

Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education



Photo by: A. Taulli

**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

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

by John Kinsey

A Message from the President

Happy New Year! We are taking a deep dive into how the sausage is made (quite literally) here at my house this weekend. The questions and subsequent conversations that arose during the process were eye-opening and educational for all parties involved, and quite entertaining for me. As hunting seasons come to a close and sausage-making season begins, I hope you are able to take advantage of opportunities to share some field-to-table experiences with family and friends.

Your Executive Board and Committee Chairs will be busy putting the finishing touches on this year's annual meeting over the next few weeks. Registration is now open and reduced room rates are available if you book by January 23 (see links in the Annual Meeting notice on page 5). A reminder, again, that this meeting is Wednesday through Friday rather than the usual Thursday through Saturday format.

The meeting will kick off with 9 (yes 9) workshops on the morning of January 22nd, followed by the Quiz Bowl and Plant ID competitions in the afternoon. The theme of this year's meeting is Achieving Landscape-level Management in a Private Land State. On that note, a special panel discussion on equitable access to the outdoors and its importance in achieving long-term, large-scale conservation objectives in Texas will be held that evening.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S NOTE..... 1

TCTWS ANNUAL MEETING

NEWS..... 5

TCTWS OFFICER BIOS..... 13

TCTWS COMMITTEE NEWS... 16

BOTANY BRIEFS..... 17

STUDENT SUMMER

SPOTLIGHT..... 18

SOUTHWEST SECTION

TRACKS..... 22

UPCOMING EVENTS..... 24

EDITORS, ANDREA RICHARDS
AND SARAH TURNER

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

This discussion will be hosted by Ed Roberson of the Mountain and Prairie Podcast (<https://mountainandprairie.com/podcast/>) and recorded as a podcast episode. This panel will include Jaime González (The Nature Conservancy), Sarah Coles (Texas Children in Nature), Immanuel Salas (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department), and Neal Wilkins (East Foundation). I hope this sparks some meaningful conversation among our members as well. Our annual President's Reception will immediately follow.

The morning of Thursday, January 23rd will begin with Cottam Award Presentations followed by the Plenary Session. The Plenary will also be hosted by Ed Roberson and recorded for him to air on the Mountain and Prairie Podcast. Our Plenary speakers are Roel Lopez (TAMU Natural Resource Institute), Chad Ellis (Texas Agricultural Land Trust), Terry Anderson (Conservation Equity Partners and Wildlife Systems, Inc.), and Billy Tarrant (Borderlands Research Institute). The session will focus on how we can best use available tools to achieve landscape-level management objectives in a rapidly changing state.

Lunch will look a little different as we will have food trucks on-site as well as the hotel restaurant to choose from. We have worked hard to provide a diverse, budget-friendly lunch menu for everyone to enjoy. A stellar lineup of oral presentations covering the latest research results and the newest tools and technologies will immediately follow lunch during our regularly scheduled concurrent sessions. Thursday will be capped off with our annual awards ceremony hosted by special guest Ed Arnett, CEO of The Wildlife Society. Some of our most interesting presentations will be given Friday morning, so be sure to get downstairs to enjoy coffee and a light breakfast bright and early! I know I am leaving things out, but there is just too much going on this year to list it all.

Your Finance Committee (Grant Lawrence, Amanda Gobeli, and Michaela O'Donnell) has put together a phenomenal list of raffle items this year including hunts, birding trips, framed photographs and art, firearms, and MUCH more. Our raffle will be hosted online with OneCause again this year and that link should go live on February 1st. Additionally, an online store will be open from January 11th through 25th where you all will be able to purchase Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society merchandise that will be delivered directly to you before the meeting next month (<https://texaschapterwildlife-2023.itemorder.com>). Keep an eye on our social media accounts for announcements and links to both of these online opportunities.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve the Chapter in this capacity. This year has been an interesting one for me. As usual, my failures far outnumbered my successes, but without those failures, my few successes wouldn't have been so rewarding. Along those lines, I didn't quite achieve everything for the Chapter I had hoped to during my Presidency. However, the communication and continuity between recent Chapter leaders and your current President-Elect and Vice President give me great confidence that those things, and much more, will be achieved in the not-so-distant future. Our Chapter is primed to continue to do great things. Again, our future is bright!

I look forward to seeing you all next month!



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

"To succeed in baseball, as in life, you must make adjustments."
-Kenny Griffey Jr.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Ed Roberson

Founder, Mountain & Prairie Media



Ed Roberson is a Colorado-based conservationist and creator of Mountain & Prairie, a top-ranked podcast featuring long-form interviews with innovators of the American West.

Since its first episode in early 2016, Mountain & Prairie has gone on to be recognized by the Aspen Institute, Patagonia, Apple Podcasts, MeatEater, The Nature Conservancy, Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, High Country News, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Montana Governor's Office, and more. Thanks to the podcast's popularity, Ed is now a sought-after speaker and moderator at events throughout the United States. He also produces and hosts live podcast shows at venues around the West.

Ed's career has focused on land, water, and conservation for nearly two decades, primarily in the American West. He served as Conservation Director at Palmer Land Conservancy for four years, leading the organization's cutting-edge water conservation efforts in southeastern Colorado. Prior to Palmer, he was a ranch broker and worked extensively throughout Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. He has also served on boards and committees for a wide range of conservation organizations in Colorado.

Ed holds a BA in economics and an MBA with a concentration in finance, both from Wake Forest University. He is also a proud graduate of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). Away from work, Ed is a committed husband, father of two, voracious reader, comically slow ultrarunner, and devotee of the Strenuous Life.

Please take the time to learn more about Ed and Mountain and Prairie Media prior to the meeting at <https://mountainandprairie.com/>, and be sure to thank him for generously hosting 2 events at our Chapter meeting when you see him in Houston!

