

# Southwest Section Newsletter

Spring 2016 - Vol. 6 Issue #1



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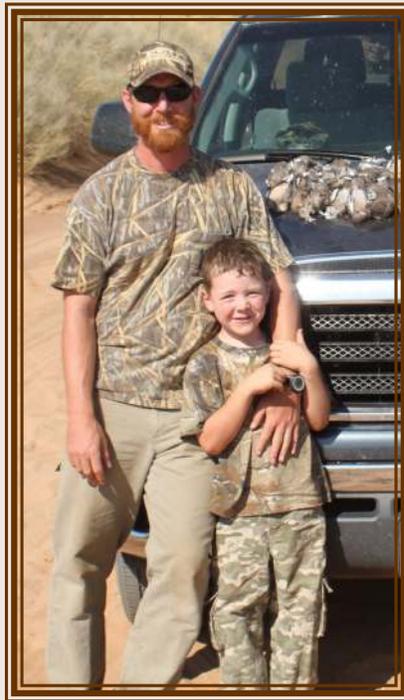
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## President's Message

**Don Collins - 2016 President Southwest Section of The Wildlife**

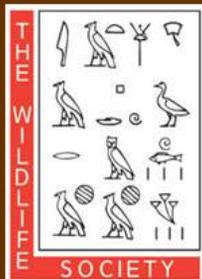


Spring is in the air in the Southwest. Semesters are ending, turkeys are gobbling, wild flowers are blooming, birds are nesting, and we all are thanking the Moms in our lives, happy belated Mother's Day to you all. I would like to extend a big thank you to our outgoing president Mark Wallace (TTU) for all that he did, Executive Board, and our committees and members achieved during 2015-2016. You all were represented by Southwest Section officers at JAM (Joint Annual Meeting) of the Arizona - New Mexico chapters, February 2016 in Flagstaff, AZ, the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, February 2016 in San Antonio, TX, and even the North American Duck Symposium, February 2016 in Annapolis, MD to name a few. As you would expect all three of these meetings were a success and brought to light the amount of diverse work being done in our Section. The hard work of all wildlife biologists in this Section will be put in the spotlight when the national TWS 2017 Annual meeting is held in Albuquerque, NM. I look forward to seeing all

the work you do at the Annual Meeting 2017. I encourage you all to get involved with the planning of the meeting; please don't hesitate to contact myself, Ginny Seamster ([Virginia.Seamster@state.nm.us](mailto:Virginia.Seamster@state.nm.us)), or Quentin Hays ([Quentin.Hays@pnu.edu](mailto:Quentin.Hays@pnu.edu)).

Thinking about conferences and semesters coming to an end it is time to task students with one last assignment or a piece of inspiration to start thinking about submitting their work for the TWS Annual meeting or local state chapter meetings. It was impressive to watch the Clarence Cottam student presentations at the Texas chapter of TWS and other student presentations at many different conferences. The presentations renewed my faith in the next generation of wildlife biologist. Thanks to the guidance of many of you we have an impressive cohort of students coming through the ranks that will undoubtedly continue to push our science to its boundary. I am heartened to know you all will continue to nurture this in all young wildlife biologists throughout the Section.

Under the assistance of Dr. Wallace and the service of Jim Ramakka (SW Section), Clint Faas and Romey Swanson (TX), Brian Hansen (NM), and Jon Hanna (AZ) our Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC) has been reformed and reenergized to help inform and transfer communications across the Section. They will continue to engage at a variety of



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## President's Message ...

### Don Collins - 2016 President Southwest Section of The Wildlife

legislative and policy levels in order to preserve the wildlife and natural resources we all work very hard to conserve. As Dr. Wallace did I encourage any of you with interest, experience, skill, or time to help with this group to contact us and thank the CAC for their efforts.

In closing I look forward to working with the Southwest Section board members to serve you all as best we can. New and exciting ideas are being discussed that we hope to roll out later in the year. As with past presidents I encourage you all to get involved and help the resurgence of the Southwest Section. It's an honor and privilege to serve as your Section President.

Dan Collins, President



Past-President Mark Wallace

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## What's Happening with TWS

### Fidel Hernandez; Southwest Section Rep to Council



Hello Fellow Chapter and SW Section Members of TWS, February and March found me quite busy traveling throughout the US. Over these past few months, I had the opportunity to attend the Annual Conferences of the various TWS State Chapters within the Southwest Section. I must say what a positive experience.

Being from Texas, I have attended annually the annual conference in my home state, but I had never attended the Joint Annual Conference of the Arizona-New Mexico Chapters of TWS. I was quite impressed, to say the least. Attendance was excellent and the plenary, Who Will Manage the Future of Our Public Lands, was outstanding. In addition to learning of wildlife issues in other parts of the Southwest, I was able to connect with colleagues that I hadn't seen in quite some time as well as meet new people. I sincerely enjoyed these conferences and look forward to next year's annual meetings.

