

# Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

*Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education*



Photo by: A. Richards

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## TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD

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EDITOR, ANDREA WILEY

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

*by Romey Swanson*

### A Message from the President

Things finally seem to be getting back to normal. Well, at least the new normal.

After a year that disrupted many elements of our work, it is refreshing to hear stories of reestablished routines of field work, site visits, and in-person meetings. This spring I was able to join several research projects and meet-ups which also afforded the opportunity to meet with members of a handful of student chapters. What a joy! I hope to continue this trend into the second half of the year and want to hear from you about upcoming student chapter events.

We are now seven months away from the 2022 Annual Conference. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we will be returning to an in-person affair at the Horseshoe Bay Resort in Marble Falls (February 24 – 26). The Texas Chapter leadership is working to ensure a safe, enjoyable, and educational event. As a theme, the conference will aim to explore and celebrate wildlife diversity – both the animals and the people.

We will also hear from our own Teer Leadership Institute's 2020-2022 Cohort exploring the concepts of wildlife relevancy and an advocacy campaign concerning the 1d1-w

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

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Wildlife Management Property Tax Appraisal. The Teer Cohort and the Teer Institute's leadership deserve special recognition for their persistence, patience, and adaptability. This is a program that would normally have concluded in 12 months but was necessarily extended to 24 months. I look forward to recognizing and congratulating this cohort for your substantial investment and commitment.

The newly formed Diversity and Inclusion Committee has been working to develop an operations manual that sets forth a vision of relevance in wildlife management and conservation. This work is done while striving for equitable representation and participation from all communities who care for wildlife and the wildlife management profession. While we should recognize and celebrate the progress that the Texas Chapter has made in consideration of Diversity and Inclusion - there remains much work to do in sharing the story of wildlife relevance and promoting inclusion in the decisions that affect wildlife and society's relationship with wildlife.

We have two updates to share concerning TCTWS's policy and advocacy efforts. First, Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA for short) has been reintroduced in the House of Representatives as HR 2773. As a reminder, this bill would provide states with substantial funding pointed at recovery of Species of Greatest Conservation Need including 1,300 species within Texas. TCTWS works among a consortium of partners to secure support for this bill and participated in a recent virtual fly-in which added three Texas co-sponsors to HR 2773. Look for more RAWA updates and coordination via social media and future newsletters.

Secondly, TCTWS commends TPWD and TPW Council for issuing an Emergency Order limiting the movement of captive-bred deer within Texas. This Order was in response to a recent flare of Chronic Wasting Disease identified at deer breeder facilities in Uvalde and Hunt Counties. Unfortunately, CWD positive deer were moved from these sites to additional facilities in Mason and Matagorda County. Trace out monitoring reveals that, over the past five years, deer from these positive facilities have been transported to over 200 additional sites including more than 100 release sites. TCTWS has submitted a letter to policy makers calling for the indefinite suspension of the movement of all captive-bred deer in Texas until the risk of unintentional spread of CWD to free ranging deer is effectively mitigated. Further, TCTWS has asked TPWD to reassess fee structures to assure that 100% of the cost of administering the deer breeder program are recovered in deer breeder permit fees.

That is a goodly number of updates to unpack. As I mentioned, things are getting busy, and we are all adapting to the new normal. Do not hesitate to reach out or engage on any of these efforts. And always remember to "dare mighty things".



Kindest Personal Regards,  
Romey Swanson

President, Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

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# TWS - SUMMER READING LIST

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From Mariah Beyers

## **Summer Reading – Top Journal Downloads of 2020**

For over 80 years, The Wildlife Society has helped develop, contextualize, and advance the scientific foundation of wildlife management through publication of peer-reviewed studies in the *Journal of Wildlife Management* (1937), *Wildlife Monographs* (1958), and *Wildlife Society Bulletin* (1973). As a leading resource for wildlife managers in the field and a central component of the Society's mission, regularly assessing engagement with TWS journal content helps provide valuable insights about the future of wildlife management in North America and beyond.

Looking at article download trends provides a quick and easy way to show active engagement and use of journal content over time and can be analyzed per article or journal title. In 2020, downloads of articles published in TWS journals increased by 15% compared to 2019. That marks the fifth consecutive year of increasing downloads.

