They say there are two types of seasons in Texas: drought and waiting for the next drought. The much needed rain over the last few months has been a welcomed relief for some parts of the state following several years of drought. Our state’s reservoirs and aquifers are currently at or near capacity. Our rural landscapes and wildlife habitats are lush and productive, all benefiting native wildlife populations – much welcomed news for us all.

Other good news includes our recent state legislative session. The 84th Texas Legislature adjourned on June 1, and overall, our natural resources benefited from the session. Statutory dedication of the Sporting Goods Sales Tax for state park acquisition, maintenance, development, and operations was a major win for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Congratulations to TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith and his team for a job well done. Other “wins” for wildlife include continued funding for quail research into the next budget cycle. The Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society’s Conservation Affairs Committee worked hard along with partner organizations to successfully defeat legislation that would have had adverse impacts on our wildlife resources, including an amendment that would have taken steps to allow for the commercial sale of venison and a bill from the deer breeding industry proposing the spring release of breeder deer rather than the current 10-day rule. Other Legislation that passed, of particular interest to the Texas Chapter, included a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the public’s right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife, which will require voter approval on November 3, 2015. Overall, the session was more “wins” than losses, and much like the rain, a welcomed relief! A big “thank you” to all of our Texas Chapter members who were diligent in advocating for important land, water, and wildlife issues during the session, and for your continued work as the Legislature begins to discuss and study these topics during the interim.
Our 2016 Texas Chapter meeting is shaping up and promises to be a great meeting in San Antonio. The meeting dates are February 18th-20th at the Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk (www.wyndhamsariverwalk.com). Our Program Co-chairs (Drs. Tyler Campbell and Dean Ransom) are shaping up a timely and provocative Plenary Session “Energy Development and Wildlife Conservation: Striking a Balance” to kick-off our upcoming annual meeting. Other activities ranging from paper and poster sessions, workshops and field trips will make the event informative and interesting. We are exploring a slightly different meeting format with our traditional Friday evening banquet, due to our continued membership growth. Stay tuned for more details, and be sure to mark your calendars and make plans to attend! Other important dates to remember include the TCTWS Wildlife Conservation Camp (July 26th-August 1st) at the Texas Tech University Center in Junction, Texas. The TCTWS Board Meeting will be Friday, July 31st.

On a more sober note, many of you may know that our Texas Chapter Executive Director, Dr. Don Steinbach, is currently battling leukemia. Don is currently undergoing treatments for the disease, but continues to maintain his positive outlook and a strong will. We would expect no less from Don. We remain hopeful and ask that you keep Don, his wife Judy, and their family in your thoughts and prayers. Your emails of support to Don and his family are much appreciated.

Thank you for your continued efforts in conserving our state’s natural resources and wildlife populations. Be sure to enjoy the many benefits of a wet spring!

Roel Lopez, President
By all accounts and measures the restoration of pronghorn to the Trans-Pecos region of Texas is going well following the catastrophic drought year of 2011. After the population began to decline from 17,000 animals in the late 1980s, a low of <3,000 animals was reached in 2012. Translocations of pronghorn from the Panhandle were again initiated in 2011, and since then 427 pronghorn have been released into the Trans-Pecos. However, the re-establishment of healthy herds of pronghorn to the Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands relies on far more than simply catch-move-and-release management.

Currently the Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are focusing research and management on 6 primary, and related aspects of pronghorn ecology; use of home range, survival, fawn production, movements, habitat carrying capacity, and diet. Each of these factors form an integral piece of the large restoration puzzle.

**Home Range**

One of the assumptions made before translocating pronghorn from the Panhandle to the Trans-Pecos is that relocated animals will assimilate into their new habitat. To gain a better understanding of habitat use in their new homes, we fit approximately 50% of translocated pronghorn with global positioning system (GPS) radio-collars. These collars record a GPS location of the individual each hour for a period of 300 days post-release. We have amassed over 550,000 GPS locations providing an unprecedented level of detail regarding home ranges of translocated pronghorn and habitat utilization within those ranges. Our data indicate average home ranges of translocated pronghorn range from 6,800 to 7,900 acres. Within these home ranges draws and clay flats are the
habitats used most frequently, forb production and forage quality is normally highest within these habitats. These data suggest translocated pronghorn are integrating well into their new environments, using prime pronghorn habitat, and these assertions are supported by our survival data (Figure 1).

