

# THE TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



*Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education*

Number 184 • April 2015

## TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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EDITOR, JOHN M. TOMEČEK

*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 M. Tomeček, 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



We concluded our 50th Anniversary Jubilee in Corpus Christi with much success, and continue to reflect on the many reasons for our continued celebration as a professional society and chapter in looking into the future. The first TCTWS meeting was held in 1965 in Austin, Texas with approximately 100 professionals attending. In reviewing the archives from that meeting, the “roll call” of participants included Jim Teer, Jack W. Thomas, Dan Lay, A.S. Jackson, Clarence Cottam, and W.C. Glazener, to name a few. These are familiar names and “giants” in conservation, each with their own individual professional accomplishments; however, I wonder if these individuals had a clue on what their collective contributions might be 50 years later?

Fast forward to 2015. Dr. David Hewitt and his committees led the successful completion of our Jubilee Celebration at the annual meeting, with 745 attendees and 5 concurrent sessions featuring 113 papers and 74 posters. More than half of the participants were students. Our Texas Chapter has come a long way from that initial moment in time – Austin, Texas, 1965. Big movements do begin with small moments. Thank you Dave Hewitt and to all those we have followed since 1965 for in making TCTWS a success. Dr. Ken Williams, Executive Director of The Wildlife Society said it best, “you have something very special here in Texas.”

Today, with the efforts of many, the TCTWS is more active than ever. My goal this upcoming year is to continue to expand and build on the strong foundation set by the previous TCTWS leadership. First, I will operationalize the effort of the Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC) under the leadership of Committee Co-chairs Clint Faas and Romney Swanson. With the 84th Legislative Session in full swing, we must be vigilant in conserving our wildlife and natural resources and in examining those policies that serve to erode those things important to all of us. The purpose of the CAC is to monitor and respond to not only state-based policy issues of relevance, but also tie our efforts into a greater, national network of resources and wildlife professionals. The first CAC meeting drew a robust committee membership, whose work will serve to support the leadership of our Executive Director, Dr. Don Steinbach. Thanks to all who are serving on this committee and for doing this important work.

Second, I will continue to invest in our most valuable asset as a professional society – our students and future wildlife professionals. Dr. Selma Glasscock, Denise Harmel-Garza, Mandy Krause, and Michelle Haggerty, with the assistance of a number of other chapter members, did an outstanding job in designing and organizing the training of our first Jim G. Teer Conservation Leadership Institute (JGTCLI) Fellows cohort. Nineteen young professionals graduated from the program in Corpus Christi. Not surprisingly, in asking for volunteers to serve as committee chairs this upcoming year, nearly all of the JGTCLI Fellows stepped up to the task. Thank you for your leadership by example. We will take this year to review and improve the JGTCLI for the next class and look to create greater opportunities for student engagement.

Finally, we will explore better ways to respond to the needs of our growing membership at next year’s meeting. Growth necessitates change. Our Local Arrangements (Chad Grantham, Lucas Cooksey) and Program Co-chairs (Drs. Tyler Campbell and Dean Ransom) are exploring ways to better meet these demands. Our Program Theme “Energy Development and Wildlife Conservation: Striking a Balance” will be timely and provocative, especially given the proximity of the 2016 San Antonio meeting to the Eagle Ford Shale.

Together, we can conserve tomorrow’s wildlife resources and prepare future professionals to create a more sustainable future. I am honored to serve as this year’s TCTWS President. Let’s get to work and hope to see you all in San Antonio!

*Roel Lopez, President*

## ARE YOU TRUE TO TEXAS?

*by Rob Denkhaus*

*Director, Teaming With Wildlife Coalition: True to Texas*

Healthy wildlife populations and functioning ecosystems benefit all Texans. Just ask any hotel next to a World Birding Center, or a gas station in a rural Texas town at the beginning of hunting season. There are also many organizations in Texas dedicated to very specific interest and pursuits. But there are few opportunities for these disparate organizations and business to speak with a common voice. Teaming With Wildlife: True To Texas is a new grass roots coalition that will unite these voices on natural resource issues. The Coalition recognizes the value of healthy ecosystems and sustainable wildlife populations and will work both in Austin and at the ecoregion scale by uniting local groups to solve regional issues. We already have more than 50 organizations representing more than 10,000 Texans, but we want to keep growing.

Effective conservation requires input from experts, businesses, organizations, and landowners to be viable. It is our hope that these organizations and businesses join their voices to each other to resolve conservation issues here in Texas. TWW: TTT facilitates that collaboration and provides a one-stop-shop for those looking to get involved and stay informed.

One of the linchpins of the Coalition is to encourage local conservation organizations to implement the Texas Conservation Action Plan. The TCAP is a roadmap built by more than 2000 organizations across Texas to conserve sensitive and declining species and ecosystems. Chances are, you're a member of several organizations. Whether your group is focused on landowner rights, water issues, a particular species, or a recreational hobby, your actions complement the goals of the TCAP and the Coalition.

This summer, the Coalition will host several one-day EcoSummits around the state to share the goals of the Coalition, discuss priorities for conservation, and enable organizations to collaborate in whatever discipline they operate. I hope you'll join us at an EcoSummit in your neck of the woods.

Texans can shape the future of wildlife conservation and land management with collaborative partnerships and interdisciplinary collaboration. Join Teaming With Wildlife: True To Texas and add your group's voice to the chorus of wildlife conservation support at <http://www.teamingtxwildlife.com>.

