

# Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

*Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education*



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## TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD

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EDITORS, ANDREA WILEY AND  
MAUREEN FRANK

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

*by Tyler Campbell*

### A Message from the President

I just returned to the East Foundation office from lunch – leftovers from the weekend at the house with my beautiful bride of 21 years – and lying here on my desk was my mail (yes, on occasion I still get hard copy mail). This day my mail included two periodicals, 1) the December issue of Texas Wildlife, the magazine of the Texas Wildlife Association, and 2) my copy of Current Research 2018–2019 from the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. This truly was a great day for mail! Usually the mailbox is not so kind!

The Texas Wildlife Association and Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute are but two examples of fantastic partners of the East Foundation – these and many other partners foster synergy and advance our

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

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shared visions and missions. Successful wildlife conservation organizations do not exist without great friends such as these.

So, does the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society have similar partners? Absolutely – you bet we do! For example, for our 2019 meeting, an abbreviated list of partnering sponsors includes Dallas Safari Club, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, The Conservation Fund, Quail Coalition South Texas, National Wild Turkey Federation, Natural Resources Institute-Texas A&M University, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, and Welder Wildlife Foundation, just to name a few.

The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society cannot accomplish its mission in isolation and needs partners – including annual meeting sponsors, raffle donors, exhibitors, presenters, meeting attendees/registrants, and a full complement of willing and eager volunteers. If you haven't done so already, please consider supporting the Texas Chapter's annual meeting... however best fits you!

I invite you to attend the 2020 TCTWS annual meeting in Corpus Christi February 13–15 at the American Bank Center, with lodging provided at the Omni. Program Committee Co-Chairs, Blake Grisham, Andrea Montalvo, and Landon Schofield have assembled an exceptional Plenary Session related to the meeting theme of, Outdoor Education to Develop Engaged Wildlife Professionals. The session will include presentations by Lari Jo Edwards, Dr. Dale Rollins, Masi Mejia, and Dr. Warren Conway and explore outdoor education successes and challenges from pre-kindergarten through undergraduate students. Spoiler alert... we got to get young folks outside more!

The meeting will also include more than 180 oral and poster presentations on all aspects of wildlife ecology, conservation, and management and 7 (yes, 7!) workshops ranging from Wildlife Acoustics to Media Training to Nature Photography 101. Additional meeting information, including meeting registration and hotel reservations, can be found at <https://tctws.org/annual-meeting-2/annual-meeting/>.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your President

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

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this past year. It has been an honor and a privilege – I remain humbled by you and all the tremendous things you are doing for wildlife and the land on which they depend.

Keep up the great work and I look forward to seeing you in February! Happy New Year my friends!



**Tyler Campbell, President**

[tcampbell@eastfoundation.net](mailto:tcampbell@eastfoundation.net)

**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.



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## ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

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### 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](mailto:activities@tctws.org)**

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## OFFICER ELECTIONS

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Officer elections will be taking place in January. Keep an eye out for an email which will include information about each of these candidates as well as a ballot link for you to make your selections.

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

Please take time to learn about each candidate and then participate in the election!

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## CALL FOR PHOTO & ART SUBMISSIONS

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The Photo and Art Committee is responsible for soliciting qualified entries for the annual meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The contest is arranged and directed by the committee at the annual meeting.

All contestants must be members of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. If you have registered for the TCTWS Annual Meeting, you are a member.

Photographs should be a standard size (3" x 5" up to 11" x 14"), unmatted, and unframed. Cardboard backing is permitted. Please note that slides will not be accepted. Contestants will be limited to 1 entry per photography category.

Photography categories will be:

- wildlife (not including captive animals)
- plants
- scenery
- humor
- work-related
- wildlife conservation (may include captive animals of species of conservation concern)
- remote camera (not including captive animals)

Art may include original drawings, paintings, carvings, sculpture, poetry, etc. All entries compete in one category. Art submissions are limited to 5 entries per person.

Contestants are **required** to submit a digital copy of photographs and/or art via the [TCTWS website](#) to be used at the Awards Banquet. Email [photo.art@tctws.org](mailto:photo.art@tctws.org) with questions on submitting. Digital copies of photo and art must be submitted via the TCTWS website by Wednesday, February 12, 2020. Physical copies of photos and art must be submitted at the meeting between 8:00 am - 10:00 am on Friday, February 14, 2020.

