

Southwest Section Newsletter

Fall 2019 - Vol. 9 Issue #2



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President's Message

Tad Theimer - 2019 President SW Section of The Wildlife Society

The quality of light is fundamentally different in Autumn, and that change always takes me back to those halcyon days I spent tramping the fields and forests as a boy. As the sun slips ever more southerly, the leaves first glow with soft reds and golds and then slowly fade and fall, whispering of the winter to come as they blow in drifts past my window.

And when I hear those geese winging their way south, I know the year is turning toward winter. I hope you all get to enjoy some time outdoors to soak in the magic of the autumn season.



Autumn also means the annual meeting of TWS, and I hope many of you were able to attend this year's meeting in Reno. The SWS did their part to financially support the meeting this year, as we have every year, but this year we also supported a new effort. You may have read Travis Boom's article in the Wildlife Professional, entitled "I am one of you", an article that described the experience of a wildlife professional from the perspective of a gay man. When I read that article, I was reminded of the courage it takes to stand up and affirm who you are as a member of the LGBTQ+ community in our own professional society. Many years ago, I walked in a 4th of July parade with some gay and lesbian friends behind a rainbow banner. During that hour and half walk, we encountered cheers of support, but we also encountered icy silence, unkind remarks, and in some cases open hostility. As a straight male, that experience made me realize how courageous my friends were to simply walk down the street and affirm who they were. Everyone deserves the right to be who they are, without fear of repercussions, discrimination or violence. Since last spring,

I was fortunate enough to be tangentially involved with the amazing group of grass roots organizers who came together to host the inaugural "Out in the Field" luncheon at this year's annual conference. The luncheon was a success beyond the organizers' wildest expectations, with the room quickly filling and then spilling out into the adjoining hallway.



Out In The Field Luncheon 2019 Wildlife Society Conference Reno, Nevada

Photo: Courtesy Misty Sumner

Southwest Section News



President's Message (cont.)

Tad Theimer - 2019 President SW Section of The Wildlife Society

A luncheon planned for 40 turned into a luncheon for over one hundred, thanks to a last minute infusion of funds from the national organization. The SWS of TWS was an important early supporter of Women in Wildlife (WOW) and in keeping with that tradition of inclusion, I was proud to see the SWS step up this year to support these initial efforts of our colleagues in "Out in the Field".

May OITF be as successful as WOW! Speaking of WOW, they also had an amazing get together, complete with a slide show highlighting the many women in wildlife and the amazing jobs they are doing.

Autumn also means the Fall term at colleges and universities, which means it is a good time to remind all our members that the SWS inaugurated a \$500 graduate scholarship program last year that is open to all graduate students attending programs in our region. Last year's recipient, Sara Weaver, was kind enough to furnish an article on her graduate work for the Spring SWS TWS newsletter and we look forward to receiving this year's applications. More information follows later in this newsletter, and also can be found on the SWS website.

Autumn and its drift toward winter is also a time of contemplation, a time to look back on all the good work wildlifers are doing across our region. In this newsletter we highlight several of those activities, from a Bioblitz in Texas to Gould's turkey research in New Mexico. And finally, that contemplative celebration of life as a wildlifer includes remembering our colleagues who are no longer with us. One of those was Sheridan Stone, long-time wildlife manager at Fort Huachuca in southern Arizona, who passed away in April. A formal obituary appeared in The Wildlife Professional, but in this newsletter we wanted to take time to share more informally some memories of Sheridan from those wildlifers whose lives he touched.



*President-Elect Carol Chambers welcoming everyone to the Women of Wildlife Networking Event
2019 Wildlife Society Conference Reno, Nevada
Photo: Courtesy Misty Sumner*

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President's Message (cont.)

Tad Theimer - 2019 President SW Section of The Wildlife Society

That golden autumn light is streaming in my window and somewhere far off I think I can hear those geese calling, even if it is just in my memory. I'm off to tramp the woods again before the first snow flies. I hope you all get to do the same.



Claret Cup in New Mexico Canyon Country

Photo: Courtesy Jim Ramakka

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	<p>POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT</p> <p>The Wildlife Society is accepting applications and nominations for the Wildlife Society Bulletin's next Editor-in-Chief. <i>Click here to learn more!</i></p>	<p>Application Period Ends: January 3, 2020</p> <p>4 ISSUES YEAR</p> <p>60k FULL-TEXT DOWNLOADS IN 2018</p>	
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Thank you to those that contributed to this newsletter: **Tad Theimer, Jim Ramakka, Casey Cardinal, Romey Swanson, Joanne M. Roberts, Melanie Culver, Tom Skinner, Jack Childs, and Brian Wakeling.**

