

Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education



Photo by: A. Richards

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EDITOR, ANDREA WILEY

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

by Romey Swanson

A Message from the President

Dear Wildlifers –

September has come and gone. Dove season is in full swing, and early cool fronts tease us with the promise of respite from the lingering summer heat. Together, we wait patiently to bear witness to the arrival of our favorite harbingers of Fall.

Just last week, I enjoyed watching a recently arrived earful of waxwings breezing through the cool evening sky (an earful -- that's what you call a flock of waxwings). In herping circles, October is affectionately referred to as Hog-tober because of the predictable uptick in hog-nosed snake activity. This behavior and the cooling season have me hopeful as I continue to pursue additional "ticks" on my Texas herping big year list -- currently sitting at 161 species. A big year is a (sometimes manic) passion project taken on in addition to the day-to-day grind of work. But, to me, it also represents months of planning, coordination, and toil. In many ways, a big year parallels a typical annual cycle of wildlife management activities. Each season brings with it the right timing to pursue a task or advance a project. And, the Fall seems to bring with it equal opportunities for more work and planning but also pay-out and harvest. With MLD

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

and archery season-opening, the arrival of overwintering birds and waterfowl, and a myriad of other Fall heralds, I hopeful that all of us have a productive, joyful, and refreshing season.

TCTWS Annual Conference

As a simple reminder, the TCTWS Annual Conference is scheduled for February 24th - 26th at the Horseshoe Bay Resort near Marble Falls. The Executive and Conference Planning Committees continue to monitor circumstances surrounding the pandemic so that we can put on a safe, informative, and enjoyable event. The conference will kick off with an incredible slate of workshops hitting on exciting and varied topics, including advocacy, photography, wild game butchery, and cooking. Registration will be opening soon, and you will be alerted via email with ongoing updates.

Plenary Session

The Teer Leadership Cohort will be headlining this year's plenary session to discuss their learning and recommendations for the Texas Chapter to engage around relevancy in wildlife management and the 1d1w Wildlife Management property tax valuation.

Conservation Affairs and CWD Update

The Conservation Affairs Committee has been extremely busy as of late. With necessary and ongoing attention focused on the State's management responses to the pervasive threat of Chronic Wasting Disease. The Texas Chapter remains an essential partner in the development of policy based in science and expert opinion. During the August TPW Commissioner's meeting, several Texas Chapter representatives and members provided testimony in support of actions to limit the spread of CWD while improving accountability in the movement of captive-bred deer. This testimony proved influential as the Commissioners adopted management rules calling for significant testing before the movement or release of captive-bred deer. In late September, the Texas Chapter provided testimony during a joint congressional hearing between the Agriculture and Livestock Committee and the Culture, Recreation, and Tourism Committee. Executive Director, Dr. Don Steinbach, represented the Chapter and added important perspectives and information to the conversation.

The past few months have been undoubtedly busy. I am hopeful that the coming season will provide you with ample opportunities for recreation and recovery as we continue the work but also take solace in the spoils. And don't forget to "dare mighty things".



Kindest Personal Regards,
Romey Swanson

President, Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Wildlife Conservation Camp

Wildlife Conservation Camp looked a little different this year. With fewer campers, fewer days, and COVID-19 protocols to deal with, we faced many challenges, including those dealt from mother nature. All things considered, the Wildlife Conservation Camp Committee is excited to share that camp was a fun, safe, and memorable experience for all of the wonderful campers and staff involved.

On July 10–14, 2021, twelve new campers from across the state and Louisiana, joined staff at the beautiful Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation in Sinton, TX. These twelve high school students had the opportunity to meet and connect with new peers, wildlife professionals, college mentors, and the outdoors throughout the week. During camp, students are required to complete and submit a plant press, journal, notebook, and a presentation that was given to the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society's (TCTWS) Executive Board. All of these projects, are submitted, graded, and used to determine the highly coveted Top Camper Award.

Natural Resource professionals led campers in activities and presentations including, the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, habitat management techniques, plant and animal identification, radio telemetry, mist-netting, small mammal trapping, human and wildlife conflicts, shooting sports, hunter skills and safety, aquatic sampling, a BioBlitz, and much more. One of the most memorable moments at camp was our campers competing with the TCTWS Executive Board in a Quiz Bowl. The Executive Board took the win, but our campers gave them a run for their money.

