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TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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EDITOR, JOHN M. TOMECEK

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 (John Tomecek, tomecek@tamu.edu) 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



Greetings to all on a crisp, cool Fall morning. Many of us have been blessed with rain and cooler weather, providing some relief from unseasonably dry, warm Summer we experienced. For those of the membership that have had flooding, I hope that you and yours are safe and well.

As many of you know, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was detected in a captive white-tailed deer facility in Medina County this passed June. Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society has provided comment when requested by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and have continued to represent the membership within the position set down by the parent society. Given the great amount of interest spurred by this detection, the Texas Chapter board decided to shift the focus of the plenary session at this year's annual meeting to CWD in Texas white-tailed deer. To address this timely topic, a panel of plenary speakers from Texas and elsewhere will bring the latest information on the disease, its management, the Texas situation, and the position of various groups to the membership of the Texas Chapter. This diverse group will include Dr. Walt Cook—formerly the Wyoming State Veterinarian— of Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine, Mr. Clayton Wolf, Wildlife Division Director of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Dr. Michael Miller, State Veterinarian of Colorado, Dr. Dan McBride of the Burnet Veterinary Clinic, and Mr. Tom Vandiver, private landowner. We strongly encourage all to attend, and take careful note of these talks.

The Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society is changing. For years, we have steadily grown in size. Just as we have done before, we must begin to look at our annual meeting in a different light. Our goal has always been to make sure as many of the membership are included in events as possible. Texas Chapter has never cultivated an atmosphere of division, but equality. To the end, we will be attempting a new format for the awards ceremony and banquet. A non-catered awards ceremony will be held on Friday, allowing for all to attend. This will be immediately followed by the banquet. Friday's banquet will be in a more relaxed style, like that of the Thursday mixer. We hope that this change will allow greater inclusion of membership in the

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

awards ceremony, which honors the achievements of our friends and colleagues over the past year.

As we continue onward to the end of 2015, I wish you all the best, and hope your efforts and endeavors have been successful. Your Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society will continue to keep you informed about developing issues, such as CWD, and look to the membership for guidance and feedback on internal issues, such as the changing of the annual meeting format.

Roel Lopez, President

Utilizing Wild Pig Biology as a Basis for Population Reduction Strategies

By Mark Tyson, M.S. and Josh Helcel, B.S.

Legal methods for reducing wild pig populations in Texas include shooting, trapping, snaring, and the use of trained dogs. Understanding how different abatement strategies affect wild pigs can help you in selecting an appropriate control strategy specific to your property, and will also help you to use the common behaviors of pigs against them. Strategically using each of these legal techniques will provide the best results for the time and effort invested. Regardless of your technique of choice, consider these 5 factors and how they relate to each other on your piece of Texas:

Thermoregulation: Wild pigs lack sweat glands and must manually cool themselves. Ask yourself: What time of year is it? In the summertime and early fall, wild pigs will rely heavily on nearby water. During these times of year, consider trapping and snaring along travel routes between bedding and watering areas. While this is generally a sound strategy year round, you may notice that your success increases when higher temperatures force pigs to remain closer to water sources because of their biological need to cool themselves by wallowing and occupying shaded riparian areas.

During late fall, winter and early spring, the pigs will have much more liberty of movement due to reduced ambient temperatures. However, they will also generally rely more on supplemental feed sites due to lower forage availability. Consider targeting the supplemental feeding sights on your property during these times of year. Enclosures can be placed around supplemental feeding sites with high pig activity to convert them into pre-baited corral traps, while strategic shooting can be implemented at other feeding sites to target solitary boars and also to pressure remaining animals to abandon areas where they are causing damage.

