



Photo by Trey Barron

## TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

WWW.TCTWS.ORG

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EDITOR, RACHEL A. LANGE

*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 (Rachel Lange, rlange@browngay.com) by the 15th of the preceding month. Change of e-mail address should be submitted online through the Address Change Form or directly to the Treasurer. 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



The annual meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a month away. As a member of the Texas Chapter or as a wildlife biologist in or near Texas, you need to attend this meeting. Why? Let me count the reasons:

- 1) Help the Texas Chapter complete its Jubilee Celebration of 50 years of excellence in wildlife conservation;
- 2) Interact with colleagues and meet new people at the President's reception, at the TWA and Women of the Land reception, in the hallways, or over a refreshing beverage;
- 3) Learn about wildlife management and ecology of wildlife in Texas;
- 4) Compete in or watch the Wildlife Quiz bowl, Range Plant ID contest, Photo contest, Poster contest, or Cottam presentation;
- 5) Develop professionally by expanding your professional contacts and becoming active in the Texas Chapter;
- 6) Expand your wildlife biology toolkit by attending one of the pre-conference workshops, either the tried and true Tracking Workshop or the brand-new Tools and Technology Workshop which features the latest and greatest wildlife applications;
- 7) Learn about wildlife biology and management in Mexico, and interact with biologists studying the diverse species and habitats of northern Mexico;
- 8) See the fruits of the first cohort of the James G. Teer Conservation Leadership Institute and learn about opportunities to participate in this exclusive program;
- 9) Become a member of the Texas Chapter; conference registration comes with a Chapter membership;
- 10) Share your observations, experiences, and research results with others by giving either a poster or oral presentation;
- 11) Enjoy a pleasant weekend along the Gulf Coast and take time to experience the wildlife and vegetation in this unique region of the state;
- 12) And help raise money for the Texas Chapter.

This last reason seems at odds with the other 11. Instead of a direct benefit to you, this twelfth reason appears to benefit only the Texas Chapter. But appearances can be

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

misleading. You see, the stronger the financial position of the Texas Chapter, the more it can do for the wildlife profession and, therefore, the more it can do for you. The Texas Chapter meeting and the associated fund-raising events generate the money the Chapter needs to function all year long. Those funds enable the Chapter to fulfill scholarship commitments, offset the cost of students attending the annual meeting, support the Chapter's annual Wildlife Conservation Camp, provide financial backing for wildlife events and meetings that support the Chapter's goals, and perhaps most significantly, enable the Chapter to effectively represent the members' interests through activities of the Executive Director.

If you have not yet committed to attending the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife's Society annual meeting in Corpus Christi February 18-21, please do so. Any one of the 12 reasons listed above could justify your attendance. And when you are at the meeting, remember reason number 12 and selfishly bid on auction items and purchase tickets for the raffle. The money you spend will flow back to you all year long through benefits derived from the Texas Chapter.

*David Hewitt, President*



# THOUGHTS FROM THE WILD

## DON STEINBACH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR-TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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Your Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society is a leading conservation organization, respected by many of the state and national conservation organizations. This respect for leadership in many of the conservation issues in Texas is due to the excellent profile that our past Texas Chapter Executive Directors have given to our Chapter. Our recent successes in bringing our area of science to the resolutions of these critical conservation issues was keenly articulated by our past Executive Director, Dr. Doug Slack. His untiring patience to stay and testify before several of the House of Representatives committees until way after midnight and his presence at each of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meetings did not go unnoticed by these public servants.

Your leadership team of officers and committee chairs have made a commitment to maintain this high profile of credibility for the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society in addressing the many conservation issues in Texas. Take a moment and review the many resolutions and position statements that the Chapter has adopted. They are listed on our website under the About tab, and as you will notice, several of the most recent address some very critical issues that are affecting wildlife management, hunting, and the North American Model. In order to address these wide array of concerns we will need your expertise to utilize the latest and best science in resolving these issues. The current chair of the newly formed Conservation Affairs Committee, Justin Dreibelbis, has worked with the officers and Executive Director to formulate a plan to help the Texas Chapter accomplish this goal.

### **TCTWS Conservation Affairs Committee**

For many years the Texas Chapter had a Conservation Review Committee and a Resolutions Committee. Conservation Review would identify natural resource topics of concern to the chapter and the Resolutions Committee would formulate chapter policy on those issues when necessary. As the chapter evolved and the Executive Director became more active in the policy arena, it became apparent that the committees could function more effectively as one. Starting this year, the committees will be combined into one Conservation Affairs Committee to identify issues, formulate policy and identify members that have the expertise to provide important testimony during the law making process.