Please contribute to our next newsletter with information on your work related to topics of interest to Southwest Section members. We would love to have articles from student members! Deadline for the Spring newsletter articles is **March 1.**

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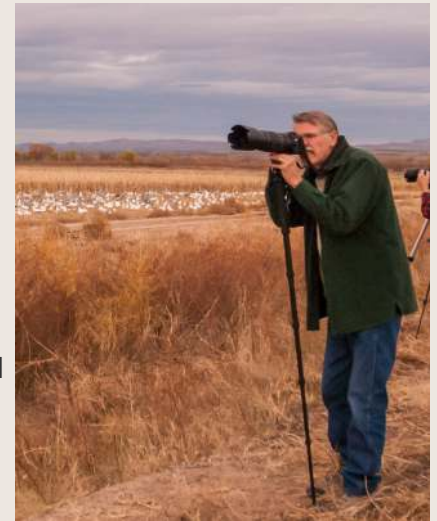
Southwest Section News



Southwest Section Tracks

Jim Ramakka, Southwest Section Representative To Council

It was great to see a number of SW Section members at the TWS/AFS Joint Conference in Reno this past September. The TWS Annual Conference has been one of the highlights of my year ever since attending the first one in Albuquerque in 1994. At that time, I was a District Biologist for the BLM in Carson City, Nevada. Planning for a TWS meeting separate from the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference was considered controversial by some the old guard members and a few predicted it would be a failure and a waste of money. I decided to take annual leave and attend with the hope of maybe seeing a few friends and colleagues from the previous decade I'd spent working in New Mexico. It turned out I not only reconnected with friends from across the country that I hadn't seen decades, but also, was able to network with folks from across the West working on issues similar to those in my job. In the years that followed, the TWS Annual Meeting, along with Chapter and Section meetings, served a key role in my continued professional development and I know the information gathered at technical sessions and networking opportunities made me more effective in my job. Some years my agency paid my way, other years I footed the bills myself. It was always worth the expense.



This year I traveled to Reno a couple of days early so that I could revisit some the projects I worked on in the Great Basin 20 yrs. ago. It was gratifying to see that the early work of our interdisciplinary riparian evaluation and restoration team on what was the first ecosystem management project on BLM land in Nevada has been continued and expanded upon. However, it was disappointing to learn how much wild horse numbers had increased and to see the impact they were having on watersheds and wildlife habitat. TWS has been a key player in trying to coordinate strategies to manage wild/feral horse issues nationwide and those efforts were reflected in several sessions in Reno.

While in Reno I also couldn't help wondering how the late Jim Yoakum, the Bureau of Land Management's first wildlife biologist, and a legendary figure in the Western Section of TWS, would have responded to the turnout and enthusiasm of the conference attendees. I last time I talked with Jim was when the TWS met in Reno in 2001. He was 75 yrs. old and still active in the profession and our society. I took the opportunity to thank him for pulling me, very reluctantly, into The Wildlife Society beyond the Chapter and Section level by nominating me to serve on the Certification Review Board. Jim had called me a few months before the First Annual Meeting to say the Western Section

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Southwest Section Tracks

Jim Ramakka, Southwest Section Representative To Council

was considering nominating me to serve on the CRB. I thanked but told him I was just a field biologist and didn't think I had much to offer. I thought that ended the conversation, until I showed up in Albuquerque to learn I was the newest member of the CRB! While I was a little upset with Jim for a while, the 6 yrs. I served on the Certification Review Board gave me a true appreciation for breadth and depth of our profession.

That experience impressed on me the importance of The Wildlife Society in setting and maintaining professional standards and serving as a non-biased forum for the discussion of key wildlife issues and translating that information to legislators.

The bottom line of all this rambling is to encourage folks to join all levels of The Wildlife Society and to take the opportunity to attend the annual conference and to take advantage of the networking opportunities available at Chapter and Section meetings. The Reno meeting had the largest attendance of any TWS meeting (over 2,000 registrants) and may have seemed overwhelming to first time attendees. Our meeting in Louisville next year will not be in conjunction and we will return to, hopefully, a less crowded format.