Food Consumption- Wild pigs are opportunistic omnivores, and research tells us that vegetation makes up the majority of their diet. Your job is to determine what that might be based on what is available. Ask yourself: What are the pigs eating right now? Since vegetation is important to wild pigs, learning more about the plants in your area should be important to you. Dr. Dale Rollins' maxim on wildlife habitat management

“know your plants and how to manipulate them” could not have been better stated. For the purposes of wild pig management, we would modify this maxim to “know your plants and how they manipulate the pigs” since the availability of vegetation governs wild pig food selection in many cases. In the spring, plants are beginning to green up and as summer comes on additional species are added to the landscape as environmental conditions allow. The key here is to understand a plant's nutritive value and distribution on the landscape; the pigs know this and so should you. In the early spring grasses, roots and tubers provide a great food resource. During the summer fruit producing plants will be sought out and selected. As fall comes along, mast from a variety of trees begins to develop. Once they drop, the pigs will focus in on these seasonally abundant resources.

Producers who have experienced crop loss, rooted agricultural fields, and other damages will tell you that planting and growing seasons are peak times when wild pigs target agricultural production. As pigs attempt to make an easy meal out of your hard work, consider targeting them with aerial gunning and also daytime and nighttime strategic shooting efforts. Research has shown that agricultural damage in areas open to strategic shooting was less than half than in areas where this practice did not occur. Are you going to remove all of the pigs by doing this? Unfortunately not, however, wild pigs will generally respond to strategic shooting and aerial gunning efforts by abandoning pressured areas and looking for an easy and abundant meal elsewhere. By targeting wild pigs with the appropriate methods at the appropriate times, you may just buy yourself enough time to get your crops out of the ground and to market.

Social Organization- Wild pigs commonly travel in female-based groups called sounders while mature males often travel alone. Ask yourself: Which pigs are showing up on my game cameras? Wild pigs will visit your bait site as a sounder or you may just have a lone boar appear. Research suggests that adult males are the least likely gender/age class to enter a trap, thus if a lone boar appears and is consistent, it may be better to just shoot him. On the other hand, trapping is a must for a sounder. The key to success is to understand that in a sounder there is often a “lead” or dominant sow, and she will likely be the one you have to fool. The video feature on game cameras is particularly useful to observe wild pig behaviors allowing for techniques to be adjusted accordingly.

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Another social factor to consider is boar dominance. Wild pigs are sexually dimorphic animals, and adult boars can grow much larger than females. This can sometimes lead to the larger and more aggressive boars overtaking a bait or trap site. In some cases, boars will stake claim to and prevent a sounder from returning to and feeding at the site. If this occurs, consider removing this animal first to allow for a better chance to capture an entire sounder of wild pigs.

Habitat Components- Wild pigs prefer habitats associated with creeks or rivers, known as riparian habitats. Ask yourself: What types of habitats are found on the landscape I manage pigs on? If riparian habitats are available, conduct a thorough investigation for signs of wild pig activity. Watch our YouTube video *Understanding Wild Pig Signs* to learn more about the visual indicators of wild pig activity. In the absence of



Dominant boars may need to be trapped or removed individually if they take over a bait site.

riparian habitats, evaluate what available habitats contain (food, cover, travel corridors) that will benefit the pigs and begin your search there.

Keep in mind that just because you don't see any damage or wild pigs on your property, it doesn't mean that they are not there. Scouting for wild pig sign and especially using trail cameras capable of capturing images or video at night will aid greatly in determining if pigs are occupying or traveling through your property.

Wild pigs are primarily nocturnal animals, and currently occupy 99% of Texas 254 counties. Chances are if you



Wild pig tracks at an active creek crossing

have forage, cover, and any riparian habitat on your land – you may have wild pigs.

Human Influence- Human activity can positively or negatively impact wild pig behaviors. Ask yourself: What types of human activities occur on the area and how may they alter wild pig behavior? If positive influences (free choice livestock feed, deer feeders, etc.) are available use them to your advantage when formulating a strategy. Negative impacts can lay waste to some of the best planning, so try to anticipate and avoid them if at all possible. Often these impacts are hard to prevent, and you may very well have to learn from experience in these cases.

Most importantly, use your human influence to your advantage when managing for wild pigs. Trapping, aerial gunning, strategic shooting, snaring, and the use of trained dogs all apply pressure to highly intelligent and adaptable wild pigs. While methods such as trapping and aerial gunning can significantly reduce populations, techniques such as snaring, strategic shooting, and the use of trained dogs can apply further pressure which could drive pigs off of your property in search of a safer and easier living. When combined with a cooperative approach involving multiple adjacent landowners, combined wild pig abatement pressure can achieve greater success and significantly lessen the negative impacts associated with wild pigs.