To help defray the cost of awards, there will be an entry fee of \$1.00 per submission, which can be paid online.

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## CALL FOR PHOTO & ART SUBMISSIONS

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Attendee voting for best entry in each category will occur from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm on Friday of the annual meeting. There will also be a professional photographer to judge and critique photo submissions.

Winners will be announced during the Friday evening Awards Banquet. Provided there are at least 5 entries, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places will be awarded in each category. If there are fewer than 5 entries in a category, only 1st place will be awarded. There will also be Best of Show and Judge's Choice Award.



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## SOUTHWEST SECTION TRACKS

by Jim Ramakka

After a packed fall schedule, it has been nice to settle in for a few weeks to take a leisurely approach to the Holidays. I wrote my last column as I was preparing to leave for a photo workshop exploring the biodiversity of Ecuador. I returned from that trip in time to spend only a few days at home before our Annual Conference in Reno. As always, it was great to see old friends and to interact with early career professionals and students, but Council meetings and receptions kept me hopping. Our meetings were long but productive. Here is a very condensed summary of our activities:

### Key Decisions by Council:

- Approving the development of a Mentorship for Life Program.
- Initiating a review of the TWS standing position statement on traps, trapping, and furbearer management.
- Approving creation and distribution of AWB® and CWB® pins to all active certified TWS members.
- Adopting the TWS Document Retention and Destruction Policy proposed by the CEO in collaboration with legal counsel.
- Transferring \$27,643.93 from the Council Action Fund to the Endowment Fund as per the late Jack Lyon's request.
- Increasing the operating budget expense cap for this fiscal year by \$5,000.

### Other actions:

- Review TWS governance documents to strengthen and clarify their policies regarding discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment and bullying and additional proposals.
- Continue development of a revised bylaws draft to be reviewed by Council, and if approved, presented to the membership for review and voting in May-June 2020
- Define what qualifies as an "unofficial transcript" and make a recommendation as to whether they should be accepted by the Certification Review Board.
- Develop a decision process for spending Council Action Funds.
- Develop a 10-year plan for TWS international activities.

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## SOUTHWEST SECTION TRACKS

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Additionally:

- The CEO was authorized to work with TWS' investments manager to create new endowment funds.
- Council discussed strategies for continuing support of diversity and inclusion efforts.
- President White presented an agenda that will focus on the importance of science and gaining recognition for it in political circles.
- Progress on developing a licensing agreement with the Canadian Section was reviewed.
- Council directed the CEO to investigate options related to sale or retention of the existing Headquarters property and present them at the March 2020 Council Meeting.
- Recommendations from the Hunting, Trapping, and Conservation Working Group related to the TWS Wildlife Killing Contests Issue Statement were discussed. No changes were proposed by council.
- Strategies for continuing the strong level of student engagement at the annual conference were examined.

An excellent and much more detailed summary is posted on the TWS News and Notes webpage: <https://wildlife.org/council-meeting-news-and-notes/>.



Green-billed toucan in Brazil.

After the Reno conference, I flew home to re-pack my gear for a long-planned trip to chase birds with a camera in the Atlantic forests of Brazil in habitats I had not visited during a previous trip in 2017. Wildlife management and conservation in Latin America has been an interest of mine for many years. My recent trips to South and Central America have highlighted the growth of ecotourism and citizen science, the importance of private and government managed reserves, and the efforts of some

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## SOUTHWEST SECTION TRACKS

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indigenous peoples to preserve biodiversity in a complex and fascinating part of the world.

When I finally returned home, I was excited to read a summary of the 2nd National Conference of Wildlife Management and Conservation in Mexico, held November 12–15 in San Luis Potosí. Southwest Section members Dr. Raul Valdez and Dr. Luis Antonio Tarango Arámbula played key roles in organizing this conference and a prior one in 2018. At this year's plenary session, TWS President Dr. Gary White spoke on the history of the relationship between wildlife professionals in Mexico and the U.S., and why TWS feels it is important to build a stronger connection. After that talk, Dr. Fidel Hernandez, TWS



Burrowing owl in Brazil, where the habitat is a little different from what most of us are used to here in the U.S.! Wildlife, especially birds, tie us together across borders.

