



Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

"Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education."



WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Have you been looking for a way to have a positive impact on Texas wildlife, habitats, natural resources, and our heritage? Consider sponsoring a student scholarship through the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society! Our Texas chapter works to ensure good stewardship of our natural resources. Our membership is diverse, consisting of leading researchers, state officials, Nature Conservancy managers, private lands biologists, and many young and up-and-coming professionals. Our annual meetings are a forum to share new ideas and management techniques, present the latest information on species-specific research, management strategies, and other applications designed to improve the way we manage and safeguard our state's vast and sometimes limited natural resources. We have an impact on critical wildlife issues during the legislative process, and we offer opportunities to build a stronger conservation ethic through our interactions with each other and the public at large. A strong chapter ensures positive long-term results for Texas, and maintaining a strong chapter means continuing to support passionate young people who are invested in learning our profession.

THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Back in April 1981, the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TCTWS) made the decision to begin offering scholarships to university students. The first 3 scholarships (\$500 each) were awarded in 1982, and we have continued to award scholarships to deserving students each year at our Annual Conference and Awards Banquet. Scholarships are provided for educational assistance to college students pursuing degrees in programs that will prepare them for careers in wildlife science or natural resource conservation. Scholarships through the Texas Chapter are made possible *only* through private donations like yours and through membership support. This brochure highlights several of our former scholarship recipients and details how these individuals continue to positively impact our growing profession. Keep in mind that these are only a few examples of the many star professionals who have benefited and thrived through their association with TCTWS! Won't you please support the next generation of biologists with your generous donation today? Make *this* your legacy!

FORMER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Jena Moon

I grew up near Buffalo Gap, Texas. I received the Sam Beasom Memorial Scholarship in 2012, helping to offset the cost of tuition.

- B.S. in 2002 from Texas Tech University
- M.S. in 2004 from Texas Tech University
- Ph.D. in 2014 from Stephen F. Austin University studying mottled ducks and coastal marsh systems in Texas

I have dedicated my career to working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and I have worked in deep, south Texas and southeastern Texas as a Refuge Biologist before my promotion to the Upper Gulf Coast Zone Biologist for the FWS Inventory and Monitoring Initiative. My current focus is on eco-geomorphology and coastal marsh elevation change, wintering waterfowl habitat selection, improving control of feral hogs in coastal systems, assessing habitats used by mottled duck breeding pairs, and constructing a demographic model for mottled ducks.

I was recognized with the Clarence Cottam Award and scholarship in 2013, for the best graduate student presentation at the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's annual conference in Fort Worth, Texas.

I have served the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society in various capacities over the years including:

- Finance Committee Chair 2009
- Membership Committee Chair 2010
- Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee Chair 2011
- Board-Member-at-Large 2012
- Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chair 2012
- James G. Teer Leadership Institute Program Development Committee 2012- present
- Secretary 2014

I am also on the research faculty at Stephen F. Austin State University. I am a hunt-master for the Texas Wildlife Association, a member of Delta Waterfowl and Duck's Unlimited, and an avid outdoors woman.





FORMER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Eric Grabmann



I am a native of Victoria, Texas and developed my love for the outdoors and quail while spending time working and hunting with my father and grandfather on family property. I received the Dan Boone Memorial Graduate Scholarship in 2012, without which I could not have successfully completed my graduate career.

- B.S. in 2006 in Agriculture, minor in Science from Sam Houston State University
- M.S. in 2009 from Texas A&M University-Kingsville in both Rangeland and Wildlife Management determining impacts of 3 densities of white-tailed deer on vegetation communities with and without supplemental feed
- Ph.D. in 2013 from Texas A&M University-Kingsville in Wildlife Science with a minor in Statistics focusing on the

restoration of habitat for northern bobwhites and scaled quail in areas dominated by non-native grasses

In 2013, I was selected to be part of the 1st class of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's James G. Teer Institute. I am currently the Director of the Game Bird Science Program with the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute based out of San Antonio. I oversee multiple research projects focused on northern bobwhite, scaled, and Montezuma quail, and habitat restoration in south and southwest Texas. I maintain involvement in several groups including:

- The Wildlife Society - Rangeland and Wildlife Working Group - Treasurer
- Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society - Sub-committee chair for the Intercollegiate Wildlife Plant ID Competition
- Texas Society for Ecological Restoration - South Texas Board Member

“THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT THROUGH THE TEXAS CHAPTER TWS WAS IMMENSELY HELPFUL. THAT SUPPORT HELPED PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO FOCUS ON GAINING EXPERIENCE IN THE WILDLIFE FIELD AS A YOUNG BIOLOGIST.”

- ALAN CAIN

Alan Cain

I grew up near Weatherford, Texas and spent countless hours hunting and fishing in North Texas. I received the Wetland Habitat Alliance scholarship in 1994.

