A Message from the President

The pleasure to write this column while basking in the glow of The Texas Chapter’s 50th Anniversary meeting in Austin. Congratulations to Matt Wagner and his team for making the meeting a success. Over 700 attendees enjoyed an outstanding plenary with Carter Smith, Winnie Kessler, Jack Ward Thomas speaking about the history of The Texas Chapter and the wildlife profession. The Cowtan and technical presentations covered the breadth of wildlife issues in our state and the poster session was the largest ever with over 60 posters. Attendees were introduced to the inaugural class of the James G Teer Conservation Leadership Institute, an exciting new program that honors our proud past by training the leaders of tomorrow. I wonder if Dr. Teer and the other founding members of the Texas Chapter imagined what was to become of the small group they started 50 years ago.

The meeting in Austin was the beginning of a year-long anniversary celebration. This meeting focused on the Texas Chapter’s past. The jubilee celebration will end in Corpus Christi next February when the meeting’s theme will be “Looking to the Future”. Nova Silvy and Mike Tewes, who did such a great job as program chairs for the Austin meeting, have agreed to serve as program chairs for our 51st meeting, so plan on another stellar program in Corpus Christi.

Your Chapter is as active as ever. To fulfill the Chapter’s mission of excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education, I have the following goals for the year. First, I will work with the Executive Board to try to fill the Executive Director position that became vacant when Doug Slack stepped down at the end of March. Our gratitude is extended to Doug for getting the Texas Chapter back in the game as a source of scientific information for wildlife issues. If you know of anyone who would enjoy serving in this position, please forward their names to me.

My second goal is to work with Justin Dreibelbis to replace our Resolutions and Conservation Review committees with a Conservation Affairs committee. This new committee will be part of a Conservation Affairs Network organized by the parent society to support exchange of information and ideas throughout all units of The Wildlife Society. This action will require a change to the Chapter’s Bylaws, so look for an opportunity to vote on this change in the near future.

Third, I will provide the Chapter’s support to Selma Glasscock and her team as they usher the inaugural class of the James G Teer Conservation Leadership Institute through their program. One action all members of the Texas Chapter can take to support the JGTCLI is to purchase a 50th Anniversary print which are $25 for unsigned and $100 for signed prints. Contact me (david.hewitt@tamuk.edu) if you wish to purchase a print.

My final goal is to continue all the great programs and work that the Texas Chapter does every year. I look forward to a fantastic year and let me know how the Texas Chapter can help you.

David Hewitt, President
Past President Alan Cain and Shawn Gray wrote an excellent article on chronic wasting disease (CWD) in the October 2012 edition of this newsletter, wherein they provided an overview of CWD and a glimpse of the State’s response to the detection of CWD in the Hueco Mountains of far West Texas. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) implemented a disease-management strategy intended to determine the geographic extent and prevalence of CWD, and reduce risks of the disease spreading out of the area in which it is known to exist. Common sense and basic epidemiology tells us that the fastest way to spread disease is to move live infected animals into other populations or areas that were previously uninfected. With this in mind and without a good understanding of how CWD affects deer populations, we developed a management strategy that is responsible and somewhat cautious, without being unreasonable.

Following the news releases announcing the detection of CWD in Texas, my colleagues with other states’ natural resource agencies commented on the “quiet” response of all Texans. That was no accident. I took much pride in the responsible action of our state and federal agencies, advisory groups, hunters, and landowners. Much effort went into ensuring that Texas had a prudent response plan in place without causing undue paranoia regarding a disease for which there’s no evidence of human and livestock impacts, and little knowledge regarding deer-population impacts.

