Alan Cain, White-tailed Deer Program Leader, TPWD & Shawn Gray, Mule Deer and Pronghorn Program Leader, TPWD

## THOUGHTS FROM THE WILD

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

As I mentioned in the July 2012 newsletter I will continue to spotlight efforts of the Texas Chapter to partner with other organizations to enhance the conservation of Texas wildlife. For example, the Texas Chapter has been invited to sit on the Executive Committee of the Texas Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI). The GLCI is a coalition of organizations and individuals that support the stewardship of privately owned grazing lands. The Texas GLCI has been organized to support and promote sound, science-based technical assistance for private grazingland operators. I participated in the annual meeting of the group in Comfort, Texas in September of 2012. The Texas Coalition is coordinated by Jeff Goodwin of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Please contact Warren Conway or me if you would like to serve as the Texas Chapter Representative on the GLCI council.

A second example of a long-term coalition partnership that the Texas Chapter is involved with is our membership in Texas Outdoor Partners (TOP). This broad-based group includes 60 + member organizations that share information about hunting, fishing, and outdoors in Texas. TOP is especially active during the legislative session. Examples of other member organizations are: Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries, Ducks Unlimited, Dallas Safari Club, Quail Coalition, Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Wildlife Association (plus 44 + more organizations including numerous aquatic and fishing organizations). Our representative to the TOP steering committee is Jim Cathey. The Texas Chapter certainly benefits from participation in such a broad-based coalition of like-minded groups.

Indeed, our overarching mission is to ensure that our state's rich legacy of native animals and plants is conserved for future generations. We seek to achieve this mission by conserving wildlife and their habitats through science-based management actions. As a result we play

an important role as a widely known science-based conservation and professional membership organization in the coalitions that we participate in.

Hope to see some of you in Portland, OR for the 75th Anniversary meeting as we commemorate the founding of The Wildlife Society in mid-October. As a preview of what will be going on in Oregon, check out the Fall number of the Wildlife Professional with a host of articles about the past and future of The Wildlife Society.

#### **Keep Texas Wildlife Wild**



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## CHAPTER BUSINESS

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM SOUTHWEST SECTION

*Submitted by Carol Chambers, TWS Council Representative*

I received the news of my re-election to Council and I am excited to serve the Southwest Section for another 3 years. Thank you for your support – in the coming 3 years I want to increase the coffers of the Southwest Section and be able to provide more support for students and professionals, especially to foster diversity outreach in our section. Jim Ramakka was our other candidate for the Section Rep position and a fantastic person – he continues to serve TWS in many ways, including in the International Wildlife Management Working Group.

For those of you who have not yet heard, Michael Hutchins has left TWS (more info will be forthcoming in upcoming communications from TWS). Michael contributed greatly to TWS and his contributions were appreciated. TWS has advertised for a new Executive Director (ED). Until a full time ED is hired, the President Paul Krausman is Acting ED and Darryl Walter is Chief of Staff.

We are 10,500 members strong so far this year! This represents over 500 new members over last year. Not only are we increasing membership, we have also greatly increased services. This year, for the first time in over 10 years, TWS is requesting an increase in dues: \$10 increase in regular and family membership and \$5 increase in all other categories. TWS is doing a lot more and an increase in revenue will support outreach, publications, and other services that have increased in the last decade. Our dues are still one of the best deals around! TWS is also seeking external funding and has commitments of support from USDA Wildlife Services, National Park Service, Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management. TWS' Native American Professional Development Program has received pledges totaling \$37,000 from USGS, National Park Service, USFWS, USDA APHIS, and Forest Service this year, making this program possible.

The IV IWMC took place in Durban, South Africa in July. Around 400 delegates from 42 countries attended the Congress. News from the Congress that hit the press included stories on a proposal to sell rhino horns and saving tigers in China. The debate on rhino horn trade

sparked a lot of interest and is being covered on the new [news.wildlife.org](http://news.wildlife.org) site – join in!

