

Southwest Section Newsletter

Fall 2020 - Vol. 11 Issue #2

President's Message

Fidel Hernandez - 2020 President SW Section of The Wildlife Society

Autumn arrived in southern Texas this past week. After months of warm, humid mornings, I stepped outside last Tuesday into a cool, crisp dawn. I must admit that it took me by complete surprise. A cool front had quietly moved into the region overnight and dropped temperatures into the mid-50s F. What a welcomed surprise! I was on my way to an early morning workout but, given the unexpected gift of a cool morning, I decided to forgo the gym and go for a run instead. It was perfect: a leisure run with solitude and quietness. Ohhh how I relished the experience. I came back feeling refreshed and invigorated, ready to greet the day. It is amazing what a change in weather can do for the spirit.



Much has happened since the last issue of our newsletter, when hot summer days still plagued us. First and foremost, the Wildlife Society (TWS) held its first ever virtual conference during 27 September – 2 October 2020! The decision to go virtual occurred during early summer. TWS was deliberating whether a live conference was still possible but decided to go virtual as a precaution to the pandemic and uncertainty of the future. TWS had never conducted a virtual conference before and thus much planning—more than usual for a regular conference—had to occur. However, TWS was able to successfully pull it off! It was a unique and rewarding experience. There were many great presentations, posters, workshops, and working group meetings. In addition, there were panel discussions and office hours for presenters to engage with attendees. Discussion boards allowed one to post questions or congratulate colleagues or presenters on great talks. The virtual conference certainly was different, but it allowed one to remain engaged with the profession and connect with our colleagues and friends. I hope many of you were able to attend and engage.

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President's Message (cont.)

Fidel Hernandez - 2020 President SW Section of The Wildlife Society

One of the wonderful things about these conferences is that our profession has the opportunity to recognize members for their contribution to the profession. The Southwest Section was well represented among the honorees, as is always the case. Below is a brief list of the honorees:

- **Group Achievement Award:** Organizing Committee for the First and Second National Conferences on Wildlife Management and Conservation in Mexico (Mexico)
- **Student Chapter of the Year Award:** Stephen F. Austin State University Student (Texas)
- **TWS Fellows:** Randy DeYoung (Texas A&M University-Kingsville) and Fidel Hernández (Texas A&M University-Kingsville)
- **Incoming TWS President:** Carol Chambers (Northern Arizona University)

As was noted above, the Organizing Committee for the First and Second National Conferences on Wildlife Management and Conservation in Mexico was recognized for their efforts in unifying wildlife professionals in Mexico. This effort was, and is being, spearheaded by Dr. Luis Tarango-Arámbula (Colegio de Posgraduados, San Luis Potosi Campus) and Dr. Raul Valdez (Professor Emeritus, New Mexico State University). Luis and Raul have continued the effort to organize and unify Mexican wildlife professionals within a professional network, which they hope it can be as a Mexico Chapter of TWS. The formation of a new chapter requires at least 10 TWS members, and Mexico currently has 15. In late September, Luis organized a conference call with interested professionals from across Mexico, and he invited me to speak to the group as President of the SW Section regarding TWS, the benefits of being unified as a TWS Chapter, and how a Mexico Chapter fit into the overall TWS structure. There were more than 30 professionals on the call from universities, research centers, government agencies, and non-profit organizations, with many more who could not join the call due to schedule conflicts. It was an engaging and educational discussion where I learned much about professional needs, challenges, and opportunities in Mexico.

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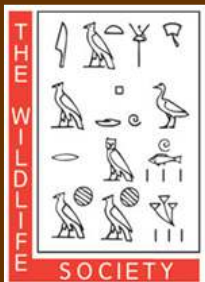
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Fidel Hernandez - 2020 President SW Section of The Wildlife Society

As a result of this positive discussion, Luis and Raul completed an application to formally establish a Mexico Chapter of TWS. The application was discussed by TWS Council during their fall meeting at the virtual conference, and it was received favorably. However, much work remains ahead in terms of international policies, regulations, etc. before TWS can render a decision on a Mexico Chapter of TWS. It would be a memorable achievement if, after more than 40 years of effort and past attempts, a Mexico Chapter of TWS could finally be established. Stay tuned in the coming months for updates and how you might contribute to the effort if interested.

These nice autumn mornings have continued in southern Texas, and I am enjoying every minute of them while they last. I use these autumn mornings as a reminder that beauty can be found everywhere, even in the smallest of things, such as the simple changing of seasons. I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well, and that you are enjoying the outdoors and finding beauty in the simple things in life.