## FROM THE SW SECTION REPRESENTATIVE TO TWS COUNCIL

by *Carol Chambers*

Big news ... the annual TWS conference returns to Albuquerque 23-27 September 2017. The first meeting was held in Albuquerque in 1994 and it was a great one. Plan now to attend this one. Albuquerque is a great place for the conference and conference organizers are excited to show you the state. Quentin Hayes ([Quentin-Hays@enmu.edu](mailto:Quentin-Hays@enmu.edu)), president of the New Mexico Chapter, has formed an organizing committee to kick off planning.

More big news ... elections are coming up and you need to vote in a new Southwest Section Rep and Vice President. The Wildlife Society has announced candidates for positions on TWS Council at <http://wildlife.org/meet-the-candidates-tws-2015-elections/>. Our 2 candidates for Southwest Section Rep are Kathy Granillo (NM) and Fidel Hernández (TX). Their biographies are provided



Current and former Southwest (SW) Section leadership at the Texas Chapter TWS meeting. Seated (L-R): Selma Glasscock, Past President SW Section; Mark Wallace, Current President SW Section; Carol Chambers, SW Section Rep to Council. Standing (L-R): Leland Pierce, Nova Silvy, and Louis Harveson, Past Presidents SW Section

below or at the web link above. In addition, you will be voting for TWS Vice President and our candidates include Selma Glasscock, a Southwesterner (TX, Southwest Section Past President, Texas Chapter Past President) and John E. McDonald (former Northeast Section Rep to Council). Make sure to vote when you receive your electronic ballot.

In general. Finances have been a major focus for TWS this past year and although we are on sound financial footing we continue to rebuild TWS assets. We are functioning under the new strategic plan and working on increasing membership. TWS website (<http://wildlife.org/>) is dynamic with new articles added weekly on wildlifer events. Our very popular The Wildlife Professional will be going from 4 to 6 issues a year starting in 2016. Government Affairs staff researched, wrote, and produced news articles on the website related to wildlife policy and staff activities including bird-focused additions to Policy Brief Series and Energy Fact Sheets. Check out the 11 fact sheets and 10 policy briefs at [www.wildlife.org/policy](http://www.wildlife.org/policy).

Membership. Membership has declined by about 1000 members over the past 2 years. TWS is working on adding even more value to your membership with the updated website, weekly eWildlifer, and more. Review membership benefits and buy a student a membership; for information about benefits, see <http://wildlife.org/membership-benefits/>. Strong membership supports the changes we want to make at state, section, national and international levels by supporting (at all levels) things like the Conservation Affairs Network. TWS is also raising funds through The 1,000 Campaign (over \$100,000 to date which helps support TWS initiatives).

Conferences. This is the year of the international meeting so have your passport ready. The 2015 annual conference is in Winipeg, Manitoba, Canada (October 17-21). The call for contributed papers and posters is on with deadline to submit abstracts by April 24. If you're a student and want to present work in progress, deadline for abstracts for Student Research in Progress Posters is June 18. Check out conference information at <http://wildlife.org/2015conference>. There's another opportunity for

## FROM THE SW SECTION REPRESENTATIVE TO TWS COUNCIL

international travel to the Fifth International Wildlife Management Congress (<http://iwmc2015.org/>) coming up July 26-30, 2015, in Sapporo, Japan.

WOW. The Southwest Section helped sponsor 2 events for women at the Joint Annual Meeting of the Arizona and New Mexico Chapters of The Wildlife Society and the Texas Chapter TWS meeting. We are forming a WOW committee to bring connections we started at the annual conferences to local levels. At these events we asked participants what they wanted from a WOW network so send me any thoughts you have regarding the direction WOW should take in future to help you or wildlifers you know. Networking, mentoring, and face-time interactions seem to be important to women at all levels of their careers or training.

Social Media. The Wildlife Society Southwest Section Chapters Hub has jumped in 'likes' from 256 to 349 since December. Check us out at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wildlife-Society-Southwest-Section-Chapters-Hub/20755042835210>. The TWS Women of Wildlife (WOW) Facebook page ([http://](http://www.facebook.com/pages/TWS-Women-of-Wildlife/2344117233825927)

[www.facebook.com/pages/TWS-Women-of-Wildlife/2344117233825927](http://www.facebook.com/pages/TWS-Women-of-Wildlife/2344117233825927)) is now at 981 likes, up from 926 in December. Find the latest news from the TWS office at the TWS Facebook page with currently over 25,000 likes.

Farewell. After almost 6 years on Council, I'll be stepping down this October and want to thank you for electing me to this position. I've learned more than I ever imagined, made more connections than I ever expected, and hope I've also been able to benefit the Section as much as being the Rep has benefitted me. I've tried to help by starting the biannual newsletter (now on volume 5), develop a Facebook presence, WOW activities, awards, website, and will continue to work for TWS after my position ends. Benefit from being part of TWS by making sure that you are one of the over 9,000 TWS members. Contact me at [Carol.Chambers@nau.edu](mailto:Carol.Chambers@nau.edu) or 928-523-0014 (office) with any comments or questions. And thank you for allowing me to represent you at TWS.



Carol Chambers (standing, AZ), Erin Saunders (AZ), and Krysten Zummo (NM) organized a lunch and discussion on involvement in the Women of Wildlife (WOW) network at the Joint Annual Meeting of the Arizona and New Mexico Chapters of TWS, 6 February 2015. Women at the lunch provided ideas for expanding the WOW network through mentoring, networking, and training. Photo by Erin Saunders.



