



Photo by James Cash

## 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 M. 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



Judging by the temperatures lately, summer has definitely arrived, which means that the executive board meeting is rapidly approaching. The TCTWS leadership usually schedules the meeting in conjunction with Wildlife Conservation Camp to foster interaction with the campers. The Camp has often been held at the Wedler Wildlife Refuge, but occasionally travels to other parts of the state. This year's Camp will take place in the Davis Mountains of west Texas. Camp director Annaliese Scoggin and her crew have prepared an outstanding slate of activities that is sure to form a lasting impression on the campers. I look forward to catching up with TCTWS leadership, meeting campers,

thanking the camp leaders in person, and, last but not least, the chance to escape the south Texas humidity for a few days!

In Texas this time of year, conversation inevitably revolves around weather and politics. The El Niño weather pattern is now officially history, having brought mixed blessings to our state. Most of Texas benefitted from drought-busting rains, and the tropics were relatively quiet. However, we experienced too much rain at times, and flooding caused widespread damage and loss of life in parts of central and eastern Texas. The most recent El Niño was one of the strongest on record, as measured by surface water temperatures in parts of the Pacific. The previous record occurred in the late 1990's, and brought heavy rainfall then as well. I didn't make the association between rainfall and El Niño at the time, but do vividly recall how the mosquitoes mobbed the truck every time we slowed to pass through a ranch gate, and nervously driving past miles of flooded sacahuista, trying not to get stuck in the coastal clay. The last El Niño was followed by erratic weather that seemingly lurched from wet to dry every other year, and finished with some of the driest months Texas has witnessed since the infamous droughts of the 1950's. What will post-El Niño bring this time around? Anyone's guess, though a good friend and colleague likes to remind us that the next drought is 1 day closer; we'd better moisture and keep the bobwhites calling after last year's record quail crop. Fawns will be on the ground soon, if they haven't already arrived.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The weather is always a topic of conversation in rural Texas, especially in the company of ranchers, farmers, or wildlife managers. At other times, talking about the weather can be a good way to avoid the sensitive subject of politics. We live in interesting times. As many are no doubt aware, tensions have been high during the past few months, as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Animal Health Commission crafted a set of rules intended to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease to the state's free-ranging deer herd. Attempts to resolve stakeholder concerns made progress and some compromises were reached. The Commission voted to adopt the rules on June 20th after hearing additional testimony from stakeholders, including representatives of the TCTWS. However, other stakeholders remain dissatisfied, and will likely pursue action in the upcoming legislative session. It is clear that many hold strong opinions about the movement of captive and wild deer. The dedicated natural resource professionals charged with developing the rules hear more than their fair share of complaints and criticism. Therefore, I'd like to extend a personal thank you to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department personnel, the Commissioners, and the Texas Animal Health Commission for their dedicated efforts to navigate these difficult, uncharted waters on behalf of our natural resources.

The arrival of chronic wasting disease is one of the best arguments for managing native wildlife under the public trust doctrine. Even in a democracy, the people must regularly exercise that most difficult of virtues—self-restraint—when their actions affect others. Wildlife belongs to everyone, and the future of our natural resources must be the primary concern. The TCTWS leadership supported the agency proposal because the rules were based on the best available science, the consensus recommendation of wildlife veterinarians and epidemiologists. The need for sound science is even more important in our age of social media, where the steady stream of inaccurate, even outrageous, statements is a reminder of how little expense is required to create doubt. In the end, management based on science is the cornerstone of wildlife management in North America, and the primary reason why our model is envied throughout the world. Until next time, thanks to everyone for their continued dedication to our great chapter and to the natural resources of Texas.

Randy DeYoung, President

## IN MEMORIAM

### Dr. Jack Ward Thomas



The Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society is saddened to hear of the recent passing of Jack Ward Thomas (Sept 7, 1934—May 26, 2016).

Thomas was instrumental in the formation of the Texas Chapter, and succeeded Jim Teer as our 2nd President. He later served as president of The Wildlife Society from 1976 to 1977. Thomas came back to Texas in Feb 2014 to speak at the plenary for the TCTWS 50th annual meeting in Austin. Those present fondly recall his wit and wisdom, and more than a few hilarious stories from early days working with Teer and the US Forest Service.

Born in Fort Worth, Thomas received his B.S. from Texas A&M University in 1957, M.S. from West Virginia University in 1969, and Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts in 1972. Thomas began his career with the Texas Game and Fish Commission in the late 1950s, moving in 1966 to join the Forest Service in Morgantown, WV, as a research wildlife biologist, then in 1969 to the Urban Forestry and Wildlife Research Unit in Amhurst, MA. In 1974, he became chief research wildlife biologist and project leader at the Blue Mountains Research Lab in La Grande, Oregon. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Thomas studied spotted owls and their old-growth forest habitats in the Pacific Northwest. Thomas was Chief of the US Forest Service from 1993 to 1996; he retired from the Forest Service in December 1996 after 30 years of service, and served as the Boone & Crockett chair and professor of wildlife conservation at the University of Montana for 10 years. Thomas retired in 2005, but remained active as a consultant and conservation advocate.

