



Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

"Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education."

HISTORY OF THE TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

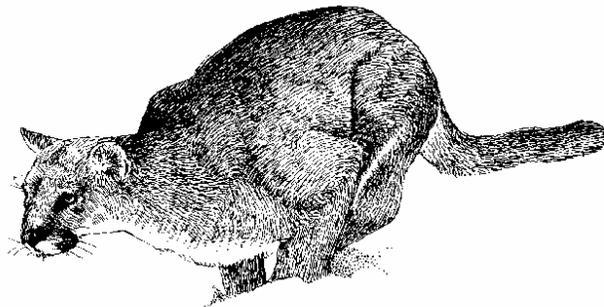
1965-2005

By

Raymond C. Mathews, Jr.

Historian

Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society



Synopsis

The Texas Chapter was formed in 1965 for the purposes of (1) promoting the professions related to the conservation and management of wildlife resources, (2) disseminating information to the public concerning wildlife research, management, and conservation, and (3) recognize notable achievements of the Chapter in wildlife management in Texas. The Texas Chapter conforms to the bylaws, policies, code of ethics, objectives, and position statements of The Wildlife Society. Chapter efforts are designed to involve resource professionals and stimulate involvement by all concerned individuals.

In order to accomplish these goals, the Chapter has five objectives composed of the following: (1) provide better liaison among Chapter members and administrative programs of the Society, (2) evaluate and respond to Society positions and actions that affect Texas wildlife and their habitats, (3) recognize and commend outstanding achievements in maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of wildlife habitats in Texas by both professional and non-professional wildlifers, (4) focus the aims and objectives of The Society upon needs, problems, and events in Texas, and (5) encourage communications between Chapter members and non-members to facilitate understanding and effectiveness of research and management of Texas' wildlife resources.





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"Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education."

Vision Statement

The vision of the Texas Chapter, TWS, is to assure a sustained diversity of wildlife and their habitats in Texas

Mission Statement

The TCTWS strives to become the acknowledged source of scientific information and expertise concerning wildlife biology and management in Texas. The TCTWS participates in a global society in which the conservation of wildlife is a common goal. Wildlife resource decisions are made after consideration of relevant scientific information, in consultation with wildlife professionals, and with the support of an informed and caring citizenry

Strategic Goals

- ***Anticipate the future to best serve the changing needs of wildlife professionals and society.*** We are responsive to changes that are occurring in society, and we tailor services to meet the needs of our membership.
- ***Maximize the potential of wildlife professionals to be an effective steward of wildlife.*** The TCTWS provides opportunities for professional involvement, growth, and education for all members
- ***Foster high professional standards and ethics for wildlife professionals.*** Members of the TCTWS have high professional standards and ethics and are recognized for them.
- ***Provide information for the sound scientific management and stewardship of all wildlife species and their habitats for the benefit of present and future generations.*** The TCTWS is recognized as a leader in wildlife conservation for promoting state-of-the-art scientific and educational materials, sponsoring technical information exchange, influencing wildlife policies, reviewing and editing curricula for textbooks, and other innovative approaches to foster wildlife stewardship.
- ***Reach out to the citizens of Texas to increase their understanding and appreciation of wildlife and wildlife habitat.*** We facilitate wildlife information exchange in the state, regional and national levels among the public, and particularly all wildlife professionals, policy makers, organizations, educators, landowners, and informed citizens to advance responsible and sustainable use of wildlife resources.

Organizational Structure of The Wildlife Society

The Wildlife Society (TWS) is the parent society of the Texas Chapter, and was founded in 1937 as an international non-profit scientific and educational association dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. The mission of the society is to enhance the ability of wildlife professionals to conserve diversity, sustain productivity, and ensure responsible use of wildlife resources for the benefit of society. The Wildlife Society encourages professional growth through certification, peer-review, publications, conferences, and working groups.

Society members are dedicated to sustainable management of wildlife resources and their habitats. Ecology is the primary scientific discipline of the wildlife profession; therefore, the interests of the Society embrace the interactions of all organisms with their natural environments. The Society recognizes that humans, as other organisms, have a total dependency upon the environment. It is the Society's belief also that wildlife, in its myriad forms, is basic to the maintenance of a human culture that provides quality living.

The Society's Goals

1. Develop and maintain professional standards for wildlife research and management.
2. Enhance knowledge and technical capabilities of wildlife managers.
3. Advance professional stewardship of wildlife resources and their habitats.
4. Advocate the use of sound biological information for wildlife policy decisions.
5. Increase public awareness and appreciation of the wildlife profession.

TWS Council

An eleven-member Council that is elected by the TWS membership governs the Wildlife Society (TWS). The Council is composed of four Officers: President, President-Elect, Vice President, and immediate Past President, and seven Section Representatives, one from each of TWS's seven North American Sections: Northeast, Southeastern, North Central, Central Mountains and Plains, Southwest, Northwest, and Western.

TWS Sections

Sections are the regional membership organizations of the Society in North America and encompass several states, provinces, and, in the Southwest, republics. Sections bring a regional perspective to wildlife conservation issues and enable members to be active in professional affairs in a regional context. Sections promote cooperative efforts and the exchange of information among wildlife professionals from a broad geographic area. Sections establish their own regionally focused objectives and have their own bylaws, officers, committees, and dues structure. All section officers must be members

of The Wildlife Society, but Society membership is not a prerequisite for section membership.

TWS Chapters

Chapters are the local membership organizations of The Wildlife Society. They generally use a state or province boundary to define their memberships, although more or less than one state or province may be served by a chapter depending upon local membership needs. Student chapters are composed of student and professional members of the Society on college campuses. Chapters establish their own locally focused objectives and have their own bylaws, officers, committees, and dues structure. All chapter officers must be members of The Wildlife Society, but Society membership is not a prerequisite for chapter membership.

TWC Logo

The Wildlife Society's unique emblem features Egyptian hieroglyphics and depict a broad interest in wildlife. The literal translation of the hieroglyphics, from top to bottom, is: beasts (mammals), birds, fishes, and flowering plants (vegetation).

Introduction

The archives of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society (Chapter) represent a valuable historical resource of information regarding wildlife issues in Texas. Officers and archivists of the Chapter, such as Kay M. Fleming (Archivist 1996-2003) and Jon Purvis (Archivist 2003-2004), have done an extraordinary job of maintaining and organizing the records and files of the organization. These archives and other associated publications, such as Kay Fleming's carefully collated notes on the Chapter's early history (published in the Chapter newsletter in an article entitled: "Dust From the Archives"), have been an invaluable source of information for the development of this chronological history of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

Gary Valentine, a long-term member of the Chapter, asked if I would consider writing the history of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society. I can only presume that bestowing this privilege upon me was in some way related to my previous experience in documenting the history of the Texas Organization for Endangered Species and the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society; organizations of which I have been a member for several decades. At first, I was not sure of my ability to do a proper job of writing the history of an organization of which I had not been a member. My initial hesitation was soon dismissed, however, by a strong desire to tell the history of those in our state who dedicated so much of their lives, talent, and energy to preserve our state's wildlife heritage. This desire was strengthened by recollections of an annual meeting of the Chapter I had participated in several years ago. I was impressed by the diversity of topics presented at technical sessions and by the obvious passion exhibited by many of the presenters to contribute to the preservation and conservation of wildlife resources in

Texas. Preparing the history of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society has been a significant challenge but well worth the effort. My reward in helping to prepare this document will be the interest and joy it brings to those who have previously contributed or continue to contribute to the efforts of this fine organization. I have since joined the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

PRELUDE

By Wendell G. Swank

The Wildlife Society was founded on February 28, 1937, but did not become an officially legal tax-deductible organization until March 25th, 1948 (Wildlife News, Summer Issue, p. 4). The original formation of the organization, called The Society Of Wildlife Specialists, which became The Wildlife Society, undoubtedly was in response to The First North American Wildlife Conference called by President Franklin D. Roosevelt one year earlier in Washington, D.C. (Wildlife Restoration and Conservation, Proceedings of The North American Wildlife Conference, United States Govt. Printing Office, 1936). The President, in his opening statement read by Secretary Of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace said “It has long been my feeling that there has been a lack of full and complete public realization of our wildlife plight, of the urgency of it, and of the many social and economic values that wildlife has to our people.” F. A. Silcox, Chairman of the opening session, and Chief of the U.S. Forest Service stated “We are assembled here in a common effort to help restore and conserve the vanishing wildlife resources of a continent. This is a serious purpose.”

As would be expected, a high proportion of the people attending that conference were federal government employees in natural resources management, and natural resource educators associated with universities. People employed by state wildlife agencies were probably in the minority at that meeting, because at that time high proportions of the employees in such agencies were employed on a short time basis. Employees in state wildlife agencies had nothing resembling Federal Civil Service, and were subjected to possible political changes with every election, and most had little or no training or education in the management of wildlife. In fact there were no opportunities in the United States to get a formal education in the management of wildlife prior to 1927. In that year The University of Michigan School of Forestry began a program in “Forest Zoology” (Dana, Samuel T. in Howard M. Wight, 1938 Field And Laboratory Techniques in Wildlife Management, Univ. of Michigan Press). The next school to establish a wildlife management program was in 1933 when Aldo Leopold finished his book, Game Management and was appointed professor of game management at the University of Wisconsin (Stroud, Richard H. 1985. *National Leaders of American Conservation*. Smithsonian Institution Press.)

The establishment of ten cooperative wildlife research units in 1935 rectified the lack of educational facilities for future wildlife workers. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

The Wildlife Management Institute, the state universities and the state wildlife agencies the states in which the units were located sponsored those Units. The Units provided graduate courses and research opportunities at each of those universities. They were purposely located over the various biological areas of the United States to provide information on management of the wildlife species encountered throughout the country. Obviously the Units were successful, as Gabrielson in 1947 stated that five hundred well-trained men had passed through those units to find employment in state and federal conservation agencies. (Trans.12th N. American Wildlife. Conference. Pages.3-5.) This, in spite of the fact that wildlife education was almost completely shut down, as were a lot of other activities, from December 7th - August 16th, 1946 to World War II.

Many of the charter members of The Wildlife Society had background education at the college level in basic biological courses such as mammalogy, ornithology, and botany. Others were foresters, soil scientists and a variety of professions that managed habitat to produce and protect wildlife.

One of the most controversial of issues within the Society was professionalism. Was wildlife management a profession, and if so what constitutes a profession, and what makes an individual a professional? Members of the Society of American Foresters, many of who were also members of The Wildlife Society, pushed for The Wildlife Society to adopt education and employment standards analogues to those of the Foresters. Foresters, and rightly so, had gained recognition as professionals by the general public. The Forestry Association set the standards. It monitored and approved membership in the Society of American Foresters only to those they considered as being qualified. (Dana, S. T. and E. W. Johnson, 1963. *Forestry Education in America*. Society of American Foresters, Washington D. C.)

Members of The Wildlife Society were divided on the subject. Some wanted more latitude in educational requirements and less authority over the requirement of who could become members. Under the first Bylaws members were classified under two categories; Acting Members and Associate Members. To become an Active Member the person had to be approved by the Council and actively engaged in the practice or teaching of wildlife management, in wildlife administration, in wildlife research, or in graduate study of those subjects, and who was a graduate of a school approved by the Council. Membership was also open to those, who in the opinion of the Council had acquired an understanding of wildlife work comparable to that of a graduate of an approved school.

To become an Associate called for little more than paying the dues. The only other requirement was that the applicant had to be sponsored by two Active Members and approved by the Council. The dues were \$4.00 for an Associate Member and \$5.00 for an Active Member. (Journal Wildlife Management, Vol.10, No.4, pp. 361-363). After much debate an amendment to the Constitution was passed in 1950 (Journal of Wildlife Management, Volume 16. pp.116-120.) Under the new constitution Associate and Active memberships were dropped and membership was open to any interested person who was sponsored by two members and accepted by the Secretary. Dues were \$5.00.

Another concern of the Society, particularly of the Council Members and those active in the affairs of The Society, was low membership. They were well aware that The Society lacked influence in national issues due to low membership and inactivity of many members. It was noted that many working in the wildlife field employed by federal as well as state agencies were not members. There were suggestions that The Society should become more active in pursuing better working conditions for its members. A common comment was what do we get for our \$5.00 other than The Journal? Many members thought that The Society should be working for such things as higher salaries, and more security for positions. A sign of the times was reflected by Walter P. Taylor, Chairman of the Society's Membership Committee, in an article entitled "*You Should Be Interested.*" It appeared in the Wildlife Society Newsletter No. 40, Feb. 1952. In part it said the following:

"It is well known that a considerable number of wildlife and fisheries workers are not members of the Wildlife Society. One may perhaps excuse graduate students who are financially straitened. But when these same graduate students secure positions they should be able to join The Society. All too few do so.

"Seemingly there is a disconcerting lack of appreciation of the importance of Society services to its members, individually and as a profession. Here are some of them:

"Work for a higher pay scale for wildlife and fisheries managers. You'll doubtless agree that the present rates of pay, for one reason or another, are exasperatingly low.

"Urge the adoption of classification in state departments. By this I mean definition of particular jobs to be performed by wildlife workers, setting forth the qualifications required, educational and otherwise, and making explicit the responsibilities attached to the job. Obviously the pay rate should depend on a proper scientific classification. Without classification a career service is almost impossible.

"Promote merit system protection for wildlife workers in states now lacking this.

"Expand the beneficent and comprehensive contributions of The Journal Of Wildlife Management, so that fine periodical may publish material more promptly and in greater quantity.

"Promote action programs in behalf of the profession, through local or national meetings, award prizes for meritorious publication, improved conservation education, outstanding accomplishments, and in other ways.

" Explore the field for more job outlets for qualified wildlife and fisheries workers, and more vigorously promote employment and advancement of our members.

"Promote conservation education, on which, in the long run, our whole future depends, as individuals in the profession, and as citizens of our various nations.

"Study professional standards. Why are many of our members less qualified than their employers expect them to be? How do we secure higher standards of professional requirements? Should wildlife schools be inspected and accredited by The Society?

In response to Walter Taylor's article Leonard Foote, Southeastern Representative of The Wildlife Society, in part, replied as follows:

"During October and November (1951) I sent out membership application blanks to something over 200 employees of state and federal fish and wildlife organizations. I

found that about 50 percent of the state employed Pittman –Robertson men in this region were members, none of the Game Agents; very few of the Fish and Wildlife Service refuge managers; practically none of the state game wardens, very few of the D-J (Dingell-Johnson) employees; few of the state game and fish directors, none of the representatives of the state wildlife federation, very few of the OWAA (Outdoor Writers Association of America) members, and very few of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field personnel. The membership situation (of The Wildlife Society) is appalling.”

Does this all sound familiar? The Wildlife Society and we who are in the profession are better off than we were at that time, but in some areas not a lot better.

Membership in the early stages of The Wildlife Society did not grow rapidly due to several reasons other than the differences in the degree of profession options available to the members. The first list that I could find for The Society was for March 1938, and contained the names of 658 members. Shortly thereafter the threat of war and the preparation prior to the deceleration of war in December 1941 occupied the full attention of young men in the nation. As early as the middle of 1940 Army reserve units were called up, many of those who were in college or not long out of college. Those could have been members or potential members of the Society. Many in college were deferred from the draft until they finished, but many also signed up or volunteered for one of the defense organizations. Ordinary activities ceased, and all endeavors were devoted to winning the war. This did not change until the end of the war in 1946.

By 1945 the members had advanced to about 950 people, and among those who current members of The Texas Chapter did know, or have heard of were Dan Lay, Walter Taylor, William B Davis, Clarence Cottam, Leo Murray, Caleb Glazener, Henry Hahn, A.S. Jackson, Garner Fuller, and Val Lehmann.

The membership continued to increase, but at a snail’s pace. By April 4th, 1947 there were only 555 Associate Members and 484 Active Members for a total of 1038 paid up members (Journal of Wildlife Management, Vol. 11, No. 4: 273-274).

Walter Taylor in an article in the No. 38 issue of The Wildlife Society Newsletter entitled “*Membership in The Wildlife Society*” stressed that it was the responsibility of each member to actively recruit new members. It’s easy to guess what happened. He immediately became the new Chairman of the Membership Committee and instigated a determined drive to increase members. Every member was asked to bring in at least one new member each year, and by November 1953 the number of members had increased to 2122. This trend continued, and in June 1955 the number of members stood at 2634. 188 of those members resided in one of the four states in The Wildlife Society’s Region 5. By March of 1960 membership had increased to 3,533, and 245 were from Region V. This increase occurred in spite of the fact that the major issue of where the Society was headed and how it was to get there continued to be the major topic of discussion. (The Wildlife Society News Nos. 67, 69 and 70).

In 1962 dues for the Society went up from \$5.00 per year to \$10.00. Members of The Council, anticipating a drastic drop in members due to this increase put special emphasis on getting more new members to finance the current program and the planned expansion of activities, including hiring a full time executive secretary and expanding the section and chapter organizations.

There was a slight drop in membership in 1962, amounting to about 200 members, but this was temporary and by 1964 the membership was up to 4083. It was obvious to the Council that it would be in the interest of The Society to initiate actions to form Sections and Chapters. In addition to stimulating increase in member it would enhance the exchange of information and knowledge, increase bonding and coordination of local members and programs, and induce more association within the membership. In Texas this movement started early. Dan Lay called a meeting in San Antonio at the American Wildlife Conference in February 1947 to discuss the possibility of forming a Section in Region V. A report of the meeting was carried in the Spring 1947 issue of the Wildlife News. It said that approximately 25 members were in attendance, and other items on which action were taken included:

- (1) The nomination of suggested candidates for Regional Representative. (Glazener and Borell).
- (2) The naming of a committee to make arrangements for a meeting of the Region during 1947 (Baumgartner, Glazener, and Taylor.)
- (3) Submitting a petition to the Executive Council for a permanent Regional Organization.

Evidently this proposed meeting did not yield the desired results. Regional Representative F.M. Baumgartner reported in the Wildlife Society News No. 53, May 1955 that "There appears to be considerable interest in the organization of an Oklahoma-Texas Section of The Society. Your Regional Representative intends to devote his efforts to the organization of such a group which will represent the entire Region as visualized in the reorganization developed by Lee Yeager's Committee".

Eugene Walker, Regional Representative in 1959 reported in the Wildlife Society News No. 69 that "Oklahoma reports an indifference to The Society, generally, and the same is probably true in the other states of this region. In Texas members have approved of The Journal and other publications and prospective publications. It seems to be the consensus that The Society is not filling the need for a professional association. The formation of a State Section might partially alleviate this problem."

To move forward on problems viewed by the members and cited by Eugene Walker, arrangements were made for a meeting at a central location by those members in Region V who interested for a 2 day meeting to discuss future action. (Wildlife Society News, No.70, p.2, Aug.1959) The meeting was held in El Paso, Texas on September 26th and 27th, 1959. In attendance were Clarence Cottam and Caleb Glazener of The Welder Wildlife Foundation; Fred Baumgartner, of Oklahoma State College; Charles Wallmo, of Texas A&M College; Roger Hungerford of The University of Arizona; John Wood of

New Mexico State University; Cary Bennett, of the U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service; Robert Smith and Wendell Swank, of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. (Wildlife Society News, No. 73, p.2, May, 1960). The discussion and conclusions of the meeting were summarized by Wendell Swank who said in his report that "There is little doubt that an Active Region V section of The Society will be formed in the near future. The desire is there, so it is just a matter of time until this desire is fulfilled. This will bring Society activities to a more local level and will encourage participation by more wildlife workers in Society and professional activities.

In discussions at the above meeting it quickly became clear that a local organization representing the whole region was not feasible. The distances involved to attend meetings were just too great, and ecological differences in the states were quite different, compounding the wildlife programs and problems. Another problem that would be encountered was the monetary cost to the individual members or the agencies employing them for attendance at Regional meetings. The general public and the public sector served by workers in wildlife management are always suspicious about using their money for out of state meetings. They are much less critical of attending meetings within or very closely adjacent to their state. Such a location does not occur in Region V. After some efforts to form an organization representing the whole region the Society members in New Mexico and Arizona decided to go it alone in 1962. Society members held a meeting on January 19th and 20th at the American Museum of Natural History Research Station in the Chiracahua Mountains of Arizona. The theme of the meeting was Capture Techniques, and was opened by an illustrated presentation by H. C. "Red" Palmer of the Palmer Chemical Company, developers of the Cap Chur gun. Bylaws of the Section were adopted and officers for the coming year were elected. (The Wildlife Society News, No. 80, p 3, Feb. 1962).

The Wildlife Society section and chapter effort building moved on. The report of John Wood, Section Representative of Region V stated that James Teer organized a promotional meeting for a Texas Chapter for April 9th, 1965. (The Wildlife Society News No.97. p.15, April 1965). In the October, 1965 issue he reported that "In April the Texas members joined together to form the new Texas Chapter of the Society. Their first meeting was highly successful, and we are proud of the efforts of State Representative James G. Teer for the "footwork" that brought this chapter into being".

What we have today is due to the time, the efforts and the accomplishments of those who went before us. Time does march on, doesn't it?

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

1947

The **earliest known document** in the Texas Chapter archives, which are maintained in impeccable order by the Chapter Archivists, most recently Jon Purvis (Wildlife Biologist, TPWD), referring to the formation of a wildlife society sectional meeting was a simple meeting announcement dated January 27, 1947 by **Daniel W. Lay**, Regional Representative of The Wildlife Society. According to the announcement, “There will be a brief meeting of members living in Region V Sunday, February 2, at the Plaza Hotel, San Antonio at 5:30 PM. Principal business will be the question of **forming a sectional organization.**” There is no other reference to this meeting in the archives, or what the outcome was.

1959

The **earliest known formal letters and memorandums** in our archives concerning the formation of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TCTWS) date back to 1959. The archives of the Texas Chapter contain three letters and a memorandum documenting the early stages of considerations by wildlife biologist in forming the chapter. The **earliest letter in the file** is dated June 2, 1959 from **Philip Barske**, a field representative of the Wildlife Management Institute in Washington D.C. to **Caleb Glazener**, Assistant Director of the Welder Wildlife Foundation in Sinton, Texas. The purpose of the letter was to convey the bylaws of the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society (TWS), as adopted on February 3, 1939, which included 12 US states, the District of Columbia, Quebec and eastern provinces of Canada, including Ontario. The letter pointed out that nationally; TWS was too far removed for many “stay-at-home” wildlifers. Philip Barske pointed out that there was interest in forming a new chapter in New York State, and said he would be watching the Texas program to see how it develops.

A letter dated June 24, 1959 from **Henry S. Mosby**, Professor of Wildlife Management at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia, also to W.C. Glazener, indicating his thoughts on **restricting membership to professional wildlife biologist** for any new section of the parent society. He also pointed out that discussions had been taking place over the past twenty years about the formation of sections of the TWS, but that he knew of only two states, Louisiana and Minnesota that have statewide organizations that are affiliated with TWS. He went on to say that Virginia had such an organization some ten years ago, and they were affiliated as the Virginia Section of TWS. However, he stated that the organization was not functioning at the time of his letter, and he wished that he could do something to reactivate it.

A memorandum dated July 23, 1959 from **W.C. Glazener** to Texas Wildlife Biologist is the **first document that actually provides an interest in forming a Texas chapter of**

TWS. His memorandum states that “at the close of the 1959 staff meeting of the Game and Fish Commission wildlife biologists back in April, at Port Bay Club, there appeared to be unanimous agreement favoring formation of some type of professional organization by and for those employed in the wildlife field.” By vote of the group, **Caleb Glazener** was asked to gather information and handle preliminary correspondence, which he did based on replies to letters he sent to members of TWS who had some experience with other state wildlife sections. He **recommended that “Texas biologists seriously consider the formation of a Texas Section of the Wildlife Society,** with a Constitution and Bylaws designed to assure a voting membership of only those who are professionally engaged in wildlife work.” He further indicated that it might be possible to get TWS Council action prior to its meeting in Dallas in March 1960. However, there was apparently not enough interest at that time to pursue that course of action until February 1965, when the TCWS actually was formed.

A letter dated July 31, 1959 from **Daniel W. Lay** of the Texas Game and Fish Commission to W.C. Glazener provided support for the formation of a professional wildlife organization in Texas, and following through in a procedure to ask for a charter at TWS spring Council meeting in Dallas. He **recommended high standards for membership requirements.**

1965

The Texas Chapter journey really got started in 1965 when formal organizational meetings and a petition for a charter was submitted to the parent society. The first formal letter of this stage of development was dated January 12, 1965 from James G. Teer, Assistant Professor of Wildlife Management at Texas A&M University, to William H. Kiel, Wildlife Biologist for the King Ranch. According to this letter, John E. Wood, Regional Representative for Region V of the TWS appointed James Teer to help him in promoting membership in the society and encouraged him to undertake efforts to organize a Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. There was reference to the many attempts to form a TCTWS over the past years, all of which failed for reasons other than an interest in having such an organization.

Between 1959 and 1965 **most states did affiliate with TWS by the formation of chapters,** and Texas was one of the last states to affiliate. James Teer listed several **advantages for Texas to affiliate,** including (1) a state chapter will provide the means for “wildlifery” to meet on common ground to hear and learn about the overall programs of all agencies involved in the conservation movement in Texas, (2) it will provide a means to air out and discuss problems common to wildlife biologists, management programs, and progress in their particular geographic and discipline areas, (3) will provide a means for students in wildlife management to learn about the employing agencies in the state and identify themselves as part of the “picture,” (4) a state chapter can make itself heard in national affairs and business of the society, (5) can provide the stimulus for more efficient work and greater achievement and productivity through some type of recognition or award, and (6) can provide a means for promoting and maintaining

professional friendships and social atmospheres for special interest groups in wildlife biology.

James Teer made arrangements for a meeting with seven other wildlife biologists in Austin on February 6, 1965 to **begin work on the formation of the Texas Chapter**. Those biologists became the “Committee Members for Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society,” which did successfully take on the task of forming the TCTWS.

A memorandum dated January 25, 1965 by James Teer to “All Committee Members for Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society” provided details on the meeting place and time, with the objective of organizing a Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society. The Villa Capri Motel was selected for the meeting, which had a conference room costing \$8.50 for one day.

The results of this meeting was provided in a **memorandum from James G. Teer**, dated March 17, 1965, with a subject of “**Formation of a Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society,**” and was sent to “All wildlifers in Texas” (actually sent to 170 people in Texas). Eight men attended the meeting, as listed below:

Milton Caroline	– U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
William C. Glazener	– Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation
Phil Goodrum	– U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lowell Halls	– Southern Forest Experiment Station
Vernon Hicks	– U.S. Soil Conservation Service
William H. Kiel	– King Ranch, Inc.
Albert J. Springs	– Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Jim Teer	– Texas A&M University

The group was of the firm opinion that such a chapter would be useful and was needed in Texas. It was recognized that Texas was one of the few states that was not affiliated with the parent society in the way of sectional or chapter affiliation, although there were 76 Texas wildlifers employed by at least 10 governmental and private organizations that were members of the TWS. Therefore, a meeting to include as many of these wildlifers as possible was set for April 9-10, 1965 at the Terrace Motor Hotel in Austin, Texas. Two years earlier (1963), **the State Parks Board was merged with the Game and Fish Commission to form the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.**

Approximately 80 people attended the meeting from the Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept., U.S. Forest Service, Texas Technological College, Texas A&M Univ., Lamar Tech, Stephen F. Austin State College, U.S. Department of Agriculture, King Ranch Inc., Schriener YO Ranch, and Bob & Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation.

The meeting consisted of a program of technical papers, a banquet, and an organizational meeting. John Wood, Regional Representative, of the Wildlife Society spoke at the banquet concerning the aims, problems, and programs of the parent society. **James Teer** paraphrased the theme of his talk by stating “**The Texas Chapter will be what we**

choose to make of it and that we can have a worthwhile, vigorous, and effective organization of Texas wildlifers if we are willing to put effort into it.”

Officers were elected at the organizational session with James G. Teer, President; Jack W. Thomas, President-elect; William H. Kiel, Secretary-Treasurer; Daniel Lay and Kenneth M. Butts, Members of Executive Council.

Charter membership in The Texas Chapter was open through August 31, 1965 with cost of membership being \$10.00 for The Wildlife Society and \$1.00 for membership in the Texas Chapter. Approximately 30 members petitioned TWS to organize the Texas Chapter, and the TWS Council officially approved it on April 30, 1965. The first newsletter to members and prospective members was sent out in May 1965. According to the new Bylaws, each member of the Texas Chapter had to be a member of The Wildlife Society. At this time 96 Texans were members of the Wildlife Society.

According to historical notes by Kay M. Fleming, TCTWS Archivist, 1996-2003, **the 1965-66 year for the Texas Chapter of TWS was one of organization, bylaws, and increasing membership.** Under the leadership of Chapter President James G. Teer, the Texas Chapter was up and running. In October of 1965, James Teer and President-elect Jack W. Thomas attended the Southeastern Wildlife Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma representing the Texas Chapter. It was at this meeting that they were presented the official Charter for the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

On October 30, 1965, the **first Executive Committee** of the Texas Chapter met at the Welder Wildlife Foundation in Sinton, Texas. In attendance were James G. Teer, Jack W. Thomas, William C. Glazener, and William (Bill) H. Kiel, Jr. Discussions included the membership drive, spring meeting, and President Teer’s appointment of Standing Committees. The group also agreed that stationery should be ordered for the Texas Chapter.

1966

Jack Thomas was elected 2nd President of the Texas Chapter in 1966, but changed jobs and States. Bill Kiel took over presidency as President-elect, and Bill Klussmann was elected Vice-President.

A **Resolutions Committee was formed this year**, and members of the committee were asked to provide resolutions to Clarence Cottam in Sinton, Texas by February 1, 1967.

Perhaps the **most significant event of the year** was a review and analysis by the membership of the **“Model” By-Laws** sent with the first newsletter. Review comments were sent to R. L. Parker, U.S. Public Health Service in El Paso, Texas, with a deadline of February 1, 1967. R.L. Parker summarized these for use in the final TCTWS By-Laws, which were approved at the 1967 annual meeting.

The **1st Annual Conference of the newly chartered Texas Chapter** of The Wildlife Society was held April 1-2, 1966 at the Ramada Inn in College Station. Ted L. Clark was

chairman of the Program Committee. On the first day of the conference, 10 papers were presented and then a panel discussion ensued concerning "Activities of Agencies serving the Wildlife Profession." That evening a banquet was provided for the membership with **Earl Rudder, President of Texas A&M University, as the principal speaker.** He commented on his recent trip to South Viet Nam as a member of President Johnson's Task Force to study health and education problems of the war-torn country. **W. B. Davis** was presented the **first "Outstanding Service Award."** The certificate was worded "Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Recognizes and Honors W. B. Davis for his significant contributions to the conservation and management of Texas Wildlife as teacher, researcher, author, leader, and counselor."

On day two of the conference, a **symposium was held concerning "Introduction and Spread of Exotic Game Species in Texas."** After a group discussion at the symposium, the 1st Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter convened. Chapter bylaws were discussed. Members voted on and approved that the Texas Chapter's calendar year would be the same as its fiscal year. President Teer introduced the incoming President, Jack W. Thomas, and San Angelo was selected for the 1967 Annual Meeting. The membership of the Texas Chapter had increased from less than 78 members when the Chapter was organized in the spring of 1965 to 153 members by the April 2, 1966 Annual Meeting.

The 1966-67 Executive Committee of the Texas Chapter met at 2:00 p.m. on April 18, 1966 to appoint committees, discuss Chapter affairs, and take other actions as were necessary in the performance of their duties. In attendance were President Jack W. Thomas, W. H. Kiel, Jr., J. E. Teer, Dan Lay, and Milton Caroline. Since criteria for awards had not been fully developed, the Executive Committee decided to serve on the Awards Committee during 1966-67 and establish the framework for 1967-68 Awards Committee appointment and criteria for both a Service and Publication Award. Only a Service Award would be considered for the current year. It was also decided that the time of the business meeting would be changed so that it was not the last item of business at the annual conference (this apparently did not occur since the 1966-67 Business Meeting was still last at the Conference.) It was suggested that the keynote speaker for the April 1967 Annual Conference be selected as soon as possible with C. Ed. Carlson, I. N. Gabrielson, A. S. Leopold, J. R. Berryman, and Justin Leonard as prospects.

On April 28, 1966, **Secretary-Treasurer Milton Caroline** indicated to President Thomas that **the Texas Chapter had \$174.29 in its account and 89 of those listed on membership rolls as of March 31, 1966, were in arrears.** (*Times were obviously tough back in 1966.*) **Membership dues were \$1.00** in 1966, and it was a struggle sometimes for the Secretary-Treasurer to obtain that from members.

The **2nd Newsletter of the Texas Chapter** (dated November 1966) began with Chapter President Jack Thomas' statement, "The President is Gone, God Save the President." Jack Thomas had resigned his position with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (Llano office) and taken a job with the U.S. Forest Service in Morgantown, West Virginia. President-Elect, W. J. Kiel, became President on November 15, 1966 as provided in Texas Chapter Bylaws. Jack Thomas expressed much regret in leaving the

office early that he had been elected to, which he said was the “greatest honor” that ever came his way. He thanked each of the TCTWS members and officers that supported and helped in efforts to form and keep a viable organization. W.C. Kiel stated in the November 1966 Newsletter that he was “not sorry that Jack Thomas was leaving Texas. He made his mark, he left big tracks and he is now on his way. We wish him well and know that he will do for the U.S. Forest Service what he did for the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society.” These announcements in the TCTWS 2nd Newsletter demonstrates that **the early history of the TCTWS was made by a few very close wildlife scientist, who were highly motivated, and saw an important vision for the future of the TCTWS.**

1967

President William H. Kiel presided over the 3rd annual meeting of the TCTWS in San Angelo at the El Patio Motor Hotel, April 7-8, 1967. In reviewing the events of the past year at the annual meeting, President Kiel recognized the leadership of former President Jack Ward Thomas, who was largely responsible for the selection of committees who gave unstintingly of their time for the benefit of the Chapter. This was a year in which **technical issues in wildlife science began to take off**, following much time and effort on the administrative issues involved with forming a new wildlife chapter. The **newsletter** went from **two pages** in 1966 to **17 pages** in 1967, covering the events of the year and TCTWS representation at other professional society meetings. This was also the first year that **two newsletters were sent** out to the membership.

The participation of TCTWS members at other professional society meetings, such as the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) and the Ecological Society of America (ESA) was very instrumental in forming affiliations that boosted the productivity and notoriety of the TCTWS.

The **AIBS held its first ever annual meeting in Texas** at Texas A&M University in College Station in August 1967, and R.J. Baldauf **invited the TCTWS at the first Executive Committee meeting to organize a symposium at that national meeting**, with an expected attendance of approximately 4,000 scientists representing many disciplines. J.G. Teer was appointed Chairman of a committee composed of Eric Bolen, W.H. Kiel, Jr., and Milton Caroline to develop a **symposium entitled “Introduction of Exotic Animals: Ecologic and Socioeconomic Considerations.”** Mr. Caroline was assigned to serve as Moderator for the symposium.

Speakers that were already committed for presentations included Raymond F. Dasmann, Director, The Conservation Association (now the Nature Conservancy), Thadis W. Box, Organizational Director, International Center for Arid and Semi-arid Land Studies, Texas Technological College (now a university); R.L. Parker, Field Representative, Pan-American Sanitary Bureau; and Charles Schreiner, Owner, Y.O. Ranch (exotics for sport hunting, conservation, and management). The **Kleberg Foundation published the**

symposium in 1968, and made it available through the Wildlife Department at Texas A&M University. Twenty-two professional societies planned various sessions in addition to the AIBS sessions and symposia. The **TCTWS also agreed to sponsor a Symposium on Wildlife Diseases**, at the invitation of the symposium chairman, R.A. Jantzen, Chief of Game Management of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. R.A. Jantzen said that **the Texas Chapter was further along in its development than the Arizona-New Mexico section in its participation in symposiums.**

As a result of the popularity of these symposiums, which the Texas Chapter excelled in, the **Wildlife Society Council** (presided over by out-going President Ben A. Glading) introduced the **development of policies and policy guidelines** in four major areas of concern or interest: 1) conservation education, 2) regulation and enforcement, 3) animal control, and 4) importance of exotics. Sections and Chapters were allowed to operate autonomously in these areas. TCTWS President, J.G. Teer made efforts to have the Chapter's views on issues known to the Council, including review of the draft policy guidelines.

This was a year in which the Chapter recognized that there was a need to establish criteria for service and outstanding publication awards, and an **Awards Committee was formed**. There were no awards by the Chapter during the first year of the TCTWS, but there were awards at subsequent annual meeting for members who had provided outstanding service to the TCTWS (beginning in 1966) or who had outstanding publications (beginning in 1971).

Of the 200 members of the Wildlife Society residing in Texas, 166 had affiliated with the Texas Chapter by 1967, which was a significant accomplishment. However, the membership was regionalized, and only about 40% of the chapter members would vote on nominations. Efforts were made to improve these problems over the next few years. An important newsletter issue of the time was a report on salary increases for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists of approximately \$1,400-2,000 annually, with a starting salary of a Biologist I being \$6,852, Biologist II \$8,076, and Biologist III \$9,216. In other news, the Department of Wildlife Science at Texas A&M University moved from its old building where it had been since 1937 to a new wing of the Biological Sciences Building.

1968

The 1968 **Annual Meeting of the TCTWS was held in conjunction with the 33rd North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference** in Houston on March 11-13, 1968 at the Shamrock Hilton Hotel. The theme of the conference was **“Balancing Future Resource Uses,”** and was attended by approximately 1,200 natural resource administrators, biologists, outdoor writers, and conservation leaders. This was the **first time that the Chapter had held a joint conference**, and that helped many wildlife professionals of various disciplines learn about the activities of the TCTWS.

Eight Chapter committees were operating by 1968, including the Program, Arrangements, AAAS Symposium Program, Nominating, Auditing, Publication Award, Membership, and Education and Information Committees. Rules governing each of these committees were either in place or proposed and soon to be approved.

The Wildlife Society (TWS) considered binding the Journal of Wildlife Management, and President Ted Clark explored binding cost.

Texas Technological College administration approved a departmental split of the Department of Agronomy and Range Management, resulting in the Department of Range and Wildlife Management. J.L. Schuster, a TCTWS member, was elevated to the position of Department Chairman. The new department enrolled a record number of range and wildlife students that semester, with nearly 200 students enrolling for the beginning course in wildlife management.

Daniel W. Lay, veteran TPWD wildlife biologist, was recipient of a unique honor bestowed by the Texas Forestry Association (TFA) at its 54th Annual Meeting held October 25, 1968 in Longview. Lay was selected by the TFA to receive its **first award for outstanding achievements in forest research**.

James G. Teer, Associate Professor of the Wildlife Science Department at Texas A&M University returned from a six-week **tour of game ranching and research stations in Africa**. He brought back a **“Voo Doo” doll and lots of pins** – so TCTWS members were advised to treat him kindly!

According to the publication “Organization, Authority and Programs of the State Fish and Wildlife Agencies” by the Wildlife Management Institute (1968) **graduates in the wildlife profession rank high in scientific knowledge and wildlife techniques, but are often weak in communicative skills**. They also reported that there were in excess of 11,000 wildlife positions with state agencies, about 1,500 positions with U.S. governmental agencies, and a minimum of 400-500 positions at universities and colleges, for a total estimated 13,000 positions nationwide.