I also recently returned from our TWS Council meetings (13-14 March 2016) being held during the 81st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This was my first full-session of Council meetings as the Southwest Section representative. I cherish this valuable experience of learning more and more of the interworking of TWS and representing Southwest Section issues to our parent society.

So, it has been a busy but an enjoyable time. Following is a concise overview of the latest happenings with our parent society as well as some of its upcoming events.

**2016 TWS COUNCIL CANDIDATES** Each year, positions on TWS Council become vacant as people complete their terms. The Nominating Committee has announced its candidates for upcoming vacancies on TWS Council. Here are the candidates:

#### Vice President Nominees

- Gordon R. Batcheller (Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies)
- Darren A. Miller (Weyerhaeuser Company – Southern Timber Technologies)

#### Western Section Representative Nominees

- Cynthia Graves Perrine (Self-employed)
- Kent Smith (State of California and Sierra Nevada Conservancy)

#### Northwest Section Representative Nominees

- Harriet Allen (Retired, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife)
- Dana Sanchez (Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Oregon State University)

#### North Central Section Representative Nominees

- Patrick E. Lederle (Michigan Department of Natural Resources)
- John J. Moriarty (Three Rivers Park District)

A complete view of the candidates' statements can be found at the TWS website (<http://wildlife.org/2016-tws-council-candidates-announced/>). use a mailing address instead).



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## What's Happening with TWS ...

### Fidel Hernandez, Southwest Section Rep to Council

#### NEW TWS STAFF

When the TWS financial downturn occurred a few years ago, several staff positions were eliminated and left unfilled. The Society has worked diligently over the past 5 years to greatly improve its financial condition, which it has done. So, TWS recently has begun to slowly fill staff positions in key areas. One of those key areas is the Directorate of Government Affairs and Partnership (GAP). Two recent hires joining GAP are Mr. Cameron Kovach as Assistant Director of Government Affairs and Partnerships and Ms. Caroline Murphy as a Government Affairs Associate. In addition, TWS has revised their GAP internship requirements based on member input, and these intern positions now focus on hiring wildlife biologists with policy interests (rather than policy folks with wildlife interest). Toward that end, TWS GAP hired 2 wildlife biologists, Lauren McDonald and Dani Dagan, to fill this year's internships.



Another important change at TWS is that the wildlife-biologist certification program now resides within the GAP Directorate. I take the opportunity to let you know that if you are not a certified wildlife biologist but have an interest in becoming certified, one of the benefits of being a member of the Southwest Section is that the Section can help review your application prior to submission as well as help with application costs.

**NEW SW SECTION WEBSITE** In closing, I'd like to mention that the Southwest Section has a new website! Many thanks to Mark Wallace, out-going President of the Southwest Section, for building this new website. Please visit our website (<http://swsectiontws.org>) for the latest information on the Southwest Section. We are always looking for events, news, and other happenings to include on our website so contact Mark ([mwallace@ttacs.ttu.edu](mailto:mwallace@ttacs.ttu.edu)) if you have relevant information that you would like posted. Well, that is it for now. Enjoy Spring and be sure to take some time this summer to relax.

Until next time, Fidel Hernández Southwest Section Representative of TWS



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### Carter Smith

**Executive Director Texas Parks & Wildlife Department**

[Carter.Smith@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Carter.Smith@tpwd.texas.gov)

#### "The Trust of the Public"

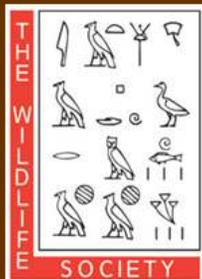
I sometimes like to call the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the land of a thousand hills to die on. It is a joke of course, but not really. If nothing else, our fish, wildlife, park, and outdoor enthusiasts are passionate beyond measure about the matters they care about. Pick your species, pick your issue, pick your place, there is some one or some group ready and willing to go to the mat for it.



I hope that never changes. In this realm, I'll take passion over complacency any day.

Thankfully, of all the natural resource policy related concerns I have laid awake about at night, I must confess that the right of Texans to hunt and fish simply hasn't been one of them. Oh, from time to time we have suffered through the occasional contretemps over the trapping of mountain lions, the hunting of deer in state parks, the commercial harvest of freshwater turtles, or the control of aoudad sheep in advance of a bighorn sheep restoration project. But, by and large, the dust-ups tend to be pretty ephemeral in nature, sporadic outbursts fueled largely by online petitions supported mostly from people out of state and country. In summary, they tend to be a distraction rather than a derailment.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not looking for a fight that some of my colleagues confront across the country. But, many I know are intrigued by the fact that in a rapidly expanding, diverse, and materially urban state of 27 million people that we don't see the kind of organized opposition to our proud sporting heritage that other states experience. No doubt, some of it is the simple fact that those opposed to the use and enjoyment of fish and game still represent a minority opinion in Texas and have yet to organize themselves in any kind of meaningful or effective political fashion.



