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Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

www.tctws.org

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A Message from the President:
Randy DeYoung.....1

Book Review:
Justin Hoffman.....3

TWS Certification
Whitney Gann.....5

TWS-SW Section News
Fidel Hernandez.....6

Student Chapter Spotlight
Abilene Christian University.....9

Chapter Business.....10

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



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great holiday season and found a way to enjoy some time outdoors despite the alternating balmy and frigid weather. Final preparations are in full swing for the 53rd Annual Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Conference, to be held in San Antonio 16–18 February. I hope you can join us— Program Chair Tyler Campbell has prepared an outstanding plenary session on Wildlife Conservation and Management on Private Lands. The conference activity begins on the morning of the 16th, with 4 workshops aimed at giving members an opportunity for continuing education as well as assistance with TWS certification. Student competitions open at 1 pm with

the highly competitive plant ID contest, followed by the famous Texas Quiz Bowl. Posters will be presented prior to the welcome reception on the 16th; the competition for undergraduate and graduate poster awards should be pretty steep! Many thanks to Heather Mathewson for juggling 97 posters and the student competitions. The morning of the 17th opens with 4 engaging and thought-provoking plenary talks followed by 6 outstanding graduate students competing for the prestigious Clarence Cottam Award for best student presentation. The conference really kicks into gear in the afternoon with 5 concurrent sessions, and continues until noon on the 18th, an amazing 102 oral presentations.

As an organization, our goal is to sustain diversity of wildlife and their habitats in Texas, and to support diversity in our profession; your participation facilitates this vision. Make plans to attend our annual chapter meeting, which provides a forum where conservation of wildlife is a common goal. The venue and program will afford ample opportunity for networking, learning, and engagement. Similar to last year, we'll recognize our Chapter's outstanding members and organizations at the Awards ceremony on the 17th, followed by a reception. Registration and hotel information are posted on the Chapter website, along with a draft of the long program www.tctws.org.

A Message from the President

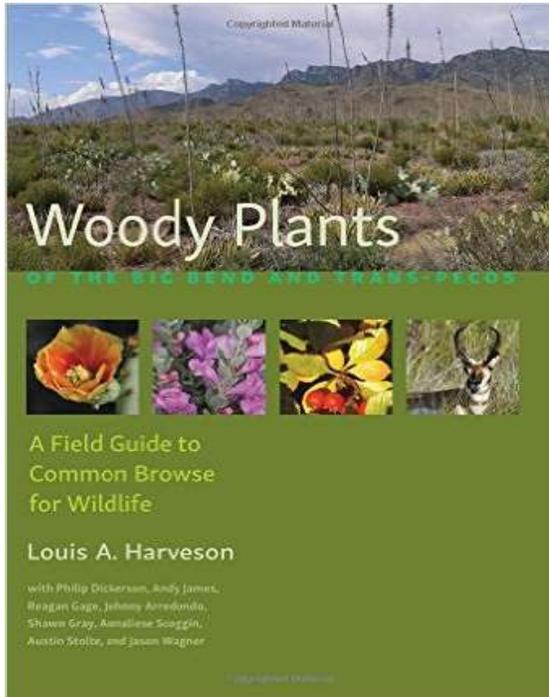
In the past year, your Chapter leadership has worked hard to ensure that we maintain a quality and affordable annual conference while continuing to be a voice for the natural resources. The 85th Legislative Session is open and we stand ready to provide unbiased, science-based information to inform policy decisions, thanks to Executive Director Don Steinbach. We also strive to maintain support for important Chapter programs, including the Jim G. Teer Leadership Institute for young professionals, the annual Wildlife Conservation Camp for high school students, and scholarship opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students. With some changes to the conference format, Treasurer Terry Blankenship assures us that the Chapter is in good financial shape. Please thank our sponsors and exhibitors, and don't forget our raffle-- Kory Gann has assembled a fantastic array of raffle items that are sure to be in high demand.

In closing, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your President--thanks for your confidence and support. When you are at the conference, take a moment to thank the committee chairs and members; anyone who has a "Chairperson" ribbon on their name badge has put in many long hours in service to the Chapter. The volunteer efforts of this dedicated group of people are what makes our Chapter and the annual conference great. I look forward to seeing everyone in February!