The fall 2012 issue is out and commemorates the 75th anniversary of The Wildlife Society with articles documenting the history of TWS, its pioneers, its contributions to the literature on wildlife management and conservation, and its accomplishments in policy, international outreach, and student outreach. Celebrate the 75th Anniversary meeting in Portland this year at our annual conference (<http://wildlifesociety.org/>). Don't forget to support our publications by subscribing to them and making sure your institution subscribes to them – especially the Wildlife Society Bulletin!



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## IN MEMORIUM: MIKE HOBSON

Long-time Texas Chapter member Mike Hobson passed away on August 7, 2012. Mike was born in the South Texas community of Edinburg on July 12, 1948. He began his studies at Pan American College and later graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.S. in Wildlife Management in 1971. Mike married his high school sweetheart, Hamila, in 1970 and was happily married for over 42 years. Together they raised two successful sons, Michael Jr. and Joshua.

He began his career with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) as a summer intern for the Wildlife Division during the summers of 1968-9. In 1973, he was hired full-time as a Fish and Wildlife Technician on the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area. He later served as a Regulatory Biologist for Duval, Jim Hogg, Webb and Zapata counties. During this period he helped pioneer a new helicopter survey technique for the development of white-tailed deer harvest recommendations on private lands. Mike was placed in charge of the Division's experimental buck permit program in Webb County (1974-1978) that included oversight of 4 high-volume check stations. These stations produced some of the first age-weight data for South Texas buck harvests that was used to fine tune a deer harvest-habitat management system that remains in place today. Mike participated in numerous South Texas deer-capture operations for restocking depleted ranges in East Texas and neighboring Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Mike is well remembered by his South Texas comrades for his ability to nimbly scale great heights to the nests of Bald Eagles in order to band chicks and then rappel to the ground. In the late-1970s, Mike was placed on special assignment with the Canadian Fish and Wildlife Service to work in the Northwest Territories where he was part of team that banded over 96,000 Snow Geese in a 6-week period. In 1985-6, antlerless deer hunting on the 44,000 ac Tomas Ranch in Duval County was placed under Mike's supervision representing the Department's first large-scale lease of private lands for the promotion

of public hunting opportunity. In 1986, Mike was promoted to District Leader of the Trans-Pecos District. From 1989-1995, he also supervised the management of Black Gap and Sierra Diablo Wildlife Management Areas. Of special significance, Mike helped guide the first

Texas desert bighorn sheep hunt in 1988 following an 83 year hunting prohibition. He retired from TPWD in 2005 after 32 years of dedicated service. In 2009, Mike received the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's "Outstanding Achievement Award" and was recognized by the Desert Bighorn Council in 2011 with an Honor Plaque for his efforts in helping to restore desert bighorns in Texas.

Mike devoted his entire career to the restoration, conservation and management of the natural resources of Texas and mentored hundreds of us while in the process. He was a highly dedicated professional with a proven track record in applying wildlife conservation principals where it mattered most, on the

ground. He consistently demonstrated initiative and commitment throughout his career and practiced a work ethic that is unmatched by most others in the profession. A friend summed it up best, "Mike was old-cut. He always led by example and expected no less of his staff than of himself. No job was too low, too dirty, or too toilsome for him to pitch in shoulder-to-shoulder with his troops." He earned the respect of his fellow employees, wildlife professionals, academia, conservation organizations, and landowners throughout Texas as well as a number of other states. Mike's dedication to the resource along with his persistence in doing the job right is what set him apart from most others in the profession. More important was the value he placed on God, family, country and friends. While many spend their career building a resume, Mike spent his building a legacy that is reflected on the landscape and within those of us left behind to continue making a difference using the skills and qualities he passed on to us. The path leading to the easy way out is crowded and the line long. Rest assured, Mike Hobson is on the other trail and is first in line. Well done Mike.