Council had a productive series of meetings in Reno. Issues addressed and topics discussed included:

- Budget - FY19 ended with a budget surplus of \$170,000 which exceeded the year-end goal stated in the annual budget. The Endowment Fund will receive \$10,000 from that surplus. The remaining funds will be placed in the Council Discretionary Fund.
- Paid membership has grown to 10,619 (a 4.5% increase). If Give Back membership is counted the combined total membership is 11,228.
- Evaluation of possible sites and venues for 2022, 2023 conferences has begun (next year's conference will be in Louisville KY and the 2021 conference in Baltimore MD). The strategy is to look at a few key centralized conference locations while no longer placing the burden of conference fund raising on local chapters or sections.
- Website visits and Social Media audience are both increasing.
- Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) received considerable discussion as TWS Staff have played an active role along with partners in soliciting cosponsors as well as preparing resources for Chapters and Sections to use in contacting legislators to support the Act.
- On July 10 TWS/AFS hosted a webinar on RAWA engagement strategies and legislative updates for approximately 60 attendees.
- Staff restructuring as result of turnover and projected retirements was discussed as well as strategies to address alternatives for the Bethesda Headquarters property. Original plans for a Natural Resource Campus shared with other organizations have never really evolved and purchasing or renting a smaller alternative site closer to Capitol Hill may be more cost effective. Council requested further analysis.

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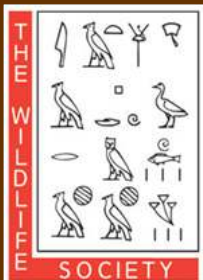
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Southwest Section News



Southwest Section Tracks

Jim Ramakka, Southwest Section Representative To Council

- Council was requested by the Western Section to re-examine The Wildlife Society (Policies and Procedures) Code, Ethics Policy, Code of Ethics, and AWB/CWB Certification Program expectations to strengthen and clarify their policies regarding Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, and Bullying.
- The Canadian Section has been incorporated as a separate entity to comply with Canadian law. Implications of the process as it might apply to other entities such as the evolving efforts in Mexico were discussed.
- Council approved the initial steps to implement a Mentorship for Life Strategic Plan as prepared by an *ad hoc* committee to Council.
- The topic of killing contests as well as the existing Standing Position on Traps, Trapping, and Furbearer Management were discussed and referred to committees for further analysis and potential edits.
- The Early Career Professionals and Student Development Working Group presented requests to reduce costs for conference attendance and the Student Development Working Group presented a proposal to establish Student Section Representative positions in each section.
- The importance of continued communication with AFWA was discussed.
- Council also heard member concerns about opportunities to comment on the TWS Strategic Plan as well as the on going issue of unpaid internships and volunteer technician positions serving as a barrier that prevents lower income students from gaining experience.

Formal notes of our discussions have not yet been distributed but should be available in time for a more detailed summary in the next newsletter. In the interim, if you have any questions concerning Council activities, please feel free to contact me.

Wishing everyone a
Happy Holiday Season,

Jim



A pair of Golden Eagles that Jim Ramakka has been monitoring for the BLM each spring since he retired.

We've lost track of how many times Jim has retired.

He truly doesn't know how to stay retired but that's been a great thing for conservation across the United States and beyond!

Photo: Courtesy Jim Ramakka

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Student News \$\$\$

Tad Theimer - 2019 President SW Section of The Wildlife Society

\$\$ for Graduate Students!

In 2018 the Southwest Section awarded its first Southwestern Wildlife Student Scholarship to Sara Weaver. This year's deadline for applications (Dec 15th) is rapidly approaching and we are excited to receive applications. The scholarship is awarded annually to a graduate student studying wildlife who is currently enrolled in a natural resource-oriented program at a college or university in Arizona, New Mexico, or Texas. Wildlife includes all fauna and habitat components, excluding fisheries-related studies. Applicants should have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5. Women, members of minorities, or students who are the first in their family to attend graduate school are especially encouraged to apply, as are those who are extensively utilizing geospatial data, including satellite imagery or other products of remote sensing technology, and/or generating their own geospatial products through the use of drones. Incorporation of these technologies in an applicant's graduate research is NOT required; applicants not using these technologies should still apply.

This scholarship will be presented at either the 2020 Joint Annual Meeting of the New Mexico and Arizona Chapters of The Wildlife Society and the Arizona/New Mexico Chapter of the American Fisheries Society or the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

A link to detailed information about what the application should contain and how it should be formatted can be found on the SWS webpage on TWS website <https://wildlife.org/sw-section/>. Any questions about the application process can be sent to Tad.Theimer@nau.edu. Again, deadline for applications is Dec 15th 2019!

News for Early Professionals as Well as Students

\$\$ for Certification!