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## Director's Corner ...

We recently had the chance to see that supposition tested in the form of a statewide ballot initiative to constitutionally enshrine "The Right to Hunt and Fish" in our state constitution. The constitutional premise of the public's "Right to Hunt and Fish" was first established in Vermont in the late 1700's, but more recently advanced in another 18 or so states with support and leadership from groups like the National Rifle Association (NRA).



I'll confess that when representatives from the NRA approached us before our last legislative session about such a constitutional amendment, we were cautious. Our concerns were perhaps predictable. By established law, the public's ability to hunt and fish was clearly a "privilege" and not a "right." For another, we couldn't get behind any effort, no matter how well intentioned, that might be interpreted as preempting the agency's authority to manage, conserve, and protect the state's fish and game laws with sound biological science and effective law enforcement. And, lastly, in a state with 95% private ownership, the rights of property owners had to be respected and not supplanted.

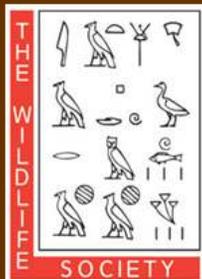
To NRA's credit, they, along with the bill sponsors, worked with us on legislative language that readily resolved or mitigated most all of our concerns. By and large, the bill calling for the public's vote on the constitutional amendment enjoyed smooth sailing through the Legislature and ultimately was passed with over 80% voter approval.

There was, however, one issue that threatened for a time to upend the bill's advancement. Interestingly, it was a foundational one for those of us in the fish and wildlife community. The source of dispute related to the public trust doctrine and the long held precept that the fish and wildlife of our state (and country) are owned by the people, all of them, and managed on the public's behalf.

Not surprisingly, the fault lines were ones being played out right now all across our country. On one side were the state's captive cervid industry, a large and politically potent block of landowners, deer breeders, and managers who are skeptical of the doctrine and have long pushed for privatization of some wildlife species, namely captive deer. On the other side were many of the state's conservation groups, including a large landowner based organization. Ultimately, the bill authors elected not to amend the bill to reflect the precept of public ownership as the premise was already explicitly spelled out in statute, and therefore deemed not needed.

As it turned out, however, the dispute over the Public Trust Doctrine, was only a harbinger of things to come. Within mere months of the bill's passage, our agency found itself vigorously defending the broad rights of the public's interest and ownership of fish and game in legal challenges over both oysters and deer. Both present far reaching legal challenges to a core foundation of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

On the oyster front, the fight is over the rights of public ownership of the Galveston Bay bottom and the authority of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to manage and regulate the commercial production and take of oysters.



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It began with some creative legal maneuvering by a prominent commercial fishing interest organized under the name, Sustainable Texas Oyster Resource Management, or aptly, "STORM." In short, STORM convinced a local Navigational District that the District could legally sublet 30,000-acres of bay bottom for the exclusive use and production of oysters by STORM. The result was that STORM proclaimed the area, and its collection of public oyster reefs, "off limits," to other commercial oyster interests, and ultimately perhaps other recreational and commercial uses.



Because of the ramifications of this issue, TPWD has taken the extraordinary step of bringing suit against STORM and the local Navigation District, challenging their authority to both lease the land and to regulate a public resource under the jurisdiction of TPWD.

The deer wars revved up again with the state's response to finding multiple CWD positive white-tailed deer in a captive rearing facility in central Texas. As it turned out, in the preceding five years, that same facility had shipped roughly 835 potentially exposed deer to 146 different locations, both high fence and low fence, in 66 counties in Texas, and 2 states in Mexico. It was, shall we say, an epidemiological nightmare.

Our response was an aggressive one, made wholly in concert with the state's epidemiologists at the Texas Animal Health Commission. Temporary moratoriums on live deer movement, enhanced CWD testing requirements in breeder pens and release sites, and other Emergency Rules involving the state's 1,300 breeder facilities and multiple release sites were put in place to protect the entirety of the state's 4 million white-tailed deer, local economies, rural real estate values, and our hunting heritage. While formulated to be temporary in nature until we had time to sort through a very complex epidemiological investigation, the Emergency Rules were summarily met by a lawsuit from several individual breeders.

At the heart of the lawsuit is the claim that all deer behind a fence are the property of the landowner, and not the public. As such, TPWD's ability to regulate the movement and liberation of captive raised and released deer should be null and void. Suffice to say, we disagree, strongly, and have developed our legal defense accordingly.

Issues like the ones above are playing out all across our country right now. Challenges to our cherished North American Model of Conservation and the foundation of public ownership of fish and wildlife resources are being summarily chipped away in favor of private commercialization of the resource.