Part of the response plan involved the establishment of three CWD management units: a containment zone, high risk zone, and buffer zone (Figure 1); and limiting unnatural movement of deer (e.g., via the TTT, DMP, or Deer Breeding permits). Because of the lack of deer processors, taxidermists, and overall lower deer densities and harvest, CWD sampling in the Trans Pecos region is limited. Therefore, another part of the management plan was to increase disease sampling by creating mandatory and voluntary hunter check stations, where hunters bring their harvested animal (mule deer, white-tailed deer, and elk). The more intensive sampling efforts produced 617 CWD test results during the past 2 hunting seasons. Fortunately the disease has not been detected in any deer outside of the Hueco Mountains. More detailed information regarding our recent CWD sampling effort for West Texas deer can be gleaned from the map on the following page.
In the absence of data, previous thoughts were that the disease progresses very slowly through a population and impacts to population dynamics were unknown. We are now learning that the prevalence of CWD in some infected populations is not only higher than once thought, but the increase in prevalence and geographic spread of the disease may, in some instances, occur more rapidly than once believed. For example, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has been monitoring an infected mule deer population in southeast Wyoming since 2001, when there were an estimated 14,393 mule deer and a CWD prevalence of 15%. Ten years later, the disease prevalence was 57% and the mule deer population was estimated at less than 7,500 deer.
Of course, the data displayed above do not necessarily imply that CWD is the culprit. However, a 7-year research project involving the ecology and epidemiology of CWD in white-tailed deer in southeastern Wyoming shed some light on the potential population-level impacts of this disease (Edmunds 2013). That study involved capturing and collaring 4 cohorts of fawns (2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006) with GPS collars and monitoring their survival, movements, CWD infection status, pregnancy, and recruitment until 2010. The researchers learned that CWD did not have a noticeable impact on pregnancy or recruitment, but CWD-positive deer were 4.5 times more likely to die annually. This seems obvious as CWD is a fatal disease, but a deer can have the disease for several years before showing clinical signs. For example, causes of mortalities from the CWD-positive deer were not from CWD alone, but the disease may make deer more vulnerable to other mortality factors such as predation, hunter harvest, vehicle collisions, etc. All deer that did survive to the clinical stages of the disease did eventually succumb to CWD. Clinical CWD and hunter harvest were the leading causes of mortality in that population, which was determined to be an unsustainable population with the current disease prevalence and hunting pressure, resulting in a 10.4% annual population decline.
Another team of researchers investigated the potential causes of a long-term 45% decline in a northeastern Colorado mule deer population with a high CWD prevalence rate. That was a non-hunted population in an area containing suitable mule deer habitat. Those researchers also observed significantly lower overall adult annual survival in CWD-positive deer.

Recent data indicate that CWD is an additional mortality factor in deer populations and mortality rates can surpass fawn recruitment in local populations with high CWD prevalence. This additive mortality may result in population decline. As we learn more about this disease, we are reminded of the prudence in exercising caution when considering deer-management practices that could facilitate increasing disease prevalence within a deer population, or the spread of disease into other deer populations. Many of us have assumed that CWD is not a population limiting factor – perhaps because we don't hear about CWD sweeping through populations causing large-scale die-offs. That’s characteristic of chronic diseases, which typically have a long duration of morbidity or a long latency period from the time of exposure until clinical signs develop (Wobeser 2007). Persistent diseases that manifest with preclinical stages, such as CWD, may be more likely to influence long-term population dynamics.

Managing CWD is proving to be a very difficult task, and disease eradication may not be an attainable goal considering the role of environmental contamination in disease persistence. Clearly, the most effective CWD management strategy is to implement strategies designed to keep the disease from ever being introduced into a population.


Abilene Christian University is the newest student chapter of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society. We chartered two years ago and are growing rapidly. Last year we took a group of seven students to the TCTWS Meeting in Houston as a newly chartered chapter. This year we doubled the size of our group to 14 students for the Austin meeting. We competed in the plant ID contest, quiz bowl, photo contests, and participated in the educational tracking class.

Our chapter is trying to teach the students the necessary skills needed to be a wildlife professional. One of the ways that we do this is by getting undergraduate students involved in research. One of these projects is a study of wildlife on the Dyess Air Force Base. We used scent station methods, camera trapping, and live animal trapping to study the populations of carnivores and the impact that the military has on them. We also studied the populations of small mammals using Sherman traps. This is a great way for students to learn valuable skills and implement them in a constructive and educational way.

We also go on field trips that are fun and educational. Last year the group went on a camping trip in the hill country and took a tour of the Kerr Wildlife Management Area. This year we visited the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch and had a great experience. We helped with trapping, banding, and tracking a bird using radio telemetry. This trip sparked some of our students to initiate a quail study here in Abilene. Field trips are essential because they bring the group closer together as well as learning about the different job opportunities in the wildlife field.
Our chapter is committed to service of the surrounding community. Cedar Creek is a waterway that runs through the middle of the city of Abilene. It has been a place where people litter and illegally dump garbage. About once a month, we organize a cleanup day to restore the creek. This helps the fishery, wildlife, as well as the people of the community.

Last year for a Christmas party, we had a “beast feast” where students prepared wild game meals that they harvested. Everything from venison to sandhill crane was served. We plan on keeping this a tradition for many years to come.

These are a few highlights of activities that we held since we chartered. It is exciting to see how fast this group is growing and we look forward to the upcoming year.