The Conservation Affairs Committee has recently become active and is preparing for a busy Texas legislative session. We plan to call upon TCTWS members in the near future so that their expertise can be used in an effort to make sure that the best scientific information available is used when crafting wildlife and natural resource policy.

# THOUGHTS FROM THE WILD

## **TWS Conservation Affairs Network**

The Wildlife Society (TWS) has actively tracked wildlife legislation since the early 1970's and hired its first Policy Director in 1991, laying the groundwork for what is now called the Government Affairs & Partnership program. This program is designed to engage TWS members and ensure that their expertise is utilized when laws and regulations are being crafted. Recently, TWS has made a major push to build a network of Conservation Affairs Committees from around the country so that information on hot issues can be quickly communicated back and forth. This quick communication should make TWS and all of the state chapters much more effective in dealing with natural resource policy issues. To accomplish these goals we will be attempting to build a data base of committee members to address these policy issues.



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Justin Deibelbis,  
Conservation Affairs Committee Chair  
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## SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION

### Keep Texas Wildlife Wild! *Our Fight to Save Hunting as We Know It* by Jenny Sanders

We have all heard the stories. The so-called “hunter” picks out a deer on the Internet to kill for its prized antlers. The “hunter” flies in on his corporate jet to a Texas ranch, hops in a jeep and drives up to a genetically engineered trophy buck, released from captivity as little as 10 days prior. The “hunter” shoots the deer, loads up the antlers, gives the meat to whoever will take it and gets back on his plane so he is home in time for dinner.

With over 4 million WILD deer in Texas, how can we justify these extreme factory farming and put-and-take shooting practices? Hunters and Texans agree, THIS is not hunting.

Wildlife conservation and management takes on many forms in Texas, and the vast majority of the 250,000 private landowners that creatively steward our state’s wildlife resources are to be commended. Rural Texas is fueled by wildlife and hunting enterprises that serve as the economic engine that sustains many private landowners and keeps them on the land. While wildlife, by law, are resources held in public trust, Texas landowners are able to benefit economically from hunting on their land, which effectively off-sets the investments they make daily to manage habits and conserve the environment. Texas leads the nation in balancing the idea of private stewardship of this publicly owned resource (white-tailed deer) with individual financial gains that support conservation, rural economies and individuals.

In contrast to the idea of wildlife stewardship, deer breeding in Texas is a cottage industry backed by big dollars and focused almost exclusively on antler size. There are fewer than 1,300 deer breeders in the state, a drop in the bucket compared to the almost 1 million hunters and more than 250,000 landowners and stewards of our state’s wildlife and open spaces. The genesis of this industry was legitimate enough—a tool to supplement genetics for long-term population enhancement. However, in recent years the industry has shifted much of its focus to supplying the increasing demand for “shooter bucks” and a guaranteed kill as described above.



*These deer were harvested during traditional fair-chase hunting. The buck was harvested from a site in South Texas; the doe was harvested in the Texas Panhandle.*



With the 84th Legislature commencing this January and deer breeders expected to file bills that will seek to further deregulate their industry. Texans for Saving Our Hunting Heritage is a group of concerned sportsmen and landowners formed to expose practices that we believe threaten the future of hunting:

**Cavalier use of drugs and no safety net to protect human health** – Extreme animal husbandry practices that are common in the deer breeding industry lend themselves to the use of a long list of pharmaceuticals. Very few of the commonly used drugs are labeled for white-tailed deer, and unlike the strict controls on pharmaceutical administration and withdrawal intervals in the livestock industry, there is

## SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION

no recognized authority that protects the consumer from potential drug residues in liberated breeder deer.

**The 10-Day Rule** – Current law allows for captive-raised deer to be “hunted” just 11 days after they are liberated from captivity. This poses threats to food safety because of unknown pharmaceutical withdrawal intervals in liberated breeder deer and promotes a perception of “canned hunting” that most hunters and most Texans cannot support.

### **Lack of Consumer Protection & Disclosure**

– There is currently no requirement for breeder deer to be clearly and visibly marked upon liberation into the wild. No form of disclosure is required to ensure that the hunter is aware he is hunting a pen-raised deer. Hunters deserve transparency regarding the origin and potential pharmaceutical history of the deer they harvest.

