

Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education



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EDITORS, ANDREA WILEY AND
MAUREEN FRANK

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

by Tyler Campbell

A recent post and resulting discussion on the East Foundation’s Facebook page took me back to my undergraduate education sitting in the Goddard Building on the campus of Texas Tech. The details of the Facebook discussion are not important but centered on the value of science versus the value of experience in stewarding our lands. In short, one camp was exclusively championing science and one camp was exclusively championing experience. Neither side would budge – quite entertaining!

Rewind 26 years to Dr. Demarais’ (TCTWS Past President) Intro to Wildlife Management class at Texas Tech. Here (if memory serves me correctly), wildlife management was defined as, “the **art and science** of manipulating the structure, dynamics, and relations of wildlife, habitat, and people in order to fulfill human-oriented

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objectives" (or something similar). Throughout the remainder of my formal university education, I received a healthy dose of science and to a lesser extent, art. Artistic ability comes from experience, or at least it has for me.

Today I am convinced more than ever that effective land stewardship requires skills in science and knowledge collected through experiences. It is not an either-or endeavor as our Facebook Friends opined. Successful wildlife professionals are masters of applying science AND art in appropriate ratios to achieve desired outcomes.

As such and in the interest of the land, my charge to professionals is to provide challenging opportunities for students to gain hands-on, real-world experiences. My charge to students is to seek out opportunities to learn through experiences, work hard, and always do your best.

One upcoming event that provides students and professionals the opportunity to learn and gain experience is our Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The 2020 meeting will be held in Corpus Christi from February 13–15. This year's meeting theme is "Outdoor Education to Develop Engaged Wildlife Professionals." Blake Grisham, Andrea Montalvo, and Landon Schofield (Program Committee Co-Chairs) are putting together a fantastic program.

Additionally, John Kinsey and Rachael Lindsey (Activities Committee Co-Chairs) are assembling a full suite of workshops and field trips, including a trip to the Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve and Learning Center, among others.

And, of course, there will be the friendly competitions among students and Student Chapters including Quiz bowl, Plant ID, posters, etc. led by Heather Mathewson (Student Activities Chair) and her team.

In short, all the committee chairs and committees are working hard to make this a great meeting that you do not want to miss - so make your plans now! Hotel reservations for the meeting can be made at: <https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/corpus-christi/meetings/tcws-2020-annual-meeting-02122020>.

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Abstracts for the meeting can be submitted online through November 30, 2019. Also, the meeting registration site will be activated soon, so keep an eye out for this.

On a slightly different note, I wanted to make you aware of Mexico's Second National Wildlife Conference to be held in San Luis Potosí, Mexico, on November 12-15, 2019 (<https://www.2aconferenciafaunasilvestre.com>). TCTWS is a sponsor for this conference and keynote speakers will include TCTWS Past Presidents Fidel Hernandez and Roel Lopez, as well as TCTWS member Alfonso Ortega. This is going to be an impactful conference and I encourage you to attend.

Have an awesome autumn my fellow wildlifers and continue to do great things – balancing your artsy side with your nerdy scientist side... after all, it takes both to thrive!



Tyler Campbell, President
tcampbell@eastfoundation.net

SOUTHWEST SECTION TRACKS

by Jim Ramakka

As summer winds down in northwest New Mexico, I can look out our front window and still see patches of snow on the sides of the La Plata Mountains in Colorado. It is bound to stay on the high peaks until September storms bring snow again. While this past cold snowy winter was a stark contrast to the warm years we've experienced recently, our hoped-for usual monsoon season failed to materialize the summer, putting the San Juan Basin back in drought mode. As in much of the West, the present water situation is always a topic of conversation as I'm sure it will be at this year's TWS/AFS Joint Annual Meeting in Reno. For most of the 1990s, I worked on water/wildlife related issues as a BLM district wildlife biologist in the Carson City Office about 30 miles south of Reno. One of the reasons I'm especially excited to attend this year's conference is the chance to revisit the riparian restoration projects I helped plan as part of an interdisciplinary riparian functionality team.

It was during my time in Carson City that the First Annual Meeting of The Wildlife Society was held in Albuquerque, and I decided to take annual leave and attend with the hope of maybe seeing a few friends and colleagues from the previous decade I'd spent working in New Mexico. It turned out I not only reconnected with friends from across the country that I hadn't seen decades, but also, I was able to network with folks from across the West working on similar issues. In succeeding years, the TWS Annual Meeting, along with Chapter and Section meetings, served a key role in my continued professional development. Some years my agency paid my way, other years I footed the bills myself. It was always worth the expense. I will likely see many folks from the Southwest Section at this year's conference in a few weeks. I hope members will take the opportunity to sit in on the TWS Council meetings, if only briefly, to get a sense of how TWS functions as a whole.