Because we are a non-profit organization, we rely heavily on the generous donations of our amazing camp sponsors. Their donations and sponsorships provide materials for camp such as scholarships, notebooks, camper awards, and meals. The Wildlife Conservation Camp would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for making camp possible with their generosity: Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Welder Wildlife Foundation, Texas Farm Bureau, McBride Conservation Fund, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, San Patricio County Game Wardens, Texas Youth Hunting Program, Forestry Suppliers, San Patricio Soil and Water Conservation District, Black Rifle Coffee Company, SWCA Environmental Consultants, Stephen Ross, Wildlife Alliance for Youth, Lavaca County Farm Bureau, Callahan-Shackleford Farm Bureau, and Bee County Farm Bureau.

To say the success of camp is dependent upon our dedicated volunteers is an understatement. These amazing volunteers are passionate about the education of our students, spend long hours with our campers, and would wake up every morning with the best attitudes, and a shared goal of making this camp the best for all those involved. We had over 30 volunteers that served as presenters, professional leaders, college mentors, returning campers, and administrative support. Without the donation of their time, the Wildlife Conservation Camp simply would not have happened.

TCTWS COMMITTEE NEWS

Wildlife Conservation Camp cont.

This year's professional staff who served as mentors and presenters included: Director, Angie Arredondo, Director-Elect, Bobby Allcorn, Mandy Krause, Michelle Wood-Ramirez, Albert Flores, Kelley Mundy, Nicole Alonso-Leach, Sarah Melendez, Austin Kelly, Jayce Proctor, and Kevin Moczygemba. Additional outstanding presenters for the week included: Selma Glasscock, Terry Blankenship, Maureen Frank, Jessica Glasscock, Thomas Janke, Mikayla Killam, Greg Simmons, Lerrin Johnson, James Kilty, Kally Marbach, April Conkey, Brock Minton, Michael Tewes, Daniel Scognamillo, Alejandra Martinez, Kaitlyn Restivo, Sally Scroggs, Andy Mullaney, and Duston Duffie.

University students, and TCTWS student members, that served as college mentors and presenters included: Grace Millsap (West Texas A&M University) Laken Mize (Stephen F. Austin State University), Averi Wukash (Texas State University), Jeremiah Wright (Texas A&M University), Ethan Janecka (Texas A&M University), Colton Hoffman (Sul Ross State University), Cody Stricker (Texas A&M University), and Juan Jose Celaya (Sul Ross State University). High school students (and previous WCC graduates) that served as returning campers and mentors included: Jackee Corrigan, Ava Snelson, and Keely Gililland. Wildlife Conservation Camp Committee would like to send a very special thank you to all of our volunteers, it was because of you that the 2021 Wildlife Conservation Camp was a success!

This year's Top Camper was awarded to Raegan Miller who is a junior in Bay City, Texas. With this award, we are excited to have Miss Miller attend the TCTWS annual meeting this coming February, and share her camper experience with you all.

Incoming camp director Bobby Allcorn is working hard on camp preparations for next year. For more information on how you can volunteer or donate to camp, please visit our website at www.wildlifecamp.tx.org, or contact the camp director at wildlifecampdirector@gmail.com.

2021 Wildlife Conservation Camp Graduates:

Matthew Sommer (Spring, Texas)
Kaitlyn Saunders (Clyde, Texas)
Amelia Horner (Missouri City, Texas)
Cade Steffek (Hallettsville, Texas)
Raegan Miller (Bay City, Texas)
Wade Shimek (Hallettsville, Texas)

Brendan Hood (Ruston, Louisiana)
Austin Swedoski (Avinger, Texas)
William H. Reagan (Spring, Texas)
Christian Swanson (Bay City, Texas)
Zechariah Randall (Lampasas, Texas)
Jefferson Weaver (Gruver, Texas)



Presented by the
Texas Chapter of
The Wildlife Society

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 with the subject "Nomination for TCTWS Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Award." The deadline for nominations is November 15, 2021.

Call for Abstracts

Presented Paper and Poster Presentation Abstract submission deadline is November 30, 2021.

In addition to the Plenary session, the 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 one 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: <https://tctws.org/annual-meeting-2/annual-meeting/>

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 one poster will be 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.

continued on page **XX**.