TWS CERTIFICATION

TWS Certification Reminder

In the April 2015 Newsletter we outlined the clear professional advantages of becoming certified as a professional wildlife biologist by TWS. Although our Chapter does not have a direct role in the TWS certification application process, our committee is here to assist you with completing your application, and providing advice on how to document the educational and experience requirements. Advantages of obtaining Associate Wildlife Biologist (AWB) or Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB) status are many and are especially helpful for anyone working their way up the career ladder, as well as those established wildlife biologists who must regularly speak, develop reports, or testify in the public arena. This is because the AWB and especially the CWB status shows that you have met a high standard established by The Wildlife Society, and eliminates the need for you to justify why you have not obtained the available certification.

The Texas Chapter can help with Certification. For example, the TWS Certification Review Board frequently is asked to substitute experience or other professional development for course credits especially in Botany, Communications, and Policy, Administration, and Law categories. In many cases, candidates can prepare a written explanation of why they think that their formal and continuing education course work and work experience, taken as a whole, qualify them to be certified as a wildlife biologist. Our Chapter Committee can help advise you on how to develop such substitute documentation.

There is no requirement that you go through the Chapter or otherwise contact our committee when applying for certification. Rather, we are here to help answer any questions you might have on the value of certification, how to complete the application, and so forth. More details on certification including the application and required fees are on the TWS web site at:

<http://wildlife.org/learn/professional-development-certification/certification-programs/>

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Michael Morrison, Chair

TCTWS Certification Committee

mlmorrison@tamu.edu

Cell: 979-204-3015

TWS-SW SECTION NEWS

From the SW Section Representative to TWS Council Carol Chambers – September 2015

This one's about change, all of it great. Fall is on our doorstep, especially in northern Arizona where the temperatures are dropping to the 40s at night. We have some exciting changes coming to the Section with the election of Fidel Hernandez (TX) as the new Southwest Section Representative to TWS Council. I step down in October at the TWS annual meeting in Winnipeg and Fidel will be installed as the new Rep during the meeting. I've enjoyed serving the past 6 years and will look forward to continuing working with Women of Wildlife (WOW) and developing webinars for our Southwest Section series.

In more election news, John McDonald is the new Vice-president for TWS. John has served on Council for 6 years representing the Northeast Section. We thank Selma Glasscock (TX) who ran for TWS Vice-president and Kathy Granillo (NM) who ran for Southwest Section TWS Rep. We expect they will continue their many TWS contributions into the future.

We welcome 2 new student chapters. In Yuma, Arizona, Dr. Megan E. Lahti will serve as campus advisor for the Yuma Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society with support from wildlife biologist Lin Piest (Arizona Game and Fish Department). In Fort Worth, Texas, Dr. Victoria (Tory) V. Bennett will serve as campus advisor for the Texas Christian University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society. These new chapters received interim status effective September 4, 2015. We congratulate both and ask that state chapters support these new student groups by providing hands-on field, lab, and classroom opportunities. TWS has partnered with Wildlife Services, and student chapters now have the opportunity to have a Wildlife Services professional speak during one of their meetings. Mariah Simmons (msimmons@wildlife.org) can provide a list of these representatives to student chapters on request.

More change – the Southwest Section has started a Webinar series. We are partnering with the Southwest Fire Science Consortium for our first webinar which will focus on wildfire effects on bats in the southwest (Sep 22). A list of upcoming webinars (tentative are in italics) includes:

September 22: *Immediate Post-Wildfire Effects on Bats in the Southwest*, led by Erin Saunders (AZ) & Carol Chambers (AZ)

October: *SW Section Geospatial Advisory Committee webinar*, led by Leland Pierce (NM) & Ginny Seamster (NM)

November: *Do's and don'ts of submitting your paper to be published*, led by Janet Wallace (TX), WSB Managing Editor