The Wildlife Society is unique in providing a peer-reviewed certification process that bestows the title of Associate Wildlife Biologist and Certified Wildlife Biologist on those who qualify. The fee for Certified Wildlife Biologist is \$155, for Associate Wildlife Biologist \$95-\$115 and upgrade from Associate to Certified is \$75. The SWS would like to encourage its members to take advantage of this opportunity by providing funds to offset 75% of the cost of certification. If interested, please send a request to Tad.Theimer@nau.edu



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State News; Texas

Romey Swanson CWB, Director of Conservation, Audubon Texas

Snake Days 2019: Family Fun with a Conservation Mission

My wife and I are field biologists at heart and we particularly enjoy working with herps and birds. As mid-career professionals, our trajectories have increasingly found us outside of the field in an office or attending partner meetings. However, we continue to seek field opportunities to "scratch the field work itch" and enjoy the wildlife that got us into natural resource management to begin with. Further, we feel a sense of responsibility to share our enthusiasm and knowledge with others with hopes to increase awareness and nurture a relationship between our growing communities and the natural world that supports and enriches our lives every day.



Snake Days 2019

Snake Days is one of these opportunities to check several of those boxes. It is an organized event hosted in the heart of Big Bend Country (or the Trans-Pecos Ecoregion) of far West Texas. Organizers established Snake Days as a way to foster and promote ethical snake hunting and collection, promote fellowship among reptile enthusiasts, and contribute to the conservation of West Texas wildlife. The increasingly popular event is regularly attended by 125+ participants, road clean-ups regularly remove over 100 pounds of roadside garbage, and the event contributes \$5,000+ to conservation and research annually with even more value added in the form of research observations and specimens. Erin and I have happily participated each of the past five years and we especially enjoy the field component – the annual Snake Days Bio-Blitz.

Herps of Texas

The Snake Days Bioblitz is a competitive multi-category event that promotes the accumulation of plant and wildlife observations through the www.iNaturalist.org platform. Reptile and Amphibian observations are automatically contributed to the Texas Nature Trackers – Herps of Texas project (curated by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department). Originally, the bioblitz sought to maximize herp observations with a prize offered to the individual that contributed the greatest number of verifiable species observations (validated by photo, recording, and locality details). Today, the bioblitz offers prizes for the top three contributors of herp biodiversity, a prize to the top contributor of non-herp biodiversity, and a randomly drawn prize from the pool of participants that has observed a listed Species of Greatest Conservation Need for the eco-region. Prizes have been continuously sponsored by corporate partner Animal Equipment by Stoney (www.aestoney.com).

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State News; Texas

Romey Swanson CWB, Director of Conservation, Audubon Texas

Family Fun

For the past two years, Erin and I have donated a "Day in the Field at Snake Days" to Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (www.gcbo.org) as part of the organization's annual membership gala and fundraiser. This year's winner was the Smith Family from Houston. We knew early that we were going to have a blast with this group – the Smiths won this experience specifically as a family activity supporting their youngest son's passions as an aspiring naturalist – Liam has been herping the Houston area for a number of years and has his own YouTube Channel (Animal Bro) highlighting his exploits. The Herping Adventure

Our group got together around mid-day on August 2nd and split time between Post Park, the Gage Gardens, and Marathon Motel campgrounds all in the little town of Marathon just north of Big Bend National Park. We chose these spots because they afforded shade and permanent water. These elements deemed tolerable the otherwise scorching heat of a typical West Texas summer day. Once together, it wasn't long before Liam spotted our first critter, a young Chihuahuan Spotted Whiptail. Shortly afterwards, Erin caught a cooperative adult Central Texas Whipsnake. We also documented invasive Red-eared Slider and an extremely weary Crevice Spiny Lizard. As the duldrums of mid-day hit, the pace of discovery slowed but we were able to enjoy the cool shade and quietude before Liam and I caught a gorgeous pink Western Coachwhip.

Liam Smith, naturalist, displays his catch a western coachwhip. Liam and his family enjoy time outdoors and won "Day in the Field at Snake Days".

Photo: Courtesy Romey Swanson



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State News; Texas

Romey Swanson CWB, Director of Conservation, Audubon Texas

Our adventure next took us to Longfellow Road, a roughly 40 mile dirt road that cuts through the Glass Mountains obliquely towards Sanderson Canyon. Here we hoped to survive the remainder of the hot dry day in an air conditioned caravan while searching for daytime lizards and snakes. With temperatures in the mid 90s heading towards dusk, it was slow going adding only Little Striped Whiptail and a juvenile Western Coachwhip to the days tally. It was the last hour of day that yielded improved results when we road-cruised a Texas Patchnose Snake and discovered a Black-headed Snake and juvenile Great Plains Skink under roadside cover. The most enthusiastic discovery though was an adult male Texas Horned Lizard that experienced its own popularity through naturalist paparazzi.