Selma Glasscock (standing) and Nova Silvy (seated) encourage women attending a Women of Wildlife (WOW) reception to set directions for WOW at the Texas Chapter TWS meeting, 19 February 2015. Photo by Carol Chambers.

## SOUTHWEST SECTION REPRESENTATIVE NOMINEES



### **Kathy Granillo**

I have lived and worked in the Southwest for about 25 years, and the wild lands and wildlife of this area are near and dear to my heart. The world of wildlife management and research is comprised of a relatively small, close-knit group of very dedicated people. Through my many years of working across the Southwest, and through my involvement in TWS, I have gotten to know many of these people well. They care deeply about wildlife resources. They work long hours. They do good things for wildlife. They need someone who knows the issues in the southwest to speak up at the national level; to be their voice to TWS leadership. They also need to hear back from leadership. I believe I can do this and do it well.

I would focus on better communication between scientists and managers. I have a long-time interest in improving communication between these two groups and I believe that TWS has a

large role to play in this endeavor.

Another top issue for me is involving youth and minorities in conservation and science. We need more young people, from diverse backgrounds, to engage in conservation and to pursue careers in wildlife research and management.

An issue that I care deeply about is rapidly accelerating climate change. Anyone who lives in the southwest has seen and felt the changes – hotter and drier, with more intense weather events. I would keep this issue in the limelight while working with national, section and the state chapters.



### **Fidel Hernández**

Rarely do we appreciate an experience during the present. Appreciation generally occurs many years later, after some time has passed, and we can evaluate life retrospectively. Such was my experience regarding professional service. I have been involved with the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society and our parent society since a student, nearly 20 years ago, and this involvement has continued through my professional career. I have served as Committee Chair of numerous state and national committees and as President and officer for the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The primary impetus for my initial involvement arose as service to my profession. I never realized, however, that in addition to serving our profession there was an added value to professional involvement—leading by example.

As professors or mentors of young professionals, we often encourage their involvement in our profession. We preach on the value and benefits of professional involvement. Being an effective mentor, however, is more than educating. It also is leading by example. Today, I remain active not only for professional service but also to hopefully inspire the young professionals in my sphere of influence to do the same. The growth and prosperity of our profession requires the involvement of all, from the incipient to the seasoned. I value the opportunity to represent our society as the Southwest Section Representative and hope others are inspired to join our effort.

# A STEP IN TIME...

## Preparing Conservation Leaders of the Future – the James G. Teer Conservation Leadership Institute

by Selma Glasscock

*The mission of the James G. Teer Conservation Leadership Institute is to ensure a future legacy of well-trained conservation leaders by providing professional training in leadership skills and contemporary conservation issues for today's wildlife biologists and conservation professionals.*

Fifty years ago, a group of visionary leaders saw the need for the establishment of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TCTWS). It is difficult to imagine where the profession and our careers would be today without this outstanding professional organization that has helped to build a network of biologists that strive to enhance our knowledge of wildlife biology, management and conservation. To celebrate this 50-year milestone, the TCTWS launched the James G. Teer Conservation Leadership Institute (Institute). To accomplish the mission of the Institute five levels of training shall be established (Figure 1):

- Level 1 **Wildlife Conservation Camp** (Pre-university Student Training)
- Level 2 Undergraduate and Graduate Student Training
- Level 3 **Early Career Professional Program** (Conservation professionals 1-10 years into their careers)
- Level 4 Mid-Career Professional Training
- Level 5 Advanced-Career Professional Training

For many years, the TCTWS has provided a host of opportunities for leadership growth for high school students, undergraduate and graduate students. These are formative years for students as they begin to decide on a career path. In 1993 the chapter established its highly successful and popular *Wildlife Conservation Camp* for high school students (Level 1), which has helped guide many young people into a career in natural resources. Currently, Kelsey Griffin, a masters student at Tarleton State University, is evaluating the camp, and

she presented some of her findings at the 2014 Texas Chapter Annual Meeting. Her results indicate the camp has helped guide many young people into a career in natural resources. Look for upcoming publications on her research in the near future.

At the next career level (Level 2), the chapter has long provided a wide range of professional development opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students at the TCTWS annual meetings. We also encourage their participation as leaders in the *Wildlife Conservation Camp* and Texas Wildlife Association's *Brigades*.

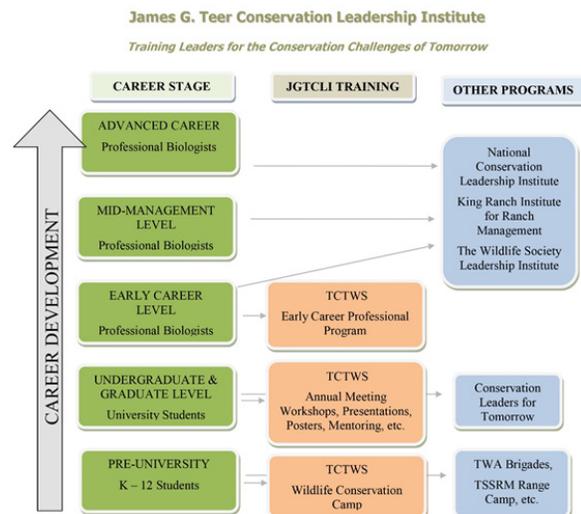


Figure 1. Programs currently offered by the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Also depicted are other select programs being offered by organizations that are designed to enhance professional development at various stages in a biologist's career.