Survival
Fitting translocated pronghorn with radio-collars is essential to constantly monitor survival of these marked individuals and gauge restoration success. The collars are equipped with mortality sensors, which change the frequency of the pulse emitted by the collar after a predetermined period of dormancy (1 hour). Thus, if a radio-collar changes its pulse rate, we locate the individual in question and determine the cause of inactivity or death. From translocations in 2011, 2013, and 2014, we have estimated the number of translocated individuals surviving to be 20%, 80%, and 70%, respectively. While the estimates from 2011 may seem alarming, one must remember that during that year the Trans-Pecos was subjected to some of the worst drought on record as well as some of the largest wild fires in Texas’ history. Survival in the following years has been comparable to Trans-Pecos resident animals as well as pronghorn populations in other regions of the United States. This also suggests translocated pronghorn are habituating well into their new homes.

Fawn Production
A critical component to the restoration of pronghorn is to ensure that the fawns born each year have high survival rates. Data from fawns collared in 2013 indicated a mortality rate of 50% (Figure 2) under good range conditions. The largest contributors to fawn mortality were coyotes and bobcats. Cumulatively these two predators accounted for 65% of pronghorn fawn deaths in 2013. In an effort to reduce the effects of predators on fawn mortality, predator management measures have been implemented across the restoration areas. Early indications are that fawn survival has increased where predator management is being conducted. So far 2015 fawn crop estimates in the restoration areas are ranging from 0.65 to 0.85 fawns per doe, thanks to excellent nutrition and our management actions.

Our lowest carrying capacity estimates, made from total digestible nutrients, placed carrying capacity at 15,000 pronghorn for the Marfa Plateau and 2,500 in the Marathon Basin. These estimates are somewhat unrealistic since we must take into account that nutrient availability will be limited by seasonal variation, accessibility of nutrients, climatic variation, etc. However, even if we made a conservative assumption that only 50% of available nutrients are accessed by pronghorn, the Marfa Plateau rangelands should be capable of supporting 7,500 individuals and the Marathon Basin 1,250 individuals under those climatic and range conditions.

Figure 2. In 2013, 20 of 40 collared pronghorn fawns died. Coyotes and bobcats accounted for the greatest losses to pronghorn fawns.
Texas Flora and Fauna

Movements
Data recorded from GPS radio-collars also allows us to determine the locations of natural and/or man-made barriers to movement of pronghorn (Figure 3). In the Trans-Pecos, which has a history of sheep, goat, and cattle ranching, fences can act as major barriers to pronghorn movement across the landscape. With the information garnered from the GPS locations that illustrated which fences were impassable for pronghorn, we were able to install fence modifications, allowing pronghorn to utilize rangelands previously inaccessible (Figure 4). Fence modifications involve either raising the bottom strand of wire of barbed wire fences or bottom portion of net-wire fences at least 18 inches above the ground. Pronghorn will rarely jump over fences, and this simple modification enables them to crawl under fences and gain access to additional habitat. In addition, by overlaying the locations of the fence modifications over the GPS locations of pronghorn, we can clearly see pronghorn have learned to find and use these modifications. To date, BRI and TPWD with the cooperation and support of landowners have installed over 700 fence modifications making available approximately 350,000 acres of contiguous pronghorn habitat across the Trans-Pecos.

Carrying Capacity
It has been suggested that one of the contributing factors to the decline of the pronghorn population in the Trans-Pecos has been habitat degradation resulting from various reasons (extensive drought, past overgrazing, brush encroachment, lack of fire, etc.). Based on this anecdotal speculation, we set out to estimate the carrying capacity of the region temporally based upon pronghorn biology. We expected that if degraded habitat quality was responsible for the decline in pronghorn numbers, the population would be at, or above our estimate of...
carrying capacity. In other words, the pronghorn population would be exceeding the limit of what the habitat could sustain. We estimated pronghorn carrying capacity on the Marfa Plateau and Marathon Basin based on 3 different metrics; desirable forage, digestible protein, and total digestible nutrients. In each case our estimates of the number of pronghorn these areas can potentially sustain were well above the current population levels. In 2014, we chose two primary study areas in which to estimate carrying capacity, the Marfa Plateau and the Marathon Basin. Aerial surveys estimated the pronghorn populations to be 800 and 325 individuals in the Marfa Plateau and Marathon Basin, respectively.