--Randy DeYoung

Book Review

Woody Plants of the Big Bend and Trans-Pecos: A Field Guide to Common Browse for Wildlife. Louis A. Harveson, Philip Dickerson, Andy James, Reagan Gage, Johnny Arredondo, Shawn Gray, Annaliese Scoggin, Austin Stolte, and Jason Wagner. 2016. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas. 208 pp. \$29.95 softcover. ISBN: 978-1-62349-353-0.



Woody Plants of the Big Bend and Trans-Pecos (hereafter Woody Plants) is an incredible resource for any outdoor enthusiast who desires a field guide that provides quick, efficient, straightforward, and informative descriptions of woody plants (“browse” for wildlife). Woody Plants primarily covers the Big Bend and Trans-Pecos ecological regions of Texas, but also is applicable to northern Mexico, eastern New Mexico, southern Rolling Plains, and the western Hill Country. The greatest advantage that this book offers, compared to other plant and field guides, is how these woody plant species are utilized by wildlife.

The contents of Woody Plants includes a preface, introduction, plant description, appendix, glossary, and literature cited. The book includes descriptions of 87 woody plants that provide valuable forage for large ungulates, primarily big game species (e.g., desert mule deer, pronghorn, white-tailed deer, desert bighorn sheep, collared peccary and elk) that reside in the Trans-Pecos. Each plant description includes a minimum of two high-resolution photographs of the entire plant as well as important plant attributes (e.g. leaf structure and arrangement, flowers, seeds, etc.). The description lists the family, common and scientific name, and other commonly-used names. Next, a brief description of the plant’s size and structure, with average dimensions, is provided. Each description includes concise examinations of the plant’s leaves, flowers, fruit, value to wildlife, and response to management. Another useful component is that each plant is ranked as first-choice, second-choice, or third-choice based on wildlife selection, uses of each plant, and abundance and quality of forage.

The “Value to Wildlife” section of each description details what plant components are utilized by wildlife (e.g. stems, leaves, fruit, mast, roots, and tubers), and how the plant’s structure and composition provides useful components of habitat. “Plant Responses to Management” are discussed for each plant and generally includes common management practices prescribed or implemented in the Trans-Pecos region. In general, the plant response section details the effects of browsing pressure, livestock herbivory, and the plant’s tolerance to these pressures.

Other useful sections include the Introduction and Appendix. The introduction describes the climate and geographical sub-regions of the Trans-Pecos and how these landscape features dictate habitat and plant types. The appendix includes additional literature and resources for other regional plant guides and specific diet composition studies that have been performed on big game species residing in the Trans-Pecos. A glossary and literature cited section follow the appendix.

Book Review

The authors of *Woody Plants* consist of university researchers and scientists, natural resource students, and wildlife biologists; each with expertise in different aspects of range and wildlife science. The perspectives of the authors and the book's format delivers an informative guide best used for educating landowners on identifying and realizing the value of their woody (browse) species for wildlife and range productivity. In addition, the simple layout and descriptions provide a great resource for natural resource students or researchers involved in field research and identifying important woody species for big game ecology and management in the Trans-Pecos. In summary, *Woody Plants* met, and even exceeded, the purpose of providing a user-friendly reference of woody plants for a wide-range of audiences.

—Justin Hoffman, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Ardmore, OK 73401, USA. E-mail: jkhoffman@noble.org

Book Review Editor: Stephen L. Webb, Journal of Wildlife Management, The Wildlife Society

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
(432) 837-8632

TWS-SW Section News

Southwest Section Tracks

Winter Issue 2016

By Fidel Hernandez, Southwest Section Representative

The autumn semester just ended last week, and there is a quietness and surrounds campus this week. Most students have traveled home for the holidays and, although I enjoy the interaction with students and the energy they bring to campus, I also relish the quietness that descends upon campus when semesters end, particularly the autumn one. There's something about the winter weather that adds to this sense of solitude and tranquility. So, as I enjoy this slowing of time, I take the opportunity to catch you up on the latest happenings of The Wildlife Society since we last visited.