- B.S. in Wildlife Management from Texas Tech University in 1994
- M.S. in Range and Wildlife Science from Texas A&M University – Kingsville in 1999 on impacts of a highway expansion of bobcat habitat use

The Texas Chapter provided a great opportunity to develop long-lasting professional relationships that had a positive influence on my career path from my early days as a research technician on the South Texas mountain lion project to my Master's research.

I've been fortunate to be involved with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and The Wildlife Society for many years.



- 2000 Texas Parks and Wildlife private lands biologist
- 2002 Texas Parks and Wildlife district biologist in South Texas (Karnes, Wilson, Atascosa, Bexar, and Medina Counties)
- 2008 Texas Parks and Wildlife district leader of South Texas Wildlife District
- 2010 current leader of Texas Parks and Wildlife white-tailed deer program
- 2012 President of Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

The Texas Chapter has been a positive influence in my professional career. Over the years I have served on the scholarship, local arrangements, publication awards, and program committees. The future is bright for wildlife resources in Texas but we need to insure we've got the most talented folks helping to manage the resources for hunters, fishermen, and those who simply enjoy the outdoors.

R. Neal Wilkins

I was born in Houston, Texas. I received the Carl D. Shoemaker Memorial Scholarship as a senior at Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU). Although it was 30 years ago, I still remember receiving the Carl D. Shoemaker scholarship, inspiring me and launching my career in wildlife. It helped me to focus on exactly what I wanted to do.

- B.S. in Forestry from SFASU
- M.S. from Texas A&M University-College Station on bobwhites in South Texas
- Ph.D. from University of Florida in 1992 looking at changes in vegeta-

tion following site preparation and understory restoration with a herbicide

I worked as an Extension biologist for Tennessee between my M.S. and Ph.D. and have also worked in research for the US Forest Service. I have spent time in Washington State developing a wildlife & fisheries program on private forestlands, and in 1998, I became a faculty member at Texas A&M. In 2012, after working in various Research and Extension roles for almost 15 years, the opportunity to lead the East Wildlife Foundation presented itself. I now divide my time between an office in San Antonio, and our field laboratory of native rangelands across South Texas. I have served as president of The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society in 2005 and I continue to promote TWS.



TCTWS SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



Jennifer Korn

I grew up in Wylie, northeast of Dallas, Texas. I received the Gary Waggener Memorial Scholarship in 2011. Funds from this scholarship were extremely important in helping me complete my doctoral degree.

- B.S. in Biology/Anthropology from University of Texas in 2003
- M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from Texas State University in 2008 evaluating avian communities with occupancy models and landowner surveys
- Ph.D. from Texas A&M University-Kingsville looking at the genetic pedigree and prey dynamics of ocelot and fine-scale movement patterns of bobcats in South Texas

I am the current Florida Panther Specialist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation, where I work with private landowners and the public to increase awareness and develop new incentive programs to protect panther habitat in south central Florida.

I conduct presence-absence camera surveys for panthers across 10 counties, on both public and private lands. Protection of remaining fragmented habitat for panthers is highly dependent on the cooperation of private landowners.



Since relocating to Florida, I am an active member of the Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society and am currently their newsletter editor (a position I held for 2 years at TCTWS, too). I will be a committee member for two Masters students at the University of Florida (UF) in 2014. I also work with members of the UF student wildlife society to promote internships and leadership opportunities for future wildlife biologists, and I currently mentor the UF student wildlife society president!

Roel Lopez

I am originally from South Texas, growing up in the once small town of McAllen, Texas. I received the Texas chapter scholarship from the Wetland Habitat Alliance in 1993. My father was in a serious work accident that year, which would have prevented me from completing my degree program due to my limited finances.

- B.S. in Forestry with wildlife emphasis from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1993
- M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University in 1996
- Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University in 2001

I have had the opportunity to work in many different places and with various state and federal agencies, including the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the US Forest Service. The majority of my career has been spent working through the ranks to achieve



wildlife professor status at Texas A&M and I am now the director of the Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources. I have been an active member of The Wildlife Society for the last 20 years, and I am currently President-elect of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

“THE TEXAS
CHAPTER
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GAVE ME THE
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TO GRADUATE AND
CONTINUE MY
GRADUATE
PROGRAM AT
TEXAS A&M “

-ROEL LOPEZ

Megan Clayton

I grew up in Wylie, Texas, and I received the Dan Boone Memorial Scholarship from the Texas Chapter in 2003. The Dan Boone Scholarship helped cover the cost of my books for the semester. The scholarship meant more than that though because it was an opportunity for the TCTWS to show me that they cared about my education and future as their colleague. I consider members of the TCTWS to be my family. There is not a more dedicated and personable group of people who love what they do for a living.