Diet
Establishing the diet of pronghorn was an important component of accurately estimating carrying capacity. We wanted to be sure that our estimates of carrying capacity were based on forage preferred by pronghorn. To do this we used microhistological fecal analysis. This technique identifies vegetation fragments in the feces and allows us to gain an accurate estimate of the proportions of various components in the diet. As with previous studies, we found diets of pronghorn in the Trans-Pecos to be composed primarily of forbs, followed by grasses, and browse (Figure 5).

Looking to the Future
While we are happy with the progress made so far, much work still remains if we are to restore the Trans-Pecos pronghorn population to its previous glory. Our restoration efforts will continue, but we are also conducting other research projects to help address specific questions on how pronghorn utilize the landscape. Work is currently underway assessing how pronghorn make use of surface water and the areas around water to determine water usage, forage availability, and disease mitigation. We also hope to initiate a study looking into the effects of intensively using the cow as a management tool on habitat suitability for pronghorn to determine if certain grazing regimes better facilitate habitat use by pronghorn long-term. Preparations are currently underway in hopes to capture and translocate 200 pronghorn from the Texas Panhandle to the Trans-Pecos in early 2016. We will continue to radio-collar, monitor movement and survival of the relocated animals, document habitat use and preferences, and determine long-term carrying capacities, as well as continuing needed habitat improvements (e.g. fence modifications).

With improved range conditions, our research, management actions, and partnerships are having positive impacts on the Trans-Pecos pronghorn population. We will continue to do our best to help pronghorn populations rebound in the desert grasslands of the Trans-Pecos using sound science and management.

Figure 5. Composition of diets estimated from microhistological fecal analysis for pronghorn in the Trans-Pecos region.
Chronic Wasting Disease Update

Chronic Wasting Disease in Captive White-Tailed Deer Detected in Medina County
Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Update and Position Statement

On July 1st, 2015, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Animal Health Commission confirmed a case of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in a captive white-tailed deer in Medina County, Texas. The disease was first detected in Texas in wild Trans-Pecos mule deer in 2012. At that time, TPWD enacted containment and monitoring protocol. At this time, those efforts appear to have been successful at limiting the transmission of CWD in that region of Texas.

The Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society reaffirms its support for TPWD in addressing this emerging wildlife disease issue. TPWD is currently assessing the situation in Medina County to determine what actions are needed to help control the spread of CWD. We will continue to support the mission of those colleagues during this time. TCTWS membership may look to the resources below for information on the disease, control efforts, and testing. Updates will be provided as available through chapter newsletters and social media outlets.

A resolution statement was drafted by the Texas Wildlife Association, along with other entities and wildlife professionals, TCTWS acted a signatory on that document. For the membership’s convenience, we have reprinted it on succeeding pages.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Press Release:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
www.tpwd.texas.gov
http://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/diseases/cwd/
(512) 389-4800

Texas Animal Health Commission
www.tahc.texas.gov
http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/cwd/cwd.html
1-800-550-8242
Resolution Statement on Chronic Wasting Disease in Texas
-Texas Wildlife Association

WHEREAS, public values of wildlife benefit all Texans, be they direct or indirect, some with measurable qualities and some with immeasurable qualities, all of which are integral to the overall well-being of our society; and

WHEREAS, hunting has been integral in financing wildlife conservation and management in Texas for well over 100 years through license fees, excise taxes, funds raised by hunting/conservation groups, and financial benefits derived from hunters’ spending; and

WHEREAS, the health of wildlife, and the integrity of wildlife practices, may impact wildlife and agricultural markets that are important to Texas economies and cultures; and

WHEREAS, diseases can and do impact the health of wildlife populations, livestock, and farm crops, and diseases can impact markets which support industries affiliated with such wildlife, livestock, and farm crops; and