**Wondering what your fellow wildlifera are reading?** The table below includes the top 15 downloaded papers published in TWS Journals in 2020 as of March 2021. Members of TWS receive free access to all TWS publications. To take advantage of this exclusive member benefit, simply log into Your Membership and go to the "Publications" tab.

For more information on journal publishing metrics in the digital age and their relevance to TWS, check out the article *A Measure of Influence*, which appears on pages 39-43 of the May/June 2020 issue of *The Wildlife Professional*.

## **Table. Top 15 papers published in TWS Journals in 2020 based on the number of downloads as of March 2021.**

### **Title / Author(s) / Journal**

[Assessing Nutritional Condition of Mule Deer Using a Photographic Index](#)

Smiley, R.A., Rittenhouse, C.D., Mong, T.W. and Monteith, K.L.

*Wildlife Society Bulletin*

[Best Management Practices for Trapping Furbearers in the United States \(open access\)](#)

White, H.B., Batcheller, G.R., Boggess, E.K., Brown, C.L., Butfiloski, J.W., Decker, T.A., Erb, J.D., Fall, M.W., Hamilton, D.A., Hiller, T.L., Hubert, G.F., Jr., Lovallo, M.J., Olson, J.F. and Roberts, N.M.

*Wildlife Monographs*

[Effects of Wind Turbine Curtailment on Bird and Bat Fatalities \(open access\)](#)

Smallwood, K.S. and Bell, D.A.

*The Journal of Wildlife Management*

[Dogs Detect Larger Wind Energy Effects on Bats and Birds \(open access\)](#)

Smallwood, K.S., Bell, D.A. and Standish, S.

*The Journal of Wildlife Management*

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## TWS - SUMMER READING LIST

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### **Title / Author(s) / Journal**

[Anthropogenic Disturbance and Population Viability of Woodland Caribou in Ontario \(open access\)](#)

Fryxell, J.M., Avgar, T., Liu, B., Baker, J.A., Rodgers, A.R., Shuter, J., Thompson, I.D., Reid, D.E.B., Kittle, A.M., Mosser, A., Newmaster, S.G., Nudds, T.D., Street, G.M., Brown, G.S. and Patterson, B.

*The Journal of Wildlife Management*

[Wolverine Occupancy, Spatial Distribution, and Monitoring Design \(open access\)](#)

Lukacs, P.M., Evans Mack, D., Inman, R., Gude, J.A., Ivan, J.S., Lanka, R.P., Lewis, J.C., Long, R.A., Sallabanks, R., Walker, Z., Courville, S., Jackson, S., Kahn, R., Schwartz, M.K., Torbit, S.C., Waller, J.S. and Carroll, K.

*The Journal of Wildlife Management*

[Ratcheting up Rigor in Wildlife Management Decision Making \(open access\)](#)

Fuller, A.K., Decker, D.J., Schiavone, M.V. and Forstchen, A.B.

*Wildlife Society Bulletin*

[Boreal Caribou Can Coexist with Natural but Not Industrial Disturbances \(open access\)](#)

Stewart, F.E.C., Nowak, J.J., Micheletti, T., McIntire, E.J.B., Schmiegelow, F.K.A. and Cumming, S.G.

*The Journal of Wildlife Management*

[Are Sage-Grouse Fine-Scale Specialists or Shrub-Steppe Generalists? \(open access\)](#)

Smith, J.T., Allred, B.W., Boyd, C.S., Carlson, J.C., Davies, K.W., Hagen, C.A., Naugle, D.E., Olsen, A.C. and Tack, J.D.

*The Journal of Wildlife Management*

[Preparing Wildlife for Climate Change: How Far Have We Come? \(free to read\)](#)

LeDee, O.E., Handler, S.D., Hoving, C.L., Swanston, C.W. and Zuckerberg, B.

*The Journal of Wildlife Management*

[Computational Reproducibility in The Wildlife Society's Flagship Journals \(open access\)](#)

Archmiller, A.A., Johnson, A.D., Nolan, J., Edwards, M., Elliott, L.H., Ferguson, J.M., Iannarilli, F., Vélez, J., Vitense, K., Johnson, D.H. and Fieberg, J.

*The Journal of Wildlife Management*

[Identifying Birds' Collision Risk with Wind Turbines Using a Multidimensional Utilization Distribution Method \(open access\)](#)

Khosravifard, S., Skidmore, A.K., Naimi, B., Venus, V., Muñoz, A.R. and Toxopeus, A.G.

