APRIL 2022 NO. 213

## Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education



## TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD

President, John Kinsey
Pres. Elect, Blake Grisham
Vice President, Mary Pearl Meuth
Secretary, Masi Serna
Board Member at Large, Matt
Reidy

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EDITOR, ANDREA RICHARDS AND SARAH TURNER

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

by John Kinsey

A Message from the President

It is my privilege to welcome Matt Reidy as Board Member at Large, Masi Serna as Secretary, and Mary Pearl Meuth as Vice President. In addition, Dr. Blake Grisham is now your President-Elect, and Romey Swanson will be serving as your Past President. I am eager to get to work with our new members of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Executive Board.

It was great to see so many of our members in person at Horseshoe Bay at the annual Chapter meeting. We definitely missed those of you who were unable to attend but look forward to seeing you all at the Omni-Houston from February 22nd through the 24th in 2023 for our next Chapter meeting. I want to take this opportunity to introduce our Chapter's new logo to those that did not get a chance to see it in Horseshoe Bay.

### PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Designing a new logo is not a small task and certainly not one that we took lightly. I gathered input about the important elements from the Executive Board, past Presidents, and past JGTLI Early Professional fellows. We contracted with Rita Frey of Frey Creative Media to produce the image. I talked extensively with Rita, who has a natural resource management background, about the importance of representing our Chapter, Texas, and its diverse wildlife in the final product. I hope you are pleased with the result and feel proud to be a member of the chapter for which it stands.

Before I share the new logo description, I would like to revisit the old logo, which is familiar to and beloved by many of us.



The old logo features two popular Texas wildlife species, a Northern bobwhite, and a white-tailed deer. Both are found across much of the state, both are popular game species, and both are the motivation for conservation for many landowners. The old logo also features a prickly pear cactus, which is another ubiquitous species, and a nod to the vegetation components of habitat that are essential for us to understand if we want wild animals to thrive.

In the new logo, we wanted to keep a reference to Texas' rich hunting history because this is both a way that many people connect with the land and a funding mechanism for our conservation efforts. At the same time, since the inception of our Chapter, non-game species have attracted more and more attention for research and management, and many members dedicate their careers to these species and their habitats. We wanted to incorporate the importance of managing all species into the new logo.

I am excited to present the new logo and share with you additional elements of its design as we all see it in print for the first time.



We are blessed to have a distinctive shape to our state, and everywhere you see this logo, you will know to which state it belongs. We are proud of our state and all its marvelous beauty, from grass and trees to the stars at night, and this is also symbolized by the "earth tone" variation on the colors of our flag.

### PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Our wildlife are represented by Northern bobwhite and a Texas horned lizard. While bobwhites are not as broadly hunted as deer, they are a game species that ties this logo to our past logo, while also representing the truly wild places that quail need to thrive. Like quail, Texas horned lizards have experienced population declines, but they are a beloved symbol across Texas, an animal that ties people to the land. We still have a lot to learn about Texas horned lizards and their habitat – a nod to the ongoing research and learning to which we, as professionals, contribute.

The two species are placed on representative sides of the state with corresponding vegetation – the Texas horned lizard on the arid west with grasses, and the bobwhite on the east, that side of the state where water actually falls from the sky and so trees reach up towards the heavens.

But rather than indicate a divide across the state, these species represent an integration, a story of habitats where we balance trees and brush and grasses, cover and openness, game and non-game. They also reach beyond Texas, just as wildlife reach beyond state lines and other human boundaries: the bobwhite reaching into Oklahoma, and the horned lizard reaching into New Mexico.

Not every aspect of Texas wildlife is represented in this new symbol for our Chapter. We don't have big game or predators, no coastal marshes or ducks, no endemic blind salamanders or Texasborn-and-raised golden-cheeked warblers. But this logo is just one way to represent who we are and this state we love. It is something we can stand behind as we walk and work toward the future, with our hearts and hands ready to use the tools of our profession to manage, conserve, and restore.

I thank Rita Frey and Maureen Frank for collaborating with me to put this note on our Chapter's logos together. I can be verbose about such things, but I am not nearly as eloquent as they. I hope you feel this is a symbol you can own. I hope this simple depiction captures a small part of the rich natural diversity we all love. And I hope that every time you see it, you are inspired to keep making a difference for the wildlife of Texas.