WHEREAS, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) may pose a threat to the biological, ecological, and financial health of wildlife populations and to the broad wildlife-related economies in Texas, as well as to the working lands that supply a multitude of societal benefits to all Texas citizens; and

WHEREAS, CWD is a member of the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy Family (TSE), and it is known that other TSEs have caused harm to livestock and livestock-related markets, as well as to human health; and

Now therefore, be it resolved, the undersigned organizations and individuals (Undersigned), whose collective membership includes hunters, wildlife biologists, wildlife enthusiasts, ranchers, farmers, and other Texas citizens, are concerned over the findings of CWD in Medina and Hudspeth Counties, Texas, and Undersigned supports measures to effectively address risks associated with CWD in Texas; and

FURTHER, Undersigned supports reasonable and effective regulatory protocols put into place by agencies (Agencies) including, but not necessarily limited to, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Animal Health Commission; and

FURTHER, Undersigned recognizes that such reasonable and effective CWD-related protocols may include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following safeguards: testing of CWD susceptible animals; restrictions on movement of live CWD susceptible animals; testing of hunter-harvested CWD susceptible animals from high risk areas; and

FURTHER, Undersigned recommends that such CWD-related protocols err on the side of safety in protecting our state’s wildlife resources, err on the side of safety in protecting livestock and farming interests, and err on the side of safety in protecting human health; and

FURTHER, Undersigned supports timely, clear, and transparent communication from Agencies to various wildlife, hunting, ranching, and farming stakeholder organizations, as related news develops on CWD in Texas; and
FURTHER, Undersigned recommends that Agencies provide public news releases and education-related materials to be dispensed to the public to help inform and educate the public on CWD; and

FURTHER, Undersigned recommends that Agencies and the Texas Legislature continue to seek regulatory refinement through best management practices which help minimize risks associated CWD and other potentially harmful diseases.

Executed this 13th day of July, 2015, and affirmed and supported by the organizations and individuals named on the attached signature pages which are made a part hereof for all purposes.

Borderlands Research Institute
Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute
Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Texas Wildlife and Fisheries Management Council
Texas Wildlife Association
Texans For Saving Our Hunting Heritage

Michael Bodenchuk - Professional biologist, member Texas Wildlife Association and Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TCTWS)

Dr. Fred Bryant - Past President TCTWS, Professional Member Boone and Crockett, Director Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute (CKWRI)

Dr. James Cathey - Certified Wildlife Biologist, Past President TCTWS

Dr. David Hewitt - Wildlife research scientist working for CKWRI

Dr. Wallace Klussmann - Texas Youth Hunting Program Founder
Texas State University’s Bobcats

Surrounded by crystal clear spring fed water, the unique campus at Texas State University, located in the Hill Country of San Marcos, Texas, has been a place of distinctive educational experience for Wildlife Biology students. The university’s Wildlife Society has been a staple for many students who have a passion for the field. The chapter has been blessed with incredibly dedicated members, involved mentors and professors, and abundant opportunities to volunteer, learn, and educate.

By assembling Quiz Bowl, plant identification, and relay teams at the Texas Chapter Meeting and Western Wildlife Conclave, the university’s Bobcats have developed a sense of camaraderie with one another while developing important skills and acquiring knowledge in the wildlife field. Additionally, the students and their advisor Dr. Randy Simpson, in concert with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, work diligently together to host the society’s annual Shootout. Held at Freeman Ranch in San Marcos, this fundraiser offers an opportunity to reach out to the local community and to practice team building as well as to engage in sport and friendly competition. Teams from various local businesses, other universities, and groups of friends come together to compete in an all-day clay shooting competition. Businesses donate items for chance drawing prizes while local ranches and hunters donate native and exotic game for a barbecue. Members of the society prepare the side dishes and desserts, which gives them a chance to have fun expressing a creative side while working together. Funds from the Shootout are used to send a young adult to the TCTWS Wildlife Conservation Camp, fund the John T. Bacchus Scholarship, and to send members to the Texas Chapter Meeting, conclaves, and other educational events.