Bryce Gerlach  President
Will Morales  Vice President
Darryll Morley  Secretary/Treasurer
Dr. Michael Nicodemus  Advisor
The 21st annual Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society’s Wildlife Conservation Camp is right around the corner! We are pleased to announce that this year’s camp will be held at the Welder Wildlife Foundation July 20-26, 2014. As members of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, we encourage you to spread the news about this incredible opportunity for high school students.

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

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

We encourage you to reach out to anyone that might be interested in applying for camp or volunteering. If you have any
questions, would like to volunteer, or need additional information about the camp please contact the camp director, Meg Streich, at director@wildlifecamptx.org or 361-364-2643. You may also visit the camp’s new website at www.wildlifecamptx.org.

The goal of Wildlife Conservation Camp is to provide a fun experience for kids to learn about nature, ecology, and wildlife in a healthy, secure setting. Regardless of career interests of our campers, we are excited for them to join us as we explore a “whole-ecology” approach to learning about natural resources!

Applications for both campers and college mentors are available on the camp’s new website (http://www.wildlifecamptx.org/). The deadline for application as college mentor is April 1, 2014. High School students who wish to attend camp must submit their application by May 1, 2014.
ATTENTION STUDENTS: Do you realize that the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society awards over $7,000 in scholarships every year at our annual conference? Please consider applying for one of several scholarships available to graduate and undergraduate students. You might be extra glad you did! The deadline for submissions is December 1, 2014. Check out the website for more details!

http://tctws.org/students/scholarship-opportunities/
In My Years...

Chapter Business and Announcements

Highlights from Southwest Section
Submitted by Carol Chambers, TWS Council Representative

Despite the snow and cold weather in other parts of the country, spring feels like it has arrived in the Southwest for most of us. It’s nice to hear birds singing; we’ll just hope it doesn’t continue to stay so dry. I traveled to Denver for the mid-year TWS Council meeting in early March. The new 5-year Strategic Plan (2014-2019) developed at the October annual Milwaukee meeting focuses on 5 themes. We expect it to be available to members in May. The Strategic Plan supports more interaction among professionals, greater communication within and outside the profession, and science-based conservation. TWS wants to be the go-to organization for anyone who wants to know more about wildlife and wildlife issues.

All departments at the Washington, DC TWS office are staffed again. Lisa Moore (back from a short leave of absence) and Laura Bies continue as Director of Publications and Communications and Government Affairs and Partnerships, respectively. Ed Thompson, as the new Chief Operating Officer, is prioritizing ideas for TWS members. In a new development, we now have a Manager for Development, Hedy Ross, who will help fundraise for TWS. TWS is now on stronger financial footing having revamped financial tracking and reporting. We finish this year in the black.

Policy

Position Statements are under review – we are categorizing them into 3 groups. Values and Principles that will be incorporated into the TWS Strategic Plan, Bylaws, or a separate document and reflect our philosophical views and science-informed perspectives. Position Statements will remain a category; these provide in depth analysis of policy and are crafted by TWS members, experts, or staff. Issue Statements will be quick responses to sensitive issues and crafted by staff. Fact Sheets will be supporting documents for Position or Issue Statements. These changes will allow us to be more nimble in responding to wildlife issues.

Membership

Membership is down with just under 10,000 members for 2013 (we were close to 11,000 in 2012). We hope with firmer financial footing we’ll be able to recover lapsed members and encourage new members to join. TWS will launch a new Wildlife Partner Program to encourage new members this spring – since you value TWS, look for an opportunity to get new subscribers into this program or regular membership. Did you know we now have 17 student chapters in our Section (AZ: 5, NM: 2; TX: 10)? Please consider sponsoring a student to introduce them to TWS at the national level ($41/student). Given the strong student numbers, involvement, and chapters in our Section, there is a lot of interest in TWS but students don’t always have the money to buy a membership. Our newest student chapter is Prescott College in Arizona!

Meetings and Awards

The Southwest Section met for our annual meeting in conjunction with the Texas Chapter TWS 50th Anniversary meeting this year. The Section presented 2 awards. The Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Roger Bumstead (NM) who helped establish the Section and the Outstanding Service Award was presented to Selma Glasscock (TX). To maintain an active presence at the AZ/NM TWS Joint Annual Meeting (JAM), the Section sponsored a Women of Wildlife Lunch and a Venomous
Chapter Business and Announcements

Reptile Workshop. Both were fun and successful. Organizers of the JAM’s first Quizbowl were excited with its success – the room was packed with students. Maybe now is a good time to discuss a Section-level Conclave!