*Wildlife Society Bulletin*

[Pandemics and the Need for Automated Systems for Biodiversity Monitoring \(free to read\)](#)

Sugai, L.S.M.

*The Journal of Wildlife Management*

[Widespread Lead Exposure in Golden Eagles Captured in Montana \(open access\)](#)

Domenech, R., Shreading, A., Ramsey, P. and McTee, M.

*The Journal of Wildlife Management*

[Overabundance of Black-Tailed Deer in Urbanized Coastal California](#)

Furnas, B.J., Landers, R.H., Paiste, R.G. and Sacks, B.N.

*The Journal of Wildlife Management*

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# TCTWS COMMITTEE NEWS

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## James G. Teer Conservation Leadership Institute Training Leaders for the Conservation Challenges of Tomorrow

### James G Teer Leadership Institute Now Accepting Applications

The James G Teer Leadership Institute welcomed its first cohort in 2014 to ensure that the natural resource profession in Texas has 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, will go through an examination process that identifies skills and weaknesses, become familiar with the policy-making process, and will 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 2022 Leadership Institute. Applicants must have completed their undergraduate degree, and have worked as a natural resource professional for between 1 and 10 years. Participants will participate in several workshops and will work as a team throughout 2022 on their projects that solve a critical issue in the field of resource conservation.

Applications are due October 1, 2021 and are available at <http://tctws.org/conservation-institute-menu/jgtcli-early-career-professional-training/>. For more information please contact Tucker Slack at [early.career.program@tctws.org](mailto:early.career.program@tctws.org).



## **Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee**

Help us honor and recognize the educators, landowners, and wildlife professionals that inspire you! 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. Since 1992, this award has honored the best wildlife educators in Texas, including 2020 recipient Dr. Daniel Scognamillo. Nominees should be current or past members of TCTWS. Please submit a 5-point bulleted statement explaining why your 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. There are no property size restrictions or TCTWS membership requirements for this award (nominees do not need to be current or past members of TCTWS). The 2020 award went to the Tarrant Regional Water District for innovative stormwater management that provides wildlife habitat. Please submit a ½ to 1 page letter of nomination explaining why your 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. Honoring remarkable individuals and groups for their contributions to conservation in Texas since 1966, this is the oldest, recorded TCTWS award. The 2020 award honored the late, great Dr. Bob Dittmar. Nominees should be current or past members of TCTWS. Please submit a 5-point bulleted statement explaining why your nominee is deserving of the award, along with a curriculum vitae of the nominee (if possible).

All nominations should be submitted to: Shane Kiefer at [skiefer@plateauwildlife.com](mailto:skiefer@plateauwildlife.com) with the subject "Nomination for TCTWS Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Award." The deadline for nominations is November 15, 2021.

## 2021 TCTWS Finance Committee Update

Happy Summer Everyone! The Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society (TCTWS) Finance Committee would like to share a few updates regarding recent fundraising activities. The new online fundraising platform, OneCause, that we used for the 2021 Annual Meeting has been well utilized the past few months.

The Student Chapters have held successful fundraising events with the help of the online platform. The Texas A&M University Student Chapter held a Wild Game Dinner in April raising \$1,970 (Dinner and Raffle) for their chapter. Texas Tech University held an event in May to support the Natural Resource Management Fund for Excellence and raised \$26, 567 (Raffle, Auction, and Donations) for the Fund. The fund will support NRM Student Scholarships, the Texas Tech Association of Natural Resources Scientists, The Plant ID Team, The Society for Fire Ecology, The Texas Tech Subunit of the American Fisheries Society, and The Wildlife Society at Texas Tech. Ten percent will go directly to the Llano River Field Station to help offset costs associated with hosting NRM classes in the Maymester and Summer sessions. Tech also gifted a portion of the proceeds back to the Texas Chapter. OneCause is available for all of our student chapters to utilize. The Finance Committee will help students set up events and guide them through all the needed steps.