December 16: *Impacts of Thinning and Burning in Spotted Owl Habitat*, led by Quentin Hays (NM)

January: *How gizmos (PTTs, ICARUS program) change our understanding of habitat conservation*, led by Dan Collins (NM)

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On the parent TWS front, there are also changes. Laura Bies has officially stepped down as Government Affairs and Partnerships (GAP) Director and now manages TWS's Leadership Institute. Keith Norris who was Assistant Director has been hired as the new GAP Director. Keith recently discussed hunting and poaching for a radio show. His interview focused primarily on the benefits that hunting has for North American wildlife conservation. GAP staff also partnered the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the American Fisheries Society (AFS) to draft a web page focused on providing scientific information to agencies administrators regarding the impacts of lead on fish and wildlife management. GAP staff provided much of the background information, researching articles and developing the layout of the document. In addition, GAP staff researched, wrote, and produced 7 news articles on the website related to wildlife policy and TWS activities:

Horse and Burro Numbers Released in Tense Political Climate
Congressional Efforts to Modify the Endangered Species Act
Habitat Conservation and Sportsmen's Bill Introduced in House
Efforts Renewed for Rare Cats and Canids Conservation Fund
Land and Water Conservation Fund Expiration Nears
Federal Court Overturns FWS's 30-year Eagle Take Rule
Fish and Wildlife Service Expands Hunting and Fishing on Refuges

On the publishing front, we have changes in the positions for Editor-in-Chief (EIC) for the Journal of Wildlife Management (JWM) and Wildlife Society Bulletin (WSB). Paul Krausman takes over from Evelyn Merrill for JWM and David Haukos becomes EIC of WSB in January 2016 after Christine Ribic steps down. The Wildlife Professional (TWP) will be published as 6 issues per year in 2016 (up from 4). The first issue of 2016 marks the 10th anniversary of TWP and will feature a story on the next generation of wildlife biologists. You'll also see a change in the look of TWP in 2016.

On the financial front, TWS ended the fiscal year on a strong note, finishing the year within 0.04% of the projected expense budget and essentially doubling the operational surplus that was projected in the 2014-2015 budget. Net assets increased dramatically for the year, showing a 21% increase from July 2014 to the end of June 2015. Early indications thus far are that we are continuing the positive trends from last year.

We are still concerned about membership despite the small increase from 9,135 at the end of July to 9,303 at the end of August (+168). That result is an increase of 52 members (0.5%) compared to August 2014 when we had 9,251 members. Mariah Simmons has been working with the U.S. Forest Service on the USFS/TWS Native American Professional Development Research Assistantship Program for 2016. The application period is now open through October 26, 2015.

The upcoming annual conference is in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada this year (October 17-21; <http://wildlife.org/2015conference/>). At the end of August, there were 976 attendees registered compared to 915 last year at this time. The current participants are from the U.S. (74%), Canada (24%), and international locations (2%). In addition, The Native Peoples Wildlife Management Working Group selected seven students for the Native American Student Travel Grants program.

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Funding provided to these students makes it possible for them to attend the Annual Conference. WOW will host a panel discussion (WOW! Women of Wildlife at Work) and mixer this year on Monday, October 19. This is the 4th year we have sponsored an event. Last year we did not offer a WOW event and were asked by so many women and men about the event that this year we're on again. This panel discussion is intended to build discussion and networking opportunities for women and men working in the wildlife profession. Panelists will address past, present, and future challenges and opportunities they experienced or expect to experience that affect career development. And then get ready for 2016. The annual conference for 2016 will be held in Raleigh North Carolina and 2017 is Albuquerque, September 23-27! TWS is currently scouting sites for 2018.



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For fun, check out these web articles from August, with lots of Facebook likes: Using High-Res GPS to Study Thailand's Flying Foxes (<http://wildlife.org/using-high-res-gps-to-study-thailands-flying-foxes/>) had over 1600 likes. It is based on a paper published in JWM. Closer to home, read Recovery of Arizona Black-tailed Prairie Dog (<http://wildlife.org/spa-day-aids-recovery-of-arizona-black-tailed-prairie-dog/>) and Texas Chapter President provides testimony on CWD (<http://wildlife.org/texas-chapter-president-provides-testimony-on-cwd/>), featuring President Roel Lopez.