*Article by Clay E. Brewer*

### **Squirrels of the World**

2012. Thorington, Jr., R.W., J.L. Koprowski, M.A. Steele, and J.F. Whatton. *Squirrels of the World*. The Johns Hopkins University Press. Baltimore, MD. 458 pp. ISBN 978-1-4214-0469-1

*Squirrels of the World* provides the reader with a comprehensive overview of 285 species of squirrels recognized by the authors. The book begins with a short overview of the taxonomy, paleontology, anatomy, ecology, behavior and conservation of the family Sciuridae, followed by species descriptions of all squirrels within each of the five subfamilies Ratuinae, Siurillinae, Sciurinae, Callosciurinae, and Xerinae. Each species account includes the scientific and common names, name of the individual who described the species and description date, and a brief description of the species, its morphological measurements, overall distribution, and preferred habitats. The authors include a brief summary of the conservation status (IUCN status) and natural history of each species. Geographic variation within the species is addressed through a description of each recognized subspecies including its defining characteristics and geographic range. At the end of each species account is a general reference section that includes brief citations of references used to describe the species, with the full citations of all references being found in the extensive bibliographic section at the end of the book. The text includes excellent photographs of 231 of the species described. Photos of skulls of most of the genera are provided in an appendix. As a comprehensive guide, the book is quite informative, easy to use, beautifully designed, and an excellent resource for anyone interested in this family of mammals.

Reviewed by: Selma Glasscock, Ph.D.

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

# MEMBERSHIP EXPERTISE SURVEY

The Membership Committee requests your participation in the expertise survey aimed at gathering member's areas of expertise

The Membership expertise survey was designed to gather information about TCTWS members' areas of expertise and help our Executive Director, Dr. Doug Slack, form a stance as a chapter for certain legislation that affects wildlife conservation in the state of Texas. Your survey results will be retained in a data file and only viewed internally by the TCTWS President, Executive Director, Information Technology Chair and Membership Chair. Student and professional members are strongly encouraged to participate in this survey.

Current members will receive a TCTWS cup and can koozie as a gift for completing this survey. These can be picked up at the Membership Committee booth during the annual meeting in Houston.

If for some reason you do not receive the survey link via email, please contact me at [grigsby33@aol.com](mailto:grigsby33@aol.com) .

Thank you!

Nathan Grigsby  
Membership Committee Chair



# SOLICITATION FOR QUIZ BOWL QUESTIONS

Wildlife professionals – we need your help!!! The Student Activities Committee is soliciting new questions for the Texas Quiz Bowl. We would like your help in developing fresh questions that you think wildlife students should be able to answer before graduating. Think about it this way – if we use your question, ambitious quiz bowl teams will likely write it down and review that question for the next several decades. At least, that is what we have seen! So, help us improve the quality of this event by emailing your fresh ideas and questions to Annaliese Scoggin at [annaliesescoggin@hotmail.com](mailto:annaliesescoggin@hotmail.com).

We suggest some basic guidelines:

- 1) No multiple choice or true/false questions
- 2) Fact check your questions
- 3) Include a variety of questions ranging from basic biology, to history and laws, to field techniques! We especially would like questions on activities that biologists in the field deal with on a regular basis.

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

### EXCELLENCE IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AWARDS CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

#### EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD:

The Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee is soliciting nominations 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: Ben Koerth, Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, Box 6109, Nacogdoches, TX 75962, or [bkoerth@sfasu.edu](mailto:bkoerth@sfasu.edu). The deadline for nominations is 31 October 2012.

#### LAND STEWARDSHIP AWARD:

The Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee is soliciting nominations 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: Ben Koerth, Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, Box 6109, Nacogdoches, TX 75962, or [bkoerth@sfasu.edu](mailto:bkoerth@sfasu.edu). The deadline for nominations is 31 October 2012.

#### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

The Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee is soliciting nominations 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: Ben Koerth, Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, Box 6109, Nacogdoches, TX 75962, or [bkoerth@sfasu.edu](mailto:bkoerth@sfasu.edu). The deadline for nominations is 31 October 2012.