TCTWS COMMITTEE NEWS

Sample Abstract (please note not to use scientific names in title; use only in body of abstract)

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

Katherine S. Miller, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX, 78363, USA

Leonard A. Brennan, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX, 78363, USA

Randy DeYoung, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX, 78363, USA

Fidel Hernández, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX, 78363, USA

X. Ben Wu, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, 77843-2138, USA

Example:

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.

PUBLICATION AWARDS – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

This is the last 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, 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

Upcoming Deadlines for Chapter Committees

Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Committee - Nominations due November 15th.

Publication Awards - Call for Nominations due November 15th.

Call for Abstracts - Submissions due November 30th.

Honorary Life Membership Committee - Nominations due December 7th.



Botany Briefs

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.

Croton texensis (Klotzsch) Müell.-Arg. (Texas croton)

By Sarah Turner



Photo 1: 1)A dense stand of *Croton texensis* along a fence line in Brazos County. Note the gray-green, pubescent foliage and flowering clusters at the end of the branches (photo by S. Turner).

Imagine you're walking to your favorite dove hunting spot and stop to gaze across the pasture in front of you... a sea of seeding grasses and sunflowers meet your eyes, along with an exceptionally hairy plant of variable height exhibiting alternately arranged gray-green-yellow leaves that are smooth edged. You probably picked a good field to hunt, as this plant commonly known as "doveweed" is an excellent food source for dove and quail. Texas croton is a 1-to-3-foot annual forb growing in calcareous, sandy loam, and loose sandy soils in Texas. The plant has a single gray-yellow stem that commonly divides in whorls above the stem's midpoint and produces an array of ascending

branches that support alternate, simple and entire leaves up to 4 inches in length (image 1). The distinct hairiness of the plant is due to all structures of the plant being densely pubescent



Photo 2: An inflorescence on *Croton texensis* (photo by S. Turner).

with star-shaped hairs. Texas croton is dioecious (male and female flowers on separate plants), with both male and female plants producing flowers lacking corollas that are clustered in short racemes at the terminal end of branches (image 2). The plant produces a spherical capsule fruit up to a quarter inch in diameter (that is also hairy) and contains 3 smooth (not hairy) brown seeds up to a sixth of an inch in length.

Any plant containing a bird's name in its common name has to be good for birds in general, and Texas croton is no exception. It is a high-quality food source for avian species but has toxic properties for domestic livestock. This grazing avoidance and the plant's propensity to occur densely in disturbed soils has fueled the notion that the species is an indicator of overgrazing. Native Americans are also purported to have used the plant for a variety of medicinal purposes, including treatment of sores and as a purgative.

Fun fact: the scientific name *Croton texensis* is descriptive of its fruit and roughly translates to "a tick" (Greek root *kroton*) "from Texas" (*texensis*).

Literature Cited:

<https://swbiodiversity.org/seinet/taxa/index.php?taxon=3414&clid=2935>

https://www.kswildflower.org/flower_details.php?flowerID=520

<https://rangeplants.tamu.edu/plant/annual-croton-texas-croton/>

Botany Briefs

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***Polygonum pensylvanicum* L. (Pennsylvania Smartweed)**

By Andrea Wiley

As dove season is underway and duck season is fast approaching, our skies and ears will soon be filled with duck calls and shotgun blasts (or camera clicks). As of this writing, migratory birds have already begun to make their way south, and fuel for the flight is a highly important necessity. Plants, including smartweed, will bring a feast of energy for these visiting fowl.



Photo 1: A colony of smartweed. Photo by Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

Smartweeds are a genus of plants in the Knotweed, or Polygonaceae, family and include several species in North America. Nine species are common in Texas. Most smartweeds are considered wetlands plants as they survive mostly in marshes, wet meadows, and other aquatic habitats. Smartweeds can become so thick that they form mats in streams. The submerged portion of the plant also provides a habitat for many macro and micro invertebrates.

Pennsylvania smartweed is a native, warm-season emergent plant that flowers from March to November. The plants when erect can reach up to 6 feet in height, but are generally 2-3 feet. They have long, lanceolate shaped leaves measuring up to 6-



Photo 2: Inflorescence of *P. pensylvanicum*. Photo by Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

inches long with short hairs sparsely covering them. They are arranged in an alternate arrangement with a light-green sheath surrounding the stem at the petiole. The inflorescence is an elongated cluster of small flowers at the end of the stems. They have white to pink flowers that are about 3mm in size, but the cluster ranges from one-half inch to 3 inches. Their seeds are a small, lens-shaped fruit; black in color, concave, and two-sided. Waterfowl feed on the seeds.