While that horse is already out of the barn in some places and with some species and circumstances, fundamental questions of public ownership of resources from oyster beds to deer must be vigorously defended. The forefathers of this model, the likes of Grinnell, Roosevelt, and others, expected nothing less from us.

Count on us not to let them down willingly or easily.

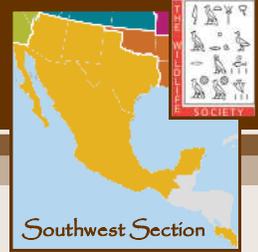
Thanks for caring about our wild things and wild places. They need you now more than ever.



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## Mexico

### U.S.-Mexico Collaboration Expands to Latin America

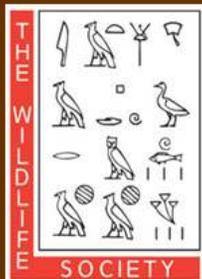
Since 2007, Safari Club International (SCI) has hosted a work session of the Border Governors Wildlife Table at the annual SCI convention. The Border Governors Wildlife Table is comprised of the ten state wildlife agencies along the U.S.-Mexico Border, six on the Mexican side and four on the U.S. side.

SCI has also donated exhibit space to the Mexican states to help promote the hunting opportunities that the new state wildlife agencies, created in 2005, are developing and managing. Mexican officials at all levels have been hosted over the years by SCI to showcase the strength of the international hunting community. Various bi-national projects have evolved from these meetings at the SCI convention, most notably the partnership between the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA Mexico) and Mexico's Hunting Federation (FEMECA) that has resulted in an IHEA Mexico chapter, 50 hunter education instructors and 25,000 certified hunters in Mexico.

This year, SCI expanded the Border Governors Wildlife Table meeting and launched the Latin America-United States Leadership Forum. Government officials from Brazil and Peru attended as well as SCI members from Argentina and Paraguay. SCIF invited wildlife research projects from Latin America and the countries discussed their priority wildlife conservation issues. Brazil is interested in visiting Texas to learn about feral hog control, a major problem in Brazil. Paraguay is in the process of developing hunting regulations and wants to use a comparative approach by network with the wildlife agencies in Mexico and the U.S. Argentina is keenly interested in training a group under IHEA standards to develop a hunter education program. SCI was commended by the participants for fostering this dialogue across the Americas.

Article by: *María I. Araujo, International Affairs Director Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*

Ugo Vercillo, CITES official for Brazil, Jessica Galvez-Durand, Peru's Wildlife Director, and Maria Araujo, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



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## Mexico

### Mexican Senator Introduces Bill to Ban Hunting in Mexico

Senator Oscar Rosas Gonzalez introduced a bill in February in the Mexican senate to ban hunting by amending the Wildlife Law and Firearms Law of Mexico. In his speech on the floor of the senate, he cited two main justifications for his proposal: hunting generates violence against people and hunting is not the economic generator that it is claimed to be. He supported his first argument equating hunting with animal cruelty and then citing studies that show that violent people, serial killers for instance, had a habit of torturing animals.

In his second argument, it appears that Senator Rosas does not include the economic impact of foreign hunters. While hunting activity in some regions is stagnant, possibly due to security concerns, other rural communities are developing their wildlife management plans and offering hunting opportunities for the first time. A project in Mixteca Poblana is a case in point and will be featured in the next Bulletin. Ironically, these are some of the very same areas where the Mexican government wanted to improve economic conditions for the people.

Mexico's Hunting Federation (FEMECA) and the Mexico Chapter of the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA Mexico) are leading the opposition to the anti-hunting bill and have formed a coalition that includes ANGADI, a landowners organization, Foro Mexico Armado, an organization similar to the NRA, SCI Monterrey, Club Safari Mexico, OVIS, the International Order of St. Hubertus, the two ammo manufacturers in Mexico, the state wildlife agencies and other entities.

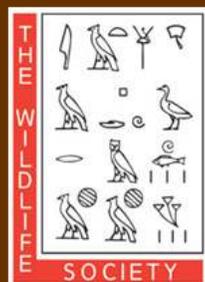
This move is not entirely unanticipated. The Secretary of SEMARNAT had mentioned that his goal was to turn Mexico into the new Costa Rica where hunting would be banned and only non-consumptive activities would be allowed. However, this ignores that not all of Mexico is suitable for activities such as camping, wildlife watching and other ecotourism pursuits. What would be the incentive for the inhabitants of those areas to conserve habitat? To listen to Senator Rosas' speech regarding a ban on hunting, go to:

<https://youtu.be/fpbfJ-jNm8>

*Article received and translated by María I. Araujo, International Affairs Director Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*



Edgar Wenzel, IHEA Mexico President, in hunter orange after teaching a hunter education course.