### **Lack of Enforced Habitat Requirements**

– Deer breeders have used political strong-arming to exempt themselves from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department “Stocking Policy,” allowing them to liberate captive-raised deer into any size “pasture,” regardless of habitat availability.

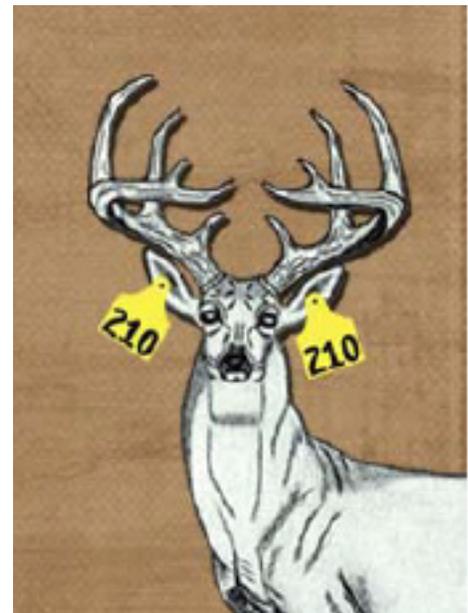
Hunting is part of the fabric of Texas. It is about camaraderie, family values, conservation and tradition. Texans for Saving our Hunting Heritage calls on Texans and

Texas hunters to unite in opposition to these practices that threaten the perception and future of our sport. Please join us as we, “Hunt Real. Hunt Wild. Hunt Texas Proud.”

*Jenny Sanders is the executive director of Texans for Saving Our Hunting Heritage. For more information, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/texanshuntingheritage>.*

For another resource on this controversial topic, see Greg Simons’ presentation “Whitetail Tipping Point: A Cultural and Political Debate Over Keeping Wildlife Wild.” Greg is founder of Wildlife Systems, Inc.

The presentation can be accessed via <http://tctws.org/presentations/>



# STUDENT CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

## Sul Ross State University – Range & Wildlife Club

The SRSU Range & Wildlife Club was established in 1985 as an official student chapter of The Wildlife Society. The mission of the club is to promote camaraderie among students with a common interest; develop professionalism and leadership to its members; provide opportunities for professional development and growth; foster a spirit of community service; promote educational experiences for the members; and encourage the highest standards of scholastic achievement. Through this mission, hard work, and dedication of the members, the club has been recognized numerous times for its involvement and promotion of natural resource management related projects and events. In 2007, the SRSU R&W Club earned TWS' Student Chapter of the Year Award.

As in reality, the 3 things that make the SRSU R&W Club so great to be a part of are location; location; and location. The club is a part of the Natural Resource Management Department at SRSU. For those of you unaware of this hidden jewel, the campus is located in Alpine at the heart of the Big Bend region of Texas. It is surrounded by Chihuahuan Desert and mountains as far as the eye can see. Small class room sizes, vast tracts of private and public land, outstanding educators, and endless hands-on experience opportunities make this university and NRM program a phenomenal place to be.

The SRSU R&W Club has around 30 members consisting of both graduate and undergraduate students from multiple departments across campus. This diversity and combination of education and experiences allows the club to extend its goals and be involved with numerous activities. The variety of graduate research projects offered through the Borderlands Research Institute (located within the SRSU NRM Dept.) opens many doors to the club. Members tend to be the first informed on research opportunities and many become research technicians for the projects. Just in the last year, the R&W Club has been involved with: helping restore pronghorn and desert bighorn to the Trans-Pecos; conducting habitat restoration through prescribed burns and brush control; modifying fences for wildlife; and building wildlife-friendly guzzlers, to name a few. Further cooperation with the graduate students and BRI has allowed club members involvement with multiple quail species, all the big game animals of Texas, nongame animals such as black bear and mountain lions, small mammals, herps, waterfowl, and access to properties throughout the Chihuahuan Desert.



The SRSU R&W Club is what it is because of its location, its continued opportunities for hands-on experience, its access to property, and its cooperation with professional organizations and agencies; but most importantly, its hard working and dedicated members. The fundamentals received in the classroom and in the field help members prepare for the future. Ample work/volunteer opportunities with agencies such as Texas Parks and Wildlife, Natural Resource Conservation Service, National Park Service, and USDA Wildlife Services while at SRSU provide professional networking skills and connections. The club is very proud of its accomplishments and honored to be a part of the Texas Chapter of TWS system.