The Wildlife Society Southwest Section Chapters Hub continues to steadily climb in 'likes.' We increased from 392 to 418 since June. Please visit the site at <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>) also continues to grow steadily. We hit 1000 and are now at 1134 likes, up from 1089 in June. You can also see lots of great features at the TWS Facebook page with currently over 34,000 likes.

Thanks again for your support of TWS and the Section over the years. Continue to be involved – we need your help at the student, state, and section level. Contact me at Carol.Chambers@nau.edu or 928-523-0014 (office) with any comments or questions.

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Call for Abstracts for the 52nd 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 2016 Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's annual meeting to be held 18–20 February 2016 at the Wyndham Hotel on the river walk in San Antonio, Texas. Papers/posters presenting the results of wildlife 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 plenary session is **“Chronic Wasting Disease in Texas Whitetails...Now What?”** This session will feature researchers, managers, and landowners with expertise in the topic, a topic that is becoming increasingly important in Texas and beyond.

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. 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 2015.

Please indicate, where requested, your preference for presentation format (i.e., paper, poster,

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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 Program Co-Chair: Tyler Campbell, 210-776-5059 (mobile) or at tcampbell@eastfoundation.net (email) – preferred.

Contributed papers will be scheduled at 15-minute intervals to include time for questions and comments (2–3 minutes). All presenters will be notified of the day, time, and location of their presentations, and provided with instructions on how to prepare for their sessions.

Clarence Cottam Award presentations will be judged on topic originality, scientific procedures, quality of display, accuracy of conclusions, and response to questions from audience and judges. Abstracts should be submitted via the abstract submission website, <http://tctws.tamu.edu/>.

Abstract Format

Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words and follow The Journal of Wildlife Management format. Abstracts should be concise and include general problem statement, brief review of methods/experimental design, results, and management implications. For needed statistical significance statements, report P-values only (no need for exact statistical test results). Please follow

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formatting instructions on the abstract submission website. Program chair(s) will notify persons submitting abstracts soon after their receipt via email.

Please note not to use scientific names in title; use only in body of abstract.

Short title example:

Landscape effects on gene flow and genetic structure of northern bobwhite in Texas and the Great Plains. Katherine S. Miller, Leonard A. Brennan, Randy DeYoung, Fidel Hernández, and X. Ben Wu.

Long Title:

LANDSCAPE EFFECTS ON GENE FLOW AND GENETIC STRUCTURE OF NORTHERN BOBWHITE IN TEXAS AND THE GREAT PLAINS

KATHERINE S. MILLER, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX 78363, USA

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RANDY DEYOUNG, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX 78363, USA

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X. BEN WU, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, USA

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Abstract: Northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) populations have declined due to habitat loss and fragmentation. Northern bobwhites have been considered poor dispersers, so biologists expect a moderate population structure and low genetic diversity in fragmented areas. Our goal was to determine how landscape affects the genetic structure of northern bobwhite in Texas and the Great Plains. We collected tissues from 641 northern bobwhites in 23 populations, and amplified 13 microsatellite loci. We determined population structure (F_{ST}) and genetic distance between populations ($Dest$). We used a land cover map (National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative) to develop a landscape resistance matrix. We compared $Dest$ to geographic distance and resistance with Mantel and partial Mantel tests. Populations showed low levels of structure ($F_{ST} = 0.025$). We found moderate correlations to geographic distance ($r = 0.542$, $P < 0.001$) and landscape resistance ($r = 0.416$, $P = 0.001$). There was significant correlation between $Dest$ and geographic distance when we accounted for resistance ($r = 0.388$, $P < 0.001$), but no significant correlation between $Dest$ and resistance we accounted for geographic distance. A spatial principal component analysis for South Texas samples revealed a global structure. Low genetic structure and moderate genetic diversity may suggest that more northern bobwhite individuals are dispersing further than previously thought. Other possible explanations lie in the northern bobwhite's fall covey shuffle, their boom-and-bust population cycle, and stochastic events. Habitat is an important factor for northern bobwhites; determined how habitat affects gene flow will help biologists to manage northern bobwhite.