We left Longfellow Road shortly after dark and slowly drove the roughly 25 miles of Highway 90 back to Marathon. Along the way we stopped and observed Chihuahuan Nightsnake, Western Diamondback Rattlesnake, Emory's Rat Snake, and a stunning juvenile Mottled Rock Rattlesnake. The nightsnake provided a wonderful opportunity to explain that not all snakes with elliptical pupils are dangerous – but also – that not all harmless snakes are non-venomous (many are only mildly venomous or medically insignificant). Excitement pulsed with the discovery of each new snake and it was incredibly refreshing to see the enthusiasm and genuine joy through the eyes of our companions. Although Liam was familiar with nearly every animal we observed (like most naturalist – he has spent time in his field guides and researching behaviors), many were “lifers” that had been clearly marked as goal animals for this trip.



Erin Swanson also takes advantage of this beautiful pink western coachwhip with a quick photo opportunity.

Photo: Courtesy Romey Swanson

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State News; Texas

Romey Swanson CWB, Director of Conservation, Audubon Texas

During the last the leg of our adventure, we cruised approximately 15 miles of grasslands north of Marathon on Highway 385. Along this stretch we found a freshly hit Mojave Rattlesnake that provided a great teaching moment. Although the snake appeared dead and inanimate, it quickly responded and struck as I used a set of tongs to remove it from the shoulder of the road. Further along we found and photographed a small adult Glossy Snake and discussed the similarity of patterns shared among several species within the suite of grassland snakes. And – finally – as if pre-ordained, we found a wonderful example of one of Liam’s most highly sought snakes for the night, a splendid Desert Kingsnake.

Herps Observed with Smith Family

Rio Grande Leopard Frog	Black-headed Snake
Chihuahuan Spotted Whiptail	Chihuahuan Night Snake
Crevice Spiny Lizard	Western Diamondback Rattlesnake
Plateau Spotted Whiptail	Emory’s Rat Snake
Little Striped Whiptail	Mottled Rock Rattlesnake
Texas Horned Lizard	Mojave Rattlesnake
Central Texas Whipsnake	Glossy Snake
Western Coachwhip	Desert Kingsnake
Texas Patchnose Snake	Red-eared Slider

Bio-Blitz Results

At the conclusion of this year’s Snake Days event, the citizen science efforts contributed 356 new observations representing 57 species of reptiles and amphibians to the Herps of Texas project. Seventy-one of these observations represented 7 Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Several live specimens were collected for ongoing University research – including venom studies while a number more “dead-on-road” specimens were salvaged for use as museum and research specimens. Further, even more individuals were samples for the emerging threat of Snake Fungal Disease. All of this highlighting the value-add of an organized community science program!

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State News; New Mexico

Casey Cardinal, Secretary of the Southwest Section and Resident Gamebird Biologist, New Mexico Game and Fish Department

Gould's Turkey Research

New Mexico is home to three subspecies of wild turkey: Merriam's, Rio Grande, and Gould's. Gould's turkeys were first documented in New Mexico in 1892. Limited recorded sightings of the subspecies, combined with limited available habitat, led to its listing as State Threatened under the New Mexico Wildlife Conservation Act in 1975. In the 1980s, researchers at New Mexico State University gathered information on population status, life history requirements, and habitat use. Based on their research, population estimates of Gould's turkeys in the Peloncillo Mountains ranged from 12-75 birds. In 2006, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) began annual spring surveys in the Peloncillo Mountains to monitor the turkeys and gain minimum population counts.

A Gould's turkey recovery plan was finalized by the Department in 2017. In this report, Gathering additional information on population status and habitat use was identified as a vital component to recovery.



Photo: Courtesy Casey Cardinal



Nest of Gould's Turkey Peloncillo Mountains, New Mexico

Photo: Courtesy Casey Cardinal

To obtain this information, Department employees began capturing and deploying GPS backpack transmitters on birds in 2018. Two hens were captured the first year of the study and twenty-one additional backpacks were deployed during the winter of 2018-19, resulting in 12 hens and 11 gobblers fitted with transmitters. The GPS units collect waypoints three times every other day, and once every night.

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State News; New Mexico

Casey Cardinal, Secretary of the Southwest Section and Resident Gamebird Biologist, New Mexico Game and Fish Department

Gould's Turkey Research (continued)

Some notable observations thus far include:

- Conducting the spring survey based on locations from the GPS backpacks has almost doubled minimum counts
- The turkeys are capable of making very large movements. One male covered a distance of 26 miles (18 miles in less than a week)
- All twelve hens initiated nests this year, and three hens who failed re-nested. Data from the transmitters indicate that all hens incubated to full term

The battery life on the transmitters is estimated to be about 3 years. The Department is looking forward to using the data collected from the GPS backpacks to better inform Gould's turkey management decisions.