Conferences
New Mexico received the 2017 TWS annual conference nod and the plan was to arrive in Albuquerque in October that year. However, in late-breaking news, the American Fisheries Society asked TWS to partner with their Tampa Florida meeting in August 2017. Following discussions with New Mexico Board and Section Members we agreed the change in date would not negatively affect the Albuquerque meeting so it will be changed to October 2018. Get ready for the 21st annual TWS meeting in Pittsburg, October 25-30.

Social Media
The Southwest Section hit 225 likes on its Facebook page, up from 190 likes in December. Like us at The Wildlife Society Southwest Section Chapters Hub (https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wildlife-Society-Southwest-Section-Chapters-Hub/205755042835210). The TWS Women of Wildlife (WOW) Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/pages/TWS-Women-of-Wildlife/234411723382592) is now at 786 likes, up from 736 in December.

As always if you have questions or comments, please contact me at Carol.Chambers@nau.edu or 928-523-0014 (office).
The 50th Jubilee Celebration of the Texas Chapter Begins

The 50th meeting of the Texas Chapter of TWS in Austin was a success using a theme dedicated to reconnecting with the past 50 years. This meeting also began the year-long Jubilee Celebration for the Texas Chapter - a time to renew our dedication to and support of the best state chapter of The Wildlife Society within the United States.

The Jubilee Celebration will end with the conclusion of our 51st annual conference in Corpus Christi during February 2015. The theme of this upcoming conference will be “The Next 50 Years of Wildlife Management - Challenges and Opportunities.” It is not too early to mark February 19-21, 2015 in your calendar for a visit to the coast.

The Executive Director of The Wildlife Society, Dr. Ken Williams, will travel from the national headquarters and serve as one of our plenary speakers for the 51st meetings in Corpus Christi. And we will have another special panel of speakers to read the tea leaves and help us anticipate what to expect over the next half century.
Rangeland Wildlife Working Group

We would like to introduce the newest TWS working group. The purpose of this working group is to: …promote unified efforts in managing rangelands for both wildlife and livestock sustainable use. It provides a forum for members who may have dual interests in other related professional societies or in multi-purpose land management to build support for symposia, outreach, special, information exchange, and networking of members who work toward a common goal. We also have been developing a working relationship with the Society for Range Management’s wildlife habitat committee.

As a newly formed working group, initial efforts will include developing plans for initial collaborative projects, such as a symposium at the 2014 TWS Conference, highlighting current issues in the rangeland field as they relate to managing key wildlife species. Our initial meeting was held on Oct. 8, 2013 at TWS, Milwaukee. If you have an interest in the fields of range and wildlife, this group is for you!

We would appreciate your support during the beginning stages of our group development. The best thing you could do is to ‘officially’ join the working group. This can easily be done by logging in to The Wildlife Society portal and adding the Rangeland Wildlife Working Group. The cost is $5. In order to remain a working group, we need to have at least 50 paid members. This membership will include newsletters updating members of relevant information and opportunities to collaborate on range-related topics.

Current TWS Members: 1. Go to http://wildlife.force.com/ 2. Enter your email address on file and password 3. Click on ‘add memberships’ on the bottom right 4. Scroll down to ‘Working Group Dues’ and select Rangeland Wildlife Working Group 5. Check out by entering your payment information *Or you may call the TWS Office at (301) 897-9770 and they will assist you.

Our current list of interim offices includes: Chair – Megan Clayton, PhD; Vice Chair – Tim Fulbright, PhD; Secretary – Fidel Hernandez, PhD; Treasurer – Eric Grahmann, PhD; Newsletter Chair – Whitney Priesmeyer, PhD; Membership Chair – Dwayne Elmore, PhD
HOG DISEASE A CONCERN!

A disease new to the US swine/pork industry was initially identified in May, 2013. Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv) had previously been detected in several locales worldwide. The virus causes severe diarrhea in pigs of all ages. Mortality in suckling and early weaned pigs can approach 100%. In less than a year the disease has rapidly spread and has now been diagnosed in 25 states as well as numerous locations in Canada. High viral loads can be found in feces and the possibility for airborne spread exists. Although not zoonotic, the negative impacts on the nation’s pork industry have been significant. Potential for both accidental or purposeful spillover into free ranging feral swine exists and could have significant implications for Texas wildlife as well as agricultural interests. Additional information can be obtained via the American Association of Swine Veterinarians’ (AASV) website (www.aasv.org).

