



# Texas Chapter Tails

## of Wildlife and Stewardship

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### President's Note

As we whirl through the first quarter of 2024 with zest, we find ourselves amidst the blossoming beauty of April in Texas. Just over two months ago, we closed out our 60th Annual Meeting hosted in Houston with over 650 students, professionals, partners, and friends attending. The meeting challenged us to “Think like a Draba” and be open to recommit ourselves to new perspectives within our communities, all while learning about those ‘lesser known’ flora and fauna presented in the Plenary.

A heartfelt thank you is due to Dr. Blake Grisham, our outgoing President, for orchestrating a bustling conference featuring eight workshops, six Cottam presentations, 67 technical talks, and an impressive array of 108 posters – of which 96 were contributed by students! The conference of course, would not have functioned without the hours of volunteer leaders from across the chapter, both student and professionals, who gave their time and talents to setting up, organizing, corralling, photographing, counting, sorting, moving, and managing the chaos that is a conference as large as ours. Too many to name, thank you each for showing up to do the work!



A Western diamondback warns researchers of its presence.  
*Courtesy of Lauren Spjut.*

# President's Note

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An exciting year is ahead of us as Texas Chapter members! We have hired a new Executive Director, our fifth in our history, Dr Matt Wagner. Having worked in both state agency and academia, Matt has led statewide programs, has both established and taught conservation policy, and has spent the last 36 years building partnerships for conservation. Matt brings the full spectrum of these experiences and network relationships to his new role as Executive Director for Texas Chapter and we anticipate great strides under his stewardship!



The team you've elected to lead Texas Chapter this coming year is by far the 'best of the best' of them and I am so thrilled to be able to call them colleagues and more importantly friends. Please help me congratulate once again our incoming Texas Chapter leadership for 2024-2025:

- Jessica Glasscock, President Elect
- Bill Adams, Vice President
- Mikalya Killam, Secretary
- Chris Farrell, Board Member at Large

As I shared in my address, our Society has grown to its own benefit over the past 60 years. Yet, with new and uncharted issues on the horizon for our natural resources in Texas, our community of researchers, coordinators, educators, practitioners, managers, administrators, communicators, technicians, and students is even more important to have ready to stand together. Your membership in Texas Chapter represents your voice in the bigger picture of natural resource decision-making in Texas. I welcome you to join us in Austin at Commission meetings, walk the halls of the Capital building or engage with our Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC). Stay up to date and active with our advocacy activity through our CAC articles each newsletter – this months on page 12.

My second point I shared was the call to service heralded by Margaret Mead: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” I encourage you to get involved with our shared Texas Chapter community through service. We have 25 committees that help keep our organization growing. Find one you're interested in learning more about and reach out to the Chair(s) – there is always work that can be shared. Or, better yet, attend our pinnacle youth education event, Wildlife Conservation Camp. Celebrating it's 30th camp this summer, join the next generation of wildlife biologists high school students as a college mentor or a professional instructor for a week-long experience teaching kids about nature, ecology, and wildlife. Save the dates now – July 15-20th, 2024 at the Bamberger Ranch Preserve in Johnson City, Texas.

# President's Note

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Get your rest now – our teams are already planning our 2025 Annual Meeting for February 18th through the 22nd at the Embassy Suites in Denton, Texas. We are hoping to extend the conference by half a day to allow for a more streamlined agenda with the opportunity to attend more sessions, workshops, contests and meeting events. A preliminary skeleton agenda will be shared later this fall to allow for travel planning. While you're making travel plans for the conference, also think about any research you may want to present at a session or in a poster, start practicing for your quiz bowl or plant ID contest and think about what workshops you'd like us to include on the agenda. Watch your email inboxes and TCTWS social feeds for important dates, links and announcements.

Lastly, the community we belong to here with Texas Chapter is undoubtedly the best and most dynamic within The Wildlife Society – we did win Chapter of the year twice in a row as proof! But serving alongside our dedicated professionals and student leaders to push into another year together is a privilege. My leadership team and I are committed to upholding and bolstering our mission and continuing to represent the scientific foundation for natural resource decision-making in Texas.



With Kind Regards (and Gig'Em!),

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Pearl Meuth". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mary Pearl Meuth  
President, Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

# Editor's Note

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Hello TCTWS members!

As we dive into the start of a new year for TCTWS, with new members and new leadership, we are excited to continuing to provide news and information to you all! We are looking forward to a busy year, full of accomplishments and achievements we are eager to share.