TWS CONFERENCE: RALEIGH

I had the opportunity to attend the 23rd Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Raleigh, North Carolina during October 2016. What a privilege. It was a 5-day conference that was jam packed with activities and meetings. The conference offered 961 educational and training opportunities that included 44 contributed paper sessions featuring 360 presentations, 25 symposia featuring 239 presentations, 10 workshops, 10 films/videos, 5 plenary/keynote sessions, 3 panel discussions, and more than 330 posters! It seems that with each passing year, the TWS conference gets better and bigger. For example, the number of concurrent sessions increased from 8 just 2 years ago to 12 this year. In addition, the conference in Raleigh was well attended, with more than 1,800 registrants. This attendance placed the Raleigh conference in the top 5 in TWS' history in terms of attendance.

President Gary Potts' theme of Expanding the Partnership provided an excellent framework and focus for the conference. The conference effectively showcased the progress that TWS has made toward expanding partnerships. In President Potts address to the general membership, he noted that TWS partnerships had grown from only 2 a few years ago to about 30 today. This expansion occurred in all areas including state, federal, and private conservation sectors. President Potts also noted that partnerships bring TWS communication and marketing opportunities, collaborative work, shared messaging, joint conferences, funding, and much more. As he commented, "Expanded partnerships help move TWS in the direction of becoming the go-to organization for wildlife". It appears that TWS has made huge strides toward this end.

Regarding awards, the Southwest Section shined at the annual conference (like always), bringing home quite a few awards:

- **Student Chapter Advisor of The Year:** Scott E. Henke (Texas A&M University-Kingsville)
- **Wildlife Publication Award (Monograph):** *Effects of harvest, culture, and climate on trends in size of horn-like structures in trophy ungulates*, co-author James R. Heffelfinger (Arizona Game and Fish Commission)
- **Distinguished Service Award:** Brian L. Hanson (retired, US Fish and Wildlife Service)
- **TWS Fellow:** Carol Chambers (Northern Arizona University)

TWS-SW Section News

- **Honorary Member:** Terry Blankenship (Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Refuge)

A hearty congratulations to all awardees!

GENERAL OPERATIONS

Finance. The Wildlife Society continues on an upward trajectory that began in 2013 (a year that sometimes is referred to in Council as the “turnaround” year for TWS). To provide a conceptual framework for the TWS budgeting process, the budget is developed by the TWS Executive Director, and TWS operates on a July-June fiscal year. The Executive Director presents the budget to TWS Council, who then discuss the budget and vote to approve/disapprove. Following is a brief overview of how TWS fared financially during the past fiscal year.

TWS finances for the 2015–2016 fiscal year (June 2015 to July 2016) were strong. Total revenues were \$2.6 million, and total expenses were \$2.4 million. This produced a net revenue of \$202,397. Unfortunately, the total investment yield of TWS investments was -\$19,005 due to poor market performance. This reduced the net revenue and resulted in an overall surplus of \$183,393 for the year. Thus, despite the market underperformance, TWS was able to come under budget and with an ending balance in the black for the 2015–2016 fiscal year. To be honest, I never had a true appreciation for the planning and budgeting process that guided TWS. Serving as your Southwest Section representative gave me this opportunity, and I must admit that I was impressed with the current budgeting process and current leadership of Executive Director Williams. TWS certainly has righted the ship under the current leadership.

Update: Executive Director Search. Unfortunately, Executive Director Williams will be retiring in July 2017. One plus side, however, Executive Director Williams provided TWS leadership with plenty of notice (1 year) of his upcoming retirement. The Executive Committee of TWS has been engaged in succession planning since Executive Director Williams’ announcement. A position announcement was created and distributed through several mediums and closed on October 2016. More than 25 applications were received, and the search committee is busy evaluating applications. Interviews are planned for this spring 2017. Please stay tuned for updates on this search in future newsletter articles.