During the winter board meeting, it was decided to change the structure of the Finance committee to always have a minimum of 3 chairs- similar to how the Wildlife Conservation Camp committee operates. Chairs are now expected to serve on the Finance Committee for 3 years (Year 1 - Incoming Chair, Year 2 - Chair, Year 3 - Past Chair). We feel this rotating chair structure will allow Finance to train incoming members and ensure that knowledge is passed down each year. We welcome Amanda Gobeli as our new incoming chair, Kevin Moczygemba as our current chair, and Amanda Hackney is serving as past chair. If you have wanted to get involved with a committee, Finance is a great place to start! You'll interact with members and sponsors from all over the state and learn fundraising techniques. We welcome volunteers and you can serve as a committee member if you are not quite ready to commit to a chair position.

Hunt and tour packages were once again our most successful raffle items. If you have a professional or personal connection to someone who could donate an experience package, please let us know.

If you have any questions, please reach out to myself, or one of my fellow finance committee members Amanda Hackney, Amanda Gobeli, or Grant Lawrence at [finance@tctws.org](mailto:finance@tctws.org).

Kevin J. Moczygemba

Finance Committee Chair

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# TCTWS COMMITTEE NEWS

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## **Certification for Professional Wildlife Biologists**

Why should you get certified as a Wildlife Biologist by TWS? This is a common question I receive from students. Professional standards in knowledge, skills, and ethics are important in all fields, but particularly so for wildlife biologists as there often is public and political contention in management decisions. That is why many agencies and private companies such as consulting firms either require a certification or prefer certification for advancement.

TWS has two certification levels, Associate Wildlife Biologist (AWB) and Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB). Achieving certification as an AWB requires coursework that many university wildlife programs align to. That means once you graduate all you need to do is fill out the application. CWB is the next level and requires an additional 5 years of professional experience.

Many students believe the application to be daunting. Common issues with the application procedure include not filling out the application properly and not having taken the exact courses listed. The course descriptions come in handy when we review your applications so ensure they are accurate and detailed. For example, AWS requires a course in plant taxonomy and identification. If you took a course that covered these topics, but it is not obvious from the course description, it is up to you to give the committee more details and fill in this information yourself. Also, I have some ideas to make the application process easier that I will be discussing with the student chapter leaders.

Please keep in mind that the Southwest Section is planning on providing a cost-coverage assistance program for a single member from each of the state Chapters (Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona). If you are a member of the Wildlife Society and of the Southwest Section, apply now for this highly limited opportunity, and if accepted, you'll receive \$100 cost-coverage assistance when applying for your certification for AWB or CWB. More details on certification including the application and required fees are on the TWS web site at: <http://wildlife.org/learn/professional-development-certification/certification-programs/>

## **Publication Awards - Call for Nominations**

This is the first call for nominations of publications that include a TCTWS member as one of the first three authors and were published within the last 3 years (2019 - 2021). At least 3 publications within a category must be submitted to offer the award. The deadline for submission is 15 November 2021.

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, submit:

- 1) A cover letter stating which category the publication is being submitted under.
- 2) Why the publication should be considered for the award.
- 3) A digital pdf or 6 hard copies.

Submission of materials can be electronically to the Publication Awards Committee Email, [publication.awards@tctws.org](mailto:publication.awards@tctws.org), OR hardcopies can be mailed to Clint Boal, Publication Award Committee Chair, 1312 Boston Ave, Rm 218, Texas Tech University, Lubbock TX 79409



### **Honorary Life Membership Committee Seeking Nominees**

The Honorary Life Membership Committee is seeking nominees for this honor. The Committee will continue the policy of seeking and considering nominees submitted from the membership. This was done because it was felt that a small committee limited to 3-5 chapter members could not know all of the outstanding individuals deserving of this singular honor. Certainly, 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.

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 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 be kept confidential, especially from the nominee, but you can enlist the assistance of your co-workers. Many people have 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. From those nominations that we receive the committee can select one or more recipients to be honored at the 2002 annual meeting. Dossiers of people not selected this year will be filed for future consideration. Please take a moment right now and consider who among your coworkers qualifies and deserves this honor? Set some time aside on your calendar to gather the data to support his or her nomination.

Deadline: 7 December but act now!!!

Please send nominations to [honorary.life.member@tctws.org](mailto:honorary.life.member@tctws.org)

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# STUDENT CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

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## TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

By Catherine Edwards, President of The Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 2021-2022

This past year has been a year of change and perseverance as we overcame obstacles from the Coronavirus pandemic. It shut down most of the world and put brakes on our reality, however, with such change comes opportunity. We embraced opportunities to come together and become stronger than we ever were before. The Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society was no different. Our student chapter saw great change, yet, through it all, we strived through, bonded, and are now stronger than ever before.



Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2021-2022 officer team (pictured from top left to bottom right) Ryan Holcomb, Catherine Edwards, Emily Vincik, Lark Smith, Ty Cosper, Alexandra McBryde, Nancy Montevalvo, and Emily McGhee.

Despite having limitations due to Coronavirus precautions, the Tarleton Student of The Wildlife Society had a successful 2020-2021 academic year. Our student chapter officers strove to provide members with invaluable experiences and opportunities to boost their resumes as well as provide members with connections within the wildlife field. Every bi-weekly meeting hosted a guest speaker from a multitude of career paths including state parks, private land consultants, fisheries biologists, zookeepers, environmental program leaders, and wildlife biologists. Our guest speakers sparked interest in members and gave life lessons and tips along the way. We thank each of them for dedicating their time to our student chapter.



Members (pictured left to right) Lark Smith, Nancy Montevalvo, and Allison Cooper assisting at the East Foundation deer capture.

Throughout the year, members had the opportunity to assist with field research, trash pickups, and more. The society was fortunate to partake in assisting the East Foundation and Texas A&M Kingsville students with deer captures this past November. Members received hands-on experience in capturing, collecting data, and releasing white-tailed deer, learning valuable skills and obtaining numerous memories in the process. Our chapter was also given the incredible opportunity to assist in multiple research projects in partnership with our Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences Department at Tarleton State University. These projects included assisting graduate student John Palarski on his master's research focused on the translocation of Northern Bobwhite, a collaborative research project with Rolling Plains

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## STUDENT CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT CONT.

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Quail Research Foundation and our department. Working as technicians for the Henslow's Sparrow Research and Golden-cheeked Warbler projects overseen by our chapter advisor, Dr. Heather Mathewson, and graduate students, John Palarski and Kathryn Burton. As well as volunteering for the Turkey Peak Mitigation Project with graduate student Kathryn Burton, overseen by Dr. Mathewson and Dr. Darrel Murray. In addition, members also assisted undergraduate researchers, SaraBeth Boggan and Molly Koeck, on their projects at Caprock Canyon State Park. Members were able to actively participate and gain valuable information and skills such as vegetation surveys, bird surveys, quail trapping and banding, and arthropod surveys to name a few while assisting in these projects.

As our student chapter acknowledged the fact that the year would be different and hands-on, in-person experiences would be limited, the officer team started up a Tarleton SCTWS YouTube channel to post weekly videos. These informative videos cover a wide array of topics from 'Woody Species Identification,' 'How to Build a Tent,' to 'How to Change a Tire' and 'The Basics of Hooking Up a Trailer.' In total, our student chapter posted 27 videos on the channel and there are more to come, as our chapter will continue to publish educational videos and Q&A's throughout the coming year. You can find our videos on YouTube by searching our chapter name.



Screenshot of our most popular instructional video, "Telemetry 101," from our student chapter's YouTube channel, featuring graduate student John Palarski.

Our student chapter also understands the importance of community and outreach, thus a Wildlife Wednesday is hosted weekly, on campus and on our social media platforms, by the Education and Outreach Committee to highlight species, ecosystems, and upcoming bills such as Recovering America's Wildlife Act. Roadside trash pick-up is also done frequently along our student chapter's section of Adopt-a-Highway strip to embody community service into our members. In efforts to support 'Lights Out Texas,' turning off lights in order to reduce the disturbance of migratory birds, our chapter created a petition for Tarleton State University to implement light pollution reducing policies. Word of the petition quickly spread throughout campus and is now headed to the Tarleton Student Government Association, to hold the university accountable to these policies.



Member assisting undergraduate researcher Molly Koeck with vegetation surveys.

Plans for the fall and spring semester are quickly developing, and our chapter officers could not be more excited for the coming year ahead as we schedule events, speakers, and more great opportunities for our members. The officer team is eager to provide members with the highest quality of opportunities, skills, and connections this coming year, as we have every year since our founding in 1999, building wildlife and land stewards each and every day, one day at a time!