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### PUBLICATION AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

This is the first call for nominations of exceptional publications that include a Texas Chapter, TWS member as one of the top three authors and were (or will be) published within the last 3 years. Categories include:

- Books (published 2009 - 2012)
- Peer-reviewed Journal Articles (2009 - 2012)
- Technical Publications and Bulletins (2009 - 2012)
- Electronic Media (i.e. websites, CD's, and DVDs)
- Popular articles or other publications (2009 - 2012)

The deadline for submission is 15 November 2012. To nominate a publication, please submit 5 copies to the Publications Committee Chair: Clint Boal, Texas Tech University, 218 Agriculture Science, MS 2120, Lubbock, TX 79409-2120; email: [clint.boal@ttu.edu](mailto:clint.boal@ttu.edu); tel 806-742-2851.

## 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 2013 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:

Carl Fentress

[carl.fentress@suddenlink.net](mailto:carl.fentress@suddenlink.net)

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR THE 49TH ANNUAL MEETING OF TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

### PRESENTED PAPER AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Abstracts are now being accepted for the technical paper and poster presentation sessions at the 2013 Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society meeting at the Doubletree by Hilton—Houston Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas. 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. The theme for this year's meeting is **"Wildlife at the Edge: Managing at the Urban-Wildland Interface"**. The plenary session will feature researchers and managers in this area that is becoming increasingly important in Texas and elsewhere.

In addition to the Plenary session, the meeting will offer numerous technical paper sessions and a poster presentation session for students (undergraduate or graduate) and wildlife professionals, and the Clarence Cottam award presentations and competition for graduate students. There will be a special session about landscape-scale conservation efforts through the new landscape conservation cooperatives and climate science centers. Best poster presentation awards will be presented for undergraduate and graduate students as in previous years.

Abstracts should be submitted via the abstract submission website at <http://tctws.tamu.edu/>.

**Deadline for receipt of abstracts is 30 November 2012.**

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. For poster presentations, please also check the appropriate box indicating whether you would like to be included in the judging for the best poster presentation awards. Any questions pertaining to abstract submission should be directed to the Program Chair: Chris Comer, Stephen F. Austin State University, Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, PO Box 6109, SFA Station, Nacogdoches, Texas 75962.  
E-mail: [comerce@sfasu.edu](mailto:comerce@sfasu.edu).

Contributed papers will be scheduled at 15-minute intervals to include time (2-3 minutes) for questions and comments. All presenters will be notified of the day, time, and location of their presentations, and provided with 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 for the Cottam award 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/>.

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR THE 49TH 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

### 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 2012. 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 Corey Mason at [Corey.Mason@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:Corey.Mason@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

### 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 2013.

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 2012; postmarks are not accepted. Mail applications to Bill Johnson at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Box 60906 WTAMU, Canyon, TX 79016; pdfs of applications (preferred) can be e-mailed to [bill\\_johnson@fws.gov](mailto:bill_johnson@fws.gov). 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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## CHAPTER BUSINESS

### ANNUAL MEETING STUDENT ACTIVITIES HOUSTON, TX 2013

**Student Poster Competition:** The Student Poster Competition recognizes the best research by both graduate and undergraduate students. The competition recognizes outstanding studies with results, but students just getting started are encouraged to present preliminary posters as part of the poster program to get feedback from wildlife professionals. 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 newsletter 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? Don't miss the announcement of the top Texas Student Chapter at the banquet Friday evening. Applications should be made on the same application form used by the parent organization (<http://wildlife.org/who-we-are/awards/chapter-and-student-chapter-of-the-year>) and based on activities for the calendar year. Applications must be submitted to committee co-chair Jim Mueller, [jim\\_mueller@fws.gov](mailto:jim_mueller@fws.gov) by December 31, 2012.

**Wildlife Quiz Bowl:** A meeting highlight! Student chapter teams practice throughout the year for the annual Texas Chapter quiz bowl. Last year Tarleton State University won the competition in Fort Worth. 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? 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. Student chapters should make plans for determining their outstanding member at the end of the fall semester so we can recognize him or her 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.

**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.

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, 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: Jim Mueller, [jim\\_mueller@fws.gov](mailto:jim_mueller@fws.gov); or Annaliese Scoggin, [annaliesescoggin@hotmail.com](mailto:annaliesescoggin@hotmail.com).