Gould's turkey on nest, Peloncillo Mountains New Mexico

Photo: Courtesy Casey Cardinal

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In Memoriam

Sheridan Stone · January 2, 1938 — April 2019



Left: Sheridan and Bonnie Stone Right Sheridan Stone

May 2011 Grand Canyon

Photo: Courtesy Tom Skinner



Leon Fisher, President SWS TWS 2000 and 2001, (left) with Sheridan Stone at Valles Caldera National Preserve September 2017 The Wildlife Society's Conference field trip

Photo: Courtesy Tom Skinner

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In Memoriam

Sheridan Stone · January 2, 1938 — April 2019

Remembering Sheridan Stone

Wildlife biologist Sheridan Stone passed away in April of 2019. Working at Fort Huachuca outside of Sierra Vista, Arizona, for most of his career, Sheridan was well known to wildlifera in southern Arizona and beyond. I first met Sheridan when I was gathering genetic samples for my doctoral work on javelina, and the collections we made at Fort Huachuca became a critical part of that data set. Sheridan took me into his home during that first visit to Fort Huachuca, and the warmth and friendship he exuded during my stay remained the hallmark of our interactions in the years that followed, including as fellow officers on the AZ TWS board. I will always remember the twinkle in his eye as we laughed over some tall tale, and the soft distinctive cadence of his voice that never quite lost the flavor of Old Virginia. Sheridan was a wildlife professional, in the true sense of that word professional. A formal obituary appeared in the Wildlife Professional, but here we take a more informal approach, a chance for fellow wildlifera to share their memories of our friend and colleague.

Tad Theimer

Remembering a friend, a mentor, a colleague.

I first met Sheridan while conducting mountain lion surveys on Fort Huachuca in 1990. I was just beginning my interest in a career change from business to conservation biology. From that moment on, I cannot think of a time when our professional paths did not cross in a span of 28 years. Beginning with my volunteer participation in the annual surveys, encouragement in pursuing my conservation biology degree, collaborating with threatened and endangered species programs, sponsorship for Department of Defense workshops and The Wildlife Society Educational grant, to monitor training lands, and working closely with Sheridan as a member of the Arizona State Park's Board Natural Areas Program Advisory Committee. There are many memories. Some funny, some philosophical. However, one that remains with me daily came during the time we worked together on the Advisory Committee between 2004 and 2009. One of the primary responsibilities of the Advisory Committee was to evaluate properties for natural areas values in order to make recommendations to the Board for acquisitions through the State Natural Areas Heritage Program. During a property evaluation discussion, a member made the statement that making a decision on what parcels of properties to recommend as eligible for natural areas funding, "was just not that difficult; it is not rocket science." Sheridan responded that they were right in one sense, "It is not rocket science. Rocket science follows a formula, an equation. Choosing natural area values is harder because these systems are living, dynamic, and always changing. There is no equation."

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In Memoriam

Sheridan Stone · January 2, 1938 — April 2019

His words reminded our committee of the importance of what we were doing and how what we decided then would determine our success at protecting wildlife and habitat for future generations. I do not know if Sheridan chose these words because he read them or heard them from somewhere else. It does not really matter. What I do know, is that his words held meaning then, and they do now, and they continue to guide me in land management and daily decisions. I pass this memory on to entry-level professionals that I work with, no matter how old they are when entering the conservation field, and I now pass them on as part of my oral history of H. Sheridan Stone to all of you.

Joanne M. Roberts, Conservation Wildlife Biologist and Natural Resources Manager.

In 2002, after I moved to Tucson and joined University of Arizona, I was introduced to Sheridan at the annual wildlife tracking workshop at Fort Huachuca and was immediately drawn to his southern Virginia accent as I had just moved here from southern Virginia. Sheridan always had the time to talk to me (or anyone else) about a new or ongoing research project, and he was willing to help in any way possible. More than once, Sheridan forwarded me emails of grant opportunities he thought would be appropriate for my work, and offered to write letters of support for me. It was his unique and remarkable attitude that fostered collaboration and productivity among the researchers he worked with.

In 2011, after I received funding for the UA to start a camera study in 17 southern Arizona mountain ranges, we needing research permits from dozens of agencies, including the US Army. Sheridan helped my team through the process of gaining permission to access areas on Fort Huachuca that we needed to set cameras on. He was a pleasure to work with, and was always interested in our project, and gave his expertise freely.

It is my feeling that Sheridan truly cared about the natural resources, which is why he wanted to do everything in his power to facilitate researchers to gain knowledge about the natural resources. He knew that knowledge would allow the best stewardship for our valuable natural resources. The loss of Sheridan is a loss for all of us, and a loss for the natural resources on the Fort where he served for many years.