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# Botany Briefs

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Check out our new recurring column, 'Botany Briefs.' Here we will share information about plants that are important to wildlife, whether beneficial or harmful. If you would like to contribute an article, please contact us at [newsletter@tctws.org](mailto:newsletter@tctws.org).

## Silverleaf Nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium* Cav.)

By Sarah Turner



Photo 1: Silverleaf nightshade found on a disturbed roadside.

A common sight across most of the state during the growing season is a silvery-green plant with a vibrant purple star-shaped flower with prominent yellow projections. This attractive plant packs a punch though, as all its parts poisonous and is considered a noxious weed in many states. Silverleaf nightshade, in the family Solanaceae and also known as bull nettle or tomato weed, is a native perennial that can grow up to 1 meter tall and clones from a creeping rhizome rootstock. It is characterized by alternate, greenish-blue leaves bearing silvery pubescence, with entire to shallowly lobed margins that sometimes look wavy. Standing from the silvery foliage is a raceme-like inflorescence with multiple blooms, characterized by a 5 lobed corolla that is joined at the petal bases into a star shape.

Another defining characteristic of the inflorescence are the numerous prominent, oftentimes persistent, stamen with yellow anthers projecting above the corolla. The species produces globose yellow berries that resemble a tomato, which remain on the stalk for many months past maturation.

While silverleaf nightshade is a showy plant, it has minimal wildlife benefit due to the toxicity of all plant parts. Due to this selective avoidance by grazers, it is often found prominently in overgrazed pastures. The Solanum genus is found worldwide and is numerous in count (1,200-1,800 species), but only 20 poisonous species occur in



Photo 2: The silver-green foliage that defines silverleaf nightshade. Note the shallowly lobed/wavy leaf margins.

Texas. Records exist of medicinal use of the plant by native tribes; however, I would certainly not recommend consumption any of the plant part for this or any other purpose.

Fun fact 1: the genus name is from the Latin solamen, meaning “quieting” or “solace”, and refers to the effect of the narcotic and toxic properties of the species.

Fun fact 2: your common domestic potato is a Solanum, but don't worry, your French fries are perfectly safe to eat!



Photo 3: The purple, star shaped corolla with many bright yellow stamen of silverleaf nightshade are a common sight across much of Texas.

### Literature Cited:

[https://plants.usda.gov/DocumentLibrary/plantguide/pdf/pg\\_soel.pdf](https://plants.usda.gov/DocumentLibrary/plantguide/pdf/pg_soel.pdf)

[https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=soel](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=soel)

[http://southwestdesertflora.com/WebsiteFolders/All\\_Species/Solanaceae/Solanum%20elaeagnifolium,%20Silverleaf%20Nightshade.html](http://southwestdesertflora.com/WebsiteFolders/All_Species/Solanaceae/Solanum%20elaeagnifolium,%20Silverleaf%20Nightshade.html)

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### **Snow-on-the-Mountain (*Euphorbia marginata* Engelm. & A. Gray) & Snow-on-the-Prairie (*Euphorbia bicolor* Pursh)**

By Andrea Wiley

Similar, and often confused, Snow-on-the-Mountain and Snow-on-the-Prairie are native annuals that are members of the Euphorbiaceae, or spurge, family. Both plants have a similar characteristic of white-margined leaf-like bracts that grow in a whorled arrangement just below inconspicuous flowers growing in clusters of two to five smaller flowers in the rosette of the bracts. The flower clusters grow in the forks and tips of the branches. Both species have fruit that are hairy pods with 3 seeds. Once mature, the seeds are expelled aggressively. They can grow up to 4 feet tall from a solitary base. Broken branches and leaves of these species produce a milky sap, known as euphorbin, which can cause skin-irritations such as a rash.



Photo 1: Snow-on-the-Mountain. Photo by Texas A&M Agrilife Extension



Photo 2: Snow-on-the-Prairie. Photo by Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

However, some differences allow for easier identification. Snow-on-the-Prairie have slender upper leaves that are green with a narrow white band along its margins. Snow-on-the-mountain, while similar, have a shorter leaf with a thicker white band along the margin that can sometimes cover the full leaf.