In addition to hosting the Shootout, members spend a great deal of time volunteering for other organizations and students. Whether it be trapping kangaroo rats, seining the water for invertebrates, or participating in deer capture for Texas A&M-Kingsville, the members are always eager to help their fellow scholars with research. During summer months, students have worked closely with TPWD banding white-winged doves in order to track migration patterns. They have also participated in vegetation surveys for a wildlife biologist with the Nature Conservancy, one of those at which the native, endangered Tobusch fishhook cactus was surveyed. The society additionally participates in an ongoing habitat restoration project at the Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary in Cibolo, Texas, where they have removed invasive species, planted native ones, and built water features for the wildlife to enjoy. Each year the society participates in Bobcat Build, the second-largest single-day volunteer event in Texas. If you were to attend the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo, you would likely see Bobcats volunteering for TDWP at the Life’s Better Outside exhibit. This program features activities that serve to educate families about fish and game laws, outdoor activities, and Texas wildlife.

The student chapter at Texas State University is a strong, active presence on campus with extremely dedicated members. By volunteering and promoting the importance of conservation on campus and to the surrounding community, the dedicated students of our chapter earned Student Chapter of the Year in 2014. Through continued hard work, involvement, education, and passion the Bobcats will continue to make a positive impact on their fellow students and surrounding community.
Happy summer – a lot of us are in the field these days and I hope your work goes smoothly and produces interesting results. Here’s what’s happening these days in the Southwest.

We just sent our 9th newsletter for the Section to Section members. This latest SW Section newsletter features a Director’s Corner – this showcases the thoughts of one of the states in our Section and this time, Director of Arizona Game and Fish Department Larry Voyles eloquently describes what got us into the wildlife profession – a connection with nature and a desire to work with wildlife. You will also find information about the new Geospatial Advisory Committee established by New Mexicans Leland Pierce (leland.pierce@state.nm.us) and Ginny Seamster (virginia.seamster@state.nm.us). The goal is to provide resources for SW Section members to learn more about how geospatial technology (GIS, remote sensing, LiDAR, web mapping, Unmanned Aerial Systems, and spatial modeling) is being employed and applied to wildlife research and management issues. Another exciting opportunity for the Section was to support a publication of Amphibians and Reptiles of the United States-Mexico Border States / Anfibios y reptiles de los estados de la frontera México–Estados Unidos. This is a binational effort and the book is written in English and Spanish. You may recognize some of the many authors’ names: Randall Babb, Thomas Brennan, James R. Dixon, William L. Farr, Lee Grismer, Bradford D. Hollingsworth, Julio A. Lemos-Espinal, Robert Lovich, Clark R. Mahrdt, Charles W. Painter, James C. Rorabaugh, Geoffrey R. Smith, Hobart M. Smith, James N. Stuart, and Guillermo A. Woolrich-Piña. This will be an important reference for wildlife biologists and is available fall 2015 from Texas A&M Press (http://www.tamupress.com/product/Amphibians-and-Reptiles-of-the-USMexico-Border-St,8370.aspx).

At TWS headquarters in Washington, DC, there are some changes. Laura Bies, long time Government Affairs Director, is leaving her position but will continue to manage the Leadership Institute. She will also provide consulting to TWS as-needed. This year’s Leadership Institute includes 2 from the Southwest Section. They are Sarah Fritts, Texas Tech University, and Andrew Tri, Texas A & M University-Kingsville.

Finances continue to get a lot of attention as TWS manages our funds and investments. We should end the year well ahead of the budgeted surplus of $122,000. TWS membership is still declining, although at a slower rate. We have just under 9000 TWS members; remember when we almost hit 11,000? In the SW Section, we’ve seen membership grow over the past 5 years from 239 members in 2011 to 286 in 2014, but the Section is also seeing a decline with our current 254 members. Encourage your colleagues to renew or join, or buy a membership for friend. There are about 150 Chapters, Sections, and Working Groups – a great network of wildlife professionals. The Wildlife Professional is a very popular source of news. For information about benefits, see http://wildlife.org/membership-benefits/.

Check out conference information for the 2015 annual conference is in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (October 17-21) at http://wildlife.org/2015conference/. The 2016 conference will be in Raleigh, NC, and the 2017 conference will be in Albuquerque, September 23-27 (did I mention that already a few times?!).