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

# PHOTO, ART, AND VIDEO CONTEST CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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### **Call for Photos:**

The Photo, Art and Video Contest will occur during the 49th Annual Meeting in Houston on February 20-23, 2013. Please see below for contest rules on submitting your photograph, video or art piece.

#### *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"), unmounted, 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.

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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, 2012 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.

Videos entries may be mailed to:

Attn: Andrew Bennett  
Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture  
Box 6109 SFA Station  
Nacogdoches, TX 75962

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: Andrew Bennett, [abennett409@gmail.com](mailto:abennett409@gmail.com)

## CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

### TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT



The highlights for our chapter include events for career development, fundraising, and community outreach. The Annual Shootout Competition is the chapter's major fundraising event. It consists of a sporting clay shooting competition and wild game dinner. Members collect funds for a chance to compete in teams and win a cash prize by shooting the most clay pigeons. After the competition the members, faculty, alumni, and other supporters treat themselves to a wild game dinner of axis deer and red sheep with side dishes prepared by the members. Each year the chapter also takes part in a Career Development Event in which high school agriculture students are tested on their knowledge of wildlife techniques, plant identification, and hunting safety. The chapter creates questions to test the high school students on their ability to identify wildlife species based on their skins, tracks, and skulls. The members also create questions to challenge them in properly carrying out wildlife management techniques. The Texas State Chapter of The Wildlife Society

believes it is important for the organization to have an active role in the community and aid in the education of children. In support of this, members helped the Bastrop-Caldwell County Wildlife Association with their Annual Wildlife Extravaganza by handing out programs, serving food, and running the archery station. At this outdoor skill station chapter members taught the children at the Wildlife Extravaganza how to properly shoot a compound bow.

This fall the chapter attended two science expo events at local public schools. At Hernandez Elementary School the chapter set up a booth with skins, skulls, and live specimens. The children were allowed to touch Milkshake the Mexican Milk Snake while members provided them with natural history information. At a local high school members introduced the history and idea of wildlife management while providing natural history information on the specimens. The student chapter takes pride in being able to provide members with scholarship opportunities, field experience, and various volunteer opportunities.



## CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

**“There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot.” - Aldo Leopold**  
**Featuring a group of individuals who cannot; The TSU Student Wildlife Society**

Tarleton State University's Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society was established in 1999 and is growing stronger and larger each year. The TSU Student Chapter takes much pride in devoting time and promoting environmental education through their Quiz Bowl program. This year the hard work prevailed when TSU's Quiz Bowl team took home the trophy from the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's annual meeting in Fort Worth after months of preparation.



**2012 Texas Quiz Bowl Team posing with a hard earned trophy**



**A handful of volunteers from Tarleton Outdoors**

Perhaps TSU's biggest effort in educational outreach is the chapter's annual Tarleton Outdoors (T.O.) event. This event invites the youth of Erath and surrounding counties to spend a day outside learning about their environment and offers them the opportunity to fill their stringer with catfish from the local Bosque River. The Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society solely organizes and hosts this daylong event that averages 700 people each spring. Many organizations and people contribute with hands on learning booths at the event such as Texas Parks and Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, local biologists, and countless others.

TSU's Student Chapter is also proud to be a part of the learning process at local schools for natural resources and wildlife classes. Members often educate high school students about tools and knowledge to be utilized in the field. Another project TSU Student Chapter members contribute to is the Texas Stream Team. Student members are certified to test water quality and are then assigned stations to monitor along the Bosque River through Bosque River Coalition efforts.



**Stream Team outreach program**

TSU Student Chapter members pride themselves in volunteering hundreds of hours serving the local community each year. They are actively helping local ranches with deer surveys, the Boy Scouts program, the Adopt a Highway trash clean-up program, and hosting numerous workshops involving telemetry practices and other useful hands on techniques. When looking for members of the TSU Wildlife Society on opening days of deer season, you may not find them in a tree stand or ground blind but rather at local processing facilities helping TPWD employees measure for special antler restrictions and check whitetails for ecto parasites such as ticks. The society also offers their members trips to local WMAs to learn about management techniques and opportunities to get involved.