EDITOR'S NOTE

We are more than proud to recognize our members who received accolades at the 2022 National The Wildlife Society conference in Spokane, Washington. Please congratulate each person/group for their dedication and hard work, and we look forward to seeing the great things we accomplish together in 2023!

- Dr. Tyler Campbell- Jim McDonough Award
- Lindsay Martinez- Ronald F. Labisky Graduate Fellowship in Wildlife Policy
- Texas Chapter- National Chapter of the Year
- Texas Tech University Student Chapter- National Student Chapter of the Year



Dr. Tyler Campbell



Lindsay Martinez



2022 National TWS leadership presenting current TCTWS leadership with their plaque (L to R: 2022 TWS President Gordon Batcheller, 2022-2023 Past President Romey Swanson, 2022-2023 TCTWS President John Kinsey, 2022-2023 TCTWS President-Elect Dr. Blake Grisham, 2022-2023 Vice President Mary Pearl Meuth).



Texas Tech University student chapter members with their Student Chapter of the Year plaque.

Achieving Landscape-level Management in a Private Land State

February 22-24, 2023

Registration for the 2023 Annual Meeting is Open! Register online today!

Attendee Registration Link:

(<https://www.xcdsystem.com/tctws/store/index.cfm?ID=E0ku9fK>)

Book a hotel room at the link below or for those that prefer to call, the phone number for reservations is 713.871.8181. Hotel address: Omni Houston, Four Riverway, Houston, Texas 77056.

Hotel Booking Link:

<https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/houston/meetings/tcws-2023-02212023>

For more information regarding the conference, registration, or our annual fundraiser, visit our annual meeting webpage at <https://tctws.org/annual-meeting-2/>.



TCTWS ANNUAL MEETING

Workshops

Please review the available workshops and register online accordingly.

Wild Game Butchery - \$75

(Wednesday February 22nd from 9:30AM-12:00PM) Capacity: 20

Jesse Griffiths, co-owner & chef of Dai Due Butcher Shop and the New School of Traditional Cookery, will be leading a whole hog butchery workshop where he will demonstrate butchery techniques to break down a whole hog and provide an overview of the different ways this wild pork can be butchered and utilized in several different applications. Registering for this workshop will also get you a copy of Jesse's 2022 James Beard Award winning *The Hog Book: A Chef's Guide to Hunting, Butchering and Cooking Wild Pigs*.

1-d-1 Wildlife Tax Valuation: An Overview and How to Discuss With Landowners - \$5

(Wednesday February 22nd from 8:30AM-10:00AM) Capacity: 50

This workshop will outline the steps that private landowners need to take for their property to qualify for 1-d-1W tax valuation, and how you as a wildlife professional can provide quality information about the program and its benefits to private lands and wildlife. As biologists/consultants, we talk with private landowners daily and questions about 1-d-1W tax valuation are often brought up. This workshop is designed to give a basic overview of the 1-d-1W tax valuation and provide information that can be shared with private landowners as they decide if this program fits the plan for their property. The workshop will be led by staff of Texas Wildlife Association and Plateau Land & Wildlife Management, who have both been involved with the 1-d-1W valuation since its inception in 1997.

Media Training - \$25

(Wednesday February 22nd from 8:00AM-12:00PM) Capacity: 11

Sooner or later in a conservation professional's career comes that dreaded request from a media outlet: "Are you available for an interview?" Be prepared the next time (or the first time) that request comes your way.

We are pleased to offer Media Communications training with veteran conservation communications professional Lydia Saldaña. In this training, you learn what the media really wants from you, and how to present your message in a soundbite-friendly way. The training includes an on-camera exercise and critique for each participant.

TCTWS ANNUAL MEETING

Workshops

Please review the available workshops and register online accordingly.

R and R Studio for Beginners – Free

(Wednesday February 22nd from 8:00AM-12:00PM) Capacity: 40

Crash course for beginners or those who need a refresher! We will cover several topics, including the advantages of programming, the basics of R, and how to navigate R Studio. Then we will enter a spreadsheet of data, and learn how to manipulate data frames, create tables of summary statistics, run basic statistics (ANOVA, regression), using packages, and making graphics. Finally, we will demonstrate some of the advanced capabilities of R and how they help streamline the analysis/research process. This course requires no previous knowledge of R but I also try to bring in some of the newer packages out there for those who are already familiar with the program. All are welcome! Please bring your own laptop.

Urban Wildlife Management Field Trip - \$15

*(Wednesday February 22nd from 9:00AM-12:00PM *Meet in lobby at 8:15*) Capacity: 20*

The Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society annual meeting is hosted at various locations around the state, which gives participants the opportunity to interact with different habitats and learn more about the species that inhabit them. This off-site field trip will allow participants to be more familiar with the wildlife species who consider Houston's urban landscape their home. The field component will include an opportunity to see Buffalo Bayou up close for an Alligator Snapping Turtle trapping demonstration. After the field demo, participants will return to a nearby museum (bring a change of shoes!) to further discuss urban wildlife including alligator snapping turtles, coyotes, bats, and how they all contribute to protecting wild spaces in urban environments.

(Participants should be prepared to make their own travel arrangements to get to the field site 3 miles away from the Omni. Workshop will take place rain or shine, but the field component may be altered if weather creates an unsafe trapping environment).

Ecosystem Goods & Services: What Lies Behind the Curtain? - \$5

(Wednesday February 22nd from 9:00AM-12:00PM) Capacity: 35

It's all the rage in discussions of carbon, water, biodiversity and so much more...what is this "new" benefit that everyone is talking about? Well, it is as "old" as planet Earth, just in a new package. The benefits that our natural resources provide to landowners and society as a whole have been around since the dawn of time; but now, we have markets that are beginning to emerge that could potentially capture and share those benefits financially for landowners/managers and extend them to all of society. Join us for a journey into the space behind the curtain as we explore how nature's benefits become a new opportunity for natural resources management in Texas and beyond.