Partnership Engagement. The Government Affairs and Partnerships (GAP) program of TWS is engaged in numerous formal and informal coalitions and partnerships. Because there are numerous organizations TWS could partner with and issues it could tackle, the GAP program prioritizes its involvement in coalitions to ensure it’s delivering the most benefits to TWS and its membership. The basic criteria that determines TWS GAP involvement is whether 1) TWS has something to offer, and 2) TWS obtains a direct benefit for the advancement of the society’s policy objectives. This results in TWS GAP taking an active leadership role in some coalitions and only a participating role in others. It also means that GAP cannot participate with all worthy coalitions because it needs to maximize the benefits it can deliver to TWS members. Following are a few examples of coalitions where TWS plays a current role:

- **National Horse and Burro Rangeland Management Coalition** (*TWS role: lead*): focused on improving the management of wild horses and burros and achieving appropriate management levels to support rangeland health.
- **Teaming with Wildlife** (*TWS role: lead*): supports funding for wildlife conservation, in particular the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program

TWS-SW Section News

- **National Cooperators Coalition** (*TWS role: lead*): alliance of nonfederal cooperators and other supporters of the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program.
- **Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement** (*TWS role: lead*): focused on operations and maintenance of funding for the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- **American Wildlife Conservation Partners** (*TWS role: lead*): national organization that support hunting, fishing, and trapping as a part of science-based management in North America.
- **National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species** (*TWS role: participating*): a broad collection of groups focused on preventing the spread of invasive species.
- **USGS Coalition** (*TWS role: participating*): an alliance of scientific organizations with the goal of ensuring proper funding for USGS to continue providing critical data and services for the US.

24TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE: ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Mark your calendars...the 24th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society is coming to the Southwest!!! The conference will take place during 23–27 September 2017. Current TWS President Bruce Thompson has identified his conference theme, and it is, "*Wildlife Conservation: Crossroads of Cultures*".

We are excited about having the conference in the Southwest Section. Bringing the conference back to Albuquerque is even more special knowing that the very first annual conference in TWS' history happened in Albuquerque in 1993.

A local committee has been formed to assist TWS with conference planning. Logistical planning is being led by Quentin Hays (Quentin.Hays@enmu.edu), and fundraising is being spearheaded by Ginny Seamster (Virginia.Seamster@state.nm.us). Please contact either Quentin or Ginny if you want to become involved and assist with the conference. To find out more about the conference, please visit the conference website at <http://www.twsconference.org/>.

We look forward to a great conference and giving TWS a true Southwest welcome!

Until next time,



Fidel Hernández
Southwest Section Representative to TWS Council

Student Chapter Spotlight

Abilene Christian University Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society

The ACU Wildlife Society was founded on September 10, 2012 as a recognized student chapter of The Wildlife Society and a student organization at Abilene Christian University by students and professors from the Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Department. Since that time the ACUWS has grown to 22 students majoring in Animal Science, Biochemistry, Biology, and Environmental Science from diverse backgrounds ranging from rural to urban and even international with faculty sponsors housed in the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the Department of Biology. Within the ACU community the ACUWS hosts biweekly meetings bringing together undergraduate students with professors and wildlife professionals and semi-annual “beast feasts” to lighten the burden of final exams week for their fellow students. In order to foster connectivity, the ACUWS has also partnered with other ACU student organizations, including the Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Club, the ACU Biology Research Club, and Wildcats for Sustainability, in order to promote conservation and educational opportunities campus-wide.



Beyond the university community, the ACU Wildlife Society has volunteered to host workshops and collaborate in service activities including the Hawley Middle School Earth Day and Earth Day at the Abilene Zoo, Clean-Up Day at the Cedar Creek Waterway, Abilene Outdoor Adventures events, and the Bass Brigade Youth Camp. Under the leadership of chapter president Eric Dolezalik, the ACU Wildlife Society has begun its most ambitious service project to date with the preparation of a new public wildlife trail near the edge of the ACU campus. The trail will be a place where anybody is welcome to enjoy nature and learn more about the local environment. Following the trail clearing, ACUWS is currently supplementing the local woody vegetation surrounding the trail with a variety of native grasses, forbs, and shrubs chosen from the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Plant Identification Contest list. With funding assistance from the ACU Student’s Association, the ACUWS will provide plant identification labels and interpretive signs for the benefit of campus and public education.