Melanie Culver

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In Memoriam

Sheridan Stone · January 2, 1938 — April 2019

What a loss to the wildlife profession to no longer have Sheridan and his wonderful dedication to our valuable natural resources to work with us all. It was always good to see him, whether it was at a Wildlife Society meeting or on a project in the field coordinating across agency (Forest Service/Ft. Huachuca) boundaries. He was always ready with a friendly chuckle and great smile, no matter how difficult the issue was we worked on. My last adventure with him was on the Colorado River where he invited me to join him (and his wife Bonnie and several others) on an Arizona Game and Fish Department Citizen Science project - the roar of the river, the Kanab ambersnails and sharing stories around a campfire. How I miss him.



Sheridan Stone on 2017 The Wildlife Society's Conference field trip to Valles Caldera National Preserve

Photo: Courtesy Tom Skinner

Tom Skinner

I first met Sheridan on a mountain lion track monitoring project at Fort Huachuca where he was the head biologist. I was impressed by his knowledge of the flora and fauna and the variety of monitoring projects he was conducting. I could feel his passion for the environment as he talked about his research. I was gearing up to start a jaguar monitoring project on a very limited budget and Sheridan loaned me all of his extra cameras to help me launch my project. Over the years I knew and worked with Sheridan I discovered that he was always willing to cooperate with other biologists working in the Huachuca Mountains either on or off of the Fort. The first time I hiked with Sheridan was on a mountain lion track transect on the fort. It was probably around 1999 and the illegal immigrant traffic was heavy. We were constantly finding discarded back packs and other evidence of the traffic. Sheridan would open the packs and remove any unopened edible items and eat them as we hiked. He was not a delicate man. He was my friend and I will miss him. We will all miss him.

Jack Childs

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In Memoriam

Sheridan Stone · January 2, 1938 — April 2019

Remembering Sheridan Stone

I had the chance to work with Sheridan through a number of years and on a number of projects: Gould's turkey studies and restoration, management challenges on and off the Huachuca Army Post, management teams we served on together, and of course our shared tenures on the Arizona Chapter TWS Board. Sheridan was a wealth of knowledge and among the most deliberate thinkers with whom I've worked. There were so many humorous things that occurred over the years, but they always seemed to occur just before Sheridan arrived or just after he left the scene. Sheridan once located a camp site for several AZGFD biologists and volunteers doing turkey surveys, helped us start a fire, departed, and about 15 minutes later we were challenged by three undercover officers from the Criminal Defense Command who had been seeking a drug exchange. When they asked us to produce evidence of who we were, we pointed to the 3 trucks with AZGFD logos on the door that they had walked right past – kind of diffused the situation rapidly and everyone had a good laugh. We were in the process of dialing Sheridan's number at that point!

Sheridan always found us what we needed and facilitated meetings with post commanders when we needed it. He found us campsites, corrals for horses, access to secured areas, and solutions to management challenges. He smoothed rifts we occasionally had (caused?) with USFS. He was thorough and thoughtful. The one thing you could always bet on was that whatever meeting you had scheduled, he would be late for it. And not just by a few minutes, often 30–60 minutes late! And it was generally because he was wrapping up the details from some other exercise he was just leaving!

I can remember running into him at the North American Wildlife Conference in 1993 or 1994. That was the first time I ever attended one of those meetings, and I was there to represent AZTWS at TWS Council during the goshawk guidelines technical review. I was early in my term as president for AZTWS, I was a research biologist with Arizona, this was a huge policy issue among TWS, AZGFD, USFS, and others just to mention a few, and I'd had a conversation with then USFS chief Jack Ward Thomas. I really felt like I was way over my head and I was really uncomfortable. Among other things, the meeting was in Anchorage, AK, and I couldn't even run outside to hide because it was about 20 below! I ran into Sheridan in one of the sessions, and he was about the only person I knew there! He was a welcome sight, and he clued me in on some of the actions and processes to expect. He was the last person I expected to see there, but he sure made me feel a lot more comfortable!

Sheridan was thorough, thoughtful, annoyingly methodical, but always had the best for the resource in mind! His contributions were many, and I always enjoyed any encounter with him.

Brian Wakeling

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SWS Section 2019 Award Winners

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Every year, TWS recognizes outstanding achievements by its members in three main areas: education, professional achievement, and service. This year's SWS awardees all hailed from Texas. Our congratulations to all of them!

TWS Group Achievement Award went to Texas Native Seeds



Forrest Smith (left) accepts the Group Achievement Award from Keith Pawelek (right) at the 2019 Annual meeting in Reno

Photo: Courtesy TWS

TWS Conservation Education Award

recognized the Texas Master Naturalists

Michelle M. Haggerty accepted the Conservation Education Award on behalf of Texas Master Naturalists at this years annual conference in Reno.

Photo: Courtesy TWS



We have lots of deserving folks and organizations in the SWS who deserve recognition for their efforts in education, professional activity and service. Make a resolution to nominate one of them for next year's awards! TWS offers 19 different awards, including three Education Awards, nine Professional Achievement Awards, and seven Service Awards. A full list and description is on the TWS website <https://wildlife.org/engage/awards/>.



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The Wildlife Society Southwest Section Chapters

Hub Facebook page has 859 Followers and 830 Likes. Check us out on Facebook at The Wildlife Society Southwest Section Chapters Hub or click on the following link <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wildlife-Society-Southwest-Section-Chapters-Hub/205755042835210>. A recent article on birdwatching captured >1100 readers' attention. **Bird watching is good for your brain—it can lower stress and boost mental health!** Check it out on FB or at <https://www.rodaliesorganiclife.com/wellbeing/health-benefits-of-bird-watching>



Jamie Kilian 2019

Find the latest news from the TWS office at the **TWS** Facebook page with 62,719 Likes (<https://www.facebook.com/thewildlifesociety/?fref=ts>) and 63,265 Followers.

Deniz Martinez still provides most of the content on the **TWS Women of Wildlife (WOW)** Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/TWS-Women-of-Wildlife/234411723382592>). She definitely deserves a shoutout for the excellent work she does. The great content she finds and posts is appreciated as the WOW page has 2349 Followers and 2300 people have Liked it!

The WOW Networking event at the 2019 TWS Conference in Reno is still wildly popular offering attendees opportunities to interact with like minded professionals, meet a broad spectrum of members and realize they are not alone in their quest for success. TWS Leadership was there to interact as well and didn't just make an appearance but stayed for the entire event, inspiring women to take on new challenges and realize the importance of taking on roles of leadership themselves. This WOW event is always motivational and WOW continues to be strongly supported by TWS Leadership.



TWS members attending the WOW networking event 2019 TWS Conference in Reno, Nevada

Photo: Courtesy Misty Sumner



SaraBeth Boggan, Tarleton State University, visits with TWS Vice President Gordon Batcheller at the 2019 WOW Networking event

Photo: Courtesy Misty Sumner



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SWS Board & Committee Chairs

Current Board

President: **Tad Theimer** Tad.Theimer@nau.edu 928-523-8374

President-Elect: **Fidel Hernandez** fidel.hernandez@tamuk.edu 361-593-3926

Past President: **Ginny Seamster** virginia.seamster@state.nm.us 505-476-8111

Secretary: **Casey Cardinal** casey.cardinal@state.nm.us

Treasurer: **Ryan O'Shaughnessy** rosshaughnessy@sulross.edu 432-837-8904

Southwest Section Representative to TWS Council

James Ramakka jramakka@aol.com 505-334-6140

Active Committees

Conservation Affairs:

Romey Swanson romeyswanson@gmail.com 512-667-8124

Geospatial Advisory Committee:

Leland Pierce leland.pierce@state.nm.us 505-476-8094

& **Ginny Seamster** virginia.seamster@state.nm.us 505-476-8111

Newsletter:

Jamie Killian 7race13@gmail.com 830-480-9043

& **Misty Sumner** mmiissttyy@aol.com 254-702-1869

Women of Wildlife Committee:

Is now under TWS' Ethnic and Gender Diversity Working Group (EGDWG)

Don Yasuda Chair dyasudaTWS@gmail.com

Women of Wildlife Committee & EGDWG Liason

Kathy Granillo kgbirder55@gmail.com 505-864-4021

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TAFF

When the Texas Wildlife Society was established in 1961, it was a small organization with a limited budget. Over the years, it has greatly improved its financial condition, which it has done. So, TWS recently filled staff positions in key areas. One of those key areas is the Director of the Southwest Section.



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	Phone
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Member Type (Please circle one): Student Regular Retired

Please include this form with your payment and mail to:

Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Treasurer, Southwest Section of TWS, PO Box C-16, Alpine TX 78932.

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](#)
- Website information at <http://wildlife.org/sw-section/about/>

"The Trust of the Public"

From the Board of Directors to call the Texas Wildlife Society National News

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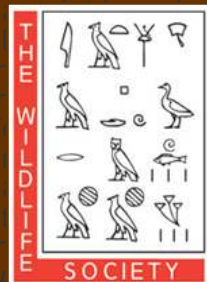
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enthusiasts are passionate beyond measure about the matters they care about. Pick your species, pick your issue, pick your place, there is some one or some group ready and willing to go to the mat for it.

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



through the occasional

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panels the commercial harvest of