Workshops

Please review the available workshops and register online accordingly.

Student Internship Workshop – Free

(Wednesday February 22nd from 8:30AM-11:30AM) Capacity: 150

Student internships and technician positions can be a critical part of developing well rounded and capable graduates who are ready for the job market, but it can sometimes be overwhelming to determine which internship is the best fit. During this workshop, students will have the opportunity to hear about internship experiences and benefits from their peers. A variety of internship types and agencies will be represented during this event, then the audience will have the opportunity to hear from professionals who have experience hiring students and recent graduates. There will be opportunities to ask questions, so if you're interested in learning about next steps in this field, this is the place for you!

Turning Sound into Discovery: Using Wildlife Audio Recorders as a Valuable Research Tool (Focus on bird and land animal monitoring) – Free

(Wednesday February 22nd from 8:00AM-9:30AM) Capacity: 25

Sound analysis is increasingly becoming a valuable tool for biologists, environmental scientists and managers to survey and monitor wildlife populations. It is currently used to aid in resource management, habitat health assessment, regulatory compliance goals, animal behavior studies and even documenting the effects of climate change. Recording sound with a bioacoustics recorder is a reliable way to meet these project objectives. Bioacoustics is a non-invasive, cost-effective and an unbiased method for studying animal presence. Biologists all over the world have made the Song Meter platform the standard for bioacoustics recording with over 100,000 recorders deployed in over 100 countries. This hands-on workshop will teach participants the features and set up of Song Meter Micro and Mini recorders to monitor for birds, frogs, other wildlife. The workshop will be led by staff of Wildlife Acoustics.

Ultrasonic bat recorders as a valuable research tool – Free

(Wednesday February 22nd from 10:00AM-11:30AM) Capacity: 25

With bat populations in decline worldwide, surveying and monitoring have become more important than ever. Meeting management goals and participating in bat behavior studies are essential to many species' survival. Bioacoustics, or the study of animal sounds in nature, can provide researchers with valuable insights into bat habitat and population health.

In this hands-on workshop, learn about two powerful bioacoustics tools: the Song Meter Mini Bat ultrasonic recorder and the Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro bat detector. We'll practice setting up both units and review their key features and functionality. You'll walk away with a better understanding of what these noninvasive research tools can help you achieve and how to get started. The workshop will be led by staff of Wildlife Acoustics.

TCTWS ANNUAL MEETING

Student Activities Deadlines

Students, please review the below deadlines for conference events and act NOW!

Greetings Students!

The annual TCTWC Conference is getting closer and we are more than ready to see everyone! The Student Activities Committee have several deadlines you need to be aware of for student-oriented events at the conference. For each action item, please reply before **January 25, 2023** to **Dr. Heather Mathewson** at **MATHEWSON@tarleton.edu**. Dr. Mathewson is also happy to answer any questions about each event and guidelines at the same email address.

Texas Chapter Student Chapter of the Year application:

Chapters wishing to submit an application for recognition as the Student Chapter of the Year must submit their completed nomination packet no later than **January 25, 2023** to Dr. Mathewson. No applications will be accepted after this date. Please email Dr. Mathewson at **MATHEWSON@tarleton.edu** with questions and to submit your application.

Quiz Bowl:

All student chapters/universities wanting to compete in this year's quiz bowl must register their team no later than **January 25, 2023**. Each student chapter/university may only register 1 team. Please email Dr. Mathewson at **MATHEWSON@tarleton.edu** with questions and to register your team.

Plant ID:

All student chapters/universities wanting to compete in this year's plant ID competition must register their team(s) no later than **January 25, 2023**. Each student chapter/university may register a maximum of 2 teams. Please email Dr. Mathewson at **MATHEWSON@tarleton.edu** with questions and to register your team(s).

Outstanding Student of the Year:

Each student chapter/university is able to nominate one of their members for recognition as their "Outstanding Student of the Year". Nominations must be sent to Dr. Mathewson at **MATHEWSON@tarleton.edu** no later than **January 25, 2023** with a write up of why the student is deserving of this recognition and a professional/working photograph.

PLEASE ATTEND TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS BEFORE JANUARY 25, 2023!

Student Scholarships- CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Students, please review the below scholarship opportunities and act NOW!

Attention undergraduate and graduate students!

This is the **FINAL** call for undergraduate and graduate student scholarship applications for the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The deadline for submission of applications is **January 25, 2023**.

To apply for a scholarship, students must submit a single pdf with their completed and signed application and transcript (please black out or remove any personal information, i.e. social security number and birth date). Graduate students also need a signed letter of recommendation from their major professor/advisor and a short synopsis of their graduate research project (<300 words). Please email scholarship applications to **Dr. Jessica Glasscock** at **scholarship@tctws.org**.

Full undergraduate and graduate scholarship guidelines are located on the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society website <https://tctws.org/student-menu/scholarship-opportunities/>.

TCTWS Annual Meeting Fundraiser

Greeting TCTWS members!

As we inch closer to the holiday season and the new year, our February meeting will be upon us faster than you know. The Finance Committee would like to update you on a few items in preparation for the big event in Houston.

This year's committee is spearheaded by Amanda Gobeli, Michaela O'Donnell and me (Grant Lawrence). We will be utilizing One Cause as our online fundraising platform yet again. This will be the third year of using One Cause and it has been wildly successful so far (for more information, visit <https://tctws.org/annual-meeting-2/annual-meeting/annual-meeting-fundraiser/>). Our last two meetings each set a new fundraising record! The bar has been set very high for 2023 and we are excited to bring these efforts into the limelight.

