Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society
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VICE PRESIDENT, John Tomecek
SECRETARY, Annalise Scoggin
BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE,
Mandy Krause

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EDITORS, Andrea Wiley and Maureen Frank

Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Newsletter is electronically published in January, April, July, and October. Contributions on any topic pertaining to wildlife, announcements of interest to members, or Chapter business are welcome and should be submitted to the Editors (Andrea Wiley; Andrea.Wiley@agse.com or Maureen Frank; mgfrank@tamu.edu) by the 15th of the preceding month. Change of e-mail address should be submitted online through the Address Change Form or directly to the Treasurer. Membership in the Chapter is $15/yr for students and $25/yr for regular members, payable to the Treasurer (Terry Blankenship).

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a great annual conference Corey Mason and his crew hosted in Dallas! Corey and his team provided one of the best Chapter meetings to date. Kudos to all Chapter members who helped make the Dallas meeting a success. Our Chapter’s legacy and success has been built on TCTWS membership’s willingness to be engaged and committed to both our annual meeting and educational/developmental programs for students and professionals in Texas. I hope that you left our Annual Meeting in Dallas with a renewed zest for your work and an interest in sharing your work with others at next year’s annual meeting. I left the meeting refreshed and energized to come back to the Gulf Coast and attack work this spring with gusto.

The Dallas Meeting is certainly going to be a hard act to follow, but we will give it our best effort. Please mark your calendar now for the 2019 Annual Meeting of the TCTWS to be held on February 21-23, 2019 at La Torretta Lake Resort and Spa in Montgomery, Texas. I am excited to welcome Mandy Krause (Board Member at Large), Annalise Scoggin (Secretary), and John Tomecek (Vice President) to our Executive Board. Additionally, others on the EB have shifted positions with Tyler Campbell shifting from Vice President to President Elect and Corey Mason transitioning from President to Past President. If we have not had the pleasure of meeting you yet, we want to get to know you better and understand how to best serve our membership. If you have needs please reach out to myself or another member of our Executive Board, we are here to serve YOU. If you have ideas we want to hear them. We will be surveying the membership occasionally to get feedback on how we are doing. Let us hear your voices!

The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society is more than an Executive Board. There are 24 committees, and 35 committee chairs for 2018-2019. Each committee has several volunteer members, which equates to well over 200 members serving on committees
this year alone. If you have a desire to get involved with TCTWS, whether it is serving on a committee, volunteering to help at the Wildlife Conservation Camp, running for an elected position, or presenting at our annual meeting we want you to feel comfortable getting involved and help you figure out where best to plug into the Chapter. For this issue, I have included a list of the TCTWS Committees and contact information for those committees. I encourage you to look through the committees and reach out and get more involved with TCTWS. Volunteering your time to the Chapter is a great way to develop yourself, help others, and network. You will not regret spending your time around such an incredible group of professionals, and you will not find a more dedicated group of folks.

It’s an honor to serve the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society and work alongside so many unbelievable professionals and I am truly looking forward to the coming year and working with our members on tough conservation issues in our great State.

Thank you.

Jena Moon, President

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Nomination Notification

Honorary Life Membership Committee Seeks Nominees

The Texas Chapter has members who have made outstanding contributions to wildlife conservation at eco-region, state, national and/or international scales. Such individuals deserve recognition.

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) They should have made significant contributions to the Chapter and/or the Profession and/or the conservation of the natural resources of Texas. (3) Not have won the award in the past.

The Committee needs:

1. A reasonably 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 should remain confidential, especially from the nominee. If there is no vitae available, patch something together, with the help of friends, associates and spouses. From nominations received, the committee can select one or more recipients for the 2019 annual meeting.

Past recipients of this honor are listed under Historical Information at http://tctws.org/about-us-2/history/

Send nomination materials to:
Scott Summers--Committee Chair
scott.g.summers.civ@mail.mil
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 (2016-2018). Please indicate the individuals (chapter member(s)) that should receive the award if selected. At least 3 publications within a category are required in order to offer the award. The deadline for submission is 15 October 2018.

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: David Butler, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept., 210-A West 1st Street, Freeport, TX 77541; e-mail: David.Butler@tpwd.texas.gov.
Southwest Section Tracks
Spring-Summer Issue 2018

By Fidel Hernandez, Southwest Section Representative

One of my fondest memories growing up on a ranch in the western part of the Edwards Plateau of Texas is the blooming of Texas mountain laurels (Sophora secundiflora). Each spring, around mid-February, thousands of acres of piñon-juniper rangeland would become filled with the distinctive fragrance of Texas mountain laurels. Some field guides describe the fragrance as reminiscent of an old fashion grape soda. To me, the smell is more like a mixture of lavender with maybe some hints of jasmine. Whatever the fragrance molecules, I carry a fond childhood memory of riding horseback along a high-elevation ridge and catching a never-ending breeze of Texas mountain-laurel blooms from the canyons below. I can smell them to this day.