Until next time,

Fidel Hernández



Fall sunflowers.
Photo courtesy of Onalise Hill.

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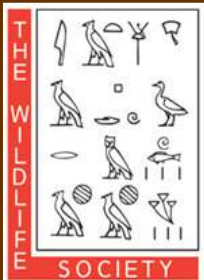
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Thank you to those that contributed to this newsletter: **Fidel Hernandez, Jim Ramakka, John Koprowski, Jake Hill, and John Palarski.**

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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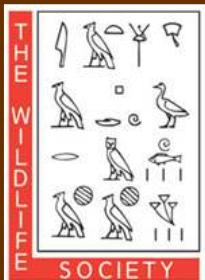
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Southwest Section Tracks

Jim Ramakka, Southwest Section Representative To Council

When I wrote my column for the TX and AZ Chapter newsletters in mid-September The Wildlife Society was preparing for our first ever virtual annual meeting. Due to the pandemic, TWS staff and contractors had been handed the monumental task of shifting from a live conference in Louisville to a virtual conference with barely 4 months to prepare. It was a stress filled summer, but the staff and volunteers were able to make it happen! Conference registration set a record at 2,495 individuals, which surpassed the record previous record set at last year's meeting in Reno! This included over 1,200 professional registrations which was 400 more than last year.



It was not the same experience as an in-person gathering, but it was a still an excellent conference. There were a few technical glitches, but fewer than experienced during other large virtual conferences during the summer. I missed not being able to chat face-to-face with old friends, but, due to recording of sessions, I viewed more papers and discussions than I would have been able to in-person. That enabled me to catch up on missed sessions the next morning after our home internet connection went down one afternoon.

Aside from missing the opportunity to spend breaks and evenings catching up with former colleagues and interacting with students and early career professionals, it was disappointing to not be able to shake hands with this year's TWS award winners including those from the Southwest Section:

Fidel Hernandez and Randy DeYoung – TWS Fellows Award

The Organizing Committee for the First and Second National Conferences on Wildlife Management and Conservation in Mexico – Group Achievement Award

Clint Boal - W.L. McAtee and G.V. Burger Award for Outstanding Service as an Associate Editor

Stephen F. Austin State University Student Chapter - Student Chapter of the Year Award

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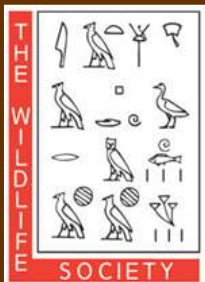
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Southwest Section Tracks

Jim Ramakka, Southwest Section Representative To Council

All of the individuals and organizations named as award recipients are certainly worthy of recognition for their contributions to TWS and to the wildlife profession. Conference attendees were able to participate in a virtual reception in honor of this year's Aldo Leopold Award recipient, my old friend Dr. John Organ. The reception also presented the opportunity to congratulate last year's recipient, Dr. Alan Wentz, for his outstanding keynote address, "Science and its Responsibility for Wildlife Policy." His address provided a valuable insight into role of non-profit organizations in the policy making arena.

The TWS Members meeting held on the last day failed to draw a quorum so no new business requiring a vote by the membership could be conducted. While Council has not been able to meet in-person since March, TWS business has continued despite the pandemic. During a July 2 Special Meeting via Zoom, Council approved a revised budget which took into account the transition to a virtual 2020 Annual Meeting, passed a motion to accept proposed revisions to the TWS Standing Position on Trapping Furbearers and passed a motion to allocate \$15,000 in the 2020-2021 FY budget to promote diversity and inclusion of underrepresented communities. Also discussed was a proposal to establish a TWS Ombud position to serve as a resource for members and staff of TWS to seek assistance, discuss concerns, and identify available options to help prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts in the context of the Mission and Policies of TWS. Follow-up actions on these and other issues were carried over to the Council's Annual Meeting, held via Zoom calls on September 26 and 27.

In addition to committee and sub-committee reports and staff program updates, discussion topics during Council's Annual meeting included:

- Membership - paid membership of stands at 11,052 (an increase of 309 compared to last year)

- Budget - positive investment returns, unexpected non-member bequests, lower than projected expenses, and the success of last year's Annual Meeting in Reno have resulted in a budget surplus.