We are looking forward to sharing this year's diverse buffet of raffle offerings that can satisfy a broad range of palates. You'll be able to whet your appetite on a chance to win hunts, fishing trips, birding excursions, unique experiences, quality gear and equipment, artwork, and many more items. This year's raffle will be open to the public again so be sure to tell your great aunt Sally with deep pockets.

New this year, the raffle will also feature exclusive offerings for in-person attendees only. Be on the lookout for the fundraising website to go live as we draw nearer to convening in Houston. Buy tickets early and buy tickets often. All proceeds from the raffle go directly to TCTWS and are used to offset meeting costs, for Wildlife Conservation Camp, student scholarships and awards, and to lower registration costs. I can't think of a better cause to support.

We're asking for your help to make this fundraiser another record-setting success. If you have an item for the raffle, want to donate financially, or know of a potential sponsor, please let us know! Each year I'm amazed at the generosity of raffle items provided by members and through their networks. Contact Amanda, Michaela, or me via email (finance@tctws.org) or call/text (325) 214-0322.

See y'all in February!

Grant

TCTWS ANNUAL MEETING

PHOTO & ART COMMITTEE

2023 Photo & Art Contest Updates

Hello, All!

Here is a recap of the updates to this year's Photo & Art Contest:

The photo portion of the Contest will now reflect a greater focus on Texas plants, scenery, and wildlife. The Art portion will remain unchanged. As always, both photo and art are judged together for the People's Choice Award.

Modifications to the photo categories are as follows (changes shown in bold):

1. Wildlife Conservation
2. Remote Camera
3. Humor
4. Work-related
5. **Texas Plants**
6. **Texas Scenery**
7. **Texas Wildlife**
8. **Non-Texas Plants, Scenery, & Wildlife**

As wildlife professionals, we may travel worldwide performing work and school duties. Thus, photos from any location can be submitted to the first 4 categories. The Plants, Scenery, and Wildlife categories are now Texas-based. We've added the Non-Texas Plants, Scenery, & Wildlife category so we can appreciate the aspects of our natural world encountered outside of the Lone Star State.

We are only a couple months away from the February 2023 conference, and we can't wait to see the beautiful and creative submissions you all deliver this year! Please contact Blake Leslie (blake.leslie@tctwts.org) or Sonia Duran (sonia.duran@tctws.org) with any questions!

Online submission link:

<https://tctws.org/annual-meeting-2/photo-art-video-contest-submission/>)



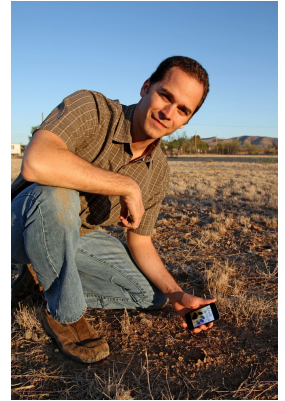
2022 People's
Choice Award-
Catalina Berry

Officer Nominations Bios

Vice-President

Jonah Evans

Jonah Evans is the Nongame & Rare Species Program Leader for Texas Parks & Wildlife. He supervises a team of 8 statewide experts (ornithologist, botanist, invertebrate biologist, herpetologist, mammalogist, bat specialist, etc.) who are tasked with conducting research and conservation for the state's most imperiled species. Prior to this position, Jonah was the State Mammalogist for 8 years where he focused primarily on bats and white-nose syndrome, mountain lions, black bears, swift fox, and Texas kangaroo rat. Jonah received an MS in Wildlife Science from Texas A&M University in 2006. Outside of his official career as a biologist, Jonah has a deep interest in animal tracks and sign. He authored an animal tracks field guide for smartphones called iTrack Wildlife, created a website (<https://naturetracking.com>) dedicated to teaching animal track identification, and continues to teach workshops around the country.



Dr. Jessica Glasscock

In 1996, I attended the 3rd annual Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Wildlife Conservation Camp, an event that is nearing its 30th year of existence. Who knew then that the camp would play such an important role in my future or that it would influence so many other young aspiring scientist and conservationists. The Texas Chapter has a long standing commitment not only to the future of the wildlife populations and their habitats in Texas, but also to those future leaders that will be entrusted to handle, what will undoubtedly be, a unique and complex future in wildlife management.



In an effort to build on that commitment, the Chapter expanded its reach through the development of the James G. Teer Conservation Leadership Institute. Beneath its umbrella would be five levels of conservation training ranging from pre-university training to advanced career level training. I had the privilege of being a member of the first graduating cohort of the Early Professional Career Training. I speak for myself, but believe many of the cohort would express the same sentiment, the early career training program was not only beneficial but influential in the progression of my career and my involvement with TCTWS. Many cohort graduates have become leaders within the chapter and in their fields of expertise.

I have been influenced and mentored by many great individuals and have long known that I would want to shape my career around the ability to one day do the same for other young aspiring conservationist. The Leadership Institute help to prepare me for my current position as an Assistant Professor of Wildlife Management at Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU). During my time at SFASU I have been privileged to serve as an advisor to the SFASU Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society. In the last three years, these outstanding students have been awarded two state and national Student Chapter of the Year titles, they continue to surprise me daily with new ideas and their dedication to the wildlife field.

I believe the success of the Chapter lies in the community of professional scientists, conservationists, and educators who are willing to dedicate their time to encourage and mentor those young scientists and conservationists coming behind us. I never imagined at the young age of 15 when I attend my first Wildlife Conservation Camp that my career would lead me down a path focused on education and research, and on providing that same mentorship to future wildlife professionals. Watching young adults learn, succeed, and grow professionally has been one of the greatest rewards of my career. It is my goal to continue to focus on the commitment that TCTWS has made to provide continuing levels of training for current and future conservation leaders. I feel privileged to have served TCTWS in multiple capacities over the years and I look forward to serving the chapter in the role of Vice-President.