Paul L. Barrows DVM, PhD
Chapter Business and Announcements

James G. Teer Conservation Leadership Institute: Early Career Professional Training

The James G. Teer Conservation Leadership Institute (JGTCLI) introduced the first cohort of the Institute’s Early Career Professional Training program at the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society’s (TCTWS) 50th Anniversary Celebration in Austin, Texas. Twenty-one young professionals from across the state are participating in this year-long leadership development training.

The JGTCLI was a vision developed by the TCTWS in 2011. The mission for the Institute is to ensure a future legacy of well-trained conservation leaders by providing professional training in leadership skills and contemporary conservation issues for today’s wildlife biologists and conservation professionals. The Institute will eventually provide five levels of leadership training at each of the following career levels: Pre-university Students, Undergraduate and Graduate Students Early Career Professionals, Mid-Career Professionals, and Advanced-Career Professionals.
The Wildlife Conservation Camp, in existence since 1993, provides leadership training at the Pre-University Student level and has had a vast impact on youth education. For many years the Chapter has provided opportunities for growth for Undergraduate and Graduate Students at level two. Many of these opportunities occur during our annual meetings and with their involvement on many of the Chapter’s committees. The Early Career Professional Training, level three, was designed to expand the leadership capabilities of young professionals in conservation fields. The fourth and fifth levels of the Institute will be developed in the future. All Institute trainings are designed to grow leadership capacity within the natural resource profession and enhance the skills needed to ensure the future of our wildlife resources.

The JGTCLI’s first Early Career Professional Training had an exceptional start at the 2014 Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TCTWS) meeting. The fellows had the unique opportunity to interact with Dr. Jack Ward Thomas in a session on “Ethics in Natural Resource Management”. Dr. Thomas is Chief Emeritus of the U.S. Forest Service, founder and 2nd President of TCTWS, Past President of The Wildlife Society (TWS), and an Aldo Leopold Award recipient. Fellows also enjoyed an inspiring and interactive session about the role of mentors and the importance of leadership roles in professional organizations from Dr. Nova Silvy (Past President of TWS and Aldo Leopold Award recipient), Dr. Wini Kessler (immediate Past President of TWS), Dr. Harriet Allen (Northwest Section Representative to TWS Council), and Dr. Carol Chambers (Southwest Section Representative to TWS Council). Dr. Dale Rollins (Past President of TCTWS and 2014 TCTWS Outstanding Achievement Award winner) provided fun and engaging introductory activities for the cohort including “Suzie’s 12-Point Plan for Success”.

The Cohort has been assigned a team project of tackling the complex issue of groundwater in Texas. They have been challenged with designing a sustainable model for groundwater management in regions 12 and 13 of the Corrizo-Wilcox Aquifer. They will utilize Systems Thinking to model this issue and identify possible solutions. The Cohort participated in a panel discussion on the “State of Groundwater in Texas” at the TCTWS annual meeting. The JGTCLI Cohort would like to thank Dr. Robert E. Mace (Texas Water Development Board), Dr. Stacey A. Steinbach (Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts), Dr. Jay Bragg (Associate Director, Commodity and Regulatory Activities, Texas Farm Bureau), and Dr. Matt Wagner (Deputy Director of Wildlife, Texas Parks and Wildlife) for the information they provided to the Fellows.

Fellows continued their leadership development training March 5-9, 2014 at the Welder Wildlife Foundation. Over the course of this meeting, Fellows participated in motivational and engaging leadership sessions from a variety of natural resource leaders and professionals from across the state. Ronnie McDonald (Executive Director, Texas Rural Leadership Program) led an inspiring session on motivating and managing people. Dr. Neal Wilkins (President and CEO, East Wildlife Foundation) discussed building collaborative partnerships and Dr. Fred Bryant (Director, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute) discussed building an effective team. Drs. Wilkins and Bryant did an excellent job conveying their personal experiences and styles of management. Lydia Saldana (former Communications Director at Texas Parks and Wildlife) conducted a media workshop in which Fellows gained valuable skills and techniques on how to best conduct interviews with the media. Fellows completed a DiSC personality profile led by Dr. Tom Kalous and learned about their individual personality types. They also learned how to identify other personality types to help their teams function more effectively.