Without a doubt, The Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society at Tarleton State University is home to students who express their passion by advocating the pleasures of wildlife related activities in their community and into the hearts of outdoor lovers across the state.



**Gearing up for a highway trash clean up**

# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## CANDIDATES FOR 2013 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:**

Roel Lopez

Jena Moon

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

Johnny Arredondo

Jennifer Korn

### **Secretary Nominees:**

Meredith Longoria

Richard Heilbrun

# 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  
Certified Wildlife Biologist, 2003-present

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

Interim Director, Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources and Texas Water Resources Institute, 2012-present  
Associate Director, Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources, 2009-2012  
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:***

Chair, Program Committee, 2012  
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  
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 The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TCTWS) 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, TCTWS 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 TCTWS 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.

# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## JENA MOON, VICE PRESIDENT 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 Activities:***

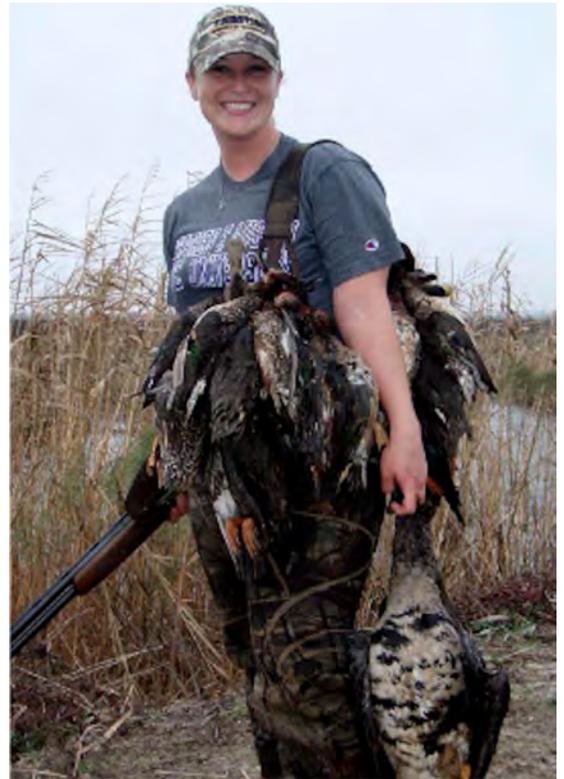
Board-Member-at-Large 2012  
Chair, Public Outreach Committee, 2012  
Co-chair, Local Arrangements, 2012  
Chair, Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee 2011-2012  
Chair, Membership Committee 2010  
Chair, Finance Committee 2009  
Member, Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee 2004  
Member, 2000-present

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

What an exciting time to be a member of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society! I am excited to continue working with the Chapter during such a time of transition and change within both our profession and our outstanding group of members. 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 our field, in addition to current stakeholders; including the general public, private landowners, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations is paramount.

I am humbled and honored to be nominated for the Vice President position within the Chapter. If selected, I will dedicate my time in office to improving communication, providing leadership opportunities, and providing training opportunities 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 also will keep working with others in our organization to keep the Texas Chapter at the heart of progression for our field through work with leadership institutes and other developmental opportunities for our membership. And finally, 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

## JOHNNY ARREDONDO, BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE NOMINEE

### *Education:*

BS Range and Wildlife Management, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, 2003

### *Current and Past Professional Position:*

Regulatory Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 2006-Present

Research Technician, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, 2003-2006

Student Research Technician, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, 2002-2003