Officer Nominations Bios

Secretary

Amanda Gobeli

My name is Amanda Gobeli and I am a Conservation Education Specialist for Texas Wildlife Association. In that role, I work with partners across the state to host adult educational programs in support of wildlife conservation and land stewardship, including “Small Acreage – Big Opportunity,” Women of the Land,” “Wild at Work: A Stewardship Series,” and others. One of my absolute favorite things about my work is taking people out to experience the beauty of nature, especially if they would not normally do so on their own. I find it’s a great opportunity to foster an appreciation for wild things and wild places...and to convey important bird facts along the way.



I would be honored to serve as Secretary for the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society. As I have managed my programs over the years, some of my greatest strengths have always been organization and documentation—keeping information clear, accessible, and useful in determining what needs to happen and when. I believe every meeting should be a productive meeting, and everyone involved should have a reference for key points of discussion and assigned tasks. I am also thankful to be part of TCTWS and would gladly use my skills in support of our mission to promote science-based wildlife conservation.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Riley

Hi, my name is David Riley and I have been a member of TCTWS since 2014 and currently I am an accredited Associate Wildlife Biologist with the national chapter of The Wildlife Society. I joined TCTWS as an undergraduate at Texas A&M University to network with professionals and potential employers. Fortunately, I was introduced to Plateau Land & Wildlife Management where I have been since 2016 and am currently the Operations Manager. I am responsible for managing day-to-day operations of deliverables and services related to 1-d-1 wildlife tax valuation for hundreds of landowners across the state of Texas.



I have a history of supporting certification and professional development as part of TCTWS. In 2019, I graduated from the James G. Teer Early Career Professional Institute after myself and other fellows spent the preceding year developing a position statement supporting the improvement of captive-bred deer identification systems and assisting TCTWS leadership as this issue was discussed in the Texas Legislature. I spent 2019-2021 as the chair of the Certification Committee where I assisted several young biologists with their certification applications. Since 2021 I have Co-Chaired the activities committee where I have enjoyed working with TCTWS leadership to develop and expand the lineup of workshop offerings for the 2022 & 2023 annual meetings.

I am excited about the opportunity to run for Secretary of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society. I have spent nearly a decade working with and alongside colleagues in TCTWS and have learned that, as a united group of professionals, TCTWS can have a dramatic impact on important conservation issues and young professionals within our state. My professional role requires me to maintain a high level of organization, while ensuring outcomes are met efficiently and on budget. I plan to utilize this experience and knowledge to the best of my ability to assist TCTWS leadership in meeting goals and objectives for the chapter in the coming year.

Officer Nominations Bios Member at Large

Amanda Hackney

I'm a native of Nacogdoches (to be precise, the lumber ghost-town of Trawick) and I grew up running wild in the pineywoods on the family poultry and cattle farm. I double majored in Wildlife and Fisheries Science/ Animal Science at Louisiana State University. After a few years on the Virginia coast working for USFWS, I entered graduate school at Clemson University, earning my Master's in Wildlife Biology. I came back in Texas in 2012 and worked for the Fort Worth Zoo Education Department then Audubon Texas as the Coastal Program Manager. In 2016 I founded my own conservation consulting business, Black Cat GIS. My research interests include coastal ecosystems with an emphasis on waterbirds, spatial modeling of habitat change over time, and movement/ distribution of marine debris.



The Texas Chapter has been amazing to me, and provides that extra boost of professional education, working relationships, and camaraderie that I love. I served as the Finance chair in 2018 thru 2021, and as the outgoing Finance chair in 2022. I'm currently the Membership chair, which I formerly held in 2017-18, and am working to organize online maps of members and GIS based resources for policy contacts.

It's an honor to be nominated for the Board Member at Large position. If I'm elected, I would continue to push for strong mentorship opportunities and would advocate for more skills education at the professional level. Many of my young interns never learned the average farm kid skills I was taught by my dad and it's important to pass those on. I also feel that as a chapter, we need to begin engaging more urban populations. More and more people are removed from nature in larger cities and it's imperative to give them a sense of understanding and the desire to protect our wildlife and land.

Dr. Sara Weaver

Sara Weaver is a Principal and Natural Resources Team Lead at Bowman Consulting, where she manages a team of ecologists who advise commercial and residential developers across the U.S. in ways to reduce their ecological impacts. She is an expert on wetlands and waters of the U.S. delineations and permitting, threatened and endangered species habitat assessments, renewable energy impacts on wildlife, and state and federal permitting. She is also the lead PI at Bowman on multiple research projects with a unifying objective of reducing bat fatalities from wind energy development, the topic of her Ph.D. research at Texas State University. Prior to working at Bowman, Sara was full-time Biology faculty at Texas A&M University, San Antonio teaching a variety of courses including wildlife management, ornithology, ecology, and introductory biology. She is currently adjunct faculty at TCU and Texas State University, serving on graduate student committees.



Sara has been active with TCTWS for over 15 years, serving on the Student Activities, Exhibits, Honorary Life Membership, and Program Committees while also serving as a poster judge for many years. While she was an active student member of TCTWS, she won the Sam Beasom Memorial Scholarship, best graduate student poster competition, and Clarence Cottam Award for her research on the effectiveness of ultrasonic acoustic bat deterrents for reducing bat fatalities at wind turbines. Sara has also been active within The Wildlife Society, serving on the Program Committee and most recently co-organizing a symposium in Spokane, Washington on renewable energy impacts to terrestrial wildlife populations.

A born and raised Texan, Sara is a Certified Wildlife Biologist® currently residing in San Marcos, Texas with her two children, husband, and three hounds. She is always ready to serve the Chapter in whatever capacity is needed and hopes her unique expertise with renewable energy and wildlife in Texas will be valuable as development of wind and solar sites expands across the state.