Well, as luck would have it, there happens to be a native-plant garden between the ag buildings here on campus and, as I was walking to my office last week, I caught a faint whiff of that unique fragrance. My immediate thought was one of excitement, “The mountain laurels are blooming!!” Spring definitely has arrived in Texas.

I’ll be headed to Norfolk, Virginia later this month to attend the TWS Council meetings that occur each year just prior to the start of the North American Wildlife Conference. I’ll include those updates in my next update (summer issue) so you’ll have to stay tuned. But for now, here is a brief update on the latest TWS happenings since we last chatted.

TWS Annual Conference: Cleveland

Mark your calendars for the 25th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society to be held 7–11 October 2018 in Cleveland, Ohio. The Conference will include workshops, symposia, panel discussions, oral presentations, posters, student research in progress posters, and so much more. The theme for the Conference is Recognizing and Sustaining Conservation Success. If you have a presentation or poster that aligns with this year’s theme, then be sure to submit your abstract for consideration. The deadline to submit abstracts is Sunday, 22 April 2018, at 11:59 p.m. Central Standard Time. For more information, please visit the conference website at wildlife.org/2018-conference.

Call for TWS Award Nominations

It is that time of year again. This is a friendly reminder that the deadline for nominations for several TWS awards is in the horizon (1 May 2018). Here is a brief description of these awards:
• **Aldo Leopold Memorial Award**: This is the highest honor bestowed by TWS for distinguished service to wildlife conservation. The basic selection criterion is the significance of an individual’s contribution to the wildlife field.

• **Caesar Kleberg Award For Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research**: The Caesar Kleberg Award recognizes those who have distinguished themselves in applied wildlife research and is focused on those whose body of work, in both inquiry and discovery, has resulted in application of management and conservation “on the ground.”

• **Chapter of the Year Award**: Active state chapters are needed to achieve TWS goals, many of which are best addressed at the state, provincial, or local level. The State Chapter of the Year awards pays tribute to these chapters and recognizes exceptional achievement.

• **Conservation Education Award**: Conservation education covers a wide diversity of activity. It encompasses particular works of great merit and also programs representing sustained effort that can achieve great significance over the years. The Conservation Education Award is given in each one of the following categories on a four-year-rotation basis: writing, audio-visual works, media, and programs.

• **Distinguished Service Award**: The Wildlife Society Distinguished Service Award recognizes TWS members who have made a long-term commitment to the Society based on at least 20 years of membership and their actions to further the mission of the Society. The member is someone who is/was “always there” and could be counted on to serve the chapter, section, or parent organization.

• **Diversity Award**: The Diversity Award recognizes an individual or organization for outstanding efforts in promoting ethnic and gender diversity in the natural resource professions, especially wildlife conservation and education. Recognized activities may focus on encouraging ethnic and gender diversity in the workforce, academic enrollment, or organizational membership.

• **Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship**: This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Don Rusch and to continue his legacy by contributing to studies of game-bird biology. The award is presented annually to a graduate student studying any aspect of upland game bird or waterfowl biology and management.

• **Excellence in Wildlife Education Award**: This award celebrates exemplary teaching and contributes to the improvement of wildlife education by honoring individual faculty members. Eligible faculty should be actively engaged in undergraduate and/or graduate wildlife-related education with outstanding performance in at least one of the following categories: teaching, advising, research, academic program development, or educational leadership.
**Honorary Membership**: Honorary Memberships recognize continuous outstanding service to any area of concern of TWS by a TWS member who is a practicing or retired wildlife professional.

**Jay N. “Ding” Darling Award for Wildlife Stewardship Through Art**: This award is intended to be a lasting recognition of the heritage established by Jay N. “Ding” Darling to promote wildlife and habitat conservation through art. His legacy of artwork and associated conservation messages were instrumental in achieving significant wildlife conservation measures. Among them were the creation of the Federal Duck Stamp Program, National Wildlife Federation, Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program, the groundwork for today’s system of National Wildlife Refuges, and many broadly recognized cartoons advocating land and water conservation.

**Jim McDonough Award**: This award is presented to a TWS member who is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and a member of the section and chapter where the individual resides. The recipient is recognized for making a significant contribution to the wildlife profession by being an active member/participant of TWS, especially at local levels and through program implementation and development of new techniques or approaches in an area, state, or province. Additionally, the recipient is the kind of person recognized by his/her fellow workers as a solid contributor and a “true professional,” but who has gone without major awards, citations, or prominent recognitions.

**Special Recognition Service Award**: This award honors a person or group who has made an outstanding contribution over the short or long term to one or more of the following areas: the wildlife profession; general areas of wildlife conservation, management, or science; or a specific area of endeavor, species, community, ecosystem, region, etc.