The ACU Wildlife Society places special emphasis on opportunities for undergraduate research and internship opportunities. Under the leadership of research mentors, Dr. Josh Brokaw (plant ecology), Dr. Jim Carpenter (wildlife ecology), and Dr. Tom Lee (mammalogy), ACUWS members have presented research at annual meetings of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, the Southwestern Association of Naturalists, the Texas Society of Mammalogists, the Texas Academy of Science, and the ACU Undergraduate Research Festival. Recent presentation titles include: “Visitation of Quail Feeders by Quail and Non-Target Species” by Catherin C. Longest and Reece C. Wells; “Baseline survey of small mammals and bacterial pathogens in the southeastern Rolling Plains” by Hannah Seah, and Daisy Gomez; “Relationships between small mammal assemblages and land management in the southeastern Rolling Plains” by Jamie E. Thompson et al.; “Estimating climate-based range expansion in honey mesquite” by William M. Keenan and Bryce J. Gerlach; and “Development of nuclear markers for phylogeny reconstruction in *Thomasomys* (Rodentia: Cricetidae)” by Maya J. Feller et al.



Student Chapter Spotlight



Several former members of the ACUWS have recently begun graduate studies in wildlife biology, including Grant Lawrence (Sul Ross State University), Jason Davis (Texas A&M University), Bryce Gerlach (Stephen F. Austin State University), and Mike Keenan (Texas A&M University). Current undergraduate research projects include continued monitoring of the impact of quail feeders on predators and non-target species at the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch and monitoring of the impact of supplemental water on wildlife behavior at the ACU Rhoden Farm.

The ACU Wildlife Society also seeks to prepare and promote its members for careers in wildlife biology and management. Each summer ACUWS members have participated in summer internships through Texas Parks and Wildlife and other state

agencies in preparation for careers or continuing education in wildlife biology. In the past two years, the ACUWS has hosted many wildlife professionals including Joe Beech (Recruitment, TWPD), Annaliese Scoggin (Wildlife Biologist, TWPD), John Clayton (Fisheries Biologist, TWPD), Mike Homer (Fisheries Biologist, TWPD), and Justin Bryan, (Wildlife Biologist, Hall and Hall Farm and Ranch Management) in order to provide members with career guidance. Several students have also assisted our local wildlife and fisheries biologists with population assessments. Finally, ACUWS alumni have accepted wildlife management positions, including mostly recently, Jason Davis (Wildlife Manager, W.T. Waggoner Ranch) and Grant Lawrence (Ranch Foreman near Bee Cave, TX).

Still young but growing, the ACU Wildlife Society strives to be a supportive multidisciplinary, multiethnic, Christian community dedicated to the responsible stewardship of the natural resources that have been entrusted to us.

Chapter Business

The Plenary Session speakers for the upcoming meeting have been selected!

This group should provide an insightful set of talks. We invite you to learn a little more about them from their short biographies, below!

Terry Anderson

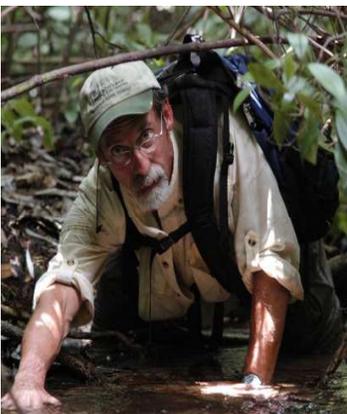
Terry Anderson is the William A. Dunn Distinguished Senior Fellow and former President and Executive Director of PERC as well as the John and Jean De Nault Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. He believes that market approaches can be both economically sound and environmentally sensitive. His research helped launch the idea of free market environmentalism and has prompted public debate over the proper role of government in managing natural resources. He is the co-chair of Hoover's Property Rights, Freedom, and Prosperity Task Force.



Anderson is the author or editor of thirty-seven books. Among these, *Free Market Environmentalism*, co-authored with Donald Leal, received the 1992 Sir Antony Fisher International Memorial Award. A revised edition was published in 2001.