The TCTWS published its **first membership directory** with Council approval in alphabetical order, but was alternated between alphabetical and geographical order in annual publications.

1969

Over 100 members attended the Texas Chapter Annual Meeting in San Antonio, March 21-22, 1969. The program theme was **“Texas Wildlife Management in the First 50 Years—A Guide to Tomorrow.”** A panel discussion was held on each of three subjects: antelope management, white-tailed deer management, and white winged dove management. Each panel consisted of a landowner, a sportsman, a biologist, and a State Legislator. Perhaps the **most striking problem common to management of each of the game species** was the lack of adequate **communication** between the four groups represented by the panel.

A resolution was passed at the annual meeting requesting that the Regional Representative discuss with the Council of the Wildlife Society the possibility of the Parent Society remitting a portion of the current dues to the various Sections and Chapters. This was the **Texas Chapter's first resolution.**

The Chapter was **evolving a new awareness for the need of "management" of the entire wildlife spectrum,** in addition to the general orientation of wildlife personnel towards "game" species. There were efforts made by the Chapter to recognize these changes and perhaps suggest areas of training to better equip tomorrow's biologists. A letter, dated May 23, 1969, was sent to Robert A. Jantzen, Arizona Game and Fish Commission/TWC Council Representative, regarding this issue, and signed by Frederick F. Knowlton, President, TCTWS.

New Chapter officers were Frederick F. Knowlton, President; Richard B. Davis, President-elect; and Charles W. Ramsey, Secretary-Treasurer.

Thirty ranchers and ten non-ranchers participated in a **deer husbandry seminar** held in Junction the last two days of July. A program **designed to give ranchers in-depth training** on this important ranch resource was presented by a panel of resource specialists. The TCTWS was well represented on the program by Robert (Bob) L. Cook, who also served as Director of the TPWD, and Joe T. Stevens. This was the first of a series of game husbandry seminars to be developed over the state with TCTWS participation. The goal of the seminars was to encourage all ranchers to develop a good game husbandry program for their ranches, but the immediate objective was to produce two or three ranchers in each county with wildlife husbandry experience similar to that presented at the last Chapter meeting by Henry Welge.

Chapter members Lowell Halls, Sim Oefinger, Dan Lay, Charlie Boyd, and Phil Goodrum presented what was considered an excellent program on **East Texas forest wildlife habitat** at the Davy Crockett National Forest. **The TCTWS was becoming a recognized professional society** among state and federal agencies, and ranchers. Invitations to provide presentations, advice, training, and educational programs were increasing for TCTWS members. That role has remained an important pillar of the organization over the years.

The third edition of Wildlife Management Techniques was published by TWS, and cost \$10.00. This was the text that every wildlife management biologist had in his or her library at that time, and has stood the test of time, because it still is.

Richard B. Davis, Membership Committee Chairman, reported that there were 98 members in 1969. Following the approval of the by-laws change to include Associate and Complimentary membership, a mailing was made to solicit membership in these categories. Richard Davis reported that there was a minimum potential membership of 372 individual members and 172 institutions under the new categories.

Secretary-Treasurer, Charles W. Ramsey, reported an **account balance of \$232.82 for the TCTWS treasury**, which was only about \$58 more than in 1966. The treasury was definitely not increasing very well at that time.

1970

The annual meeting was held at the Ramada Inn in Waco on March 6-7, 1970. The theme of the meeting was **“habitat management”**. An amendment to inaugurate **Associate and Complimentary memberships** passed by a large majority at the meeting.

The membership voted to have the Executive Board **implement an innovative program involving chapter members in contemporary environmental problems** in Texas. According to a letter dated June 16, 1970 to the full and associate TCTWS members, **three types activity** by individual members were recognized to conform to this program: **1)** alert the Board of any local, regional, or state-wide ecological problem, or of any meeting or community action planned to deal with an ecological problem; **2)** serve voluntarily as an official Texas Chapter “observer” and send a written report to the Board of the proceeding observed, or report the same without representing oneself as an official Texas Chapter observer; **3)** act, on request by the Board, to represent Texas Chapter as an official participant in any proceeding aimed at solution of ecological problems. Only under the third category was a member able to advise, provide an official opinion, or make a public statement on behalf of the Texas Chapter. The **first report reflecting this new initiative** (category 1 action) was by **Charles K. Winkler** (Secretary-Treasurer) reporting to Richard B. Davis (President), Texas A&I University (now Texas A&M University @ Kingsville), Department of Biology. This report was on a meeting held in Corpus Christi on September 29, 1970 to discuss pollution of the Padre Island National Seashore and the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge by “oil blobs,” which were unrefined crude oil of unknown source that were washing on the beaches and shores of the national seashore and refuge. The source was thought to be the result of offshore drilling in Venezuela, which was confirmed many years later as one of the sources.

This was a year in which the **public interest environmental quality issues expanded** exponentially, as exemplified by the a **TWS memorandum** sent to all Sections and Chapters by **TWS Executive Director, Fred G. Evenden**, and published in the TCTWS November 1970 Newsletter. Fred Evenden reported “on one hand we can all be pleased that the magic of conservation, ecology, and environmental quality are finally almost instantaneously on the minds and tongues of our citizenry. Every news program, magazine, and newspaper supports this observation. Program releases by the administration in Washington, combined with a multitude of state legislation and speeches by almost anyone, add to the testimony that the environmental snowball or bandwagon is up and rolling. In some ways, this is what many of us have been pushing for over many years.” He went on say that he was concerned “that we wildlife conservationist are ready to meet and cope with the juggernaut of general public interest in environmental quality. Within the past six months there has been a veritable **eruption of special symposia, conferences, and panels** held related to our priorities and the present and future quality of our environment. **Consulting environmental specialists** are coming out the

woodwork everywhere, and **governmental commissions and committees** have been and are being established in profusion. **Wildlife and other natural resources professions** are conspicuously absent or represented only in a small way.” Director Evenden’s **primary concern** was his belief that “the decisions on the future of our environment would be made by others less qualified than our wildlife specialist,” and so this was a rallying cry to all the TWS members in the wildlife profession to get involved in environmental issues before it is too late” for responsible decisions on important issues. This was an important time of change in environmental awareness and how wildlife scientist, educators, consultants, and administrators responded to these issues.

Secretary of the Interior, Walter J. Hickel, and Secretary of Agriculture, Clifford M. Hardin **proposed the Guadalupe River**, from its source to the Canyon Reservoir, for the **National Wild and Scenic Rivers System**. Portions of 47 rivers in 24 states had been identified as potential additions to the system, based on qualifications designated in the Wild and Scenic rivers Act of 1968. However, **in Texas only the Rio Grande through Big Bend National Park was ever approved by Congress for such designation.**

A **turkey symposium** was being developed for the 1975 annual meeting, and a standing committee was appointed by President Frederick F. Knowlton to carry out that charge, which included W.C. Glazener (Chairman), W.H. Kiel, H.G. Gore, E.D. Ables, R.L. Cook, and C.A. Segelquist.

William Caleb Glazener received the 1970 Outstanding Service Award (presented by Dan Lay, Outstanding Service Award Committee Chairman) for several reasons identified on the award, including his 30 years of professional wildlife research and administration in Texas, efficient work on committees and special assignments, support and inspiration to co-workers and associates, design of turkey drop-net traps, and because he served TWS as Regional Representative (1951-53) and Vice-President (1953-54). Phil Goodrum, Publications Award Committee Chairman, presented the publications award to **Valgene W. Lehmann** for his publication, “Forgotten Legions.”

The total **number of members in the TCTWS increased dramatically** from 98 in 1969 to 146 in 1970, a 50% increase, according to Ernest D. Ables, Chairman of the Membership Committee, in his annual report. Eighty-eight were regular members, and 58 were the new category of associate members. The largest increase in new members came from individuals who were former members of the parent society.

The Secretary-Treasurer, Charles K. Winkler, reported a total \$250.37 on December 31, 1970. Interestingly, he reported that he **discovered \$46 in cash in the chapter files** that had been there for an unknown period of time. Personal checks totaling \$14 was also found in the Chapter files all dated in March 1968. All of the money was deposited in the Kleberg First National Bank of Kingsville after he had the Chairman of the Auditing Committee verify the amount of cash and checks in his custody.

1971

Eric G. Bolen, Associate Professor of Wildlife Management at TTU suggested (in a letter dated February 17, 1971 to R.B. Davis, Chairman of the Awards Committee and wildlife research scientist at Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Foundation, Texas A&M University in Kingsville, Texas) that the Texas Chapter might consider selecting an **outstanding undergraduate student each year for an award** based on some combination of scholarship, leadership, and contribution to our profession.

A.S. Jackson received the **first publication award** given to a member of the TCTWS based on his publication of “A handbook for bobwhite quail management in the west Texas Rolling Plains, 1969, Texas Parks and Wildlife Bulletin, No. 48, 77 pp., illustrated. The Legislature authorized a \$3 white-winged dove hunting stamp designed to restore white-wing habitat in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

The Service Award Committee unanimously decided to present the award to **Clarence Cottam** (based on letter dated February 4, 1971 from Milton Caroline, Chair, TCTWS Service Award Committee, and State Supervisor, USFWS, San Antonio, Texas; and copy of the outstanding service award). The award citation stated “Clarence Cottam made outstanding contributions to wildlife research, administration, and public education during his long and brilliant career in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As Director of the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation, Clarence Cottam has continued to serve wildlife and the cause of wise natural resource management in a manner that has brought great credit to the wildlife profession. The TCTWS therefore is grateful for this opportunity to recognize and to commend Clarence Cottam for a lifetime of fearless, dedicated, and effective public service.” Milton Caroline (USFWS; San Antonio, Texas) provided the wording for the award citation.

The annual meeting was held in Corpus Christi, Texas at the Holiday Inn on March 25-27, 1971, with **three technical sessions, an Environmental Symposium**, and a special **first time keynote address**. Leo Childs, Project Leader of NASA Earth Resources Division, provided the keynote address. The Environmental Symposium was moderated by Dick David, Professor of Biology at TAMU, and consisted of a panel of speakers from various environmental backgrounds, including John Spinks, Audubon Society; W.J. Clark, TAMU Wildlife Science professor; H.H. Meredith, Humble Oil and Refinery Company Environmental Conservation Coordinator; and Fred Tschirley, USDA Pesticide Coordinator. The three technical sessions were divided into various disciplines, including the first session on birds and waterfowl (Charles Windler-TPWD, Moderator), second session on wildlife habitat management (Vernon Hicks-SCS, Moderator), and the third session was on transplants and tracking studies (Charles Ramsey-TAMU, Moderator). This annual meeting was complete with a **banquet speaker**, R.J. Baldauf, TAMU Professor, on “**The Need for an Ecological Conscience.**” **Wallace Klussmann** was the Chairman of the Program Committee that put this innovative annual meeting together.

1972

A **new format was compiled for the newsletter** with several objectives in mind. Briefly, these were to 1) facilitate more frequent communication, 2) arrange for publishing and mailing at an economical cost both in time and money, 3) make the newsletter content reflective of the Chapter members' preferences and 4) give the official instrument of the Texas Chapter, The Wildlife Society a professional appearance. An opinion poll to the membership was used as a guide for development of the newsletter.

The annual meeting was held at the Stephen F. Austin Hotel on March 23-25, 1972 in Austin, Texas. J.R. Singleton of Ducks Unlimited was the banquet speaker on the topic of **"The Biologist and Texas Politics."** Bill Kiel received the Outstanding Service Award, and Phil Goodrum received the Publication Award for his senior authorship of "Acorn yields, characteristics and management criteria of oaks for wildlife," *Journal of Wildlife Management* 35(3): 520-532. The Service Award Committee was instructed to select an undergraduate student who had contributed the most to the wildlife profession, which was a first in the Chapter history.

The Chapter at the annual meeting **approved two significant motions.** The **first motion** was that the President of the TCTWS be directed to write a letter on behalf of Chapter to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission complimenting them for their recent commendation of landowners in southeast Texas for their interest and efforts in regards to perpetuating the **red wolf.** **Another motion** carried to send a resolution to the 63rd Texas Legislature, which **offered the assistance of the Chapter to the Legislature** in providing factual scientific data on the status of species which were at that time a matter of concern to the people of the State of Texas, and in whose interest the enactment of a Rare and Endangered Species Law was considered desirable by the Chapter (based on Newsletter No. 2, 1972).

In related action, the **U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS) began a program assisting private landowners to manage their lands** in a manner to help preserve rare and endangered species of plants and animals. The SCS (presently an agency within the Natural Resources Conservation Service – NRCS) is the principal federal agency concerned with land use planning on privately owned lands. The SCS leadership led to the formation of the Texas Organization for Endangered Species (TOES), which had their

first conference in April 1972 to initiate a coordinated approach among interested parties to 1) prepare a watch list of rare and endangered species, and distributions of their known range and habitat requirements, 2) develop recommendations for measures needed for protection, preservation, or for habitat improvement for each species, 3) develop a system to monitor each species and their habitat, and 4) plan appropriate action to protect each species and its habitat. TOES is presently a section of the Texas Academy of Science.

The **annual dues were increased for the first time** from \$1.00 to \$3.00, as approved by 70% of the membership. From this point on, the treasury increased in value.

The U.S. Congress established a **National Hunting and Fishing Day**; and so on September 23, 1972 the first recognition of that day, TWS joined other hunting, fishing

and conservation organizations across America in holding an open house for the public to dramatize sportsmen's contributions to conservation. Resolutions were also passed in Congress asking hunters and anglers to lead the public in a rededication to the conservation and respectful use of our wildlife and natural resources. The TCTWS endorsed this resolution, which reflects the organizations goals.

The **Advisory Committee on Predator Control** submitted its report to the Council on Environmental Quality and the Department of Interior, which was published in January 1972. It was recognized that this report and actions taken by Congress in response to it could have profound effects on the people and wildlife in Texas.

A **new publication was being planned by TWS** to appeal more to the rank and file wildlifer. The new publication would deal with wildlife philosophy and controversial subjects, and would be called the **Wildlife Management Bulletin**.

1973

The annual meeting was held on April 5-7, 1973 at the Highlander Inn in Burnet, Texas. Attendance at recent annual meetings had been poor, and the Chapter's Program Committee **focused on improving the quality of technical sessions**, in order to attract a better attendance. The keynote address was provided by Representative John Bigham of State Legislative District 44 on "**Current Environmental Issues before the Texas Legislature.**"

The TCTWS bylaws were amended to allow the Nominations Committee to select the **first Member-At-Large** that would attend TWS section and council meetings as a representative of the TCTWS, and report back to the Executive Committee. **Vernon Hicks** was selected as the first Member-At-Large.

One of the technical sessions was on "**Benefits and Detrimental Effects of Large Reservoirs in Texas,**" including presentations by Lewis B. Seward, Director of Water Planning, Texas Water Development Board, on "State Plans for Water Resource Development; W.J. Clark, TAMU Wildlife Professor, on "An Ecological Overview of Large Reservoirs;" W.E. Burris, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on "Reservoirs and Their Justification;" and Bob Carlisle, TAMU Fisheries & Wildlife Professor, on "Fish and Wildlife Problems Resulting from Reservoir Construction."

Two other technical sessions focused on waterfowl issues and white-tail deer management, including a presentation by Bob Cook (a Wildlife Biologist and TPWD Director) on the "Management Implications of the Kerr Wildlife Management Area Deer Harvest," and Charles Stutzenbaker (TPWD Waterfowl Biologist) on "A Waterfowl Biologist's Forecast for Texas' Waterfowl Tomorrow."

A briefing on the **Trinity River Channelization and Tennessee Colony Reservoir Projects** in the March Newsletter #4 stated that "the net effect of the two projects will be the destruction of the carrying capacity of an estimated 60,000 furbearers, 1,300 alligators, 11,000 deer, 115,000 squirrels and rabbits, 230,000 game birds, and 1,600,000

songbirds. Some red wolf habitat will be channelized, which will further jeopardize this endangered species.”

By 1973 the TCTWS was **publishing seven newsletters a year**, and working hard to get better attendance at annual meetings. However, this number was reduced to quarterly publications within a few years, which has continued to the present time.

TWS President Klimstra delivered the following **“Suggestions for Action”** in a memo dated July 9, 1973 and published in TCTWS Newsletter No. 6: **1) Establish an effective working relationship** whenever possible with all groups engaged in aspects of resource management. Despite some differences, he went on to say that we should be able to establish varying degrees of compatible objective that will permit productive cooperation on selected issues between TWS and Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy, Soil Conservation districts, Federation of Sportsmen Clubs, Women’s Garden Clubs, etc. He said that such interactions might well lead to an education for all parties involved. **2) The TWS needs to become hyperactive in the area of non-game.** He said that TWS must demonstrate its concern for all forms of wildlife if it is to encourage even the slightest respect from the non-hunter and the anti-harvest segments of the public.

TCTWS members and TPWD wildlife biologists Larry L. Weishuhn and Rodney G. Marburger reported on **“The Wildlife Disease Project in Texas,”** which they said was established in 1964 to research the causes of hypogonadism in white-tailed deer in Texas’ Central Mineral Region. This program expanded over time until today it includes all of Texas’ game and non-game species. The project was then and remains a cooperative interagency endeavor between the TPWD and TAMU’s Department of Veterinary Pathology. It functions by sportsmen, landowners and interested individuals reporting sightings of sick or odd-behaving wild animals to their local TPWD biologist or game wardens. Representatives of the Wildlife Disease Project then investigate the sightings and some of the animals may be collected, detailed necropsies performed, and blood, tissues and other biological samples evaluated. The pathologist classifies the disease, its probable cause, what effect the disease may have on the populations and other species, and what preventative measures may be taken to reduce the spread of the disease.

The Resolutions and Public Statements Committee of the TCTWS developed a position statement strongly supporting quick enactment of legislation establishing a **National Biological Reserve** of not less than 100,000 acres in the **Big Thicket area of East Texas.** The proposed Reserve would preserve and perpetuate a unique flora and fauna, and will offer wilderness related recreation in close proximity to an increasingly urbanized area of the southern U.S., according to the TCTWS statement.

The TCTWS support proved helpful in getting the legislation passed, and today the Preserve consists of nine land units and six water corridors encompassing more than 97,000 acres. Big Thicket was the first Preserve in the National Park System established October 11, 1974, and protects an area of rich biological diversity. A convergence of ecosystems occurred there during the last Ice Age. It brought together, in one geographical location, the eastern hardwood forests, the Gulf coastal plains, and the

Midwest prairies. December 15, 1981, the Preserve was designated an International Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Man and the Biosphere Program. July 26, 2001, the American Bird Conservancy recognized the Preserve as a Globally Important Bird Area joining thousands of others around the world.

In 1936 the regional study, Biological Survey of the East Texas Big Thicket Area, was completed by H.B. Parks and V.L. Cory. This report played a significant role in the future protection of the Big Thicket. It was the first effort by concerned people to document and begin a protection scheme of this unique landscape. At the time of the report, it was stated that the Big Thicket area was over one million acres in size.

Some 40 years after the Biological Survey, the U.S. Congress passed legislation that created the Big Thicket National Preserve. The legislation was signed by President Gerald Ford in October 1974 establishing the first National Preserve in the National Park System. The Preserve is composed of land and water units. In 1993, legislation was passed to expand the Preserve incorporating creek corridors and additional land areas. Today, the National Park Service manages over 97,000 acres of public lands in what was the original Big Thicket surveyed by Parks and Cory.

1974

The annual meeting was held March 21-23 in Laredo at the Quality Inn. The keynote speaker at the banquet was William O. Nelson, Regional Director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Albuquerque, N.M. Three technical sessions were held, which were primarily divided between presentations on the life history and habitat of endangered bird species (Attwater's prairie chicken, Golden-cheeked warbler, and Golden eagle), deer management, and status and telemetry studies on furbearers and alligators.

A total of 127 members paid their annual dues at this meeting, and the increasing interest in the annual meetings was helping the Chapter improve on several fronts, including the treasury, professional image, and impact on wildlife science and conservation issues. This represented an **increase of 68 paid members over last year**, and the **treasury stood at \$714** on March 16th, which was **several hundred dollars more than the previous year**. Income for 1974 was \$1,138 and expenses were \$1,155. There were a total of 165 paid members, 56% of which were also members of the parent society. The annual meetings traditionally began with a **"smoker,"** which is generally referred to as a social today. A record attendance of 74 at the banquet was considered a good indication that the Chapter's popularity was gaining momentum. One of the highlights of the banquet was the presentation of the Outstanding Service Award to Pierce B. Uzzell for his 33 years of service with TPWD in which he contributed extensively to conservation and management efforts. The Publication Award presented the award to Brian W. Cain for his article entitled "Effects of temperature requirements and northward distribution of the black-bellied tree duck, published in the *Wilson Bulletin* 85(3):308-317.

The **Information and Education Committee was formed** to collect and disseminate noteworthy chapter news to the membership through the “The Chapter News.” The committee consisted of **Dennis Haag (chairman)**, Milo Shult, Brian Cain, Ed Schwille, and Henry Short. As a result of the Committee’s recruiting campaign, the **circulation of the newsletter grew from a distribution to 94 paid members in June to 161 in March of 1974.** Another project begun by the Committee was to publish a brochure about the history and aim of the Texas Chapter. Milo Shult accepted the primary job of collecting and preparing a draft copy of the report. **President-elect Eric Bolen asked that a permanent archivist be appointed to keep files and store documents.** This appointment would last until the incumbent resigns or is asked for his/her resignation. Dennis Haag (SCS) was transferred to Columbus, Ohio later this year to become the State Biologist for the SCS, reluctantly leaving behind many friends, the office of Secretary-Treasurer, and chairmanship of the Information and Education Committee.

The **Activities Committee added activities** outside the scope of the annual meeting, including a **field day** at the 1974 annual meeting.. The Committee held a **fund raising raffle** at the 1974 annual meeting for the **first time**, with some financial success—it yielded \$201. This was the **first time a range and wildlife field tour** was co-sponsored by the TCTWS and the Texas Section of the Society for Range Management. The event was an educational guided tour of the Engeling Wildlife Management Area, and La Reata and McMahon Ranches which are north of Palestine, Texas.

The Texas A&M University Student Chapter of TWS held an unprecedented annual meeting in College Station on April 19-20, 1974. James G. Teer, TCTWS member, was the guest speaker at this meeting. The technical sessions consisted of twelve student presentations on the topics of tree diseases, turtle activity, motivational attitudes of hunters, and removal of snake venom glands, gopher ecology, and bass production, food habitats of bobcats /feral hogs/river otters, white-wing dove ecology, and status of rare/endangered/peripheral mammals. These events were followed by a wild game barbecue, which was attended by 250 people.

Stephen F. Austin University was the second Student Chapter to affiliate with TWS. The 60-member group held a spring wing-ding, which was dubbed the First Annual Beast Feast. The menu was comprised of armadillo, rattlesnake, and mouflon sheep. They also attended the Texas Chapter meeting and presented papers.

TWS announced plans to build its own headquarters to improve its productivity. To accomplish this goal, the parent society’s board of directors approved a formal affiliation with the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation, Inc., and authorized a \$500,000 fund raising campaign to build a 7,500 square foot building as the Society’s permanent headquarters north of Washington D.C. in suburban Maryland.

The **newly developed extension wildlife biology program** of the TPWD established a wildlife specialist in each of the five TPWD regions of the state to work with individual landowners on wildlife programs with the Texas Agricultural Extensive Service, Soil Conservation Service, and Texas Forest Service.

Wildlife professionals and friends of conservation throughout Texas and the nation were saddened to learn of the **passing of Clarence Cottam**. Clarence Cottam, formerly an assistant director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, had been Director of the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation at Sinton, Texas since its beginning. He was an indefatigable champion of wildlife conservation and management, and contributed support and encouragement to numerous causes and individuals seeking to preserve a quality environment and abundance of wildlife.

1975

The annual meeting was held in San Antonio in conjunction with the Third National Wild Turkey Symposium. The turkey symposium held technical sessions and field trip.

The symposium and subsequent field trip to the Edward's Plateau was co-sponsored by the TCTWS and TPWD. Thirty-three papers included information on the status of wild turkeys, parasites and diseases, turkey production and survival, effects of land use practices on wild turkey habitat, roosting behavior, turkey harvest management, and economics and aesthetics.

The TCTWS adopted a theme for this year's meeting of **"Wildlife Biologists and Their Responsibility to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)."** Speakers were invited from the EPA, TPWD, TA&I, TAMU, as well as energy and consultant companies to talk about their role in this legislation. Wildlife biologists were evaluating their role in supporting the Act. Bob Armstrong (General Land Office - GLO) and Ron Jones (Coastal Management Committee) were banquet speakers on the topic of "Land Use Legislation – If Needed and its Chances in Texas." It was also noted at the meeting that despite the fact that it had been over a year since the **1973 Endangered Species Act** was signed by President Nixon, **no listing action had taken place** by the U.S. Department of Interior. This was reportedly because an act of that magnitude required a considerable amount of research and field studies of rare species and their habitats.

The Texas Chapter had just completed its **tenth anniversary**, and members were very enthusiastic that this event **coincided with its most outstanding achievement – the co-sponsoring of the Third Annual Wild Turkey Symposium**, which was an unqualified success and demonstrated the vital role that the Chapter members played in history. The Chapter also passed another milestone. For the first time since its organization, the active membership of the Chapter reached 200.

This was the **second year of the mallard duckling release program** at the TPWD Management and Research Station at Tyler. A survey was conducted to determine the status of day-old mallards in artificial nesting structures near Lake Palestine and the Gambill Goose Refuge near Palestine. The early management program to improve the mallard population was met with limited success due to disturbance and predation by crows.

A controversial Legislative Bill HR 479 was passed by the Texas State Legislature, which amended Chapter 12 of the Texas Education Code. Section 12.241, addressed the

issue of textbooks dealing with the origins and creation of man, which in part stated that the State Board of Education shall not approve, and the textbook committee shall not recommend textbooks that express an opinion on the theory of the origin or creation of man and the world.

A new TWS proposal on **Professional Certification for Wildlife Scientists** was published in the Wildlife Society Bulletin 3(2):84-91, and members of the TCTWS were invited to share their views on this issue.

At the previous annual meeting, the membership directed the Executive Board to consider **three revisions to the Chapter's by-laws**, which were passed at the 1975 annual meeting. These included (1) extending voting privileges to affiliate members, (2) appointment of a permanent Secretary-Archivist, and (3) establishment of a standing Site Selection Committee. The appointment of a permanent Archivist by the Executive Committee was instrumental in preserving the documents and records of historical value to the Chapter.

A **CBS program entitled "The Guns of Autumn,"** narrated by News Correspondent Dan Rather, caused quite a flap among wildlife managers and hunters. According to the September 15th TCTWS Special Newsletter Issue, those who saw the program attested to the fact that it not only did not provide a representative view of hunting, but it also was quite derogatory of the field of wildlife management. The newsletter went on to report that the producers of the TV program used some highly skillful propaganda techniques, including strong emotional appeal, distortion of data, and perhaps most obvious to professional biologist, omission of facts. This program caused such uproar among disapproving wildlife managers and hunters that CBS aired another follow-up program entitled **"Echols of the Guns of Autumn,"** which supposedly represented public response to "The Guns of Autumn." Brian Cain, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, provided an approved TCTWS statement to CBS against that type of biased reporting.

1976

The annual meeting was held April 8-10 at the Sunday House Motor Inn in Kerrville, with a field trip to Kerr Wildlife Area. The presentations at the technical sessions covered a variety of issues, including wildlife aspects of coastal zone management, use of prescribed burning in west Texas for wildlife habitat management, interaction of exotic game animals, and wildlife management on a commercial cattle ranch.

Michael Zagata, TWS Field Director, presented the parent society's news on the major topics of interest to Chapter members. He advised the Chapter to keep good records of activities so the parent society won't lose their **tax exempt status** by exceeding 5% of their time in **lobbying**. He also stated that 80% of the membership is for certification, and that it provides the opportunity for peer review. He advised the Chapter to become active in the Southwestern Region of TWS. He said that **the parent society is becoming more active in environmental affairs**, and that it might be useful

for all members to be familiar with the publication “Ecopolices of the Wildlife Society.” The brochure summarized TWS views on issues of concern in wildlife science and management.

Frank Sprague was appointed as chairman of the newly formed **Wildlife Conservation Award Committee**, which was charged with recognizing achievement by wildlife management non-professionals. It was decided that no awards would be presented this year, because the guidelines for choosing recipients were lacking. It was determined that recipients should represent all regions of the state, and that there should be no more than five recipients.

Dan Lay was selected as the first permanent Archivist for the Chapter. Our thanks go to him for collecting the files of committee members and keeping good records on the activities of the Chapter.

Eric Bolen (the 1974 TCTWS President) discussed at the annual meeting a **request by the Oklahoma Chapter of TWS to merge with the Texas Chapter.** Past President Charles Winkler moved that the Chapter not consider a merger, and this motion carried. The Oklahoma Chapter was advised of this decision, and a **close but separate organizational structure** has continued over the years.

Caleb Glazener, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee wrote to Senators Tower and Bentson, and Representative Peage expressing concern over introduced Congressional legislation H.R. 9560 and S.R. 2710, particularly with respect to the Wright-Breaux Amendment. The **amendment would weaken the regulatory protection of wetlands** under Section 404 of the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the 1899 Refuse Act. About 85% of public water would be affected.

1977

The annual meeting was held April 7-9 at the South Park Inn in Lubbock. Invitations were sent to the New Mexico-Arizona Chapter and the Oklahoma Chapter suggesting that the chapters hold a **joint meeting** with the Texas Chapter; however, that **did not materialize this year.** President **Sam Beasom** provided a progress report at the meeting on the **formation of the Southwest Section**, which would include Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona. It was decided that the first Section meeting would be in Arizona next year, with subsequent meetings to rotate among the four states. An informal smoker was planned for Thursday evening and a barbecue was held Friday evening.

Nominees for elected positions were asked to submit a short biographical sketch this year for the first time, and these were published in the newsletter. It was hoped that the membership could make a more informed decision about who to vote for, and that it might improve voting. The **first female officer in the TCTWS was Virginia Cogar**, who held the position of Secretary-Treasurer, while she was a PhD graduate student at TAMU.

A **new program of acquisition and easement** was initiated in Texas **to protect natural wetlands** along the coast with a history of high waterfowl usage. The program was **funded through the Migratory Bird conservation Fund**, and by waterfowl hunters through the purchase of Migratory Waterfowl Stamps, the so-called “Duck Stamps.” According to federal officials, more than 400 species of birds are found on the half-million acres of tidal marshlands located along the Texas coast, which are critical feeding grounds for wintering and migrating waterfowl. **Nearly two-thirds of the entire Central Flyway’s wintering waterfowl population in the U.S. can be found in Texas.** Wetlands purchased by the Federal Government were managed by the USFWS as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

TWS developed a policy regarding **burgeoning human populations** overwhelming and detrimental demand on many of the world’s limited natural resources. Accordingly the TWS stated that they “1) Actively support an enlightened policy of population stabilization that will conserve natural resources and enhance the quality of human existence, and 2) Promote a better understanding of man’s role in the world’s ecosystem so as to minimize the contamination and harmful alteration of the global environment.” President Sam Beasom stated at the annual meeting that he felt the Chapter should be dealing with the **foremost problem in wildlife conservation**—the human population problem. He reminded the membership that all position statements must be within the guidelines of the Parent society, and suggested that the Chapter support organizations trying to balance the population level with natural resources.

TWS also developed a **policy regarding management of living natural resources**, which is to: “1) Support and strengthen scientific management as the rational instrument for maintaining, restoring and enhancing plant and animal resources for man’s continued use and appreciation; 2) Encourage the development and dissemination of information to improve public understanding of the need for and the positive benefits from scientific management; 3) Encourage the retention or enhancement of habitat for native plants and animals on both public and private lands, mindful of the fact that plant and animal populations depend on the perpetuation of suitable habitat conditions under which they may live and produce; 4) Seek support for ethical restraints in the use of living natural resources; and 5) Reaffirm our view that scientific management includes both the regulated harvest of the surplus of those species in plentiful supply, as well as the protection of plant or animal species which are rare, threatened or in danger of extinction.” **These initial broad policy statements by the Parent Society expanded considerably over the years**, providing the basis for the very extensive current policy issues that the TWS supports, such as National Forest System planning and road management, farm bill implementation, state wildlife funding, etc.

1978

The annual meeting was held March 30-April 1 at the Ramada Inn in College Station. This was the **most ambitious program to date** for an annual meeting, with five technical sessions, a social mixer and dance with music by country-western artist “Tony Douglas”

and “The Shrimpers,” a concurrent Western Student Wildlife Conclave, wild game banquet and award ceremony, and two field trips to a national wildlife refuge and exotic game ranch.

The sessions included “Current Wildlife Related Programs and Activities of the Universities and Agencies in Texas, Game Bird Biology and Management, Habitat Management and Land Use, Deer Management, and Predator-Prey Interrelationships.”

TWS certification program became a reality this year, and members were encouraged to apply. Certification was in two categories: Associate Wildlife Biologist – fulfills educational requirements, but less than five years experience; and Certified Wildlife Biologist – fulfills educational and five year experience requirements.

The **Southwest Section of TWS reorganized** to include the states of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, and the country of Mexico. The Board of Presidents from the states involved agreed upon a proposed set of bylaws governing future activities.

The 85th Congress passed legislation affecting several important fish and wildlife issues. These included an amendment to the Marine Mammal Protection Act that prohibited commercial whaling within the U.S. 200 mile limit.

The **Endangered Species Act (ESA) had its first big test this year**. Congress conducted hearings on a proposed amendment to the ESA, which would allow the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) an exemption to construct the Tellico Dam and potentially eliminate the entire known habitat of the **endangered snail darter**. The United States Supreme Court's 1978 decision resulted in an injunction preventing completion of the Tellico Dam. In *Tennessee Valley Authority v. Hill*, the High Court interpreted the ESA to require that the \$100 million federal project be stopped because it would extinguish the endangered snail darter, a small fish found only in that of the Little Tennessee River to be flooded by the dam. The decision proved only to be a temporary victory for environmentalists, because it renewed congressional efforts to amend the Act. Congress responded to the court ruling by creating the "**god squad**," a committee that could exempt selected species from protection. At the first meeting of the god squad in early 1979 they concurred with the Supreme Court, that the snail darter should take precedence over Tellico Dam. Then, in late 1979, Tennessee Sen. Howard Baker and Rep. John Duncan Sr., tacked an amendment to the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, which **exempted Tellico from the ESA** and other laws. As a result, workers at Tellico closed the gates of the dam, allowing the reservoir to begin filling. In 1984 the Fish and Wildlife Service rescinded the designation of the Tellico dam area as critical habitat for the snail darter, because the species no longer existed in that area. The snail darter classification under the ESA was also later changed from endangered to threatened, because several other small populations of the species were found elsewhere in the Tennessee River Watershed. **Many environmentalists viewed the exemption as weakening the national commitment to strong environmental protection.**

Finance Committee Chairman Charles Winkler reported that his committee had considered several **methods to increase Chapter revenue**, as well as **recommendations to utilize Chapter funds**. He recommended that monies in the checking account maintain a minimum operating expense, and the remainder of the checking and savings account funds be transferred to certificates of deposit to improve earnings. This was the **beginning of a more sophisticated effort to increase Chapter funds**, and put those funds to use. Regarding the utilization of interest from increasing funds, the committee recommend the following suggestions: 1) sponsor a symposium every other year, 2) contribute to TWS Building Fund for permanent office in Washington D.C., 3) establish a regional speaker bureau in Texas to educate the public on wildlife issues, 4) publish a directory of Texas fishery and wildlife biologists, 5) establish an annual 4-H scholarship, and 6) finance travel for our representatives who go to Washington D.C. to testify on legislative affairs.

President Beason called for a motion at the annual meeting indicating the amount of financial support that the Chapter wished to give to **TWS Building Fund**. Fred Guthery moved, and John Smith seconded that the **Chapter pledge \$1,000** within a timeframe of 1 or 2 years. Wendell Swank requested that the motion be amended to allow for investment of the funds until given to TWS Building Fund, which was approved and the motion passed. Therefore, the TCTWS made a significant contribution to the permanent building fund of the TWS, and this was important since more wildlife management decisions were being made in Washington D.C. courts, and TWS needed to have representation there.

Eric Bolen, a past president of the Texas Chapter became the Associate Dean of the Graduate College and Professor of Range and Wildlife Management at Texas Tech University.

1979

The annual meeting was held April 5-7 in Alpine at the Sunday House Motel. This was the **first year that the Chapter had a raffle to raise funds**. Paul Barrows, Chairman of the Activities Committee, arranged for about 50 prizes worth around \$1,000 for the raffle. He suggested that members set aside \$5-10 to buy raffle tickets, the sale of which would support Chapter meetings and activities. A partial list of door prizes included several folding hunting knives, ice chest, shotgun shells, pin sets, wildlife prints, a pool cue, gun locks, hearing protectors, and wildlife management books.

There were **six sessions at the annual meeting**, including those entitled 1) What do user groups want from the wildlife profession?, 2) predation and livestock – some recent findings, 3) status of agencies and wildlife species in Texas, 4) upland game—ecology and management, 5) topics of special interest, 6) big game in Texas—ecology and management. The Program Committee received more submissions for presentation for the annual meeting, and opted to assign variable time limits to presentations to accommodate more papers.

Two major developments in **pheasant management** occurred over the last decade. The first was the establishment by TPWD of a huntable population along the Gulf coast. The success of this had enormous implications—expansion of pheasant range into warm, humid areas of the Southeast. The second development was the incorporation of Pheasants Unlimited (PU) this year in Hale County of the Texas Panhandle. At their First Annual Dinner on November 21, 1978, the group raised \$20,000 from raffles, auctions, and membership fees. The monies went to farmers who planted pheasant cover. PU entered into 1-year contracts with farmers, and furnished seed and paid \$25 per acre for planting cost.

Past President Wallace Klussman was selected to chair the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at TAMU. **Dan Lay retired** on April 30th after 43 years of professional service with the TPWD. Dan's latest assignment was in Nacogdoches as the Mitigation Coordinator with the task of assessing the environmental impact of water development projects in cooperation with other conservation agencies, and to determine the suitability of lands proposed for mitigation. He called attention to the **plight of the red-cockaded woodpecker** and was instrumental in getting it on the endangered species list. **Among Dan Lay's awards** are the following: Texas Forestry Association Award for outstanding contribution to forest research (1968), American Motor's award for Conservation (1969), TCTWS award for outstanding contribution to the wildlife profession (1969), and the Chapter's annual publication award for significant contribution to wildlife literature (1979).

The Chapter was **struggling with the best time to have the annual meeting**. A survey of the membership showed that 19 people opposed changing dates of the annual meeting January or February, prior to the North American and Natural Resource Resources Conference, and 53 people had no objections to the change. The membership indicated a **desire to meet in centralized locations**, such as the San Antonio or Austin areas. The **Site Selection Committee** used the survey information for future annual meetings; however, the date of the annual meeting was not changed until 1982 when it was scheduled January 20-23 in conjunction with the Texas Section of the Society for Range Management.