## A STEP IN TIME...

In 2012 the TCTWS began the development of the *Early Career Professional Program* which was launched at the 2014 TCTWS annual meeting in Austin, Texas (Level 3). The four main goals of the Early Career Professional Training are:

- To ensure early career conservation professionals develop the personal and interpersonal skills necessary to enhance their professional and personal lives.
- To ensure early career conservation professionals acquire the professional development skills necessary to enhance their abilities to successfully interact with other individuals and groups in professional and business settings.
- To ensure early career conservation professionals are knowledgeable of conservation concepts and contemporary conservation issues so they may understand and successfully manage Texas' wildlife and natural resources.
- To ensure this leadership training program remains contemporary, effective and pertinent to early career professionals by continuous use of evaluation and assessment tools throughout each training as well as the life of the program.

The inaugural cohort of Fellows – nineteen individuals from agencies and organizations across the state – graduated from the *Early Career Professional Program* at the 2015 Texas Chapter TWS annual meeting in Corpus Christi. The 2014 Institute Fellows were:

Derek Broman	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Chris Cerny	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Whitney Gann	University of the Incarnate Word
Jessica Glasscock	Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Diana Iriate	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Samantha Kahl	Texas Tech University
Sarah Kahlich	Plateau Land and Wildlife Management
Jamie Killian	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
John Kinsey	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Michael Marshall	Texas A&M Institute Renewable Natural Resources
Matthew McEwen	Museum of Texas Tech Univ. Lubbock Lake National Historic Landmark
Paula Pohler	Dan A. Hughes Company. L.P.
Tara Korzekwa	ARCADIS - US
Rachel Richter	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Tim Siegmund	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Tucker Slack	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Romey Swanson	Plateau Land and Wildlife Management
Jared Timmons	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Darrell White	Callaghan Ranch

These young professionals were introduced to an array of leadership concepts throughout the year and were

## A STEP IN TIME...



*Figure 2. Fellows of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cohort of the Early Career Professional Program. From left to right: Front row: Darrell White, Whitney Gann, Paula Pohler, Sarah Kahlich, Diana Iriate, Rachel Richter, Jamie Killian, Tara Korzekwa; Row 2: Romey Swanson, Eric Grahmann (Systems Coach), Chase Currie (Systems Coach), Jared Timmons, Tim Siegmund, Samantha Kahl, Tucker Slack, Jessica Glasscock; Row 3: Derek Broman, Chris Cerny, Matthew McEwen; Mike Marshall, John Kinsey.*

challenged to use them in a variety of ways including group interactions in face-to-face meetings, distance education, webinars, and conference calls. They attended four site-based meetings at the 2014 TCTWS meeting in Austin and 2015 TCTWS meeting in Corpus Christi, the Welder Wildlife Foundation, and the Kerr Wildlife Management Area. Cohort members had the opportunity to meet many state and national leaders of the wildlife profession during the course of the year. They also experienced a variety of speakers who discussed a range of topics focused on leadership skills and conservation issues. Fellows were challenged to hone their critical thinking skills by using systems thinking to investigate the issue of groundwater conservation in Texas' Carrizo Wilcox Aquifer. They worked in teams to study this

issue from February through August 2014, then built a systems thinking model utilizing feedback loops to describe what they learned about the interactions between humans and this particular aquifer system. They used their model to determine when or where intervention should occur in the system. Finally, after completing these steps, each team was tasked with producing one deliverable based on their studies. Their deliverables included a 1) white paper, 2) position statement, 3) resolution statement, and 4) an education component. The Institute's Scientific Advisory Board reviewed the deliverables and made suggestions for improvements. The deliverables were presented to the TCTWS Board for their use in future conservation efforts, and cohort members Jamie Killian, Tucker Slack and Mike Marshall gave

## A STEP IN TIME...

presentations on the cohort's efforts and deliverables at the 2015 Texas Chapter meeting in Corpus Christi. We will be conducting a summative evaluation of the program in the near future which will help guide future programs.

Funding for the program was generated through private donations and sales of the TCTWS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Clemente Guzman quail print. If you would like to contribute to the Institute, there are still prints available through the TCTWS website <http://tctws.org/50th-anniversary-poster/>, and all proceeds from the sale of the prints will benefit the James G. Teer Conservation Leadership Institute.

Applications for the next Early Career Professional Program will be available in late summer or early fall of 2015. The program will begin in February 2016. Check the TCTWS website <http://tctws.org/conservation-institute-menu/> for more information later this year.

It is important to recognize and thank all the individuals who have been involved with the two formal programs now housed under the Institute – the Wildlife Conservation Camp and the Early Career Professional Program. The list is long (Figure 3 and Figure 4) which reflects the importance Texas Chapter members place on education and professional development within our own ranks. These members are giving their time so the next generation of wildlifers from Texas will be top notch professionals one step ahead of the rest.

Finally, there are 4 individuals I would like to personally thank for their stalwart dedication to our efforts this year. Mandy Corso Krause, Denise Harmel-Garza, and Michelle Haggerty were instrumental in helping design, plan, orchestrate, and carry out the Early Career Professional Program. Their non-wavering dedication and perseverance made the Early Career Professional Program a solid experience of which the TCTWS can be proud. Meg Streich, who chaired the Wildlife Conservation Camp, did an outstanding job of ensuring the camp was an amazing educational experience for the campers and staff alike. Not only did she spend countless hours on Wildlife Camp efforts, she also assisted with many projects at the Welder Refuge when I was tied up with other Institute business. Thank you each for all you do!