TCTWS COMMITTEE NEWS

Join the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society webinar at 11:00am on Thursday January 19th, 2023.

Knowledge Deep Dive with Kelly Brezovar, ERM

Register for the upcoming webinar via Webex:

<https://tpwdevents3000.webex.com/tpwdevents3000/j.php?RGID=r98f1d86b656b99d594d438571e1dfb97>



TEXAS CHAPTER
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
ESTABLISHED 1906

Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Webinar Series

Knowledge Deep Dive

Kelly Brezovar, ERM
11am Thursday
January 19, 2023

This webinar episode will cover the career of a wildlife biologist. Join us quarterly as we learn about what makes Texas wildlife stewardship excellent.

RSVP today:
[TCTWS.org/webinar](https://tctws.org/webinar)

Kelly has a multi-disciplinary background working within coastal habitats and has managed large scale federal projects throughout the Gulf Coast. As an experienced wetland scientist and wildlife, fish, and oyster biologist with construction monitoring experience she is adept at understanding dynamic coastal habitats, project objectives, and finding creative solutions to minimize impacts. Over the years, Kelly has developed excellent rapport with regulatory specialists and scientists at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and Texas General Land Office (GLO).

Learn something new at the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's Webinar series.

The quarterly webinar series for the chapter features professionals, research, and initiatives relevant to our chapter. Registration is open to both TCTWS members and nonmembers. The series will follow a quarterly schedule and rotate themes throughout the year, giving listeners a peek into topics such as emerging technologies, career skill-building, partner highlights, and knowledge deep-dives.

Join us quarterly as we learn about what makes Texas wildlife stewardship excellent.

Each webinar is hosted virtually through WebEx. Register in advance for each individual webinar can be found at [TCTWS.org/webinar](https://tctws.org/webinar).

If you are interested in presenting an upcoming webinar please email the webinar chair at webinar@tctws.org.

Stay tuned for our 2023-2024 Webinar programming!

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.

***Pinus taeda* L. (Loblolly Pine)**

By Sarah Turner

As a native of Lufkin, Texas, nothing reminds me of home quite like the sight of a nice, large pine tree, specifically *Pinus taeda* L. (the loblolly pine). Something about the aromatic fragrance of the needles and their great stature takes me back to a much simpler time as a youth spent hunting in the woods. The loblolly pine is important in many aspects, namely as the flagship species delineating the “Pineywoods” ecoregion in Texas and as one of the ecoregion’s most economically important export. Found across the southeast US and north to New Jersey, the loblolly pine is the most commercially important tree in the Southeast whose product is mainly used to produce pulp, plywood, and general construction lumber.

This species prefers moist, sandy soils making it a prevalent pioneer species along river bottoms but is very adaptable to a wide range of acidities and moisture levels.



Photo 1: The male cone of a loblolly pine. Courtesy of Patsy Chaney (wildflower.org).



Photo 2: The familiar female cone of a loblolly pine. Courtesy of Sally and Andy Wasowski (wildflower.org).

The loblolly pine is an easy to identify evergreen tree with a large, rounded crown that can grow to heights of up to 150 feet. Its crown is somewhat pyramidal in early growth stages that matures to a rounded shape as it loses lower branches with age. Leaves are arranged in fascicles of three, 5 to 8-inch needles that senesce every 2 to 3 years. The trunks are typically very straight and can reach diameters of 3 feet (hence its use for lumber products), and both trunks and branches are covered in a thick gray bark that forms large, irregular flaky patches. It is monoecious (male and female reproductive structures on the same plant), with both pollen and ovules borne in cones (the male cone is yellow and scaly and releases that nasty yellow powder that gets all over our cars and patios; the female cone is the woody cone that we all know).

In addition to its economic importance, it also can be used by a plethora of wildlife species for nesting cover and a seed source. It is the larval host of the Elfin butterfly (*Callophrys irus*) and a host for adult Southern pine sphinxes (*Lapara coniferarum*), and is commonly used as an ornamental tree due to its quick growth and persistent color. The species is susceptible to predation by several pine beetles and can be decimated by fusiform rust and rots.

Fun fact 1: One meaning of the word “loblolly” is “mud puddle”, a nod to where the species commonly grows.

Fun fact 2: Loblolly pine is known as one of the “moon trees”, as some *P. taeda* seeds were taken aboard the Apollo 14 mission flight and planted post-successful trip to the moon.

Literature Cited:

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=PITA

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/pinus-taeda/>

https://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/lunar/moon_tree.html

STUDENT SUMMER SPOTLIGHT

Check out the second installment of what some of our student members have been up to during their summer breaks in our Student Summer Spotlight!

Nancy Montealvo, Tarleton State University

My name is Nancy Montealvo and I interned for Texas Parks and Wildlife this summer. I worked with Urban Wildlife Biologists Sam Kieshnick and Rachel Ritcher. The office is in Cedar Hill State Park but the field is all over the DFW Metroplex! One day I could be helping Mr. Kieshnick with a dragonfly program for high school students and next I will be helping Ms. Ritcher conduct dove surveys. This internship focuses on human dimensions, urban ecosystems, and wildlife living within the city. It's been such a blast so far! I've also been playing on iNaturalist, documenting everything I see in the metroplex. There's so much diversity out there that many people do not know about. This internship has been such a fun experience and I'm excited for every new day.