As many do at the start of something new, we have a few goals for “Texas Chapter ‘Tails’ of Wildlife and Stewardship”. It has always been true, but we want to remind our members that the newsletter is for you, and we want to make sure your voices and stories are shared. We hope to increase the amount of content provided by our members, especially the students and aspiring professionals in the field. We hope to not only provide great content of what is happening in the field, but also provide stories and ongoing efforts that may connect and bring student and professional members together.

We would like to encourage our student members to become more involved with each edition of the newsletters. We hope to see an increase in student provided content, so they can brag on their achievements and network with others of similar interests ahead of upcoming conferences.

We also want to remind all our members that your feedback is appreciated and encouraged! Please let us know what you like and want to read more of, as well as where we can improve! Improvement is a great goal for all to have, and we can achieve that more efficiently with your help!

We have also updated the previous section “Botany Brief” with “Witty Wildlife Words”. Instead of botany themed information, we hope to share short wildlife and stewardship information provided by members. If you are interested in contributing an article, please reach out for more information!

Please enjoy the content of this edition, and congratulations to all those highlighted!

Thank you for reading, and good luck to all in their on-going endeavors,

Members of the Newsletter Team



# Annual Meeting of TCTWS

## Annual Meeting Awards



Honorary Life Membership Award:  
Dr. Mark Wallace



Friend of Wildlife:  
Dr. Don Steinbach



Friend of Wildlife:  
Jon Purvis



Land Stewardship Award:  
Julie Mattox  
Mattox Prairie Farms



Early Career  
Professional Award:  
Dr. Sarah Turner



Mid-Career  
Professional Award:  
Dr. John Tomeček



1st Place Cottam Award:  
Lindsay Martinez  
*Science and Policy Behind  
Plans for Reintroducing  
Ocelots to Historic  
Range in Texas*



2nd Place Cottam Award:  
Georgina Eccles  
*Nonbreeding ecology of  
female northern pintails and  
links to fitness*



3rd Place Cottam Award:  
Angela Patrick  
*Pronghorn Susceptibility to  
Prion Diseases Through PRNP  
Sequencing*

# Annual Meeting of TCTWS

## Annual Meeting Awards



Outstanding Electronic Media:  
Dr. Sandra Rideout-Hanzak



Outstanding Technical  
Publication: Addie Smith,  
Alison Lund, Roel Lopez



Outstanding Scientific Article:  
Jed Long, Stephen Webb, Seth  
Harju, Kenneth Gee



Outstanding Popular Article:  
Joseph Richards



Carl D. Shoemaker Memorial  
Scholarship: Laken Mize



NWTF Hunting Heritage  
Super Fund Scholarship:  
Joseph Richards



Sam Beasom Memorial  
Scholarship: Trey Johnson



Colin Caruthers Memorial  
Scholarship: Courtney Newcomb



Dan Boone Memorial  
Scholarship: Jake Hill

# Annual Meeting of TCTWS

## Annual Meeting Awards



Charly McTee  
Memorial Scholarship:  
Richard Burke



1st Place Undergraduate  
Poster: Jessica Johnston



1st Place Graduate Poster:  
Andres Solorio



Student Chapter of the Year:  
Tarleton State University



1st Place Quiz Bowl:  
Stephen F. Austin  
State University



1st Place Team Plant ID:  
Texas A&M University



1st Place Plant ID:  
Steven Lovelace



Outstanding Student:  
Tarleton State University  
Hunter Jacobson



Outstanding Student:  
Texas A&M University  
Seth Williams



# Annual Meeting of TCTWS

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## Annual Meeting Awards



Outstanding Student:  
Abilene Christian University  
Emily Thornock



Outstanding Student:  
Southwest Texas Junior  
College - Ellie Daughtry



Outstanding Student: Texas  
A&M University- Kingsville  
Jessica Johnston



Outstanding Student:  
Texas Tech University  
Madeleine Rawlings



Outstanding Student: Sam  
Houston State University  
Victoria Parker



Outstanding Student:  
University of Texas -  
San Antonio  
Jackson Kinder



Outstanding Student:  
Sul Ross State University  
Nathan Parrinello



Outstanding Student:  
Stephen F. Austin State  
University- Leo Montano



Campers of the Year:  
Josie Longson & Jaxon Eason

Not pictured: Outstanding Student: Dayna Ovalle, Texas State University

# Annual Meeting of TCTWS

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## Annual Meeting Awards

Stay tuned for these award winning photos and art to be showcased on our social media pages in the coming months!