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

Session moderator, Annual Meeting, 2008-Present

Member, Program Committee, 2008

Member, 2003-Present



### *Vision Statement:*

As a wildlife professional, I feel it is my obligation to do my part to help manage the natural resource in this great state of Texas. Over the years of my professional career, I've had the opportunity to meet and work with wildlife professionals, stewards of the land, educators, students and other outdoor enthusiasts. During that time I got to see and understand the different views and perspectives others may have on the natural resource. Whether its flora or fauna, game or non-game, threatened or endangered species, I get a great satisfaction at seeing how much passion other people have for managing the natural resource. It is not just one or two individuals managing the resource, it's a group effort and the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society plays a big role in getting this done. The chapter brings all kinds of people together with one goal in mind: to provide an opportunity for all wildlife professionals to come together to network, exchange knowledge and ideas, for the greater good of the resource. In addition, the Chapter keeps the members updated on current research and provides sound scientific information on wildlife ecology and management which is essential to continue the management of the state's wildlife populations. We are all wildlife managers and stewards of the land, so we need to do our part in help manage the natural resource in Texas. Therefore, I am honored to be nominated for the 2012-2013 term as Board Member at-Large for the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society. If selected, I will continue the job responsibilities of past officers to help facilitate the organization and implementation of the annual meeting, and provide information to the members of the Chapter and others that are interested in wildlife management. I look forward to serve as your officer and work with members of the Chapter to ensure the passion of managing the natural resource that we share is past onto the next generation.

# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## JENNIFER KORN, BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE NOMINEE

### *Education:*

BS Biology/Anthropology, University of Texas at Arlington, 2003  
MS Wildlife Ecology, Texas State University, 2008  
PhD Wildlife Science, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, 2013

### *Current and Past Professional Positions:*

PhD Candidate, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, current  
Graduate Research Assistant, Texas A&M University-Kingsville 2008-present  
Environmental Consultant, Loomis Austin, Inc., and Plateau Land and Development, 2008  
Certified Wildland Firefighter/Fire researcher, Texas Forest Service, 2006-2008  
Graduate teaching assistant, Texas State University, 2006-2008

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

Editor, Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Newsletter, 2011, 2012  
Chair, Student Activities Committee, 2010  
Session moderator, Annual Meeting, 2010-2012  
Chair, Photo, Art and Video Contest Committee, 2009  
Member, Finance Committee, 2008  
Member, 2006-present

### *Vision Statement:*

I have only been a member of The Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society for five years, but what an exciting five years it has been. Just a couple short years after joining I was already serving on a committee, and then followed that by serving as Chair to two separate committees after that. The past two years I have been honored to be the Chapter's newsletter editor, a challenging role to say the least. I take great pride in my service to the Texas Chapter and I know that this is a special organization to have such opportunities for students. The Texas Chapter is one of the largest state chapters affiliated with The Wildlife Society and its members are made up many great professionals, landowners, graduate students and undergraduate students. If elected to Board Member-at-Large I would continue to promote student involvement within the Chapter. Both undergraduate and graduate students are integral to serving and chairing committees, as well as organizing and implementing the Annual Meeting, and of course, as oral and poster presenters. Texas is blessed with such an abundance of amazing natural resources and we already have some of the world's best wildlife biologists, ecologists and managers. But we certainly cannot forget that the next batch of wildlife managers, myself included, are the students. Sometimes there is a disconnect between academia and wildlife managers and landowners and one of the best ways to bridge that gap are to educate our new wildlife biologists while they are still students. Many of the natural resources in Texas are sensitive and having the skills to work with landowners on those resources is something we need from academia to wildlife managers and biologists/ecologists. The Texas Chapter plays a part in all of this by bringing people from all of these areas together in their membership and at the Annual Meeting where the dissemination of new and ongoing research and management further cements this interlocking of roles.



# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## MEREDITH LONGORIA, SECRETARY NOMINEE

### ***Education:***

MS Wildlife Ecology, Texas State University, 2004

BS Biology, Southwest Texas State University, 1994

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

Natural Resources Specialist III/Private Lands Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife, 2005-present

Life Science and Marine Biology Teacher, Kealing Junior High Magnet School, 1998-2002.