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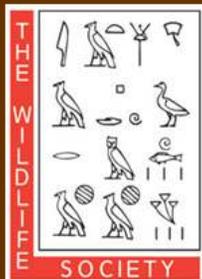
**The 17<sup>th</sup> White-tailed Deer Management Seminar organized by Consejo Estatal de Flora y Fauna Silvestre de Nuevo León and Nuevo Leon's Rancher's Association was held November 13, 2015 and had 320 land-owners and university students participate. The workshop focused on managing white-tailed deer during drought. Texas A&M University professors were among the presenters.**

*President of The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Associate Professor and Research Scientist Randall W. DeYoung in center of photo (dark blue jacket, light blue shirt and khaki pants)*

*Photo by Maria Aruajo*



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## SWS TWS Webinars

### Past webinars are archived for your review

September 22: Immediate Post-Wildfire Effects on Bats in the Southwest, led by Erin Saunders (AZ) & Carol Chambers (AZ)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjKef\\_U0n8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjKef_U0n8)

October: SW Section Geospatial Advisory Committee webinar, led by Leland Pierce (NM) & Ginny Seamster (NM)

<https://youtu.be/22SMjKU3yoM>

November: Do's and Don'ts of Submitting Your Paper to be Published, led by Janet Wallace (TX), WSB Managing Editor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZVaMOseSy4>

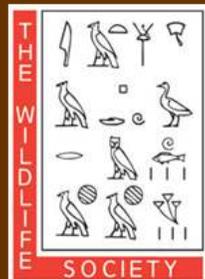
December 16: Impacts of Thinning and Burning in Spotted Owl Habitat, led by Quentin Hays (NM)

<http://swfireconsortium.org/impacts-thinning-burning-spotted-owl-habitat-december-16-2015-webinar/>



A list of other webinars of interest to SW Section members is on our website at:

<http://swsectiontws.org/webinars>



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## Social Media ~ Join Us!

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**Social Media.** The Wildlife Society Southwest Section Chapters Hub has jumped in 'likes' from 418 to 593 since December. Check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wildlife-Society-Southwest-Section-Chapters-Hub/205755042835210>.

The TWS Women of Wildlife (WOW) Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/TWS-Women-of-Wildlife/234411723382592>) is now at 1432 likes, up from 1134 in December.

Find the latest news from the TWS office at the TWS Facebook page with almost 60,000 likes (<https://www.facebook.com/thewildlifesociety/?fref=ts>).

**2016 Annual Conference, Raleigh, NC.** The 2016 Annual Conference will be held October 15-19 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Details on the conference are available on the TWS website at <http://www.twsconference.org/>.



"We added topics such as invasive species, fire science and management, natural resources management, as well as public engagement and management," said Ed Thompson, chief operating officer for TWS. "The Steering Committee also saw an opportunity to add a call for topics related to wildlife education, training and certification."

The Annual Conference includes workshops on Saturday, October 15, on topics such as *An Introduction to Spatial Capture-Recapture*, *Animal Trapping Techniques for Researchers and Managers*, *Quantitative Analysis of Satellite-Derived Data for Animal Ecology and Conservation*, and *Essentials of Managing Conflict in Environmental Disputes*.

New to this year's conference is a daily plenary or keynote session for education, training, networking and engagement opportunities:

Sunday, Oct. 16: *Partnerships Across the Spectrum of Wildlife Governance*

Monday, Oct. 17: *The Past, Present and Future of Invasive Species Control in North America: Achieving Success Through Innovation*

Tuesday, Oct. 18: *Is Sustainable Use of Wildlife Sustainable?*

Wednesday, Oct. 19: *Public-Private Partnerships for Conservation*

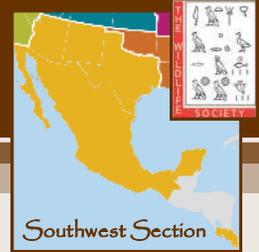
<http://wildlife.org/linking-science-and-management-at-this-years-annual-conference/#prettyPhoto>



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## In Memory

### Jack Ward Thomas (1934-2016)

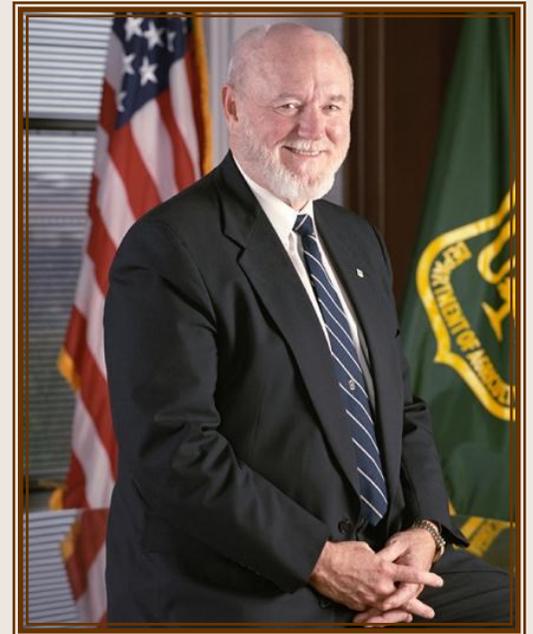
"So I poked at the coiled snake with my mesquite stick until he decided that trying for a getaway was a better option than getting poked to *death*. When the snake ..."

—<http://jackwardthomas.com/stories/>

We are sad to report the passing of Jack Ward Thomas, past president of The Wildlife Society (1976-1977), awardee of The Aldo Leopold Medal, TWS, past president of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TCTWS), and first Executive Director of TCTWS.

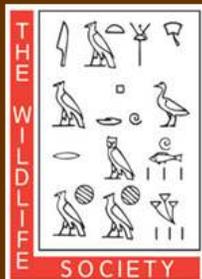
The following is excerpted from his obituary in the Missoulian ([http://missoulian.com/news/local/obituaries/jack-ward-thomas/article\\_7038f56c-0aaf-5c74-92fe-31a6b539ac9b.html](http://missoulian.com/news/local/obituaries/jack-ward-thomas/article_7038f56c-0aaf-5c74-92fe-31a6b539ac9b.html)).

Jack was a loving and proud husband, father, and grandfather; a veteran; loyal friend; an accomplished and genuine outdoorsman; a professor; and a giant in the fields of wildlife biology, ecosystem management, and public lands management and policy.



He earned his undergraduate degree in wildlife management from Texas A&M in 1957, and then worked for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for 10 years before taking his first U.S. Forest Service position – as a research biologist – in Morgantown, West Virginia, in 1966.

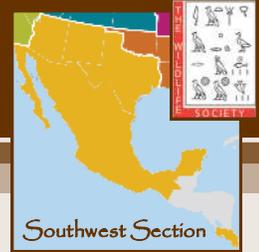
In 1969, he moved to Massachusetts where he headed a Forest Service research unit at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Jack earned his Ph.D. in forestry there in 1972, and wrote one of his most successful contributions to the field of wildlife biology – an article for the general public entitled "Invite Wildlife to Your Backyard." In 1974 he moved to La Grande, Oregon, to work as the chief research wildlife biologist and program leader at the USFS Forestry and Range Sciences Laboratory. In that post, Jack was instrumental in establishing the Starkey Experimental Forest Elk Project – an incredibly ambitious and unprecedented long-term study on elk ecology and interactions with their habitat and with humans. He also led a major science assessment and planning effort for wildlife conservation that was the first practical instance of what became known and adopted across the nation as ecosystem management. That effort was published as *Wildlife Habitats in Managed Forests*. In 1982 he co-authored (with fellow preeminent elk ecologist and dear friend Dale Towell) the tome "Elk of North America" – popularly referred to as "the Elk Bible."



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## In Memory

### Jack Ward Thomas (1934-2016)

In 1991, Jack became embroiled in controversial political issues in the Pacific Northwest – in conserving old growth ecosystems and spotted owl habitat – which led to the "spotted owl wars" and related controversies. President Bill Clinton selected him to lead the development of what became known as the Northwest Forest Plan – which focused on old-growth ecosystems with emphasis on conservation of northern spotted owls and other old-growth forest species. Two years later, President Clinton appointed him the 13th Chief of the U.S. Forest Service in December 1993. During his time as head of the USFS, the Northwest Forest Plan was adopted.

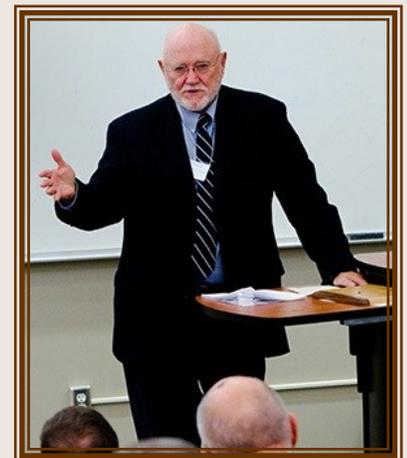
Upon retirement from the Forest Service in 1996, he accepted a position as the Boone and Crockett Professor of Wildlife Conservation at the College of Forestry and Conservation at the University of Montana in Missoula. He again poured himself into his work, mentoring students and keeping actively engaged in conservation planning and policy at local, regional, national, and international scales. Jack retired from the University of Montana in 2006. This spring, the University of Montana awarded him an honorary doctorate for his professional accomplishments, lasting contributions to the University, and his role in mentoring, shepherding and inspiring scores of students.

As a preeminent biologist, public land manager, orator and a leader of his profession, Jack had many honors, awards and accolades bestowed upon him over his 60 year career. But more than that, he was a truly exceptional man. He believed as Maya Angelou does that "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." He was kind, generous with his time with students, employees, friends and colleagues. Jack contributed immeasurably to students and professionals across the country. More often than not, they were individuals who needed a hand, a gentle course-correction, or a bit of perspective as they face their own challenges. For as strong and imposing character as he was capable of being, he could just as easily be brought to tears in the middle of a speech or lecture as he recalled a moment of tenderness, tragedy, or simple, true beauty. Just as he moved others, he was constantly moved by the human and natural world around him.

Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at [whitesittfuneralhome.com](http://whitesittfuneralhome.com).

A remembrance of Jack by FS Chief Tidwell can be found at

<http://www.fs.fed.us/news/releases/passing-former-forest-service-chief-jack-ward-thomas>



### Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Oth
78	71	104	1	25

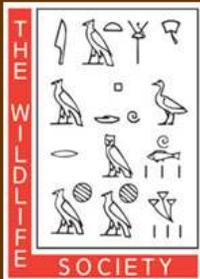
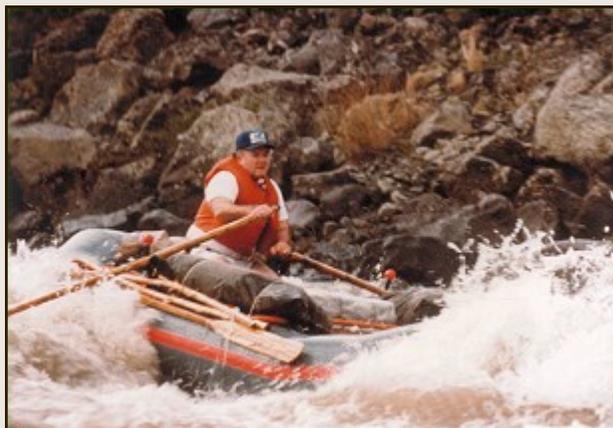
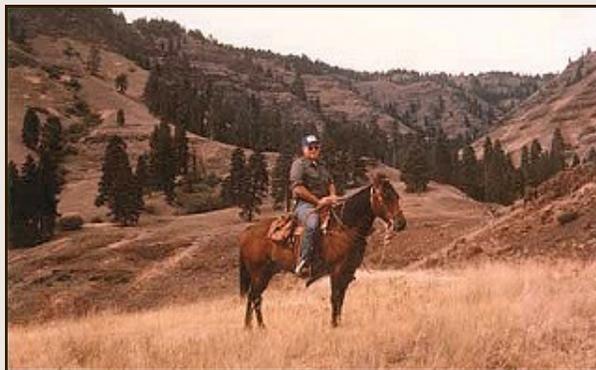
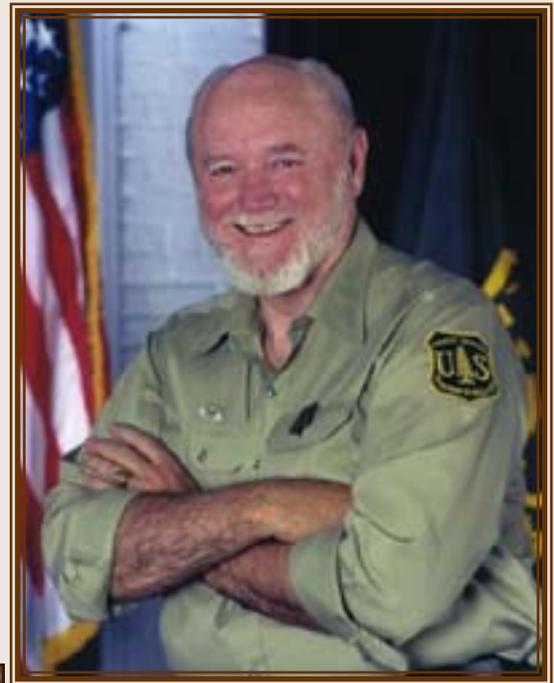
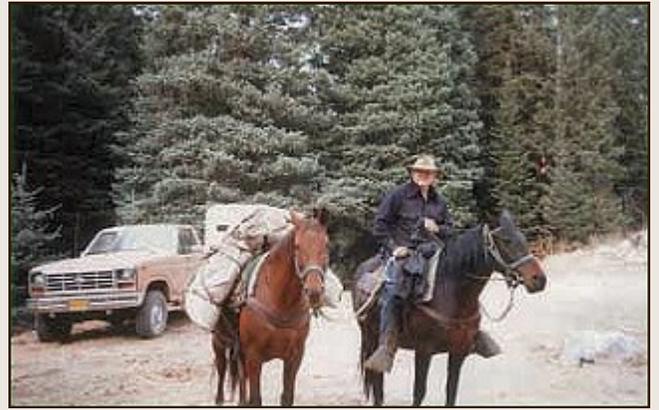
# Southwest Section News



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- International News
- Tribal News
- Student Chapters
- Council News

## In Memory

**Jack Ward Thomas (1934-2016)**



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Photos from <http://jackwardthomas.com/stories/> and <http://www.foresthistory.org/ASPNET/People/Thomas/Thomas.aspx>

# Southwest Section News



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## SWS TWS AWARDS

### **NOMINATE! Recognize Members for Excellence in Wildlife Conservation and Beyond**

#### **Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society's Roger Bumstead Lifetime Achievement Award**

Outstanding Service to The Wildlife Society throughout their career and continued involvement in conservation after 'retirement'.

Promote professional development and/or recruitment.

Show outstanding service.

Someone who embodies the spirit of the Southwest.

*Past Awardees:*

*Roger Bumstead 2014*

*H. Reed Sanderson 2015*

#### **Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society's Outstanding Service Award**

Outstanding Service to the Section above and beyond throughout their career.

All aspects affect the Southwest Section.

Promote professional development (not just their own but helping others).

Show outstanding service at a minimum at the section level (at chapter and national levels as well).

Must be a member in good standing.

*Past Awardees:*

*Selma Glasscock 2014*

*Nova Silvy 2015*



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AZ NM TX Int Oth  
78 71 104 1 25



# Southwest Section News



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Southwest Section

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## SWS Board & Committee Chairs

### Current Board

President: **Dan Collins** [dan\\_collins@fws.gov](mailto:dan_collins@fws.gov) 505-248-6881

President-Elect: **Warren Conway** [warren.conway@ttu.edu](mailto:warren.conway@ttu.edu) 806-834-6579

Past President: **Mark Wallace** [mark.wallace@ttu.edu](mailto:mark.wallace@ttu.edu) 806-834-6979

Secretary: **Heather Bateman** [heather.l.bateman@asu.edu](mailto:heather.l.bateman@asu.edu) 480-727-1131

Treasurer: **Annaliese Scoggin** [annaliesescoggin@hotmail.com](mailto:annaliesescoggin@hotmail.com) 432-520-1570

**Southwest Section Representative to TWS Council:** Fidel Hernandez  
[fidel.hernandez@tamuk.edu](mailto:fidel.hernandez@tamuk.edu) 361-593-3926

### Committees

Archives: **Selma Glasscock** [sglasscock@welderwildlife.org](mailto:sglasscock@welderwildlife.org) 361-364-2643

Audit: **Terry Blankenship** [tblankenship@welderwildlife.org](mailto:tblankenship@welderwildlife.org) 361-364-2643

Conservation Review: **James Ramakka** [jramakka@aol.com](mailto:jramakka@aol.com) 505-334-6140

Diversity: **Joe Beach** [joe.beach@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:joe.beach@tpwd.state.tx.us) 512-538-4059

Electronic Communications: ??????

Finance Committee: ?????

Geospatial Advisory Committee: **Leland Pierce** [leland.pierce@state.nm.us](mailto:leland.pierce@state.nm.us) 505-476-8094

Membership Committee: ??????

Newsletter: **Misty Sumner** [miiissttyy@aol.com](mailto:miiissttyy@aol.com) 432-283-2934 & **Carol Chambers** [carol.chambers@nau.edu](mailto:carol.chambers@nau.edu) 928-523-0014

Women of Wildlife Committee: **Carol Chambers** [carol.chambers@nau.edu](mailto:carol.chambers@nau.edu) 928-523-0014

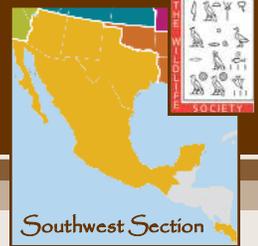
If you haven't noticed, TWS is **still** re-working their and the subunit webpages. While they continue to work on this the links continue to be broken and it can be difficult to find the Southwest Section Webpage. Please realize this is out of our hands and we are working hard to speed things along. In the meantime the link to the Southwest Section Webpage can be found at the top of the page of this newsletter or after multiple clicks on The Wildlife Society's page or by going directly to: <http://drupal.wildlife.org/sw/>



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# Southwest Section News



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**Southwest Section**

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## Join!



### Membership Application

Membership Fee \$5.00

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix
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Mailing Address

City	State	Zip Code	Country
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E-mail address

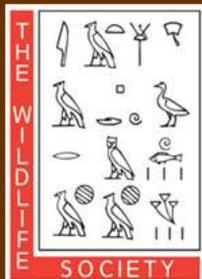
Work Phone

Member Type (Please circle one): Student      Regular      Retired

Please include this form with your payment and mail to: Annaliese Scoggin, Secretary/Treasurer, Southwest Section of TWS, Private Lands Biologist, Trans-Pecos Wildlife District, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, 4500 W. Illinois Ave. Ste 203, Midland, TX 79703

### Membership benefits for the Southwest Section TWS

- SWS TWS Newsletter
- Scholarship opportunities
- Section-level meetings and conferences
- Strengthen your connections to national TWS
- Peer connections through Listserv and [Facebook](#)



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