Among his many honors and awards were the USDA Distinguished Service and Superior Service Awards; Elected Fellow, Society of American Foresters; National Wildlife Federation, Conservation Achievement Award for Science; The Aldo Leopold Medal, The Wildlife Society; General Chuck Yeager Award, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; and USDA FS Chief's Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer.

# TWS CERTIFICATION

## TWS Certification Reminder

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/>

For any questions, contact:  
Whitney Gann, Chair  
TCTWS Certification Committee  
[whitney.gann@sulross.edu](mailto:whitney.gann@sulross.edu)  
(432) 837-8632

# TWS-SW SECTION NEWS

Southwest Section Tracks

Spring-Summer Issue 2016

By Fidel Hernandez, Southwest Section Representative

Hello Fellow Chapter and SW Section Members of TWS,

Summer is upon us, and time is slowing down. The spring semesters have concluded, and the days are lengthening. I doubt there will be anyone who does not feel summer's tug for some get-away time. I know I will. But, before we venture off to our summer retreat, I want to provide you with a brief update on TWS happenings.



## PUBLICATIONS

There have been quite a few changes in the publications of The Wildlife Society (TWS). Some have occurred recently, within the past year. Others are being implemented this year or will be in the near future. One of these changes is that the number of issues for The Wildlife Professional has increased from 4 to 6. This increase in the number of issues is due in part to the efforts of Nancy Sasavage, the Director of Publications and Communications for TWS, and her staff in reducing costs and increasing efficiency. Be sure to see the upcoming May-June Issue, which will focus on State Wildlife Action Plans.

There also has been a few changes regarding editors of TWS scientific publications. As most of you know by now, Dr. Paul Krausman and Dr. David Haukos have begun their terms as Editor-In-Chief of the Journal of Wildlife Management and Wildlife Society Bulletin, respectively. One of the things that has confused authors over the years is that they usually have doubts regarding which journal their study is most suited for. Fortunately, both editors have developed guidelines to clarify this issue. You can find their advice and guidelines for deciding where to submit your article in the Journal of Wildlife Management (Volume 80: 189-191) and the Wildlife Society Bulletin (Volume 40: 5-6). In addition, Drs. Krausman and Haukos have developed uniform author guidelines for both journals to facilitate the submission process!

A possible change that will be arising in the future is the topic of open access. Some funding agencies now require that publications arising from their funded research be open access. As such, TWS is having numerous conversations with Wiley Publishing on issues such as Open

## TWS-SW SECTION NEWS

Access, Open Data, and Impact Factors. Currently, TWS journals have an open access option for authors for an additional charge, but more changes may be happening over the next several years as the publishing landscape changes with open access mandates.

### GENERAL OPERATIONS

Trends in TWS membership continue to increase. Membership increased to 8,989 by April 2016. Part of this success is due to stronger renewal rates and membership growth because of the launching of an Automatic Renewal option in the online forms. As of April, approximately 35% of new members have chosen Automatic Renewal. This new feature will minimize membership lapses and make life easier for both current and new members.

Another membership improvement that is in-progress is the development of a TWS Network Online Directory. It is currently in its testing phase, but this feature soon will be available to members. In a recent TWS Membership Survey, networking was listed as one of the most important benefits of TWS. This in-progress network online directory will provide TWS members this valuable opportunity.

And, lastly, for those of you engaged in digital Content and Social Media, you'd be happy to know that TWS now has a social media audience of more than 100,000 people. During the recent Council meeting held in early March, TWS only had an audience of 92,500. Thus, the TWS audience has increased by 8.6% in just the last two months! Be sure to follow TWS happenings through its social media outlets.

### UPCOMING ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In closing, I'd like to remind you that the 23rd Annual Conference will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina during October 15–19, 2016. This year's conference will feature 4 Plenary/Keynote Sessions and more than 40 networking opportunities and 600 educational sessions. There also will be 4 field trips that highlight the natural beauty and natural history of the state. Here is a brief window into the Plenary/Keynote sessions:

- **Plenary 1:** Expanding Partnerships Vital to the Future of Wildlife
- **Plenary 2:** The Past, the Present and the Future of Invasive Species Control in North America: Achieving Success through Innovation
- **Plenary 3:** Is Sustainable Use of Wildlife Sustainable?
- **Keynote 1:** Public-Private Partnerships for Conservation

Attendance to annual conference has been increasing in recent years. Correspondingly, TWS has continued to increase the services and value of the conference to members. TWS has expanded the capacity for concurrent sessions from 10 to 12 for this year's conference and will have a daily plenary or keynote session to kick off each morning. In addition, TWS has accepted 12 workshops, 25 symposia (5 more than last year), and three panel discussions. It is anticipated that the total number of paper and poster submissions is only second to Hawaii in the past ten years! To find out more about the conference, please visit the conference website at <http://www.twsconference.org/>.