1st Place Humor Photo:  
Ethan Menzel



1st Place Texas Scenery:  
Lori Massey



1st Place Texas Plants Photo:  
Kirby Irvin



1st Place Non-Texas Photo:  
Alynn Martin



1st Place Work Related Photo:  
Levi Heffelfinger



1st Place Texas Wildlife Photo:  
Blake Leslie



1st Place Remote Camera  
Photo: Lori Massey



1st Place Wildlife Conservation:  
Breanna Green



1st Place Art and Best of Show:  
Catalina Berry

## Wildlife Conservation Camp

The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's



### WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CAMP

Providing real world conservation and management experiences for high school students since 1993! Explore the outdoors and engage with wildlife and natural resource professionals. Discover wildlife, habitat, soils, water, ecosystem functions and interactions, conservation and research techniques, the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, land ethics and more!



### *Bamberger Ranch Preserve*

Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve is a 5,500-acre ranch in Blanco County that has been restored to its original habitat. Our mission is to teach ethical land stewardship by example and outreach. We offer seminars for landowners and serve as a research lab. We provide hands-on science classes and nature camps for school children — 2,000 children in a typical year. Our public tours and workshops attract birdwatchers, photographers, and animal and plant enthusiasts.



### *30 Years of Camp!*

Location: Bamberger Ranch Preserve  
Johnson City, Texas

Dates: July 15-20, 2024

Scholarships  
are available!

Application Deadline: May 1st

**APPLY NOW!**



TEXAS CHAPTER  
**THE  
WILDLIFE  
SOCIETY**  
FOUNDED 1916



Bamberger Ranch Preserve

Johnson City, Texas



[www.wildlifecamp.tx.org](http://www.wildlifecamp.tx.org)



2024 Camp Director  
Kelley Mundy



# TCTWS Committee News

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## Conservation Affairs

Texas Chapter leadership and members have continued to stay active promoting the mission and position of TCTWS in Austin and with resource leaders. A brief summary of Conservation Affairs' activities is provided below, as well as future dates to look forward to. Current TCTWS positions statements can be found on our website: [tctws.org/about-us-2/resolutions](https://tctws.org/about-us-2/resolutions). Please reach out to Conservation Affairs Chairs for further information or to get involved. TCTWS members are always encouraged to participate in these activities.

### Chronic Wasting Disease

- Joining other wildlife organizations, TCTWS has shared the "Chronic Wasting Disease" StoryMap site as a resource for members and constituents
- January '24 - TCTWS leadership and members gave public testimony in support of TPWD staff proposed actions.
  - [Agenda & Recording Online](#)
- March '24 - TCTWS leadership and members attended TPW Commission to provide feedback for proposed rules package.
  - [Agenda & Recording Online](#)
- Proposed rules to be discussed at May TPW Commission Mtg
  - [Proposed rules currently open for public comment](#)
- Conservation Affairs members continue to attend and engage with CWD workshops, meetings and task groups to continue to support sound wildlife disease management decisions.

### Light Goose Conservation Order

- Comment was requested from TCTWS membership on the Light Goose Conservation Order proposal resulting in the elimination of the CO as proposed by TPWD staff.

### Mountain Lion Management

- TCTWS leadership sent a letter to TPW Commission in March '24 to support the development of a mountain lion management plan, a ban on canned hunting and proposals addressing trap checking based on best management practices.
- Proposed rules will be discussed for action at the May TPW Commission Mtg.
  - Public Comment requested: [https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/feedback/public\\_comment/](https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/feedback/public_comment/)

### Upcoming Dates

- May 22-23, Austin – TPW Commission Meeting
- August 21-22, Austin – TPW Commission Meeting

\*If you are interested in participating in TCTWS policy discussion activities or attending Commission Meeting(s), legislative hearings or more alongside TCTWS, please reach out to the Conservation Affairs Committee ([conservation.affairs@tctws.org](mailto:conservation.affairs@tctws.org))

# TCTWS Committee News

## Webinar Series

Join us for our first webinar for 2024!

Join us on **May 2, 2024 at 1:00 PM CST** to hear from Michael Brennan and Lindsay Martinez about the East Foundation's recently approved Safe Harbor Agreement for ocelot reintroduction on private lands in Texas. They will be discussing the process of developing the Safe Harbor Agreement and what this agreement means for the future of ocelot conservation in Texas.