**Student Chapter Advisor of the Year**: This award recognizes exceptional annual mentorship by a TWS student chapter advisor.

**Student Chapter of the Year Award**: Active student chapters are needed to achieve TWS goals, many of which are best addressed at the state, provincial, or local level. Chapters also strengthen the Society's membership recruitment and retention efforts by providing opportunities for member involvement in Society activities. The Student Chapter of the Year award pays tribute to and recognizes exceptional achievement.

We have many outstanding people in the Southwest Section who contribute considerably to TWS at various capacities. Be sure to nominate a deserving colleague. Visit the TWS Award website (http://wildlife.org/engage/awards/) to get more details, learn of past honorees, and download nomination applications.
TWS Administration, Finance, and General Operations

Business Relations. Part of TWS’s strategic plan for long-term financial stability is business relations (development). These business relations and partner support are essential to the advancement of TWS and its missions and program initiatives. The financial contribution of these partners allow TWS to provide better services and member benefits ranging from contributed website and magazine content to discounted products and services. They also help TWS to progress issues that are vital to the growth of the Society. The Wildlife Society has made excellent strides toward this end in the past few years, adding critical support from several important businesses and organizations. Below is a brief summary of some of the major activities happening in this arena for the month of January 2018.

• Net income from organizations and businesses was $377,000 from the beginning of the fiscal year through January.

• TWS was successful in booking 2 advertisers, 17 exhibitors, and 6 Sponsors for the 2018 Annual Conference.

• TWS received 1 contribution and 3 verbal commitments for a total of $12,750 for the conference.

• Duke Energy agreed to provide financial support of the conference as a Leading Sponsor and discussions continue with other organizations.

• With the addition of a $6,000 contribution and a $5,000 verbal commitment in January, TWS has exceeded the budget goal for Native American Student Travel Grants.

Membership. TWS continues to slowly grow its membership toward the society’s goal of 10,000 members. The year-to-date paid member count is 9,791 members, which represents a 4.3% increase compared to last year (February 2017). If members enrolled in the Give Back Program are included (612 members), then the total member count increases to 10,403 members. TWS is continually trying to improve member experience, and automatic renewal is one such improvement in services that is provided to members. TWS is excited to learn that many members—44%, or 4,347, to be exact—are currently enrolled in Automatic Renewal. Please make use of this handy option when renewing your membership to avoid membership lapses!

Government Affairs. The Program of Government Affairs and Partnerships is lead by Director
Keith Norris. Director Norris and his team are responsible for overseeing TWS’ policy activities, providing support to TWS Chapters and Sections on conservation policy issues, strategically expanding TWS’ engagement with other organizations, and providing direction to the Society professional development and certification programs. Below is a brief summary of key TWS policy priorities advanced during the beginning months of 2018.

- Met and conferred with several House member offices on co-sponsorship of the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (RAWA; H.R. 4647).

- Engaged the Conservation Affairs Network in support of RAWA and launched TWS webpage on member engagement with RAWA.


- Submitted testimony to the House Federal Lands Subcommittee legislative hearing in support of RAWA and raised concerns about a portion of the Modernizing the Pittman Robertson Fund for Tomorrow’s Needs Act.

- Met with Department of the Interior officials to discuss TWS, the Department’s reorganization efforts, the importance of federal employee engagement in professional societies, and concern over funding for key conservation programs.

**TWS Book Release**

In closing, I take the opportunity to highlight the recent release of a new book, State of Wildlife Management and Conservation, that is part of TWS’s book-series agreement with the John Hopkins University Press. This book is an edited volume by Thomas J. Ryder. In this edited volume, the long-time member and former Assistant Wildlife Division Chief for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Tom Ryder, brings together wildlife leaders from practical, policy, and academic backgrounds to tell the story of state wildlife agencies and chronicles their efforts to restore and protect our nation’s natural resources. The book is a comprehensive, nationwide account of state management efforts that will aid people in developing a better understanding of what it means to be a state wildlife biologist. For more information on this book, please visit the following website: https://jhupbooks.press.jhu.edu/content/state-wildlife-management-and-conservation.

Well, that is all for now.

Until next time,

Fidel Hernández

Fidel Hernández
Texas A&M University Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Since 1967, the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society at Texas A&M University – College Station has been providing our students with opportunities to further their skills and gain experience in the natural resources field. Some of our more exciting events include a whitetail deer capture in coordination with Texas A&M University – Kingsville and the East Foundation, conclave competitions at State, Regional, and National conferences, and Type II Wildland Firefighting certification in conjunction with our local TPWD employees.