- Budget planning for FY21 will continue to be approached cautiously due to the uncertainty regarding potential long-term financial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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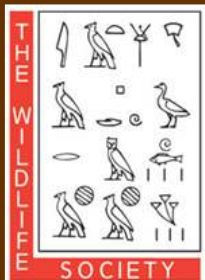
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Jim Ramakka, Southwest Section Representative To Council

Potential Bylaw Revisions were reviewed and will be sent to Organization Units and Working Groups for comment before being sent to the membership for review and comment. The establishment of an Ombud's Office was approved. TWS Staff continues to work with legal counsel in developing recommendations for organization unit incorporation. Council reviewed a petition to establish a TWS Chapter in Mexico. Council is in favor of the concept and asked TWS Staff to work with the proponents and TWS legal counsel on organizational format. Council approved changes to the Certification Review Board (CRB) Operating Manual as recommended by the CRB in coordination with the Liaison Committee. Wiley Publishing Updates and Recommendations. Discussion of formatting the Gender Field in the Member Database. Review and Discussion of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Funding Proposal. Discussion of the North American Non-Lead Partnership. Update of Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency (AFWA) programs and activities.

Related to the last item, AFWA, along with TWS and other professional organizations have recognized the need to address diversity, equity and inclusion issues in our profession. A plenary session titled; "Conservation in the Time of Coronavirus: Social Pandemics. Cultural



Female Broad-tailed Hummingbird.
Photo courtesy Jim Ramakka

Pandemics" at AFWA's recent annual meeting, along with similar keynote sessions at the North American Ornithological Congress, and the panel discussion: "Dismantling Systemic Racism in the Wildlife Profession", held during our virtual meeting all presented powerful messages on a topic we need to continue to address if we are to retain public support and stay relevant in today's changing world.

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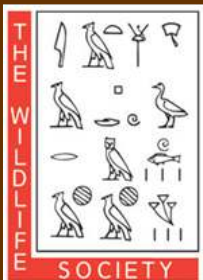
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Jim Ramakka, Southwest Section Representative To Council

Council concluded the 2020 Members Meeting of The Wildlife Society with a unanimous Council Proclamation referencing "the dedication, commitment, hard work, problem-solving skills and professionalism of all TWS staff" and declaring:

"Be it proclaimed that The Council of The Wildlife Society heartily commends and congratulates all TWS staff for their tremendous effort and dedication in holding the 2020 virtual conference thereby making a tangible contribution to the advancement of both wildlife science and the wildlife profession."

Finally, I hope we will all take a moment to remember Reed Sanderson, who passed away a few days after participating in our virtual meeting from his hospital bed. Reed was an active and enthusiastic participant at all levels of TWS throughout his long working career and retirement. He was not only a consummate professional, but also a good friend. He will be missed - Se vaya bien, mi amigo. Jim



Claret Cup Cactus (*Echinocereus triglochidiatus*) New Mexico

Photo courtesy Jim Ramakka.

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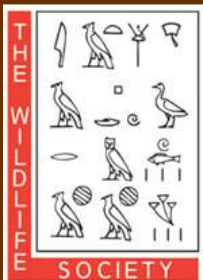
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Student News

Jake Hill - Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU) Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society President

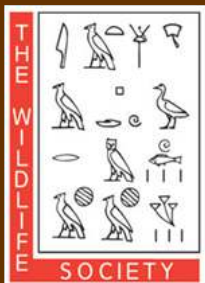
What is the common name of this species: *Pinus taeda*? That's right, only a Lumberjack would know that one! (Hint: look it up!) However, Lumberjacks are much more than just foresters who know the scientific names of trees but are also wildlife biologists who use science based sustainable forestry practices to create rich wildlife populations with quality wildlife habitat. This is the essence of the Forest-Wildlife Management degree at the Stephen F. Austin State University Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture. The student members of the SFASU Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society (SFA TWS) embody this mindset and so strive to develop their skills as young wildlife professionals through the SFA TWS, both in and out of the classroom.

The SFA TWS has had a busy, historic, and very successful 2019-2020 school year. The chapter held more events, went to more conferences, hosted more guest speakers, and provided more professional career opportunities for students than ever before, all in the name of fulfilling the chapter's mission of producing wildlife professionals and leaders trained for the field of wildlife management and conservation.



Participants of the first SFASU TWS Adult Mentored Hunt.
Photo courtesy of SFASU Student Chapter TWS.

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Jake Hill - Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU) Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society President

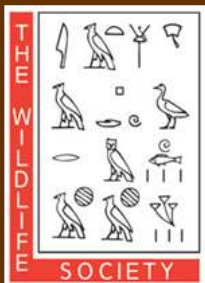
The scope of the chapter's outreach, involvement, and partnerships has grown significantly in the past year and continues to expand. This year, chapter officials endeavored to provide members with valuable experiences and opportunities in order to give students a well-rounded, broad view of the wildlife profession as well as bricks and mortar for their resumes. Installing water control structures for waterfowl units, assisting with the inaugural eMammal survey hosted by the Smithsonian Institute, transplanting wetland plants for a wetland restoration project, banding blue wing teal, and even hosting an adult mentored hunt are just a few examples of what chapter members had opportunities to engage in as a part of the SFA TWS. Many of the chapter's members also take part in undergraduate research for the wildlife faculty of the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture. This research includes many different taxa including avian communities, mammals, and herps! Undergraduate research on snake entanglements in erosion control blankets was even recognized as one of the top ten TWS stories of 2019.

Policy has played a pivotal role in the conservation story of North America's wildlife. The chapter realizes this and understands its importance to the education and development of a wildlife professional. In an effort to engage chapter members in wildlife policy and advocacy, the chapter created an Advocacy and Policy Committee.



SFASU TWS members untangling ducks from a rocket net while on a banding trip with LDWF. Photo courtesy of SFASU Student Chapter of TWS.

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Jake Hill - Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU) Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society President

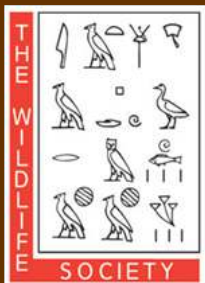
The committee is very active and has been recognized both at the state and national levels for their efforts. Most of the committee's focus has been on the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) for which the committee has tailored a very strategic advocacy program. Through the program the chapter has given presentations to different organizations, designed advocacy videos made accessible to the public, sent letters and phone calls to congressional representatives, and developed bill information on the chapter's webpage. Chapter representatives also serve on state and national committees such as the TCTWS Conservation Affairs Sub-committee for RAWA and Student Advocates for Natural Resource Legislation (SANRL), a sub-committee of the TWS Student Development Working Group (SDWG). Both committees were co-formed and are co-chaired by student members of the SFA TWS.

The chapter has also increased its partnerships through collaborations with local conservation organizations. The chapter works closely with the U.S. Forest Service, National Wild Turkey Federation, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Youth Hunting Program, East Texas Safari Club (a chapter of the Dallas Safari Club), Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, East Texas Black Bear Alliance, Texas Alliance for Fish and Wildlife, and Ducks Unlimited. The chapter also works closely with several local landowners.

Other strides which the chapter has taken to provide its members with professional development, among other things, include attending conferences. As is well known, state and national conferences provide excellent opportunities for students to engage with career professionals.



SFASU Student Chapter TWS receives the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Student Quiz Bowl trophy at the 2020 Texas Annual Conference. Photo courtesy SFASU Student Chapter TWS.



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Student News

Jake Hill - Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU) Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society President

This past year the chapter was able to travel to the National TWS conference held in Reno, Nevada, the first time in 10 years! Last February, like so many other chapters, the SFA TWS traveled to Corpus Christi for the annual TCTWS conference where the chapter's quiz bowl team were the Quiz Bowl Champions for a second year in a row while the chapter also received the 2020 TCTWS Student Chapter of The Year award.

Chapter plans for the spring semester of 2020 were capsized, as were most of society's, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Plans to attend the national 2020 TWS conference in Louisville, Kentucky were also cancelled due to the Society's decision to move the conference to a virtual format. Yet, chapter officers continue diligently in their duties scheduling speakers, organizing fundraisers, planning field experiences, etc. in hopes of another successful fall semester. However, the chapter recently received notification from the TWS headquarters that the SFA TWS was selected to receive The Wildlife Society's 2020 Student Chapter of the Year Award, a first in student chapter history.

"Lumberjacks make great..." is a phrase often used at SFA. SFA TWS alumni have proven that Lumberjacks make great wildlife biologists... as well as foresters, conservationists, managers, leaders, etc. The chapter continues in its work and dedication to its students just as it did so many years ago when first starting in 1974, training wildlife leaders of tomorrow...today!

Axe E'm Jacks.

Jake Hill



SFASU students attend TWS conference in Reno, Nevada.
Photo courtesy of SFASU Student Chapter TWS.

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John Palarski - Tarleton State University Graduate Assistant

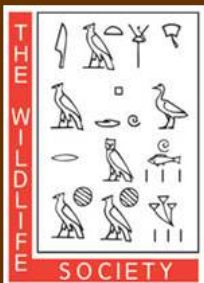
John Palarski, is a Masters of Science graduate student in Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences Department at Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas

Northern Bobwhite Translocation Research: Year 2

During the first week of March 2020, I, John Palarski, and student volunteers kicked off year two of the Erath County translocation project. Over the course of that week, we trapped and translocated 236 bobwhites ($n = 190$ south Texas, $n = 46$ west Texas) to a release site in Erath County. Of these individuals, 110 ($n = 76$ female, $n = 34$ male) were radiomarked. Over the course of the past 2 years, we have translocated 403 total individuals to Erath County, making this the largest ongoing bobwhite translocation effort in Texas. One of our primary objectives is to compare differences in survival and reproductive success between two subspecies (*Colinus virginianus taylori* and *Colinus virginianus texanus*) originating from northwest Texas and south Texas, respectively. *C. v. taylori* is the native subspecies historically found on the release site in Erath County.