# CHAPTER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Wildlife Conservation Camp, 2015

*Meg Streich, 2014 Camp Director*

We are pleased to announce that the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's (TCTWS) Wildlife Conservation Camp will be held **July 26—August 1, 2015** at the **Texas Tech University Center in Junction, TX**. We hope you will help spread the word about this great opportunity for our future conservationists!

The Wildlife Conservation Camp (WCC) is a week-long camp designed for high school students that have completed the 9th grade or higher. Students participate in a variety of hands-on, wildlife conservation activities led by wildlife professionals. These activities include, plant and wildlife identification, habitat assessment and management techniques, wildlife tracking, mist netting, small mammal trapping, shooting sports, hunter safety, aquatic sampling, kayaking and much more. Students will also learn about the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and begin to develop their own personal land and conservation ethics. The WCC has proven its effectiveness in reaching students with the message of wildlife conservation, and we are looking forward to another incredible Camp in 2015.

We encourage TCTWS members to reach out to those that might be interested in becoming involved as a camper or volunteer with the 2015 WCC. Applications for campers, returning campers, and college mentors, along with information about how you can volunteer, can be found at [www.wildlifecamp.tx.org](http://www.wildlifecamp.tx.org). You can also contact the **2015 Camp Director, Stephen Ross**, at [wildlifecampdirector@yahoo.com](mailto:wildlifecampdirector@yahoo.com) to learn more about the 2015 WCC. We hope you visit us at our WCC booth at the TCTWS meeting in February and hear our 2014 WCC Top Camper, Corban Hemphill, share his Camp experience with you at the meeting banquet.



## CHAPTER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM SOUTHWEST SECTION *Submitted by Carol Chambers, TWS Council Representative*

Happy holidays all!

**Conferences.** If you attended the Pittsburgh conference you were one of 1,552 participants that made this a successful event. Get your passports ready now the 2015 conference in Wininpeg, Manitoba, Canada (October 17-21). The call for proposals is out with deadline of February 6 for workshops, symposia, panel discussions, and special poster sessions (<http://wildlife.org/22nd-annual-conference-of-the-wildlife-society/>). There's another opportunity for international travel to the Fifth International Wildlife Management Congress (<http://iwmc2015.org/>) coming up July 26-30, 2015, in Sapporo, Japan. The theme of the IWMC2015 is "International Models of Wildlife Biology and Management: Beyond Cultural Differences." Both cities also have great wildlife-watching opportunities.

**Publications and communications.** Nancy Sasavage ([Nancy.Sasavage@wildlife.org](mailto:Nancy.Sasavage@wildlife.org)) joined TWS in October as the Director of Publications and Communications and Editor-in-Chief of The Wildlife Professional. She has extensive experience in developing and managing print and digital communications and served as editor of a monthly news magazine. Nancy has worked with hundreds of expert authors throughout her career and is excited to join her interest in wildlife with her scientific editorial expertise. Nancy has a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Michigan State University. Joshua Learn has is our new science writer. Josh has a M.S. in journalism and a B.A. in cultural anthropology, extensive writing experience in wildlife issues. Dana Kobilinsky, our new editorial intern has a bachelors in mass communication. She completed an internship with Defenders of Wildlife prior to joining TWS. Cassie Martin, our current science writer, is leaving TWS to work as a writer with Oceans at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



*TWS President Rick Baydack and members of the Japanese delegation discuss the 5th International Wildlife Management Congress (Sapporo Japan, 2015) at the 2014 Pittsburgh TWS Council meeting.*

## CHAPTER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The TWS website (<http://wildlife.org/>) has a new look and right now is featuring us! See the article on the Woman of Wildlife (WOW) SW Section event organized by SW Section President Leland Pierce (<http://wildlife.org/southwest-section-wows-us/>). For those interested in hearing the event, it was recorded and you can access it using the following information: Playback Number: 605/562-0029, Meeting ID: 634-775-555, Reference Number: 1. The call is 83 minutes long and features a Q&A session with the Director of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Alexandra Sandoval and a panel discussion from the authors of “Glass Ceilings and Institutional Biases: A closer look at barriers facing women in science and technical fields.”