Literature Cited:

http://www.bio.brandeis.edu/fieldbio/Wildflowers_Kimonis_Kramer/PAGES/PENNSYLVANIASMARTWEED_PAGE_FINAL.html
<https://rangeplants.tamu.edu/plant/smartweed/>
https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/polygonum_pensylvanicum.shtml

SOUTHWEST SECTION TRACKS

by Jim Ramakka

The past year and half have been particularly tumultuous for our nation and for The Wildlife Society. I believe the membership can be proud of the way TWS staff responded to the need to pivot from in-person to virtual annual meetings. The conservative budgeting approach developed over the past several years under the leadership of Past-Presidents Darren Miller and Gary White and President Carol Chambers, and the business acumen and advice of CEO Ed Thompson, enabled us to avoid what could have been a financial crisis. Our membership has not declined as feared it might be a consequence of the pandemic and economic slowdown and Council has continued addressing the business of our professional society. TWS staff and members of the Conservation Affairs Network have continued to work to influence national policy on wildlife related issues.

Council has held two Special Meetings since my last column. On June 2nd, Council met to review and approve a proposed 2022 Operations Plan and associated a 2022 Budget of \$2.295 million for the coming year. Revisions to the existing Energy Development and Invasive Species standing Position Statements were discussed and approved and the Positions Statements Committee was tasked with examining the feasibility of drafting addition position or issue statements on the use of NEPA Categorical Exclusions and another on Fire Management. The proposed TWS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan was also reviewed, discussed, and approved.

At the end of the June meeting, CEO Ed Thompson announced his plans to retire on August 31st. Ed played a key role in reshaping TWS into a modern professional society. He was instrumental in employing solid business and planning practices. Everyone on Council expressed their gratitude for Ed's outstanding efforts while wishing him a happy retirement. A search committee was formed to seek a qualified replacement. A total of 21 individuals applied for the position. The applicants were individually scored on 25 factors and 10 required elements. The top 10 highest scoring applicants were asked to respond to 11 substantive questions in first-round interviews during the last week of August. In early September, the top 3 candidates will undergo two more interviews to assess their responses to specific questions. The plan is to have a final selection made and a new CEO hired before the start of our Annual Meeting in November. Until then, as allowed by TWS By Laws, President Carol Chambers will serve as Acting CEO beginning September 1.

SOUTHWEST SECTION TRACKS

A second Special Council Meeting was held on August 23rd to address 3 items: establishing the date for the Fall Regular Council Meeting, electing an Interim Corporate Secretary (a position to be held until selection of a new CEO), and amending financial procedures related to a proposed graduate policy fellowship. The Fall Council Meeting will be a virtual meeting held October 24 -25 with portions continued into the TWS Annual Conference. President-elect Gordon Batcheller was elected Interim Corporate Secretary. Finally, Council voted to amend a prior motion to adjust the allocation of pending donated funds to allow a policy fellowship to begin in 2022.

I hope you will all attend our virtual 28th Annual Conference in November. The start of TWS Annual Conferences 27 years ago marked a significant milestone in our organization's evolution into a modern professional society. That process of evolution continues to this day as we seek ways to welcome everyone with an interest in the scientific management and conservation of wildlife resources. The work of the wildlife profession has expanded beyond game species to include a wide variety of taxa and management issues and problems. The approval of a Canadian Section and Council support for the formation of a Chapter in Mexico and Student Chapter in Norway, reflect progress toward achieving the TWS goal of representing all wildlife professionals across the globe.

We wildlifers are a unique group of professionals. As Jack Ward Thomas often emphasized, our work is more than a job. It is a true calling, a vocation. He also firmly believed, "The Wildlife Society gives voice and form and definition to our profession." (Thomas 1985). That statement is as true today as it has been for decades. Which is why it has been an honor to serve as the Southwest Section TWS Council Representative for the last 3 yrs. It is also why I am delighted that my good friend, Kathy Granillo, will assume that role at end of this this year's Fall Council Meeting. Kathy brings a wealth of up-to-date experience and knowledge that will be a great asset to an already outstanding Council. She will serve us well. I look forward to seeing many of you again in-person in 2022.



Jim Ramakka, CWB®
Southwest Section Representative
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HAPPY TRAILS!

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.