Anderson's research, much of which has focused on Native American economies, recently resulted in a co-edited volume, *Self-Determination: The Other Path for Native Americans* (Stanford University Press, 2006). He has published widely in the popular press and professional journals, including the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Fly Fisherman*, *Journal of Law and Economics*, and *Economic Inquiry*. During his career at Montana State University, Anderson received several outstanding teaching awards and is now professor emeritus of economics. He received his B.S. from the University of Montana and earned a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Washington.

Anderson is an avid outdoorsman accomplished at big game hunting, bird shooting, fishing, skiing, and hiking.



Reed F. Noss

Reed Noss is President of the Florida Institute for Conservation Science and Provost's Distinguished Research Professor at the University of Central Florida, where he teaches conservation biology, ecosystems of Florida, field ornithology, and history of ecology. He has a B.S. in Education from the University of Dayton, an M.S. in Ecology from the University of Tennessee, and a Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Florida. For most of his professional life he has worked in the southeastern United States, the Pacific Northwest, California, the Rocky Mountains, and several regions of Canada, with additional research projects in Latin America and other regions.

Dr. Noss has served as Editor-in-Chief of *Conservation Biology* and President of the

Chapter Business

Society for Conservation Biology. He is an Elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He currently conducts research on vulnerability of species and ecosystems to sea-level rise; climate adaptation strategies; disturbance ecology; road ecology; ecosystem conservation; and changes in ecological processes and species assemblages along urban-rural-wildland gradients. He has nearly 300 publications, including seven books, and is rated as one of the 500 most highly cited authors in all fields. His latest book is *Forgotten Grasslands of the South: Natural History and Conservation* (Island Press, 2013). He is currently writing a book on disturbance ecology: *Flames, Tempests, and Deluges: A Natural History of Disturbance*.

James Oliver

James Oliver is the Chief Operating Officer with the Texas Agricultural Land Trust (TALT) and as a lifelong rancher with more than 15 years of production ag lending experience, he brings a unique understanding to discussions regarding land—and succession.

“I got my start in production agriculture as a kid on our family’s South Texas cattle operation,” Oliver, who was reared in Pleasanton and holds a B.S. in agricultural economics from Texas A&M, said. “I’ve managed production ag loans from La Pryor, Texas to Golva, North Dakota.”

“Because of my experience, I know that landowners have common issues—and the biggest one of these is passing their land intact to the next generation.”

Oliver, who has been running a diversified commercial cattle, sheep and goat operation on his wife’s family land in Crockett, Pecos, Val Verde and Kinney counties for the past decade, noted his family is facing the same challenges.

“When you ranch, it’s easy to turn off and tune out,” Oliver said. “I recognized that I wanted to be part of the conversation—in the industry and in the legislature—about keeping land intact. TALT offers several tools that helps people create their own options.”

His multi-faceted experience on the range and in the boardroom makes him a natural facilitator.

“My boss at JP Morgan Chase told me, ‘You can make a cowboy an accountant, but you can’t make an accountant a cowboy,’” Oliver said. “I speak both cowboy and financier.”

Finding succession solutions is important because productive, open space land is important.

“Productive, open space land is important because of our history,” Oliver said. “It’s important to the economy of our state whether it’s generating tax revenue at the county level or contributing to the balance of trade in the export market. And conserving land is a way to safeguard our natural resources like water. Frankly, wide open spaces are what makes Texas Texas.”



Chapter Business



Jonathan Ogren

Jonathan founded Siglo Group in 2006 to help clients integrate natural systems into land planning and design. He specializes in environmental assessment, regional analysis, conservation planning, mapping, and land use feasibility studies. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with an M.A. in Geography and the Environment and a B.A. in Biology. He is now on the faculty at the University of Texas School of Architecture, where he teaches graduate students to integrate geographic analysis into their research. One of his first professional jobs was with NASA. The experience changed his direction through the realization of how valuable and irreplaceable natural systems are here on this planet. Jonathan also worked at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and Sequoia National Park. He served on the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan Advisory Task Force. Outside of work, Jonathan can be found running around Lady Bird Lake or hiking the Hill Country with his sons

and their dog.