The weekly eWildlifer, available to TWS members only, is now launched and replaces the Wildlifer and Wildlife Policy News. The eWildlifer includes links to previous week's stories, a Quiz Bowl question, announcements, and weekly wildlife photo you can save as desktop background. You'll also find previews and selected articles from The Wildlife Professional in the eWildlifer.

**Native American Working Group.** TWS worked with Michel Kohl and Serra Hoagland (AZ) of the Native People's Wildlife Management Working Group to support 10 Native American students at the Pittsburgh conference. Individuals selected for this program received grants to help cover registration fees, lodging, meals and transportation to attend and participate in the annual conference. Check out more activities at <http://wildlife.org/network/tws-local/working-groups/>.

**Government Affairs.** TWS Government Affairs staff released a new policy resource, the Policy Brief Series on the website. Six policy briefs are available for members to download and use to educate themselves and others on various federal policies related to wildlife. This resource and all other policy resources are available at [www.wildlife.org/policy](http://www.wildlife.org/policy).

**Membership.** Renew your membership now if you haven't already. We are at 9242 members, close to our highest point of 10,000+. Review membership benefits at <http://wildlife.org/membership-benefits/>. Strong membership supports the changes we want to make at state, section, and national levels. We are also continuing The 1,000 Campaign. Development efforts to date have raised \$56,240. We are considering restructuring Student Conclaves, expanding them from 5 to 8 beginning 2016 to align a conclave with each TWS Section. What are your thoughts on this?

**Social Media.** The TWS Facebook page currently has over 22,000 likes and is a great way to get news. You can join 256 others by liking us at The Wildlife Society Southwest Section Chapters Hub (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wildlife-Society-Southwest-Section-Chapters-Hub/205755042835210>). The TWS Women of Wildlife (WOW) Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/TWS-Women-of-Wildlife/234411723382592>) is now at 926 likes, up from 863 in December.

Remember that you are or could be one of the almost 10,000 members TWS national. Contact me at [Carol.Chambers@nau.edu](mailto:Carol.Chambers@nau.edu) or 928-523-0014 (office) with any comments or questions.



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## CHAPTER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ATTENTION MEMBERS, STUDENTS AND NON-MEMBERS!

Introducing the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Member/Non-member Survey and Raffle!

Often after being involved with in organization for any length of time our own experiences and prejudices shape how the organization is viewed. In an attempt to increase membership and progression of the TCTWS, it is important to evaluate the current, past, and present membership pools to gain invaluable data. The survey questions developed are centered on main topics such as information distribution, social interaction, membership assessment of the TCTWS, and professional designations.

Chapter members and non-members can access the survey, **before January 31, 2015** and quickly complete it with little effort at: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TCTWS\\_Membership\\_Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TCTWS_Membership_Survey)

Also, there will be a raffle (YETI ice chest) for those who take time to fill out this survey, so please include your name on the questionnaire so that you will be able to participate in this drawing. The drawing will take place at the TCTWS annual meeting in February. Thank you in advance!



# ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

Make plans to attend our Annual Meeting, in Corpus Christi! The host venues are the Omni Hotel and the American Bank Center. See you in February! Register today by visiting <http://tctws.org/annual-meeting/registration/>. The Omni Hotel may be reached at (361)887-1600.



# ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PROGRAM FOR THE 51ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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The theme of the Texas Chapter conference will be “The Next 50 Years of Wildlife Management - Challenges and Opportunities.” Mark February 19-21, 2015 in your calendar for a visit to the coast of southern Texas. The year-long Jubilee Celebration will end with the conclusion of our 51st annual conference.

The National Director of The Wildlife Society, Dr. Ken Williams, will travel from headquarters and serve as one of our key plenary speakers for the 51st meetings in Corpus Christi. We visited with Dr. Williams at the Pittsburgh conference of TWS and he conveyed his excitement about coming to our State.

Another Plenary Speaker is the honorable Dr. Roel Lopez. Dr. Lopez was the sole Texan who was invited to serve on the prestigious TWS Blue Ribbon Panel exploring “The Future of The Wildlife Profession - And Its Implications for Training the Next Generation of Wildlife Professionals.” This panel theme is an excellent match with our conference theme about the future. Dr. Lopez will give an exciting presentation based on the conclusions and publication that emerged from this panel discussion.

Unfortunately, the deadline for oral and poster abstracts has passed, and we are no longer accepting submissions. We had a great response for both oral and poster presentations, and look forward to a fertile cross-pollination of ideas.