I'm writing this column a little early since I'll out of the country for most of the first half of September. When I return, I know there will be hundreds of pages of background material and committee reports to

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review before Council meets in Reno. My primary TWS Council duties this summer have involved serving as a member of the “Mentorship for Life” subcommittee, Certification Liaison subcommittee, and Chair of the Jay N. “Ding” Darling Memorial Award for Wildlife Stewardship Through Art. The Mentorship Strategy is on the agenda for review and discussion at the Council meeting, along with latest updates from the Certification Review Board. This year’s Ding Darling Award recipient will be honored at the Annual Meeting. As has been the case or the last few years, the committee faced a difficult choice when selecting from among outstanding nominees.

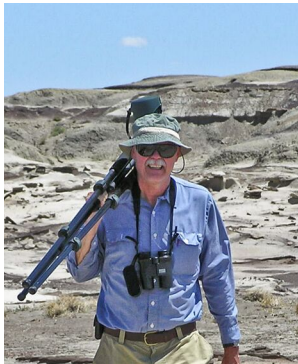
In other news, it has been a good summer for TWS. Some highlights include:

- Planning for the conference continued throughout the summer. Over 1,700 individuals have registered for the conference putting registration on a pace to make the Reno meeting the largest ever for TWS attendees. Travel grants were awarded to 15 students presenting papers/posters at the 2019 conference.
- Evaluation of possible sites and venues for 2022 and 2023 conferences has begun (next year’s conference will be in Louisville, KY and the 2021 conference will be in Baltimore, MD).
- FY19 ended with a budget surplus of \$170,000 which exceeded the year-end goal stated in the annual budget. The Endowment Fund will receive \$10,000 from that surplus. The remaining funds will be placed in the Council Discretionary Fund.
- Paid membership has grown to 10,619 (a 4.5% increase). If Give Back membership is counted, the combined total membership is 11,228. 53% of members are now enrolled in Automatic Renewal. A strategy to improve first-year member communications was launched.
- A TWS Resource Guide was prepared and distributed to Chapter and Section Presidents.
- Website visits and Social Media audience are both increasing.
- TWS Staff have played an active role along with partners in soliciting cosponsors for the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act

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(RAWA) as well as preparing resources for Chapter and Sections to use in contacting legislators to support the Act. The TWS Conservation Affairs Network will have its annual meeting and a RAWA Strategy Session at the Reno Conference Monday, Sept. 30, 8:00 – 9:40 AM. There will also be a TWS/AFS joint RAWA Strategy Meeting at the Reno Conference on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 8:00-9:40 AM.

I'll summarize the business items discussed and voted during this year's fall Council meeting in my next column. In the meantime, I will be trying to squeeze in a dove hunt or two before starting a busy travel schedule revolving around our Reno gathering.



Have a great autumn, everyone!

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SEPT. 29 - OCT. 3, 2019

JGTCLI Now Accepting Applications

The James G. Teer Conservation Leadership Institute (JGTCLI) welcomed its first cohort in 2014 to ensure that the natural resource profession in Texas had access to well-trained conservation leaders adept at identifying conservation challenges and finding solutions. The JGTCLI seeks early-career professionals 1 to 10 years out of college who are working full time in a natural resource-related field and have demonstrated leadership potential. Professionals from diverse natural resource fields are welcome to apply. These fields include federal and state natural resource agencies, environmental and conservation organizations, educational institutions, natural resource policy development, private consultants and individuals from other natural resource programs.

Throughout the year-long course of study, Institute Fellows will be exposed to different types of leadership styles, experience an examination process that identifies skills and weaknesses, become familiar with the policy-making process, and tackle a problem-solving challenge on behalf of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society related to current statewide conservation issues. Participants will be grouped into teams and will develop their communication, problem solving, and project management skills.

TCTWS is pleased to begin accepting applications for the 2020 Leadership Institute. Applicants must have completed their undergraduate degree and have worked as a natural resource professional for 1 to 10 years. Participants will participate in several workshops and will work as a team throughout 2020 on their projects that solve a critical issue in the field of resource conservation. Applications are due **October 15th, 2019**. For more information, and to apply, please visit <http://tctws.org/conservation-institute-menu/jgtcli-early-career-professional-training/>.