Wallace Klussmann, chairman of the Finance Committee issued a two-page handout at the annual business meeting consisting of **five recommendations** from the committee, which included: 1) to reserve \$400 for reimbursement of expenses incurred by the President while attending the Southwest Section meeting, 2) establishment of a \$1,500 scholarship award to a deserving student, 3) sponsor a white-tailed deer management symposium in early 1981, 4) authorize expenditure of \$300 for Southwest Student Conclave and bowl team competition, and 5) establish a committee to explore the feasibility of a National Bobwhite Quail Symposium in 1982-83. The first recommendation passed, however, the second recommendation met with concern that the scholarship would draw the Chapter's funds down too much. Matters such as whether to give one \$1,500 scholarship or three \$500 scholarships, whether to make the scholarships a one-time award or renewable, and whether the award would be based on scholarship or need were deferred to a **new Scholarship Committee**. This was an **important**

milestone in the Chapter's history, because it marked the beginning of an important scholarship fund. Recommendation #3 was deferred to a steering committee to determine the best manner in which to get information to the landowner—the proposed symposium or a new publication. A student from the TAMU Student Chapter stated that students could learn a great deal from student conclaves, and so recommendation #4 was approved. Dan Lay stated that there was not enough new, substantial, worthwhile information to justify recommendation #5 for a National Bobwhite Quail Symposium; and recommended the Chapter consider a symposium on Texas Natural Resources instead, which Bill Sheffield seconded, and the motion carried by vote.

Lytle Blankenship, Southwest Section representative reported that there was still **no decision on a TWS national headquarters building location**, and four possible sites were being considered. He also said the Certification Board was snowed under with a rash of applications coming in to beat the December 31 deadline. Dues for the Southwest Section were \$1.00. Non-toxic shot was first required to take waterfowl in Texas on the J.D. Murphree WMA near Port Authur.

A two-year study, funded by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, was initiated to determine the **epidemiologic role of coyotes in the spread of *Brucella abortus***. Results from a study by the Brucellosis Research Group at TAMU headed by Donald S. Davis showed that coyotes could be infected by consuming *Brucella abortus* contaminated bovine tissue and that they would remain infected for extended periods.

1980

The annual meeting was held April 10-12 at the Fredonia Inn, with a theme of “**Texas Wildlife – Forecast for he 80’s.**” There were three technical sessions, which included the following: 1) managing habitat, 2) innovations in capture and tracking, and 3) managing populations.

The 66th Legislature reduced the appropriation for the TPWD’s Big Game Program by \$326,730 in 1980 and \$390,000 in 1981. The bighorn sheep program was phased out at the end of 1980. The **white-tailed deer program** was cut by more than \$250,000 each year of the biennium. However, it gave the Department authority to enter into cooperative research projects with universities, which provided a means of funding university research with federal aid funds. Governor Clements vetoed a local bill to permit the Comal County Commissioners Court to approve or disapprove the Department’s regulations; however the Legislature over-rode the veto. After the session closed, the Governor vetoed a bill to remove Houston County from regulatory authority.

Laurence R. Jahn, Vice-President of the Wildlife Management Institute and President of TWS lectured at TAMU on the role of the public in national wildlife legislation.

The **Resolution Committee**, chaired by **Dick Davis**, **became more active this year** and proposed that the Texas Chapter ask the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission to

implement a **review of the operation of the TPWD** by the Wildlife Management Institute in order to recommend ways in which the **Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act**, the Pittman-Robertson (PR) Act, **could be best managed within the Department**. The purpose of this Act was to provide funding for the selection, restoration, rehabilitation and improvement of wildlife habitat, wildlife management research, and the distribution of information produced by the projects.

The **Kennedy-Rodino anti-gun bill** was introduced, which would prohibit the manufacture, importation, or any sale or transfer of any handgun which does not conform to specified technical criteria.

A new **TCTWS Photo Contest Committee was formed** with Lynn Post (SCS) as the first Chairman. Lynn developed a list of rules for the contestants to follow for the contest at the 1980 annual meeting, and developed categories for wildlife, scientific investigation, plants and habitat, picture story, and our surroundings. James Kroll was the Grand Prize winner.

An addition to the newsletter was **letters “To The Editor,”** which included suggestions for bridging the gap between wildlife rehabilitation experts and the TCTWS, information, praise, and some criticism. Another small but interesting change in the newsletter was a transition from the traditional black print on white paper to yellow, green, blue, and orange paper; which continued until 1982 when the Chapter went back to white paper only.

The first **awards for Texas citizens involved in wildlife management**, who are not professional wildlife scientist, educators, or managers, but who have made outstanding contributions toward the well being of Texas Wildlife were recognized by the Chapter. The award recipients recognized at the Nacogdoches annual meeting were Herbert Ward, retired game warden in Dimmit County; ranchers Walter Hairgrove and John Lovell from Henderson County and Donley, respectively. **Gary Valentine was the first Chairman of the Non-Professional Award Committee** (which became known as the Wildlife Conservation Award in 1982) that selected these winners from the nominations submitted.

The **Executive Committee began holding summer meetings** for the purpose of ensuring the transaction of Chapter business at the mid-year point and to determine status of committee activities. This committee consisted of President Nova Silvey, Past-President Milo Shult, President-elect Fred Guthery, Secretary-Treasurer Susan Baggett, Board Member and Large Wayne Shifflett, and the new Archivist John Stransky. Dan Lay resigned as Archivist following his retirement from the TPWD.

John Lovell, owner and manager of the Lovell Ranch near Clarendon, Texas announced plans for a cooperative study with Texas Tech University to improve mule deer by a rotation grazing system to improve food preferences and forage quality to increase deer numbers.

Fred Guthrie and Gary Valentine participated in two **Texas field days** as representatives of the TCTWS. One field day was an Extension Service sponsored event at the Waggoner Ranch near Vernon, Texas on the topic of brush management. The other field day was sponsored by the SCS at the Pickens and Blankenship Ranches near Miami, Texas that emphasized interfacing livestock and wildlife management for a total ranch management program. This was also an opportunity to inform others about the role of TWS, what it does and what it represents.

TPWD regulations required that a valid **Scientific Permit** to take any protected species (i.e. endangered, protected non-game, or out-of-season game).

Patricia A Chamerlain, Supervisor of Urban Programs for the Texas Rodent and Predatory Animal Control Service, was the **first person awarded the Land Use Management Fellowship** of the Texas Tech University Graduate School. Her doctoral program of study emphasized management of arid and semi-arid lands and the waterbirds of the playa lakes.

The University of Wyoming hosted the **first Western Student Wildlife Conclave** in March, and more than 250 students, representing 11 states, including TAMU Student Chapter, participated in the events that included a full schedule of research papers, field trips, and a series of wildlife quizzes. A **“quiz bowl”** was initiated at the conclave, in which Colorado State University emerged as the winner, with TAMU and New Mexico State coming in second and third, respectively. Arizona State University sponsored the student conclave in 1981. Features like the quiz bowl are now a part of all TCTWS annual meetings, such as the intercollegiate range and wildlife plant identification contest at the 2004 annual meeting.

The Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation was the recipient of the personal library of the late Alexander Wetmore, a collection of over 5,000 books. Alexander Wetmore was a prominent ornithologist and paleontologist for over 70 years. The **Welder Foundation library** also received major holdings in ornithology from the late T.S. Palmer and Clarence Cottam, both ornithologist of international reputation. With regard to books, the new 4th edition of the Wildlife Manual Techniques Manual was published, and continued to be a cornerstone of wildlife management education.

Hurricane Allen’s rains brought drought relief to wide sections of parched South Texas, providing to **relief to deer herds and averted die-offs** that were imminent in parts of western South Texas. However, the rains came too late to improve the winter foods, such as acorns, and winter die-offs were unavoidable.

1981

The annual meeting was held in Austin, Texas on April 9-11. A total of 240 people registered for the meeting, and 177 attended the banquet on Friday night, making this the **largest Chapter meeting** to date. There were six technical sessions, which included presentations on the problems associated with urban wildlife, the female hunter in the

U.S., reclamation of wildlife resources, the influence of nutria feeding activities on aquatic vegetation and waterfowl in east Texas, response of bobwhites to wildlife management, nesting of ring-necked pheasants in the Texas panhandle, habitat value and status of playa lakes, and recent history of woody vegetation and deer species composition changes along the Pecos River. There was a field trip to the Wild Basin Wilderness Area after the meeting, in which members viewed Texas Madrone trees and the golden cheeked warblers. The 200 acre wilderness area was established to preserve the native flora and fauna typical of the Texas hill country.

The TCTWS photo contest held during the annual meeting had a total of 157 entries (slides, pictures, picture stories). James Kroll, last year's winner, also won this year's grand prize award. David Baxter, editor of Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine, Bill Reaves, chief photographer of the TPWD magazine, and Wyman P. Meinzer, accomplished wildlife photographer, judged the contest.

John Stransky, USDA Forest Service biologist and Chapter Archivist, requested that past TCTWS officers and committee members send their old records and correspondence to him for inclusion in the archives. The Chapter files reflect the efforts of all of the Chapter Archivist to maintain the important documents on the history of the organization.

The Texas Chapter sponsored a **gun raffle** prior to its annual meeting in Austin to raise funds for the Parent Society building. Tickets were \$5 each, and only 300 tickets were allowed to be sold of for each of the five guns. Tickets for all five guns could be purchased for \$20.

Governor Bill Clements appointed William O. Braecklein of Dallas and William M. Wheless of Houston to six-year terms on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, replacing Pearce Johnson and Joe Kirk Fulton of Lubbock, respectively.

Public sentiment was mounting against the so called "**Sagebrush Rebellion**," which was an effort by special interest groups (e.g., mining, livestock, energy, and timber) to take over public lands. **TWS adopted a resolution against the actions of the Sagebrush Rebellion**, because it stated that those public lands belonged to all American. The TWS resolution also recommended that Congress strengthen cooperative arrangements to reduce conflicts among federal land management agencies and private landowners. This resolution was very helpful in stopping the attempted land grab, and providing an even handed way to contend with the problems.

This was the **first year that the Chapter presented \$500 scholarships** to three outstanding students. Ranking factors for selection included: 1) academic and scholarly achievement, 2) leadership and organizational abilities, 3) ability to communicate, 4) drive and initiative, and as a tie breaking factor only 5) financial status.

About 90 ranchers and range and wildlife management specialist attended a field day on **prescribed burning** on the Masterson Ranch near Guthrie, Texas on June 25th, co-sponsored by the TCTWS, Texas Section of the Society for Range Management, Texas

Agricultural Extension Service, SCS, and TTU. Prescribed burning increased grass production and the abundance of sideoats grama, while decreasing the abundance of juniper and threeawn. The burning program with a recommended rotation of 15 years was considered desirable for wildlife in the Rolling Plains.

A new wildlife organization was formed, the **American Deer Association Fund**, to raise funds for deer research.

TPWD Commission member Ed Cox Jr. received the **International Wildlife Foundation's meritorious contribution award** both for his work as a commission member and his work in white-tailed deer research and management at his ranch near Athens, Texas.

The new State **"duck stamp"** was required with a hunting license for the 1981-82 hunting season along with the federal migratory waterfowl stamp. The stamps benefit hunters by providing funding for waterfowl research, management and habitat acquisition.

The **number of licensed sport hunters in the U.S. set a new record** in 1981, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. In 1981, 16,638,371 sport hunters paid \$242,366,371 for licenses and permits. Compared to 1980, that was 381,510 more hunters and 20.2 million more dollars. Fishing also maintained its popularity, with 29,277,241 licensed anglers in 1981 who paid \$212,944,873 for licenses. In addition to license fees, hunters paid \$120,887,999 that year in manufacturers' **excise taxes** (P-R funds) on sporting arms, ammunition and archery equipment. Fishermen paid \$31,943,626 in similar taxes (D-J) funds). Other sportsmen contributions to wildlife conservation in 1981 included the state and federal Duck Stamp sales.

Most Americans don't know very much about animals or wildlife conservation issues, and are more likely to see wild animals on television or in zoos than in the wild, according to a **study conducted for the Department of Interior's USFWS by Stephen Kellert of Yale University**. Stephen Kellert's study demonstrates the critical need for better communication between wildlife managers and the public, according to Ray Arnett, Assistant Secretary of the Interior. He also said that there appears to be a **significant lack of understanding** among large segments of our society about things that are of great importance to the future of wildlife conservation and management.

1982

The 17th annual meeting of the Texas Chapter was held on April 14-16th at the University of Texas campus in Austin. The TCTWS scheduled a well balanced line-up of speakers representing industry, government, and private landowners. The opening session was at the LBJ Auditorium on the University of Texas campus, with the **keynote address by Land Commissioner Bob Armstrong**. The technical sessions were held in the Joe Thompson Center Auditorium, also on the UT campus. Workshop sessions were

scheduled for: 1) policy issues and recommendations, 2) management, extension, and research needs, and 3) inter-organizational cooperation and coordination.

An **International Cat Symposium** was held at Texas A&I University in Kingsville, Texas on October 4-7, 1982. Technical sessions were held on cat status, reproductive biology, behavior, predator-prey relationships, and habitat requirements and management.

The **TWS Council** met October 14-16th at Migis Lodge near Portland, Maine in conjunction with the Northeast Section Executive Board and Maine Chapter of the TWS. The **overall budget for the operation of the TWS and the building fund** were the major topics, and was considered to be sufficient to meet with the needs of the society.

The **TCTWS/SRM photo contest** judged at the annual meeting had **blended rules** for contest. The overall “Best of Show” was determined by the members of both organizations at the meeting. There was a regular and professional level, and numerous categories of pictures (e.g. plants, wildlife, and range scene).

The Idaho Chapter of TWS contracted the development of brown imitation leather notebooks and portfolios with the TWS logo printed on the outside covers to raise money for a memorial scholarship fund, which Roy Frye and Chuck Davis (TPWD biologists) made available at the TCTWS annual meeting.

A **new TPWD wildlife management area was dedicated** to the memory of a game warden killed in the line of duty. The James E. Daughtrey Wildlife Management Area (WMA), formerly called Choke Canyon WMA, adjacent to Choke Canyon Reservoir is considered on the finest in the state.

Harry E. Hodgdon, Field Director of TWS, was selected as the Executive Director of TWS to fill the vacancy created by the death of Executive Director Richard N. Denney in December 1981. His major areas of interest included improving the status of wildlife professionals, conservation education, furbearer management, and behavior and ecology of beaver.

Thirty-one junior and senior high school students attended the **27th Annual Youth Range Workshop**, sponsored by the Texas Section—Society for Range Management at Junction, Texas. The workshop included topics on brush management, grazing management, and range-wildlife interrelationships.

The House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment began holding hearings to discuss ideas for **bolstering the nation’s wetland protection** effort. Proposals for generating funds to purchase approximately 1.7 million acres of wetlands were sought as per the USFWS recommendation as needed to maintain waterfowl and other migratory bird populations.

The Associated Press reported on the untimely death of a 27 year old Phoenix man who was **killed when a saguaro cactus fell on him**. The man was crushed by a 23-foot section of the cactus after he fired two shotgun blasts into the plant. Arizona had been plagued by **cactus rustling and vandalism** at that time, and this was considered a case in which nature was fighting back.

A 10-year **downturn in the statewide deer harvest was reversed** this years hunting season, with 337,000 deer taken by hunters. This was the highest total since the 1975 season, when 348,000 were harvested, according to Glenn Boydston, TPWD Wildlife Coordinator of Technical Programs. Hunting and fishing license sales showed a big increase this year, bringing in more than \$500,000 over last years revenue.

1983

The 18th annual meeting of the Texas Chapter was held in conjunction with the Texas Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM) on January 20th -22nd at the Best Western Capri Motel in Austin, Texas. The theme of the joint meeting was **“Multi-uses of Rangelands,”** and papers in both range and wildlife management were presented at joint sessions.

Bob Warren, Editor of the TCTWS newsletter, left TTU for a position at the University of Georgia. He expanded the newsletter to a regular six issues a year, and obtained a **bulk mailing permit**, thereby reducing mailing cost from 20¢ to 5¢ a copy. Steve Demarais, Texas A&I University, was appointed as the new editor of the newsletter.

The Chapter solicited opinions about a **“unified membership,”** which would require each member to belong to a **chapter, section, and the Society**. President Gary Valentine reported that most of the Chapter members were not Society members and a significant number of this group were not gainfully employed as wildlife professionals, but were interested in staying abreast of wildlife affairs in Texas via newsletters and annual meetings. The existing dues structure was maintained for their benefit. However, those that were gainfully employed as wildlife professionals were encouraged to belong to both the Texas Chapter and The Wildlife Society. Membership in a TWS Section, whether southeastern or southwestern, was left optional to the members, but once again there was encouragement to join for a number of reasons. The **Southeastern Section**, for instance, was **formed in 1948**, and **provides a better liaison between individual members and the parent society**, recognizes outstanding work in the profession, established The National Wildlife Turkey Symposium held every five years and the Annual Southeast Deer Study Group meetings, and facilitates multi-state exchange of ideas and philosophies concerning the wise use and management of wildlife resources.

Officials of the TPWD and the USFWS announced the **establishment of three wildlife management areas on national forest in east Texas**, which would continue to be operated by the USFS but be managed by TPWD for wildlife resources. The three areas included the Alabama Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in the Davy Crockett

National Forest, the Moore Plantation WMA in the Sabine National forest, and the Bannister WMA in the Angelina National Forest.

The Legislature passed the **Wildlife Conservation Act**, which placed management authority for managing fish and wildlife resources in the hands of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. Prior to this action, all or part of the hunting and fishing laws in 85 Texas counties were set by the Legislature, and regulations set by the Department in 30 other counties were subject to review by local county commissioners' courts.

A **Symposium on Game Harvest Management** at Texas A&I University, sponsored by the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, attracted many TCTWS members, which covered such topics as establishing harvest quotas and monitoring harvest, responses of deer and game bird populations to harvest strategies, and harvest strategies for large mammals.

The Texas Chapter building fund (\$4,526) set a new milestone for being the **largest contributor to the TWS** goal of building a new headquarters in Washington D.C.

The TCTWS sent a **letter of support for the Audubon Society's position** on the Non-Game Funding Bill introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Conservation Committee, Chaired by Bill Morrill, began efforts to make lawmakers and decision-makers aware of Chapter views on wildlife issues such as this bill, and began keeping records on the expertise of the membership available for expert testimony. The Resolutions Committee, Chaired by Ray Telfair, was also involved in these type of issues, and passed **resolutions were sent to the TP&W Commission** supporting control of lead shot, and one to U.S. Congressmen expressing regret over the decision to cut back funding for Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units at state universities. The Awards Committee, Chaired by John Hunter, even sought a special recognition award this year for persons who had been instrumental in wildlife legislation.

The Activities Committee, Chaired by Gary Simmons and Vice-Chaired by Charlie Winkler, reached a level of sophistication by selecting five members from each region of the state to solicit **donations of prizes or money**. Rifles, handmade boots, cameras, wildlife paintings and prints, camping gear, hunting trips, and compound bows are contributions typically made for the raffle and auction. These in turn **make funds available for student scholarships** in wildlife science.

The Chapter archives had reached such a size that Virginia Cogar, Archivist, requested the Chapter to **purchase a file cabinet for use in storage of Chapter documents**, which President Valentine and the Executive Board approved. The Chapter purchased a 5-drawer file cabinet, and four drawers were immediately filled with historical data. Thus began the first organization of the Chapter archives, which presently fill up four 5-drawer file cabinets.

A story in the University Daily at TTU rocked the biological world by indicating the last **passenger pigeon** died on campus in September 1983. Previously, the last passenger

pigeon was thought to have expired at the Cincinnati Zoological Garden in September 1914. The last big flight of passenger pigeons in Texas was seen near Lampasas in the winter of 1882-83.

The largest group of visitors ever welcomed at the **Kerr Wildlife Management Area** got a first-hand look at one of the **nation's foremost white-tailed deer research facilities** when about 200 landowners and managers toured the experimental pastures for tips on range management and lectures by TPWD biologists. TPWD Area Manager Donnie Harmel coordinated activities for TPWD.

Gary Valentine and Bob Warren developed a **brochure on the TCTWS**, which described the goals and objectives of the Chapter and contained a membership application. The Executive Board approved printing 5,000 of the brochure at TTU press at a cost of \$340.

The **Matagorda Island Conceptual Plan** was approved the TP&W Commission on November 3rd, which divided the land into two units: 1) the Matagorda Island Wildlife Management Area, which would be used for wildlife management and research, hunting, fishing and as a refuge for endangered species, and 2) a Wildlife Conservation and Park Areas, which would offer recreational activities such as camping, swimming, and birding. No bridge or causeway would be built to the island, and the only access would be by private and charter boats in order to protect the area's wild species and their habitat.

September 1983 marked the **first time that wildlife directors of the three nations of North America had met to discuss continental wildlife issues**. The meeting took place at the eighth annual meeting of the U.S.-Mexico joint committee on wildlife was held in Laredo, Texas. USFWS Director Robert Jantzen and Director General of Mexico's Fauna Silverstre, were joined by their northern counterpart, Bertrand Tetreault, Director General of the Canadian Wildlife Service, in this historic session. TPWD staff and TCTWS members discussed mutual concerns, such as migratory bird management, endangered species, contaminant research, species and habitat research, and cooperative training. It was at this historic meeting that the **concept of a North American waterfowl management plan was first raised**. A highlight of the meeting was the signing of the **Mexican wolf recovery plan**, thereby setting in motion an international plan to protect this species.

Robert M. Blair (SFA, Nacogdoches) was presented with the Texas Forestry Association Forest Research Award in recognition of significant contributions he made to the understanding of the ecology of forest wildlife.

September 24th was **National Hunting and Fishing (NHF) Day**, an annual event coordinated by the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF). This year's theme was "A Day for a Lifetime," which highlighted hunters and anglers introducing people, who had not had the opportunity, to the great outdoors for a lifetime of enjoyments. The history of this event began when fellow sportsman President Teddy Roosevelt led early conservationists to call for the passage of the first laws to outlaw market hunting and

provide funds to state wildlife agencies through sales of hunting and fishing licenses and taxes on sporting equipment. **Hunters and anglers today provide more than 75% of the funding for these agencies.** During the past century, sportsmen have also worked countless hours to protect and improve millions of acres of vital wildlife habitat--lands also available for the use and enjoyment of everyone.

The **heightened environmental awareness** that developed in America during the 1960s was **embraced by hunters and anglers**, but many were **discouraged by the lack of awareness of the crucial role they had played**--and were continuing to play--in the organized conservation movement. Many felt the time had come for the public to recognize their efforts. In 1972, Congress unanimously passed house and senate bills authorizing the NHF Day, and on May 2nd, President Nixon signed the proclamation making official the first NHF Day. "I urge all citizens to join with outdoor sportsmen in the wise use of our natural resources and in insuring their proper management for the benefit of future generations," said Nixon. The NHF Day is today the focus of one of the most effective grassroots efforts ever undertaken to promote outdoor sports and conservation. In addition to the thousands of NHF Day open houses and other local events held at sportsmen's clubs, shopping malls and nature preserves, many state wildlife agencies now organize large regional outdoor fairs that attract tens of thousands.

1984

The 19th annual meeting of the Texas Chapter was held at Texas A&I University in Kingsville from March 29-31, and there was a sense of excitement at about the society at this time, according to President Fred Bryant. Sam Beasom, Director, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Institute at Texas A&I University provided the welcoming address at the meeting, and there was also a **tour of the Welder Wildlife Refuge** in Sinton, Texas following the formal meeting agenda.

The members were beginning to realize that they were **a force to be dealt with** in the State of Texas. **Conservation groups and politicians looked to the Chapter for leadership**, and the members had obliged them on many occasions and on many fronts. As an example, the TCTWS provided support to a **Sunset Review Workshop** sponsored by the Texas Environmental Coalition in Austin. The Sunset Review Process provides for the abolishment of state agencies subject to the Act, unless they are re-established by legislative action. In this manner, agencies are reviewed by a certain date, and a "sunset" is brought to any inefficient or unnecessary government operations of these agencies. The Workshop was to inform conservation group members and others about the sunset review process, and the structure and function of those agencies undergoing review. John T. Baccus and William I. Morrill represented the TCTWS at the Workshop.

The Executive Board appropriated \$1,000 to **revise and reprint the TCTWS brochure**, and Fred Guthery made the revisions. The brochure concept developed by past-president **Gary Valentine's leadership gave the Chapter a breadth of visibility and presence not previously experienced.** Gary Valentine also began service in March of this year as **President of the Southeastern Section of TWS**, and **Al Brothers** (TCTWS member and

biologist for Zachry Ranches) was given the **“Excellence in Wildlife Management” Award at the Section’s annual meeting in Ashville, NC.** The TCTWS was also frequently active in the Southwestern Section due to the geographic position of Texas, which straddles the line between eastern and western states. Al Brothers also donated his honorarium proceeds from the Houston Safari Club to the Texas Chapter for scholarships. Four outstanding students were therefore awarded \$500 scholarships from the Chapter as a result of his donation, rather than the usual two.

Texas Chapter **membership stood at 573**, however, only 45% were also members of the Wildlife Society, and 112 people residing in Texas were not members of the Texas Chapter. Fred Bryant, Chairperson, Membership Committee, encouraged all those working in the profession to join both societies. TWS Council recommended a bylaws amendment that would have resulted in a **unified dues structure.** This meant that a member of TWS would be required to join his or her State Chapter and Section. Likewise, a member of a State Chapter or Section was required to join the TWS. Unified dues were initiated to increase professionalism, and proponents believed that a professional wildlifer should belong to all levels of their professional society. However, **an overwhelming majority TWS membership voted to defeat this proposal.**

Bob Warren term ended as Newsletter Editor for the Texas Chapter, and Steve Demarais, Research Scientist at Texas Tech University in the Department of Range and Wildlife Management, took over that position. This was the **first year that pictures of award recipients were published in the newsletter.**

The Chapter’s **financial picture had been in a break-even mode** for the last couple of years, and the Executive Board were concerned that there would not be adequate funds to accomplish the needs of the Chapter. Therefore, the Board began a **new initiative** authorizing the Financial Committee, chaired by Bruce Thompson, with the responsibility of **exploring ways to build a General Endowment Fund.** This was the first year that the Executive Board approved an annual budget (\$14,950) to meet the needs of Chapter programs.

The Chapter also organized a **membership expertise register** in order to better facilitate calling upon professional members to give information or informed opinion to organizations and individuals influencing the management of our State’s natural resources. This was a move toward higher visibility for the Chapter as influenced by the increasing need for sound information in decisions affecting wildlife management. Request for member expertise were screened by a Chapter Committee appointed by the President.

Along the lines of providing expertise, **the Texas Chapter gave a Statement for the Record** to the Texas House of Representatives Joint Subcommittee on Environmental Affairs and State Affairs meeting on **Lead vs. Steel Shot** held in Beaumont on January 26th. Stating that 40% of the ducks analyzed on the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge had ingested lead, and that lead is a virtually non-degradable, potentially toxic substance, the Chapter went on record as supporting the control of lead shot in the taking of

waterfowl on the coastal regions of Texas and encouraging the utilization of non-toxic substances for that purpose. Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1963 by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service on 12,000 acres at the juncture of Oyster Bay and East Bay in Chambers County. The refuge had doubled in size by 1982, when the Nature Conservancy, a nonprofit organization based at Arlington, Virginia, purchased an additional 12,670 acres from Ralph J. Barrow's ranch in 1981. The refuge provides a safe habitat for wintering ducks, geese, and other waterfowl, shelters alligators and other species, and provides a year-round home for mottled ducks.

The Texas Chapter recognized two **outstanding leaders in Texas Natural Resource Conservation**, which are “special” awards given to deserving individuals when it is felt that outstanding contributions concurrent with goals of the Texas Chapter are made. TPWD Commission Chairman Edwin L. Cox, Jr. received the Texas Wildlife Conservation Award for his dedication and leadership in conservation of our wildlife resources. Chairman Cox spear-headed an effort to standardize the state’s game laws resulting in the passage of the Texas Wildlife conservation Act, which was supported by the TCWTS.

General Land Office (GLO) Commissioner **Garry Mauro** also received the **Texas Natural Resource Conservation Award** for his contributions and leadership in conservation of Texas natural resources. Commissioner Mauro supported the adequate inflows into Texas bays and estuaries in the State Water Plan developed by the Texas Water Development Board, encouraged GLO tradelands program of using sale of proceeds of unproductive GLO lands for purchasing ecologically valuable wetland tracts, opposed high level nuclear dump sites in the Texas high plains, was instrumental in finalizing the agreement between the federal government and Texas for the protection of Matagorda Island, initiated a policy of implementing wildlife and conservation measures on GLO lands as well as vigorously pursuing the opening of these lands to public hunting, launched the Texas Natural Heritage Program, initiated an agreement with the Soil Conservation Service to establish sound conservation practices on GLO lands, opposed toxic waste burns in the Gulf of Mexico, worked with TPWD to develop more wintering areas for migratory waterfowl.

An **Interagency Playa Lakes Disease Council** was developed by a meeting of concerned biologists from TTU, USFWS, TPWD, and representatives of the Central Flyway Program and Texas Waterfowlers Association Inc. Although the playas are extremely important and beneficial to waterfowl, they also present an ominous threat by hosting deadly bird diseases, such as botulism and avian cholera. During the winter of 1957, over 60,000 birds were lost to cholera at the Playas in Muleshoe, Texas. The Council was developed to function as an interagency body for disease research and management in the playa lake region and associated wildlife resource areas. There are an estimated 25,000 playa lakes in a five-state area of the southwestern United States, with three-quarters of them in Texas. During winters of adequate precipitation, over 2 million waterfowl and 300,000 sandhill cranes have been counted the playa lakes in the Texas panhandle.

The USFWS **reclassified the status of the American alligator in Texas** from “threatened” in coastal areas and “endangered” elsewhere in the state to “threatened due to similarity of appearance,” meaning they are not in danger of extinction but closely resemble others animals that are endangered. The status change was based on studies showing increased numbers of alligators in coastal marsh and inland habitats. A TPWD survey estimated the coastal alligator population at more than 90,000 animals, and another study indicated populations had doubled in the past five years in some prime Texas habitats. Therefore, **TPWD reopened an alligator hunting season** in portions of 10 southeast Texas counties.

The TPWD initiated a **desert bighorn sheep restoration program**, funded in part by the Texas Bighorn Society, which is a fund-raising organization dedicated to restoring the rare native sheep to areas of the Trans-Pecos region where they had been extirpated.

An important piece of legislation enacted this year was the Food and Agricultural Act, generally known as the **“Farm Bill,”** which included conservation features integrated effectively into agricultural policy to prevent and correct soil erosion, maintain and restore water quality, and sustain and restore production and survival of wild living resources. A part of the legislation referred to as the **Wetlands Loan Act** allowed the Secretary of the Interior to borrow against future duck stamp revenues to finance wetlands acquisition. This was to become a major environmental issue in Congress for the two decades.

In that regard, TPWD made the **first purchase of waterfowl habitat with State Waterfowl Stamp funds**, which was a 1,700 acre marsh in the Guadalupe River Delta region of Calhoun County. Known as the Stofer-McNeel Trust, the tract was hailed as a prime waterfowl area as well as habitat for many other aquatic and terrestrial animals. The cost to the waterfowl stamp fund for the acreage was only \$277,000 because of the 75% reimbursement due from federal Pittman-Robertson Act funds. The total cost of the land was \$1,052,000.

The chapter finally published its 1982 symposium, **“Texas Wildlife Resources & Land Use,”** after considerable editing and organizational effort led by Gary Valentine. It was the **first of many symposium proceedings to be published by the chapter**, but this marked a milestone in efforts to improve the chapter’s image as a reputable wildlife science and management organization.

Sometimes it is interesting to take a look at what our leaders forecasted for the future back in time, and that observation was noted for Chapter President Fred Bryant’s May 1984 newsletter excerpt entitled **“Down the Road.”** He said there were many **futuristic needs** and ideas expressed at his many committee meetings, including more scholarships, higher paying scholarships, a Texas Chapter Directory, a display booth, funds for exhibitors space at various functions, funds to support TPWD’s Non-game Program, funds to send an Executive Board member to the North American Wildlife Conference, and office support for a permanent location to computerize our membership and word process our newsletters. He stated that he knew these things sounded crazy, but went on

to say that if our **membership keeps growing at the present rate (20-25% per year)**, we will have a membership of 1,125 in 5 years. When it got to that size he speculated that the Chapter would need all of these things, and the resources to accomplish to accomplish them must be planned for now. Therefore, the Executive Board gave the Finance Committee, chaired by Bruce Thompson, the responsibility to **explore ways of building a General Endowment Fund to pay for them when the future need arrived**. It is hard to understand how the Chapter could function now without computers, membership directories, and travel funds. It is important to understand that the Chapter got to the point it is now by the foresight of some very forward looking members who put in the effort to carry out these “futuristic” plans for organization.

1985

The 20th annual meeting of the Texas Chapter was held at the Sheraton Hotel in San Angelo from March 21st-23rd. The program included papers on deer antler growth – nutrition or genetics, helicopter census of white-tailed deer, prescribed burning on white-tailed deer habitat, waterfowl diseases of the Playa Lakes region, ecology of mountain lions in Big Bend National Park, use of an edge index to measure changes in wildlife habitat diversity on a barrier island, and food habits of whooping cranes and sandhill cranes on the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Approximately 300 members attended the meeting and 238 persons went to the banquet.

A strong and active membership is the key to success for any organization. John Baccus, President-elect, initiated a **membership drive** in which he asked every member to recruit at least one new member in 1985, with the **goal of doubling the Chapter size**. **“WOW—WIN A COW” was the slogan used in that recruiting effort** by Loren M. Smith, Department of Range & Wildlife Management at TTU. The Chapter member that signed up the most new members to the national Wildlife Society would win a cow elk hunt on the Vermejo Park Ranch in northern New Mexico. This was an effective recruiting effort by the Chapter, and attendance was attracted to the annual meeting by **advertising four ways to win** in The Wildlife Society: **1) the WOW—Win a cow recruiting campaign contest, 2) photo contest prizes, 3) door prizes, and 4) raffle tickets to support the scholarship fund**. Innovation was a key word in the Executive Committee’s efforts to build its membership and interest in the annual meeting. **Steve Demaris signed up the most new members and won a free cow elk hunt** for his efforts. An important milestone achieved this year was the **magic “500” in membership**, which was a direct result of the aggressive recruiting effort and enthusiasm about Texas’ wildlife resources.

TWS also was growing and improving its services. Lytle Blankenship, TWS President-elect and former Southwest Section Representative of TWS, reported that during the past six years, TWS had obtained a home of its own, a Certification Program had become a reality, Continuing Education programs were being developed, conservation affairs were getting more attention at all levels, publications were better meeting the needs of the members, investments were improving, and professionalism was gaining momentum.

Exhibitors contributed \$525 to the annual meeting. Booth sales were beginning to be a significant part of TCTWS's efforts to make the annual meeting a self supporting event and hold down dues cost.

Poaching in the U.S.S.R. is a crime with severe consequences. The Rural Life magazine reported police arrested two men and charged them with stealing two deer fawns and slaughtering them for a birthday feast. One of the men was sentenced to six years hard labor, and the other was sentenced to four years in a general regime labor camp. As a result, there was very little poaching in that country.

The Finance Committee assisted with the sales of the new nongame stamps and decals, which directly supported the Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund created by the Texas Legislature in 1983. The **TPWD produced the state's first Nongame Print, Stamp and Decal program.** The design was based on an oil painting by nationally-known wildlife artist Ken Carlson of Missoula, Montana depicting two whooping cranes. Stamps and decals were priced at \$5 each, and framed prints of the painting, including a stamp and decal were priced at \$145. Funds accrued from the nongame stamp program were earmarked exclusively for programs to aid nongame and endangered species in the state.

The **Texas Nature Conservancy** transferred 8,580 acres of prime waterfowl habitat in Brazoria County to the TPWD. The Nature Conservancy obtained the land, valued at over \$5 million, as a partial donation from six petrochemical companies (Phillips Petroleum, Shell Oil, Dow Chemical, Crown-Rancho Pipeline, Continental Pipeline, and CITGO Petroleum). The non-donated portion of the purchase was funded by matching federal Pittman-Robertson Act money and state revenue sales of State Waterfowl Stamps. The TPWD also added 1,820 acres of **white-winged dove habitat** to their Las Palomas WMA, using revenues from the State White-wing Dove Stamp.

TCTWS Executive Board and members present at the annual business meeting passed a resolution pertaining to the impoundment of the Wallop-Breaux Fund. **The Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) tried unsuccessfully to take \$66 million from the new Sport Fishing and Boating Enhancement Fund (Wallop-Breaux Fund) created by Congress in 1984.** The revenues were derived directly from the nation's boaters and anglers through federal excise taxes on fishing equipment, motorboat fuel taxes, and customs duties on imported watercraft and fishing tackle. OMB attempted to freeze these funds and make them unavailable for boating and fishery management, and return these to the general treasury ostensibly to help reduce the federal government's overall budget deficit. Senator Wallop of Wyoming informed Director Stockman that OMB's taking of the funds would clearly be a breach of the Executive responsibility to the will of Congress. **TCTWS resolution to Congress in opposition to the impoundment of that Fund was helpful in overcoming this attempted raid on funds.**

Resolutions were also passed recommending that the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation develop a **mowing policy oriented towards minimizing the impacts to wildlife and native plants** on highway right-of-ways, and supporting the

continuation of the Soil and Water Conservation Programs by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and opposition to any budget reductions of this important federal agency.

“Project Wild” was officially initiated by TPWD to disseminate wildlife resource information to primary and secondary school children. Bill Morrill, Chairman of the Education and Information Committee, coordinated efforts to recruit TCTWS volunteers to serve as facilitators in the training of teachers in the Project Wild statewide program.

The **new Sul Ross State University Student Chapter** of TWS was officially chartered, and TCTWS members wished them success as their chapter developed. The **Costa Rican Chapter** of TWS also joined the Southwest Section.

The Texas Chapter’s new **Conservation Review Committee** had a significant impact on state law by meeting with State Senator Bill Sims of San Angelo and making numerous recommendations for changes in Senate Bill 1083, a bill establishing the **Texas Brush Control Program** under the State Soil and Water Conservation Board. After meeting with the Chapter’s Conservation Committee, Senator Sims made extensive changes to the bill, including an addition of a section requiring consultation with the TPWD concerning the effects of the program on fish and wildlife, a provision for consideration of the Department’s comments on individual brush control plans, and a provision concerning revegetation. Section 203.055(b)(3) of the Bill requires that “approved methods of brush control will have a beneficial impact on wildlife habitat.”

The **Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club** celebrated its 20th Anniversary this year. It was officially installed on November 13, 1965 after 66 persons signed a petition earlier in the year. Among those signing to form the Lone Star Chapter was Clarence Cottam (deceased), who was a Charter Member of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and recipient of the Texas Chapter’s Outstanding Service Award in 1971.

An **award of \$500 was donated by the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute (CDRI)** to a student for the best paper at the 1986 TCTWS annual meeting pertaining to the natural resources of the Chihuahuan Desert Region. The award was made in the memory of W. Frank Blair, a noted zoologist and former Chairman of the Department of Zoology, University of Texas, who served as the first chairman of the CDRI Board of Scientists.