Please join us for the 51st Annual Conference as we renew our dedication to and support of the Best State Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

*Nova Silvy and Michael Tewes  
Program Co-Chairs*



*Dr. Ken Williams (left)  
and Dr. Roel Lopez  
(right) will contribute  
to an exciting Plenary  
Session at our 51st  
Annual Meeting of  
TCTWS.*



# ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TCTWS Meeting 2015? We've got an App for that!



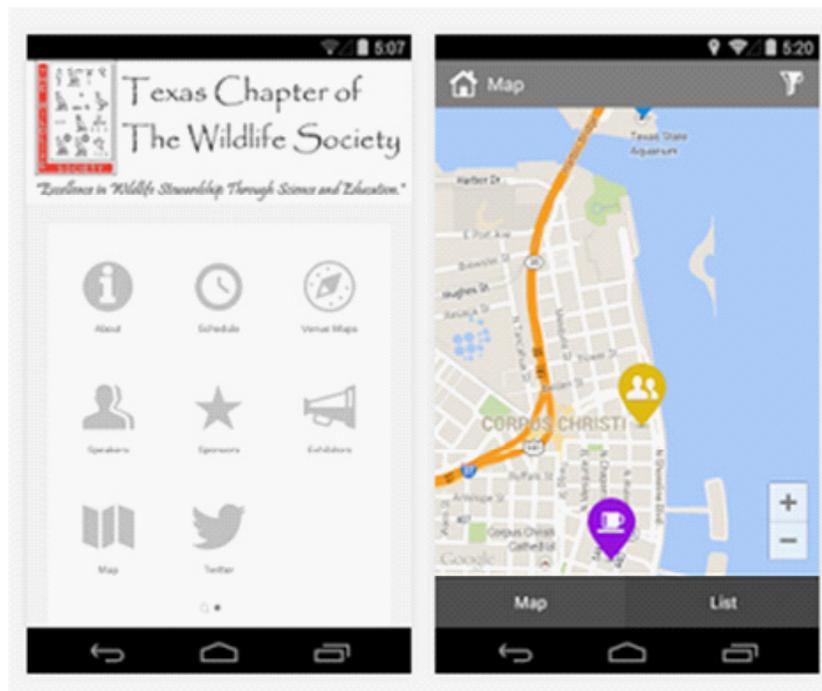
We will have a mobile app as an alternative to our traditional printed long program this year. Prefer no paper? Indicate your preference on this year's annual meeting registration form.

The mobile app (TCTWS Annual Meeting) is available for free on Android and Apple devices. You

can install the app at any time (though full functionality won't be available until the meeting details are confirmed). Once installed, meeting details will be updated real time to your device when you have an internet connection and once downloaded, content is available offline.

### Five reasons to choose the mobile app over the traditional paper long program:

1. Digital – Natural resource friendly choice, no wasted paper
2. Real time updates of schedule changes – updates when connected to internet, updates available offline
3. Customizable schedule with optional alarms – choose the presentations you want to hear & don't miss them
4. Integrated maps showing restaurants and attractions near our venue
5. It's on your phone – nothing extra to keep up with, schedule at your fingertips



# ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Student Poster Judges Needed!

Please consider serving as a Student Poster Judge at the upcoming TCTWS meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas. Professionals in wildlife ecology with a focus on research or project management experience are invited to serve as a judge for graduate and undergraduate posters.

Depending on the number of abstracts and volunteers, volunteer judges will be assigned approximately 5 to 7 posters to judge. The commitment involves reading assigned abstracts in advance and attendance at the Poster Session on Thursday, February 19. Judges will spend about 10 minutes speaking with each of their assigned presenters, and filling out score sheets. Score sheets will be submitted after the conclusion of judging.

Please contact Dr. Heather Mathewson if you are interested in helping out your professional society. In order to ensure that there are enough judges, please sign up by January 31. Contact Heather with any questions about this opportunity.