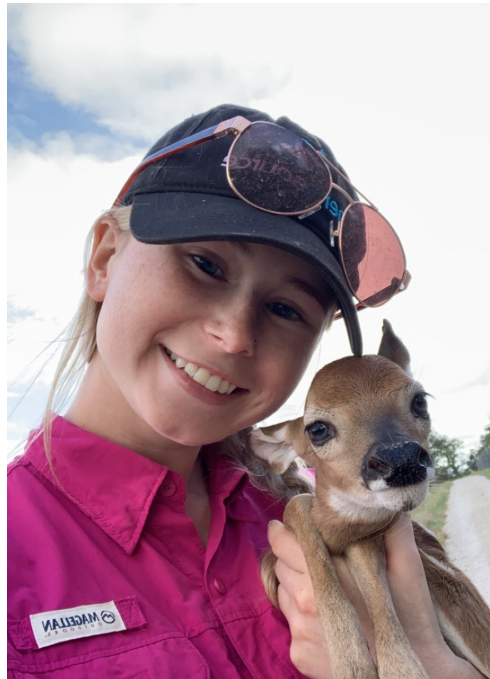


STUDENT SUMMER SPOTLIGHT

Check out the second installment of what some of our student members have been up to during their summer breaks in our Student Summer Spotlight!

Kimberly Hooker, Texas A&M University-College Station

Howdy! My name is Kimberly Hooker and I am a junior Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences major at Texas A&M University. This summer, I had the opportunity to intern at Texas Parks and Wildlife's Kerr Wildlife Management Area. Over the three months I spent there, I had the opportunity to learn a variety of new skills. From bird surveys and tending to the research facility to learning how to fix a leaking pipe, my experience at the Kerr WMA was nothing short of incredible. By the end of my time there, it was clearer than ever that I want to pursue a career with Texas Parks and Wildlife. My internship was full of hard work, rewarding experiences, and great people. Overall, my summer internship at the Kerr WMA was an experience that I will never forget.



STUDENT SUMMER SPOTLIGHT

Check out the second installment of what some of our student members have been up to during their summer breaks in our Student Summer Spotlight!

Adriana Puzon, Texas State University

Hello Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society! My name is Adriana Puzon and I'm a junior wildlife biology major at Texas State University. This past summer, I had the privilege of working as a field technician intern for the Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH) at the University of Houston Clear Lake, where I performed fieldwork for aquatic turtle ecology research projects. While I did a little bit of everything at EIH, most of my time was spent on the alligator snapping turtle project. Here, I was able to trap various types of turtles all summer in order to more accurately document the habitat of the alligator snapping turtle.

I like to group the skills I acquired at EIH into two different categories: the things I expected to learn, and the things I had to learn. Before my internship started, I knew that I would come out of it an expert in stereotypically “biologist” things— handling and identifying species of East Texas turtles; recording and entering data into an Excel sheet that was a few thousand columns deep; and jumping into opaque, chin-deep bayous to set up our hoop traps. I did learn all these practical, expected skills and more thanks to this job, but I had no idea how much the skills in the other category would change my outlook on the world. For one thing, almost all of our fieldwork took place outside in Southeast Texas during the hottest 6 hours of the day. After I got heat exhaustion early on in the summer, I learned the hard way that paying attention to your body



and respecting your physical limits is vital for your health and safety as well as your crew's. Additionally, hiking through miles of woods off trail while carrying two backpacks, heavy metal poles, and anchors to enter a site pushed me to challenge what my upper mental limit was.

The practical field skills I've learned will undoubtedly be crucial in any further steps I take as a biologist, and they're also transferable between research positions for different taxa should I choose to pursue mammals, birds, or fish. Perhaps more importantly, though, the things I had to learn, such as recognizing my own limitations and prioritizing taking care of myself, will guide me to make better decisions for the rest of my life. With these skills in hand, I hope I can make a difference as a biologist working to help conserve the natural world by performing research on habitat preservation and restoration.

STUDENT SUMMER SPOTLIGHT

Check out the second installment of what some of our student members have been up to during their summer breaks in our Student Summer Spotlight!

Sarah Smith, Texas Tech University

Sarah Smith is a junior within Texas Tech's Department of Natural Resource Management with a concentration in Wildlife Biology. This summer she is working under a master's student in Dr. Clint Boal's lab as a technician assisting on a project evaluating avian and vegetation community response to prescribed thinning of pinyon-juniper woodlands. Working in the Sacramento Mountains of southern New Mexico, her main job is to conduct avian point count surveys along transects and mist netting for their target species, Gray Flycatchers. Throughout her internship, she has gained many valuable skills such as data entry and analysis and learning how to identify birds of the southwestern United States by sight and sound. She also obtained a new insight and appreciation for the entire research process. When describing her internship, Sarah said "This job has also confirmed something I already knew, that research is hard. The anticipation of a little gray flycatcher evading your mist net does not make waking up at 4am each day to try again any easier. Despite that, this entire job has really solidified my plans to pursue a master's after undergrad and hopefully continue in research after that!"



SOUTHWEST SECTION TRACKS

by Kathy Granillo, Southwest Section Representative to Council

2023 is the Year of the Rabbit in the Chinese Zodiac. So, let's talk a little about rabbits. We have several native species in the southwest – black-tailed jackrabbit and eastern and desert cottontails are probably the most common ones in our Section. Rabbits are non-migratory, generally living in the same home range their entire lives. Most rabbit species populations are doing quite well, and they are popular to hunt in many states. I think it is fair to say that most wildlife professionals think of rabbits as being of least concern when it comes to conservation. So why am I talking about rabbits? Despite being abundant, our native rabbits face many challenges in the southwest, including an introduced disease known as rabbit hemorrhagic disease, or RHDV2. It can infect jackrabbits/hares (*Lepus*) and cottontails (*Sylvilagus*). Since it was first detected in France in 2010, RHDV2 has spread across Europe and Australia and was first confirmed in U.S. rabbit populations in April 2020, when outbreaks were identified in New Mexico, Arizona, Texas and northern Mexico, according to a report from the National Wildlife Health Center of the U.S. Geological Survey. I bring this up to highlight the interconnectedness of our world, and the speed at which something like a virus from the other side of the globe can spread, even to a non-migratory species like a jackrabbit.