1986

The Chapter’s 21st annual meeting was held in Kerrville at the Y.O. Hilton on April 3rd - 5th. Another **new milestone** took place this year with the **first concurrent sessions** being offered. There were 42 presentations in an attempt to provide something for everybody’s particular interest in wildlife science or management. The annual meeting started off with two non-concurrent special sessions. The early morning special session was moderated by Bruce Thompson (TPWD) on **“Wildlife on Texas Lands – Public and Private,”** followed by a late morning special session, which was moderated by Murray Walton (Wildlife Management Institute) on **“Characteristics of Wildlife Resource Users in Texas.”** These were followed by seven concurrent sessions over a two-day

period, and were moderated by Monty Whiting (Stephen F. Austin State University), Eric Bolen (TTU), Gary Valentine (SCS), Ronnie George (TPWD), Don Hawthorne (USFWS), Virginia Cogar (Sul Ross State University), and Bill Armstrong (TPWD). These sessions covered everything from upland, coastal, and plains game bird biology and management to exotic Nilgai Antelope food requirements. This year saw a **good turnout by exhibitors**, with collections bringing in a **record \$600 from the sale of booth space**. Bob Cook and his Local Arrangements Committee, and John Baccus, Chapter President, worked hard in planning this very successful meeting.

The Animal Damage Control (ADC) Program was transferred from the USFWS to the Department of Agriculture by Congress. The management of starlings and blackbirds, the major focus of ADC programs, remained under the USFWS jurisdiction as promulgated by the Migratory Bird Treaty.

Poachers faced increased penalties under new guidelines adopted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission this year. **The Commission established monetary values for hundreds of wildlife species.** The voluntary guidelines were used by the courts to recover the value of resources lost to the state, and these charges were assessed in addition to the usual fines and court costs. The amounts charged for lost resources ranged from as small as **28 cents a pound for shad** to a maximum of **\$10,000 for an endangered whooping crane**. The range in value was provided to enable a judge or jury to take into account individual circumstances in each case. **A buck white-tailed or mule deer was valued over a range of \$251 to \$800, and a Rio Grande turkey over a range of \$51 to \$75.** Values were established for most fish species. A 10-pound largemouth bass was valued at \$44, and a saltwater red drum or spotted sea trout of the same size was worth \$60. These values are adjusted over time by the Commission, as the value of lost resources has increased. The Southern Pacific Railroad was the first case in which these new guidelines went into effect, as a result of a 50,000 gallon sulfuric acid spill into the Medina River which occurred as a result of a train derailment near San Antonio. TPWD and the State Attorney General's Office sent a bill to Southern Pacific Railroad for \$117,049 for the 155,000 fish killed in a 22-mile stretch downstream of the derailment site.

The TPWD acquired a new 261-acre tract of white-winged dove habitat in Presidio County in the state's Big Bend region. The new tract and an adjoining 1,820-acre tract purchased by the Department last year were designated as the Ocotillo Unit of the Las Palomas Wildlife Management Area, and these reside in a region that was identified as important breeding habitat for the **Upper Big Bend White-winged dove**, a large and distinct subspecies of white-wing.

Satellite data analyzed by the TPWD and TAMU showed that **urban growth and other land use practices were altering or destroying the state's wildlife habitat at a rapid rate.** Satellite photos of 13 areas ranging from 365 to 5,300 square miles were studied to record changes during the past decade resulting from urban expansion, forest and brush clearing and conversion to pure pine stands. Portions of Travis and Hayes Counties lying west and south of Austin showed a 44 percent increase in urban buildup between 1973

and 1979, for a conversion rate of 3,000 acres per year. Northern Bexar County and northwest portions of San Antonio experienced a 70 percent increase in urban development and a conversion rate of 5,900 acres per year. The Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex expanded 21 percent between 1973 and 1981, for a rate of 7,400 acres per year. Northern parts of Houston showed the most growth into natural areas with a conversion rate of 17,300 acres per year or 50 percent expansion between 1972 and 1979. Most of the urban expansions were into oak and juniper woodlands, pine-hardwood forest and prairie.

Glenn Boydston, coordinator of technical programs for the TPWD, reported that about 4 million man-days were spent hunting white-tailed deer during the fall and winter of last year. He stated that this was by far the largest amount of time spent hunting any species, but if you combine the approximately 800,000 man-days for rabbits and 900,000 for squirrels, the importance of small game hunting in Texas is very evident. If only the small game species are considered, **mourning doves were the single most important in terms of time spent hunting**, with more than 1.7 million hunter-days spent in 1982-83. Next was the quail, at 1.1 million hunter-days, followed by squirrel, rabbits, and turkey (spring season).

The TPWD estimated that there were approximately **4.2 million white-tailed deer in Texas – the highest population estimate for the species on record**. This was a 13% increase over the previous year, and attributed to favorable weather conditions, including a mild winter, that set the stage for excellent fawn production and survival, according to Mike Reagan, TPWD assistant white-tailed deer program leader. This further enhanced the state's reputation as the nation's number one white-tailed deer producer. The Edwards Plateau region of Central Texas had the most deer of any ecological region, with about 1.7 million.

Four of the Chapter Newsletters (Numbers 66-69) were printed on a smaller (8.5" x 5.5") format than the all of the previous newsletters (11" x 8.5"), based on the Editor's, Steve Demariais, preference. However, this style only lasted until the end of the year. The old style must have been preferable to most of the members, because the incoming 1987 Newsletter Editor, Bob Brown, changed it back to the way it had been formatted. It has never been changed again, so this was a one time experiment. A total of six newsletters were published in 1985, although there was no set number required in the bylaws. The Executive Board proposed that the bylaws be changed to state that "the Newsletter Committee shall publish at least four newsletters per year," which was approved by membership vote in support of the bylaw amendment.

An **increase in dues from \$3 to \$5** was approved by the Executive Board on August 22nd for voting on by the membership at the annual meeting. The current dues did not even cover the printing of the newsletter, so there was a substantial need to increase the dues rate. The dues increase was approved by the membership at the annual meeting by a 9:1 margin.

Fishermen caught 14 of the 30 largest largemouth bass ever taken in Texas waters this year. Introductions of the **Florida strain** of largemouth bass were the main reason for the appearance of huge bass, according to Allen F. Forshage (TPWD fisheries biologist). The **state record largemouth bass was also caught this year**, weighing 16 pounds, 14 ounces. Genetic test made from tissue samples revealed the record size fish caught from Lake Pinkston near Center, Texas was a pure strain Florida bass. This bass was made a part of the **Lone Star Lunker program**, which gives anglers the opportunity to lend 13+ pounders to the Department for hatchery research and brood stock propagation. The fishermen receive publicity and an option to have the fish mounted free after hatchery work is completed, or have it released back into a lake.

The **Southwest Regional Section of the TWS published results of a survey** of member responses (68 responded) to support of current and proposed activities of the TWS. The survey of current activities showed that 80% of the members supported increased activity in political advocacy of resource issues; 53% supported being a financial sponsor of workshops, symposia and conferences; and 69% supported new member recruitment. The survey of proposed activities showed that 70% of the membership supported “much” effort be expended on accreditation of wildlife degree programs, 91% for public education on resource subjects and TWS, and 66% for an organized program for continuing education with formal recognition for completion. Other issues in the survey showed that 71% thought there should be different privileges for Certified vs. Non-certified members, 74% thought that the TWS should intervene between members and employers when the members ethics were being compromised, 67% believed that the TWS should help members bring law suits against employers who cause members ethics to be compromised, 71% believed that the TWS should try to resolve differences between different Chapters or Sections when they disagree on how to manage a wildlife resource. The current resource areas of this time period that **members thought the TWS should be most active in at the national level were: habitat loss 23%, contaminants and pollution 25%, grazing on public lands 11%.**

The 99th Congress ended on a bright note for wildlife by passing the **Emergency Wetland Resources Act**, which was signed by President Ronald Regan. The statute raised about **\$25 million for wetland acquisition annually**, and made Land and Water Conservation Fund monies available to federal agencies **for protecting waterfowl habitat**. The price of federal duck stamps increased over a period of five years from \$7.50 to \$15.00 to fund the program. The big failure of the 99th Congress was seen as its reluctance to reauthorize the Endangered Species Act. However, this reluctance has continued over the years, and has never been officially reauthorized. Congress approved a sweeping reauthorization of the Clean Water Act, but President Regan vetoed the legislation because he said it would cost too much.

Mexico and the U.S. agreed on several major wildlife conservation projects that were intended to benefit wildlife species in both countries including: surveys of white-winged dove and waterfowl populations shared by the countries; a new wetland protection program in Mexico that would protect habitat needed by waterfowl and other migratory wildlife; new studies on distribution, abundance and harvest of black brant and snow

geese wintering in Mexico; joint surveys of endangered Yuma clapper rails in Mexico and training of Mexican biologists in the U.S. to manage the species; joint surveys of endangered masked bobwhite quail in Mexico and training of biologists to manage the species; restoration of the Mexican turkey in the US. Where the animal was extirpated years ago; and control of illegal wildlife trade.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted **revised endangered and threatened animal lists** and associated regulations with the assistance of the Texas Organization for Endangered Species (TOES). The changes included adding the piping plover, Pecos pupfish, and river goby to the threatened list; removing the Mexican milk snake, Trans-Pecos copperhead, and Baird's rat snake from the threatened list; and retaining the margay and 13 marine mammals on the endangered and threatened lists. The new threatened animal list included 72 species and subspecies of amphibians, birds, fish, mammals, and reptiles. **Fifty-four species and subspecies were included on the revised endangered list.**

1987

The theme for the annual meeting was **“Grazing Management and Wildlife – A General Perspective,”** and was a **joint meeting with the Society for Range Management (SRM)**. It was held in Abilene on May 21-23. Sessions on “Grazing Management and Wildlife” covered “The Texas Perspective,” “The Research Team Perspective” and “The Agency Perspective” by invited and volunteer presentations on these subjects. Lynn Drawe (Welder Wildlife Refuge) and Steve Hartmann (SRM Program Chair) organized this outstanding program. There were 478 registered participants at the joint TWS-SRM meeting in Abilene (a record attendance), and about half were members of the TCTWS.

The Texas Chapter owes much of its strength to the actions of various committees and the people who volunteer services to those committees. **By 1987, the Chapter had 21 committees, and each of these committees was fully engaged in a vast number of activities.** It is a real tribute to the Chapter that such volunteer activism, innovation, and insight among the chairpersons and the committee members maintained and built such a successful organization, which is and has been so influential in all aspects of wildlife science and management. The following is an alphabetical list of all 21 committees, of which eight were standing committees (bold font), based on Chapter bylaws and TWS rules: activities, **audit**, certification, **conservation review**, **education & information**, exhibits/displays, finance, legislative review, local arrangements, **membership**, **newsletter**, nominating & elections, operations manual, photo/wildlife art context, **program**, publication awards, publicity, **resolutions and public statements**, scholarship, service & conservation awards, and **site selection**. More than 75 Chapter members were serving on these committees and playing active roles in the progress of the organization.

The **Legislative Review Committee was a new committee this year**, and its first charge was to prepare a list of issues/needs and background information in preparation for the 1989 Texas Legislative Session. Murry Walton was the first Chair of the committee, and

he recognized that legislative issues would be a controversial issue, and his first administrative duty was to solicit comments and suggestions from Chapter members on the protocol to be used in selecting issues and appropriate actions.

A **bottomland hardwoods resolution** (drafted by Charlie Winkler, Chair, Conservation Committee) was passed which recognized the **importance of this ecological community** with the following: 1) bottomland hardwood forest are wetlands ecologically dependent on fluctuating water levels produced by the overbank flooding from rivers and streams, and 2) approximately 54% of the 215 million acres of wetlands that originally existed in the U.S. has been lost as a result of various land-use changes, and 3) more than 60% of the original 16 million acres of bottomland and riparian vegetation that occurred in Texas has been lost, and 4) there is a continuing threat of significant losses of the remaining bottomland hardwood forests and riparian vegetation in Texas, and 5) bottomland hardwood forest and riparian vegetation support a higher diversity of wildlife species than do upland ecosystems, and 6) bottomland hardwood forest provide critical habitat for many wildlife species of special concern in Texas. Based on these attributes of bottomland hardwood forest **the Chapter committed itself to:** 1) promote the conservation, protection, management, and proper stewardship of bottomland ecosystems and associated wetlands in Texas, 2) oppose development and land-use practices with significant adverse effects on the existing quality and net quantity of bottomland hardwood ecosystems and associated wetlands in Texas, and 3) actively support mitigation of losses of bottomland hardwood ecosystems and associated wetlands in Texas. This resolution was approved by the membership at the May 1987 annual meeting, and sent to nearly 300 persons representing about 90 agencies, legislative officials, and conservation organizations.

The Chapter obtained a **permanent mailing address** in September, as well as a **part-time paid person to maintain the computerized membership records and mailing list**. These two factors vastly improved dues accounting, newsletter delivery to paid members, and general communication for the Chapter. A fresh supply of Chapter letterhead and envelopes were printed with the new permanent address and logo so that committees could improve communication. Perhaps more importantly, **a revised Chapter information brochure was printed in December**. This brochure was used to pass along the Chapter's resource message and encourage additional membership.

The Photo Contest was expanded to include a **Wildlife Art Category** this year. Kathy Kirwin and Jodi Peterson worked hard to make this addition and the artwork displayed at the annual meeting was a beautiful addition not only for this meeting, but at all the following annual meetings. Categories included watercolors, oil paintings, and carvings. The photography contest continued to include categories for black-and-white and slides of amateur work only.

Congress authorized the **formation of a Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Texas Tech University (TTU)**. At full force, three federal biologists would eventually staff the Tech unit, with each becoming an adjunct professor and member of the Department of Range & Wildlife Management's faculty. The Unit began operation in

January 1989 with the appointment of Nick Parker as the Unit Leader, and he subsequently selected two assistant leaders. He was formerly the Director of the USFWS Southeast Fish Cultural Laboratory in Marion, Alabama.

The TPWD hosted the **Texas Wetlands Plan** Workshop in Austin on November 16-17th. Clifton Ladd, Conservation Review Committee Chairman, participated as a representative of the Texas Chapter. More than 100 persons attended the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to allow public participation in the development of the Texas Wetlands Plan, an addendum to the Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan (TORP). The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 requires such a wetlands plan for states to remain eligible to receive money from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Results of the workshop were used to determine wetlands management needs in Texas. Clifton Ladd also participated in the Texas Organization for Endangered Species (TOES) annual meeting in Nacogdoches, which was highlighted by presentations from Charles Allen, new Director of the Wildlife Division of the TPWD and Jim Johnson, Region 2 Endangered Species Program Director for the USFWS.

The Texas Chapter came under some **criticism for allying itself with Earth First** on certain conservation issues, as exemplified by an article entitled “Consensus Nonsense,” by Fred King, publisher of the Hunting Ranch Business. King stated that Earth First “does not seem to believe in using resources, and the radicals may gain legitimacy by association with TWS.” Texas Chapter President, Bruce Thompson, however, replied to this criticism stating that **“it is unwise to stereotype groups and not develop a dialogue.”** This was perhaps the **beginning of ecological turf disputes** that were developing as a result of differences of opinions on issues of preservation, conservation, hunting, resource use, and wildlife management. Bruce Thompson’s Presidential year was involved with advocating a closer investigation of the objectives of other organizations with conservation interest as a basis for **identifying allies that may help promote wise resource use and develops sound biological and administrative programs to oversee that use.** Even a recent joint action that involved the Texas Chapter, Earth First and at least five other conservation organizations appeared to accomplish the intended purpose of delivering common viewpoints to resource agency administrators without adverse effects on the reputation of the Chapter. The TCTWS’ Executive Board also voted to **co-sponsor the 1988 Texas Wilderness Pow-Wow**, which established a working alliance with such diverse groups as the League of Women Voters, Texas Committee on Natural Resources, and Earth First. The majority of the Texas Chapter’s Executive Board believed that the Chapter could be a balancing force in encouraging more objective thinking and discussion among all Pow-Wow participants. There was the **potential of “guilt by association,”** but the Chapter appeared to be even handed and fair in dealing with conservation issues with other organizations. However, at the same time it was necessary for Bruce Thompson to appoint a task force to determine the best avenue of combating the **anti-hunting and animal rights organizations**, and a \$2,000 budget was approved to finance this effort.

This was a year of numerous highlights in wildlife restoration and management programs. Favorable weather conditions resulted in a **boom year for quail populations**,

with seasonal hunting harvest reaching all-time record at the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area. Hunters harvested 8,600 quail during the first four weekends alone. The **eastern turkey restoration program** obtained 76 wild-trapped birds from other states and stocked them in East Texas, boosting total stocking to >100 for the year. The **desert bighorn sheep restoration program** also swelled with the importation of 25 sheep from Nevada to a private ranch in the Van Horn Mountains of southwestern Culberson County.

1988

The program theme for the 1988 Texas Chapter meeting in Del Rio was “**Texas wildlife diversity: the management challenge.**” It was held March 31st-April 2nd. Characterized by a wide array of major habitat types and unrivaled diversity of wildlife species, Texas faced diverse pressures on habitats and species at this time. How to maintain the diversity of this resource, maintain the harvest of diverse sport species and alternate uses of threatened habitats was recognized as a major challenge, and was the focus of this meeting. A **special session on “Wetlands of Texas: their wildlife and management needs”** was organized by Program Chair Milton Weller (TAMU), and his committee consisting of Eric Bolen (TTU), David Lobpries (TPWD), David Tilton (USFWS-Ft. Worth), Jack Payne (TAMU Extension Center), Jim Dickson (USFS), and Ron Bisbee (USFWS-Angleton).

This was the **first year that the Chapter newsletter contained a picture** (Bobby Alexander in the “President’s Place”) **and graphic art** (a pheasant drawn by Eric Yerkes in the “Project WILD Update”). **Project WILD** is a supplementary education program emphasizing wildlife. It is a joint project of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the Western Regional Environmental Education Council. Bobby Alexander reported in his newsletter section that he was pleased to report that film strips entitled “**Wildlife for Tomorrow: A Story of Our Un-endangered Species**” for grades 7-12 (5 copies) had been ordered for use in public schools with distribution through the Project WILD Program Coordinator at the TPWD, Ilo Hiller.

A **new student award** was approved by the Executive Committee **honoring Clarence Cottam** in recognition for his contributions to conservation and his long term support of student research while Director of the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation. The first Clarence Cottam Award would be given at the College Station meeting in April 1989.

Three endangered species projects of the TPWD represented the **first expenditures from the Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund**, and were coordinated by Brent Ortego, TPWD field biologist. The fund partially supported two projects **benefiting the red-cockaded woodpecker and one for the black-capped vireo**. The red-cockaded woodpecker project in east Texas emphasized improving the condition of nesting colony sites and increasing the potential for female woodpeckers to move into colonies where only bachelor males were primarily found. The black-capped vireo was listed by the USFWS and TPWD as endangered, and the Texas Chapter

members became involved in addressing questions concerning how to best recover this species, the extent of brown-headed cowbird associations with cattle that parasitize vireos nests, impacts of urban development on adjacent breeding habitats. The black-capped vireo project underway on TPWD areas were designated to identify habitat tracts and specific territories used by the migratory endangered song birds.

The **Ninth Annual Wilderness Pow Wow** was held April 22-24th in Angelina National Forest, with major activities focused at the Caney Creek Recreation Area adjacent to Sam Rayburn Reservoir. Some Chapter members were concerned when the Executive Board agreed to co-sponsor the Pow Wow, with several Chapter members participating in the event, including Clifton Ladd, David Tilton, Brent Ortego, Mike Krueger, Charlie Boyd, Richard Conner, and Jim Neal. The Texas Committee on Natural Resources (TCONR) openly reviewed their interests regarding forest management and future preservation of Texas forest lands. Bruce Thompson saw the Pow Wow as **a forum where wildlife professionals have overlooked an opportunity to expose poorly informed people to alternative ideas**. He further stated that “Unless experts take the initiative to be involved in this type of gathering, how can we expect others to develop viewpoints based on balanced knowledge? I don’t believe that Pow Wow participants are closed-minded; rather they are seeking information but are not being exposed to all sides. I do believe that the Chapter should consider co-sponsorship in the future.” These type of choices and complex attitudes on environmental issues have faced every Chapter President and Executive Committee since these times.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) implemented wildlife beneficial provisions of the recently enacted **Drought Assistance Act**. State fish and wildlife agencies were allowed to use **funding incentives to increase landowner participation** for establishing windbreaks, shelterbelts, and wetlands on their property, and encourage types of habitat development most needed.

The **TPWD initiated a new public assistance program** for persons involved in managing wetlands for waterfowl and other wetland-oriented wildlife. This assistance was provided by four wetland habitat management biologists whose service ranged from answering questions to developing management plans for private property owners and managers.

Quail Unlimited (QU) presented the Texas Public Lands Foundation with \$7,000 for use on Type II Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). The funds raised by QU were dedicated for enhancing quail management on publicly owned WMAs, such as the Granger area in Williamson County, Richland Creek in Freestone County, and Lake Ray Roberts in Cooke and Denton counties. The funds were turned over to the TPWD for their use in wildlife management practices that benefited quail in addition to other upland game species, such as doves, and the many songbirds that use the annual seed-producing forbs for food and nesting habitat.

A **new 200-acre white-winged dove tract** was acquired by the TPWD in Hidalgo County. The new tract, called the Taormina Unit of the Las Palomas WMA, was mostly

open pasture land that would revert to native brush. Proposed management included reforestation, food plot establishment, and wetland improvement.

Mexico instituted new regulations that effected U.S. citizens hunting in that country. The major rule change required all foreign hunters entering Mexico to register with a Hunting Organizer, and be accompanied by a licensed guide on each hunting excursion. Mexico allegedly enacted the regulations to control illegal hunting activity and ensure that legal hunting does not hurt the resource.

1989

The Annual Meeting was held in College Station, March 30th -April 1st, with a theme of **“Interaction of Research and Management in the Field of Wildlife Biology.”** The major categories of presentations included law enforcement, conservation biology-endangered species, innovative uses of computers in wildlife, federal farm program, and wetlands.

The **Professional Development Program** was established by TWS. It recognizes individuals who demonstrate a commitment to excellence through continued learning and professional development. The program is voluntary and open to all professionals, whether certified wildlife biologist or not. Goals of the program are to 1) maintain and advance the high technical skills needed by today’s wildlife professionals, 2) integrate new knowledge, concepts, and techniques into the practice of wildlife management, and 3) recognize, through issuance of a Professional Development Certificate, those individuals who participate in and complete the program.

The **Humane Society withdrew its lawsuit against hunting on national wildlife refuges**, but gave no reason for dropping it. Chapter President Bobby Alexander believed that their objective may have been only to harass hunters and cause hunting organizations to drain funds for defense of their rights. Some **anti-hunting organizations** apparently considered themselves **above the law** based on a statement quoting an Animal Liberation Front spokesperson as saying, “There are moral and ethical considerations that are more important than the law.” Hunters were not the only group targeted by animal rights advocates, but this type of action created a problem for hunters that would extend well into the next decade.

The **Texas Rivers Protection Act** was proposed to establish a system for preserving river segments that would be administered by the TPWD. The **seven proposed protected rivers** include segments of Buffalo Bayou, Colorado River, Upper Guadalupe River, Upper and Lower Neches River, San Marcos River, and the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. The bill sought protection of designated river segments by prohibiting reservoirs, channelization, and channel realignment by state agencies. A resolution supporting passage of the Act was sent to the Texas Legislature, urging passage of the Act “to provide for state recognition and protection of certain rivers or segments of rivers which are determined to have natural, scenic, or recreational qualities worthy of preservation;” however, the Act was not approved during the legislative session.

Another resolution developed by the Conservation Review Committee and approved by the Chapter provided **support for protection of sub-tropical Tamaulipan thornbrush and riparian habitat in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas**. The habitats are restricted to the Lower Rio Grande delta and represent some of Texas' most unique habitats. Wildlife diversity within these habitats is extremely high, including several endangered species, such as the ocelot and jaguarondi. A variety of tropical and sub-tropical species also utilize these habitats. Approximately 95% of the sub-tropical thornbrush and riparian habitats within the Lower Rio Grande Valley had been destroyed or degraded by industrial complexes, flood control and drainage projects, international bridges, resort development, and conversion to farm or rangeland. The Chapter's resolution sought to promote the conservation, protection, and proper stewardship of sub-tropical Tamaulipan communities in Texas, as well as assistance from the Mexican Chapter of The Wildlife Society in combating the destruction of sub-tropical Tamaulipan thornbrush and riparian habitats in Mexico.

Inauguration of the U.S. portion of the **North American Waterfowl Management Plan** commenced this year at the upper Texas Coastal Prairie at Nome, Texas near Houston, which was an operation to expand and enhance wetlands across the U.S. and Canada. The first Canadian project, at Quill Lakes in Saskatchewan, was dedicated in late September 1988. The Texas project involved leasing about 1,000 acres of rice land for wintering waterfowl. Each fall, the privately owned land attracts thousands of pintails, teal, mallards, and geese. Under the leases, rice stubble fields were flooded to provide roost sites. Ranging in size from 150 to 400 acres, the areas were not hunted in order to provide sanctuary for the birds. The North American Plan, signed by the U.S. and Canada in 1986, was then and remains now **a successful effort to restore waterfowl populations by protecting, improving, and creating wetland habitat in both countries**.

The Texas Chapter purchased a "**Downing Professional Display**" for use at meetings, such as the Texas and Southwest Cattle Raisers Association, Texas Outdoor Writers Association, etc., for the purpose of advertising the Chapter's many good activities.

A new mule and black-tailed deer award was announced by the **Western Deer Group** and the family of the late **O.C. "Charlie" Wallmo** for the "recognition and commendation of outstanding contributions to knowledge and improved management of mule and black-tailed deer." The first award was presented in 1987 to Richard D. Taber for his many contributions to the knowledge of mule and black-tailed deer, but this was the first year that nominations were opened to anyone wishing to provide a resume and

justification. The award consists of a **bronze mule deer** sculpted by Charlie Wallmo's son, Joe B. Wallmo, a wildlife artist living in Loveland, Colorado.

The **Texas Tech Range and Wildlife Club**, a joint chapter of the TTU Chapter of TWS and the TTU Student Chapter of the Society for Range Management, held an annual meeting with a presentation by Lew Cowardin on waterfowl studies by the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center and prescribed burning for wildlife management. Their fundraising activities included selling TTU Range and Wildlife caps and the Trail Boss's Cowboy Cookbook, and sponsoring a Turkey Shoot that allowed club members to compete with local marksmen.

The Chapter newsletter showed improvements with pictures being included for the first time of Texas Chapter Award recipients. **Another first was the inclusion of a professional article** entitled "Shedding Some Light on Deer Surveys," complete with bar graphs. The article, by Dale Rollins, Extension Wildlife Specialist, from San Angelo, Texas described the most common means used in Texas to conduct deer counts (spotlight and incidental) and aerial county (helicopter or airplane); and addressing the question: which of these techniques provides the best management data?

Ray Telfair, Chapter President, reported that the burden of Chapter operation was being carried by 87 of 320 current members (27%). He further stated that 111 former members were in arrears since 1988, and that the Chapter needed greater participation and involvement. Ray Telfair's goal was to get every member to serve on a committee, recruit at least one new member and former member to pay dues and be reinstated, and "become more involved with the **most crucial problem confronting our wildlife resources—habitat loss.**"

Many of those reading this document are probably unaware of Ray Telfair's flare for **wildlife art, i.e., art actually produced by wildlife.** While studying the biology of cattle egrets, he made an amazing discovery. The bird droppings varied greatly in color, texture, and consistency depending on what they were eating. The egrets spend the day in wet pastures, often near cows. They look for grasshoppers and beetles that are attracted to cow patties. Now and then they sit on the back of a cow, looking for ticks and flies. These different food types yield egret droppings in red, orange, yellow, black, brown, and green colors varying in texture and consistency from runny to solid. Fascinated with this finding, he placed a large blank canvas in a field frequented by cattle egrets at vary times, as food availability changed over the course of a year. The canvas reflected the vast variety of cattle egret droppings over a range of food types during the course of a year. The "end product" so to speak was **a form of original "wildlife art"** that hangs on his living room wall to this day.

Chapter President Ray Telfair initiated an **Honorary Life Membership Committee**, charged with the responsibility of selecting individuals to be considered for this honor. Virginia Cogar chaired the committee, and honorary members Lowell Halls and Dan Lay served on the committee.

A new award type was developed by the Chapter's recently formed **Audio-Visual Award Committee**, and considered any item where a Chapter member was a major participant in the development, production, and making of quality wildlife or wildlife-related audio-visual products (AVPs) that were scientific or educational in nature.

The **first Texas Wildlife Student Conclave** was a very successful event due to the diligent planning of Dean Ransom, Activities Committee Chairman. There were student-faculty contingents from three universities: Sul Ross State, TAMU, and TTU. Relevant programs and activities were provided by Dean Ransom, Ray Telfair, Ray Urubeck, Lee Ann Johnson, Catrina Martin, and Gordon Linam. The future of the wildlife profession depends upon properly prepared students, and the non-classroom guidance and support from Chapter members is important to that endeavor.

1990

The Chapter celebrated its 25th anniversary at the Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi, March 29-31. The theme of the meeting was **“Wildlife Management and Conservation in Texas—25 Years of Change.”** Virginia Cogar, Archivist, provided information in the newsletter about the history of the Texas Chapter including: (1) the March 17, 1965 organizational letter from Jim Teer for formation of a Texas chapter of The Wildlife Society, (2) the first program, and (3) the petition (dated April 9, 1965) signed by 37 participants requesting a Texas chapter. **Twelve of the founding participants were still active in the Chapter at this time.** Jim Teer's organizational letter mentioned the problems with geography, time, and money. These were not a barrier to progress. Caleb Glazener and Lowell Hall's program reflected the cross-section of research and management interest of that era.

The **new Executive Director position** was activated this year, with **Hal Irby appointed** to the position as a full time employee of the Chapter. Hal Irby had been a Life Member of TWS for almost 40 years at this time, having joined when he was an undergraduate student at TAMU. President Douglas Slack stated that the new position would enhance the Chapter's capability to respond to wildlife resource policy concerns in a timely and effective manner. Hal Irby coupled with the Conservation Review Committee worked effectively to ensure that wildlife conservation and science were considered in the decision-making process in the Texas Legislature, and that the Chapter's positions were coordinated through state and federal agencies. **This position was not only a first for the Texas Chapter, but also was the first among TWS chapters.**

1991

The Annual Meeting was held in Tyler, with a theme of **“Forested Communities of East Texas: Their History, Ecology, and Management.”** There was a Thursday evening social and barbecue at the Whistle Stop Ranch south of Tyler. The Whistle Stop Ranch is a popular picturesque facility consisting of a collection of classic railroad passenger and baggage cars, plus a passenger depot situated on a high hill overlooking the East Texas countryside. It was a good place to relax, visit, and enjoy some good barbecue and

refreshments. In addition to this amenity, the Azalea Trail was in full bloom just north of the convention hotel, the Ramada Inn. This was also the location of TPWD's Tyler Fish Hatchery that housed the 13+ pound largemouth bass in the Lone Star Lunker Program. An optional lignite mine reclamation tour was also offered.

Speakers at the annual meeting included Andrew Sansom, TPWD Executive Director, who gave an update on TPWD activities. Jack Ward Thomas, USFS from La Grande, Oregon presented information on **“Wildlife Management in the 1990's—A National Perspective.”** A panel session addressed the issue of **“The Changing Resources of East Texas,”** consisting of Larry Walker (Forestry – SFA), George Rice (Agriculture – Extension Service), and Dan Lay (Wildlife – TPWD). A special session was organized on the **“Unique/Sensitive Communities & Species of East Texas,”** and moderated by Brent Ortego. David Diamond (TPWD) spoke on “Sensitive Flora & Fauna,” Craig Rudolph and Dick Conner (USFS) on “The Longleaf Pine Community,” and Jim Neal (USFWS) on “Bottomland Hardwood Communities.”

A new addition to the Annual Meeting program was the **“Professional Affairs Session,”** which included two panels on (1) wildlife professionalism and (2) biologists as expert witnesses, and a presentation on TWS Certification. The remainder of the meeting consisted of five concurrent sessions on wildlife of East Texas, white-tailed deer, waterfowl, endangered waterfowl, and miscellaneous topics. A total of \$1,450 was contributed by six East Texas companies to sponsor coffee breaks, printing costs, materials, and other meeting expenses; which helped the Chapter stay in the black after all the debits were figured.

The Texas Chapter provided awards at the Annual Meeting in several categories, including Publication, Scholarship, Service and Conservation, and the Clarence Cottam Award. The Publication Award category included the Best Technical Paper, Outstanding Professional Paper, and Best Popular Article. **Scholarship Awards** of \$500 each were presented to wildlife and fishery students in recognition of outstanding scholastic achievement in preparation for careers in conservation. Eric Frasier, Executive Director, **Wetland Habitat Alliance of Texas (WHAT)**, also presented scholarships to three students, and the **Herman Lawrence Memorial Scholarship** from the Dallas Ecological Foundation was presented to a worthy student. The **Clarence Cottam Award** was named in honor of Clarence Cottam, longtime director of the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation and a strong supporter of student activities and research. This award was provided to the outstanding student paper, based on the student's submitted manuscript and oral presentation at the Chapter meeting, and included a \$250 award and recognition at the Annual Meeting and in the Chapter newsletter. **Service and Conservation Awards** were presented in the following categories: **Outstanding Achievement Award, Land Stewardship Award, Educator of the Year, and Outstanding Individual Achievement Award.**

As a result of active recruiting the **Chapter membership stood at 456** in March, up from 423 in January, and 350 in March 1990; **representing a remarkable 30% growth during the past year, and a whopping 63% since 1985.** The Texas Chapter could

now brag that it was the largest state TWS chapter. Indeed, partly because of its size, the Texas Chapter Annual Meeting was actively sought by potential host cities. The Chapter was looking forward to increasing its membership to the 500 member milestone in the near future.

The Texas Chapter took a strong stand on Congressman Ralph Hall's (D-Rockwall) attempt to remove the **Little Sandy bottomland hardwood conservation easement** from the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Chapter contacted the entire Texas delegation and encouraged them to vote against Congressman Hall's bill, H.R. 188. The bill did not survive the legislative budget process, and at least for the time being this kept the conservation easement as a part of the refuge system and the continued protection for the diverse wildlife community that inhabit the area. The legislation would have allowed the Sabine River Authority to continue its efforts to construct the Waters Bluff Reservoir and inundate what many considered some of the finest bottomland hardwood forest remaining in the State. Senator Lloyd Bensten and Congressman Steve Bartlett (R-Dallas) opposed HR 188. Several Chapter members were actively involved in this issue, including Susan Rust, Chair of the Conservation Committee; Doug Slack, President; and Hal Irby, the new Executive Director. Janice Bezanson with the Texas Committee on Natural Resources (TCONR) also monitored this bill and kept up with any attempts to introduce another bill. In addition, after becoming a member of the Texas Chapter's Conservation Review Committee, she informed the Chapter about this and other important East Texas forest and wildlife conservation issues.

Networking with members from other conservation organizations is an important and necessary function. To facilitate this, the **Education and Information Committee** gathered information on local, regional, and statewide meetings on environmental issues of all types. A **calendar of events** was provided in newsletters, beginning in September 1991, to inform the membership and encourage participation. Meetings of interest that were reported in the calendar of events included the Annual Meeting of the Texas Organization for Endangered Species (**TOES**) with a theme of "Coastal Texas—The Fragile Interface," with reception at the Texas State Aquarium, and a symposium sponsored by the Society for Range Management entitled "Managing rangelands and Endangered Species: Compassion, Compatibility, and Compromise."

Virginia Cogar was recognized for a wonderful job as the **Chapter Archivist** as she stepped down from that position to accept a new position in Ohio. **Susan Baggett** was appointed as the new Archivist, and the Chapter files were moved with her to Huntsville at the USDA Soil Conservation Service office.

Steve Labuda, Manager, **Attwater's Prairie-chicken** NWR reported to the Chapter that this species, once numbering a million birds on the coastal prairies of Texas and Louisiana, had **declined to fewer than 500** in 1991 and was in **grave danger of extinction**. Faced with this situation, the USFWS embarked on an accelerated effort to recover the bird. Based on the bird's approved recovery plan of 1983, this effort focused on **five major strategies**: habitat management, education, research, population management, and regulation. Captive propagation programs were also planned at a

private wildlife ranch near Glen Rose and at TAMU. Not only is the Attwater Texas' only endemic grouse, it is a highly interesting part of the gulf coast ecosystem. Restoration and maintenance of the prairie ecosystem in coastal Texas and Louisiana not only helped save the prairie-chicken, it also benefited other prairie creatures, from mottled ducks to red wolves.

The Executive Board meeting proposed an **annual dues increase** from the current \$5.00 (for all members) to \$10.00 for Student Members and \$15.00 for Regular Members. The increase in dues was needed to support the Chapter's new Executive Director position. The Board also discussed a possible lifetime membership for \$350. The dues increase and lifetime memberships were both approved by majority vote at the annual meeting, and became effective January 1st, 1992. This was only the second dues increase in the history of the Chapter. Part of the financial problem was that **printing and mailing cost were averaging >60% of total dues income**. To stimulate support, the Chapter initiated **"sponsorships" for the newsletter**, at the rate of \$10 or more for an individual per year and \$100 donation for businesses. Businesses were told they would be listed (or have ads) in five newsletters (one year). The Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute and Economy Printing of Kingsville, Texas made donations for the newsletter printings and their information occurred in the September 1991 newsletter. Innovative marketing succeeded as a funding mechanism.

The Chapter initiated an **Annual Reports Booklet** for comprehensive committee reports, which this year included details of Executive Director Irby's report on his first half-year's activities in the new position, as well as other committee reports. Nova Silvy, Southwest Section Representative, discussed a proposal for a **new TWS Program Director position** and the need for a **TWS dues increase** to support this position. Tom Franklin, the new TWS Policy Director, addressed policy matters of concern to the TWS and state and section chapters. The Texas Chapter and TWS addition of employed positions to carry out the increasing demands of the wildlife society required increased funds.

Steve Demaris (TTU) produced an excellent **"slideo,"** a slide presentation with narration on video format, about the Texas Chapter. It was a useful information technology for informing non-members about the Texas Chapter and its policies regarding ecological issues. Copies were sent to each student chapter, and it was taken to numerous meetings and workshops to use with the Chapter's display board. However, the Chapter did not have the structure or monetary resources to develop and market educational programs. It was becoming one of the first organizations other groups sought for information about wildlife, ecology, and environmental concerns.

The USFWS Southwest Regional Director Michael J. Spear selected Sam Hamilton as Supervisor for the **new Austin Ecological Service Field Office**, and Deborah Holle as Manager for the **Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge** in Austin. The Austin Regional Conservation Plan identified numerous endangered species issues, which the new USFWS office will initially concentrate on.