John C. Kinsey, CWB® President, Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society john.kinsey@tctws.org

"You owe it to yourself to be the best you can possibly be - in baseball and life."
-Pete Rose



Outstanding Achievement Award - Steve Nelle



Honorary Life Membership Award
- Dr. Louis Harveson



Educator of the Year
- Dr. Heather Mathewson



1st Place Cottam Award - Katheryn Watson



2nd Place Cottam Award - David Rosenbaum



3rd Place Cottam Award - Erin Oconnel



Outstanding Popular Article
- J.D Ray, B.A. Grisham, and J. Siegrist



Outstanding Technical Publication - R. Lopez, A. Lund, M. Crawford, L. Smith, K. Skow, J.Cross, L. Harveson and R. Lopez



Outstanding Scientific Article
- M. Meierhofer, T. Lilley, L. Ruokolainen, J.
Johnson, S. Parratt, M. Morrison, B. Pierce, J.
Evans and J. Anttila



Outstanding Electronic Media - S. McCay, R. Lopez, B. Wegner, and J. Cathey



Outstanding Book - M. Morrison, L. Brennan, B. Marco, W. Block, and K. McKelvey



Student Chapter of the Year - Texas Tech University



Land Stewardship Award - Terry and Kelly Anderson



President's Award - Romey Swanson



Best in Show and 1st Place Art
- Catalina Berry



1st Place Humor Photo - Aidan Brannery



1st Place Wildlife Conservation Photo - Shaelyn Rainey



1st Plants Photo - Joseph Richards



1st Place Wildlife Photo - Jared Schlottman



1st Place Scenery Photo - Levi Heffelfinger



1st Place Remote Camera Photo - Aidan Branney



1st Place Work Related Photo - Levi Heffelfinger



Colin Caruthers Memorial Scholarship - Lainey Sagraves



Charly McTee Memorial Scholarship - Emily McGee



Sam Beason Memorial Scholarship - Kaitlyn Restivo



Carl D. Shoemaker Memorial Scholarship - Catherine Edwards



Dan Boone Memorial Scholarship - Kristyn Stewart



Camper of the Year - Reagan Miller



1st Place Plant ID - Peter Cole



1st Place Team Plant ID - Texas A&M Kingsville



1st Place Quiz Bowl - Texas A&M University

# Outstanding Student Posters:

1st Place Undergraduate Poster: 1st Place Graduate Poster: Lainey Sagraves David Rosenbaum

2nd Place Undergraduate Poster.: 2nd Place Graduate Poster.: Robert Tyler

3rd Place Undergraduate Poste:

Daniel Ramirez

Katie Pennartz

## Outstanding Students in Wildlife:

Stephen F. Austin State University: Texas A&M University. - Commerce: Gabriela Rodriguez-Sanchez

Sul Ross State University.: Texas A&M University. - Kingsville: Alexander Meza

Tartleton State University:

Eli Marjonen

Texas State University:

Emily Stelling

Texas A&M University:

Anna Racey

Texas Tech University:

Lainey Sagraves

Abilene Christian University:

Gracie Granados

Sam Houston State University:
Rachel Pustejovsky

## JTCLI Early Career Professionals

Graduates: Nicole Alonso-Leach, Ursula Alvarado-Miller, Wendy Anderson, Kasey Clarke, Mallory Eastland,, Reuben Gay, Amanda Gobeli, Lalo Gonzalez, Tiffany Lane, Grant Lawrence, Alison Lund, Anna Matthews



## **JGTCLI COHORT NEWS**

## **Call to Action**

During Friday's plenary session at the 2022 meeting, the JGTCLI cohort summarized the work they have completed on their projects over the past 2 years. The Relevancy team addressed how our Chapter and profession can adapt to remain significant in an ever-changing culture, while the 1-d-1 Wildlife team shared details from their advocacy campaign and efforts to rebrand the wildlife tax valuation program. At this time both the Relevancy and 1-d-1 Wildlife team have each challenged our membership with a call to action.

As part of the advocacy campaign effort, the 1-d-1 Wildlife team partnered with Olivia Haun at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to create a video to raise awareness and highlight the 1-d-1 wildlife tax valuation program. The goal of the video is to convey the value of our open space lands to the general public and the important role this unique tax valuation plays in conserving them. Our hope is to show audiences why they should care about this issue, inspire viewers to pursue more information, and be an advocate for 1-d-1 Wildlife Tax Valuation in the future.