SW Section President-elect, spoke on the benefits of professional engagement with TWS for Mexican biologists.

I'm pleased that my fellow TWS Council members have been supportive of TWS international involvement. Council contributed funds to assist both conferences. As a member of the International Wildlife Management Working Group for 25 years, I can remember a period a number of years ago when TWS leadership was less than enthusiastic about international outreach. Fortunately, I think we now recognize the importance of fostering cooperation with colleagues in other nations, especially those with whom we share migratory wildlife populations. Council will continue to follow planning efforts for future conferences as well as considering options for TWS involvement with professionals and students in Mexico.

Since our meeting in Reno, TWS Council has addressed several topics. In mid-November, we discussed via email whether or not TWS should provide comments on the proposed reorganization of the Bureau of

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## SOUTHWEST SECTION TRACKS

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Land Management. BLM manages more wildlife habitat than any other agency, including 26.6 million acres in the SW Section. I provided input based on my 30-year career with the BLM as a field biologist in 4 Western states and my last position as the Wildlife Program Leader in D.C. I expressed concerns about likely adverse impacts to the Bureau's wildlife program. I also cited position statements from the Public Lands Foundation and other sources which outlined the negative effects to renewable resource management programs. Keith Norris, TWS Director of Wildlife Policy and Administration, compiled similar concerns expressed by additional sources and worked with TWS President White to prepare in a letter to the Secretary of the Interior summarizing the issues of concern for TWS. The letter can be found at [wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2019.11.26\\_TWS-BLM-Relocation\\_FINAL.pdf](https://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2019.11.26_TWS-BLM-Relocation_FINAL.pdf).

During a teleconference meeting on December 9, Council discussed three topics. First, we reviewed and approved, with minor edits, the minutes of the Fall Council Meeting held in Reno September 28-29. Those minutes will be posted for viewing on the TWS website on or before December 18. Second, we discussed conference planning. As announced earlier, our 2020 annual meeting will be held in Louisville, KY and, in 2021, we will meet in Baltimore, MD. Council looked at options to move the Annual Conference across the country in a way that maximizes opportunities for members to attend. Executive Director Ed Thompson reviewed the present strategy for planning Annual Conferences. He and TWS Staff have been actively soliciting and reviewing candidate sites and venues for the 2022 and 2023 Annual Conferences. Several promising bids have been received. Once negotiations are completed, Council will determine the final selections. Finally, Council reviewed an AFWA-sponsored proposal to survey values, beliefs, and attitudes of practicing wildlife conservation professionals. A key objective would be to measure any change from responses received in a similar 1998 survey of TWS members. Council members discussed the need to verify that appropriate parameters would be employed to ensure conformance with privacy policies and that the latest protocols for survey design and analysis are incorporated. The proposal will undergo further review.

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## SOUTHWEST SECTION TRACKS

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If you have any questions about any of the topics listed above, please contact me by phone, email, or in person at the upcoming Annual Chapter Meetings. Travel conditions permitting, I plan to attend the AZ/NM Chapter's Joint Annual Meeting in Prescott and the business meeting and President's Reception at the Texas Chapter Meeting. Unfortunately, I'll have to cut my visit to Corpus Christi short to return home in time to leave on another long-planned trip.

I'm sure you've already started seeing announcements asking for nominations for various TWS Awards. Please check out the various awards described on the TWS website under the "Engage" tab. If you know individuals or groups worthy special recognition, please consider submitting a nomination.



Finally - Best wishes to everyone for a successful and happy new year!

**Jim Ramakka, CWB®**

Southwest Section Representative

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# 26 Years and Counting

2019 Wildlife Conservation Camp  
an overwhelming success

By Thomas J. Janke  
2019 Camp Director

On Saturday, 13 July 2019, we wrapped up another successful week of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society's Wildlife Conservation Camp. Participants made many great memories and tucked new experiences under their belts. Most importantly, everyone had fun and left with a greater understanding of and appreciation for the great outdoors and the natural resources that we are so blessed to have in this wonderful state.