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 what makes Texas wildlife stewardship excellent. To attend the webinar, please RSVP at [TCTWS.org/webinar](https://TCTWS.org/webinar).



The poster features the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society logo in the top left, which includes a map of Texas and the text 'TEXAS CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY Established 1969'. In the top right, it says 'Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society'. The main title 'Webinar Series' is in large, bold, dark red font. Below it, 'Knowledge Deep-Dive' is written in a large, dark blue font. The speakers are listed as 'Mike Brennan, Texas A&M NRI' and 'Lindsay Martinez, East Foundation'. The date and time are '1 pm CST Thursday May 2, 2024'. At the bottom left, it says 'RSVP today: TCTWS.org/webinar'. On the right side, there are two portrait photos: one of Mike Brennan, a man with short brown hair wearing a plaid shirt, and one of Lindsay Martinez, a woman with long dark hair wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans. The background of the poster is white with a dark border.

If you are interested in presenting an upcoming webinar, please email the webinar chair at [webinar@tctws.org](mailto:webinar@tctws.org)

# Witty Wildlife Words

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## Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) Supplemental Nests Boxes

By: Ricky Garibay; Tarleton State University Graduate Researcher

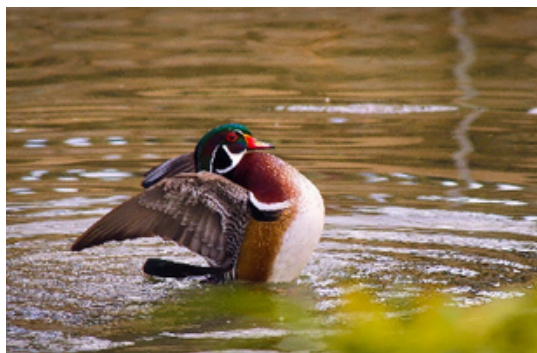
Commonly said, “That old snag. Knock it down!” Most landowners are not aware of the cavity nesting birds that call old snags home. It’s much more than an old standing tree with cavities exposed for inhabitation, it’s a creek side town home for some birds. The wood duck is a sharp dressed waterfowl species that inhabits swamps, woodland ponds, and riparian areas.

While their conservation status is of low concern in Texas, we must still consider that preservation for the future is important. Unique is an understatement for these unmistakable birds. Males are identified by their sharp green crested head feathers, elongated tails, and wing and body colorations ranging of blue, browns, yellow, and white. To add to their uniqueness this species only nests in cavities of trees, typically those found in old dead standing trees.

Supplemental nesting boxes not only promote biodiversity, health, and stability of an ecosystem, it ensures we are doing our part as wildlife stewards. Images included show boxes made and implemented, based on information from Ducks Unlimited website, by Tarleton Student Chapter of Wildlife Society, Ricky Garibay (main investigator) and Chloe Delahoussaye and Ty Cospser (co-investigators) are implementing wood duck boxes on TSU Research Partners Flat Top Ranch in Walnut Springs, Texas with the goal of enriching wildlife populations.



TCTWS Members (left to right) Ty Cospser, Chloe Delahoussaye install Wood Duck nesting boxes.



Wood duck (*Aix sponsa*)  
Courtesy of Joe Richards



TCTWS Member Ricky Garibay inspects Wood Duck nesting boxes.

### Fun Facts:

1. Female Wood ducks lay up to 15 eggs.
2. Male Wood duck's color is used for courtship displays.

### Literature Cited:

1. <https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/wood-duck>
2. <https://www.ducks.org/conservation/waterfowl-research-science/build-a-wood-duck-box>
3. [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Wood\\_Duck/overview](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Wood_Duck/overview)
4. <https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Birds/Wood-Duck>

# Southwest Section Tracks

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*By: Kathy Granillo, Southwest Section Representative*

The days are getting longer, wildflowers are popping up everywhere, and we have survived another time change to Daylight Savings Time. Do we really need Daylight Savings Time anymore? What are the pros and cons? Is there a link to wildlife and wildlife management? Perhaps I'll delve into that in a future article but that is not the topic of discussion I'd like to address in this article. I have been mulling over TWS membership – we have various levels within our organization and currently a person can pick and choose which levels they'd like to belong to. We have Chapters, Student Chapters, Sections and the Parent Organization. There are 55 Chapters, usually state or province based, and there are 8 Sections, which are regional networks of states, provinces, and republics. We have 147 Student Chapters with more forming every year. These are based at college campuses across North America and beyond. Each one of these levels within TWS has their own bylaws, officers and events and activities, and each of these levels of organization synergistically support the mission of The Wildlife Society. What I have been mulling over in particular is why some members only maintain membership at the Chapter and/or Section level and not the parent organization and vice versa. I presume it is because of the perceived benefits or lack of benefits.