As our call to action - please share the following video within your network. Incorporate it into a workshop or program, place the link within your company's newsletter, or even just show it to a colleague or friend on your phone. It's our charge as natural resource professionals to steward this land with a conservation ethic focused on generations into the future. As the video says, "[We] aren't making any more land in Texas...every acre enrolled in this program is important".

Video Link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-YDCnQnjH0



# 1-d-1 Wildlife Tax Valuation

Protecting Texas today, for Texans tomorrow

### TCTWS WEBINAR SERIES





TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

# **Webinar Series**

# Partner Highlight

Kaylee French, TNC

11am CST Thursday July 7th, 2022

This webinar episode will highlight Kaylee's work as the West Texas Education and Outreach Coordinator for The Nature Conservancy. Join us quarterly as we learn about what makes Texas wildlife stewardship excellent.



RSVP today: TCTWS.org/webinar

#### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

TCTWS strives to foster a positive learning environment for our students and young professionals and provide a platform to share their experiences and triumphs. We encourage all students and young professionals to submit an article detailing activities that have facilitated personal growth as tomorrow's natural resources professionals. If you would like to contribute an article, please contact us at newsletter@tctws.org.

## A Texas Chapter Experience

Hi, my name is Jalen Ray. I am a junior environmental science and ecology major and an officer for the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society at UTSA. I went to the 2022 Texas Chapter conference with three other officers of my chapter: Alex, Hailey, and Steven.

Going to the conference was an amazing experience. There were so many talks and meetings going on during those three days that I almost felt a little overwhelmed, especially since I had never been in a room with so many wildlife professionals before. When talking to some of these professionals, one of the biggest things I was surprised with was the amount of diversity in jobs they had. From state employees to professors to employees from private organizations, it seems like people from all sectors came the conference. Also, it was great seeing some of the other Wildlife Society Chapters throughout the state of Texas. Being a small chapter that just started two years ago, being able to talk to and bounce ideas off of bigger chapters like the Texas A&M and the Texas Tech Chapters was really cool to do. It was also nice to talk to other smaller chapters like ours, and share the struggles and advantages we've had while trying to build up our chapters at our individual schools. It made it seem like my fellow officers and I weren't alone in our struggles to try to build up our chapter, and I think it's safe to say we walked out of the conference eager, and more motivated, to make the chapter at our school the best it can possibly be because of that.



Jalen Ray jalen.ray1124@gmail.com

## **Botany Briefs**

Check out our 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.

## Bromus catharticus Valh, Rescuegrass

By: Sarah Turner

You'll be hard pressed to find a seeding grass in the cold of winter in Texas unless you come across *Bromus catharticus*, otherwise known as rescuegrass or rescue brome. A C3 plant adapted for maturation in cooler conditions, this tufted annual species grows in small, dense clumps upwards of 80 centimeters (about 32 inches) in height. This grass's most distinguishing characteristic is the flattened spikelet containing 6 to 12 florets arranged in a "V" pattern (Photo 1). Small awns may be present from the bifid apex of the lemma in each floret. The inflorescence is an open panicle that may be erect or nodding, with few to many flattened spikelets that disarticulate above the glumes at maturity (Photo 2). Vegetatively, the leaf sheath of *B. catharticus* can be glabrous or pubescent but will always be connate nearly to its apex, and the ligule is membranous and often prominent.

The common name for *B. catharticus* (rescuegrass) refers to its utilization as forage during harsh environmental conditions. An introduced species native to South America, rescuegrass commonly establishes in disturbed areas and was historically used for erosion control, leading to it's widespread distribution across Texas. Rescuegrass can be used as forage by grazing ungulates, and avian and small mammal species are known to consume the plant's seeds.



Photo 1: Flattened spikelets of B. cathartiucs. Used with permission from https://swbiodiversity.org. Photo by Max Licher.



Photo 2: The open panicle infloresence of B. catharticus. Sourced from Wikipedia.com.

#### Fun facts:

- 1) The specific epithet catharticus, meaning cathartic, refers to the plant's tendency to accelerate defecation.
- 2) This grass does not have auricles (which makes sense because the leaf sheath is connate to the apex).