Group photo of 2019 TCTWS Wildlife Conservation Camp attendees and volunteers.



Campers have fun learning about and constructing watersheds.

Throughout the week of July 7-13, we hosted 25 high-school-age campers from across the state. This year's camp, the 26th annual event, was hosted at the Clear Fork Ranch near Albany, Texas. From start to finish, campers were immersed in natural resource-related talks, presentations, and field-based activities. The overall goal of the camp is to give campers the opportunity to learn about a diversity of natural resource and conservation topics. They explored soils, water, plants, insects, fish, birds, and mammals, and their interactions in nature. They also learned about habitat management techniques, hunting and fishing, land ethics and stewardship. Though campers may not go on to become natural resource professionals, TCTWS strives to educate our youth

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## 2019 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CAMP

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so they are better informed on conservation issues for when they are in a position to vote or become involved with conservation initiatives or organizations.

During the course of the week, campers and team leaders did an outstanding job of staying motivated and keeping their enthusiasm up in hopes of earning the coveted 'Top Team' award. This year's self-proclaimed 'Aureus aquilas' (literal Latin translation for Golden Eagles) took home the top honor. The team consisted of Addie Brown (Beeville), Courtney White (Del Rio), Grace Millsap (Azle), Alfredo Castro-Rosas (San Marcos), Cole Bynum (Denison), and Idenya Bala-Mehta (Katy). Grace Millsap also earned the recognition and title of 'Top Camper' for the 2019 Wildlife Conservation Camp, and will be invited to attend the 2020 Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society annual meeting in Corpus Christi to present her camp experiences during the Friday evening awards reception.



There's no better way to learn about fish ecology than to 'wet-a-line'. For some of our campers, this was their first time to go fishing!

Many thanks go out to all of the outstanding volunteer mentors and instructors that participated in this year's camp. In addition to our 25 campers, there were over 60 natural resource professionals and students



Campers learned about shooting sports and safety with shotguns, pellet rifles, and archery stations. For multiple campers, this was their first time participating in at least one of these events.

from across the state who made camp possible. We were very fortunate to have professionals from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (biologists and game wardens), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Welder Wildlife Foundation, Borderlands Research Institute, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute, Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation, Tarrant Regional Water

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## 2019 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CAMP

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District, Delta Land Services, Abilene Christian University, US Fish and Wildlife Services, and East Wildlife Foundation come and share their expertise and knowledge to all of our campers. Universities represented



Being able to properly identify plants is an important process in habitat management and wildlife conservation.

by our college mentors/team leaders included Sul Ross State University, Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University - Kingsville, Texas State University, and Texas Tech University. Camp would also not have been possible without the generous support of many organizations and individuals. So to all our supporters, THANK YOU!!!

The 2020 camp will take place 12-18 July at the Welder Wildlife Foundation in Sinton, Texas. We encourage all interested high school students to apply. Applicants must have completed their freshman year of high school. We also encourage college students and professionals to get involved. Angie Arredondo will be the 2020 Camp Director. Please contact her at [wildlifecampdirector@yahoo.com](mailto:wildlifecampdirector@yahoo.com) if you have any questions. More information about the Wildlife Conservation Camp can be found at <https://wildlifecamp.tx.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/WildlifeConservationCamp/>.

If you are interested in seeing more pictures from this year's camp, please feel free to look through our camp Flickr page (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifeconservationcamp>).

Thank you very much again for this opportunity and your support. It was truly my pleasure to direct this year's camp.



The sunset to a successful and memorable week of Conservation Camp at the Clear Fork Ranch.





# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

*Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation*

The Wildlife Society, alongside the U.S. Forest Service, a Premier Partner of TWS, has announced new Native American Research Assistantships for Summer 2020. Applications are now being accepted for the 2019-2020 Native American Research Assistantship program. The deadline to apply is January 19th. If you are interested or need more information, please visit the website below:

<https://wildlife.org/apply-now-for-usfs-native-american-research-assistantship/>



**This is *your* newsletter.**

To submit an article, contact us: [newsletter@tctws.org](mailto:newsletter@tctws.org).

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

**[tctws.org](http://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](mailto: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.