Which brings me to the main topic of my column—International Engagement. I believe that many members think of TWS as primarily a US organization, or a North American organization. In reality, TWS has had an international presence for decades. The Wildlife Society International Wildlife Management Working Group Recommendations for International Engagement 2020 – 2030 provided the following summary:

An international membership committee was established in 1946, led by Aldo Leopold, and the Society began the practice of appointing representatives to international organizations: the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) beginning in 1952, International Council for Bird Preservation in 1960, and the International Congress of Game Biologists in 1959. A committee on African Wildlife was briefly in place between 1960 and 1965, and the first International Relations Committee was formed in 1963 and subsequently became the International Affairs Committee. The charges of the International Affairs Committee included building relationships and cooperating with other TWS Committees, international organizations, Federal and United Nations agencies, and private foundations, and expanding international membership.

SOUTHWEST SECTION TRACKS

Between 1960 and 2000, increased global awareness of biodiversity conservation and concern over biodiversity loss emphasized the need for more international perspectives within TWS.

The Canadian Section was founded in 2007 and has been very active in TWS ever since. We are close to having a Mexico Chapter, and TWS is closely engaged in this effort. The opportunity for TWS to take the lead in promoting an international perspective in wildlife management practice and policy has been emphasized for over 20 years.

One of the priorities for TWS Council this coming year is to give some priority to furthering TWS presence in international engagement. We will be reaching out to the members for input, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas.

If you have an interest in international engagement, please consider reading the above-mentioned report from the International Wildlife Management Working Group. It contains several detailed recommendations, based on an extensive survey they conducted in 2019 as well as a wealth of other information on international engagement.

https://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/TWS_IWMWG_InternationalInvolvementReport_03072020.pdf

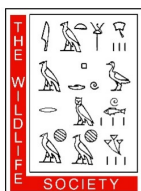
I plan to attend the 2023 Texas Chapter Annual Conference. Please feel free to talk with me there about this topic, or any other topic that you'd like. I welcome the interaction and look forward to seeing many of you in person!

Also, please feel free to email me at any time about any issue – KGBirder55@gmail.com



Kathy Granillo
Southwest Section Representative
kgbirder55@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



The Wildlife Society Nutritional Ecology Working Group



Skills Workshop Announcement

Measuring Forage Quantity and Quality for Herbivores

November 15-17th, 2023 (3 full days) (Nov 18. optional extra day)

Texas A&M Kingsville, Kingsville, Texas

Cost \$500 (additional cost TBD for extra day)

Organizers: Rachel Cook, David Hewitt, Ryan Long, Lisa Shipley, Don Spalinger

The TWS Nutritional Ecology Working Group, in collaboration with Texas A&M Kingsville, are pleased to announce the second skills workshop focused on measuring forage quantity and quality for herbivores. The workshop will be a mix of lectures taught by a diverse panel of instructors, hands-on exercises in the laboratory and in the field, and interactive group problem solving sessions. Look for registration to open early in 2023 along with a detailed agenda on the main workshop and the additional optional day (likely covering additional field-based training and components of developing foodscapes). A minimum of 14 attendees will be required. With enough interest, we are also planning a third workshop to be held in June 2024 in Palmer, Alaska. Our workshop qualifies for 15 continuing education units (CEUs) in Category 1 of the Certified Wildlife Biologist® Renewal/Professional Development Certificate Program.

Example Course Topics

- What's in 'food' and how do different foods vary in composition and nutritional value?
- Plant structure, composition, and phenology and how they relate to key nutritional assays.
- Nutritional requirements and secondary compound tolerances.
- Approaches to measuring plant abundance and quality.
- Strategies for sampling vegetation and interpreting results (e.g., sources of variation, sample sizes, sampling design, choosing methods, plant parts, animal requirements).
- Nutritional carrying capacity and animal 'foodscapes'.
- Case studies: integrating these techniques into research and management



Example Hands-On Exercises and Demonstrations

- Sample preservation/preparation for nutritional quality assays.
- Sequential fiber, crude protein, tannins, gross energy, digestible protein, in vitro digestibility, ether extract, total dietary fiber assays.
- Biomass sampling (clipped plots, double-sampling techniques).
- Mast/fruit biomass sampling techniques.

****Travel scholarships will be available, please contact us for details****

For more information or questions on this workshop contact Rachel Cook rachierae@gmail.com

<https://wildlife.org/newg/>

SWAG SIGHTING!

Do YOU want to rock the latest TCTWS gear at the upcoming conference?

The TCTWS Online Store is now open and taking orders!

Shop online at
<https://texaschapterwildlife2023.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

Headwear

[View Category Page](#)



Valucap Vc300a Bio-Washed Unstructured Cap

\$16.00

3 Colors



Outdoor Cap Garment Washed Trucker Hat

\$17.00

3 Colors



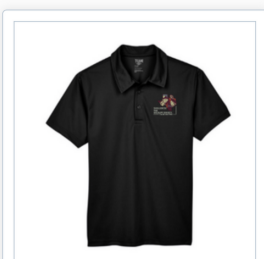
Outdoor Cap Premium Modern Trucker Hat

\$17.99

3 Colors

Men's Apparel

Ladies Apparel



Team 365 Mens Command Snag Protection Polo

\$28.00

3 Colors



Port & Company Essential Tee

\$16.00

2 Colors



Team 365 Ladies' Command Snag Protection Polo

\$28.00

3 Colors



Port & Company Ladies Essential Tee

\$16.00

2 Colors

Multiple color options and sizes available!

Get your order placed BEFORE Wednesday, January 25th, 2023 to receive your gear by the meeting!

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.

Front photo credit:
Audrey Tauli
Research Associate
Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute