



Texas Chapter Tails

of Wildlife and Stewardship

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Azaleas in bloom on the Stephen F
Austin State University campus.

Photo by Jessica Glasscock

President's Note

As Spring settles in here in the Pineywoods, the azaleas are in full bloom, and it's hard to resist the call of the outdoors, especially with the sand bass run in full swing! It's also hard to believe that just a short while ago, we were braving a winter storm to attend our annual meeting in Denton. Despite the icy conditions and challenging travel, we had an incredible turnout of over 730 students and natural resource professionals, making it one of our largest meetings to date!

The annual meeting is always an invaluable opportunity for networking, engagement, and learning and this year was no exception. We are immensely grateful to Mary Pearl Meuth and her team for organizing such an outstanding event. Among the many highlights were 92 technical sessions, 7 Cottam presentations, 132 posters, 11 workshops, and a powerful plenary session that addressed our current conservation challenges and showcased the importance of collaboration and development of innovative solutions.

The plenary session could not have been more timely. The Texas Legislature is in session and our Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC) has been hard at work engaging with members of both the House and Senate. Recently, the CAC organized our first "TCTWS Day at the Capitol". I had the pleasure of attending and was excited to see students from Texas Tech, Texas State, Tarleton, and Stephen F. Austin actively representing their

President's Note

student chapters and making their voices heard at the capitol. I would like to encourage each of you to take similar opportunities to engage and make a meaningful impact when opportunities arise.

During the annual meeting, we also announced the newly elected members of the Executive Board. Please join me in welcoming Masi Serna (Vice President), Olivia Gray (Secretary), and Dale James (Board Member at Large). I'd also like to take this opportunity to recognize the continued leadership of Bill Adams (President-Elect), Mary Pearl Meuth (Past President), Matt Wagner (Executive Director), Jon Purvis (Treasurer), and Maureen Frank (Archivist). This outstanding leadership team will guide the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society in the year ahead and I am deeply grateful for their dedication to ensuring the success of our organization. Additionally, I would like to thank those of you who have committed to serving the Chapter this year as committee chairs, co-chairs, and members. The Chapter operates effectively because of your hard work and commitment.

Looking ahead, we have some great events to look forward to. The Wildlife Conservation Camp will be held at the beautiful Davis Mountains Preserve from July 21-25. A big thank you to J.C. Kiddo Campbell and all the volunteers working tirelessly to ensure this year's camp is a huge success! Additionally, I would like to extend a warm invitation to each of you to join us at the 2026 annual meeting, which will be hosted at the Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center on Galveston Island, from February 18-20, 2026. It promises to be a wonderful gathering, and I look forward to seeing you all there.

In closing, I am filled with optimism for the future of our chapter and the continued success of our collective efforts in conservation, education, and collaboration. I look forward to working alongside each of you as we continue to make a positive impact on the wildlife and natural resources of Texas.

Kind Regards and Axe'em Jacks!



Jessica L. Glasscock, PhD
President, Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society



Annual Meeting of TCTWS

61st Annual TCTWS Meeting Snapshots



Photos by Liliana Navar, Karley Stanley, Rebecca Rocha, Karla Pedraza, Kyndra McGovern, Sarah Turner, and Audrey Tauli

Annual Meeting of TCTWS

Annual Meeting Awards: Excellence in Wildlife Conservation and Cottam



Honorary Life
Membership Award:
Jon Purvis



Outstanding Achievement:
Dr. Roel Lopez



Educator of the Year:
Helen Holdsworth



Land Stewardship Award:
The East Foundation



Early Career
Professional Award:
Dr. Brad Kubecka



Mid-Career
Professional Award:
Dr. John C. Kinsey



1st Place Cottam Award:
Alexander Hoxie
Tarleton State University



2nd Place Cottam Award:
Luke Micek
Stephen F. Austin State
University



3rd Place Cottam Award:
Brooke Poplin
University of North Texas

Annual Meeting of TCTWS

Annual Meeting Awards: Publications, Scholarships



Outstanding Popular Article:
Amber Brown



Outstanding Technical
Pub: Shraddha Hegde, Alison
Lund, Jacob Dykes, Tammi
Johnson, Angelica Lopez, Roel
Lopez, and Kevin Skow



Outstanding Scientific Article:
Samarth Mathur, John. M.
Tomeček, Luis A. Tarango-
Arámbula, Robert M. Perez, and
J. Andrew DeWoody



Conservation Equity Partners
and Wildlife Systems, Inc.
Scholarship: Kelley Mundy
Texas A&M University



Carl D. Shoemaker Memorial
Scholarship: Liliana Navar
Tarleton State University



Charly McTee Scholarship:
Jesse Haudrich
Texas Tech University



Sam Beasom Memorial
Scholarship: Eliana Dykehouse
Sul Ross State University



Colin Caruthers Memorial
Scholarship: Kennedy Bailey
Texas A&M University



Dan Boone Memorial
Scholarship: Shaelyn Rainey
Texas Tech University

Not pictured: Outstanding Electronic Media, Lee Smith

Annual Meeting of TCTWS

Annual Meeting Awards: Scholarships, Camper of the Year, and Posters



NWTF Hunting Heritage Super Fund Scholarship: Laken Mize
Texas Tech University



Southwest Section of the Wildlife Society Graduate Scholarship: Dylan Stewart
Texas A&M University



Camper of the Year:
Kaylie Tims



3rd Place Undergraduate Poster: Ashley Giron
University of North Texas



2nd Place Undergraduate Poster: Maedean Cardenas
Texas A&M University Kingsville



1st Place Undergraduate Poster: Syndilyn Maguglin
Sul Ross State University



3rd Place Graduate Poster: Kimi Birrer
Stephen F. Austin State University



2nd Place Graduate Poster: Carly Naundorff
Texas State University



1st Place Graduate Poster: Maria Ramirez
Texas State University

Annual Meeting of TCTWS

Annual Meeting Awards: Plant ID, Naturalist Contest, Quiz Bowl, Student Chapter of the Year, and Outstanding Students



3rd Place Team Plant ID:
Sul Ross State University



2nd Place Team Plant ID:
Texas A&M University (Team 2)



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



Naturalist Contest Novice:
Cody Stricker



2nd Place Plant ID:
Garrett Purcell
Texas A&M University



1st Place Plant ID:
Jake Chapman
Texas A&M University



Student Chapter of the Year:
Tarleton State University



1st Place Quiz Bowl Team:
Texas State University



Outstanding Student Texas
A&M Kingsville:
George Chaney

Not pictured:
3rd Place Plant ID: Jessica Sebastian, Texas A&M University
Naturalist Contest Professional: Tim Siegmund

Annual Meeting of TCTWS

Annual Meeting Awards: Outstanding Students



Outstanding Student
Sam Houston State University:
Ellena Bruhn



Outstanding Student
Stephen F. Austin State
University: Adair Hernandez



Outstanding Student
Southwest Texas Junior
College: Parker Boyd



Outstanding Student
Sul Ross State University:
Shelby Green



Outstanding Student
Tarleton State University:
Chloe Delahoussaye



Outstanding Student
Texas A&M University:
Presley Griffin



Outstanding Student
Texas State University:
Eros Baua



Outstanding Student
Texas Tech University:
Emmalee Balch



Outstanding Student
University of Texas
San Antonio: Carlos Rocha

Annual Meeting of TCTWS

Annual Meeting Awards: Photos



1st Place Wildlife
Conservation: Emma Berndt



1st Place Texas Scenery:
Julie Myers



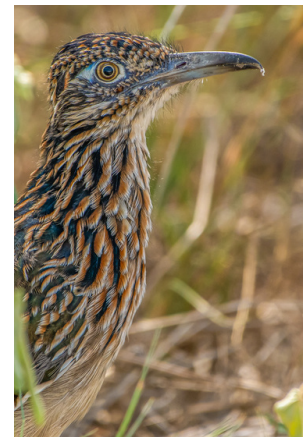
1st Place Texas Plants:
Shelby Green



1st Place Non-Texas:
Ivan Lozano



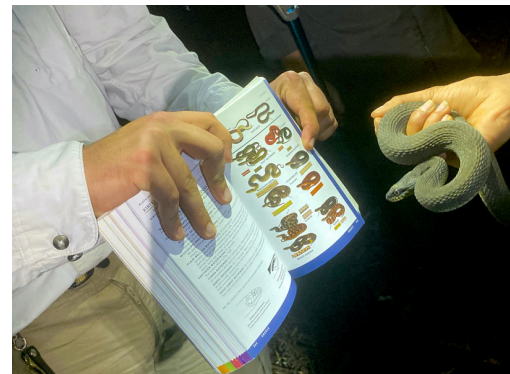
1st Place Work Related:
Ethan Menzel



1st Place Texas Wildlife:
Jessica Johnston



1st Place Remote Camera:
Chloe Delahoussaye



1st Place Humor:
Joshlyn Perez

Annual Meeting of TCTWS

Annual Meeting Awards: Art



1st Place Art:
Caitlyn Navarro



2nd Place Art:
Cameron Martin



3rd Place Art:
Bryan Berlanga



1st Place Art and Best of Show:
Audrey Taulli

Wildlife Conservation Camp

Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Presents



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CAMP

Providing hands-on 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, research techniques, the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, land ethics and more!



Davis Mountains Preserve

To help protect this unique ecosystem, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) established the 32,844-acre Davis Mountains Preserve. Subsequent land acquisitions combined with conservation easements on adjoining properties have allowed TNC to protect nearly 110,000 acres of the Davis Mountains region.



Camp Details!

Location: Davis Mountains Preserve
Fort Davis, Texas

Dates: July 21-25, 2025 Scholarships are available!

Application Deadline: May 1st



2025 Camp Director:
Kiddo Campbell

Apply Now!

www.wildlifecamp.tx.org

July 2025

TCTWS Committee News

Conservation Affairs

By Matt Wagner, Executive Director, and Mary Pearl Meuth, Past President

Legislative Matters

A “TCTWS Day at The Capitol” was organized for March 20. A contingent of chapter leaders and students visited with legislative offices and attended a hearing of the House Culture Recreation and Tourism Committee (see article on page 16). The last day to file bills was March 14. There are now 43 bills of interest to the chapter, although not all are a priority:

Bill Number	Author	Related to
HB269	Guillen	Creation of the Institute for CWD Research
HB 553	Patterson	Siting of renewable energy facilities
HB 654	Leo-Wison	Illegal hunting of certain deer
HB 1269	Gonzalez	Plant disease and pest grant program
HB 1276	Gonzalez	Response to plant disease and pest outbreaks
HB 1277	Gonzalez	Study response to plant disease and pest outbreaks by TAMU Agrilife
HB1379	Virdell	Limiting game warden access to private property
HB1437	Gonzalez	Creation of a Task Force on Pollinator Health
HB1501	Tinderholt	Seawater desalination
HB1592	Plesa	Alert system for dangerous plant and wildlife pests and diseases by AgriLife
HB1842	Guillen	Sale of raffle tickets by wildlife organizations
HB2439	Curry	Abolish TAHC and transfer duties to TDA
HB2482	Curry	Prohibition of CWD zones

TCTWS Committee News

Conservation Affairs, cont.

HB2842	Zwiener	Lethal control of WTD in certain areas
HB3556	Vasut	Certain structures near NWRs
HB3607	Curry	TPWD regulation of deer breeding
HB3831	Curry	Identification of breeder deer
HB4543	Orr	Removal of fence at release sites
HB4932	Curry	Breed CWD resistant deer
HB4938	Curry	Abolish TPWD
HB4939	Curry	Ownership of deer
HB4959	Hopper	Land taxes/open space
SB97	Hall	Assessment, destruction and release of certain deer
SB98	Hall	Costs associated with the assessment and destruction of certain deer
SB114	Hall	Post mortem testing of deer for CWD
SB613	Hinojosa	Regulating vet medicine
SB624	Kolkhorst	Criteria by GCDs before granting a permit
SB 674	Hughes	Hunter ed for HS students
SB 718/HB1400	Kolkhorst	Groundwater research fund by TWDB
SB 819	Kolkhorst	Renewable energy facilities
SB1247	Perry	Consolidating non resident hunting licenses
SB1248	Perry	Confidentiality of TPWD digital data

TCTWS Committee News

Conservation Affairs, cont.

SB1302	Kolkhorst	Discharging waste into state waters
SB2031	Kolkhorst	Removal of release site fence
SB2147	Hall	Ownership of breeder deer
SB2466	Menendez	TPWDs publication on reflective windows
SB2648	Hall	ID of breeder deer
SB2649	Hall	Statewide CWD plan
SB2651	Hall	Breed CWD resistant deer
SB2652	Hall	Regulation of deer breeding by TPWD
SB2654	Hall	Ownership of deer
SB2843	Perry	CWD rules and cervid resistance
SB2844	Perry	Regulation of deer breeding - violations
SB2845	Perry	Deer ID

Chronic Wasting Disease

New CWD rules for deer breeders were approved at the TPWD commission meeting on January 22-23, but have not been implemented as of March 22. About 20 bills have been filed related to CWD and deer breeding with most authored by Senator Hall and Representative Curry. TCTWS members can monitor these bills using Texas Legislature Online (TLO) and provide comments as the session progresses. Texas Chapter endorsed a CWD Statement provided to the Legislature and added here in the newsletter on page 17.

Texas Mountain Lion Management Plan

An initial draft of TPWD's Mountain Lion Management Plan is under development. TCTWS has been invited to review the document moving forward.

TCTWS Committee News

Conservation Affairs, cont.

Texas Renewable Energy

The Texas Renewable Energy and Wildlife Subcommittee, led by Sara Weaver, is preparing a one page synopsis of bills related to wind and solar energy development in Texas. Laura Zebehazy with TPWD has also been preparing a white paper for the TPWD commission on the status of renewable energy in the state.

Legislative Priorities for TPWD

TPWD has submitted 12 Exceptional Item requests for funding in the 2026-27 biennium. Many are related to technical adjustments to the budget, capital expenditures and employee compensation. Two priorities are ensuring that Fund 9 (hunting and fishing license sales) is adequate for department operations and an increase for the Farm and Ranch Conservation Program from \$2M to \$30M.

Texas Agricultural Council

The chapter is now a member of the Texas Agriculture Council (<https://txagcouncil.org/>). This organization was organized in the 1970s to monitor and discuss legislation important to agricultural and natural resource interests in the state.

Upcoming Meetings:

March 26-27, Austin – TPWD Commission Meeting
May 21, Austin – Lone Star Land Steward Awards
May 21-22, Austin – TPWD Commission Meeting
July 10-13, San Antonio – Texas Wildlife Association Annual Convention
July 21-25, Davis Mountains – TCTWS Summer Camp
July 25, Davis Mountains – TCTWS Summer Board Meeting
August 20-21, Austin – TPWD Commission Meeting and Annual Public Hearing
October 5-9, Edmonton, Alberta – TWS Annual Conference
February 18-20, Galveston – TCTWS Annual 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).

Please reach out to Conservation Affairs Chairs for further information or to get involved. TCTWS members are always encouraged to participate in these activities.

Conservation Affairs: TCTWS Day at the Capitol

By Abby Buckner

On March 20th, members of Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Committee and Executive Board were joined by eight graduate and undergraduate student members for a productive day at the Texas Capitol. Much of the day was spent meeting with Representatives and Senators, including key legislators to our organization's policy priorities, discussing who we are and what we stand for in TCTWS as well as some of those top priority bills concerning wildlife and conservation. We also attended the House Committee on Culture, Recreation, and Tourism hearing where we witnessed discussion and action on several wildlife-related bills.

Our group of TCTWS representatives showcased our chapter's diverse and growing membership as experts and practitioners in wildlife conservation hailing from the public, private, and academic sectors across Texas. This displayed our unique position as a valuable resource to policy makers as they work their way through this and future sessions. Though often overlooked, this aspect of conservation is crucial to the longevity of our efforts in wildlife conservation and management. As experts in the field, we encourage our members to be active and informed in current legislation and issues and share your knowledge on these topics. TCTWS is currently tracking over 50 bills in Texas this legislative session, with specific priorities among those. TCTWS is only one of several wildlife organizations with a presence in the halls of the legislature. We value these relationships as working with fellow organizations in conservation helps to strengthen our positions on joint priority issues and be more effective in promoting sound legislation to benefit wildlife across our great state.

We are proud to have a strong student presence in TCTWS which shows growth in the conservation and wildlife management profession and ensures the continuation of decades of efforts. Thank you to the student chapter members from Stephen F. Austin State University, Tarleton State University, Texas State University, and Texas Tech University for taking time out of your schedules to help advance our organization's efforts in Austin. For many of these students, this was their first time to the Capital "on business," and we were glad to help them experience a side of conservation they had not yet been a part of. We hope to welcome continued student involvement in future Conservation Affairs endeavors.

"A lot of what we were exposed to gave me a lot of security on my role as a citizen of conservation. It was very impactful for me to know that our voices are meant to be heard as it is an open door. [Legislators] want to hear us- it's just a matter if we use our voices or not."

Eros Baua

President, Texas State University Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Conservation Affairs: TCTWS Day at the Capitol, cont.

"One of my goals has been to be more active in policy. It was eye-opening to me that someone like me could go to the capital and possibly speak with a politician. It made me think about new possibilities for continued involvement, and made my somewhat out-of-reach concept of being more politically involved become more tangible."

Alexandra Fleming Patrick
Treasurer, Texas State University Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society



TCTWS Conservation Affairs Committee, Executive Board,
and student members at the TCTWS Day at the Capitol.

Photo provided by Abby Buckner

TCTWS Committee News

Statement to the Texas Legislature: Chronic Wasting Disease and the Captive Deer Industry

April 8, 2025

The organizations listed below, representing over **380,973** landowners, hunters, conservationists and livestock producers, strongly support reasonable oversight of the captive deer-breeding industry in Texas, especially in light of the ongoing and sustained outbreak of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

Our objective is to safeguard our state's \$9.6 billion deer hunting industry, as it is vital for sustaining the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers, rural economies, and supports conservation funding through our unique user-pay system where license sales and excise taxes fund conservation of all species.

In alignment with this objective, we affirm the following tenets:

1. **Threat of CWD:** The spread of CWD through the artificial movement of live native deer and other CWD-susceptible species poses a serious threat to Texas private lands, rural economies, and our hunting heritage. ***According to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), "within the last five years, 29 deer breeding facilities where CWD has been confirmed transferred a total of 8,109 deer to 235 additional deer breeding facilities and 460 release sites located in a total of 139 counties in Texas."***
2. **Wildlife as Public Trust Resource:** According to the state constitution, all native wildlife in Texas, including captive deer held under permit, are owned by the citizens of Texas and managed for public benefit by TPWD. ***Texas Supreme Court upheld this longstanding law with their denial of deer breeder appeal in Oct. 2020, upholding Bailey v. Smith, 581 S.W.3d 374, 394 (Tex. App.—Austin 2019, pet. denied) ("deer breeders have no vested property interest in their breeder deer"; see also Anderton v. TPWD, 605 F. App'x, 339, 348 (5th Cir. 2015) (per curiam) (unpublished) ("breeder deer belong to the state, not the permittee").***
3. **Scientifically Informed Rules:** Current regulations for avoiding the spread of CWD are based on extensive scientific data from Texas and other states and have been developed adaptively over time using a robust, inclusive and transparent stakeholder-driven process. These regulations align with standard protocols for similar diseases in the livestock industry, including Scrapie and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE).
4. **Animal Identification:** Permanent, visible identification of animals must serve as the cornerstone of any CWD management and control effort, mirroring successful practices established in Scrapie and BSE control programs.

This statement is endorsed by the following organizations:



Jim Miller Scholarship

James E. “Jim” Miller Memorial Scholarship

Commemorating the life and work of the late James E. “Jim” Miller.
Established in his honor and administered by the
Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation.

Growing up in north Alabama, living with his Grandmother in a rural area with no electricity or running water, Jim Miller learned the true meaning of sustainability. At that time, most people saw hunting, angling, and trapping as a natural part of life.

In his book, “Path to Enlightened Turkey Hunting: A Naturalist’s Observations, Memorable Hunts, and Camaraderie” Jim states,

“Today, many people have no concept of why managing our natural resources, including wildlife and their habitats, is essential for sustaining resources that belong to us all. Those involved in sustaining these public trust resources for future generations to use and enjoy understand why their wise use and sustainability are critical. If we fail to sustain these treasured resources, future generations will be the losers.”



Background and Career

James E. (Jim) Miller passed away unexpectedly on January 24th, 2022 at the age of 80. Jim began his career in 1965 and worked as a forester, wildlife biologist, educator, and administrator. He was a member of The Wildlife Society (TWS) since 1963 and served as state chapter President, SE Section representative to TWS Council, and as President of TWS in 1998-99. In addition to being recipient of the Aldo Leopold Memorial Award in 2007, Jim received the Honorary Member Award from TWS, two Secretary of Agriculture Honor Awards, the C.W. Watson Award from the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and the Mississippi Wildlife Federation Governor’s Conservationist of the Year Award. An avid hunter, conservationist, author, speaker, and writer, Jim was a mentor to a generation of professionals and a highly esteemed member of the wildlife profession.

Jim had a long-term commitment to McGraw and the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLfT) Program, serving as a charter instructor for CLfT, and a champion in the development of young wildlife and natural resource professionals. With his numerous contributions to conservation for more than five decades, it is befitting that the conservation community support the **James E. “Jim” Miller Memorial Scholarship** as an appropriate way to recognize Jim’s many life and professional career accomplishments and his passion for mentoring young professionals.



“The great majority of my professional career has been devoted to conserving and managing public trust wildlife resources and educating others of the need to sustain those resources for present and future generations.”

Jim Miller



CONSERVATION THAT CONNECTS

Jim Miller Scholarship, cont.

James E. "Jim" Miller Memorial Scholarship

Who is Eligible?

Established in his honor and administered by McGraw, the scholarship will be an annual award presented by McGraw to selected recipients. Eligible scholarship recipients will include post-graduate students who demonstrate an interest and capacity to conduct research in a natural resource-related field of study, non-profit conservation organization interns or staff demonstrating a similar interest, other candidates in a natural resource or conservation-related field of study, or university student CLFT participants.

Scholarship Selection and Deliverables

McGraw, CLFT, state and federal agency extension staff, academia, private conservation organization leadership or staff comprise the scholarship selection committee using a comprehensive evaluation criteria.

As a condition of the award, recipients will use a portion of the scholarship to develop and administer a wildlife outreach project approved by the selection committee and overseen by McGraw. This project simultaneously fulfills McGraw's conservation focused mission while providing career development for the recipient.

Donations and Funding

Funds will be solicited from private donors, non-governmental organizations, and other supporters. Current and former Extension wildlife specialists, CLFT instructors, and other wildlife professionals will assist with fundraising. Donations designated specifically for this scholarship would be deposited with McGraw, a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization, and administered by McGraw separate from other McGraw grant or scholarship funds. Organizers hope to raise \$250,000-\$300,000 which at an annual interest rate of 4%, will generate approximately \$10,000 per year for this scholarship. One \$10,000 scholarship would be awarded per year until the fund reaches a level that supports additional annual awards.



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"Anyone who spent time with Jim knows how passionate he was about the Cooperative Extension System as he spearheaded this program for many years in Washington, DC. We would not have the system of public outreach in wildlife at the Land Grant Universities if not for Jim."

Dr. Dwayne Elmore, Oklahoma State University



CONSERVATION THAT CONNECTS

To Make a Donation:

Make your deductible donation at

<http://mcgraw.org/milleraward>

Working Groups

Student Development Working Group

TWS Student Development WG



Instagram: @tws.sdwg

Email: tws.sdwg@gmail.com

We facilitate networking between students and professionals by hosting meetings, workshops, webinars, & more!

Examples of things we offer:

- ★ Professional Development Workshops/Webinars
- ★ Discord server where opportunities are shared & valuable conversations are had
- ★ Student/ECP Monthly Newsletter
- ★ Mentorship program (in the works)
- ★ Ability to apply for Trailblazer Grant
- ★ and more!



Nutritonal Ecology Working Group: Skills Workshop

The Nutritional Ecology Working Group is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the Skills Workshop: Measuring Forage Quantity and Quality for Herbivores.

The workshop will be held June 10-12th (with June 13th an optional half day) in Palmer, Alaska. For more information go to <https://wildlife.org/newg/workshops/>. Register soon because space is limited.



Botany Brief

***Lupinus texensis* (Texas bluebonnet)**

By Ty Goodwin

Texas Bluebonnet is widely known by Texans. It is most commonly seen on the side of highway systems. This legume will grow in areas when moisture is present, but mainly in disturbed sites. The seeds will most often take on years of dormancy before adequate scarification and correct moisture levels allow for germination. In the fall and winter months this species will sprout into a basal form of palmately compound leaflets. Once the spring starts, this plant will start to grow in height and mass. *L. texensis* will reach heights of at least 25cm or greater (Powell and Worthington 2018).

This genus is known to contain toxic alkaloids. The strongest of these toxins reside in the seeds. There are many reports of calamitous sheep deaths in states such as Utah, Idaho, and Montana after they have grazed in a field with live *Lupinus* species or even just their seeds (Tull 1987).

However, there are not any reports that the Texas species have caused livestock mortality and it is believed that Texas cattle just avoid the plant itself (Tull 1987). Though this species is toxic, livestock will forage on it if no other vegetation is present. To reemphasize, the seeds are the most toxic part of the plant, so it is assumed that birds and other animals do not utilize them, unless they have a resistance. Texas bluebonnet is classified as a host species for the Elf butterfly's (*Microtia elva*) larva.

This species genus, *Lupinus*, is from the traditional thought that the flowers would leach the life out of the soil in that it grew. This idea linked to how wolves take the lives of prey, but nowadays we know that *Lupinus* species actually fix nitrogen into its substrate and replenishes the soil (Dodge and Janish 1969). This species' flowers can also be used to dye wool a brilliant light lime green (Tull 1987).

Literature Cited:

1. Powell, A.M. and R.D. Worthington. 2018. Flowering plants of Trans-Pecos Texas and adjacent areas. Sida, Bot. Misc. 49. Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.
2. Tull, D., Earney, M., and Miller, G. O. 1987. Edible and useful plants of Texas and the southwest: A practical guide: Including recipes, harmful plants, natural dyes, and textile fibers. University of Texas Press.
3. Dodge, N. N., and Janish, J. R. 1969. Flowers of the southwest deserts. Southwestern Monument Association.



Texas bluebonnets in bloom.

Photos by Ty Goodwin

Southwest Section Tracks

By Kathy Granillo, Southwest Section Representative

As I write this, we've just passed the vernal equinox and are moving officially into spring. There are already many plants greening up and flowers blooming. For us in the arid southwest spring also usually coincides with big winds. And we've certainly seen some incredibly windy days lately. I got an emergency message (like Amber alerts) on my phone the other day from the weather service about dust storms with zero visibility. I do think more soil moves through the air in our part of the world than what moves in our rivers.

We've also seen what some have called unprecedented political events. I think the term "unprecedented" could be debated; think about WWI and WWII, or about the recent pandemic and the 1918 pandemic. We survived those previous events, which were all labeled unprecedented while they were happening. We shall survive the current events as well. What remains to be seen is what state our country is in, and what state wildlife management and research are in.



Kathy Granillo
TWS Southwest Section
Representative

As a retired Federal biologist with almost 40 years of federal service, I find the recent efforts by this administration to downsize government deeply disturbing. I think government agencies should be held accountable and should be examined on a regular basis to see if they are serving the American people in the most efficient and productive ways possible. But that is not what is happening. Cuts are being made seemingly without consideration for anything other than reducing the size of government. And now the ramifications for state agencies, nongovernmental organizations and private businesses are starting to be felt. The cascading reverberations bring to my mind the oft-cited John Muir quote "When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

What can we do to understand these events, and to decide how to respond? If you are a federal employee (employed or unemployed) you might want to check out TWS's Tips and Resources for Federal Employees webpage. <https://wildlife.org/federal-resources/>

The Chief Program Officer for TWS, Cameron Kovach, wrote an excellent article explaining many of the recent Executive Orders and you can find that here: <https://wildlife.org/what-the-doge-is-happening/>

There is also a "How To Take Action" section on the resources webpage. We urge members to let their Congressional delegation know what you think about the recent happenings.

Southwest Section Tracks

As I have been processing these recent events, including the mass firing of employees on probation, the deletion of entire agencies and the current 40% Reduction in Force analyses for many other federal agencies, I find myself seeking refuge and respite in a couple of different ways. For those of us who are wildlifers, the obvious way is to get outdoors and into nature. Another way for me is through music. I find myself drawn to certain types of music and to certain songs. Full disclosure – I am a big fan of The Grateful Dead and love that there is an entire satellite radio station devoted to their music. I started listening to this channel on a much more regular basis during the pandemic and am finding it equally cathartic for this chaotic time we find ourselves in now. Some songs in particular resonate for me including Box of Rain, Cassidy, Franklin's Tower, Goin' Down the Road Feeling Bad, Not Fade Away and Throwing Stones. Other songs by other artists that strike me as appropriate for today include What's Going On and Mercy, Mercy Me by Marvin Gaye, Big Yellow Taxi by Joni Mitchell (love the Counting Crows cover of this too!), 1999 by Prince and Ohio by Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young.

I hope that you, too, are listening to music that soothes your soul and/or riles up your activist spirit, and spending time outdoors.

As always, if you have any comments or questions for me my email address is KGBirder55@gmail.com.



Flowers of the Big Bend Region
Photos by Audrey Taulli

So long and happy "tails"!

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