# A STEP IN TIME...

## **Wildlife Conservation Camp**

### **Professional Mentors and Staff**

Meg Streich	Kelsey Griffin	Stephen Ross
Megan Clayton	Richard Heilbrun	Annaliese Scoggin
Jim Gallagher	Andy James	Jimmy Stout
Terry Gallagher	Mandy Krause	Michelle Wood-Ramirez

### **College Mentors/Presenters**

Robert Allcorn	Taylor Garrison
Angie Arredondo	Laurie Groen
Darrion Crowley	Thomas Janke
Aidan Flores	Leah Van Vranken

### **Returning Campers**

Megan Grieve  
Katie Knaggs  
Michael Nasso  
Chase Pargmann

### **Presenters**

Robert Benson	Kory Gann	Jay Kolbe
Terry Blankenship	Selma Glasscock	Blake Leslie
Tina Buford	Jessica Grumman	Brock Minton
Brent Clayton	Shannon Hall	Scott Mitchell
April Conkey	Gary Harris	Brandon Mitchell
Lynn Drawe	David Hewitt	Nabil Nasser
Justin Dunn-Frankenberger	Chad Huckabee	Brent Ortego
Kirk Feuerbacher	Larry Hysmith	Matt Reidy
Albert Flores	Sarah Kahlich	Matt Streich
Whitney Gann	Jamie Killian	Lerrin Williams

*Figure 3. Professional and college staff and mentors, returning campers, and presenters at the 2014 Wildlife Conservation Camp. boards, committees, staff, and presenters involved in the James G. Teer Conservation Leadership Institute's 2014 Wildlife Conservation Camp and Early Career Program.*

# A STEP IN TIME...

## Early Career Professional Program

### TCTWS Executive Boards

2012: Warren Conway, Matt Wagner, Dave Hewitt

2013: Matt Wagner, Dave Hewitt, Roel Lopez

2014: Dave Hewitt, Roel Lopez, Randy DeYoung

<b>Steering and Finance Committee</b>	<b>Scientific Advisory Board</b>	<b>Systems Coaches</b>
Doug Slack	Bart Ballard	Eric Grahmann
Neal Wilkins	Matt Wagner	Chase Curry
Fred Bryant	Michelle Haggerty	
Nova Silvy	Selma Glasscock	
Louis Harveson	Jim Cathey	
Terry Blankenship	Doug Slack	
Selma Glasscock	Linda Campbell	
	Andy Sansom	
	Roel Lopez	
	David Hewitt	

### Program Development Committee

Mandy Corso Krause	Michelle Haggerty
Denise Harmel- Garza	Richard Heilbrun
Bart Ballard	Jim Cathey
Roel Lopez	Dale Rollins
Annaliese Scoggin	Linda Campbell
Cristy Brown	Megan Clayton
Kirk Feuerbacher	Helen Holdsworth
Jena Moon	Jenny Sanders
Randy Simpson	Shawn Whitley
Susan Baggett	Selma Glasscock

Figure 4. Boards, committees, and staff involved in the James G. Teer Conservation Leadership Institute's 2014 Early Career Professional Program.

## A NEW WILDLIFE PROGRAM RISING



*by Jeff Breeden*

Tarleton State University, Department of Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences  
Tarleton State University (TSU) is located in Stephenville, Texas, approximately 90 miles southwest of Fort Worth on highway 281. The wildlife program has long been a part of the Agriculture curriculum at TSU and became an official major with a B. S. in Wildlife Management in the early 2000's while part of the Department of Animal Sciences. The curriculum for the major was designed to meet the course requirements for Certified Wildlife Biologist by The Wildlife Society. By 2005, there were over 60 undergraduates with a major in Wildlife Management. A few years later, the department name was changed to the Department of Animal Science and Wildlife Management to reflect the growing student base. During this time, a small graduate program was beginning to develop with a specialization in wildlife. In 2014, student interest in the wildlife program prompted a significant change in the structure of the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences and a new department was formed. A group of faculty with similar interests in natural resources conservation combined to form the Department of Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences (WSES). The graduate program also continues to grow and the College currently offers a M.S. degree in Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

The WSES department now consists of 12 faculty members and currently offers a B. S. in Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences with options in Wildlife Science, Sustainability Studies, Plant Ecology, Pre-Veterinary Medicine and Soil Science. With over 250 undergraduate students, Wildlife Science is the largest concentration. Wildlife faculty includes Dr. T. Wayne Schwertner, Dr. Jeff Breeden, and Dr. Heather Mathewson, supported by a diverse faculty of plant ecologists, rangeland ecologists, soil scientists, and entomologists. The wildlife program is built on a strong foundation of student involvement and hand-on learning opportunities to prepare students for careers in natural resource conservation. While still demanding accountability and respect, the faculty encourages a close student-professor relationship to enhance the learning process.

As part of the curriculum, students are required to participate in at least one experiential learning activity. Many students choose to fulfill this requirement with an internship working for state or federal wildlife agencies, non-governmental organizations, non-profits, or private concerns. Other students complete undergraduate research partnerships with faculty. Finally, some complete a one-month study abroad experience in southern Africa, where they learn about not only Africa's rich wildlife community, but also the conservation challenges unique to the region.

The WSES department maintains an active and growing graduate research program. In 2015, at least five students will graduate with their Master's degree. Research projects are currently being funded by a number of funding sources, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Department of Agriculture, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Welder Wildlife Foundation, and the Texas Department of Transportation. Students are conducting research at multiple sites in Africa, as well as closer to home here in Texas. Projects include research on big game, doves, bats, cuckoos, songbirds, and habitat management. Tarleton State University also maintains an active student chapter of The Wildlife Society with

## A NEW WILDLIFE PROGRAM RISING

approximately 80 active members as of Spring 2014. They hold well-attended bi-weekly meetings that usually host a wildlife professional as a speaker. They participate in various University activities as well as professional development opportunities. They host the annual TSU Student Wildlife Society Tarleton Outdoors community event directed at teaching local children about wildlife and the outdoors in a fun way. This February, the TSU SWS attended the TCTWS annual conference in Corpus Christi with a combined over 30 students and faculty members. While there, several students presented their research both orally and poster, they won the annual student quiz bowl, and placed in the annual Cottom Award competition and the undergraduate poster competition.

The future is bright for this program that maintains focus on traditional wildlife science. The solid undergraduate program continues to grow and graduate research opportunities are rapidly expanding. Tarleton State University will maintain a strong presence among the excellent wildlife programs across Texas. For more information about the TSU wildlife program, please contact Dr. Jeff Breeden ([breeden@tarleton.edu](mailto:breeden@tarleton.edu), 254-968-1950). Please view our website at <http://www.tarleton.edu/COAHSWEB/env-ag-mgmt/index.html>



## STUDENT CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT



by Heather Mathewson

With over 90 diverse student members embracing a wide variety of interests and goals, the 2014/2015 Tarleton State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has worked hard to provide an expansive list of events and guest speakers. This has included many volunteer, educational outreach and professional development opportunities for our members and our community. These events and opportunities have served their purpose in helping our chapter improve professionally, with a sense of responsibility to our community and a sense of social responsibility to our peers. It has been a busy and exciting year, and we are not yet done!

We have been honored and are thankful for our many guest speakers this year. So far, we have had professional guest speakers like Marc Bartoskewitz, Director of Wildlife Operations for Cook Canyon and Clear Fork Ranches, speak to us about white-tailed deer management. Darrel Murray,



a professor at Tarleton State University, shared interesting and valuable information about fire ecology. Lieutenant Jason Bussey gave us an inside look at what it takes to become and be a Texas State game warden. Joe Beach, Recruitment and Internship Coordinator for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, revealed the best way to complete the extensive application process for TPWD. Also, Ty Bartoskewitz, Ranch Manager for MT7 Ranch, spoke to us about water fowl habitat management.

Our professional and social events have included Tarleton's, first ever, Plant Appreciation Day where members observed, collected, examined and identified various plant species at Hunewell Ranch, a TSU property south of Stephenville, TX. We also attended this year's Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society annual conference in Corpus Christi and the Western Wildlife Conclave, graciously hosted by Texas A&M University – Kingsville. In an effort to increase membership retention, our chapter organized participation in many Tarleton football game tailgating events and homecoming events. We even had an enjoyable weekend camping trip to the beautiful Colorado Bend State Park.

In an effort to fund these many events we have organized raffles and received a donation for helping with a Mule Deer Foundation banquet. We also receive funds collaborating with our school's Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences department by renting Entomology equipment to fellow students. The Tarleton State Chapter has

## STUDENT CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

been so successful at raising funds we were able to donate \$500 to the Texas Wildlife Conservation Camp.

That is not all! We have made many educational outreach efforts to increase our involvement in the community. Using our collection of animal hides, skulls, teeth, bones, animal track molds, and other props, we have successfully provided a fun and educational wildlife experience to schools, organizations and events. We have presented for Meridian State Park's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Stephenville High School, Erath County's 4H group, Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo's Kids Gone Wild, and the Tarleton FFA invitational Wildlife Contest. We also host the annual Tarleton Outdoors event. This completely free event is designed to increase wildlife awareness amongst local elementary, middle, and high school students. Traditionally, Tarleton Outdoors has between 300 and 500 children participating in events such as fishing, archery, wildlife identification, pellet riflery, wildlife related games and more! This year's event will be cohosted with the Stephenville Bass Club, which will stock a section of the Bosque River with different types of fish for the students to enjoy. We also facilitated volunteer



opportunities for our members. These opportunities include the Adopt-a-Highway program for the Texas Department of Transportation. We cleared and marked trails at Lake Cleburne State Park and constructed water guzzlers in South Texas.

In regards to professional development, our Tarleton State Chapter has participated in a Deer Capture event for the East Wildlife Foundation, and helped with other white-tailed deer management efforts on privately owned Texas ranches. Members also have participated in wild turkey captures

for TPWD and we have members researching white-winged doves, parasites on wild turkey and northern bobwhite, and African bat populations.

All of our hard work has not only paid off with valuable experience, it has also earned rewards. Texas State Chapter of The Wildlife Society's Quiz Bowl team is this year's State champion! Also, at the Texas State Chapter conference, member Bradley Kubecka was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Best Undergraduate Research Poster and Cody Vavra earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place for Best Undergraduate Research Poster. At the

Western Wildlife Conclave, Joseph Wilson earned 1<sup>st</sup> place for his stellar waterfowl call abilities, and Michael Duncan



## STUDENT CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

received 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Humor Photography category and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Animal Photography category. It has surely been an exciting year for our chapter, and there is more to come! We are proud to be students at Tarleton State University and thankful for the support of Tarleton's Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences department. The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society has surely been a blessing for us. We couldn't do it without you!