Contact me at Carol.Chambers@nau.edu or 928-523-0014 (office) with any comments or questions.
More about Women of Wildlife (WOW) - In the summer edition of The Wildlife Professional, Southwest Section members contributed to a special section on professional development. New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Director Alexandra Sandoval wrote about her career and recruiting diversity in “Bringing Diversity to the Workforce”. Misty Sumner and I wrote an article titled “Mentoring the Next Generation” that asks established wildlife women professionals to mentor new professionalwomen. The Southwest Section WOW are also sponsoring a panel discussion on “Women of Wildlife at Work” at the upcoming Winnipeg conference. We hope to fundraise for a reception/mixer following the panel.

The Wildlife Society Southwest Section Chapters Hub continues to steadily climb in ‘likes’. We increased from 349 to The-Wildlife-Society-Southwest-Section-Chapters-Hub/205755042835210. People seem to really like the job postings we place here. The TWS Women of Wildlife (WOW) Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/pages/TWS-Women-of-Wildlife/234411723382592) also continues to grow steadily. We hit 1000 and are now at 1089 likes, up from 981 in March. You can also see lots of great features at the TWS Facebook page with currently over 25,000 likes.

392 since March. Please visit the site at https://www.facebook.com/pages/
Honorary Life Membership Committee Seeking Nominations

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

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

To act on a nomination the Committee needs:

1. A reasonable complete vitae for the nominee which should contain his/her full name (present position, organizational affiliation, address, phone number), and a reasonably complete history of professional accomplishments.

2. One or more letters of nomination from close friends or associates.

Nominations will be kept confidential, especially from the nominee, but you can enlist the assistance of your co-workers. Many people have a vitae that they use for various purposes. Surreptitiously obtain one. If there isn’t one available, patch something together, with the help of friends, associates and spouses.

Deadline: 7 December

Please send pdfs of material to: Nova Silvy, n-silvy@tamu.edu
Call for Nominations - Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Awards

The Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee is soliciting nominations for outstanding achievements in and/or contributions to wildlife conservation. Awards will be presented at the 2016 TCTWS Annual meeting in San Antonio. Nominations will be accepted until November 1, 2015 in three categories.

Educator of the Year Award
The Educator of the Year Award recognizes individual wildlife professionals for excellence in developing and disseminating natural resource information to students, landowners and others. Examples include, but are not limited to: university professors, extension personnel and agency personnel. Recipients of this award should be current or past member of the Texas Chapter.

Please submit a 5-point bullet statement explaining why the nominee is deserving, along with a curriculum vitae of the nominee (if possible).

Land Stewardship Award
The Land Stewardship Award recognizes landowners who have been instrumental in the development, application, and promotion of sound wildlife management principles on their land. Membership in the Texas Chapter is NOT mandatory to receive this award, but is encouraged.

Please submit a ½ to 1 page letter of nomination statement of why the nominee is deserving.

Outstanding Achievement Awards
The Outstanding Achievement Award recognizes individuals or teams who have made outstanding contributions to the interest of the Texas Chapter – TWS. These contributions may include noteworthy research, development of outstanding outreach programs, or application of conservation principals. Recipients of this award should be current or past members of the Texas Chapter. If the award is given to a team, the key individuals(s) should be members of the Texas Chapter.

Nomination for the award should include submission of a 5-point bullet statement explaining why the nominee is deserving of the award, along with a curriculum vitae of the nominee (if possible.)

Questions and nominations for any of the categories should be sent to: T. Wayne Schwertner (Committee Chair), schwertner@tarleton.edu, (254) 968-9219.

Deadline for nominations is November 1.
Publication Awards
Call for Nominations

This is the first call for nominations of publications that include a Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society member as one of the first three authors, and that were published within the last 3 years (2013-2015). At least 3 publications within a category are required in order to offer the award. The deadline for submission is 15 November 2015.