Fellows participated in a session entitled “Perspectives on Sustainable Groundwater and Aquifer Management” organized by Dr. Selma Glasscock, Dr. Roel Lopez, and Dr. Matt Wagner. They heard from a variety of groundwater specialists including Dr. Calvin Finch (Director, Water Conservation and Technology Center), Dr.
Chapter Business and Announcements

Rick Illgner (Director of External Initiative, Edwards Aquifer Authority), Dr. Ron Kaiser (Chair, Texas A&M University Water Program), Dr. Matt Wagner (Deputy Director of Wildlife, Texas Parks and Wildlife), and Dr. Ron Green (Institute Scientist, Southwest Research Institute). Each of these presentations provided valuable information that allowed the Fellows to move forward on their project.

Throughout their time at the TCTWS meeting and at the Welder Wildlife Foundation, Dr. Selma Glasscock conducted sessions on “Problem Solving through Systems Thinking” in order for the Fellows to understand how to begin to piece all of this information together in a systems perspective. Jeff Mohr, Founder and CEO of software company Kumu, demonstrated how the Fellows will use Kumu to build their systems thinking model. By the end of the session at Welder, the Cohort created an initial systems thinking model of the groundwater issue for regions 12 and 13 of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer which they will continue to refine throughout the remainder of the year.

The Early Career Professionals will continue meeting monthly via distance education and will meet again at the Kerr WMA in September and finally at the 2015 TCTWS meeting in Corpus Christi to present their model and several other deliverables to the TCTWS Board and membership. We are confident that these talented, young professionals will have an enormous impact on the growth and development of the James G. Teer Conservation Leadership Institute. This program will allow them to develop and strengthen the skills necessary to become leaders in their field and to enhance their personal and professional lives.

For more information about the James G. Teer Conservation Leadership Institute and the Early Career Professional Training please visit http://tctws.org/teer-institute/
Conference Awards

Highlights from the TCTWS 50th Annual Meeting in Austin, TX
Conference Awards

Outstanding Achievement Award

Dale Rollins

Honorary Life Member Award

Steve Nelle

Educator of the Year

Ken Cearley

Land Stewardship Award

Robert F. McFarlane, The Big Woods on the Trinity

Service Award

Doug Slack, former Executive Director

Service Award

Matt Wagner, Past President
Conference Awards

Outstanding Scientific Publication

Blake Grisham, Clint Boal, David Haukos, Dawn Davis, Kathy Boydston, Charles Dixon, and Willard Heck

Outstanding Technical Publication

Blake Alldredge, Larry Redmon, Megan Clayton, and James Cathey

Outstanding Book

Fidel Hernandez and Fred Guthery

Outstanding Popular Article

Jim Ray

Colin Caruthers Memorial Scholarship

Bradley Kubecka, Tarleton

Dan Boone Scholarship

Cody Griffin, Texas Tech

Carl Shoemaker Memorial Scholarship

Nicole Alonso, Texas State

McTee Memorial Scholarship

Nakona Tipton, TAMU

Sam Beason Memorial Scholarship

Thomas Janke, Sul Ross
Conference Awards

Student Chapter of the Year

Texas State University

Quiz Bowl Team

Texas A&M University

1st Place Cottam

Stephanie Galla, University of North Texas

1st Place Undergraduate Poster

Justin Plata, TAMU-Kingsville

1st Place Graduate Poster

Weston Green, Tarleton

Outstanding Students

Left to Right:
Tarleton, Bradley Kubecka
TAMU, Takona Tipton
Texas Sate, Nicole Alonso
SFA, Courtney Threadgill
TTU, Heather Williams
TAMU-C, Gwen Eishen
TAMU-K, Victoria Haynes
Sul Ross, Thomas S. Jenke
ACU, Darryll Morley

Outstanding Camper

Meagan Greige

1st place Plant ID, Individual

Linda Stopper, TAMU
Conference Awards

1st Place Plant ID, Team

Texas A&M University

1st Place Art

Laura Sharrod

1st Place Captive Conservation

Ashley Tubbs

1st Place Humor

Bobby Allcorn

1st Place Plants and Scenery

Jacquie Ferrato

1st Place Remote Camera

Dale Rollins

1st Place Wildlife

Taylor Abshier

1st Place Work

Joachim Treptow

Judges’ Choice Captive Conservation

Ashley Tubbs
**Conference Awards**

**Judges’ Choice**  
**Humor**
- Ashley Tubbs

**Judges’ Choice**  
**Plants and Scenery**
- Katelyn Miller

**Judges’ Choice**  
**Remote Camera**
- Dale Rollins

**Judges’ Choice**  
**Wildlife**
- Dan Walker

**Judges’ Choice**  
**Work**
- Joachim Treptow

**Best of Show**
- Dan Walker