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President:	Michael Duncan <a href="mailto:michael.duncan@go.tarleton.edu">michael.duncan@go.tarleton.edu</a>
Vice President:	Randi Baldwin <a href="mailto:randi.baldwin@go.tarleton.edu">randi.baldwin@go.tarleton.edu</a>
Secretary:	Megan Harris <a href="mailto:megan.harris@go.tarleton.edu">megan.harris@go.tarleton.edu</a>
Historian:	Skyler Henderson <a href="mailto:skyler.henderson@go.tarleton.edu">skyler.henderson@go.tarleton.edu</a>
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## CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's 2015 Wildlife Conservation Camp

The 21<sup>st</sup> annual Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's Wildlife Conservation Camp is almost here! We are pleased to announce that this year's camp will be held at the Texas Tech University Center in Junction, Texas from July 26—August 1, 2015. The Texas Tech Center, and associated Llano River Field Station, boast a plethora of native wildlife, including mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds. Campers will have the opportunity to view and study these animals and their habitats. As members of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, we encourage you to spread the news about this incredible opportunity for high school students.

High school students that have completed the 9<sup>th</sup> grade or higher are invited to participate in an amazing week filled with exiting, hands-on wildlife and conservation-based activities. Students will participate in activities in wildlife and plant ecology, species identification, tracking, small mammal trapping, songbird mist-netting, habitat investigations, management strategies, shooting sports, hunter education, conservation ethics, and much more! Students will also discuss the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and discover their own personal land ethic throughout the week. There is something for every student at this camp!

We all understand the importance of reaching out to the younger generation of conservationists. This camp is designed to show students the critical role they play in conservation and the impact their actions can have. It is also an opportunity to get students excited about the great outdoors! The Wildlife Conservation Camp has proven its effectiveness through the years and we are looking forward to another great camp.



Many Texas Chapter members volunteer with the camp as Professional Mentors, College Mentors (undergraduate and graduate), and Presenters and we hope you will, too! Interested volunteers and high school students can apply on our website: [www.wildlifecamp.tx.org](http://www.wildlifecamp.tx.org). We are asking for Texas Chapter members to seek out donations for the camp to off-set the out-of-pocket costs of camp and fund camper scholarships. We are also seeking donations for camper prizes such as headlamps, fishing and hunting equipment, pocketknives, multi-tools, field guides, binoculars and water bottles. If you would like additional information about camp, or you are able to donate or assist with finding donations, please contact the 2015 Camp Director, Stephen Ross, at [wildlifecampdirector@yahoo.com](mailto:wildlifecampdirector@yahoo.com) or 361-522-8989.

## CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PROGRAM FOR CERTIFICATION OF PROFESSIONAL WILDLIFE BIOLOGISTS

#### Background

The Wildlife Society has developed a professional certification program designed to evaluate the education and professional experience of wildlife biologists. A professional wildlife biologist is a person with demonstrated expertise in the art and science of applying the principles of ecology to the sound stewardship and management of the wildlife resource and its environment. An applicant for professional certification who demonstrates this expertise through education and experience and is judged to be able to represent the profession as an ethical practitioner will be designated as a Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB). Certification as an Associate Wildlife Biologist (AWB) is available to an applicant who meets the educational requirements, but not the experience requirements. AWB status may be retained during which the experience needed to become a CWB may be obtained.

The primary objective of The Wildlife Society certification program is to provide public and private clients and employers more positive access to professional advice in matters concerning wildlife resources. Specific goals include:

- To guide biologists, governmental agencies, courts, and the public in defining minimum standards of education and experience for professional wildlife biologists, and to encourage all practicing wildlife biologists to meet such standards.
- To create and maintain public confidence in the advice and opinions of Certified Wildlife Biologists as well educated and experienced professionals who have pledged to uphold the Code of Ethics and the Standards for Professional Conduct of The Wildlife Society and to act in the best interest of wildlife resources and the public.
- To assist the public in evaluating wildlife biologists by establishing a procedure for critical peer evaluation based upon defined minimum educational, experience, and ethical requirements.

#### Advantages of Certification

Advantages of obtaining AWB or 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. Personally, I have been in several situations where an individual identified as an “expert in wildlife biology” was forced to explain why they did not have certification; this caused them to become distracted and in my opinion substantially lessened the impact of their testimony. After all, anyone can call themselves a “wildlife biologist”, but the TWS certification program is the only available way to officially show that you are a “professional wildlife biologist.”

# CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **How the Texas Chapter can Help with Certification**

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. 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.