Chapter Business

ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROGRAM FOR THE 53RD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY - 16–18 FEBRUARY 2017

The program is almost finalized and is available on the Texas Chapter website (in draft, then final form) at <http://tctws.org/>. The long program will not be made available in print at the meeting, but meeting attendees will be able to access the program **free through the website and through the mobile App for Android and Apple devices**. These technological advances are saving the Texas Chapter a bunch of money and in keeping your registration fees for the meeting more manageable.

Program Highlights:

- **Plenary session will focus on Wildlife Conservation and Management on Private Lands** and include presentations on the topic from experts, including Terry Anderson, Reed Noss, James Oliver, and Jonathan Ogren. A healthy discussion on the topic is anticipated, including questions from the audience – so come ready with your questions, comments, and ideas.
- **8 abstracts for the Clarence Cottam Award Competition were received** and the Cottam Committee **selected 6** of these for the competition based on established selection criteria. We wish the best of luck to all competing students.
- **101 abstracts for oral presentations were received.** All of these will be included in one of the program's 5 Concurrent Sessions (running Friday afternoon through Saturday morning). If you are a presenter, please check the program for the time and location of your talk. Also, we are requesting that presenters download their final presentations in advance of the meeting (more details to follow on this).
- **97 abstracts for poster presentations were received to date.** All of these will be included in the program's Poster Session. The program has 42 undergraduate student posters that will be judged for competition, 33 graduate student posters that will be judged for competition, and 22 professional posters that will not be judged. Poster presenters, please see program for poster set-up and take-down times. Again, we wish the best of luck to all competing students.
- The size of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting (**we anticipate 800+ attendees**) has created the need to restructure the Awards Ceremony/Banquet – very similar to last year's meeting. We will have our presentation of awards on Friday, 17 February in the Texas Ballroom A, B & C – with theatre (row) seating from 5:30–6:30 PM (or so). Upon dismissal from the Awards Ceremony, we will have an Awards Reception with heavy hors-d'oeuvres in the Fiesta Pavilion, instead of a seated round-

Chapter Business

table banquet. This too, will keep your registration fees for the meeting more manageable and allow all registrants to participate in the celebration of awardees.

This is going to be a tremendous meeting and we hope that you are able to join us in the wonderful, centrally-located city of San Antonio.

All the best!

Tyler Campbell
Program Chair

Chapter Business

2017 Chapter Meeting Workshops

Thursday February 16th, 2017

8am -12pm **Introduction to Landscape Ecology: Pattern and Process – Dr. Humberto Perotto**

Introduction to basic concepts of landscape ecology to understand spatial structure and its quantification and to link this spatial structure to wildlife habitat.

8am – 4pm **Distance Sampling: Density Surface Modeling – John Edwards**

Introduction to distance sampling theory and analysis, as well as theoretical background for density surface modeling and its uses. A walkthrough of distance sampling and density surface modeling will be conducted using GIS and R providing codes needed to do so.

9am – 12pm **Habitat Management Incentives Programs – Jon Hayes**

Information and resources for private landowners, land managers, agency employees, and other wildlife conservation practitioners on the many financial incentive programs offered by federal, state, and private organizations aimed at restoring wildlife habitat in Texas. An overview of what programs are available and how they can help landowners and professionals achieve their wildlife management goals.

10am – 12pm **TWS Certification – Whitney Gann**

TWS Associate and Certified Wildlife Biologist® programs provides recognition by The Wildlife Society that, to its best knowledge, an applicant meets the minimum educational, experience, and ethical standards adopted by the Society for professional wildlife biologists. Bring your application and receive first-hand knowledge and aid in completing your application.

Chapter Business

The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society invites its members to submit entries for the Photo, Art, and Video Contest at the 53rd Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX on February 16-18, 2017.

- 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 Daniel Walker at daniel.walker@tpwd.texas.gov.
- Art may include original drawings, paintings, carvings, sculpture, poetry, etc. All entries compete in one category.
- Photos and art will be submitted at the meeting. 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.
- Videos can be submitted through Jan 31, 2017. Email Daniel questions on submitting.
- There will be a professional photographer to help judge and critique photos/portfolios that any members bring.
- 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.