Outside of these events, we hold monthly meetings to provide our members with guest lecturers to allow them to network with current professionals while they explore new aspects of the natural resources field. Members are also provided with opportunities to assist local biologists with disease sampling and data collection in the fall semester, along with prescribed fires in the spring. Additionally, we provide educational demonstrations to local elementary schools to get the next generation of students interested in natural resources.

Some of our current projects include collaborating with the Brazos Valley Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to improve our current capacities to better serve our student body. We are also looking forward to our annual Wild Game Barbecue fundraiser, where we also host the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Science award ceremony. Finally, the TAMU chapter is excited to have a dedicated presence at Big Event 2018, the single largest one-day, student-run service project in the nation.

We look forward to growing our chapter and continuing to provide quality resources to students and the community here in College Station.

The Texas A&M University Chapter of The Wildlife Society won first place in the 2018 Student Quiz Bowl at the Texas Chapter meeting.
Conference Awards

**Outstanding Achievement Award**

Texas Master Naturalist Program

**Honorary Life Member Award**

Misty Sumner

**Educator of the Year**

Dr. Blake Grisham

**Outstanding Scientific**

Steven Sesnie, James Mueller, Sarah Lehnen, Scott Rowin, Jennifer Reidy and Frank Thompson

**Outstanding Book**

David Haukos and Clint Boal

**Outstanding Technical Publication**

John Tomeček, Terry Hensley, Walt Cook, and Bob Dittmar

**Outstanding Popular Article**

Michael Tewes

**1st Place Cottam**

Gael A Sanchez

**2nd Place Cottam**

Zachary Adcock
Conference Awards

**Student Chapter of the Year**
Tarleton State University

**1st Place Plant ID Team**
Texas A&M University

**1st Place Quiz Bowl Team**
Texas A&M University

**Outstanding Wildlife Students**

**Colin Caruthers Memorial Scholarship**
Jacob Locke

**Charly McTee Memorial Scholarship**
Nicholas Belsher

**Dan Boone Memorial Scholarship**
Kaitlyn Williams

**Carl D. Shoemaker Memorial Scholarship**
David Campbell

**Sam Beasom Memorial Scholarship**
Katheryn Watson
Conference Awards

1st Place in Art
Andrew Chapman

Best of Show
Silveria Avila

1st Place Wildlife
Denis Josefina

Land Stewardship Award
Mr. Nelson Roach

1st Place Plant ID - Individual
Lanna Stapper

1st Place in Humor
Jessica Glasscock

Happiest Member...
Corey Mason

1st Place Undergraduate Poster
Kaitlin Wilms

1st Place Graduate Poster
Sara Weaver
The Award Winners are listed below by category. Congratulations to each winner!

Photo and Art Contest Awards:
Best in Show - Silveria Avila
Art - Joshua Robledo

Remote Camera
1 Rachel Bittner
2 Kaitlin Wilms
3 Blake McPhaul

Wildlife
1 Denis Josefina
2 Kaitlyn Cargol
3 David Campbell

Plant and Scenery
1 Silveria Avila
2 Kaitlin Wilms
3 Kelley Wood

Humor
1 Jessica Glasscock
2 Elizabeth Cary Mangall
3 Daniel Wilcox

Work Related
1 Charlotte Wilson
2 Silveria Avila
3 Kaitlyn Cargol

Wildlife Conservation
1 David Campbell
2 Kaitlyn Cargol
3 Romey Swanson

Plant ID Awards:
Team
1. Texas A&M College Station
2. Texas A&M Kingsville
3. Tarleton State University

Individual
1. Lanna Stapper
2. Austin Kelly
3. Kyle Johnston

Professional Plant ID
Student - Austin Kelly
Professional – Jimmy Rutledge & Sam Kieschnick

Texas Quiz Bowl
Texas A&M College Station
Outstanding Student Poster
Undergraduate
1. Kaitlin Wilms
2. Jae Edlin
3. Samantha Heldman
Graduate
1. Sara Weaver
2. Katherine Sauer
3. Ellari Vreugdenhil
Student Chapter of the Year
Tarleton State University

Scholarships
Charly McTee Memorial Scholarship - Nicholas Belsher
Carl D Shoemaker Memorial Scholarship - David Campbell
Carlin Caruthers Memorial Scholarship - Jacob Locke
Dan Boone Memorial Scholarship - Kaitlyn Williams
Sam Beasom Memorial Scholarship - Katheryn Watson

Outstanding Wildlife Students
Tarleton State University – Wyatt Bagwell
Sul Ross State University – Destinee Love
Texas State University - Kristin Dyer
Texas Tech University – Rachel Bittner
Texas A&M University–Kingsville – Stephanie Roberts

Clarence Cottam Award
1. Gael A Sanchez
2. Zachary C Adcock
3. Janel L Ortiz

Publication Awards:
Outstanding Popular Article
Michael Tewes, “Clinging to Survival in the Borderlands” The Wildlife
Professional, Sep/Oct 2017