#### Literature Cited:

- 1) Hatch, S. L., Umphres, K. C., & Ardoin, A. J. (2016). Field guide to common Texas grasses. Texas A&M University Press.
- 2) https://plants.usda.gov/home/plantProfile?symbol=BRCA6
- 3) https://swbiodiversity.org/seinet/taxa/index.php?taxon=1275&clid=3116

### SOUTHWEST SECTION TRACKS

by Kathy Granillo

Rain is a wonderful thing (when not too violently delivered). I live in central New Mexico, and we've just received the first measurable rain of the year. Hopefully, we will all see a bit more rain as spring progresses to help alleviate the drought that much of our Section is experiencing.

I have recently returned from TWS Council meeting, which was held in Spokane, WA (where it also rained). Our meeting was in the same venue as the upcoming TWS Annual Conference. I am impressed with the facility and the main conference hotel. Also, the location is hard to beat. It is adjacent to the Spokane River and the Riverfront Park. This is a beautiful river with impressive falls within easy walking distance of downtown Spokane. There are plenty of walking trails (20 miles) along the river, and plenty of overlooks and benches to enjoy the views. I urge everyone to consider attending and presenting at this in-person conference. The call for abstracts is OPEN and closes April 29. The conference dates are November 6-10, 2022.

I also attended the Texas Chapter TWS annual conference in Marble Falls (where it also rained). Another beautiful location, although a bit cold and blustery while we were there. Which was fine as there were plenty of things to do indoors at the conference. Congrats to the Chapter for putting together a great event. It was wonderful to see people in person and the Chapter did its best to create a safe, healthy setting.

This Council is dedicated to getting out and meeting with Chapters and Sections - Bob Lanka (Vice President TWS) and Nick Wesdock (TWS Business Relations and Conferences Manager) both attended the Texas Chapter conference. I hope many of you got to meet them. Our CEO of TWS, Ed Arnett, has agreed to attend the 2023 TCTWS annual conference and I urge you to engage him in conversation at that event.

At the Council meeting we addressed topics ranging from the budget of TWS to the next round of strategic planning for the Society. We reviewed reports from the Working Groups, who are all doing great things for wildlife and conservation. If you have any interest in contributing your energy and knowledge towards wildlife conservation I urge you to join a Working Group or two. The entire list of Working Groups can be found on the website at wildlife.org. Click on the Network link at the top of the home page.

article continued on next page...

## SOUTHWEST SECTION TRACKS

Council is also revising 5 position statements this year:

- ·Global Climate Change and Wildlife
- •The U.S. Endangered Species Act
- Firearms
- ·Lead in Ammunition and Fishing Tackle
- ·Livestock Grazing on Rangelands in the Western U.S.

You can find out more at wildlife.org, click on Policy, and then Policy Resources to see all position statements and associated documents. The Working Groups are all being given a chance to weigh in on these positions statements; another good reason to join a Working Group.

I mentioned above that we are doing some strategic planning for the Society - we would love to hear your feedback on TWS, and especially on how to engage and retain members, and to broaden our membership in an inclusive way.

### Sincerely,



Kathy Granillo Southwest Section Representative kgbirder55@gmail.com

### COMMITTEE NEWS

## 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. 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 their own websites, social media, friends, associates and spouses. From those nominations that we receive the committee can select one or more recipients to be honored at the 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: The last business day of November, but act now!!!

YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO DESERVES TO BE HONORED THIS WAY!

### THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY NEWS

#### TWS Journals: A New Look & Top Downloads of 2021

Increases in digital readership spawn a new contemporary look for TWS Journals.

You may have noticed a few changes to the appearance of The Journal of Wildlife Management, Wildlife Monographs, and Wildlife Society Bulletin. After more than a decade without a change in design, TWS Journals have received an updated look. This new contemporary design is intended to improve digital readability of TWS publications while also implementing new industry standards, like eLocators.

One of the most noticeable changes is a switch to a single column format. Over the past several years, TWS has seen a dramatic shift in how our journal content is consumed by members and beyond. In 2021, TWS printed around 2,000 issues of JWM for approximately 200 print subscribers. By comparison, digital article downloads exceeded 425,000 in 2021. Over the past five years, digital downloads of TWS Journal articles have increased by over 85%.