Receptionist & Veterinary Technician, AM/PM Animal Hospital, 1996-1998

Research Assistant, U.T. M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Science Park, 1994-1996

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

Co-Chair, Photo, Art and Video Contest Committee, 2011

Session Moderator, Annual Meeting, 2009-2010

Member, 2003-present



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

The Wildlife Society has always represented one of the best sources of scientifically-sound, cutting-edge wildlife management research and knowledge and I am proud to serve as a member in any capacity. I have always been in awe of the vast amount of knowledge surrounding me each time I attend an Annual Meeting. It is inspiring to get to listen to the some of the Great Pioneers in the field of Wildlife Management and Natural Resource Management, including Jack Ward Thomas and Jim Tier among others, discuss the changes that have occurred in our profession over time and the challenges that they faced along the way as well as those that we face today. I am equally in awe of the great amount of enthusiasm exhibited by the students and young professionals that attend the meetings in great number, and who are ready to face those challenges head-on. It is essential that we continue to foster that relationship between the pioneers and the eager students in our professional organization, as that will be the key for success and growth, and will allow us to more efficiently overcome those challenges that we face in our profession. Experience and enthusiasm work well together. It has become more apparent to me each year how essential it is in our profession to work together in teams, reaching across agencies and specific interest groups – to mix our game and non-game professionals, landowners and natural resource professionals, students and experienced professionals, combining rural and urban groups, and to expand our outreach scope to encompass those groups who have historically been underrepresented within our field. Natural resources are a precious asset to us all, and we have to first get that message out there to those that manage the land and control the resources, and secondly and just as important, reach those furthest detached from our natural world who make decisions that affect those natural resources and the way that we manage them. It was an honor to be asked to serve as a moderator several years ago, and I was further humbled when asked to serve on a Committee, and finally the greatest honor yet has been to be nominated to serve as Secretary of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. I am grateful just to be surrounded by such great people who provide a wealth of information from which I can grow, and I hope to be able to provide opportunities for others to do the same.

# OFFICER NOMINATIONS

## RICHARD HEILBRUN, SECRETARY NOMINEE

### ***Education:***

BS Wildlife & Fisheries Science, Texas A&M University, 1998  
MS Wildlife & Fisheries Science, Texas A&M University, 2002  
Certified Wildlife Biologist, 2009-present

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

Conservation Outreach Program Coordinator, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 2011-present  
Urban Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 2004-2011  
District Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 2002-2004  
Fellow, Rob & Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation, 1999-2002  
Technician, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, 1999  
Intern, Welder Wildlife Foundation, 1999

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

Chair, Clarence Cottam Award Committee, 2012  
Board-Member-At-Large, 2009  
Chair or Co-chair, Conservation Camp Committee, 2005-2007  
Instructor, Conservation Camp, 1999-present  
Chair, Student Activities Committee, 2006  
Chair, Photo, Art, and Video Contest Committee, 2005  
Chair, Scholarship Committee, 2004  
Member, 1999-present

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

I am proud of the Texas Chapter. I am proud that we've been around nearly 50 years. I am proud to be a member of an organization whose values so closely mirror my own, and I'm proud to work with a group of colleagues that I respect and value as professionals and as friends. I'm pleased with our accomplishments in the field, in the classroom, in the literature, and on the landscape. I hope we continue, as an organization, to make headway in measurable conservation, and I also envision that we, as an organization can begin to expand our reach into other spheres of influence. In broadening our approach into the public sector with purposeful partnerships, the Chapter can increase the profile of our work, secure better standing in the legislature, and diversify our audience and constituents. As secretary, I will work with the Board to grow our "customer base" in all the various sectors throughout Texas, including ones that we as biologists don't typically venture into. I want to help the Texas Chapter ensure that we stay relevant to the people that benefit from healthy habitats, and that we can continue our conservation work well into the next 50 years.



## OFFICER NOMINATIONS

ROEL LOPEZ, VICE PRESIDENT NOMINEE CONTINUED...

I would explore the integration of technology for offering members “virtual” opportunities of engagement (e.g., recordings of meeting sessions, webinars, etc.). Finally, TCTWS should expand natural resource education with the general public and key stakeholders. As Vice President, I will strive to expand external partnerships with key organizations like the Texas Wildlife Association, and expanded support of our 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 of TCTWS, and thank you in advance for your support.

TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY  
ANNUAL MEETING 2013  
FEBRUARY 20-23  
DOUBLETREE HILTON DOWNTOWN  
HOUSTON



# UPCOMING MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



## WILDLIFE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Integrating Wildlife Science and Management

MARCH 2011 ISSN 0022-541X

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