Heather A. Mathewson  
Tarleton State University  
mathewson@tarleton.edu  
(254) 968-1892



*First place winners for Undergraduate and Graduate Posters, awarded at the 2014 TCTWS 50th Annual Meeting*

# ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Workshop Opportunity

In association with the 2015 Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Meeting in Corpus Christi, we are pleased to announce a Techniques and Technologies Workshop will be offered for all wildlife professionals, students and faculty. The workshop will allow attendees the opportunity to view presentations and interact with vendors demonstrating the latest technological advances in wildlife research and management. Our goal is to foster creative ideas and developments we utilize in natural resource management and research and provide the platform for producers and users alike to discuss. The workshop will be held **February 18-19 immediately preceding the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Meeting** <http://tctws.org/annual-meeting/>. The Omni will serve as the host hotel for both the meeting and workshop and a block of rooms has been reserved. If you have questions or would like to attend, present information or purchase vendor space, please call 830-238-4483.

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## Southwest Section Meeting

The Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society will hold a section meeting concurrent with the TCTWS Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi. Make plans to attend, and familiarize yourself with other colleagues in our region, and the activities and services provided by the SWS.



# ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Photo, Art, and Video Contest Call for Submissions

The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society invites its members to submit entries for the Photo, Art, and Video Contest to take place in its 51st Annual Conference in Corpus Christi, TX on February 19-21, 2015.

### Photo and Art 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 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. Electronic copies may be submitted to Paula Pohler at [paula.pohler@dahughes.net](mailto:paula.pohler@dahughes.net).
- Art may include original drawings, paintings, carvings, sculpture, poetry, etc. All entries compete in one category.
- Contestants will be limited to **1 entry per photo category**. **Art submissions are limited to 5 entries per person**. To help defray the cost of awards, there will be an entry fee of **\$1.00 per item**.
- Winners will be 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. There will also be Best of Show and Judges Choice awards. If there are < 5 entries in a category, only 1st place will be awarded.

### Video Contest:

*(Video submission deadline has passed)*

# ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Quiz Bowl Updates

Howdy TCTWS Student Chapters,

The student activities committee is pleased to announce several updates the quiz-bowl competition that will provide a more enjoyable competition and enhance the participant's experience.

The contest has been slightly restructured into three distinct rounds with progressive levels of difficulty. The first set of matches will serve as qualifying rounds focusing on basic wildlife knowledge and field skills. Semi-final matches will consist of moderately difficult questions intended to test the team's ability to think critically and synthesize wildlife related knowledge and skills. The final round will be a stiff competition testing the breadth and depth of the final two teams' knowledge and skills.

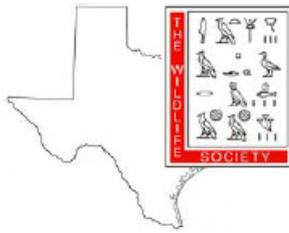
In order to accommodate these changes we are requiring teams to register at least two weeks prior to the competition. Teams, please notify the quiz bowl subcommittee that you will be participating at [TCTWS.QuizBowl@gmail.com](mailto:TCTWS.QuizBowl@gmail.com) no later than **February 5, 2015**.

Other than these changes, rules and regulations will follow those of last year's competition. We hope to have a team from each chapter and strongly encourage students to participate. We look forward to seeing you at this year's quiz bowl!

Good luck!



*2014 Quiz Bowl champions, with 2013-2014 TCTWS President Matt Wagner*



## Auction Gift Donation Form Texas Chapter, The Wildlife Society

Thank you for your support of the TCTWS annual auction to raise funds and support the Chapter's professional activities for wildlife conservation in Texas. For more information on the Texas Chapter's activities, please go to <http://www.tctws.org>. Please return this form by January 15, 2015 to have your company name included in the listing of donors printed in the conference program. Donated items may be shipped to Daniel Price, Committee Chair – TCTWS Finance Committee, 228 Fairview St, Rusk, Texas 75785, no later than January 15, 2015. Feel free to call Daniel Price at (903) 683-2473 if you have any questions.

Name:
Address:
City:

State:
Zip Code:
Phone:

Individual or Company to be listed as the donor in program:
Auction Item:
Description of Item:
Restrictions:
Expires:
Contact Number and Name:
Retail Value \$

Please check one of the following:

- Auction item is with this form.
- Auction item will be shipped to Texas Chapter on \_\_\_\_\_
- Auction item is gift certificate and Texas Chapter should create the gift certificate

CASH DONATION: (To support or underwrite an auction item in your name or company's name.)

Check Enclosed in the amount of: (Make check payable to Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society)

- \$100      |      \$500       \$1000
- \$2500      Other \_\_\_\_\_

If there is someone you know who would like to hear about or donate to our program, please pass this letter and auction sheet along, or include their information below.

Name:
Address:
Phone: