

# Texas Chapter Tails

## of Wildlife and Stewardship



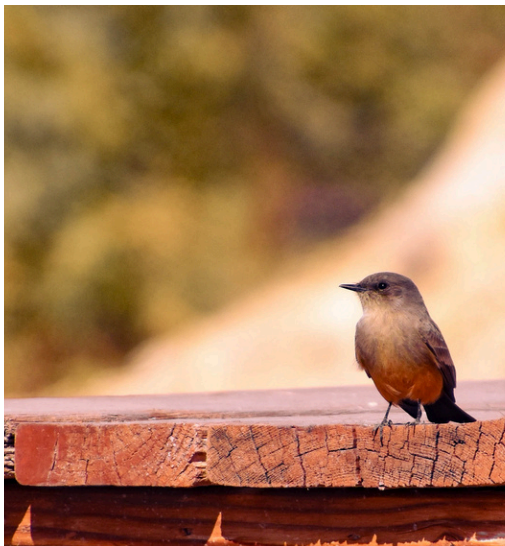
### Inside this Edition

- President's Note ..... 1
- Student Chapter Spotlight ..... 4
- Save the Date-TCTWS 2025..... 7
- TWS National Conference..... 8
- TCTWS Committee News ..... 9
  - Wildlife Conservation Camp ... 9
  - Conservation Affairs ..... 10
  - Webinar Series ..... 12
  - Publication Awards ..... 13
  - Honorary Life Member ..... 14
- TCTWS Recognition ..... 15
- Witty Wildlife Words ..... 16
- Southwest Section Tracks ..... 17
- Partner’s Corner ..... 19

### President's Note

Every spring, I tell myself the same little white lie: “Things will slow down this summer and you’ll be able to get so many things done!” Then, the end of June arrives, and my summer is half gone, leaving me with a stack of undone sticky notes on my desk. The summer slowdown is a myth in our industry—there’s just a busy season and a busier season. Managing this constant hustle is a challenge I know many of you face as well. While I offer no solutions, I hope acknowledging this common issue provides some solidarity.

As this newsletter is being published, the 2024 Wildlife Conservation Camp will have been held at the Bamberger Ranch Preserve in Johnson City, Texas. This year's camp was attended by 14 enthusiastic campers, including 3 returning participants, 8 college mentors, and supported by approximately 30 professional staff members. A heartfelt thank you to TCTWS members and other donors who contributed \$30 each to celebrate 30 years of WCC. Camp was hosted this year by the incredibly organized, TAMU PhD student and previous WCC camper, Kelley Mundy who built an agenda of top tier quality that provided a fun and unique week-long experience teaching kids about nature, ecology, and wildlife. Thank you Kelley and all professionals who gave their time, treasure and talents to this premier program of TCTWS.



A Say's phoebe on a picnic table.  
*Courtesy of Sarah Smith*



# President's Note

---

Over the past spring, your TCTWS leadership has been busy in Austin standing and speaking to a variety of conservation challenges on the current horizon; all while preparing relationships and partnerships for those challenges still yet to come next spring in the 2025 legislative session. Much of the kudos for this work goes to our new Executive Director, Matt Wagner, who with just four months on board, has set up numerous meetings and sit downs with conservation leadership in TPWD and in the capital building. TCTWS also stood active at the recent TPWD commission meetings, speaking in favor of proposed Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management, including modifying surveillance zones and establishing carcass movement rules. We also advocated for depopulating a CWD-infected deer breeding facility in Hunt County with a strong voice of support for the biologist staff tasked to that event. Additionally, the Conservation Affairs committee backed TPWD's new rules to prohibit canned hunting and encouraged the development of trap check standards for mountain lions, a proposal that received significant public support. More details for these actions above and more conservation issues are outlined in the CAC report on page 10.



Behind the scenes of an active spring, your TCTWS officers have been diligently reviewing and updating the organization's bylaws, which were last revised in 2017. Members will have the opportunity to review and vote on these changes during the winter months, ahead of the February 2025 annual meeting. Additionally, we are enhancing our financial administration by transitioning to QuickBooks Online. This change will standardize budgeting processes and prioritize creating financially accessible scholarships or grants for students attending the annual meeting.

Congratulations to Matt Wagner, Executive Director of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, for receiving the prestigious TWA Sam Beason Conservation Leader Award at Texas Wildlife Association's 2024 WildLife Convention. This award honors members of the professional conservation community who have made outstanding contributions to Texas wildlife conservation and embody the philosophies of TWA. Past recipients include notable conservationists such as Don Steinbach, Dale Rollins, and Carter Smith. TWA executive committee members Neal Wilkins and Dr. Louis Harveson presented the award. Thank you, Matt, for your dedication and efforts in making Texas a better place for wildlife!

## President's Note

---

From our parent society, The Wildlife Society, you should have received an email earlier this summer outlining their new Strategic Plan. Worked on over the past year and a half, TWS has now finalized and shared this update on their TWS website under “[Who We Are](#)” and “[Governance and Financials](#)” menus. Their goal was to develop a plan that could stand the test of time and live beyond the traditional 5-year period. The plan reflects member feedback, interviews, and working session outcomes that generated three mission-driven priorities for our professional society: **building community, supporting wildlife professionals, and exercising external influence**. These three priorities – pillars if you will – indeed should carry TWS well into the future. I encourage each of you to review this document and engage with The Wildlife Society where possible.

Finally, mark your calendars for The Wildlife Society's highly anticipated National Conference in Baltimore, set to take place from October 19-23rd, 2024. This event promises to be a hub of inspiration and knowledge, bringing together wildlife professionals, researchers, and students from across the globe. Don't miss this chance to expand your professional network, gain valuable insights, and contribute to the future of wildlife conservation. Register now and join us in Baltimore!

<https://twconference.org/>



It is a privilege to work alongside each of you for the benefit of the Chapter. Please let me know what you need from me and the Chapter.



With Kind Regards (and Gig'Em!),

Mary Pearl Meuth  
President, Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

# Student Chapter Spotlight

---

## 2024 Student Chapter of the Year - Tarleton State University

*Submitted by Chloe Delahoussaye and advisor Dr. Heather Mathewson*

The Tarleton State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society is honored to receive the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's Student Chapter of The Year award for 2024. This milestone achievement is due to the unwavering dedication of our members, officer team, and chapter advisor. We feel as if this year our chapter has progressed immensely. We have worked and laughed harder than ever. We have bonded as a team, developed professionally, and expanded our connections and opportunities across the state and nation and grown into a deeply rooted chapter with good connections. All of this and more was integral to qualifying for this prestigious award. We appreciate all who have contributed and treasure the recognition given by the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society.



*Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society members attending the 2024 Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Conference.*

As a student chapter, we want to do everything in our power to prepare our members for careers in the wildlife field. To do this, we strive to provide ample opportunity to gain valuable field experience, augment educational opportunities, and develop professional skills.

Building up a valuable resume with good experiences can be difficult to start, so we provide our members with a diverse selection of volunteer and research opportunities. This past year, we were able to participate in events such as a deer capture with East Foundation, quail trapping with the Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation, bird banding with the Fort Cavazos Natural and Cultural Resources Management Branch, spotlight surveys on private ranches, invasive plant removal efforts, and many more. Each opportunity gave our members the chance to learn management and research techniques while also giving them a chance to network and make connections that will benefit them in the future.

# Student Chapter Spotlight

---

## 2024 Student Chapter of the Year - Tarleton State University

To help further build the skills of our members, we hosted multiple workshops throughout the year to broaden each member's horizons. Our first workshop was held on the Tarleton Agricultural Center, where Aiden Florez from Delta Waterfowl taught the importance of waterfowl conservation, hunting safety, fish and game law, and much more. With the help of Texas Nature Tracker, Wendy Anderson, our second workshop dove into the importance of citizen science while using iNaturalist. Two more workshops were held by our advisor, Dr. Heather Mathewson, who discussed key aspects of cover letters, resumes, and CV's. She also held a workshop on the peer review process for scientific journals after which a few of the members actually reviewed a manuscript. All workshops facilitated an opportunity for participants to inquire and engage with professionals.

One of our chapter's goals is to foster community and campus awareness of wildlife and natural resource issues. To complete this goal, we heavily leaned on our Education and Outreach Committee. Between attending local Texas Master Naturalist community events, teaching elementary students about plants and wildlife, participating in the TWS Student Development Working Group BioBlitz, educating over 500 high school students during the FFA competition, posting weekly Wildlife Wednesday facts on our social media, and promoting the Recovering America's Wildlife Act on campus grounds, the members of our committee strived to provide interpretational and educational content to people of all ages.



*Student Gracie Triplett and technician and fixing a radio collar on a Bobwhite Quail at the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch.*



*Members (from left to right) Caden Crane, Kyndal Underwood, Hannah Atkinson, and Hunter Jacobson making iNaturalist observations with Texas Nature Tracker, Wendy Anderson.*

# Student Chapter Spotlight

---

## 2024 Student Chapter of the Year - Tarleton State University

To get our members involved in the wildlife field, we try to expose them to many different careers and organizations. In almost every meeting, a new speaker will talk about their respective careers and their journey to that position. This way, members understand the steps needed to be taken to achieve certain career goals. We have had speakers from Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Game Wardens, A&M AgriLife Extension, and many other respective organizations. We hope by hearing different people's stories, our members will be inspired to follow their passions, no matter where they are in their lives.

We promote research in wildlife and natural resources by supporting student attendance and presentation of research at various professional conferences throughout the year. Eight members attended The Wildlife Society annual conference in Louisville, KY, of which three presented research posters and two students presented their undergraduate research during oral sessions. Students presented research and competed in the plant identification competition at the Texas Section of the Society of Range Management. Students also presented research at the Texas Plant Conservation Conference and at Tarleton State University Research Symposium.



*Officer Tristian Saxon teaching high school students about antlers and horns with examples on a table.*

By promoting not only our student chapter but also our parent chapters, we hope to continue the path of progression in our community. We will stay committed to providing our members with valuable and meaningful experiences that will help them down the road. We would once again like to thank all of those who have aided our chapter. All the organizations and the professionals that gave the time to speak of their journey, all the local events that allowed us to educate community members, and all the dedicated members of our chapter that kept the goals of our student and parent chapter in mind. We cannot thank the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society enough!

# 2025 Annual Meeting

---

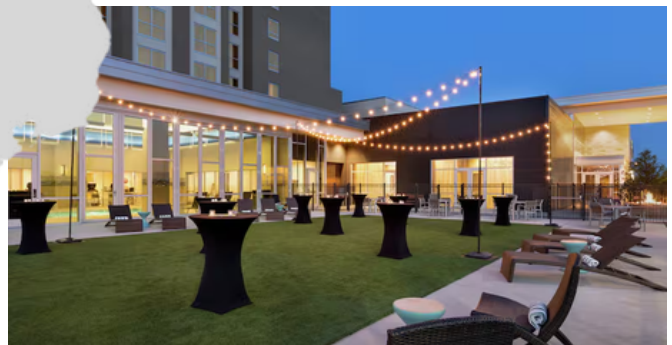
## Save The Date

*A note from the Local Arrangements Committee:*

### Save the Date!

The **Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's 2025 Annual Meeting** is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 19th through Friday February 21st 2025** at the **Embassy Suites by Hilton in Denton, Texas.**

A call for abstracts is expected later this Fall with registration launching in December tentatively. The TCTWS Annual Meeting each year offers opportunities to hear from leading experts in the natural resource community, get updates on breaking research from wildlife and conservation students, and meet professionals from across the state.



# The Wildlife Society 2025 Annual Conference

The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference is one of the largest gatherings of wildlife professionals and supporters in North America. For over 30 years, TWS has hosted this unique and informative event that spotlights the latest advancements in wildlife management and research while providing abundant opportunities for networking and career advancement.

Register for TWS' 31st Annual Conference by July 17 to receive the early bird discount and maximize your savings! This year's conference will take place in **Baltimore, Maryland** from **October 19-23** at the **Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor**, with closing festivities at the National Aquarium. Visit [twsconference.org](https://twsconference.org) for more information. We hope to see you there!

TWS MEMBER REGISTRATION TYPES	EARLY (TILL JULY 17TH)	REGULAR (JULY 18TH – OCTOBER 4TH)
Professional	\$600	\$700
Professional – One Day	\$450	\$525
Early Career Professional	\$350	\$400
Early Career Professional – One Day	\$225	\$250
Student	\$300	\$350
Student – One Day	\$200	\$225
Retired	\$350	\$400
Retired – One Day	\$225	\$250

NONMEMBER REGISTRATION TYPES	EARLY (TILL JULY 17TH)	REGULAR (JULY 18TH – OCTOBER 4TH)
Professional	\$800	\$900
Professional – One Day	\$600	\$675
Student	\$500	\$600
Student – One Day	\$375	\$450
Guest (no access to educational sessions)	\$300	\$300



**REGISTER TODAY!**



# TCTWS Committee News

## Wildlife Conservation Camp



2024 Top Camper  
Kaylie Tims



2024 Top Journal  
Hailey Turner



2024 Top Plant Press  
Kaylie Tims



Spotlighting



Checking Mist Nests



A visit to Bracken Bat  
Cave!

## THANK YOU TO FOR SUPPORTING WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CAMP!

Amanda Hackney - Black Cat GIS and Bio  
Mende Holcomb  
Mary Pearl Meuth  
Stephen Ross  
Gina Merxbacher  
Jamie Cooper  
Angie Arredondo

Amy Mundy  
Masi Mejia Serna  
Linda Bagwell  
Sandra Ramirez  
Barbara Cooper  
Kim Tanguma  
April Wenske

Rachel Bittner  
Karen and Henry Wood  
Wood Logistics and Land



# TCTWS Committee News

---

## Conservation Affairs

*Submitted by Matt Wagner, Executive Director*

The CAC continues to stay active and engaged in statewide conservation issues. A brief summary of Conservation Affairs' activities is provided below, as well as future dates to look forward to.

### Meeting with TPWD Leadership

In early April, committee co chairs Mary Pearl Meuth and Matt Wagner met with TPWD leadership to discuss the agency's current priorities and the upcoming legislative session.

### Chronic Wasting Disease

Texas Chapter members provided testimony at the May TPWD commission meeting in support of TPWD's proposals to modify surveillance zones and establish carcass movement rules.

Visible ID for all released breeder deer remains a priority for the chapter.

On behalf of the chapter, a letter was sent to TPWD in support of depopulating the Hunt County deer breeding facility infected with CWD. This operation involved over 80 staff members and 250 deer. Negative publicity surrounded the operation before, during and after the event, causing distress for all involved.

A short summary of deer breeding in other states indicates that the following nine states have more than 100 cervid farms: Alabama, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin. Each of these states have documented CWD in wild and/or captive deer, and depopulation of captive populations has occurred in six states. An additional nine states with less than 100 cervid farms have used depopulation to control CWD in confined deer.

### Mountain Lions

Texas Chapter members provided testimony at the May TPWD commission meeting in support of TPWD's proposals to prohibit canned hunting and establish a 36-hour trap check rule for mountain lions. Over 7000 public comments were recorded with 91% in favor of the proposals. However, nine landowner and agriculture organizations opposed the 36-hour rule. At the meeting, 26 people commented, with 77% in favor. After discussion among the commission members, the proposed rules passed.

TPWD is now embarking on the preparation of a Mountain Lion Management Plan for the state.

### Dune Sagebrush Lizard listed as Endangered

Effective June 20, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made a final ruling to list the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard, a lizard species found only in southeastern New Mexico and West Texas, as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

# TCTWS Committee News

---

## Conservation Affairs (continued)

*Submitted by Matt Wagner, Executive Director*

### Six Texas Mussels listed as Endangered, One Threatened

Effective July 5, the Guadalupe Fatmucket, Texas Fatmucket, Guadalupe Orb, Texas Pimpleback, Balcones Spike, and False Spike have been listed as Endangered. The Texas Fawnsfoot was listed as Threatened. In addition, approximately 1,577 river miles have been designated as Critical Habitat.

### Interim Charge for Texas House Culture, Recreation and Tourism (CRT) Committee

After each legislative session (during odd-numbered years), there are many tasks assigned to the various committees to address during the interim period between sessions. The House CRT Committee is the primary committee involved with TPWD business. One charge assigned to this committee is to “ Evaluate the purpose and effectiveness of the Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program. Identify the trends and impacts of land fragmentation given the state’s rapid population growth and proud legacy of private land stewardship and evaluate the risks with increased foreign ownership of Texas land resulting from fragmentation. Examine the ecological and economic benefits of existing land conservation programs and the potential future role of strategic conservation initiatives to assist in the preservation of critical natural resources for benefit of future generations.”

The CRT will meet at the capitol on July 16 to discuss this, and other interim charges.

Comments can be submitted in online at: <https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c430> and in person. Members of the CAC will monitor the progress of this interim charge and provide input as appropriate.

### Game, Fish, and Water Safety Account

This account, also known as Fund 9, supports TPWD’s wildlife and fishery conservation mission. Most of the funds come from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, and are matched with federal grants from the Pittman-Robertson and Dingel-Johnson Acts. Over the last decade or so, the Texas Legislature has not appropriated the full amount to the agency on an annual basis. This needs to be rectified, and it may take a constitutional amendment to get it done. The Texas Chapter supports the full appropriation of Fund 9 to TPWD for the intended purposes of science-based wildlife and fisheries management.

### Upcoming Meetings:

- July 16, Austin – House Culture, Recreation and Tourism Committee meets at the capitol
- August 21-22, Austin – TPW Commission Meeting and Public Hearing

\*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))

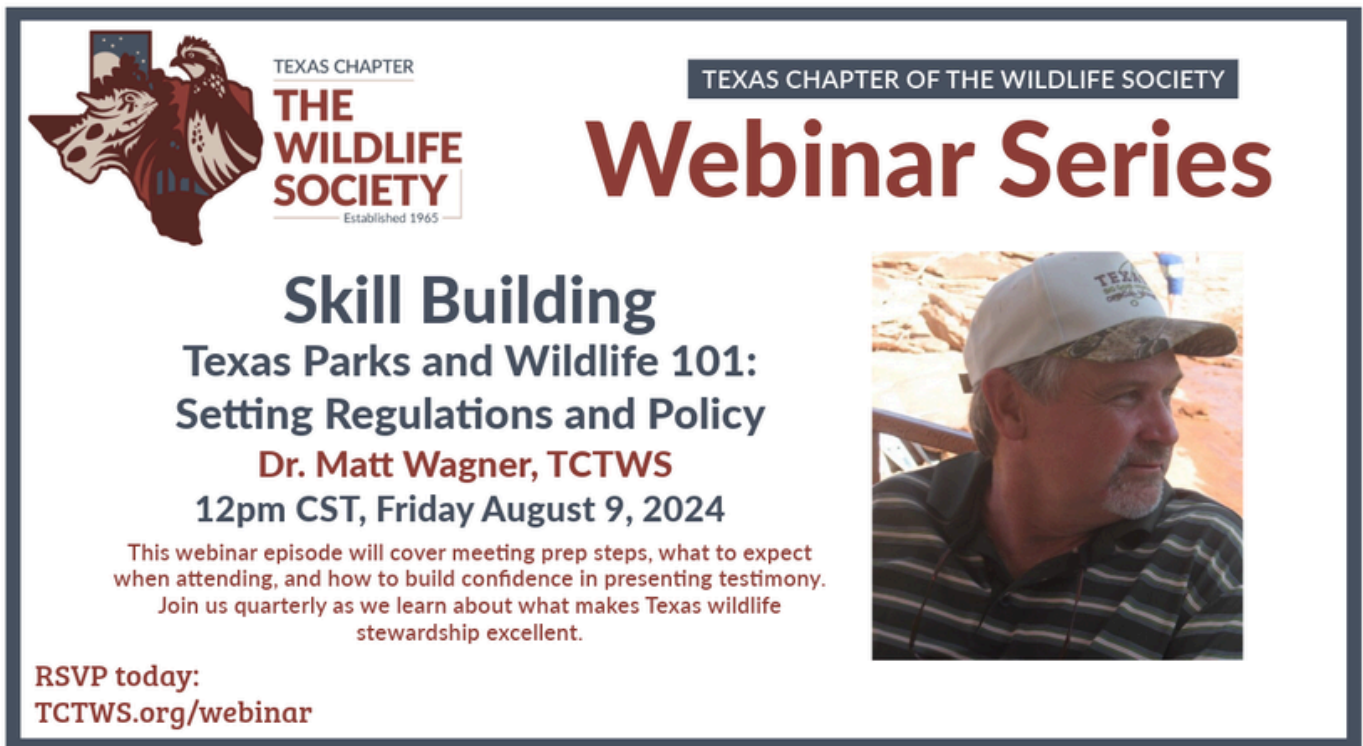
# TCTWS Committee News

## Webinar Series

### TCTWS Webinar - Texas Parks & Wildlife 101: Setting Regulations and Policy

Join us on **August 9, 2024 at 12:00 PM CST** to hear from Dr. Matt Wagner and Mary Pearl Meuth about how state fish and wildlife regulations are proposed, reviewed and adopted (or not). They will be discussing the process of how should you prepare for making public comment, and building confidence in presenting your testimony in a thoughtful and professional manner at a TPWD Commission meeting.

Register for the upcoming webinar here: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/797f983a-8489-41aa-854e-829c94bb2051@6fbab168-e7f4-4b52-a656-2a4ea34b1584>



The graphic is a promotional poster for a webinar. It features the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society logo on the left, which includes a stylized animal head and the text 'TEXAS CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY Established 1965'. On the right, it says 'TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY' above the large title 'Webinar Series'. The main text in the center reads 'Skill Building Texas Parks and Wildlife 101: Setting Regulations and Policy' followed by 'Dr. Matt Wagner, TCTWS' and '12pm CST, Friday August 9, 2024'. A smaller text block below that says 'This webinar episode will cover meeting prep steps, what to expect when attending, and how to build confidence in presenting testimony. Join us quarterly as we learn about what makes Texas wildlife stewardship excellent.' On the right side of the graphic is a photo of Dr. Matt Wagner wearing a white cap and a striped shirt. At the bottom left, it says 'RSVP today: TCTWS.org/webinar'.

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.

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

# TCTWS Committee News

---

## Publication Awards

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

**Don't forget to submit your nominations for The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's 2025 Wildlife Publication Awards!**

The Society's Wildlife Publication Awards recognize excellence in scientific literature of wildlife biology and management issued within the last three years. The publications selected are characterized by originality of research or thought and a high scholastic standard in the manner of presentation.

Works published in 2022, 2023, and 2024 are eligible in the following categories:

- Books
- Electronic Media (i.e., websites, DVDs, listservs, social media accounts, podcasts, or similar)
- Peer-Reviewed Scientific Articles (journal or peer-reviewed proceedings)
- Popular Article (published in magazines, newspapers, newsletters, or similar)
- Technical Publications (reports, factsheets, or similar)

To nominate a publication, submit:

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

Categories with  $\geq 3$  nominations will be considered for an award.

Please send nominations to [trey.johnson@tctws.org](mailto:trey.johnson@tctws.org) by 5 PM on November 30, 2024.

## 2024 Publication Award Winners:



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

# TCTWS Committee News

---

## Honorary Life Membership Nominations

The Honorary Life Membership Committee is seeking nominees for this honor. The Committee will continue the policy of seeking and considering nominees submitted from the membership. This was done because it was felt that a small committee limited to 3-5 chapter members could not know all of the outstanding individuals deserving of this singular honor. Certainly, the Texas Chapter is blessed with numerous members who have made outstanding contributions to wildlife conservation on a state, national and/or international scale. These individuals deserve the recognition of their peers for their outstanding long-term service to the wildlife resource.

To be eligible a nominee should have been :

(1) active for 20 or more years in the wildlife profession as an employee of a natural resource agency, academia, or a private organization as a wildlife biologist or consultant; or an effective non professional activist.

(2) He/she should have made significant contributions to the Chapter and/or the Profession and/or wildlife conservation of Texas.



2024 Honorary Life Member Award

Dr. Mark Wallace

To act on a nomination the Committee needs:

1. A reasonably complete vitae for the nominee which should contain his/her full name (present position, organizational affiliation, address, phone number), and a reasonably complete history of professional accomplishments.
2. One or more letters of nomination from close friends or associates.

Nominations should be kept confidential, especially from the nominee, but you can enlist the assistance of your co-workers. Many people have vitae that they use for various purposes. Surreptitiously obtain one. If there isn't one available, patch something together, with the help of friends, associates and spouses. From those nominations that we receive the committee can select one or more recipients to be honored at the 2025 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: November 1st

Please send nominations to [scott.henke@tamuk.edu](mailto:scott.henke@tamuk.edu) or [honorary.life.member@tctws.org](mailto:honorary.life.member@tctws.org)

# TCTWS Recognition

---

## Matt Wagner recognized with the 2024 Sam Beason Conservation Leader Award at Texas Wildlife Association Convention

Kudos to TCTWS Executive Director, Matt Wagner, for receiving the TWA Sam Beason Conservation Leader Award at WildLife 2024. This award is given to a member of the professional conservation community who has made an outstanding contribution to the conservation of Texas wildlife and shares the philosophies of TWA.

Past recipients include Don Steinbach, Dale Rollins, Steve Hall, Al Brothers, Fred Bryant, Bob Cook, Steve Nelle, Billy Higginbotham, Louis Harveson, Ruben Cantu, Neal Wilkins, Carter Smith, Ken Cearley, Mitch Lockwood, Linda Campbell, Dave Hewitt, Roel Lopez and David Synatzske.

Thank you Matt for your stewardship and conservation efforts that help make Texas a better place!

TWA executive committee members Neal Wilkins, left, and Dr. Louis Harveson, right, presented the award.



# Witty Wildlife Words

---

## Saltmarsh Moth Caterpillar (*Estigmene acrea*)

By: Dr. Matt Wagner

Have you seen this critter lately? If you live in Central Texas you probably have. It's the Saltmarsh Moth caterpillar. Although it is normally very common, this year has been exceptional. The adequate winter rains have created a flourish of broad leaved plants that serve as a food source for this fuzzy larva.

The Weston Ranch Foundation ([www.westonranchfoundation.org](http://www.westonranchfoundation.org)) is in its sixth year of commercial sunflower planting for dove hunting. Their farmer called one evening to tell me "we have a problem". This voracious insect had stripped 25% of one 40-acre sunflower field in a couple of days. The sunflower plants had just emerged and were about 3 inches tall when the caterpillars began their feast. Thankfully, it looks like most of the tiny remaining stems are sprouting new leaves! This caterpillar is the third insect pest to impact our sunflower fields over the years.

A type of tiger moth, the Saltmarsh Moth caterpillar is found in open areas like openings in woods, thickets, farm fields, grasslands, and marshes. The common name "salt marsh moth" comes from its tendency to be found in coastal salt marshes. The caterpillar is known for large, bristly hairs that can be a variety of colors from grayish brown to red, brown, and black. Adult moths are white with black spots on their wings. They are not known to be poisonous or harmful to humans, though they can be prolific agricultural pests.



*A Saltmarsh Moth caterpillar hiding in a young plant.*



*The yellow and brown coloration typical of a Saltmarsh Moth caterpillar.*

Literature cited:

<https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/salt-marsh-moth-acrea-moth>

*Photos courtesy of Dr. Matt Wagner*



# Southwest Section Tracks

---

*By: Kathy Granillo, Southwest Section Representative*

Summer is upon us, and I hope you can enjoy whatever activities are your favorite summer things to do. I am enjoying the wildflowers, birds, bees and butterflies and other organisms active at this time of year. Except mosquitos, ticks, chiggars and other annoying organisms. And I have a love/hate relationship with heat and humidity. Do you ever think about this yin and yang, this give and take, this “cost” of the benefits we derive from Nature? Or how about the “cost” of being in your profession? These could all be called paradigms, or ways of looking at something. Do you ever consider what your paradigms are?

Most of us in the wildlife profession choose this profession because we love it, because we are drawn to working with wildlife, and/or being outdoors. Certainly, over simplified, but we can think of ourselves as lucky in that we live to work versus working to live. And because we love what we do, we strive to do our best. What does this mean to you? What are your paradigms about your job and your profession? If you are reading this newsletter, I suspect that belonging to your professional society is part of “doing your best.” That is true for me. It is where I stay connected with others in our field, where I stay abreast of the latest research in our field, and where I strive to help others excel in our field.

Over my 40 years of working in this field I have met many biologists who do not belong to any professional societies. I have examined my paradigm around this topic from time to time and have had conversations over the years with biologists about why they do or do not participate in professional societies. I have heard a variety of answers on both sides. I must confess though that there is one attitude that bothers me. It is when I hear someone say that by working as a biologist they are doing enough. Now they very well could be doing enough by their definition of “enough.” Experience has shown me though that many biologists with this paradigm are not staying abreast of changes in our field and are out of touch with our community. They are stuck in whatever year they graduated college, got a job, and essentially quit learning. To be clear, I am not saying that belonging to a professional society automatically means that a person IS continually learning and adapting their work to the newest scientific findings. That is still something that one must work at, regardless of engagement in a professional society. But I do believe that those who do participate are more likely to keep learning and adapting. And that if we are to be successful in wildlife conservation and management that we need to do this learning and adapting, especially as our climate continues to change at an unprecedented rate. What are your thoughts on this? Do you know biologists who don't belong to a professional society? Have you asked them why?

# Southwest Section Tracks

---

*By: Kathy Granillo, Southwest Section Representative*

Speaking of engaging with other professionals, I'll end with a reminder that the Annual Conference is being held in Baltimore, Maryland, October 19-23, 2024. I hope to see you there!

As always, I welcome your comments, questions, and concerns. You can email me at [KGBirder55@gmail.com](mailto:KGBirder55@gmail.com).



Kathy Granillo - TWS  
Southwest Section Representative



Leanin' and Gunnin'  
Pronghorn being pursued during capture efforts.  
*Courtesy of Levi Heffelfinger.*

## Partner's Corner

---

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)!

## Partner's Corner

---

All are welcome to register! Join your fellow naturalists at the **Texas Master Naturalist 2024 Annual Meeting** – to be held **Thursday, October 24th through Sunday, October 27th** in San Marcos, Texas.

This conference, open to the public to register, provides those naturalist students and Texas Master Naturalist volunteers alike from around the state to gather, participate in hands-on educational seminars, and receive all their Advanced Training requirements for the year in one weekend. It is also an opportunity for program participants and supporters to network, share new ideas, and learn from chapters in different regions of the state.

Registration opens in August:

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/2024-annual-meeting/>



# So long and happy "tails"!

---

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 ([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

President, Mary Pearl Meuth  
Pres. Elect, Jessica Glasscock  
Vice President, Bill Adams  
Secretary, Mikalya Killam  
Board Member at Large, Chris Farrell

Executive Director, Matt Wagner  
Treasurer, Jon Purvis  
Archivist, Maureen Frank  
Past President, Blake Grisham