## **How to Apply**

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

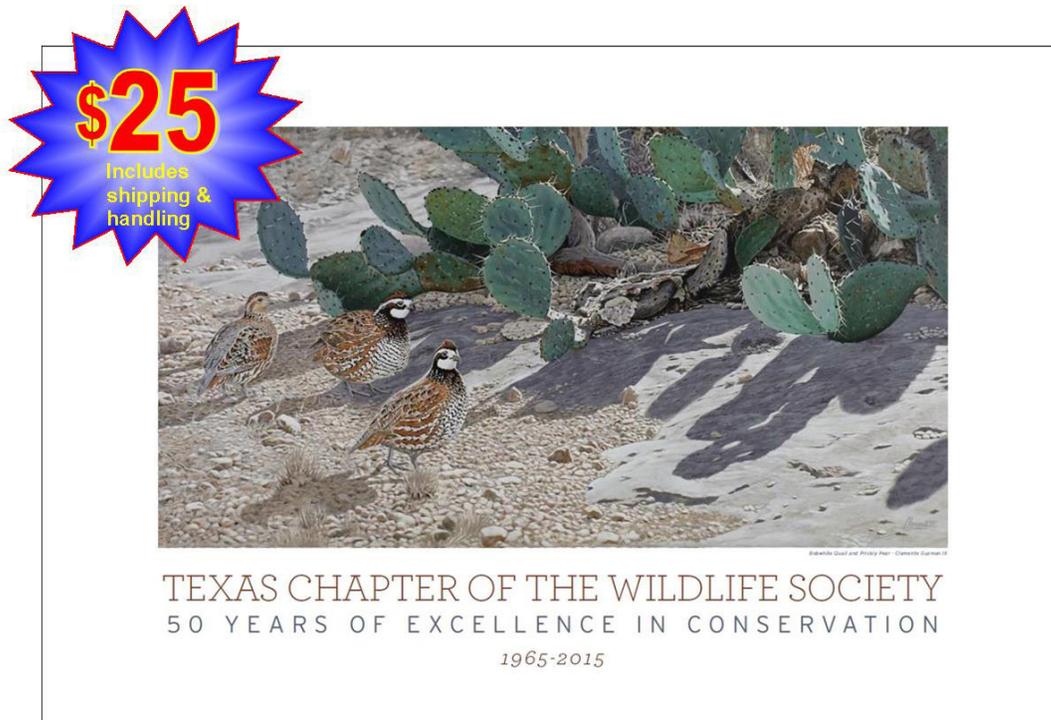
TCTWS Certification Committee

[mlmorrison@tamu.edu](mailto:mlmorrison@tamu.edu)

Cell: 979-204-3015

## CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY POSTER OF TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



Get your copy today! Purchase a limited edition print of the TCTWS 50th Anniversary Clemente Guzman quail painting. Proceeds from the sale of the prints benefit the James G. Teer Conservation Leadership Institute. Prints measure 24 x 36 inches and are printed on archival quality paper, cost is \$25 each.

Limited number available signed by the artist, Clemente Guzman.

<http://tctws.org/50th-anniversary-poster/>

# CONFERENCE AWARDS

## OUTGOING PRESIDENT

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Dave Hewitt

## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

---



Linda Cambell

## EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

---



Lee Ann Linam

## LAND STEWARDSHIP AWARD

---



Buddy and Ellen Temple, Temple Ranch

## SERVICE AWARD

---



Nova Silvy

## OUTSTANDING POPULAR ARTICLE

---



Jim Ray

## OUTSTANDING BOOK

---



Ricky Linex

## OUTSTANDING TECHNICAL PUBLICATION

---



Blake E. Alldredge, Jason B. Hardin, Jay Whiteside, Jason L. Isabelle, Scotty Parsons, Warren C. Conway, James C. Cathey, Christopher E. Comer, Sabrina Seidel, and Gary Calkins

Not Pictured:  
Outstanding Scientific  
Publication, Dan J  
Kaminski, Christopher  
E. Comer, Nathan P.  
Garner, I-Kuai Hung,  
and Gary E. Calkins

# CONFERENCE AWARDS

## OUTSTANDING ELECTRONIC MEDIA

---



Billy Higginbotham, Justin Dreibelbis, Helen Holdsworth, Courtney Brittain, and Clint Fass

## DAN BOONE SCHOLARSHIP

---



Nicholas Kolbe

## NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION SCHOLARSHIP

---



Masi Mejia

## OUTSTANDING VIDEO

---



Mark Tyson, Kristin Tyson, James C. Cathey, and Tim Siegmund

## COLIN CARUTHERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

---



Aidan Flores

## CARL SHOEMAKER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

---



Michelle Caruana

## MCTEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

---



Cassie Jones

## SAM BEASON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

---



Lorraine Ketzler

# CONFERENCE AWARDS

## STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

---



Texas A&M University-Kingsville

## QUIZ BOWL TEAM

---



Tarleton State University

## 1ST PLACE GRADUATE POSTER

---



Cord Eversole, Texas A&M  
University-Kingsville

## 1ST PLACE COTTAM

---



Adam Duarte

## 1ST PLACE PLANT ID, INDIVIDUAL

---



Veronica Urbanczyk

## 1ST PLACE PLANT ID, TEAM

---



Texas A&M University

Not Pictured:  
Best Undergraduate Poster,  
Katelyn Allred, Texas A&M  
University-Kingsville

# CONFERENCE AWARDS

## BEST OF SHOW

---



Dan Walker

## 1ST PLACE ART

---



Jamie Killian

## 1ST PLACE CAPTIVE CONSERVATION

---



Ashley Tubbs

## 1ST PLACE HUMOR

---



William Colson

## 1ST PLACE PLANTS AND SCENERY

---



Skylar Stevens

## 1ST PLACE REMOTE CAMERA

---



Dakota Nelle

## 1ST PLACE WILDLIFE

---



Dan Walker

## 1ST PLACE WORK

---



Bobby Alcorn

## JUDGES' CHOICE PHOTO AND ART

---



Shannon Cain

# CONFERENCE AWARDS

## OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

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Ariana Berdote, Stephen F. Austin State University



John Clayton Kiddo Campbell, Sul Ross State University



Sarah Turner, Texas A&M University



Mackenzie Birkhead, Texas A&M University-Commerce



Sonia Duran, Texas State University



Aidan Flores, Texas A&M University-Kingsville



Michael Duncan, Tarleton State University

Not Pictured:  
Jennifer Romero,  
Texas Tech University