Categories include:

Books
Electronic Media (i.e. websites, CDs, DVDs, listservs, or similar)
Peer-reviewed Scientific Articles (journal or peer-reviewed proceedings)
Popular Articles (published in magazines, newspapers, newsletters, or similar)
Technical Publications (reports, factsheets, or similar)

To nominate a publication, please submit: 1) a cover letter stating why the publication is being nominated, and 2) six (6) hard copies or a digital pdf to the Publication Awards Committee Chair: Stephen Webb, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, 2510 Sam Noble Pkwy., Ardmore, OK 73401; e-mail: slwebb@noble.org; office: 580-224-6443.
Call for Abstracts for the 52nd Annual Meeting of Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Presented Paper and Poster Presentations

Abstracts are now being accepted for the technical paper and poster presentation sessions at the 2016 Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society’s annual meeting to be held 18–20 February 2016 at the Wyndham Hotel on the river walk in San Antonio, TX. Papers/posters presenting the results of wildlife investigations and analyses as well as topic reviews of interest to wildlife students and professionals in Texas are encouraged. The theme for this year’s meeting is “Energy Development and Wildlife Conservation: Striking a Balance”. The plenary session will feature researchers and managers in this area that is becoming increasingly important in Texas and elsewhere. In addition to the Plenary Session, the meeting will offer numerous technical paper sessions and a poster presentation session for students (undergraduate or graduate) and wildlife professionals, and the Clarence Cottam Award presentations and competition for graduate students. Best poster presentation awards will be presented for undergraduate and graduate students as in previous years.

Abstracts should be submitted to both the Program Co-Chairs, Dean Ransom (dean.ransom@tamuc.edu) and Tyler Campbell (tcampbell@eastfoundation.net). Abstracts should follow Journal of Wildlife Management Style (see sample abstract below). Deadline for receipt of abstracts is 30 November 2015. Please indicate your preference for presentation format (i.e., paper, poster, or no preference) and session (i.e., General Sessions, Clarence Cottam Award, or whether you would like to be included in the judging for the best poster presentation awards). For those entering no preference, a decision will be made by the Program Committee and presenter notified via email. Any questions pertaining to abstract submission should be directed to either of the program co-chairs listed above.

Contributed papers will be scheduled at 15-minutes intervals to include time (2–3 minutes) for questions and comments. All presenters will be notified of the day, time, and location of their presentations, and provided with instructions on how to prepare for the sessions. Clarence Cottam Award presentations will be judged on topic originality, scientific procedures, quality of display, accuracy of conclusions, and response to question from judges.
Sample Abstract (please note not to use scientific names in title; use only in body of abstract)

LANDSCAPE EFFECTS ON GENE FLOW AND GENETIC STRUCTURE OF NORTHERN BOBWHITE IN TEXAS AND THE GREAT PLAINS

Katherine S. Miller, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University–Kingsville, Kingsville, TX, 78363, USA
Leonard A. Brennan, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University–Kingsville, Kingsville, TX, 78363, USA
Randy DeYoung, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University–Kingsville, Kingsville, TX, 78363, USA
Fidel Hernández, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University–Kingsville, Kingsville, TX, 78363, USA
X. Ben Wu, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, 77843-2138, USA

Abstract: Northern bobwhite (Colinus virginianus) populations have declined due to habitat loss and fragmentation. Northern bobwhite have been considered poor dispersers, so biologists expect a moderate population structure and low genetic diversity in fragmented areas. Our goal was to determine how landscape affects the genetic structure of northern bobwhite in Texas and the Great Plains. We collected tissues from 641 northern bobwhites in 23 populations, and amplified 13 microsatellite loci. We determined population structure (FST) and genetic distance between populations (Dest). We used a land cover map (National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative) to develop a landscape resistance matrix. We compared Dest to geographic distance and resistance with Mantel and partial Mantel tests. Populations showed low levels of structure (FST = 0.025). We found moderate correlations to geographic distance ($r = 0.542, P < 0.001$) and landscape resistance ($r = 0.416, P = 0.001$). There was a significant correlation between Dest and geographic distance when we accounted for resistance ($r = 0.388, P < 0.001$), but no significant correlation between Dest and resistance when we accounted for geographic distance. A spatial principal component analysis for South Texas samples revealed a global structure. Low genetic structure and moderate genetic diversity may suggest that more northern bobwhite individuals are dispersing further than previously thought. Other possible explanations lie in the northern bobwhite’s fall covey shuffle, their boom-and-bust population cycle, and stochastic events. Habitat is an important factor for northern bobwhite; determining how habitat affects gene flow will help biologists to manage northern bobwhite.