## TWS-SW SECTION NEWS

Well, that is it for now. Enjoy your summer. Be sure to take some time off to refresh and renew, whether at the beach or on the mountains.

Until next time,

Fidel Hernández  
Southwest Section Representative of TWS

# STUDENT CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

## Stephen F. Austin State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Nacogdoches, situated in the beautiful Piney Woods of East Texas, is home to Stephen F.



Figure 1. Owen Best, past student President, holding a cinnamon teal banded in Krotz Springs, LA.

Austin State University and the prestigious Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture. The College offers several majors including a forest wildlife management degree plan. Many of the forest wildlife management students are involved in the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society and take advantage of opportunities that the organization provides. During the last year, students



Figure 2. Vice President, Jason Ashen, smiles with a deer about to be tagged during a deer capture trip in south Texas.

participated in several volunteer and learning

opportunities including duck banding with the USGS in Krotz Springs, LA

and at Anahuac NWR near Beaumont, TX. Students also assisted white-tailed deer biologists

with helicopter captures at big game ranches in south

Texas and volunteered at local outreach events within the

Nacogdoches community, including the Forestry Field Day.

During the spring semester,

students have the opportunity to

join the Texas state chapter at the

annual meeting where they network with professionals, compete in quiz

bowl and other events, and present results of research projects to others

within the wildlife profession. At the 2016 meeting in San Antonio, student chapter members



Figure 3. SFA Students that attended the 2016 Texas State Chapter meeting in San Antonio, TX.



Figure 4.. Student Cassey Edwards with her award for the Best Undergraduate Poster Presentation.

# STUDENT CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT



Figure 5. Students (left to right) Ellart Vreugdenhil, Cassey Edwards, and Cheyenne Massengale with awards won at the 2016 Texas TWS State Chapter meeting in San Antonio, TX.

won Best Undergraduate Poster Presentation (Cassey Edwards), Best Photo in Field Work (Cassey Edwards), Best Photo in Scenery (Ellart Vreugdenhil), 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Photo in Field Work (Cheyenne Massengale), and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Photo in Field Work (Tamara Wood).

The student chapter also uses unique and fun ways of fundraising to help alleviate the costs of participating in volunteer, networking, and team building opportunities. The annual Beast Feast, held each fall, provides a venue where a variety of wild game dishes are prepared by students, professors, and alumni. Last year's Feast featured Black-tailed Jackrabbit and American Alligator among the more usual wild game dishes. Funds are raised through entry fees, the sale of raffle tickets, and silent auction items at the event. A new fundraiser, started

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Figure 6. Student Tamra Wood with her award for 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Photo in Field Work.



Figure 7.. Students enjoying the "Spring Fling" fundraiser in April 2016.

only 2 years ago, is the annual Spring Fling. This event is

all about relaxing and having fun with peers and faculty

before the start of final exams. During this fundraiser,

students have the opportunity to soak their professors in a

dunking booth, win raffles prizes, and compete in other

games including ring toss and washers.

## STUDENT CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

This coming year, we plan to add more events and learning opportunities to the roster such as an ice breaker BBQ to show off the chapter to incoming students, a camping trip in the fall to get outdoors and promote team building, and a golf tournament in the spring.



*Figure 8.* Student Ryan Wood taking his shot at dunking Dr. Jeremy Stovall during the "Spring Fling" fundraiser.

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

### Call for Abstracts for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

#### Paper and Poster Presentations

Abstracts will be accepted **beginning 1 September 2016** for the technical paper and poster presentation sessions at the 2017 Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's annual meeting to be held 16–18 February 2017 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. Paper (oral) presentations should present results or outcomes and abstracts reporting preliminary or no data should be submitted as a poster. The theme for this year's plenary session is “**Wildlife Conservation and Management on Private Lands**”. This session will feature researchers, managers, and landowners with expertise in the topic.