- B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University in 2003
- M.S., Ph.D. in Wildlife Science from Texas A&M University-Kingsville in 2006 and 2009
I have served The Wildlife Society on multiple committees and on multiple levels through the years including as:
- President and Education Chair of the Texas A&M Chapter

- Wildlife Conservation Camp Director (2 years)
- Member of the Leadership Institute and now serve on its Committee
- Chair of the Excellence in Wildlife Education Award Committee
- Current Chair of the Rangeland Wildlife Working Group at the national level
- Member of the Education and Outreach Working Group and the Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society

I attended the TCTWS Wildlife Conservation Camp as a student in 1998. I describe this as the “best week of my life” because I found names for things I had been passionate about and learned about potential careers. Now I am an Assistant Professor and Extension Range Specialist for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Department of Ecosystem Science and Management. I have the privilege of conducting applied research, support county programs, and educating people on the integration of livestock and wildlife management.



“I REMEMBER HOW THRILLED I WAS TO RECEIVE THE DAN BOONE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP- THAT FUNDING REALLY HAD AN IMPACT, ALLOWING ME TO GET IN THE FIELD AND COLLECT DATA EARLIER, FORMING A MORE ROBUST THESIS

FOR MY M.S. ”
-RACHEL LANGE

FORMER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Rachel Lange

I grew up in Dallas, Texas. I received the Dan Boone Memorial Scholarship in 2005 and was able to use these funds to kick-start my research for my Master’s thesis project.

- B.S in 2006 in Wildlife Biology From West Texas A&M University (WTAMU)
- M.S. in 2012 in Biology from WTAMU studying habitat selection and natural history of a Rolling Plains snake community



I’ve been an active member of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society since 2004, serving as Vice President of the WTAMU student chapter for 3 years, and newsletter editor for the Texas chapter from 2013-2015.

While a student, I spent 2 summers as an intern with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at Matador Wildlife Management Area. I have worked as a research assistant for Texas AgriLife Research where I investigated the effects of invasives and bio-controls on native plants and carabid beetle communities. My current position as an environmental scientist with a private consulting firm, now involves working with protected species, conducting habitat evaluations, and assisting with regulatory compliance issues and mitigation bank planning. The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society and those involved in it have really contributed to my development as a wildlife professional.

Stephen Webb

I am a native of Round Rock, Texas. I received the Dallas Ecological Foundation Scholarship and the Colin Caruthers Memorial Scholarships as an undergraduate student, and the Lower Colorado River Authority Graduate Research Assistant Grant as a graduate student.

- B.S. in 2001 in Range and Wildlife Management with a minor in Biology from Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK)
- M.S. in 2005 from TAMUK studying spatial ecology of mature male white-tailed deer in southern Texas
- Ph.D. in 2009 from Mississippi State University and studied spatial ecology and genetics of white-tailed deer across the southern U.S.

I have worked as a Research Associate for the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute and the Feline Research Center studying spatial ecology of bobcats and ocelots, and as a Quantitative Ecologist for a private consulting firm in



Wyoming conducting research on elk, mule deer, greater sage-grouse, and the dunes sagebank lizard. I currently work with >300 scientific researchers at The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation studying a wide range of topics and collaborate on wildlife projects both nationally and internationally. I found numerous opportunities to collaborate on

research, get involved in a wide-range of activities, and network with professionals from various disciplines through my involvement in The Wildlife Society at the student (chapter Vice President and President), state and national levels. To this day, I continue to be involved with the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, serving as a chairperson and member on various committees.

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT TCTWS.ORG!

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Our parent national organization, The Wildlife Society, was founded in 1937 as an international, non-profit 501(c)(3) scientific and educational organization. It was designed to serve and represent wildlife professionals in all areas of wildlife conservation and resource management. As a society, we strive to promote excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education.

James G. Teer and Jack Ward Thomas formed the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society in 1965. In 2014, we celebrated our 50th meeting in Austin, TX with well over 600 attendees. Our chapter strives to involve resource professionals and stimulate participation by all individuals who are concerned with our natural resources and environment here in Texas. One of our core goals is to provide a forum to encourage an understanding of current research and management of Texas’ wildlife resources. As part of this goal, we organize an annual conference each February, encouraging our seasoned and young professionals to share their latest research findings. We offer different opportunities to stretch and test the knowledge of our promising young professionals through quiz bowl and plant ID competitions, and oral and poster presentations. This is also the place where we recognize and commend outstanding wildlife enthusiasts, both professional and laymen, for their work in maintaining, restoring, or enhancing natural habitats in Texas. We also recognize researchers and educators for outstanding publications and outreach. Our chapter provides opportunities for high school students to participate in a wildlife conservation camp experience each summer, educating the “average” citizen and igniting the passion in some to pursue careers in conservation.

As a chapter, we help formulate policy positions regarding issues that affect Texas wildlife and habitats.



**TEXAS CHAPTER
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**