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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 52nd Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX on February 18-20, 2016.

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 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 Jamie Killian at jamie.killian@tpwd.texas.gov.
- 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 submissions must be submitted to the committee by December 1, 2015 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:

Jamie Killian
P.O. Box 1151
Pleasanton, TX 78064

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Professional Photo, Art, and Video Judges Needed!

Please consider serving as a judge for the photo and art contest. Judges will offer a time for critiques of current Texas Chapter The Wildlife Society members photos on Friday, February 19th.

Please contact Jamie Killian if you are interested in serving your professional society or if you have a suggestion for a judge. In order to ensure that there are enough judges please sign up by January 31st. Contact Jamie with any questions about this opportunity.

Jamie Killian
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
jamie.killian@tpwd.texas.gov
830-480-9043

Publication Awards –Call for Nominations

This is the final call for nominations of publications that include a Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society member as one of the first three authors, and that were published within the last 3 years (2013-2015). At least 3 publications within a category are required in order to offer the award. The deadline for submission is 15 November 2015.

Categories include:

Books

Electronic Media (i.e. websites, CDs, DVDs, listservs, or similar)

Peer-reviewed Scientific Articles (journal or peer-reviewed proceedings)

Popular Articles (published in magazines, newspapers, newsletters, or similar)

Technical Publications (reports, factsheets, or similar)

To nominate a publication, please submit: 1) a cover letter stating why the publication is being nominated, and 2) six (6) hard copies or a digital pdf to the Publication Awards Committee Chair: Stephen Webb, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, 2510 Sam Noble Pkwy., Ardmore, OK 73401; e-mail: slwebb@noble.org; office: 580-224-6443.

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Student Scholarship Opportunities- Call for Applications

Applications are now being accepted for the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society scholarship program. Three undergraduate and at least 2 graduate-level scholarships worth \$500-\$2,000 each will be awarded at the 2016 annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas!

Scholarship guidelines can be found at www.tctws.org under the "Students" tab and Applications will be sent out to Student Chapter Advisors (they can also be directly requested by students at the email addresses below). Applications must be completed fully; incomplete applications (including those without email addresses) will NOT be considered. Letters of recommendation are required for graduate applications and strongly encouraged for undergraduate applications. Applications may be submitted directly by students (in the past, guidelines called for applications to be submitted by the chapter advisor).

Applications must be received by the scholarship committee chair no later than 18 December, 2015 to be considered; postmarks are not accepted. E-mail is the preferred method of receiving applications and pdf is preferred format for applications. Undergraduate Applications should be emailed to John.Kinsey@tpwd.texas.gov and Graduate Applications should be emailed to Whitney142@jotmail.com. Please make sure that your Social Security Number and/or birth date are not included in the application; if this information is on your transcript please use a marker to blot them out prior to scanning or mailing. Applications received with social security numbers and/or birth dates will be immediately shredded and not sent out for review. All undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to take advantage of these scholarship opportunities and submit applications well in advance of the 18 December deadline. Good luck!

Seeking Outstanding Student Nominations

The purpose of the Outstanding Wildlife Student Recognition is for each university with a wildlife program to select its most outstanding student for the past year. The student can be an undergraduate or a graduate student who has shown himself/herself to be a strong leader. Individual schools are free to select the criteria they deem important in the selection of their outstanding student; however, the selected student MUST be a member of their collegiate student chapter AND the TCTWS. The intent of this recognition is not necessarily to recognize the student with the highest GPA, but to recognize the student who exhibits the highest level of professionalism and involvement within their respective Student Chapter of TWS.

Each university is allowed one submission per year. All outstanding student submissions must come directly from the University student chapter Advisor; include a photo, and a few sentences about the student's involvement and achievements no later than 18 December, 2015. Submissions may be sent to Whitney142@hotmail.com. Outstanding Student from each university will be introduced during the Awards Banquet.