With more people reading our publications on computer screens, tablets, or cell phones, a switch to single column means larger text and less scrolling up and down. We're certainly excited about this forward-looking layout and hope you too enjoy the new design. For a timeline of changes to TWS Journals dating back to 1937 and some additional discussion on the new journal design, check out this editorial (https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.22063) from the editors of all three TWS Journals.

Wondering what your fellow wildlifers are reading? The table below includes the top 10 downloaded papers in 2021. Members of TWS receive free access to all TWS publications. To take advantage of this exclusive member benefit, simply log into Your Membership (https://wildlife.secure.force.com/customlogin) and go to the "Publications" tab.

Thank you to Associate Editors and Reviewers!

As a final note, TWS would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of the associate editors and reviewers who contributed to the success of TWS Journals in 2021. Without your efforts, the quality of our journals could not be sustained. Thank you!

Associate editors and reviewers are essential to the publication process and our editors are constantly looking to expand our base of topic area experts. Should you be called upon to fill one of these important roles, I encourage you to answer the call (or assist our editors in finding a suitable individual). Click here (https://wildlife.org/publications/) for additional information about TWS publications, including contact information and author guidelines.

Cameron Kovach

### THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY NEWS

Table. Top 10 most downloaded papers in 2021.

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

Best Management Practices for Trapping Furbearers in the United States (open access) --

https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wmon.1057

H. Bryant White, Gordon R. Batcheller, Edward K. Boggess, Clifford L. Brown, Joseph W. Butfiloski, Thomas A. Decker, John D. Erb, Michael W. Fall, David A. Hamilton, Tim L. Hiller, George F. Hubert Jr., Matthew J.

Lovallo, John F. Olson, Nathan M. Roberts

Wildlife Monographs

Climate change effects on deer and moose in the Midwest (open access) --

https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.21649

Sarah R. Weiskopf, Olivia E. Ledee, Laura M. Thompson

The Journal of Wildlife Management

Stakeholder trust in a state wildlife agency (free access for TWS members) --

https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.21501

Shawn J. Riley, J. Kevin Ford, Heather A. Triezenberg, Patrick E. Lederle

The Journal of Wildlife Management

Effects of Wind Turbine Curtailment on Bird and Bat Fatalities (open access) --

https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.21844

K. Shawn Smallwood, Douglas A. Bell

The Journal of Wildlife Management

Sage-Grouse Population Dynamics are Adversely Affected by Overabundant Feral Horses (open access) -

https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.22089

Peter S. Coates, Shawn T. O'neil, Diana A. MuÑoz, Ian A. Dwight, John C. Tull

The Journal of Wildlife Management

<u>Dynamics</u>, <u>Persistence</u>, and <u>Genetic Management of the Endangered Florida Panther Population</u> (open access) --

https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wmon.1041

Madelon van de Kerk, David P. Onorato, Jeffrey A. Hostetler, Benjamin M. Bolker, Madan K. Oli Wildlife Monographs

Preparing Wildlife for Climate Change: How Far Have We Come? (free access for TWS members) --

https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.21969

Olivia E. LeDee, Stephen D. Handler, Christopher L. Hoving, Christopher W. Swanston, Benjamin Zuckerberg
The Journal of Wildlife Management

ctmmweb: A Graphical User Interface for Autocorrelation-Informed Home Range Estimation (open access) --

https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wsb.1154

Justin M. Calabrese, Christen H. Fleming, Michael J. Noonan, Xianghui Dong

Wildlife Society Bulletin

Effects of future sea level rise on coastal habitat (open access) -

(https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.21633)

Betsy Von Holle, Jennifer L. Irish, Annette Spivy, John F. Weishampel, Anne Meylan, Matthew H. Godfrey, Mark Dodd, Sara H. Schweitzer, Tim Keyes, Felicia Sanders, Melissa K. Chaplin, Nick R. Taylor

The Journal of Wildlife Management

Increased scientific rigor will improve reliability of research and effectiveness of management (free access for TWS members) -- https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.21413

Sarah N. Sells, Sarah B. Bassing, Kristin J. Barker, Shannon C. Forshee, Allison C. Keever, James W. Goerz, Michael S. Mitchell

The Journal of Wildlife Management

### 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 Richards and Sarah Turner, newsletter@tctws.org) by the 15th of the preceding month. Change of email address should be submitted online through the Address Change Form.