We look forward to meeting you! For more information, please contact Michelle Haggerty: michelle.haggerty@tpwd.texas.gov or **830-285-6595**.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society is appreciative of those individuals who dedicate their time and expertise to the service of the chapter. Nominations for open positions in 2020 have been made, and the candidates are listed below:

Vice President

John Kinsey
Ryan S. Luna

Secretary

Clint Faas
Blake Grisham

Board Member at Large

Ty Bartoskewitz
Whitney Gann

Information about each of these candidates will be emailed to members in January, along with a ballot link. Please take time to learn about each candidate and then participate in the election!

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS & NOMINATIONS

Quick Reference

Title	Deadline
Publication Awards	Nov. 15
Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Awards	Nov. 15
Honorary Life Membership	Nov. 22
Cottam Awards	Nov. 30
General Session Abstracts	Nov. 30
Student Scholarships	Dec. 18

Publication Awards

Final call for nominations of publications that include a Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society member as one of the first three authors, and were published within the last 3 years (2017-2019). At least 3 publications within a category are required for the reward category to be considered. The deadline for submission is **November 15, 2019**.

Categories include:

- Books
- Electronic Media (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
2. A digital pdf to the Publication Awards Committee Email, publication.awards@tctws.org, or mail 6 hard copies to:

Stephen Webb, Committee Co-Chair
Noble Research Institute
2510 Sam Noble Pkwy.
Ardmore, OK 73401

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS & NOMINATIONS

Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Awards

The Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee is asking you to help us recognize exceptional wildlife conservation efforts in Texas by submitting nominations for one or more of the following award categories:

Educator of the Year Award

The Educator of the Year Award recognizes wildlife professionals for outstanding achievements in wildlife conservation education. Please submit a 5-point bulleted statement explaining why the nominee is deserving of the award, along with a curriculum vitae of the nominee.

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

Outstanding Achievement Award

The Outstanding Achievement Award recognizes wildlife professionals for their outstanding achievements during the course of their involvement with natural resource management and conservation. Please submit a 5-point bulleted statement explaining why the nominee is deserving of the award, along with a curriculum vitae of the nominee (if possible).

Submit nominations to: Randy DeYoung, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville; email submissions to r.deyoung@tamuk.edu with subject “nomination for TCTWS Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Award.” The deadline for nominations is **November 15, 2019**.

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Honorary Life Membership

The Honorary Life Membership Committee is seeking nominees for this honor. To be eligible a nominee should: (1) have been 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, and (2) 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:

- History of professional accomplishments.
- One or more letters of nomination from close friends or associates.

Please send your nominations no later than **November 22, 2019**, to Neal Wilkins at **nwilkins@eastfoundation.net**.

Cottam Awards

Abstracts are now being accepted for consideration in the Clarence Cottam Award Session at the 56th Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. This special session is devoted to promoting student research excellence in wildlife biology, conservation, and management and is the most prestigious student award given by the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society. If selected, participants have the opportunity to present their research to the entire membership and the winners are recognized for their outstanding research contributions, awarded a scholarship, and become part of the more than 30-year history of the Clarence Cottam Award.

First place prize is a \$1000 scholarship sponsored by the Welder Wildlife Foundation. Second and third prizes will be smaller scholarships sponsored by TCTWS and will be awarded if more than 6 papers are accepted. A maximum of 8 papers will be included in the competition.

Submissions are judged for their significance, originality, creativity of research design and implementation, quality of methodology, validity

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of conclusions, neatness, and conformity to Journal of Wildlife Management style and format.

Abbreviated and extended abstracts should be submitted via the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society submission webpage and per the instructions outlined in the general call for abstract submission from the program committee. Deadline for the receipt of abstracts is **November 30, 2019**. For more information on eligibility, submission instructions, and participation, please refer to Clarence Cottam Award guidelines available online at: <https://tctws.org/student-menu/scholarship-opportunities/clarence-cottam-award/>. For any questions, please contact the committee co-chairs at cottam.awards@tctws.org.

General Session Abstracts

Presented Paper and Poster Presentation Abstract submission deadline is **November 30, 2019**.

In addition to the Plenary session, the 2020 annual meeting will offer technical paper sessions, and an expanded poster presentation session for students (undergraduate or graduate) and wildlife professionals. Best poster presentation by an undergraduate and graduate will be awarded as in previous years. Papers/posters presenting the results of wildlife field investigations and analyses as well as topic reviews of interest to wildlife students and professionals in Texas are encouraged. Paper (oral) presentations should present results or outcomes and abstracts reporting preliminary or no data should be submitted as a poster. Only 1 poster will be judged per student presenter, though students may present more than 1 poster.

Abstracts should be submitted digitally via the abstract submission website at <http://tctws.tamu.edu/>.

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). Again, only 1 poster will be

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judged per student presenter, though students may present more than 1 poster. 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 Program Co-Chairs: **program@tctws.org**.