Snow on the prairie receives its name from the appearance of a snow-covered prairie when the plants, which are not grazed by livestock, form large colonies. They are more adapted to clay soils and edges of open woodlands. Snow-on the prairie is found in the eastern portion of the state while snow on the mountain is found further west. Snow on the mountain can grow a large variety of soils including gravelly flats, floodplains, open fields, open woods, and rangelands. Disking and fire can stimulate growth of both species. The two species are valuable to wildlife species such as quail, dove and songbirds as a food source for their seeds. They are poisonous and non-palatable to cattle due to the euphorbin found in the that can cause scours or other irritations. Luckily the plant rarely causes death.

#### Literature Cited:

Linex, Ricky. (2014) *Range Plants of North Central Texas*. "Snow on the prairie," pg75.  
Linex, Ricky. (2014) *Range Plants of North Central Texas*. "Snow on the mountain," pg77.  
<https://rangeplants.tamu.edu/plant/snow-on-the-mountain-snow-on-the-prairie/>

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## SOUTHWEST SECTION TRACKS

*by Jim Ramakka*

It looks like the start of another hazy summer on the Colorado Plateau. Smoke from forest fires in Eastern Arizona is obscuring what should be blue skies and great views of the mountains in Southern Colorado, Eastern Arizona, and Utah. When I was a field biologist in this part of the world in the 1980s the occurrence of large fires was so rare that we were called an “asbestos district”. That is no longer the case. What used to be summer monsoons we grew to expect back then are only a memory as we begin what is predicted to be another year of severe drought. It is hard not to think that the effects of climate change are becoming more apparent in the Southwest as well as elsewhere.

The Wildlife Society is exploring ways in which we can incorporate awareness of the issue of climate change as a regular part of our publications and other activities, including reducing the carbon footprint of our annual meetings. Grant Hildebrant, NW Section Representative to Council, is chairing an ad hoc committee charged with that mission.

Since my last column, Council has been focusing on various committee meetings and reports that were presented during a Special Council Meeting on June 2. The main purpose of that meeting was to review and discuss the FY22 Operations Plans and the FY22 TWS Budget. We also reviewed the proposed Drone Working Group Charter, the Draft DEI Strategic Plan, and two proposed Policy Position Statements (Energy Development and Wildlife, Invasive Species). After review and discussion by Council, all were unanimously approved.

The FY22 Operations Plans presented projected staff activities to meet TWS program annual goals for: Business Relations, Conferences, Communications, Finance and Administration, Government Affairs, Partnerships, Journals, Membership, Unit Services, Personal Fund Raising, and Professional Development and Certification. Progress in meeting those goals is tracked throughout the year. After discussing the plans, Ed Thompson presented an overview of the proposed FY22 TWS Budget: TWS staff is recommending an FY22 budget that generates at least \$2,020,262 in income and \$2,295,574 in expenses. This will result in a deficit spending budget of \$275,312 based on conservative estimates of projected income and expenses. Staff believes that we will be able to generate more income, especially if the 2021 annual conference attendance matches that of last

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year. A concern with the possibility of virtual event fatigue led to modeling the budget on a conference attendance of 1,500 in contrast to the 2,500 attendees that generated the success of last year's conference. Similar modelling for the FY21 Budget also projected a deficit, but, due to reduced expenses, Payroll Protection Plan funding, and the record number of attendees at the Annual Conference, we ended the year with surplus. While that may not be the case this year, last year's success and conservative budgeting resulted in a budget surplus sufficient to cover the projected deficit.

Our Partners Program is showing modest growth but is lower than it has been in the past due to the loss of three non-government partners. Those partners will be difficult to replace in the current economic conditions. Still, it was good to learn Membership, Personal Fundraising, and Professional Development—are back to normal levels. Plans for the Second Virtual Annual Meeting of TWS in the Fall are on course and planning for a return to an in-person meeting in Spokane in 2022 is well underway.

At the end of our meeting, CEO Ed Thompson asked for a few minutes during which he announced his plans to retire on August 31. Most of you have probably seen his announcement in the eWildlifer or on Facebook. Ed was key player in guiding the TWS through rough financial times and development of our present budgeting strategy, so Council met his announcement with mixed feelings. We hate to see him go, but we are happy he has decided to take a break and enjoy retirement while still healthy and active. The Executive Committee is forming a Search Committee to begin the process of recruiting Ed's replacement. Ed will be missed, but he laid a solid foundation which his successor can build upon.

I hope you all have safe field seasons and that you are planning to attendee this year's Annual Meeting. As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns.



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HAPPY TRAILS!

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