If you are one of those people who belongs to the TX Chapter, and perhaps the Southwest Section, but not the parent organization I'd like to encourage you to examine why that is. I've heard many reasons from members over the years. I commonly hear they get what they need from their local organization and the parent organization dues are too expensive, they can't attend the annual conference, and so why join?

Many think that the main reason to belong to the parent organization is to get a break on registration for the annual conference, and yet they cannot attend the annual conference for one reason or another. Their employer won't allow them to attend the annual conference with pay on work time; it is almost impossible to get permission to attend on work time for federal government employees; it is too expensive to attend the annual conference out of your own pocket; or perhaps attending the annual conference eats up your entire travel budget for the year.

I grant you that these are valid concerns and are topics of concern to Council as well. However, TWS is way more than the annual conference. Do you know about the other benefits of TWS membership? Have you visited the website lately and seen what TWS has to offer? As wildlife professionals, many of you are involved in research and/or management. What do you do to stay up on your profession, and to contribute to your profession? Do you seek to publish your research findings or to learn more about your field of work? Access to TWS publications comes with your membership. This includes the Journal of Wildlife Management, the Wildlife Society Bulletin, Wildlife Monographs and The Wildlife Professional. These are premiere wildlife publications. Membership gives you access and helps support the publication of these resources.

# Southwest Section Tracks

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*By: Kathy Granillo, Southwest Section Representative*

As a member of TWS you can join and participate in Working Groups. Working groups are forums for members with common professional interests to network, exchange information and promote science-based decision making and management of wildlife and its habitats. Working groups publish newsletters, hold meetings, conduct policy analysis, and organize technical symposia and workshops. Working groups can help you advance your skills in core or emerging areas of the wildlife profession, advance science about a particular area of concern by the profession, network with colleagues in your area of expertise, keep up with the latest information in your professional subdiscipline, participate in special projects related to your professional interests, promote science-based policy and management of wildlife and habitats.

TWS offers a host of resources for students and for early career professionals. Perhaps you are a current student or early career professional and if not, you used to be one! Take a look at what TWS offers and take advantage or help support these efforts.

TWS has a strong role in the policy arena and in promoting legislation and regulations that are beneficial to wildlife. TWS also supports local efforts by Chapters and Sections to engage in both North American and more local conservation concerns through the Conservation Affairs Network.

Membership includes many resources such as continuing education opportunities, mentoring programs, and leadership programs such as the Leadership Institute. For me, one of the main benefits of membership is knowing that I am supporting my chosen profession and my passion for wildlife and wild places.

If you are not a member of the parent organization, or have let your membership lapse, I hope I have intrigued you enough to check out what TWS has to offer these days and how you might benefit and also how you might contribute to keeping your profession vibrant.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. My email is [KGBirder55@gmail.com](mailto:KGBirder55@gmail.com).



Kathy Granillo - TWS  
Southwest Section Representative



## Partner's Corner

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Does your agency or group have an upcoming event or conference you would like to share with the TCTWS Membership? Take advantage of our "Partner's Corner"!

For a \$50 donation, we will publish your pre-formatted event advertisement in our quarterly newsletter. Every donation goes back to the chapter to support professional development activities for our members. Our newsletters are widely circulated across the TCTWS membership, which includes student members from most Texas universities and multiple other states and professionals across many state, federal, and private organizations.

The deadline for submission in each newsletter is the 15th of the previous month (i.e. the deadline is June 15th for the July edition). Our newsletters are published in January, April, July, and October of each year, and are distributed by the 20th day of each publishing month.

For more information or to submit your event, contact the Newsletter Committee at [newsletter@tctws.org](mailto:newsletter@tctws.org)!

# So long and happy "tails"!

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Texas Chapter Tails of Wildlife and Stewardship 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 Editor (Cheyenne Mack, [newsletter@tctws.org](mailto:newsletter@tctws.org)) by the 15th of the preceding month. Change of email address should be submitted online through the Address Change Form.



Pay dues, read previous newsletters, and find more information online: [tctws.org](http://tctws.org)

## TCTWS 2024/2025 Executive Board

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Vice President, Bill Adams  
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