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. **Only one poster will be judged per student presenter, though students may present >1 poster.**

Abstracts should be submitted via the abstract submission website at: <http://tctws.tamu.edu/>. **Deadline for receipt of abstracts is 30 November 2016.**

Please indicate, where requested, your preference for presentation format (i.e., paper, poster, or no preference) and session. For those entering no preference, a decision will be made by the program committee. 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. **Again, only one poster will be judged per student presenter, though students may present >1 poster.**

Any questions pertaining to abstract submission should be directed to the Program Chair: Tyler Campbell, 210-776-5059 (mobile) or at [tcampbell@eastfoundation.net](mailto:tcampbell@eastfoundation.net) (email) – preferred.

Contributed papers will be scheduled at 15-minute intervals to include time for questions and comments (2–3 minutes). The short and long program will be available at <http://tctws.org/> in advance of the meeting indicating day, time, and location of presentations.

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/>.

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## 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 formatting instructions on the abstract submission website.

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

LEONARD A. BRENNAN, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX 78363, USA

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

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

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

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 (FST) 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 (FST = 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

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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.

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Award Nominations Now Open!  
Deadline for all awards is November 1, 2016!

### **Educator of the Year Award:**

The Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee is soliciting nominations for the Educator of the Year Award. The Educator of the Year Award recognizes wildlife professionals for outstanding achievements in wildlife conservation education. Please submit a 5 point bullet statement explaining why the nominee is deserving of the award, along with a curriculum vitae of the nominee (if possible) to: (Daniel Kunz, PO Box 225 Alice, TX 78332, daniel.kunz@tpwd.texas.gov). *The deadline for nominations is November 1.*

### **Land Stewardship Award:**

The Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee is soliciting nominations for the Land Stewardship Award. The Land Stewardship Award recognizes individual landowners or other appropriate individuals for their wildlife conservation efforts. Please submit a ½ to 1 page letter of nomination explaining why the nominee is deserving of the award to: (Daniel Kunz, PO Box 225 Alice, TX 78332, daniel.kunz@tpwd.texas.gov). The deadline for nominations is November 1.

### **Outstanding Achievement Award:**

The Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee is soliciting nominations for the Outstanding Achievement Award. The Outstanding Achievement Award recognizes wildlife professionals for their outstanding achievements during the course of their involvement with natural resource management and conservation. Please submit a 5 point bullet statement explaining why the nominee is deserving of the award, along with a curriculum vitae of the nominee (if possible) to:

Send all nomination correspondence to:

Daniel Kunz,  
PO Box 225  
Alice, TX 78332

daniel.kunz@tpwd.texas.gov

# Student Scholarships

## Call for Applications

This is the first call for undergraduate and graduate student scholarship applications for the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The deadline for submission is 16 December 2016.

To apply for a scholarship, all students must submit a single pdf with their completed and signed application and transcript (please mark out or remove any personal information such as your social security number and birth date). Graduate students also need to include a letter of recommendation from their major professor/advisor and a short synopsis of their graduate research project ( $\leq 300$  words). Please email scholarship applications to: Stephen Webb, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, 2510 Sam Noble Pkwy., Ardmore, OK 73401; e-mail: [slwebb@noble.org](mailto:slwebb@noble.org); office: 580-224-6443.

Undergraduate and graduate student scholarship guidelines are located on the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society website.

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### Honorary Life Membership Committee Seeking Nominees

The Honorary Life Membership Committee is seeking nominees for this honor. Certainly, the Texas Chapter is blessed with numerous members who have made outstanding contributions to wildlife conservation on a state, national and/or international scale. These individuals deserve the recognition of their peers for their outstanding long-term service to the wildlife resource.

To be eligible a nominee should have been (1) active for 20 or more years in the wildlife profession as an employee of a natural resource agency, academia, or a private organization as a wildlife biologist or consultant; or an effective non professional activist. (2) He/she should have made significant contributions to the Chapter and/or the Profession and/or wildlife conservation of Texas.

To act on a nomination the Committee needs:

1. A reasonably complete vitae for the nominee which should contain his/her full name (present position, organizational affiliation, address, phone number), and a reasonably complete history of professional accomplishments.
2. One or more letters of nomination from close friends or associates.

Nominations should be kept confidential, especially from the nominee, but you can enlist the assistance of your co-workers. Many people have vitae that they use for various purposes. Surreptitiously obtain one. If there isn't one available, patch something together, with the help of friends, associates and spouses. From those nominations that we receive the committee can select one or more recipients to be honored at the 2002 annual meeting. Dossiers of people not selected this year will be filed for future consideration. Please take a moment right now and consider who among your coworkers qualifies and deserves this honor? Set some time aside on your calendar to gather the data to support his or her nomination.

Deadline: 7 December, but act now!!!

**YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO DESERVES TO BE HONORED THIS WAY!!!**

Send material to:  
Kenneth L. Gee--Committee Chairman  
kennethlgee@gmail.com  
580.319.8440