With the Conservation Review Committee and new Executive Director position filled by Hal Irby in full operation now, **the Chapter stepped up providing comments, statements, and testimony on important environmental issues.** As example, the Chapter sent the FAA a letter signed by Hall Irby opposing a proposed West Side Airport Project west of Houston that would adversely impact wintering waterfowl habitat for over 100,000 birds. **Other conservation organizations that joined forces with the Texas Chapter** in opposition to the project included the **Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Ducks Unlimited, and Waterfowl Habitat Alliance of Texas.** This **strategy of building partnerships** in opposition to proposed development projects that would cause significant adverse impacts gained momentum after this experience thwarted efforts to build this airport. The Chapter also presented a statement to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers public meeting in opposition to a proposed Shreveport to Daingerfield canal project that would result in adverse impacts to bottomland hardwood forest communities and riparian vegetation that support diverse wildlife species in East Texas. The reputation of the Chapter as an **important voice on ecological and wildlife issues was growing**, and there was an increased demand on the Chapter for ecological information and expertise.

The Chapter had become a **major player on wildlife issues** within the state, and by this time was building a record of having an influence on legislation, education, public hearings, and interagency coordination. During the past year, the Chapter submitted (1) a resolution to the U.S. Corps of Engineers and the Texas Congressional Delegation opposing the Shreveport to Daingerfield Canal Project, (2) a letter to Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission supporting hunting and other wise uses of natural resources as outlined in The Wildlife Society Policy Booklet, and (3) a letter to the EPA expressing concern about the 1991 Wetland Delineation Manual which could seriously affect current protection of the Nation's wetlands.

1992

The Annual Meeting was held February 27-29 at the Wyndam Southpark Hotel in Austin. The theme of the meeting program was **“Wildlife Research and Management on Public Lands in Texas.”** Roy Frye chaired the Local Arrangements Committee and Donnie Harmel the Program Committee in preparing this exceptional annual meeting. Nine different agencies which are responsible for the management of public lands in Texas were invited to discuss their views and philosophies on this subject, and all nine agreed to participate with many executive-level staff slated to speak to the organization. The speakers included Garry Mauro, General Land Office (GLO); Andy Sansom (TPWD);, Steve Hartemann, U.T. Lands; Jim Walters, National Park Service; Craig Steffens (TxDOT), and Joe Mazzoni (USFWS). Other agencies represented included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense, and USDA Forest Service. **Registration fees were categorized** this year into Regular Member, Spouse/Visitor, and Student Member at a pre-registration and at meeting cost, which included the Annual Awards Banquet.

An **increasing membership trend** was experienced over the last several years, with a 26% increase in membership this year (building on the 30% increase last year) even with the higher dues that went into effect this year. There was a push by the Chapter leadership to encourage members to apply for either Certified or Associate Wildlife Biologist, which was established in 1977. **Only 14% of the Chapter was certified** at this time. The certification program was designed to recognize that the applicant meets minimal educational, experience, and ethical standards to protect the public and enhance professionalism. A professional certified wildlife biologist has 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. Outgoing Chapter President Ronnie George stated that “he firmly believed that certification will become increasingly important in the future.” He also reported that he was **pleased with the performance of Executive Director Hal Irby** during his first full work year. He said that Hal Irby had taken the initiative on numerous occasions to meet with other conservation organizations, attend public meetings, and provide testimony on critical wildlife issues without constant direction from the Executive Board, while also keeping the Board well informed of actions he had taken on behalf of the Texas Chapter. TPWD Director Andy Sansom represented the Texas Chapter at the Mountain Lion Roundtable in Del Rio. Nova Silvy reported on Southwest Section revised bylaws at the annual meeting, which made it mandatory to pay section dues. The previous bylaws automatically established Chapter members as Southwest Section members also, but did require payment of dues.

The incoming Chapter President, Don Steinbach, commented on the **responsibilities of the presidential position**. He said that “only after a board meeting, a general business meeting with the room packed, an over-flow student breakfast, and two days of high quality programs, does the president fully understand his obligation to the Chapter membership.” However, **the real strength of this society lies in its very active membership**. For example, Chapter members were being asked to speak at high school career days as wildlife biologists, serve as a resource persons for biology and agriscience classes, start or participated in 4-H Field & Stream Clubs or a scouting programs, as well as to sponsor hunting and fishing trips – in short to serve as educators. That’s a lot of volunteer time by the Chapter membership, who were now doing those activities with enthusiasm and conviction.

The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society presented **awards for a growing number of outstanding members**, some of whom by this time had a long history of participation in the organization. The awards included Publication Awards (Best Technical Article, Best Popular Article, and Best Book), Service and Conservation Awards (Outstanding Achievement Award, Educator of the Year Award, Land Stewardship Award), Scholarship Awards (four \$500 awards in recognition of outstanding scholastic achievement in preparation for careers in conservation), Clarence Cottam Award (for outstanding student paper), and Honorary Life Membership Awards.

In addition to awards, the Chapter sponsors a **Wildlife Art and Photography Contest**. This year a new **Video Contest** was added with two categories – Short Clips and Production Length. The first year for the Video Contest produced some work that

resulted in stiff competition. The 1st place award for a feature or production length video was for “A matter of perspective – coyotes in Texas” by Dale Rollins with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, and the runner up with “Brush management – a possible solution to our water problems” by Jerry Turrentine with the SCS. For the Short Clip category, the winner was “Montezuma quail at the Kickapoo State Natural Area,” produced by several members of the South Texas Regulatory Project with Jeff Parrish and Randy Fugate providing the videography. The runner up was “Short eared owl in the grass,” entered by Randy Smith with ADC.

The Chapter established the **Wildlife Conservation Memorial Fund** to honor deceased professional wildlifers and other individuals with wildlife conservation interests and accomplishments. The revenues accumulated in the fund were used to finance public information projects developed by the Chapter to promote awareness and concern for Texas wildlife species and their habitats. The names of persons being honored in memoriam and respective donors are recognized through a section of the newsletter, and the family of the deceased individual receives a card identifying the donors with a message and signature of the Executive Director.

The **Texas Wildlife Expo '92** was held October 2-3 as a tribute to hunting, conservation, and the great outdoors. In conjunction with the Expo, TPWD hosted an **Essay and Poster Contest** designed to share the traditions of hunting and wildlife with young Texans. Youth interact with wildlife with a lot of strange expressions.

As part of the **Professional Development Program**, established in 1989 by the TWS, Chapter members Jim Yantis and Dale Rollins conducted **two seminars** under the leadership of Gene Miller, Activities Chairman. There were approximately 140 people representing seven agencies at the GIS and burning management seminar, and 49 people at the supplemental feeding seminar. The **side benefits** were some 80 new members and more than \$2,400 income.

A new ad hoc committee on **Conservation Education** was formed and chaired by Janice Greene, which generated new ideas on this issue. The new committee worked with the Texas Section of The Range Society (TRS) to help with natural resource education for participating young people at TRS' **Range Camp**, held at the Texas Tech Center at Junction. A **student/mentor program** was also initiated at the annual meeting, and although participation was initially low, those students and mentors involved thought the program was a good experience. The Youth Range Workshop was designed to teach high school students about stewardship and proper management of our rangeland and natural resources. It also includes leadership development sessions, team building and training for 4-H and FFA Range and Pasture contests.

The **Coastal Conservation Commission** was formed to develop a **Coastal Management Plan** with only \$100,000 initially in legislative funding. The Commission consisted of Garry Mauro, Chairman of the General Land Office (GLO); John Hall, Chairman of the Texas Water Commission (TWC); Attorney General Bob Bulloch; Mayor of Galveston; and Corpus Christi environmentalist.

1993

The Annual Meeting was held at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Denton, Texas on February 18-20th, with a theme of **“In Search of a Land Ethic.”** There were four sessions including those entitled 1) A Search for a Land Ethic (Susan Rust, moderator), 2) Planning the Route – Identifying Obstacles (Ron Howard, moderator), 3) Perspectives on a land ethic (Richard Hatcher, moderator), and 4) Ethics in Work Clothes (a panel discussion). Jim Teer of the Welder Wildlife Foundation introduced the keynote speaker, R.A. McCabe, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin.

A **student/mentor program** was offered again at the annual meeting, which was better attended this year than last, and offered a **great opportunity for students** to meet established biologists and become more involved in the Texas Chapter. Mentors have the opportunity to meet and talk with **future wildlife professionals** and Chapter members.

A **Student Field Trip** immediately after the annual meeting involved students, advisors, and field biologists from several agencies touring nearby Lake Ray Roberts Wildlife Management Area, operated by TPWD. A chuck wagon-style supper with all the trimmings was served that night, and overnight camping was a part of the program. On-site discussion topics included waterfowl/wetlands habitat management, habitat enhancement of resident game and nongame species, and neotropical migratory birds.

In addition, the Chapter sponsored a **Wildlife Ecology Camp** from July 5-10th, which was hosted by the Welder Wildlife Foundation in Sinton for high school students. The camp was initiated by the Youth Education Committee, whose members developed criteria for selection of students and procedures for advertising the camp. Sixteen students spent six days being subjected to intensive wildlife ecology training, and it was a considerable success. The camp was made possible by the dedication of Janice Greene of the Welder Wildlife Foundation, as well as training by Foundation staff Terry Blankenship, Louis Harveson, and Kirk Feuerbacher, and Jenny Pluhar with the Society for Range Management. Ned Meister of the Texas Farm Bureau, Sam Beasom and Gary Pogue furnished the meals. Many Texas Chapter members devoted time and efforts to this camp through preparations and teaching, including Dalal Oubari, Peggy Horner, Ron Howard, Linda Ilse, Kelly Strnadell, Louis Harveson, Monty Whiting, Don Steinbach, Lynn Drawe, James Teer, Charlie Winkler, Jennifer Pluhar, Dean Ransom, Nova Silvy, Joe Herrera, Scott Henke, Rick Taylor, Susan Baggett, Wayne Hanselka, Charles DeYoung, Bob Spain, Tom Tacha, Will Cohen, and Kirk Feuerbacher. Based on the success of the camp, it became an annual event.

The Chapter completed the **endangered species resolution process**, which passed by an overwhelming majority and the Executive Board approved it. The resolution dealt with the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act, and was the result of a special open forum held in Fredericksburg in May 1992. Based on the views presented at this meeting, both the Conservation and Resolution Committees drafted separate resolutions. The Resolution Committee, chaired by Bill Armstrong, and the Conservation Committee, chaired by Kirby Brown, worked very hard in developing a single resolution that reflected the views of both committees and those attending the open meeting. The joint resolution was submitted through the Executive Committee to the membership for approval by special mailout in November 1992. The proposal was accepted by the membership by a vote of 110 to 18, and was adopted by the Executive Committee as the official Chapter resolution in 1993. The resolution was passed on to TWS's ad hoc committee on endangered species, president, and legislative affairs office, as well as the Texas Congressional delegation. However, at an Executive Board meeting, Jim Teer reported that he was seeing evidence that landowners are **reluctant to allow biologists**, especially those publicly employed, **on their lands**. The fear then as now, is that the biologists may find something that will restrict the landowner's use of his own land. In fact, while on a day-lease spring turkey hunt this year, the landowner was obviously nervous, according to Jim Teer, when he learned that he and his hunting companions were biologists and two of them worked with the state. The landowner made it very clear that he did not have any golden-cheeked warblers on his land. The controversy over how **legitimate fears impact natural resource management** continues today.

Hal Irby, Welder Wildlife Foundation biologist and the Chapter's Executive Director, reported that of utmost importance is the **widening rift between landowners and the so-called environmental community**. On the positive side of this issue, he participated in a 2-day workshop on the Selah Ranch in Blanco County that brought together interested ranches and the whole gamut of organizations interested in wildlife and making private lands more productive. This group took on the task of identifying a ranch and developing and implementing a model wildlife management plan that all could accept and participate in called **PlanIt Texas**. Several environmental groups, such as the Sierra Club and Audubon Society (and Chapter members), met regularly with Andy Sansom (Director, TPWD) at TPWD headquarters for brownbag luncheons to share information with each other on a monthly basis. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers districts in Texas also began having regular Environmental Forums to discuss issues effecting federal projects.

The Education & Information Committee (Kay Fleming, chair) developed a **membership directory** that provided **details of expertise** all Chapter members. The directory has been a useful, multipurpose tool for Chapter members, and for all others who desire access to professionals in the field of wildlife ecology and management. Initial interest by the membership was not enthusiastic, and only 159 members returned questionnaires providing information for the directory. However, with a little coaxing by the Executive Board, more members responded to the questionnaire, and the directory became a good tool for members, legislators, educators, and landowners with wildlife questions.

The **National Wildlife Federation** (NWF) opened a **new office in Austin**, the South Central Regional field office, serving Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. The NWF provides an Endangered Species Campus as part of their function. A workshop on the management of endangered species of East Texas held May 12th in Nacogdoches by the TPWD and the USFWS. A featured speaker was Ralph Costa of the USFWS who authored the management guidelines for red-cockaded woodpeckers on private lands.

The Chapter approved two **resolutions**, one for grazing and another for fire. **Ungulate grazing animals** were recognized as having played a major role in many of the natural ecosystems of Texas, and their proper management a useful and powerful tool for achieving various goals of wildlife managers. **Fire** was also recognized as playing a major role in many of the natural ecosystems of Texas, and prescribed fire as a valid, useful and powerful tool to achieve various goals of wildlife managers.

Caddo Lake and the surrounding area were bestowed as **“Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat”** under the Ramsar Convention, an intergovernmental treaty adopted in 1971, based in Switzerland that provides a framework for international cooperation for the conservation of wetlands. This was only the 13th to be bestowed upon a U.S. site.

A **waterbird colony suffered between 500 and 1,000 casualties** as a result of an intense **hail storm** on the Cedar Creek Islands WMA in Henderson County. The birds were apparently injured as they sat on or by their nests during the night. Probably 80% of the birds killed were great egrets, with the rest being cattle egrets, little blue herons, snowy egrets, and cormorants. The great egrets probably took the most damage, according Kay Fleming, because they nest in the top of trees. More than 20,000 birds breed and nest on these islands year. The storm that killed these birds was so violent that it dented metal signs and split the bark on trees.

1994

Monty Whiting reported that Jim Dickinson of the U.S. Forest Service lab in Nacogdoches volunteered to chair the **“Dirty Tricks Committee”** in 1992, whose goal was to make sure that this year’s annual meeting would be in Nacogdoches. This was considered by some to be a “federal offense.” The **Texas Society of American Foresters** joined the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society this year in hosting the Annual Meeting from February 10-12th. The **focus of the meeting** was on the following topics: 1) forest-related pest and disease management (Oak Wilt, Southern Pine Beetle, Cedar encroachment) and their effects on wildlife, 2) management for endangered species, 3) use of fire in forestry and wildlife management, and 4) forest management systems (even-age concepts).

The Texas Chapter endorsed a **memorandum of understanding between TxDOT and TPWD** that recognized a joint responsibility between the two agencies to make Texas **roadsides safe, ecologically beautiful, and managed** in an environmentally sound manner. There were more than 77,000 miles of Texas highways and more than 700,000

acres of highway rights of way under vegetation management programs that provide “**ribbons of green**” through every ecological region in the state and serve as valuable and often unique habitat for native fish, wildlife, and plants.

Steve Demarais, Chapter President, proposed **revisions to the Chapter bylaws**, which added a **Life Member Category** as an added revenue enhancement device and to make it easier for interested parties to “buy into” the Texas Chapter on a long term basis. The Executive Director position was formalized to make it more than just the “experimental position” that it had been for the past two years. It did not require the Chapter to hire an Executive Director, but it clarified the function of the position. A **restructuring of the Executive Board** was proposed to change from the existing succession of President-Elect to President to Past-President, to a revised succession of Vice-President to President-Elect to President, which was viewed as a more effective leadership for the Chapter. The problem with the existing succession of leadership was that the candidates for President-Elect were notified of their election at the Annual Meeting, which gave them only limited time to organize their committees and appoint Committee chair-Elects to the incoming committee structure. Under the revised succession, which was approved, the Vice President had an entire year to organize the committee structure and name the Committee Chair-Elects at the subsequent annual meeting. Both of these bylaw changes were approved.

Nine applicants from Texas were among **86 newly certified wildlife biologists** that were approved by TWS’s Certification Review board which met in March in Anchorage, Alaska in conjunction with the 59th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. This was the **most certifications in one year** for both Texas and nationwide, which came with the “gentle” nudging of TWS officers.

The **Southwest Texas State University Student Chapter** had a great beginning for the spring semester with presentations at their annual meeting by cave biologist Andy Grubbs, who spoke on conservation efforts, caving, and the various species found in caves. Graduate students spoke about their thesis projects, which included topics on swamp rabbit distribution, quail transmitters, black-capped vireo habitat relationships and prescribed burning, and release of rehabilitated deer. Ron Cauble spoke to the chapter at the University Camp in Wimberley about trapping baboons in Kenya and Ethiopia. The SWT chapter held a drawing to raise funds for the Nature Trail at Freeman Ranch in San Marcos.

James G. Teer, Director of the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation in Sinton, received the most prestigious TWS award—the **Aldo Leopold Memorial Award**. The presentation was made at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Anchorage, Alaska. The Aldo Leopold Award is presented for distinguished service to wildlife conservation. James Teer began his career in waterfowl research, and then sought to improve the scientific foundation of white-tailed deer management. His subsequent field experiences in wildlife research and human dimensions of resource conservation laid the foundation for a life-long advocacy of incorporating human needs and aspirations into the overall framework for sustainable

management of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. During his academic career, he built one of the largest undergraduate and graduate education and research programs in the U.S. in wildlife, fisheries, and outdoor recreation, according to TWS President Hal Salwasser, who presented the award.

The **Executive Director position description** was developed by a committee of past presidents headed by Monty Whiting. **Hal Irby announced plans to move out of Austin** and the commute back and forth to Austin for legislative duties would be inconvenient. **He agreed to serve on an as needed basis until a replacement could be found for the position.**

Because of the efforts of taggers and observers, **two major monarch flyways** were identified in Texas this year by researchers from Kansas. Orley Taylor and Julie Ellis spearhead the annual monarch tagging project. In 1994 they sent out more than 35,000 tags to cooperators across the U.S. and Canada. Tagged monarchs are recovered in their over-wintering areas in Mexico. One flyway, by far the larger, was about 250 miles wide and centered along a line from Eagle Pass through Abilene, and on into Oklahoma. Bill Calvert, monarch research and coordinator of the tagging project in Texas, described the migration of monarchs in places around Uvalde, Brackettville, and Del Rio, as “awesome.” Perhaps the most **remarkable discovery** made in Texas was the flyways are very distinct. The goal of the **Monarch Watch tagging project** is to get students and teachers involved and interested in scientific inquiry and discovery.

The **wildlife profession** in Texas was experiencing an **increase in popularity**. An increasing number of ranch owners were adding wildlife as a component to their ranching operations, and with the advent of holistic wildlife management and the idea of biodiversity, most universities were enjoying enrollment increases in their range and wildlife curricula. However, for the first time in several years, the Texas Chapter was experiencing a **membership slump**. To help curtail the membership decline, the Chapter held a **membership drive contest**. The school/organization obtaining the greatest membership and largest percent increase won. It was decided that a plaque and \$75 cash award would be made at the annual meetings, with the plaque being a rotating award (with names of past winners on it).

Kay Fleming and Bill Guilliano completed the **Expertise Directory** of Chapter members. The directory was slow in development due to lack of interest by members in providing information. However, after the goal of the directory was explained, and its importance understood, everybody wanted to be listed in it.

Bill Armstrong and Julie Sorrola organized a mini-symposium on “Integrated Ecosystem Management” targeting **landowners and resource managers in West Texas**. The TPWD held a wildlife conference in Tyler for **landowners and land managers of east Texas** with a focus on “Identifying Wildlife-Related Economic Opportunities and Incentives.” Along the same line, the Texas Section for Range Management held a milestone conference addressing **private property rights and responsibilities of rangeland owners and managers** at the Omni Hotel in Austin. This was a time when

wildlife issues on private land were perhaps the primary focus of the profession for a variety of reasons, including increased popularity in wildlife management, concerns about the endangered species act, and the development of the professional wildlife manager in school curricula.

1995

The 30th annual meeting was held February 23-25 in Kerrville, and the focus of the meeting was on **“Landowner Rights and Wildlife: Facts and Fiction.”** Speakers were featured from the TWA, TPWD, and USFWS. The Second Annual Red Raider Alumni Social was held in conjunction with the annual meeting, and was sponsored by TTU’s Department of Range and Wildlife Management.

The Executive Board selected **John Jefferson** as the **new part-time Executive Director**. In announcing his appointment, Steve Demarais, Chapter President, stated that John’s background as a lawyer, Director of Information and Education for TPWD, Chief Senate Correspondent for the Texas Legislative Service, and freelance writer/photographer would make him highly effective for interacting with the legislature and other conservation organizations to the benefit of Texas’ wildlife resources. In his first official activity, John Jefferson reported on the Legislative session, which he said went surprisingly well considering there was a new Republic Governor, George Bush, and Democratic leadership in the House and Senate. John Jefferson contrasted this with a political cartoon that showed a circus parade labeled “The Legislature” going down the street and out of town, followed by a little guy with a shovel and bucket scooping up scat. The cartoon read, “Although the circus has left town, the memories remain.” Apparently this activity has long been reserved for new Chapter members, which may explain the recent slump in membership during this Legislative year. A total of 4,957 bills were introduced in the two houses. John Jefferson and Lynn Drawe participated in several significant Legislative committee meetings concerning endangered species and TPWD finances and accountability, **giving the Texas Chapter more exposure and name recognition among Legislators and their aids.**

Bill Armstrong and Junie Sorolla (Activities Committee) put on a one-day program entitled **“Ranching for Wildlife Diversity,”** in Del Rio on March 25th. It was valuable information for landowners, biologists, and students. TPWD also held a conference on **“Managing for Wildlife Diversity in Texas – Focus on the Land,”** at SWTSU in San Marcos on May 5-7. Topics included wildlife diversity on private lands, incentives for land management, defining stewardship, management tools, and economics of wildlife diversity. There was an increasing frequency of meetings focusing on wildlife management on private lands, as the tools and incentives that drove those issues improved.

On November 17th, 20 high school teams from all over east Texas traveled to the Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest near Nacogdoches to compete in the **first state Wildlife Clinic**. The Wildlife Clinic is a contest designed to teach students about wildlife, habitat requirements and management, and outdoor safety. The clinic was sponsored by the

Deep East Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Wetland Habitat Alliance of Texas (WHAT), and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Every soil and water conservation district was allowed to sponsor two teams of four students each. The students were tested on their knowledge of plant identification and wildlife preference, biology, habitat requirements and management, game laws, and outdoor safety and orientation. The first place team award went to the Nacogdoches High School team, second place award to the Warren High School team, and third place to the Broaddus High School team. Ronnie Kimbrell of Warren High School and Davin Cox of Nacogdoches High School tied for high point individual performance.

The Chapter finances were in good condition this year, and getting better due to the successful funding programs established over the years and fiscal responsibility practiced by the leadership. As a result, Chapter President Lynn Drawe appointed an Ad Hoc committee to the Executive Board with the charge of studying the possibility of setting up an **endowment fund for the Chapter**. The committee consisted of Jim Teer (Chairman), Nova Silvy, and Bob Cook.

Susan Baggett, Chapter Archivist, reported that **the Chapter had passed 14 resolutions and statements in the past 10 years**. These included in reverse chronological order the following: **(1)** 1993 – Recommended changes to the Endangered Species Act, **(2)** 1993 – Grazing as a habitat management tool, **(3)** 1993 – Fire as a habitat management tool, **(4)** 1993 – Public Statement on the MOU between TxDOT and TPWD, **(5)** 1991 – Protection of Texas bottomland hardwood forest, **(6)** 1991 – Little Sandy Hunting and Fishing Club donation to USFWS, **(7)** 1990 – Affiliation with the Responsible Use of Animals Coalition, **(8)** 1990 – Use of hazardous chemicals for harvest of rattlesnakes, **(9)** 1983 – State Waterfowl Stamp Funds, **(10)** 1983 – Texas Water Code, **(11)** 1983 – H.B.1 giving TPW Commission statewide regulatory authority, **(12)** 1983 – Lead vs. steel shot, **(13)** 1983 – Opposition to unified dues structure of TWS, **(14)** 1983 – Statement before Texas House Environmental Affairs hearing on special Nongame and Endangered species Conservation Fund Act. Some of these were of one-time significance; whereas others had long-standing significance. **The complete text of these was printed by the Executive Board for the first time this year** and periodically updated through the years.

The Chapter participated in the **Wildlife Ecology Camp** at Wilder Wildlife Foundation from July 24-28. Promoting wildlife biology and mentoring students at this camp was considered a great opportunity to make a difference in young lives. High school students were introduced to the fields of wildlife, conservation, and management. Twenty-five students were selected from among those recommended by a teacher, county extension agent, Chapter member, or youth leader. The cost ranged from \$100-125, which included housing and meals. Numerous Chapter members were presenters at the camp. Wildlife Conservation Camp Chair Selma Glasscock and her committee (Ron Howard, Dale Rollins, and Terry Blankenship) reported that the camp was filled to capacity, with applicants from all over the state. Several sponsors contributed money or meals to the camp, and it was considered a very successful educational activity.

The Texas Senate passed a resolution designating the Mexican free-tailed bat as the **Official State Flying Mammal!** The Texas House of Representatives considered HB 537, which would require everyone hunting on land he/she did not own to have a document signed by the landowner giving permission to hunt there. John Jefferson, Chapter's Executive Director, was in attendance at the bill hearing when the fire alarm went off. Representative Kuemple, the Committee Chairman reviewing the bill, said it was a **"Bad Bill Alarm,"** and declared it a "dead goose," which reflected the sentiment of the committee and Chapter members.

During the past year, the Wildlife Division of the **TPWD initiated 23 new wildlife research studies** on topics ranging from "Survival and Reproduction of Eastern Wild Turkeys" to "Texas Horned Lizard Population Dynamics." These studies were funded through a variety of sources, including private donations. Ron George, TPWD Coordinator of Wildlife Research, helped establish a **recognition process** for persons who contribute. Those contributing \$25 or more received an **"I Support Wildlife Research" shoulder patch** featuring a Texas horned lizard. Those contributing \$250 or more received the shoulder patch plus a signed and numbered, limited-edition "I Support Wildlife Research" art print by Department artist Elishea Morgan. The print featured a mountain lion and ten other species of Texas Wildlife. Those contributing \$1,000 or more received the patch, art print, and certificate of appreciation signed by TPWD Executive Director Andrew Sansom.

An **"Applied Modeling for Wildlife Managers Workshop"** was co-sponsored by the Chapter with Texas A&M University @ Kingsville and College Station. Wildlife managers got hands-on experience using and developing **wildlife management models** for **visual** (allows wildlife managers to visualize the affect a set of wildlife management practices may have on an animal's habitat or population), **simulation** (mimics an ecosystem or a wildlife population for determining long-term effects of management practices), and **economic** considerations (useful for determining effects of management practices on farm or ranch practices).

The Chapter was saddened by the **passing of Dan Boone**, who was a biologist with the TPWD since 1973 often dealing with special projects on unique species, including diamond-back terrapin, alligators, wading birds, peregrine falcons, and eagles. He was conducting a **nesting survey of the southern bald eagles**, when a plane crash on March 16th in Montgomery County claimed his life. The **Dan Boone Memorial Scholarship Fund** was established in his honor by the Chapter. His close friend, Carl Frentress, wrote a tribute to Dan Boone for the April/May newsletter, which documented many aspects of his career.

Many non-profit organizations accept donations as memorials for deceased members and associates who in some way were connected with the goals of the organization. At the summer board meeting on August 15, 1989, the Executive Board approved establishment of the **"Wildlife Conservation Memorial Fund"** for the Texas Chapter. However, the existence of the memorial fund remained generally obscure to the Chapter membership until it was decided to use this fund to honor Dan Boone. Memorial donations allow the

opportunity for family, friends, and colleagues to contribute in recognition of the spirit of a wildlife conservation lifestyle exemplified by those dedicated men and women who physically pass from our presence, but live on in our memories. The current Executive Board decided that memorial funds may be used for scholarships, as in the case of Dan Boone, or to finance public information projects developed by the Chapter to **promote awareness and concern for Texas wildlife species and their habitats**. Such objectives seemed to the Board to be consistent with remembering the driving forces in the lives of Texas wildlife conservationists being honored by the contributions.

The Texas Chapter lost two other key members this year, including Tom Tacha and Sam Beasom. In a **tribute to Sam Beasom**, Fred Guthery reported that he passed away in a tragic accident in Corpus Christi on August 25th. Sam Beasom's dissertation research on the King Ranch in the early 70's set the stage for his career. This research dealt with the ecology of wild turkey reproduction and involved basic physiology and population dynamics as well as predator management. During his career he was a noted authority on Rio Grande wild turkeys, and he was called to testify before Congress on predator management issues. Fred Guthery said that he will perhaps be best remembered for his efforts towards integrating all aspects of ranch management – brush, cattle, and wildlife. He was held in high esteem by wildlife professionals, and served as editor of The Journal of Wildlife Management. TWS uses great care in picking journal editors from among the top professionals in the field. He also received the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Texas Chapter in 1987, which is the ultimate recognition for a professional wildlifer in Texas. He was a gourmet cook, and when he invited you to supper the treatment was royal and the food plentiful. The main course always came from a river or lake or brushy pasture. We can only take comfort in knowing that his contributions will live on in the pages of the wildlife management literature and in the minds of wildlife biologists for years to come.

A unique water for **waterfowl and organic rice farming combination** was initiated at Lowell Farms in El Campo, Texas on the Texas Gulf Coast. The Houston Chapter of the Sierra Club offered to promote the organic rice for Lowell Farms in exchange for roost waters provided on the organic rice fields. Not only did the irrigated fields provide water for the birds, but the birds provided needed fertilizer for the organic rice farming operation as they roosted and foraged in the 32 acre field. In addition, the flooded field attracted and held large concentrations of waterfowl that provided hunting opportunities for parties on the property and surrounding vicinity. Sierra Club Wetlands Committee Chairman, Bill Stransky, worked with Kroger to increase the product sells so that an additional 64 acres of water could be provided for the combined crop-habitat effort. This situation reportedly benefited all parties by providing critical habitat for migratory wetland birds and by providing new avenues to market farm products. **Conservationists help the farmer and the farmer helps the birds.**

TPWD sponsored an **Endangered Species Act (ESA) Reauthorization – Issues and Status symposium** on June 2nd at the Wildflower Research Center in Austin, and Lynn Drawe, Chapter President represented the Texas Chapter by presenting the Chapter's position statement on the ESA and by providing input and commentary when the

opportunity was provided. TPWD Commissioner Terry Hershey and Resource Protection Division Director Larry McKinney moderated the meeting. Larry McKinney presented information on **four ESA reauthorization papers** that were receiving regional and national attention: (1) the Farm Bureau Working Paper, (2) the Western Governors Association's Essential Elements, (3) the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies - ESA Principles, and (4) the Clinton Administration's – Improving the ESA.

TWS established a position statement on **“Livestock Grazing on Western Rangelands,”** and some areas of the statement were considered controversial in the update to Chapter members provided by Chapter President-elect Mike Krueger. The **Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI)** was a part of the **1995 Farm Bill** that was being considered by Congress, and was important to wildlife management through its impact on rangelands and wildlife habitat. **The Chapter also provided a position statement** supporting this measure. **Privately owned grazing lands make up one-third of the land base** of our Nation's lower 48 states, which are basic to environmental, social and economic stability. Properly managed grazing harvests renewable resources in a sustainable manner. However, not all privately owned grazing lands are managed to optimum potential. The GLCI expressed concern that technical assistance provided by the USDA (primarily the NRCS) was limited and did not meet the demand and basic needs for adequately sustaining or enhancing the resources.

The **Fish and Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative**, heralded as **Teaming With Wildlife**, was also a high profile issue for the Chapter this year, and **the Chapter became an official member of the coalition sponsored by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.** TWS made an all out effort to influence manufacturers and retailers to accept and promote this initiative in Congress. Over 100 conservation and recreation groups and businesses championed the national effort to prevent declines of fish and wildlife, ensure high quality outdoor recreation, and meet the rising demand for conservation education. The \$350 million annual funding initiative would receive funds from a small user fee on a wide range of outdoor equipment, from binoculars to camping gear. As more people sought the outdoors for pleasure and solace, the pressures on wildlife and their habitats increased dramatically. The need for nature centers, watchable wildlife interpretation, and educational materials for teachers had never been greater.

Texas voters were given the opportunity on November 7th to put **wildlife management into the State Constitution.** Proposition 11, developed by Representatives Clyde Alexander, Bob Turner, and Susan Combs, and Senator Jeff Wentworth, provided that land having an agricultural tax valuation could be used for wildlife management without losing what was commonly referred to as the **“Ag Exemption.”** The Texas Chapter supported two bills that passed during the previous Legislative session, HB 1358 and HJR 72 that changed the tax law that allowed the **new “Wildlife Exemption.”** However, the Constitution had to be amended, since it did not include wildlife management as one of the practices which could be taxed. Practically every wildlife oriented organization in Texas favored passage of the amendment, including the Texas Chapter. With passage of Proposition 11, landowners were able to convert their land use practices from agriculture

to wildlife management. Proposition 11 provided the firm constitutional basis for wildlife management as a primary use of the land. **It passed by a two-to-one margin among Texas voters, a strong indication of public support for wildlife conservation.** TPWD and TAEX involved numerous biologists and interested parties in developing the **guidelines for wildlife management by ecoregions**, and continued to expand and improve them. The wildlife management booklets provided intensity levels for the wildlife management practices listed under each of the seven major legislated activities.

In order to satisfy the **definition of using land for “wildlife management,”** a landowner must actively engage in three of the following seven applications: habitat control, erosion control, predator control, provide supplemental water, provide supplemental food, provide shelter, and make census counts.

The **Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee** encouraged all Chapter members to identify nominees for recognition. In doing so, Chairman Matt Judy provided the following descriptions of each award: (1) **Outstanding Achievement Award** – this award recognizes those individuals, teams, or groups who have made outstanding contributions to the interests of the Texas Chapter. Such contributions might include, but are not limited to noteworthy research, outstanding educational programs, application of conservation principles, implementation of agency networks, or public relations. Membership in the Texas Chapter is not a prerequisite for this award. (2) **Land Stewardship Award** – this award recognizes land managers who have been instrumental in the development, application, and promotion of sound wildlife conservation principles. Examples might include ranchers who have developed exemplary habitat management programs, agency persons who develop and implement habitat development and promotion, or groups who are instrumental in the fostering of wildlife management in Texas. Membership in the Texas Chapter is not a prerequisite for this award. (3) **Educator of the Year Award** – The primary criterion for this award is outstanding achievement and excellence in development and dissemination of natural resource information to students, landowners, and other groups. Examples might include university professors, agency personnel, county extension agents, etc., who can be recognized for their contributions to effective instruction in or out of the classroom. Membership in the Texas Chapter is not a prerequisite for this award.

The **Honorary Life Membership Committee** was also expanding its search for outstanding prospects for its award. In order to be eligible for an honorary life membership award, 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 nonprofessional activist, (2) he/she should have made significant contributions to the Chapter and/or the Profession and/or wildlife conservation in Texas.

Governor Bush appointed **four new Commissioners on the TPWD Commission**, which were (1) Lee Bass, Chairman, (2) Nolan Ryan, (3) Susie Howard, and (4) David Heath. The Chapter sent letters to the new Commissioners providing them with information about TWS, wildlife management issues in the state, and recent position statements.

The Chapter set up a booth at the **Wildlife Expo** in Austin for the first time, at a cost of \$300. T-shirts and caps were sold to recover cost of the booth rental.

A 2-day symposium entitled, “**Coyotes in the Southwest: A Compendium of Our Knowledge,**” was held on December 13-14th in San Angelo. Dale Rollins, TAEX, organized the symposium. Chapter members Lynn Drawe, Bob Brown and Terry Blankenship were speakers, and the conference was dedicated to the memory of the late Sam Beasom. For organizing this symposium and other meritorious achievements in his career, **Dale Rollins** received the 1995 **Wildlife Management Excellence Award** by the **Southeastern Section of TWS**. He was credited with making outstanding contributions to wildlife management by using his excellent communication skills to enlighten, stimulate, and encourage the public in the practice and principles of wildlife management. He also won the Chapter’s **Publication Award in the Popular Article category** for his article in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine of October 1995: 46-49, entitled “Rush Hour at the Midnight Buffet (referring to the nocturnal feeding activities of wildlife).

The Southwest Section of TWS is mandated by charter to hold an annual meeting, and last year the Section hosted its first annual meeting in Albuquerque, NM. At that meeting members voted to structure annual meetings around professional development, rather than holding a traditional professional meeting with papers, etc. The **first professional development workshop** was held December 7-8th in Las Cruces, N.M. with a focus on geographic information systems in the Southwest.

The Senate Natural Resources Interim Subcommittee held a series of public meetings concerning a proposed wildlife refuge to protect bottomland forest in Brazoria, Matagorda, Wharton, and Fort Bend Counties. The 70,000 acres proposed for the **Columbia Bottomlands Protection Plan** were intended to protect the dwindling coastal woodlands vital to migratory songbirds. The refuge proposal was announced in July as a partnership between the USFWS, TPWD, and the Nature Conservancy. The project was subject to controversy from the commissioners courts in the affected counties, and Governor George W. Bush said he preferred the issue to be handled solely by the state and local officials. State Sen. Ken Armbrister (D-Victoria), a member of the subcommittee, led a series of panel forums for discussion of the proposal.

When noted maritime attorney Harvey Weil died this year, the Corpus Christi Club that he was a member of decided to honor his memory and perpetuate his dedication to conservation by forming the **Harvey Weil Sportsman/Conservationist Trust**. They raised over \$200,000 in funds for grants to preserve wildlife, marine, and terrestrial habitats, as well as to extend public knowledge about threats to those resources.

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The Annual Meeting was held in Wichita Falls at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel from February 29th-March 2nd, with the theme being “**The Changing Demographics of Texas – Their Effect on Wildlife and Its Management.**” Two featured speakers for this theme

were Steve Murdock, Head of the Department of Rural Sociology at TAMU @ College Station, who presented data on urbanization of the state, changes in ethnic representation and land ownership patterns; and Andrew Sansom, Director of the TPWD, who discussed the impact of those changes on use and management of wildlife resources. A sporting clays fun shoot was sponsored by NWTFS Gun Club (hosted by Cliff Wurster, Club Director) prior to the meeting, and a full barbecue dinner was provided by a local civic group, the Mavericks, for the social. Bus transportation from the hotel to the Gun Club and back was provided by CVB. **Roxanne Rich** was credited for her creative efforts in obtaining these successful amenities in her role on the local arrangements activities committee. A **record number of 310 persons registered** for the meeting, of which almost half were in the student/spouse category. That **ratio of students to regular members may also have been a record**, and was a good indication of the strength of the student chapters and of the dedication and guidance of their advisors.

The number of **student chapters of TWS in Texas** had grown to six by the mid-90's, and they were becoming very active in their own clubs as well as in the Texas Chapter, as reflected in the Texas Chapter registration record for the Annual Meeting. They included the TAMU, TAMUK, SWTSU, TTU, SFA, and Sul Ross State University Student Chapters. The **TAMU-College Station Student Chapter** conclave team placed second in the Western Wildlife Competition held in Las Cruces, NM – a great accomplishment. The TAMU team consisted of Brian Stafford, Amy Browning, Brandon Earp, Susan Young, and David Layne. The **TAMU-Kingsville Student Chapter** (TAMUK) was formed in 1993 (officially chartered October 6, 1996) with the assistance of their faculty advisor, Scott Henke. Their chapter has conducted deer spotlight surveys, quail transects, noxious brush removal, habitat improvements for bobwhite quail, and relocation of threatened and endangered species on a future strip mine site. These activities raised more than \$15,000 to fund their scholarship program. Members also give presentations to local elementary and high schools on the benefits of wildlife conservation through their Wildlife Round-Up Program. They also conduct Project WILD seminars at 4H and explorer post groups. The **SFA State University Student Chapter**, chartered in 1980, was awarded the Highest Percentage Membership for all the student chapters in Texas, which they had also received last year. Cody White, the president of SFA State University Student Chapter, was awarded one of the Texas Chapter Scholarships, and he also placed third in the wildlife art category. Spencer Burke won first place in plants and scenery, and third place in the black and white photo categories. Lance Jones won second place in the plants and scenery color slides category.

The **TTU Student Chapter, officially known as the TTU Range and Wildlife Club**, formed in 1978, placed fifth at the international SRM competition in Wichita, Kansas. Megan Vogel won numerous awards at the TWS Western U.S. conclave. Lisa Cain and Tyler Campbell also received Texas Chapter scholarships. The TTU Student Chapter sent approximately 25 students to the Texas Chapter's annual meeting. The student chapter hoped to incorporate a student section of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society into their organization, which eventually did happen in 1997. Their new name became the Texas Tech Range, Wildlife, and Fisheries Club. The new structure paralleled the university's departmental reorganization, incorporating a major in Wildlife and

Fisheries, with an “emphasis” in either fisheries or wildlife, depending on the student’s interest. Faculty advisors were Carlton Britton (Range), Gene Wilde (Fisheries), and Steve Demarais (Wildlife). The new departmental and club structure insured that TTU students were **fully-integrated into a natural resource curriculum and perspective**. The club recognizes one student member each year with an endowed **Range and Wildlife Club Scholarship**.

Students benefit from socializing with professional wildlife biologists through the **mentor program**, participating in the **Wildlife Ecology camps**, participating in **contest**, and receipt of **scholarships**. The **Sul Ross Student Chapter** used funds it raised from their Wild Game Dinners to establish a **Natural Resource Scholarship Fund**, which was used to provide scholarships for students within Natural Resource Management. Their college advisor, Kem Canon, was recognized for his efforts with the Advisor of the Year Award, presented by Sul Ross State University. Linda Tschirhart received the Student of the Year Award, and their student chapter received an award for Organization of the Year. The Sul Ross Student Chapter was the newest of the student chapters, and they were just establishing a Wildlife Bowl Team to compete at Conclaves across the U.S. However, they were a shining example even in the early stages of what achievements could be obtained. Because of their interest in community involvement, they conducted highway cleanups, cleanup and maintenance of facilities at the local shooting range, and donated extra turkeys from the annual turkey shoot to local churches. They began working together with area ranchers, TPWD wildlife staff, and Texas Chapter members to enhance local wildlife populations and habitat. They also assisted 4-H clubs by conducting and judging the plant identification contests held at Sul Ross University. **Texas Chapter members should take pride in the achievements of wildlife students** with these student chapters, because a lot of hard work over the years by many members is a good part of the reason that students have done so well.

The **Student Affairs Committee**, chaired by Misty Sumner, reported that the **first undergraduate poster session** was held at the Annual Meeting, and that it was encouraging to see the quality of students within our universities today. The undergraduate students participating in the milestone event included Jason Hoffman (SFA), Dennis A. McAfee, Jr. (SFA), Jody Sandel (TAMU), and Mitchell A. Sternberg (TAMU). The wildlife field is very competitive, and the poster session was expected to give undergraduate students the opportunity to shine.

A new approach was tried this year for raffle item sales, called the **“Protect What’s Right” raffle**, which was held separately from the Annual Meeting raffle. The Finance Committee, Chaired by Gene Miller, sent out raffle ticket books to only 100 randomly-selected members (~1/4th of the membership), and requested that they sell/purchase their raffle tickets as a book rather than individual tickets to garner \$10 each for the Chapter treasury. That resulted in a 38% positive response, making \$380 for the Chapter. The **raffle** is sponsored annually in October and November by **The Wildlife Legislative Fund of America**, and is **one of the Chapter’s most productive fund raising activities**. The drawing for prizes is held in December, and the winners are notified by mail. Another new initiative was the **“Sign Up A Friend Membership Drive Contest,”** in

which everyone who signed up a friend got his or her name in the hat for a drawing for a custom fishing rod and reel. The custom 7' spinning rod and reel was valued at \$275, according to Terry Turney, Membership Committee Chair, who organized the new contest. Bill Hartje was the winner the contest. The Finance Committee obtains door prizes and raffle items for the annual meetings. The door prizes and raffle items are typically sporting goods, outdoor gear, photography equipment, wildlife prints, and hunting or fishing trips. All contributions are tax deductible for the full retail cost. Fund raising events such as these are crucial for sponsoring the Chapter's annual meetings and accomplishing the goals of the organization. The Chapter also sponsored another "**Undergraduate Membership Drive**" which was based on a percentage of the total class enrollment to compare schools of different sizes. The winning chapter received free use of a hotel room for three nights at the conference, and the winners were announced at the Annual Meeting. The winner of the university with the most students in attendance with 39 students at the annual meeting was Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches.

The Chapter took pride in receiving a \$500 grant from the **McBride Conservation Fund** for the Wildlife Ecology Camp. Terry Blankenship accepted the grant on behalf of the Chapter. The camp was held again this year at the Welder Wildlife foundation in Sinton, Texas on July 8-13. In addition, the **Bobwhite Brigade Camps** were expanded due to popular demand, with a total of three camps this year in different regions of the state: Rolling Plains (Haskell County), East Texas (Nacogdoches County), and South Texas (Brooks County). Dale Rollins, TAEX, organized the camps, and Texas Chapter members served as "**Covey Leaders.**"

The **Texas Bobwhite Brigade youth conservation camp** was honored with the Quail Unlimited **Youth in Conservation Award** at QU's 15th annual convention in August in Nashville, Tennessee. In accepting their award, a squad of five Bobwhite Brigade graduates and three adult TWS members (Dale Rollins serving as drill sergeant, Alan Heirman with the NRCS from Albany, and Chip Martin who was QU's Regional Director for Texas) **marched in formation to the podium** singing a song in cadence that honored QU and the Bobwhite Brigade. It was said that "Mean Gene Miller the Bobwhite Marine" would have been beaming. They were treated with a standing ovation (the only one of the night) by the crowd of 600 people. In the nomination for the award, QU's national habitat director, Roger Wells, of Kansas said that "during my 23 years in the wildlife conservation profession I have had the chance to see many camps and workshops, but I must admit that **the Bobwhite Brigade is by far the best youth activity I have ever seen.**"

TWS's program of **Certification of professional wildlife biologists** was started in 1983, and fees remained unchanged while costs of the program slowly increased. To bring fees and expenses into line, **fees were increased** on January 1st from \$100 to \$130 for Certified Wildlife Biologists application fees, and from \$70 to \$90 for Associate Wildlife Biologists application fees.

The **Jim McDonough Award** was created to recognize Certified Wildlife Biologists who are members at the chapter, section, and Society levels. The award was designed to recognize a person who has made or is making a significant contribution to the wildlife profession and who is also an active member of TWS, especially at the local chapter level. The individual must have made (or is still making) contributions that reflect well on professional biologists through program implementation and development of new techniques or approaches in an area, state, or other geographical area. Recipients receive an award plaque and a monetary award of up to \$500.

The **Second National Workshop on Constructed Wetlands for Animal Waste Management** was held May 15-18 in Fort Worth. It was sponsored by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, USEPA, TAES, and TAMU Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Science. The workshop focused on regulatory aspects of constructed wetlands for the remediation of livestock, dairy, and aquaculture wastewater, including wildlife habitat. It included a field tour of water quality issues and constructed wetlands in the Stephenville/Erath County area.

Texas Chapter finances were in excellent condition this year, possibly the best they had ever been, according to Chapter President Mike Krueger. As of February 1st the Chapter had a checking account balance of over \$20,000, plus another \$22,000 that was invested in short-term certificates of deposit. Jim Teer and an ad hoc **investment strategy committee** recommended that some of the funds be reinvested in equities and accounts that were equally safe, but yielded higher interest rates. Mike Krueger asked President-elect Donnie Harmel to develop **guidelines for a standing committee** that would assist with the management of the Chapter's financial resources.

As a result of the excellent financial condition of the Chapter, the Executive Board voted to **retain Executive Director John Jefferson** under contract for a 12 month period from March 1996 to February 1997. His previous contract had run out several months ago, and most the Executive Board was unaware that he had been serving the Chapter without financial compensation. John Jefferson's capabilities and qualifications were considered much too beneficial to the Chapter year around to risk losing him by only providing compensation for brief periods during legislative years, as the past practice had been due to financial uncertainty. Something was almost constantly happening with the Legislature that warranted monitoring, and there were numerous other meetings that the Chapter was being invited to be represented at that further justified having someone in the Austin area who could represent the Chapter.

The Chapter approved a **resolution concerning the hunting of exotic animals** pertaining to H.R. 1202, proposed legislation entitled the **Captive Exotic Animal Protection Act** of 1995. The proposed legislation would place federal controls on the killing or injuring of confined exotic animals for entertainment or the collection of a trophy. The intent of this bill was an attempt to eliminate spurious so called "**canned hunts**" where animals are taken in other than fair chase situations, but the details went far beyond that and had the **potential to adversely affect hunting as a management tool** to control exotic ungulates. Although it was introduced over a year ago, no action had yet

been taken on the bill. The subcommittee considering the bill scheduled a hearing to obtain testimony. Chapter President, Mike Krueger, had to act fast and provide written input as appropriate to the House subcommittee, following approval of the proposed resolution by the Chapter. Mike McMurry and Bill Armstrong co-authored the resolution for the Chapter consideration, which was approved by a vote of 176 For to 24 Against. Don Petty with the Texas Farm Bureau's Wildlife Advisory Committee was instrumental in getting the Chapters position on the issue introduced into the record of the Legislative hearing. U.S. Congressman Lamar Smith from Texas testified against the Captive Exotic Animal Act of 1995, which included remarks quoted from the Texas Chapter's resolution opposing the bill.

The **Texas Youth Hunting Association (TYHA)** was established by Wallace Klussmann and TPWD, with help from the Texas Wildlife Association. The goal of the organization was to recruit young hunters through voluntary participation by landowners, guides, and assistants. They held their first meeting at the Chaparral WMA, which was attended by Chapter Executive Director John Jefferson. He reported that he got the opportunity to observe the youth shooting operation, and admire the model undertaking of the new organization. Kirby Brown served as the Chapter contact for recruiting Texas Chapter members to assist with TYHA functions.

The Texas Chapter **Scholarship Committee received four new scholarship funds**, two of which were provided as part of the Chapter's Wildlife Conservation Memorial Fund that honors a deceased wildlife ecologist by naming the scholarship after them. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Caruthers provided funding for the Colin Caruthers Memorial Scholarship, and the Dallas Ecological Foundation provided funding for the Herman Lawrence Memorial Scholarship. Wetland Habitat Alliance of Texas (WHAT) and Quail Unlimited (QU) each sponsored a scholarship. Eric Frasier, Executive Director of WHAT, received the Chapter's Outstanding Achievement Award for his efforts in wetland conservation and his outstanding service to the Texas Chapter.

The **Information and Education Committee**, chaired by Lori Sparkman, sought donations of slides and photographs of native Texas wildlife, native Texas ecosystems, and wildlife management activities to create a **Texas wildlife resource slide show**, similar to the video already produced. The committee intended for the slide show to be presented at public forums such as schools, Earth Day events, Audubon meetings, etc. Donated materials were also used to enhance the Chapter display board.

According to a study conducted by Mark Duda and Responsive Management, Inc., the **majority of Americans support legal hunting** and believe that hunting should remain legal. The study was based on a phone survey of 2,085 randomly selected Americans over 18 years of age.

Texas Chapter Honorary Life Member Dan Lay presented a gift of \$20,000 to the TAMU Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences to establish the **Daniel Wayne Lay Undergraduate Endowed Scholarship**. The permanent endowed scholarship provides one or more scholarships annually to TAMU juniors and seniors pursuing a career in

wildlife management. **Dan Lay was the second person to receive a M.S. degree in wildlife science from TAMU in 1939.** The Chapter bestowed him with **Honorary Life Member** recognition in 1985. Members may contribute to the scholarship fund in Dan's honor at the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, TAMU, College Station, TX 77843.

The Texas Chapter's **Conservation Review Committee** chaired by John Herron (TPWD), included members Kirby Brown (TPWD), Will Cohen (TXES), Lee Ann Linam (TPWD), Mike McMurry (TDA), and Brent Ortego (TPWD). There was a lot of activity this year on conservation issues that they reviewed for the Chapter including the following: **(1) Conservation Reserve Program** – most notable portion was passage of the 1996 Farm Bill by Congress, which reauthorized the Conservation Reserve Program through the year 2002. **(2) Wetlands Reserve Program** – Congress also reauthorized through the year 2002. The program was capped at 975,000 acres, 1/3rd of which could be protected permanently. **(3) Swampbuster Provisions** – Congress left these intact with no blanket exemptions for frequently cropped wetlands or those <1-acre. They also developed “safe harbor” provisions allowing producers who restore wetlands to undo the improvement later. The NRCS would delineate wetlands on range and farmlands, while the USFWS retained their restoration consultation and mitigation role. **(4) 1996 Farm Bill** – This bill created several new programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), a water quality incentive program funded at \$60 million this year and \$200 million each subsequent year. Another new program was the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), which provided \$5 million a year in cost-share payments for wildlife habitat practices. The Grazing Lands Conservation Incentive (GLCI) provided funds to improve the wildlife and fishery habitat, with funding of \$20 million in FY96, \$40 million in FY97, and \$60 million a year thereafter. **(5) Endangered Species Act** – The debate and discussion continued in Congress and committees, with no apparent reauthorization bill acceptable to all parties involved. Numerous substitute bills and amendments were offered, including one by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), the Endangered Species Conservation and Management Act of 1995 by Reps. Young and Pombo, and also the Kempthorn Bill. The later two bills would have unraveled many of the Endangered Species Act's protections of imperiled species and ecosystems, but all unraveled under debate and none were passed. The moratorium on listing new species continued due to budget provisions in the Omnibus Rescissions and Appropriations Bill, H.R. 3019. The listing moratorium was first enacted in April 1995. **(6) National Wildlife Refuge System** – President Clinton signed an Executive Order establishing the conservation of wildlife as the primary purpose of the refuge system, but stated that hunting, trapping, recreation, and fishing were allowable uses. Many wildlife professionals were concerned that the administration did not give enough weight to those uses, and that if courts ever got involved in the issue, only the “purpose” would be considered relevant. **(7) European Fur Ban Delayed** – The proposed ban on the import furs from North America to the European Economic Union member countries was delayed due to further discussion of the disagreement over use of steel leg-hold traps. **(8) Grazing on Public Lands** – The Senate passed S.B. 1459, the Public Rangelands Management Act of 1995. TWS opposed this Act because it elevated grazing as the dominant use of public land, restricting resource managers' abilities to adjust livestock

grazing to meet the needs of other uses, such as wildlife management. The bill would also have reduced NEPA requirements for grazing actions, permits, and leases, thus eliminating an important tool for protecting federal land resources and balancing grazing with wildlife, recreation, and other public land uses.

Tom Franklin, TWS Wildlife Policy Director, provided Congressional **testimony on Teaming With Wildlife (the Fish and Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative)**, which he characterized as likely the most important fish and wildlife conservation initiative proposed in the last half century. He said it was a national trust fund for state-level fish and wildlife conservation, recreation and education. Teaming With Wildlife promotes species and habitat conservation, cultivates a responsible stewardship ethic through enhanced environmental education, provides additional recreational opportunities for Americans to enjoy wildlife and nature, enhances the quality of life, and stimulates local and national economies. **The Teaming With Wildlife coalition included over 1,000 organizations.** Many **TWS chapters were spearheading efforts** in their states and playing key leadership roles in their respective state coalitions.

The Chapter endorsed the National Wildlife Institute's **American Conservation Ethic** introduced to the Executive Board by John Jefferson, of which two passages were considered relevant to many of recent conservation issues: "While science cannot be substituted for public policy, public policy on scientific subjects should reflect scientific knowledge," and "A policy cannot be good for the environment if it is bad for people."

The Welder Wildlife Foundation in Sinton, Texas offered **summer workshops** for undergraduate and graduate college credit and continuing education of wildlife professionals. The **Invertebrate and Habitat Workshop** included Adopt-A-Wetland training and an introduction to Texas Watch volunteer environmental monitoring. The **Vertebrate Ecology and Management Workshop** included training about Project WILD and ZPG Population Education.

The **Photo, Art and Video Committee** announced a new **"Humor" photo category**, which was to be limited to slide and print entries that were professionally related. Slide and print entries were combined in each category (color and black & white). The categories were Wildlife, Plants and Scenery, Work Related, and Humor.

After six years of intensive biological, economic and social analysis, public involvement and scientific study, the USFS finally completed the **Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas**. The Plan allocated land use into 11 different management areas, ranging from upland forest ecosystems to the Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest. The revised Plan did not direct site-specific management activities, such as harvesting timber at specific locations, but rather established standards for management to implement.

The Chapter's Executive Board appointed **Kay Fleming** to succeed Susan Baggett as the **new Archivist**. Mike Krueger, Chapter President, and the Executive Board praised Susan Baggett's for her many years of service, and thanked Kay Fleming for stepping

forward and adding this responsibility to the many that he had already assumed on behalf of the Chapter over the years. Kay Fleming provided a series of newsletter reports entitled “**Dust From the Archives**” after rummaging through the archives, in which he shared some of the Texas’ Chapter history. As a historian of those archives, I can tell you that **every page of every file reveals something important about the Chapter** and the diligent work that the members conducted with considerable skill throughout its many years of existence.

By a margin of more than 5 to 1, the vast majority of Chapter members responded to a questionnaire that the **Texas Chapter should make an offer to host the 1999 Annual Conference of TWS**. Forty-four members submitted their names indicating a willingness to help plan, organize, and host the conference. Included were nine that volunteered to serve as the chair or co-chair of the Arrangements Committee. From that group, **Jim Teer and Lytle Blankenship were selected as the proposed co-chairs**. One important aspect of the Texas Chapter is that there has never been a lack of volunteers or leaders to administer the many activities that the organization carries out. That is probably the single most important factor in the success of the Chapter.

In the **first ever President Elect Report in the Chapter newsletter**, **Donnie Harmel** took the opportunity to thank all of the members for their prayers, cards, visits, encouraging words, and support during the past year and a half that he was dealing with liver cancer. He also thanked the Executive Board and the Chapter for the flowers sent to him during his stay in the hospital. He said he would never forget John Jefferson’s request for some “**high protein**” prayers in the 1995 spring newsletter. All of this appeared to be **good medicine for a man held in high esteem by the Chapter members**.

The **July 11th Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission meeting was disrupted** by an extremely **rude and unruly group of anti-hunting/animal rights advocates** who testified against hunting in state parks and protested the use of leg-hold traps by trappers. Disruption while State Rep. Bob Turner was testifying nearly led to one person being ejected. The Commission was obviously affected by the outbursts and by the acceleration of anti-hunting rhetoric. Executive Director, John Jefferson, met a week later with a small group representing sportsmen, landowners, industry and the press to discuss presenting **positive testimony on hunting at the August 28th public meeting of the Commission**. At the public meeting, the Commission heard from people involved in hunting, and land and wildlife management in support of its regulatory role.

TPWD initiated a new program, the **Landowner Incentive Program**, to provide financial incentives to private landowners who want to voluntarily manage for rare species on their property. Over the last several years, many landowners had indicated that a lack of financial incentives was one reason why they were not actively managing for rare species. The new program provided natural resource field biological assistance to landowners, and \$10,000 per year for up to four years. The main criteria for the funding were that the proposed action by the landowner must contribute to the enhancement of at least one rare species or its habitat. Rare species included all state or federally listed

threatened or endangered species. The property must be within the historic range of the species, and the land must provide suitable habitat for reintroduction or natural dispersal. TPWD Endangered Species Branch biologist and program coordinator Peggy Horner selected seven projects for initial funding that provided habitat restoration for the lesser prairie chicken, ocelot, and several species of rare natural plants.

The **Texas Organization of Wildlife Management Associations (TOWMA)** was formed to provide a forum for exchange of ideas and information among a growing number of wildlife management cooperatives. The goal of the organization is to help sustain the growth and development of wildlife cooperatives statewide, and to provide a collective voice on issue affecting its members. TOWMA is the parent organization for over 60 wildlife management associations that total more than a million and a half acres, representing over 5,000 landowners. The organization holds a biennial conference and wildlife symposium.

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The Annual Meeting was held February 27-March 1 at the Holiday Inn Beaumont Plaza, with a theme of “**Status and Management of Texas Wetlands.**”

An **unexpected shift in leadership** was required when Donnie Harmel resigned his post as President of the Chapter for health reasons – the cancer unfortunately came back. Dale Rollins said he got a chill in his veins when he found that out he was going to have to take over that position earlier than expected, but said that Donnie Harmel had left him with a fertile situation full of opportunities, and he wished him the best in his battle with cancer. Linda Campbell moved from Vice President to President Elect, and Greg Simons became Vice President for this year only. The Texas Chapter was alive with people willing to step up to the plate as the situation demanded. This kind of **stewardship** is something that comes from a seed that is planted in a young mind, and which grows over the years until their opportunity comes to carry the torch. That seems to be well known among Chapter members who regularly address school classrooms from kindergarten to college about wildlife management.

Donnie Harmel presented the first ever “**Past President’s Message**” in the April/May newsletter, thanking the Chapter for allowing him the honor of serving as President for a short period. He said the Chapter would grow and succeed under the very capable hands of the incoming President, Dale Rollins, and he wished them and the newly elected officers the best of luck. In reflecting on the history of the Texas Chapter, he said that he was very pleased with student involvement and the phenomenal growth in the membership. He reminded students coming into the wildlife profession not to forget that what serves as the **foundation for successful wildlife management programs** is high quality habitat and highly professional people. To know, recognize, and manage habitat one has to get into the field and learn how critters tick, their relationship with each other, with their habitat, and the components of that habitat. He said that much of this could not be learned in the classroom, from a computer or from the seat of a pick up truck. To be a good **professional wildlife biologist**, one has to get on the land and learn, observe,

record, and **“tinker” with nature to truly understand her.** His concern was that with the growing urban environment and population growth, it would be harder to become a true naturalist because people were becoming so removed from the land. Finally, he said the Texas Chapter should play a key role in helping people understand the relationship and importance of quality wildlife habitat in a community and what management practices are needed to maintain it as high quality habitat. His words seemed prophetic to many of the students, which is the seed that **stimulates many young minds to grow into the profession** that this organization is dedicated to.

At TWS annual meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, Chapter President Mike Krueger had an opportunity to visit with the national leadership about the **Texas Chapter’s bid to host the 1999 annual meeting**, and apparently he did a good job of lobbying for that honor because when the smoke cleared some time later, **Texas got the bid** and **Austin** emerged from down in the pack to be chosen as the host city after TWS Program Director Sandra Staples-Bortner made site visits to all of the potential host cities. The North Dakota Chapter of TWS was the primary competition that the Texas Chapter had in hosting the national meeting of TWS. Planning, organizing, and hosting the conference required much work and effort from many Texas Chapter members. Several **subcommittees** were administered by the Chapter’s **Local Arrangements Committee**, co-chaired by Jim Teer and Lytle Blankenship, **to facilitate the national meeting:** Exhibits and Posters, Fund Raising, Merchandise Sales, Publicity, Student Activities, Facilities, Meals and Entertainment, Photo Contest, Registration and Information, and Tours and Field Trips. The date of the conference was set for September 6-11, 1999.

The **first Futuring Session** of the Texas Chapter was held in Sonora, Texas at the TAMU Sonora Research Station on May 27-28th to identify critical issues and set goals for the Chapter. This was a 2-day retreat attended by the current Executive Board and committee chairs, and past presidents. President Dale Rollins convened the retreat with a **“State of the Triad”** address to focus participants on three main subject areas for determining critical issues: habitat, population, and people. After much discussion, the top three components of each leg of the triad were identified as follows: **(1)** Habitat – habitat fragmentation, landowner demographics, and landowner incentives, **(2)** Population – ability to keep control tools, privatization of wildlife, and population status trends, and **(3)** education, demographic shifts, and privatization vs. publicization. These critical issues served as focal points for the rest of the session. A **wildlife status report card** concluded that an average job was being done in sustaining most wildlife populations. For the **Chapter’s report card**, it was concluded that a good job was being done internally, but a failing grade was given for dealing with the public and external relations. An overall consensus reached was that the Chapter communications efforts should focus on electronic media, i.e., improve the website.

A **final product of the Futuring Session** was development of a **vision statement** as follows: The vision of the Society is to assure a sustained diversity of wildlife and their habitats in Texas. The parent society’s vision statement (reference: The Wildlifer, Issue 281) was reconfigured into the **Chapter’s mission statement**. The existing mission statement was broken down into a series of **five strategic goals**, and three tactical goals

were determined for each strategic goal. The five strategic goals were as follows: (1) Anticipate the future to best serve the changing needs of wildlife professionals and society, (2) Maximize the potential of wildlife professionals to be effective stewards of wildlife, (3) Foster high professional standards and ethics for wildlife professionals, (4) Provide information for the sound scientific management and stewardship of all wildlife species and their habitats for the benefit of present and future generations, and (5) Reach out to citizens of Texas to increase their understanding and appreciation of wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Things **heated up again** at the November Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting, this time it was over trapping and the use of leg-hold traps. Executive Director, John Jefferson, testified that **TWS had adopted a policy statement endorsing trapping and use of leg-hold traps**, and he quoted the portion of the statement acknowledging significant opposition from urban oriented cultures. In reference to the anti-trapping testimony at the public meeting, John Jefferson stated that wildlife management was a science, and that was why people go to college and get specialized degrees in order to make it a career. Some regulations contain social considerations. **Wildlife regulations should be made using the best professional recommendations based on science – and not by popular vote.** He said that regulating by public vote had led to disastrous results in other states, and he used California’s mountain lion situation as the best evidence of that. In the Legislative session that followed, Sen. Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound) introduced **HJR 6, which proposed a Constitutional amendment giving people the right to initiative and referendum.** In California, this change gave people the right to propose the law banning the hunting of mountain lions. Had the initiative and referendum bill become law in Texas, the public would have the right to propose laws which would have taken some of the authority away from the Legislature and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission to regulate wildlife. **Science would have been replaced by popular vote.**

Texas Chapter members feared that in Texas, where the majority of voters were urban dwellers with limited contact with or accurate knowledge about wildlife, the vote could cause considerable problems in the management of wildlife. This bill was considered the most **dangerous piece of legislation** introduced this session as far as the Texas Chapter was concerned. Fortunately, the opposition testimony led by the Texas Chapter was enough to put this bill out of its misery. As Executive Director, John Jefferson, said **“the best time to kill a mosquito is before it bites.”** May that mosquito rest in peace.

Texas Chapter former President, **Wallace Klusmann was considered for an appointment to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission.** That was considered good news for science.

The **Texas Chapter established a “draft version” of their home page** on the internet, and circulating information and reports in cyberspace was an exciting achievement. It was not officially sanctioned by the Executive Board, but Dale Rollins had received permission from the Board at the July 1996 board meeting to compile and submit the home page to Chapter members for review and comment. Favorable comments led to the

official sanctioning of the website at the January 1998 board meeting. The home page was **constructed at no cost** to the Texas Chapter, **thanks to the efforts of Allan McGinty and Dale Rollins** obtaining funding from the Renewable Resources Extension Act to construct a server for natural resource related information. There were several wildlife-related publications and recent issues of the Chapter newsletter that members could view and download from the website. Thus began the **new cyber-era** of getting Chapter members email addresses and communicating in a completely different manner.

The **second year of the “Protect What’s Right” raffle** resulted in members selling almost \$1,000 worth of tickets, providing the Chapter with \$487 (50% of proceeds), which was a substantial improvement over last year. This raffle and the Chapter’s annual meeting provide an excellent opportunity for outdoor/wildlife-related businesses to advertise to a target audience, so it works to the advantage of all concerned. The Chapter is always on the lookout for new business contacts that might be interested in making a tax free contribution. Through the Protect What’s Right raffle, annual meeting raffle, and T-shirt sales, the Finance Committee raised approximately \$2,500.

The **Bobwhite Brigade, now in its fifth year, hosted two “bobwhite boot camps”** this year. The Rolling Plains camp was held at the **Krooked River Ranch** north of Abilene, and the East Texas camp was held at the **Pineywoods Conservation Center** east of Lufkin. Dale Rollins and Scotty Parsons facilitated the camp, and they even developed a **Bobwhite Brigade homepage** for information and applications. Chapter members were **encouraged to volunteer as “covey leaders,”** but a warning was issued that it was **not for those needing more than 4 hours of sleep per night** – I wonder why! The Chapter presented the Outstanding Achievement Award to the Bobwhite Brigade as viewed through the tired bloodshot eyes of many adult members, who had been getting very little sleep.

As the Texas Chapter’s reputation grew over the years and attracted many distinguished wildlife biologists, **members were frequently receiving very high level state and national awards.** Notably among those was **Milton Weller** receipt of TWS’s most prestigious award, the **Aldo Leopold Memorial Medal**, during the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources conference in Washington, D.C. He retired from TAMU in 1994 after a 40-year career which included 11 years as a professor and holder of the Kleberg Chair in Wildlife Ecology. His research significantly expanded the understanding of wetland and wetland-wildlife ecology. His work has also served as a pioneering effort towards the understanding of the linkages between wetland birds and their habitats. Two of his books, *“The Island Waterfowl”*, and *“Freshwater Marshes, Ecology and Wildlife Management”* are used throughout the nation in college wetland courses. **Fred Bryant** was honored with a **Fellow Award** at the annual Texas Section meeting of the Society for Range Management in Kerrville.

A **“Landowner’s Manual”** was prepared by **PlanIt Texas**, and one of the chapters was dedicated to wildlife. The manual is a collection of perspectives and suggestions to help landowners develop a plan for sustainable, economically viable agricultural options, and

restore and manage for a diversity of wildlife habitats. Texas Chapter member **Lee Ann Linam** was one of the editors.

The **75th Legislative Session** passed a **milestone water bill – SB1**, which was proposed by Sen. Buster Brown and strongly supported by Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock. This bill provided for new strategies in water planning, drought response, financial assistance, water data collection and dissemination, and required the evaluation of environmental flow needs and environmental/wildlife impact assessments for all new proposed water development strategies. **HB 1498** by Rep. Turner **removed aoudad and elk from the list of game species in Texas, thereby allowing them to be classified as exotic species** on a statewide basis. Some concern was expressed by Texas Chapter members that some provisions of **HB 3061** would lead to the **“privatization” of white-tailed deer**. The Chapter adopted a Position Statement in opposition to the pending deer management legislation and submitted it to select committee members of the Texas Legislature. It was even reported that in the realm of deer management legislation that there was considerable discussion about how to get deer to cross highways at those little yellow **“deer crossing”** signs until it was pointed out to them that the Texas Chapter would just submit another nasty position statement in opposition. Peggy Horner, TPWD, and Gary Joiner, Texas Farm Bureau, tracked these bills for the Chapter, and maintained coordination with the Executive Board.

Congress resurrected the livestock grazing legislation that was rejected last year, the **National Grassland Management Act**, which purpose was to improve management of western U.S. rangelands. The legislation would alter control over the National Grasslands, perpetuate insufficient grazing fees, and reduce public involvement in grazing management decisions. Under the existing law, the USFS would retain authority for managing National Grasslands. With the passage of SB 749, control would reside under some other agency’s jurisdiction that was not defined. It would make livestock grazing the primary purpose of National Grasslands. TWS developed a position statement in support of retention of the National Grasslands under the USFS, and further elaborated that an ecosystem approach to grassland management was needed to ensure rangeland conservation that sustains wildlife diversity and productivity. TWS also advised that there should be incentives for good rangeland stewardship, and strong penalties for violators of the grazing laws. Effective monitoring should be incorporated to support improved range conditions. Domestic livestock grazes 60% of the western U.S. rangelands, 33% of which are on federal lands. There are more than 1,000 federally listed threatened, endangered, and candidate plant and animal species on these grasslands. The livestock’s use of the grasslands may have a significant impact on the environment by affecting water quality, invasion of exotic plants, wildlife habitats, and erosion.

The **Texas Wetland Conservation Plan** moved ahead with support by Governor George W. Bush. The governor praised the non-regulatory, incentive-based nature of the plan, which invites voluntary private landowner participation in resource management. TPWD received \$60,000 from the EPA to develop a **voluntary registry** of private and public lands available for mitigation or restoration, one of the wetlands plan’s primary recommendations. The registry functioned as a link between landowners and wetland

scientists to improve communication between them and advance the restoration and mitigation of wetlands. Another important part of the wetland plan was to identify, consolidate, and prioritize **potential wetland restoration sites** so that future funding sources could have a list of qualified Texas projects to select from.

The **Texas Organization for Endangered Species (TOES)** celebrated its **Silver Anniversary** in Temple on September 4-6, with a program that noted progress in endangered species conservation this century. Speakers noted that the landscape of Texas, the processes that affect it, the status of its species, and its political and social climate have all undergone dramatic changes in the last century, including extinction of species, urbanization of the population, and increasing polarization of viewpoints on conservation issues. Former Texas Parks and Wildlife Commissioner Bob Burleson of Temple noted that the emergence of TOES as an organization preceded any state or federal laws protecting endangered species, but that there was still much that organizations such as TOES needed to do to conserve rare natural resources. TOES selected its annual Lone STAR (Species That Are Rare) List and Imperiled Ecosystem. These 10 species and one ecosystem represent elements of Texas' natural diversity that are in critical need of conservation effort. Interestingly, the Floyd Potter Award for lifetime achievement in the field of animal conservation went to Nova Silvy of TAMU, Past-President of TWS, and active member of the Texas Chapter of TWS for his work on the endangered Attwater's prairie chicken. It was my pleasure to author the **History of TOES**, and present that history during the meeting that culminated with recognition of the charter members present. One of those charter members just happened to be Gary Valentine, former President of the Texas Chapter of the TWS, who seven years later asked me to write the history of the Texas Chapter's 40-year history.

Donnie E. Harmel finally died on October 19th after a long and hard fight with cancer at the age of 53, leaving behind his wife, Sherry Boehme Harmel of Ingram, parents, three daughters, and two grandchildren. In a **tribute to him**, Bill Armstrong said that Donnie Harmel was his boss for 21 years and you learn a lot about a man in that many years. He had five loves: God, family, friends, hunting, and work. "He found God in all he did. He worked at being a friend. He worked at hunting. And he worked at working. He approached issues and tasks in a black and white manner. It was either right or wrong, and wrongs should be made right. Donnie did not live in a gray world." One of his greatest pleasures was to sit around a campfire with friends and reminisce about hunting trips, things past, and talk about deer. Some of the best ideas about research and management of deer herds in Texas were a product of those **campfire discussions**. Through his leadership and insight, the Kerr WMA became a recognized leader in wildlife management and conservation. At his memorial, the pastor read a passage from a journal that Donnie kept, in which he wrote "I wonder where I fit into God's plan." That kind of surprised Bill Armstrong, since he strongly believed that Donnie was part of God's plan for almost 30 years. Donnie has been and will continue to be missed by all those who knew him in the Texas Chapter, but his contributions, his caring, and his stories will be remembered around a lot of campfires. He was awarded posthumously the **Educator of the Year Award**, which deeply moved many of the members who considered him their hero. The Harmel family graciously received the award for him at

the annual meeting with a check for \$1,500, which was used to establish the **Donnie Harmel Scholarship Fund** in his honor.

On Saturday evening, October 4th at the **Wildlife Expo97** in Austin, the Texas Chapter presented Juanita H. Shoemaker a check for \$2,500 to establish the **Carl C. Shoemaker Scholarship Fund**. Carl Shoemaker played a pivotal role in the designing and enhancement of the **Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act** (Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937). The Pittman-Robertson Act is considered the **most important legislation in the history of wildlife management**. Honoring Carl Shoemaker's accomplishments that have benefited so many wildlife species throughout Texas and the nation was a very worthy endeavor for the Chapter. The Act enabled a 10-13% tax on sporting arms and ammunition, and that funds many state wildlife management activities. Juanita H. Shoemaker, the granddaughter-in-law of Carl Shoemaker, accepted the check in his memory, and said that the scholarship fund was the ultimate tribute to many people as well as Carl Shoemaker that had a vision to ensure the future of our wildlife. Establishment of the scholarship in 1997 was **important symbolically**, as it represented the **60th anniversary of the Pittman-Robertson Act**. As Secretary of the Senate Special Committee on the Conservation of Wildlife Resources, Carl Shoemaker either drafted or had a substantial hand in drafting most of the conservation legislation under which the U.S. now operates, including such noble legislation as the Dingell-Johnson, Duck Stamp, and Pittman-Robertson Acts. The Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Awards Committee decided that the fund would be administered by the Texas Chapter until it reached a minimum of \$10,000 to ensure that the fund would be self-sustaining in perpetuity, i.e., an endowed award. Once the remaining funds were secured, scholarships would be awarded to undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in wildlife management at the six Texas universities that offered that degree program. By supporting wildlife related scholarships, the Chapter encourages students to make an important impact on the **future and vision of wildlife conservation and management** in Texas and the nation.

1998

The 33rd Annual Meeting was held February 26-28 in Corpus Christi at the Holiday Inn Emerald Beach. Fred Bryant, Director of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Institute, and TAMU – Kingsville (TAMUK) professors and students on his Local Arrangements Committee were credited for arranging an informative and fun meeting with the **largest crowd in Texas Chapter history – 448 registered**. A highlight was the high **student attendance for the second year in a row**. The **Wildlife Camp graduates attended the meeting for the first time this year**. Students from the TAMUK Student Chapter assisted exhibitors set up of their booths, put together the registration packets, registered attendees of the meeting, ran the projectors and lights during the presentations, set up the room for the student poster session, and assisted with the banquet. The Chapter was doing a lot of things right, and taking pride in their accomplishments. Providing tangible services to members; and inviting coworkers, landowners, educators, students, and others with an interest in wildlife to be involved with the organization were a couple of reasons the Chapter was doing so well. The major tribute to the Chapter for those

accomplishments was recognition as **TWS's Chapter of the Year**, which was received at the national TWS meeting in Buffalo, NY.

The popularity of the Chapter showed in its **membership, which stood at 900** and still growing. Concentration on membership recruitment, which included a letter from the Chapter President to every new member helped keep the organization viable and growing. A **new color brochure** and improvements to the Texas Chapter's **portable display** helped advertise the goals and activities of the organization.

The **TAMUK Student Chapter won a nationwide letter writing contest** in support of proposed federal legislation to create a dedicated trust fund for state-level wildlife conservation – Teaming with Wildlife. It generated 879 letters to Texas' U.S. Congressional representatives, the most by any university in the U.S. For winning the contest, the TAMUK Student Chapter received \$1,000, which was received by Scott Henke, the student chapter's faculty advisor. In recognition for this and other accomplishments, the TAMUK Student Chapter was recognized as **TWS's Student Chapter of the Year**.

Amy Hays, Information Technology (I&E) Chair, made numerous **upgrades to the Chapter's home page**, and the list serve named **TXWILD** was turning out to be a **great tool for keeping the wildlife community informed and up to date on issues affecting Texas wildlife**. The Executive Board **split the I&E Committee into two jobs – I&E and Education/Outreach** – at the suggestion of Amy Hays. The reasoning behind that decision was that internal communication, maintaining the home page, and monitoring the list serve had developed into a demanding committee job by itself. The Board agreed that a new committee was needed to give proper attention to the Chapter's efforts in the areas of public outreach and continuing education opportunities for members. Denise Harmel-Garza graciously accepted the Board's invitation to the chair the new Education/Outreach Committee. The major duty of that committee was to maintain a presence for the Texas Chapter at the meetings of other professional and conservation organizations through use of the Chapter's display and literature.

Linda Campbell, Chapter President, set a goal of completing an **administrative handbook for the Texas Chapter** that described the goals and duties of each committee as well as general guideline for operation. Each committee chair submitted ideas to her concerning the operation of their committee. The effort was intended to capture the collective experience of committee chairs and officers in a form that would serve as a valuable tool for future officers and committees.

Dale Rollins and the TAES developed a **Genetics Conference** at TAMU, which was highly attended and increased the Chapter's membership by nearly 300 – **the largest one time surge ever in Chapter membership**. It was a respected scientific symposium which introduced the many new members to the fact that wildlife management is a science, and that attempts at genetic manipulation of a deer heard are no quick-fix alternative to a healthy habitat. In recognition of these achievements, the **TAMU**

Extension group won the TWS Group Achievement Award at the national meeting in Buffalo, NY.

A total of **28 Texas Chapter members had received Honorary Life Membership** over the years, which included the following in chronological order: **1978** – W. Caleb Glazener (deceased) and Pierce B. Uzzell (deceased); **1980** – Richard B. David (deceased); **1985** – William B. David (deceased), Lowell K. Halls, Alfred S. Jackson (deceased), Daniel W. Lay, and Valgene W. Lehmann (deceased); **1990** – Eugene A. Walker, Wendell G. Swank, James G. Teer, and Lytle H. Blankenship; **1992** – Jack M. Inglis, John Robert Singleton, and William H. Kiel, Jr.; **1993** – Milton Caroline (deceased), Claud Lard, and Charles D. Stutzenbaker; **1994** – Albert J. Springs and Ted L. Clark; **1995** – Harold D. Irby; **1996** – Charles W. Ramsey and Donnie E. Harmel (deceased); **1997** – William J. Sheffield and Gary Valentine; **1998** – Charles E. Boyd, Ray C. Telfair II, and Jack Ward Thomas.

The Chapter's **Position Statement** concerning conservation of the **lesser prairie chicken** was sent to Jerry Brabander, USFWS Field Supervisor in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Representatives from state wildlife agencies in the five states encompassing this species known range (i.e., Texas, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma) met in 1995 to evaluate the species' status and research needs. This group determined that the **most effective means for conserving the lesser prairie chicken** was for each state to commit to working cooperatively in development of a comprehensive, proactive, habitat-based conservation strategy. Subsequently, the lesser prairie chicken **Interstate Working Group was formed in 1996**. Since that time, the Working Group developed an information exchange network between five state wildlife agencies, four federal agencies, and private partners to craft and implement a conservation strategy throughout its range. The Texas Chapter indicated in the position statement strong support for a voluntary, incentive-based approach. Furthermore, the Chapter expressed **concern that a formal listing as threatened or endangered**, in lieu of voluntary conservation efforts with private landowners, would be **counter-productive** to the maintenance and/or restoration of habitat for this species and other prairie wildlife in Texas and other parts of its range. In light of recent positive experiences in Texas and other states relative to voluntary private landowner cooperation for species and habitat conservation strategies, and because of possible detrimental effects resulting from the federal listing process, **the Texas Chapter expressed strong support for the Working Group Strategy** for effective conservation of the lesser prairie chicken.

The USFWS announced a proposed **rule regarding migratory bird hunting and baiting regulations**. Baiting is the practice of placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering any salt, grain, or other feed on or over areas where hunters are attempting to take birds. The proposed rule would help ensure the long-term conservation of migratory birds, while providing clarity for the public, and consistency and fairness in law enforcement operations. Advances in wetlands habitat management in recent years improved land managers' abilities to enhance winter habitat for waterfowl and other species by providing high quality natural foods. The proposal **clarified the conditions under which waterfowl hunting over manipulated vegetation may lawfully occur**.

The Service proposed to maintain the current prohibition on hunting migratory birds over any baited area until 10 days after the seed or grain had been removed – known as the 10-day rule. The change addressed concerns that other portions of the **current baiting regulations discouraged the conservation and management of moist soil areas to benefit waterfowl and migratory birds**. The proposed changes in the regulations did for the first time distinguish between agricultural areas and areas of natural vegetation, and established separate and clear rules for each. The proposal defined natural vegetation as non-agricultural, native, or naturalized plant species, including millet, that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds.

A **Range and Wildlife Management Field Day** was organized to provide range and wildlife managers with information and demonstrations of range management for livestock and wildlife. An informative **field tour highlighting wildlife and range management** on a number of ranches in **Concho and Menard Counties** was jointly organized by the Texas Chapter, Texas Section of the Society for Range Management, and TAES. The Clark, Leggett, Schmidt, and Comanche Springs Ranch management operations were highlighted during the field tour. The tour provided guidance to landowners wishing to take advantage of the open space tax valuation for wildlife management. Other topics covered during the tour included prescribed burning, competition among livestock and wildlife, EQIP Program, Proposition 11, range plants important to wildlife, the Brush Sculptors program, and special habitat considerations for white-tailed deer and bobwhite quail. About **180 people attended** the **“Range Management 101: A Primer for Livestock and Wildlife Managers.”** Collaboration between the Texas Chapter and Society for Range Management on educational efforts was seen as promoting better range and wildlife management. The Activities Chairs of the respective organizations: Tamara Trail for the Texas Chapter and Ellis Klett for the Texas Section of the Society for Range Management; and Dale Rollins of the TAES organized the symposium and field tour.

On June 4th the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved the **State’s first permit system for nongame collectors and dealers**. The new permit was implemented on January 1, 1999. It was designed to monitor commercial trade and collection activities in native non-game wildlife, and provided much needed information about the commercial use of some 200 species of reptiles, mammals, and amphibians. Under the new permit, any person, regardless of age, who sells listed nongame wildlife and anyone in possession of more than 25 specimens of nongame wildlife in the aggregate (no more than 10 of the same species) would be required to purchase a \$15 resident commercial collector’s permit (\$50 for non-residents). An appropriate hunting license is also required for any activity involving the take of nongame wildlife from the wild. The Commission also adopted **procedures allowing permitted landowners to conduct selective natural breeding of white-tailed deer within high-fenced enclosures**. Implementation of the new deer management permit evolved out of recent legislation outlined in HB 3061. The deer management permit allows landowners with a high fence and a TPWD-approved management plan to capture wild white-tailed deer and relocate them into detention pens for selective natural breeding purposes.

The **Conservation Review Committee** continued to have their hands full with numerous environmental bills being passed by Congress, which they reviewed and briefed the Executive Board about and the membership through newsletter reports. Matt Wagner chaired the committee, and Peggy Horner, David Langford, Lee Ann Linam, Mike McMurry, Melissa Parker, and Gary Valentine served on the committee. The **Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR** and other National Wildlife Refuges throughout the U.S. received \$1 million each for land acquisition from the **Land and Water Conservation bill**. A June 19th decision by the Federal Court of Appeals in Washington DC struck down the “**Tulloch Rule**,” which prevented excavation and drainage of wetlands, streams, and rivers without a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps testified that failure to regulate draining and ditching in wetlands could result in annual damage to 10,000 wetland acres, and lead to adverse impacts to 1,500 miles of streams and 10,000 acres of open water areas. The **Forestry Incentive Program** was passed, providing up to 50% of the cost of tree planting, timber stand improvements, and related practices on non-industrial private forestlands in the 38 most eastern counties in Texas. Forestry practices that are allowed include tree planting, stand improvement, site preparation for natural regeneration, wildlife habitat enhancement, riparian and wetland regeneration, and wind brakes. Another related bill that Congress passed was the **National Conservation Buffer Initiative**, which focused on using grasses and trees to protect soil, improve water quality, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, conserve biodiversity and beautify the landscape. All landowners were eligible, and project funding was variable depending on the practice and coordination with other Farm Bill programs. The practices covered under this bill included filter strips, riparian buffers, field borders, wind breaks and shelterbelts, shallow water areas for wildlife, living snow fences, grassed waterways, and stream bank plantings.

The **Endangered Species Recovery Act** (SB 1180) was introduced by Sen. Kempthorn and Chaffee, containing the following key provisions: 1) greater state participation in recovery planning, 2) inclusion of strong incentives for private landowners, such as Safe Harbor, No Surprises, a Habitat Conservation Planning Fund, technical assistance to landowners and water users, and in the companion bill, tax incentives for landowners, 3) peer review on listing decisions, 4) greatly enhanced public comment and involvement in all aspects of the Act, 5) elevating the recovery of species to a central focus of the Act and the incorporation of Implementation Agreements with federal agencies and other entities to ensure that recovery programs are carried out, 6) multi-species Habitat Conservation Plans and a streamlined HCP process for small landowners with small impacts, 7) designation of critical habitat at recovery planning stage, 8) increased rigor in the listing process, and 9) increased funding authorization to carry out the new and expanded requirements of the Act.

The **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** included approximately 27.8 million acres of highly erodible crop land under contract at this time to reduce soil erosion. The USDA was authorized by Congress to maintain enrollment of up to 36.4 million acres. Contracts were for a term of not less than 10 years. The **Environmental Benefits Index (EBI)** was revised to better measure the relative environmental benefits on potential crop lands, including wildlife habitat cover. Wildlife species benefit most from vegetation when it is

planted specifically to address their habitat needs, and so that became an important EBI issue. Restoration of cropped wetlands increased the likelihood that a contract would be accepted, due to the enhanced environmental benefits.

The **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)** was funded for \$50 million through 2002, and funds were distributed to states based on wildlife priorities which included wildlife habitat areas, targeted species and their habitat, and specific practices. To participate in the WHIP, landowners agreed to prepare and implement a wildlife development plan with assistance from the NRCS and their USDA local conservation district. The plan describes the landowner's goals for restoring native habitats, including prairies, savannahs, riparian zones, and woody corridors. NRCS paid up to 75% of the cost of installing the habitat restoration practices, not to exceed \$10,000.

The inaugural meeting of the **West Texas Deer Study Group** was held June 8-9th in San Angelo, with over 80 people in attendance. The Texas Chapter sponsored the meeting under the capable program coordination of Ruben Cantu, Steve Nelle, Dale Rollins, and Greg Simons. Topics discussed included economics of deer management, food plot management in semiarid regions, deer genetics and the various new deer management permits available from TPWD. A demonstration of net-gunning for capturing deer was also offered.

The first **Board Member at Large Report** was provided in the newsletter by Misty Sumner, who represented the Chapter at TWS's national meeting, assisted in the Chapter's Wildlife Ecology Camp, and participated in the Executive Board meetings.

Two **Brush Sculptors symposia** were held in Uvalde and Abilene and over 300 landowners and people interested in wildlife habitat attended. Brush Sculpturing is the strategic, selective removal of brush as a means of enhancing wildlife habitat. Numerous Texas Chapter members played key roles in the symposium, including presentations by Fred Bryant, Steve Nelle, Tim Fulbright, Fred Guthery, Matt Wagner, Linda Campbell, Ben Koerth, Gene Miller, Charles Coffman, Pat Reardon, Lynn Drawe, Alan Heirman, and Dale Rollins. Proceedings were published featuring over 20 papers about sculpting brushlands for numerous species ranging from bobwhites to black-capped vireos.

1999

The Annual Meeting was held in Amarillo on March 11-13th at the Ambassador Hotel, with a plenary theme of "**Prairies and Playas,**" featuring invited speakers from the neighboring states of Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas, and Colorado. **Linda Campbell, the first female President of the Texas Chapter, became a legend when she set a new record for the shortest awards banquet in the history of the Chapter.** Every Chapter President since her has tried to beat her record, but none have come close. The **1999 6th annual conference of TWS** was **hosted by the Texas Chapter** in Austin at the Arboretum Stouffer Hotel (currently the Renaissance Hotel) on September 6-11th. Kirby Brown, Board Member at Large, reported that this was the most intense year he could remember for the Chapter officers dealing with the national meeting and various issues

affecting wildlife. Penny Bartnicki, Chapter President, reported that as the dust settled the Texas Chapter had made TWS national meeting a rousing success. From 2.5 hours of packet stuffing on a Sunday to the savory banquet on the following Saturday, Chapter members provided the labor and imagination behind the scenes. Terry Blankenship and his crew moved the attendees through registration very smoothly. From the Taste of Texas opening reception to the festive banquet at the Backyard complete with a country western dance demonstration by the phenomenal **Aggie Wranglers** and toe-tapping music by the talented group, People's Choice, – food and festivities at the meeting lived up to a legendary Texas tradition. Linda Campbell was given much of the credit for the incredible arrangements. A provocative program by Ron George and Bob Cook contained a thought provoking assemblage of symposia, workshops, papers, and posters on tigers, bears, bats, and birds that truly had something for everyone. As the annual conference became history, the Texas Chapter officers and participating members took much pride in an effort that made them shine. The November-December issue of *The Wildlifer*, TWS newsletter, **featured front page coverage of the national conference, and commended the efforts of the Texas Chapter.**

There was some really **strange wildlife and firearm related bills** proposed this Legislative year. **HB 11** by Rep. Tony Goolsby proposed to restrict hunting wild turkeys to shotguns only, statewide, year-around. It was difficult to determine if this was a safety or ethical issue that prompted this bill. At one time, most turkeys were taken by rifle hunters during deer season. If there was a resource issue here, it was not apparent to the Chapter members. **HB 242** was proposed by Elliott Naishtat to make it a Class B misdemeanor to shoot on a shooting range while intoxicated. It also would make it a misdemeanor for the range owner to allow anyone to do so. Many people believe that anyone shooting while intoxicated ought to be fined heavily because of the danger that it subjects others to. Sen. Jane Nelson proposed **SB 26** to once again try to give citizens the power of Initiative and Referendum (I&R), which could have empowered the public to make or repeal laws concerning wildlife management. This “shoot in the foot” bill initially received a fair amount of support because it aimed at taxation reform and term limits, and only snagged wildlife management and hunting issues as by-catch. I&R in other states had been used to ban various aspects of hunting or trapping.

The USFWS offered a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to conviction of the person or persons responsible for at least four **Mexican gray wolf deaths** in Arizona and New Mexico. Nancy Kaufman, Regional Director of the Service's Southwest Region viewed the shootings as an attempt to “sabotage recovery efforts.”

The USFWS designated the **Arkansas river shiner** as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This fish species ranges in the Canadian River of Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma; and Cimarron River in Kansas and Oklahoma.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission proposed measures to address the mounting **snow goose crisis**. A special snow goose hunting conservation action would allow hunters to use electronic goose calls, unplugged shotguns, and extension of shooting hours to one-half hour after sunset, and no bag or possession limit for snow geese.

TWS Sections vary in popularity and activity throughout the nation. The Southwest Section was never particularly active, probably because the Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona Chapters were so strong that members did not identify a need for a strong Section, according to Bob Brown, SW Section Representative to TWS Council. In the Southeast, on the other hand, the Section meeting is the main event each year, whereas the Chapter meetings are relatively poorly attended. The Arizona-New Mexico Chapters hold combined meetings each year. A major issue that the SW Section addressed this year was plans to establish TWS chapters in Mexico. An action plan was developed to get the ball moving with the assistance of about 35 Mexican wildlife biologists that were present at the Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon meeting in Monterrey, Mexico. Filipe Chavez-Ramirez hosted the meeting, and agreed to co-chair a future meeting of the proposed **Northern Mexico Chapter of the TWS** with Enrique Guadarrama Escobar. TWS sponsored the **2nd International Wildlife Management Congress** in Godollo, Hungary from June 28-July 2.

The Executive Board recommended the **separation of the offices of Secretary and Treasurer**, which would enable the Chapter to appoint a long-term treasurer. That was considered important so that the treasurer could become more familiar with the investment opportunities and challenges that face the Chapter each year. That action required a change in the Chapter's Bylaws, which could only be accomplished by a vote of the membership, which was held at the annual meeting in Amarillo.

The Texas Animal Health Commission hosted the national **Feral Hog Symposium** on June 2-3rd in Fort Worth, with a theme of "Cooperative Solutions for Managing Feral Swine. Several Texas Chapter members spoke at the symposium, including Rick Taylor, Gary Nunley, David Whitehouse, and Dale Rollins. A **North Texas Quail Symposium** was also held on October 13-15 in Abilene with a theme of "Preserving Texas' Quail Heritage into the 21st Century." The quail decline across Texas was getting a great deal of attention at this time. Dale Rollins wrote an infamous poem to lament the occasion, which went as follows" "Well we hate to hear about the quail decline, But the white-tailed deer is doing fine. Sell your dogs but have no fear, Sling some corn and go hunt deer." His poem won no artistic awards, but did raise the hackles of some deer folks in the Texas Chapter. – some of which came to the quail symposium out of pure spite.

A Deer 101 – Deer Management from the Ground Up Symposium was held at the TAMU Rudder Conference Center in College Station from September 21-23, and sponsored by the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences at TAMU. The title of this symposium was carefully chosen to signify the importance of habitat management. Billy Higginbotham, TAMU Wildlife Management Professor, reported that interest in white-tailed deer had increased exponentially in the last ten years. Much of that trend was aimed at growing bucks with larger antlers. However, he stated that the foundation of deer management is built upon sound habitat management strategies, and the goal of the symposium was to provide a forum for information exchange among leading scientific authorities and practitioners in the field of deer management, with particular emphasis on habitat management issues.

The Texas Chapter **started a series of book reviews** on wildlife science issues, and reported those in the newsletter. **Several books were authored or edited recently by Texas Chapter members**, including one edited by Raymond C. Telfair II entitled **“Texas Wildlife Resources and Land Uses.”** This book was modeled on a 1982 wildlife symposium published by the Texas Chapter, and updates and expands the issues involved in wildlife and land use (University of Texas Press). It is a landmark work, and a project in which the entire Chapter should take pride. **“Aquatic and Wetland Plants of the Western Gulf Coast”** by Charles D. Stutzenbaker filled a long-standing need for a comprehensive easy-to-use guide to the aquatic and wetland plants of the Gulf Coast (TPWD Press and University of Texas Press). **“After the Dinosaurs: A Texas Tropical Paradise Recovered at Lake Casa Blanca”** by James Westgate and his Lamar University students uncovered fossils of 29 extinct mammal species and about as many species of crocodiles, turtles, sharks, rays, and giant water snakes. In this book, he reconstructed a clear picture of prehistoric life at Lake Casa Blanca, illustrated with drawings and paintings by Abby Salazar, a recent earth science graduate pursuing a second degree in art (TPWD Press and University of Texas Press). **“Grasses of the Texas Gulf Prairies and Marshes”** by Stephen L. Hatch, Joseph L. Schuster, and D. Lynn Drawe serves as a useful manual for the identification and study of grasses of the prairies and marshes adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico (TAMU Press). **“Bats of Texas”** by David J. Schmidly is a comprehensive historic and taxonomic guide to the 33 species of Texas bats. An estimated 1 million Mexican free-tailed bats live under the Congress Avenue Bridge in Austin feeding on 10-15 tons of insects every night (TAMU Press).

Chapter President Penny Bartnicki **presented TPWD Director Andy Sansom and Texas Parks and Wildlife Commissioners with copies** of Texas Wildlife Resources and Land Uses. She also presented copies of “A Sand County Almanac and Wildlife Conservation Principles and Practices” to the three new Commission members Alvin Henry, Katharine Armstrong Idsal, and Mark Watson, as had been the Chapter’s practice for the past few years.

Sul Ross State University renamed its Division of Range Animal Science to the **School of Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences** to improve the visibility of the institution’s extensive agricultural and natural resources sciences programs. Louis Harveson was appointed Chair of the Department of Natural Resource Science.

The Welder Wildlife Foundation, TAES, and Texas Chapter offered the **first Leopold Education Project Facilitator Training** – an innovative, interdisciplinary conservation ethic workshop. The program was based on the essays found in Aldo Leopold’s literary classic, “A Sand County Almanac.” Aldo Leopold was a forester, philosopher, professor, and writer. By studying his works, it was hoped that students in grades 6-12 would gain a deeper awareness of the natural world.

Robert “Bob” Leon West passed away April 14th at the age of 58 while pursuing turkey gobblers in the Angelina National Forest of East Texas, one of the things he loved best. He graduated from TAMU with a wildlife degree in 1963, and began a long career with the TPWD in 1965, serving as a wildlife manager at Kerr WMA near Hunt and then

J.D. Murphree WMA near Port Arthur. He was later promoted to Waterfowl Project Leader, serving both on the coast at Corpus Christi and in the Panhandle at Canyon. He was promoted to Regional Director for Wildlife, serving in that capacity initially at Rockport for the coast and South Texas and finally at San Angelo for the Trans-Pecos and Panhandle. He retired in 1996 after more than 30 years with the Department, and pursued his love of fishing and hunting. Bill Provine observed that Bob West was “a gentleman and a gentle man.” Mike Hobson and Gene Miller wrote a tribute to him in the January newsletter, stating that he was a good friend and he would be missed. They reported that he was an exceptional wing-shot, and his favorite challenges were waterfowl and upland game birds. Landing a striper at Amistad Lake or a redfish at Matagorda Island with his friends gave him great pleasure.

The Texas Chapter announced its **second salaried position – Executive Director of the Texas Bobwhite Brigade** (TBB). The Executive Director position would serve as spokesperson and coordinator for business, fund-raising, and information dissemination pertinent to the collective management of the Texas Bobwhite Brigade Wildlife Leadership Camps. It was advertised as a part-time (estimated 8-10 hours per week) position with a salary of \$5,000 annually and up to \$2,500 travel reimbursement.

2000

The 35th Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter was held in San Angelo on March 2-4th at the Holiday Inn Convention Center Hotel, featuring a plenary theme of “**Water and Wildlife Management in Texas.**” The President’s Reception was held at the historic Fort Concho, established in 1867 to secure the West Texas frontier, and is one of the best preserved of the late 19th century U.S. Army outpost. Program chair Jim Cathey, TPWD wildlife biologist with the Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area in Tennessee Colony, Texas and his committee consisting of Ken Cearley and Tamara Trail organized the **millennium meeting**.

The Texas Chapter sponsored a 2-day **Symposium on Brush, Water, and Wildlife** focusing on the available knowledge on trade-offs in managing for increased water in Texas’ watersheds via brush management. The symposium was held November 30-December 1 at the Y.O. Ranch Conference Center in Kerrville. The current and future importance of water as a limited resource in Texas was becoming recognized, as indicated by the theme of the annual meeting, and the inevitable demand for enhancing water from rangelands was inevitable. Brush removal was one tool for accomplishing that goal.

Predators and their management have always been a contentious topic for wildlife managers. Examples of predator-prey relationships of concern include livestock losses to coyotes, mountain lion attacks on desert bighorn sheep and deer fawn, raccoon predation on quail in areas where they are declining. In order to examine the science and perspectives involved in the issue, the Texas Chapter, TAES, Texas Wildlife Damage Management Service, Sheep and Goat Predator Management Board, and USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services teamed up to convene a special symposium on “**The Role of Predator**

Control as a Tool in Wildlife Management.” It was held April 18-19 at the Y.O. Ranch Conference Center.

The Texas Chapter, TPWD, Sul Ross State University, and The Mountain Lion Foundation hosted the **6th Mountain Lion Workshop** from December 12-14th in San Antonio at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk. The workshop included topics on population status and modeling, interactions with humans, interactions with prey, and movements.

The **Private Lands Advisory Board (PLAB)** met on October 19th at the newly completed Canyon of the Eagles. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss deer permits among TPWD and private consultant wildlife biologists, TPW Commissioners, landowners and land managers. Much of the discussion was about public perception of special permits and **hunting behind a high fence** as a *canned hunt*. Executive Director, John Jefferson, represented the Chapter at the meeting and reported that the public sees a high fence as confinement, and has little or no concept of acreage. This segment of the population was growing exponentially, resulting in an *image problem*. There was a lack of understanding about the reality of hunting within high-fenced lands.

TPW Commission Chairman Lee Bass appointed a new 24-member **Hunting Advisory Committee** to the Commission, and directed the committee to consider any issues associated with providing maximum opportunity for hunting in accordance with sound management principles and appropriate use of wildlife resources. The committee heard reports from Andy Sansom and TPWD wildlife staff Bob Cook, Gary Graham, Jerry Cooke, Kirby Brown, Vernon Bevil, and Herb Kothmann. Other Texas Chapter members on the committee included John Jefferson, David Baggett, Bob Brown, Fred Bryant, Wallace Klussmann, and James Kroll.

The Chapter took pride in having **Nova Silvy** as the current **President of TWS**. This was seen an opportunity for input to the national Society, following the huge hit made by hosting the national conference in Austin this year.

The **Chapter’s website continued to improve in the new millennium**, with many new features designed by Kevin O’Neal. The Chapter’s **Mission Statement was put on the homepage for the first time**, which set the stage for much activity on a draft resolution opposing private ownership of wildlife behind high fences by Mike McMurry, Bill Bartush, and John Jefferson. It was hoped that by increasing the exposure that members had to issues such as this resolution through the Chapter website that more **participation in the voting process** could be obtained – more than the usual 10%. Chapter President Clark Adams stated that there was a lot more punch in John Jefferson’s discussion with legislators on resolutions if he could say that the majority of the membership actually voted on an issue and overwhelmingly supported it as a Chapter position. The increased exposure of the resolution apparently helped, because 194 members (30%) responded (out of 638 members) in support of the resolution by a 9 to 1 margin.

Membership Committee chair, Steve Jester, and member Jeff Gunnels developed an **easier method for Chapter members to renew their membership**. The new procedure

consisted of filling out a membership renewal form that would be carried in every copy of the Chapter Newsletter.

The **Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA)** HR701 and its Senate version called the **Reinvestment and Environmental Restoration Act (RERA)** SB2123 was the most important issue on the minds of Chapter's members. Title III of both CARA and RERA specified a percentage of offshore oil and gas revenues to **fund state-level wildlife conservation, education and recreation**. CARA was calling for funding at the 10% level, while RERA specified funding at the 7% level. The Teaming With Wildlife steering committee was stressing the need to raise the RERA level to 10% as in CARA, emphasized nongame funding for a broader array of wildlife needs, and further explanation on the level of public involvement in the process of development and implementation of wildlife programs.

Eight Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESUs) were established by the Department of Interior under the USGS-BRD, and three more were planned for establishment next year. The USFWS came under fire for misuse of P-R and D-J Funds, which prompted the House Resources Committee to approve the **Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Improvement Act of 2000** (HR2671). The bill strengthened administrative procedures and established a ceiling on the amount of funds the Secretary of Interior can use to administer P-R and D-J Funds.

TWS held its 7th Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee on September 12-16th with a variety of symposia on habitat classification, biological diversity, public attitudes toward the environment and wildlife issues, wildlife and highway problems and solutions, and biometric education.

The **Wildlife Conservation Camp 2000** was held at the TPWD Mason Mountain WMA and lodging was at Camp Gene Ashby located on the Llano River. Eighteen high school

students from across the state were exposed to small mammal trapping, field orientation and navigation, plant sampling techniques, avian sampling techniques, shooting and hunting skills, aquatic sampling, lizard noosing, deer survey techniques, and star gazing. Lectures were provided about ungulate anatomy, nuisance wildlife, endangered species issues, wildlife tracking, geology of the Central Mineral Region, basic ecology, speaking skills, and wildlife photography. The students played wildlife orientation games, took a field trip to Eckert James River Bat Cave Preserve, made a plant collection, kept a field journal, and sharpened their fishing skills. Kevin Dees, Wildlife Conservation Camp Committee chair, and his committee of Ken Cearley, Kevin O'Neal, Denise Ruffino, T. Wayne Schwertner, Kevin Schwausch, and Tamara Trail enthusiastically gave the **gift of knowledge and experience** to these fortunate student campers. Team Leaders Keith Lake, Amy Longfield, Mary Wills, and Jared Whisenant kept their teams working on time all week long. As the old Chinese proverb states, "Tell them, and they will forget; show them, and they will remember. Involve them, and they will understand."

One of the **weak links in designing a Brush Sculptor plan** had been the lack of recent, good quality imagery with which to work. The **availability of new technology** like Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Digital Ortho Quarter Quad imagery (DOQ) was giving a boost to implementation of effective sculpting plans. In order to update members on these technologies, the Texas Chapter teamed up with the Texas Section of the Society for Range Management to host a field day at the La Copita Experiment Station near Alice, Texas.

A questionnaire entitled “**Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society 2000 Survey**” was sent to members by Membership Committee chair Stephen Jester and his committee members. It was designed to get a feel for the future relevance of issues in the management of Texas natural resources. Chapter President Clark Adams stated that to the best of his knowledge, no other TWS chapter had taken the opportunity to ask their wildlife professionals’ their viewpoints on management issues that have statewide, regional and/or national ramifications.

The **International Wildlife Museum** in Tucson, Arizona completed their Conservation Wing with a permanent display honoring the **pioneers of wildlife conservation**. The project, which was three years in the making, is reportedly spectacular. Those honored as **Hunter Heroes from the 20th century** are Teddy Roosevelt, Jack “Wild Goose” Miner, Charles Sheldon, Aldo Leopold, George Bird Grinnell, and Carl Shoemaker (for whom the Texas Chapter named an endowed scholarship in his honor).

The **bobwhite quail**, an economically and ecologically important natural resource in Texas, and associated grassland birds, were continuing to experience **critical population declines**. Many Chapter members believed that there was a window of opportunity to intervene and reverse the decline and implement more sustainable management systems. Otherwise, quail could be extirpated from portions of Texas. In response to this concern, several universities, state and federal agencies and organizations, including the Texas Chapter joined together in a partnership to develop a plan to work to reverse quail decline in Texas. Wildlife scientists worked cooperatively in the **partnership to identify causal factors** implicated in quail decline and **develop sustainable management practices**. An intense outreach component worked with landowners to implement quail-friendly management practices.

TWS reported that as of December they had 8,775 members of which 1,638 were students. A reduced membership fee for 1st year professionals was discontinued since it did not increase membership. In fact, membership declined about 1% from 1999. **TWS annual budget was just under \$2 million**. Much of the Society’s funding and planning goes into their annual meetings. The meeting last September in Nashville was their 3rd largest, with 1,366 attendees, and the **largest student attendance** yet with 527 or 42%.

2001

The 36th Annual Meeting was held March 8-10 at the College Station Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, featuring a plenary theme of “**Land Conservation: Issues and**

Options.” Neal Wilkins was the Program chair, and Matt Wagner the Local Arrangements chair. Some of the featured presentations were about challenges for land conservation in Texas and recommendations of the Governor’s Task Force, the expanding role of private organizations in conserving Texas (Julie Shackelford, American Farm Trust), changing land ownership patterns and impacts on wildlife resources (Don Steinbach, TAMU), and an update on CARA (John Herron, TPWD). Clifton Ladd, Senior Biologist with Loomis-Austin, reported on the results of a needs assessment – the public demand for land conservation. Steve Jester (TPWD) reported on the results of the Texas Chapter Membership Survey. There were 160 student, 323 regular, 23 honorary, and 10 life members registered at the meeting.

Scholarship awards totaling \$4,500 were presented to four students at the annual Texas Chapter Awards banquet. The recipients were evaluated on applicable work experience, scholastic achievement, career goals, participation in student and state chapter of TWS, and essay. Stephen Webb, senior from Round Rock, majoring in Range and Wildlife Management at TAMUK was awarded the Outstanding Student for 2001 and received a check for \$2,000 from the joint Dallas ecological Foundation and Colin Caruthers Memorial (sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Caruthers) Scholarships. The Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Scholarship (\$1,500) was presented to David Smith, senior in Wildlife Management at Southwest Texas State University. Ashely Rall, senior at TAMU received the Charly McTee Memorial Scholarship (\$500) sponsored by the Texas Wildlife Association. The Sam Beasom Memorial Scholarship (\$500) sponsored by the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute was presented to Shannon Grubbs, senior in Range and Wildlife Management at TAMUK. Brad Simpson, Scholarship Committee Chair thanked all the student applicants for their participation and congratulated all of the award winners.

An **up-to-date version of the Chapter Bylaws** was provided to members at the annual meeting. Kirby Brown was given this task because anything to do with the Bylaws becomes the responsibility of the Vice President. It was considered extremely important that the Chapter retain a current version of the Bylaws since they represent the blueprint by which the officers conduct Chapter business.

This was the **first year of the Chapter’s Poetry contest**. Jim Dillard won 1st place with his poem, “Ode to Cross Timbers.” Ted Pepps won 2nd with “Spirit of the Trapper,” and 3rd with “The Urban Trapper.” The contest entries that include awesome pictures, excellent artwork, and inspiring poetry help members remember why they chose wildlife careers.

TAMU matched the \$25,000 in the Donnie Harmel Scholarship fund, which made the Texas A&M Foundation the co-holder of the endowment with the Texas Chapter. As a result, only Texas A&M University students were eligible for the scholarship. The match enhanced the endowed scholarship, and future awards were made by the Wildlife and Fisheries Science Committee at TAMU. The Chapter was actually short \$5,000 of the \$25,000 figure needed before it could be matched by TAMU and the deadline was approaching. David Langford, Executive Director of the Texas Wildlife Association,

made the arrangements for the final contribution (with funds from the West Texas Deer Study Group, TWA, and his personal account) in May to put the fund over the top. The Chapter was very appreciative of this contribution.

TWS sponsored the **Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH)** Project, with a goal of documenting the history of the profession of wildlife management from those who made it happen. The idea was to interview prominent wildlife individuals on videotape in order to maintain the personality behind the accomplishments. A list of COWCH Program Interviewees was provided in the July 2001 issue of the newsletter – 47 Chapter members were listed. As of July, three members had been interviewed: Ed Kozicky, Jim Teer, and Jack Ward Thomas. Plans were made to interview Dan Lay. Chapter President Scott Henke expressed sadness that some members passed away before the invitation could be extended, but indicated a desire to locate their family and friends for an interview so that a video tape could be added to the program archives. Those included W. Caleb Glazener, Pierce Uzzell, Richard B. Davis, William B. Davis, Alfred S. Jackson, Val W. Lehmann, Jack M. Inglis, Milton Caroline, Claud Lard, Sam Beasom, and Donnie Harmel. Bob Brown, TWS Southwestern Section Representative, worked closely with appointed chapter COWCH coordinators. He pointed out the fact that we have lost many of the icons of our profession over just the past few years – those individuals who started the society, were influential in establishing the state and federal policies that guide conservation in this country, and those upon whose research those policies are based. Dan Svedarsky, the overall COWCH coordinator for the TWS Council, developed a 4-page guide for the interviews. The TAMUK Student Chapter also took on this project, and interviewed Jack Ward Thomas, their chapter advisor. Two copies of each video tape were made – one for the chapter level, and the other to be archived at TWS for a future historical effort. The historical value of these tapes one day will be of unimaginable value.

There were a **“flock” of new wildlife oriented bills** introduced by the Legislature this year, some of which “crowded” with good merits, while others “quacked” with bad intentions. **HB 2710** by Rep. Edmund Kuempel (R-Seguin) proposed combining four current deer permits into one comprehensive permit – the so-called **“super permit” for deer management** – and gave non-TPWD biologists authority to approve the permits. The four deer permits being consolidated were the Deer Management Permit, Antlerless and Spike Deer Control Permit, MLDP, and TTT Permit. A letter prepared by the Texas Chapter’s Executive Committee opposing HB 2710 and resolution passed by the membership opposing privatization of wildlife (exemplified by HB 3061 of 75th Legislature, and the current HB 2710 – which was nearly identical with some notable exceptions) was sent to Texas Legislators. The letter (signed by Chapter President Scott Henke and Executive Director John Jefferson) stated that the membership recommends the Legislature support the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission’s authority and regulatory oversight over wildlife management. The letter further stated that the Chapter believes that privatization is counter-productive to public support and confidence in wildlife management and hunting over the long-term, and threatens the long-standing tradition of publicly owned wildlife resources. Fortunately, this bill died. **HB 247** by Bob Turner would allow landowners to construct dams on their property to confine up to 200

acre-feet of water for uses such as fish and wildlife management without having a permit from TNRCC. That bill passed. **HB 653** by Manny Najera increased the penalty for cruelty to animals, and reduced the standard of evidence necessary to convict. This could be applied to overheated bird dogs or alleged cases of animal abuse. This bill passed. **HB 1778** by Kim Brimer was designed to increase license sales by removing the hunter education requirement; however, in actuality it would have gutted the hunter education program. Fortunately it did not pass.

There were some bills that caused concern because of certain provisions in them, including **HB 2244** by Rep. Fred Bosse and **SB 305** by Sen. Harris, which was the TPWD Sunset Bill. This bill re-authorized TPWD for another 12 years. However, there was a “conflict of interest” portion of the bill that prohibited TPWD employees from holding office in trade associations, and there was concern that the way these associations were defined would preclude TPWD employees from holding office in professional-scientific societies, including TWS. John Jefferson spoke with Rep. Bosse and Sen. Harris’ staff, explaining that TPWD participation in these professional and scientific societies benefited the state through increased professionalism and should be exempted from that prohibition. They agreed and new language was added that clearly permitted TPWD employees to hold office in the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society. **HJR 14** by Barry Telford was a well-intentioned bill that would have made it a Constitutional right to hunt and fish, but many Chapter members feared that it could backfire. It was not passed. **SB 953** by Eddie Lucio would change the duration of hunting or fishing license to one year from date of purchase instead of from September 1-August 31. This was tried before and was a disaster. People forgot to renew, and TPWD lost revenue. Some of that was made up by fines for those who forgot, but that caused ill will. The philosophy of the Chapter and TPWD so eloquently stated by Executive Director John Jefferson was “if it aint broke, don’t fix it.” It also was not passed – didn’t need fixing.

The Secretary of the Navy **backed off** consideration of a **bombing range and amphibious assault arena in Kenedy County**. Tim Fulbright of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute testified in opposition to the range before the Kenedy County Commissioners Court, and John Jefferson spoke at a public meeting in Austin on this issue. Tim Fulbright testified that hunting leases and ecotourism on the Kenedy Ranch are significant sources of income to the local economy, Laguna Madre produces over 50% of the fish catch in Texas and generates an estimated \$400 million annually from sport fishing and recreational uses, and that there were numerous threatened and endangered vertebrates and plant species in the unique ecological region referred to as the coastal sand plain that are found nowhere else. He testified that bombing and associated activity would negatively impact the Laguna Madre and destroy inland wetlands, which are critical stopover points for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds.