Contributed papers will be scheduled at 15-minute 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. Full Clarence Cottam Award instructions can be found at: <https://tctws.org/student-menu/scholarship-opportunities/clarence-cottam-award/>.

Poster dimensions should be no larger than 4ft wide x 3 ft tall.

Abstract Format

Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words and follow The Journal of Wildlife Management format. Abstracts should be concise and include general problem statement, brief review of methods/experimental design, results, and management implications. For needed statistical significance statements, report P-values only (no need for exact statistical test results). Please follow formatting instructions on the abstract submission website.

A sample abstract follows on the next page. Please note not to use scientific names in title; use only in body of abstract. Font should be Times New Roman, size 12.

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 (F_{ST}) 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 ($F_{ST} = 0.025$). 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.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS & NOMINATIONS

Student Scholarships

This is the **FINAL** call for undergraduate and graduate student scholarship applications for the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The deadline for submission of applications is **December 18, 2019**.

To apply for a scholarship, ALL students must submit a single pdf with their completed and signed application and transcript (please black out or remove any personal information, e.g., social security number and birth date). Graduate students also need a signed letter of recommendation from their major professor/advisor and a short synopsis of their graduate research project (<300 words.) Please email scholarship applications to: Kyle Brunson, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area at: **scholarship@tctws.org**.

There are a total of three undergraduate and two graduate scholarships up for grabs this year. Full undergraduate and graduate scholarship guidelines are located on the TCTWS website: <https://tctws.org/student-menu/scholarship-opportunities/>.

STUDENT CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT: TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

by Scott T. Walter

Our biggest news is that our Texas State University Student Chapter was bestowed the Student Chapter of the Year Award for 2018 at the previous Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Conference in Montgomery, Texas!!! To win this award, our society followed in the footsteps of past well-deserving recipients by keeping busy with activities centered around the conservation of wildlife and their habitats.

At biweekly meetings, we engage our 85 student members with a host of activities. One of our primary foci is raising wildlife awareness through community outreach, with events planned for every week of the semester. From established relationships with organizations in and around San Marcos, Texas, we are cordially invited to various annual events where we provide hands-on education to all ages. We present natural history information by using a collection of skulls and pelts, games for kids that match tracks to species, and fun facts for all. By fostering a positive image for the connection between wildlife and people, we have been invited back to many events for over 5 years running.

We connect our student body with the professional world by maintaining close connections with The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Over each semester, we host approximately 3 guest speakers from TPWD that has led to additional student professional development opportunities. For instance, each fall TPWD provides us a Hunter's Education Certificate workshop. Furthermore, TPWD has provided us information and connections regarding the Recover America's Wildlife Act, which has served as a foundation for initiating our campaign to contact county representatives and encourage them to support the initiative.

To make these, and many other activities possible, we are engaged in fundraising. Our most successful event is the famed Annual Shootout that has been going strong for 14 years, with many thanks to regional sponsors that support The Wildlife Society's mission. This skeet-shooting competition allows student, faculty, and general public teams to vie for bragging rights for the best shot, and the top scoring teams

STUDENT CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

are recognized at the wild game barbeque at the end of the day.

The core of these achievements is our dedicated student members that have helped the society grow while making a positive impact on the community. We eagerly look forward to continued involvement with The Wildlife Society!



Members of the Texas State University Student Chapter helped Texas A&M University - Kingsville with a deer capture on East Foundation property in November 2018 as part of a long-term research project.

TCTWS 56th Annual Meeting:
Outdoor Education to Develop Engaged
Wildlife Professionals

February 13-15, 2020
American Bank Center and Omni Hotel
Corpus Christi, Texas

Activities will range from paper and poster sessions,
workshops, and field trips.



ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

A Note from the Activities Committee

We have an interesting lineup of workshops being held at the annual conference in February, all scheduled to take place the morning of Thursday, February 13th. Workshops that have already been confirmed include:

- Working Effectively with Landowners
- Nature Photography 101
- Introduction to Program R
- TBGA Scorer Certification Training
- Media Training

Go ahead and make plans to travel to Corpus a little earlier than you expected and be on the lookout for more details about these workshops over the next few months. We are looking forward to seeing everybody there!

Activities Committee Chairs:

John Kinsey and Rachael Lindsey

activities@tctws.org

This is *your* newsletter.

To submit an article, contact us: newsletter@tctws.org.

Pay dues, read previous newsletters, and find more information online:

tctws.org



Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Newsletter is published electronically 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 and Maureen Frank, newsletter@tctws.org) by the 15th of the preceding month. Change of email address should be submitted online through the Address Change Form. Membership in the Chapter is \$15/year for students and \$25/year for regular members.