The **Texas Chapter’s influence on Legislative bills** concerning wildlife issues had been growing for years, and by this time had developed into a major factor. Chapter President Scott Henke strongly advocated personal political activism and the voice of Chapter members were heard on all of the above bills, and many others including the federal “Conservation and Reinvestment Act” (CARA). One of the reasons why the Texas

Chapter could be so pro-active politically was that the Executive Committee **moved the website from a state-owned to a private site.** The new website (www.tctws.org) was made possible by the work of Louis and Patricia Harveson.

The **SW Section was re-invigorated** with an election of new officers to fill positions that had been vacant for several years. A nominating committee composed of Doug Slack (TX), Eric Rominger (NM), and Frank Baucom (AZ) developed the slate of candidates.

The **Mexico Chapter was established.** Approximately 30 new members joined TWS to establish the Chapter. The organizer was Filipe Chavez-Ramirez, World Wildlife Fund, Nuevo Laredo. The Chapter's first order of business was to hold their first meeting and election of officers.

TWS 8th annual meeting was held September 25-29th in Reno, Nevada. The Society sponsored the **development of a textbook**, the "Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management and a Technical Guide on White-tailed Deer in Urban Environments." Clait Braun was named editor of the **6th edition of the Wildlife Techniques Manual.** The Society conducted a survey of members' ideas about publication needs and their views on electronic publishing. The Editors developed **new and more specific guidelines for the types of articles** to be published in the Journal of Wildlife Management (JWM), versus the Wildlife Science Bulletin (WSB) and the Monographs.

The **Texas Outdoor Education Association (TOEA)** held its annual meeting at the HEB Foundation Camp on the Frio River in Leaky, Texas on October 5-7th. TOEA is composed of classroom teachers who have a strong interest in teaching their students about the outdoors. The Texas Chapter has had a long standing interest in **reaching out to teachers** with activities and information they feel is important, in addition to students at Wildlife Camps. Thus, there was an effort made by Chapters members to become involved in the TOEA meetings as a means of accomplishing that goal.

The **Texas Society For Ecological Restoration** held its 6th Annual Conference at Heart of the Hills Conference Center in Hunt, Texas on August 17-19th on **"Invasive Species and Ecological Restoration."** The increasing problem with such species as hydrilla and waterhyacinth in rivers and lakes, and salt cedar in floodplains was resulting in public interest in management of these species.

The **Wildlife Conservation Camp** was attended by 15 campers at the Welder Wildlife Refuge in Sinton, Texas, and they enjoyed a week of trapping, fishing, shooting skills, seining, swimming, and lectures. They were a diverse group, coming from a mix of urban and rural backgrounds, from home schooled to public schooled, and from carnivores to vegetarians. **Awards** were begun this year for the **"Top Camper"** and **"Best Leader,"** both of which went to Ashley O'Quinn from Natalia, Texas. There was a sense of pride in the eyes of the camp leaders in seeing the excitement of young people catching their first bass, holding a northern cardinal in their hand, and clutching an American alligator. In order to determine if the camp was making a difference in the campers that go through the program, a **pre- and post-test** was given on their knowledge of basic wildlife

principles and issues. On average campers scored below 50% on the pre-test but scored 76% on the post-test, showing a **significant improvement in knowledge**. Returning Wildlife Conservation Camp graduates served as mentors, along with some dedicated graduate and undergraduate students. They served along side Texas Chapter professional staff for the entire week, making it an experience that they will never forget. The Texas Brigades seek young persons between the ages of 13 and 17 for these summer wildlife educational camp programs. They are a collaborative effort that has grown over the years, which presently includes the Texas Cooperative Extension, USDA-NRCS, TPWD, LCRA, Mellon Foundation, Texas Chapters of Quail Unlimited, and the National Wild Turkey Foundation.

Executive Director John Jefferson announced his retirement at the end of his current term. He had been the Executive Director for seven years, and had done an outstanding job during his tenure.

The **Texas Chapter Operations Manual was nearing completion**. The Executive Committee hoped that the manual would be a “cookbook-style” instruction guide for each office and committee chair of the Texas Chapter – basically an outline of what to do, when to do it, who to contact, etc.

The **Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (TCAFS)** celebrated its **Silver Anniversary**, and it was my pleasure to have written the history of that organization and made a presentation at the 25th annual meeting banquet. TCAFS Past-President Gary Valentine was at that meeting, and it was a memorable occasion on the banks of Aquarena Springs.

2002

The 37th annual meeting of the Texas Chapter was held in Corpus Christi at the Omni Hotel on February 21-23. Over 80 presentations were made, making this the **largest conference on record**. Presentations covered waterfowl, songbirds, raptors, predators, threatened and endangered species, white-tailed deer, and upland game birds; providing members with a wide array of scientific information on wildlife. Plenary Session speakers included Raul Valdez from New Mexico State University, who discussed the **human population explosion and human impacts on wildlife**; and Wayne Pacelle from the Humane Society of Washington D.C., who discussed the **Humane Society’s viewpoint on hunting**. In addition, a **Special Student Session** called “Life After Diploma” was provided where wildlife employers from state and federal agencies, consulting firms, and private enterprise discussed potential employment opportunities, what they look for in employees, and the type of background needed in order to get hired. That was considered a “must not miss” event for students, because of the value that it had for them. The Thursday night reception was held at the Texas State Aquarium, and shuttle service was provided from the Omni Hotel. The setting of the State Aquarium against the Gulf of Mexico was a beautiful combination. There were 181 student, 358 regular, 27 honorary, and 10 life members registered at the meeting.

One of the largest expenses of the Chapter continued to be the newsletter. To reduce the cost of the newsletter, the Chapter encourages “*Sponsors*” to make tax deductible contributions. However, this type of support had been an underutilized, and in an effort to increase sponsorship, Scott Henke (Chapter President) initiated a multi-tiered level of support: \$25 = Management Buck level, \$50 = Trophy Buck level and \$100 = Muy Grande Buck level.

The Chapter’s university faculty members were asked by Chapter President Scott Henke to assist in producing a document of **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s)** concerning Texas wildlife species and wildlife-related issues (e.g., pros and cons of high fencing, predator control, etc.). The thought was to put FAQ’s on the website, where the primary audience was expected to be students from elementary to high school. It was considered consistent with the Chapter’s stated goal of providing information on sound scientific management, and to reach out to Texans to increase their understanding of wildlife. The Education and Outreach Committee provided final review and editing of the FAQ’s, which now appears on the Chapter’s website.

Andy Sansom resigned as Executive Director of the TPWD after 11 years of distinguished service. He was provided with a certificate making him an **honorary life member** of the Texas Chapter. Andy Sansom had a very compatible working relationship with the Texas Chapter; he had spoken at several conferences and authored a chapter in the book project that produced *Texas Wildlife Resources and Land Uses*, which Ray Telfair edited for the Texas Chapter. Bob Cook was named interim Executive Director of the TPWD. He was the third Texas Chapter member to lead the agency. Bob Singleton, a waterfowl biologist was Executive Director in the late 1960’s, and Robert Mauermann, a wildlife biologist, served as Active Executive Director for a short time.

Texas Chapter member **Kirby Brown was named Executive Vice-President of the Texas Wildlife Association**, after retiring from TPWD (25 years of service), and was also inducted as the Texas Chapter President following Scott Henke’s term. One of his first tasks was to appoint a **search committee** of past presidents Scott Henke, Terry Blankenship, Neal Wilkins, and treasurer Don Davis for the **replacement of long-time Executive Director, John Jefferson**. Kirby Brown was concerned that **membership in the Texas Chapter had slowly declined over the last 4-5 years**. A membership survey by Steve Jester and new non/lapsed membership survey by Mark Wallace were analyzed to assist in understanding the dynamics of the decline. Some professional members were not renewing, and part of this was determined to stem from tightening travel budgets. Over the same period of time, **student participation was growing steadily**, and university chapters were very active. Kirby Brown noted that as a long time biologist, he observed that students that actively participate and take advantage of student chapter opportunities get a leg up in the job market. The contacts made and opportunities to demonstrate work skills and ethics are incredibly important in the job market. The experience pays off.

In his **farewell address to the Texas Chapter**, retiring Executive Director **John Jefferson** said that when he took the job seven years ago, “**my heroes had always been**

wildlife biologists – guys like Jim Teer, Al Springs, Donnie Harmel, Bob Cook and a covey of others.” In those wonderfully rewarding years since serving in this position he said that he added many new heroes. He said these are people who got into wildlife for reasons related to wild things and wild places – the cowboy in all of us. Aldo Leopold once said, “There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot.” John’s heroes are the ones who cannot. John said that the experience of working with the Texas Chapter had been a blessing to him; one that taught him an appreciation for wildlife, habitat, and the people who work for it. From the learning experiences he gained in formal meetings, campfire seminars, and legislative committee sessions he thanked his many Chapter friends for the memories. In a **farewell tribute to John Jefferson**, Scott Henke said that “through his connections with the Outdoor Writer’s Association, John promoted our society, our virtues, and our activities.” Scott Henke concluded by stating that “even though John Jefferson was retiring as Executive Director, his heart would always be with the Texas Chapter.” John said he was deeply honored by receiving the Texas Chapter Honorary Life award at the Waco annual meeting.

The Texas Chapter received the **Chapter of the Year Award** at the annual TWS meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota, September 24-28. Chapter President Kirby Brown said that past-president Scott Henke, his officers and committee chairs were instrumental in making this happen. The **TAMU Student Chapter** at College Station was recognized as the **Student Chapter of the Year – a sweep for the Lone Star State**. Jenny Cearly, student chapter president, and Doug Slack, student chapter advisor, were credited for much of the effort leading to the award. This award was a great honor not only for the student chapter, but also for the Texas Chapter without whose support and mentoring such achievement would not have been possible.

The **Texas Student Chapter of the Year Award** was developed to recognize student chapters for their tireless efforts to improve club activities, research, volunteer programs, and youth activities. J. Garrett Young, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, was instrumental in developing this award, soliciting nominations from all universities for the Outstanding Student Chapter Member Award, and organizing the Texas Bowl. TAMUK also won the Texas Bowl this year. These programs were great opportunities for universities to develop their chapters into powerful learning tools.

The **Tarleton State University (TSU) Student Chapter** was chartered on May 1st, bringing the total number of student chapters to seven. The students and the Texas Chapter members were excited about the involvement of a student chapter, and the expansion of TWS in Texas.

The **Hunting Advisory Committee** held a concept meeting co-facilitated by Bob Brown and David Langford to consider how to joint venture with “The Future of Hunting Think Tank,” and merge their efforts with the hunting industry in a way that supports a successful nationwide campaign to increase public participation and acceptance of hunting. A presentation at the meeting provided information on a similar partnership between boating and fishing trades that resulted in a successful nationwide campaign to increase public participation and acceptance of sport fishing.

The Texas Big Game Awards (TBGA) was developed 11 years ago by the Texas Wildlife Association and TPWD to **promote big game hunting** in Texas and to **promote and encourage sound habitat management**. The second annual TBGA Wildlife Conservation Scholarship Awards were announced this year as part of the partnership with Carter's Country Outdoor Stores and the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Texas providing 31 youth scholarships (entering college freshmen and undergraduate college students) for \$500 each. In addition, the partners offered one \$1,000 scholarship at the TBGA's Statewide Awards Banquet, held in conjunction with the Texas Wildlife Association's 17th Annual Convention. TBGA has been the leader in recognizing the contributions that landowners, land managers, and responsible hunters make to managing and conserving wildlife and wildlife habitat on Texas' private lands. The program is designed to help citizens realize that "hunting equals habitat."

The **North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference** was held on April 3-7th at the Hyatt Regency in Dallas. Over 1,000 people were in attendance. Sessions included the following: "Wildlife Diseases, Our Changing Professional Culture, Amending the ESA, Game Ranching – Boon or Bane?, Energy Development and Conservation, and the 2002 Farm Bill."

The **Wildlife Conservation Camp** was held June 23-29th at TPWD's Elephant Mountain WMA, in the Trans Pecos region about 20 miles south of Alpine, Texas.

A new **Buckskin Brigade** was formed to serve a similar role as the Bobwhite Brigade, to provide students with information on deer hunting and wildlife management. Texas Chapter members served often as mentors for these camps, who were referred to "Covey" leaders for the Bobwhite Brigade and "**Herd**" leaders for the Buckskin Brigade. The Chapter has always sought a few good men and women with the mettle to shape young minds, i.e., help them "be all they can be." Herd leaders with the ability to function with minimal sleep was the only major requirement. The Buckskin and Bobwhite Brigades held five meetings in various regions of Texas: 1) South Texas Buckskin Brigade, 2) Rolling Plains Bobwhite Brigade at the Krooked River Lodge in Lueders, Texas, 3) South Texas Bobwhite Brigade at the 74 Ranch in Campbellton, Texas, 4) North Texas Buckskin Brigade at the Krooked River Ranch in Lueders, Texas, and the 5) East Texas Bobwhite Brigade at the Piney Woods Conservation Camp in Broaddus, Texas.

The **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center** developed an **online database of more than 1,000 native plant species**, with color photographs, a national directory of more than 2,000 landscapers with experience using native plants, a national directory of native plant and seed suppliers, and fact sheets about wildflowers. Another first for the Wildflower Center's website was an area for success stories from members and friends across North America, such as saving natural resources and helping to preserve or restore biological diversity by using native plants.

Their website is <http://www.wildflower.org/>. Founded in 1982 by Lady Bird Johnson and the late Helen Hayes, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is dedicated to protecting and preserving North America's native plants and natural landscapes. The mission of the

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is to educate people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants.

There was much concern over **wildlife disease issues**, particularly chronic wasting disease, bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis, as TPWD engaged in a regulatory process to determine the best procedures to protect Texas deer herds. A Texas Chapter resolution was developed by the Resolution Committee co-chaired by David Hewitt and Mike McMurry. The Chapter took a position opposing any regulatory action and legislation that promoted or increased the importation of elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, and black-tailed deer into Texas, and supported all regulatory actions and legislation that reduced importation of those species into Texas, or that minimized or ameliorated the negative effects of such importation. This position reflected concern over the spread of infectious diseases across the U.S. that was frequently linked to the exchange of privately held wildlife herds. The importation of these species into Texas would threaten native deer populations, and the Texas Chapter's resolution aimed at preventing that. **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)** and a newly found variant had not been found in Texas, but the specter of the disease was thought to loom ominously over the wildlife community. The TPW Commission and the Texas Animal Health Commission adopted a ban on the importation of deer, much to the credit of the Texas Chapter's position on this issue. The fact that CWD is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy, and is related to the so-called "**mad cow disease,**" which may have affected humans, created considerable concern. A fact sheet (FAQ) about CWD in deer and elk was developed by TPWD to answer questions. TPWD made plans to test deer taken by public hunting with a goal of testing at least 200 deer for CWD from each of the state's six ecological regions during the next few years. **West Nile Virus**, a form of "**sleeping sickness**" was found in Texas in a horse and two dead blue jays in Harris County near Houston.

Another resolution was developed on **outlawing the use of the large wheeled 4x4 trucks and SUVs within Texas riverbeds** that were tearing up the fragile river systems of south and west Texas. The large vehicles were racing through rivers and shallow gradient floodplains creating havoc for fish and wildlife and destroying their habitat. Large 4x4 vehicle clubs had reportedly had as many as 130 of those huge vehicles in a weekend tearing up the river bottoms. The Resolutions Committee drafted an "**Off-Road Vehicle Use of Riparian Areas in Texas**" resolution in November. It stated that the Chapter supported all regulatory actions, legislation, and conduct by recreational motorist that promotes the integrity and productivity of riparian areas in Texas by minimizing or ameliorating negative impacts of off road vehicle use in riparian zones. Agricultural Commissioner Susan Combs and Senator Judith Zaffarini supported legislation to prevent further damage by this type of activity.

A total of \$5,500 in scholarship awards were presented to deserving students at the 2002 Texas Chapter banquet in Corpus Christi. Undergraduate scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 were awarded to four students, including the inaugural award of the Carl C. Shoemaker Memorial Scholarship presented in conjunction with the Texas Chapter Scholarship. Additionally, the new \$1,000 Graduate Assistant Grant was presented for the first time. The Scholarship Awards were as follows: 1) Dallas Ecological Foundation

/ Colin Carruthers Memorial Scholarship, 2) Texas Chapter – The Wildlife Society / Carl D. Shoemaker Memorial Scholarship (\$1,500), 3) Charly McTee Memorial Scholarship (\$500), 4) Sam Beasom Memorial Scholarship (\$500), and 5) Graduate Research Assistance Grant (\$1,000). The Scholarship Committee co-chaired by Joyce Moore and Rick Taylor congratulated the winners and thanked all the applicants for a job well done.

This year's winner of the **Harvey Weil Sportsman/Conservationist Award** went to **Edward H. Harte**, former publisher of the Corpus Christi Caller-Times and former chairman of the National Audubon Society in 1975. Ed Harte was instrumental in gaining the approval of the Texas State Legislature for the establishment of the Padre Island National Seashore. In 1986, Ed Harte and his brother, Houston Harte, donated their 66,000 acre ranch in Brewster County, Texas to the Big Bend National Park. Most recently, Ed Harte donated \$46 million to TAMU @ Corpus Christi for the development of a Gulf of Mexico research center to combine biotechnology research with marine research. Past winners of the award include well-known Texans Tim Hixon, Perry Bass, Red Duke, Walter Fondren, and Bill Negley.

A national furor took place over charges that two wildlife biologists, who are members of TWS, purposely **falsified data in a survey of Canada lynx** to enhance the cat's future management and protection. The principal tools in determining the geographic range of the lynx are the use of hair collection and DNA testing. Investigations by the U.S. General Accounting Office and Department of Agriculture confirmed that the biologists had submitted "unauthorized" hair samples for DNA testing, but found that no illegal actions had been taken. Some reports alleged that the biologists' motive was to promote an environmental agenda on public lands. The uproar called into question the **rigorous ethical standards that members of TWS** are expected to uphold. As a result, an official Board of Inquiry was established by TWS to determine whether the two TWS members, Tom McCall and Raymond Scharpf, violated the **Code of Ethics of TWS**. In part, the Code requires each member to subscribe to the highest standards of integrity and conduct, and to support high standards of education, employment, and performance. The Board found that **neither biologist acted in a manner suggesting they were trying to influence the survey's outcome, and both were exonerated of charges**. Chapter President Kirby Brown reminded Texas Chapter members that their personal ethics and relations should always remain above reproach in their work. He said that biologists had spent a decade in Texas trying to overcome the mistrust that had developed between the landowner community and biologists over the Endangered Species Act and regulation issues, and even though the issue was resolved favorably with the lynx issue, it remained on the minds of the landowner community.

A Trans-Pecos Wildlife Conference was held August 1-2nd at Sul Ross State University, and the Texas Chapter was a co-sponsor with TPWD, Texas Cooperative Extension, and the Chihuahuan Desert Resource Conservation and Development Area.

The Welder Wildlife Foundation and the Boone & Crockett Club co-sponsored a unique, 16-day graduate level natural resource course for teachers entitled "**Conservation Across Boundaries – Enhancing Wildlife Conservation Through Education.**" Educators

from Montana, Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, Alaska, and Mexico spent eight days each at the Welder Wildlife Refuge near Sinton, Texas, and the Boone & Crockett Club's Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch located near Dupuyer, Montana. Both sites are working ranches, as well as research and education centers. The dramatic differences in the two regions – the Gulf Coast Prairies and Marsh region of south Texas and the Rocky Mountain foothills and short-grass prairie region of central Montana – offered a rare, first-hand comparison of how climate and geography affect wildlife and plant diversity, soil types, agricultural practices, recreational land uses, and land management decisions.

TPWD conducted **Brown-headed Cowbird Control Workshops** on the control of this species. These birds are **parasitic nesters** that impact more than 225 species of birds. The training and trapping efforts were concentrated in the Edwards Plateau area to aid in the recovery of the black-capped vireo and golden-cheeked warbler. Terry Turney, Wildlife Diversity Biologist for the TPWD and workshop coordinator, stated that a statewide trapping effort would benefit the two endangered songbird species as well as the 225+ other species by reducing cowbird numbers before they establish breeding areas during prime nesting season. The trapping season begins March 1st, and Texas Chapter members participated in the training and trapping.

Charles E. Boyd passed away on October 18th after a long career with TPWD, and Carl Fentress provided a eulogy for him in the newsletter. He was a classic Texan, born in Pecos to a large family, reared in the traditions of the west Texas cattle culture that had remained largely unchanged from the late 1800's. James Teer was "Charlie's" roommate and classmate in wildlife management at Texas A&M College (graduated in 1950), as well as a friend and professional colleague, and he characterized Charlie as filled with exuberance and enthusiasm. He was one of the soldiers who captured Japan in September 1945, and was considered a military hero of remarkable experience and service to our country. Charlie's career as a wildlife biologist began with employment by TPWD, and he was sent to the Pineywoods of deep east Texas to take charge of deer restoration efforts at the Moore Plantation, Devil's Pocket, and other key areas. He also was a strong advocate opposing the forestry practices of girdling of hardwoods to favor pure pine stands and clear-cutting vast tracks of timber – both known to be devastating to wildlife populations because of the habitat destruction and degradation these actions caused. His co-worker, David Rideout, mentioned that Charlie would tell him that it was "better to ask for forgiveness than to wait for permission!" which exemplified the leadership authority that was his work ethic and enthusiasm. After retirement from TPWD, he devoted his expansive energy to his family, his community, and his church. Especially notable were his investigative and counseling services to the local support unit for battered women. A professional colleague, Jim Perkins, wrote of Charlie that "he always made folks around him feel better because of his presence. He will be greatly missed by those of us fortunate enough to have known him."

Daniel W. Lay passed away on September 17th at the age of 80 after a distinguished career with TPWD (previously the Texas Game and Fish Commission, and the Texas Game, Fish, and Oyster Commission). He was loyal to the deep east Texas region that he loved so much, as expressed in the book "Land of Bears and Honey" that he co-authored

with Joe Truett. James G. Teer said in a eulogy of “Dan” that “his loss created a void that none can fill, a loss mourned by all.” His early hunting, fishing, and trapping in the wild marshes and forested lands of east Texas figured largely in his choice of a career. He completed a BS in Agriculture and MS in Wildlife Management at Texas A&M College, and he was one of the first two graduates of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, then called the Department of Fish and Game. His professors and mentors were Walter P. Taylor and William B. Davis, two of the nation’s recognized scholars in ecology and systematics. Dan and his colleagues at A&M pioneered the conservation movement in Texas. Little was known about the flora and fauna of the state, and his first mission at the TPWD was to discover and describe it – which culminated in their book, “Texas Wildlife,” a classic in faunal studies. Dan Lay was a mentor to some and a model to all. He appreciated and worked with all species, game and non-game alike. The remaining red-cockaded woodpeckers in the pine forest of east Texas are testimony of his interest in all living things. He was instrumental in the formation of the Texas Chapter, and was a charter member of the TWS in 1937. He served the wildlife field for 65 years, which is longer than most of us have been alive. On a personal note, I have a painting by Dan Lay of a juvenile red-cockaded woodpecker in a pine tree nest cavity looking out over a clear-cut forest, which was an honorary art piece handed down from president to president of the Texas Organization for Endangered Species (TOES) over the many years of that organizations’ fine work. He said it was to remind us of our obligation to protect and conserve the resources and habitats of Texas’ endangered species. Dan Lay was a charter member and past-president of TOES, and someone that I really looked up to. His painting is proudly hanging on the wall of my office as a tribute to his many accomplishments. We learn a lot from those who distinguish themselves in our field; they leave us with an important legacy that each of us must try to build upon, as the history of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society proudly exemplifies that you do.

The **Kevin O’Neal Memorial Scholarship Fund** was established in the memory of Kevin O’Neal for the Texas Chapter of TWS’s Conservation Camp. Tamara Trail of the Texas Wildlife Association reported that Kevin had been an integral part of the Conservation Camps for six years, representing both TPWD and the Texas Chapter in making a difference in the lives of youth. He consistently went beyond the call of duty to do the right thing for the resource – and, through education, the future of the resource. Kevin prepared and presented training programs for volunteer leaders, such as the Texas Master Naturalists and worked with outreach programs, such as the Historic Texas Naturalists Program and the Sound Safari at Wildlife EXPO. Kevin was a model for making a difference, which should serve as an inspiration to all Chapter members, especially those who benefited from his training programs, to keep making a difference in his memory.

Commercial demand for hunting and the sale of live wild ungulates (hoofed mammals) and their products has promoted the growth of an industry that raises both domesticated native and exotic, as well as wild native ungulates, within managed properties. **High fences**, averaging 2.4 meters, are used to control the movement of animals to improve population-level animal and habitat management, exclude immigration of non-managed animals, and as a deterrent to poaching. Biological issues relating to confined ungulates

include behavioral impacts on enclosed animals; diseases associated with confinement and shipping; genetic impacts of confinement and transport from natural ranges/habitat impacts; impacts on target and non-target species and habitats outside of the fence. TWS completed a technical review entitled the **“Biological and Social Issues Related to Confinement of Wild Ungulates,”** that contained the most complete and up-to-date information about the management of ungulates confined by high fences. In addition, the **Texas Chapter drafted a position on this issue** in November, which conformed to the policy of TWS on this issue. It recognized that the use of high fences to confine ungulates may have specific and legitimate uses in wildlife management and research, but it also carries the **potential for significant adverse impacts.**

The 2nd **Bass 101 Workshop** was held at the Activity Center in San Marcos, Texas, on March 14th, which was a slightly modified version of the highly successful one held in Athens, Texas two years ago. The workshop targeted private landowners and provided information on managing ponds, lakes, and reservoirs for better fishing. It was co-sponsored by TAMU’s Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas Cooperative Extension, and TPWD.

2003

The 38th Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter was held in Waco, Texas at the Waco Convention Center on February 13-15th, with a theme of **“Future Threats to Wildlife Resources in Texas.”** The Plenary Session was dedicated entirely to the wildlife disease issue; history, epidemiology, status, and potential threats of Chronic Wasting Disease. A total of 345 participants registered for the meeting, including 149 students and 196 regular attendees.

TWS’ 10th Annual Conference was held in Burlington, Vermont on September 6-10th. The Texas Chapter and its members have been recognized by TWS over the past several years for accomplishments to the wildlife profession, and this year was no exception. **Monty Whiting** received an honorary membership award for his many years of outstanding service, and **Nova Silvy** received the Aldo Leopold Memorial Award (TWS’ highest honor) for distinguished service to wildlife conservation. Nova Silvy, a 35 year member of TWS, has received the Texas Chapter’s Conservationist of the Year, Educator of the Year, and Best Publication of the Year three times. At TAMU, he has been voted Professor of the Year in his department 7 times, and he received the Vice chancellor’s Award in Excellence for Graduate Training.

The **Third TWS International Wildlife Management Congress** was held in Christchurch, New Zealand on December 1-5. It was co-hosted by Landcare Research and the Australasian Wildlife Management Society.

The Texas Chapter co-sponsored an **East Texas Wetlands Workshop For Landowners and Land Managers** at the Old Sabine Bottom Wildlife Management Area in Lindale, Texas (near Tyler). The other co-sponsors included Ducks Unlimited, NRCS, Texas Cooperative Extension, TPWD, TWA, and the Whitenton Group Inc. Environmental

Consultants. The workshop and field tours covered topics on the function, importance, management, restoration, and regulations of wetlands; and assistance programs for wetlands available for landowners.

The **9th Texas Chapter Wildlife Conservation Camp** was completed on July 12th with a **record number of participants**. Terry Bedford served as the camp director, and was credited for doing an outstanding job. Those in attendance included 23 camp participants, 4 returning campers, and 4 college students who served as team leaders. It is important to recognize those people who make these camps a success, because it requires a week devoted to helping young people learn about wildlife, provide an educational opportunity, and make it a fun experience. It also takes a lot of time preparing for camps. The Executive Board approved a recommendation from the Wildlife Conservation Camp Committee to award a **\$250 scholarship** from the money received for the Kevin O'Neal Memorial Scholarship to the top individual from the camp. This year's top individual was Evan Krueger.

The recently chartered **Tarleton State University (TSU) Student Chapter** members attended the Texas Chapter annual meeting, where some of their students worked registration and others participated in the quiz bowl competition. Past-president Mandy Davis won the outstanding award for the student chapter, and began working on a master's degree in environmental science at TCU in Ft. Worth. **They held their first annual Tarleton Outdoors festival at Tarleton's Hunewell Ranch** for a day of learning about wildlife and outdoors. TPWD, Ducks Unlimited, and the Nature Conservancy provided lectures and led an interpretative trail hike. Some of the students volunteered their time at the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center.

TAMUK Student Chapter was presented the Student Chapter of the Year Award at the Texas Chapter annual meeting, and several of their members excelled. Rebbecca Lyons was presented with the Texas Chapter's top scholarship award, and she earned TAMUK's Outstanding Student of the Year Award and the Distinguished Student of the Year Award. Jennifer Garrett also received the Charly McTee Memorial Scholarship. Forrest Smith and Tim Fredricks dominated the photo contest, winning more than 7 awards. Jason Estrella won the undergraduate student posters competition – **a landmark year** for the TAMUK Student Chapter. With such an impressive record, their student chapter had hopes of bringing home the 2003 National Student Chapter of the Year Award for the 3rd time in 6 years, and keep the award in the hands of a Texas school for 3 consecutive years.

The **Texas Farm Bureau** developed an educational exhibit called **Planet Agriculture** to showcase farming and ranching activities. The Farm Bureau also constructed a wildlife display showing the importance of ranch lands in providing and maintaining habitat for wildlife in Texas. Texas Chapter members assisted Don Petty with the Farm Bureau, by being present where the exhibit was displayed to answer questions regarding wildlife in Texas.

2004

The 39th Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter was held in Kerrville, with a theme of **“Wildlife Privatization: Who Owns Wildlife?”** The Plenary Session included presentations by James G. Teer (Professor Emeritus of TAMU and Director Emeritus of the Welder Wildlife Foundation) on the introduction and history of that issue, Fred C. Bryant (Director of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute) and Valerius Geist (Professor Emeritus of Environmental Science at the University of Calgary) on their professional perspective of who owns wildlife. Attendance exceeded 450 – the largest attendance of any Texas Chapter annual meeting.

Chapter President Neal Wilkins pointed out that **wildlife conservation and management in Texas is increasingly influenced by water issues, land fragmentation, natural resource literacy, and shifting rural economies.** He said “we can’t run, can’t hide, and we can’t get out of the game,” and there will be much debate and disagreement on these issues in the near future. All of these issues require a greater professional involvement on the part of the Texas Chapter.

TWS’ 11th Annual Conference was held in Calgary, Alberta Canada on September 18-22nd. International wildlife issues on the ecology and conservation of numerous species were the focus of numerous workshops, symposia, poster sessions, and contributed papers. Good fundraising at the **Texas Chapter’s annual meeting netted over \$16,000 for funding the chapters programs** that benefit wildlife resources, chapter operations, and development of the wildlife profession. As a result of the successful funding, the Texas Chapter sponsored travel cost for Selma Glasscock, Misty Sumner, and Terry Bedford to present a **Wildlife Conservation Camp Workshop** at the TWS Annual Conference. Given the success of the camps, the purpose was to spawn similar efforts among other state TWS chapters.

TWS endowment campaign was an issue that the Texas Chapter’s Executive Committee and Chapter President Neal Wilkins in particular wanted to make a commitment to for increasing contributions, and the Texas Chapter decided that it would commit up to \$1,250 annually to TWS Endowment Campaign in order to sustain wildlife conservation. This commitment was in the form of a matching challenge to any Chapter member that contributes to the endowment up to a total of \$6,250. This was done to encourage members to participate in the “Presidents Challenge” for contributing to this campaign. The current plan called for TWS to complete their campaign by September. TWS had already raised over \$1.7 million for the endowment, which they said would be used to **augment and actively expand significant outreach efforts to communicate viable scientific solutions and options to natural resources concerns.** Recent examples of TWS policy and outreach efforts included resource management solutions in the 2002 Farm Bill, which resulted in a \$17.1 billion increase in conservation funding, and demonstrating the need for increased funding of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Units, National Forest and Refuges.

The **first Intercollegiate Plant Contest** was held in conjunction with the Texas Chapter Annual Meeting, and was a great success. There were 5 competing teams and 20 individuals competing to properly identify plants. TAMU won first place, followed by

TAMUK. The individual winners were Joanna Bowen of TAMU (1st place) and Rixey Jenkins also of TAMU (2nd place). Awards were donated by the Texas Section – SRM.

The Texas Chapter developed a series of **teacher education workshops** focused on wildlife conservation and management. The **first workshop** was entitled “**Setting the Stage for Wildlife Conservation in the 21st Century.**” It was hosted by the Welder Wildlife Refuge on February 28th to provide informative information and lectures to teachers about natural resource management as a means of enhancing wildlife habitat. The Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, Welder Wildlife Foundation, Texas Cooperative Extension, and TPWD provided funding and logistical support for the first workshop.

Texas Quail Index (TQI) New Cooperator Training was provided April 26-27 in San Angelo. TQI is a hands-on demonstration for monitoring quail abundance and related habitat variables.

The Texas Cooperative Extension hosted a series of five “**Feral Hog Appreciation Days**’ during April and May in the rolling Plains ecoregions. The one day workshops addressed the “good, bad, and the ugly” aspects of feral swine in Texas.

The **7th Annual West Texas Deer Study Group** convened in Kerrville on May 20-21st at the Y.O. Ranch Resort and Conference Center. This year’s theme dealt with the genetic consideration of deer herd improvement for advanced antler size. Day one dealt with the Kerr WMA and Mississippi State University data sets, and associated field research efforts conducted in various parts of Texas. Day 2 was held at the Kerr WMA to discuss habitat management for white-tailed deer and other wildlife.

A series of six **Wildlife Management Workshops for Absentee Landowners** were sponsored by the Texas Cooperative Extension. Many Texas farms and ranches are owned by urbanites living in large metropolitan areas, who are interested in these workshops about managing their habitats for enhancing wildlife populations.

An **Amphibian Symposium** was sponsored by the TPWD, Texas Herpetological Society, and Southern Plains working Group of Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force, entitled “**Amphibians in Texas 2004 – Status, Conservation, and Research.**” Presentations featured information on the status of amphibians in the state, population trends, research techniques, and management implications. The symposium was held October 16th in Waco, and Lee Ann Johnson Linam, TPWD Wildlife Diversity Branch, organized and coordinated the symposium.

The Texas Chapter co-sponsored a series of three **dove symposia** in August in Wichita Falls, Coleman, and Uvalde. Each program featured dove biology, management, and the latest findings on dove research. Local landowners addressed management and marketing efforts.

The **Texas Organization of Wildlife Management Associations (TOWMA)** held its Wildlife Management 2004 Conference at the Y.O. Ranch Resort Hotel and Conference Center in Kerrville on August 12-14th.

The Chapter lost a dedicated wildlife biologist and good man, when **Byron Wright passed away** on May 14th. He was an Assistant Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist for the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences at TAMU. He was a passionate and practical wildlife biologist, and was highly regarded by all who know him. He had considerable expertise in managing rangelands habitats for white-tailed deer, bobwhite quail, and other wildlife native to South Texas and the Edwards Plateau. Byron was the statewide coordinator for the 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Contest, and worked closely with 4-H youth on wildlife programs. Byron was an active Texas Chapter member and a credit to his profession.

Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Executive Committee – approved the Texas Chapter History Project, 1965-2005, a 40-year history of one of most successful wildlife organizations in the country. Thanks to their insight an important history has been documented, and the efforts of many wildlife professionals and students are given tribute. Jon Purvis, Archivist, provided the many files that had he and others had maintained in wonderful condition over many years, just waiting to reveal their historical information. Gary Valentine maintained coordination with other Chapter members for reviews and additional information request. The meeting took place at the 4-H camp near Huntsville.

2005

The 40th Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter was held in Amarillo with a plenary topic of **“Ecology and Management of the Southern Great Plains.”** In addition to the plenary session, the meeting offered technical paper sessions, and an expanded poster presentation session for students (undergraduate and graduate) and wildlife professionals. Field trips were arranged to the Crossbar Ranch (the only public land in Texas managed by the Bureau of Land Management), Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Texas State Bison Facility at Caprock Canyons State Park, Taylor Lakes Unit of Playa Lakes WMA, Matador Wildlife Management Area, and Playa Lakes Driving Tour.

Chapter President, Neal Wilkins, advised the Chapter that there is a need to work toward having a larger **influence on policy** at both the state and national levels of the TWS. He recommended that this could be done through position statements that are developed to influence decision-makers in government and private industry. He said there is a need to incorporate more **wildlife policy analysis** into our university programs. The Boone & Crockett Club recently developed an endowment to support a Professor of Wildlife Policy in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at TAMU, which he thought was a good start.

The **Chapter business is handled by about 20 committees** comprised of numerous individuals from the wildlife profession, which adds up to about 100 professional

members that are dedicated to the goals of the society. That is an astonishing number of individuals of that caliber that give of their time and resources to keep the chapter functioning.

The Chapter was represented by Neal Wilkins and Selma Glasscock, TCTWS President-elect for the historic **National Conservation Education Summit** sponsored by the International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. Forty-four states were represented at the Summit with information and education staff from state and federal agencies, including about half of all state directors, as an indication of how important they considered the Summit. The **goals of the Summit** were to (1) establish a common language for conservation education in an agency context, (2) develop a common vision for state agencies to be the leaders in national strategies for funding and timelines of conservation education, (3) to review the status and identify needs and alternative models of conservation education, and (4) to establish expectations, potential limitations, and changes necessary for conservation education programs to remain effective and relevant to our nation's changing demographics. These goals were addressed during several breakout sessions where participants identified needs and designed a set of guidelines necessary to set an agenda that will ensure the **future of conservation education**. This in turn resulted in a resolution adopted by the Summit that is hoped to initiate strong and stable direction for the future of conservation education, and have a lasting effect on the future of wildlife and natural resources within the United States.

A new national **Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)** will become available on October 1, 2005 for landowner who have Farm Service Agency recognized cropland outside of Conservation Reserve Program capped counties – known as Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds. It is designed to address the lack of reasonably permanent and safe nesting, over-wintering, and brood-rearing cover for quail. Landowners will be paid to establish buffer strips of native warm season grasses, forbs, wildflowers and shrubs at the edges of their croplands. The CCRP evolved from the passage of the **2002 Farm Bill**, which significantly increased funds for conservation work on farms and ranches. **Chuck Kowaleski**, TPWD Farm Bill and Landowner Incentive Program Coordinator, reported that for the first time **wildlife was made a co-equal resource concern with soil and water**, leading to sweeping changes in the management options for landowners interested in improving wildlife habitat on their ranches and farms. According to Chuck Kowaleski, quail are the focus of this wildlife friendly farm bill. The limiting factor for quail production is usually a lack of spring nesting and brood-range rearing cover. To address this issue, the NRCS in 2003 set up four **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)** areas. Three of these areas provide landowners with incentive and cost share payments for improving their land in ways that benefit quail, prairie chickens, and other grassland wildlife by eliminating the limiting factors. The USDA and TCTWS hope that these programs will turn around the **serious decline in grassland wildlife** that has been evident over the past several years.