Breeding season survival was improved from 2019 with cumulative survival estimates for individuals released in 2020 approximately 18%. We have not detected a difference in survival between subspecies. Spring whistle counts in May 2020 showed an increase from previous year's counts, which was likely due to the increase in survival. Nest initiation rates for both west Texas and south Texas birds were high in 2020. In total, we located 51 nests.

For both 2019 and 2020, individuals from northwest Texas have produced 48% more nests than south Texas. This difference is stark, but it does not mean that south Texas birds have been unproductive. South Texas hens had a high nest initiation rate (0.71 nests per hen) in 2020.



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Student News

John Palarski - Tarleton State University Graduate Assistant

This project is a joint collaboration between Tarleton State University and the Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation (RPQRR). The project is co-advised by Dr. **Heather Mathewson** (Tarleton State) and Dr. **Dale Rollins** (RPQRR). This project has provided opportunities for two additional undergraduates to conduct research and present at state and national The Wildlife Society conferences.

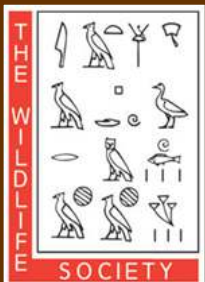
We thank Bass Pro Shops, Park Cities and Cross Timbers Chapters of Quail Coalition, Steve and Joan Smith, Jim and Barbara Salter, East Foundation, the Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation, and Tarleton State Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences Department for facilitating this project. We also thank John McLaughlin (Texas Parks & Wildlife), Becky Ruzicka (RPQRR), and Daniel King (RPQRR) for their advice and insight. Technicians Kelli Bashaw, Elizabeth Brogan, Molly Koeck, Cody Carter, and Brandon Consalus provided skilled support during trapping and surveillance tasks.

Lastly, we thank all our "Quail Donors" for allowing us to trap on their property to gather birds for this effort. Principal Investigators for this project are Dr. Heather Mathewson, Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences, and Dr. Dale Rollins from Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation.



*John Palarski holding a radio-marked male Northern Bobwhite.
Photo Courtesy Elizabeth Brogan.*

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SWS TWS Southwestern Wildlife Graduate Student Scholarship Call for Applications:

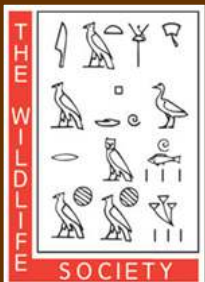
The Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society is soliciting applications for the \$500 Southwestern Wildlife Student Scholarship. This scholarship will be presented at either the 2021 Joint Annual Meeting of the New Mexico and Arizona Chapters of The Wildlife Society and the Arizona/New Mexico Chapter of the American Fisheries Society or the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Please submit nominations electronically by 15 December 2020 to fidel.hernandez@tamuk.edu

Southwestern Wildlife Student Scholarship Description:

The Southwestern Wildlife Student Scholarship is an award in the amount of \$500 that is given annually to a graduate student who is currently enrolled in a natural resource-oriented program at a college or university in Arizona, New Mexico, or Texas and is studying wildlife. 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. The Southwest Section's Geospatial Advisory Committee encourages exchange of information regarding the application of geospatial technology to wildlife research. In support of the work of this committee, students 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, are also encouraged to apply. Incorporation of these technologies in an applicant's graduate research is NOT required; applicants not using these technologies should still apply.

Application Format:

The application package should be addressed to the Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society Board and consists of a cover letter and current resume. The cover letter should be no longer than one page, and the resume no longer than two pages. Please use standard one inch margins and size 12 font. The application package should contain the following information:



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SWS TWS Southwestern Wildlife Graduate Student Scholarship Call for Applications (continued)

In their **cover letter**, applicants should briefly describe their graduate research project, state their academic and professional goals, and include details on past and anticipated future contributions to the conservation of biodiversity in the Southwestern United States, including Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, and elsewhere. Applicants should also provide information on relevant leadership experience, either through academic or professional experiences or extracurricular activities. Finally, applicants must provide a brief statement of financial need, including personal indebtedness related to education, current scholarships, grants or assistantships, and whether the applicant has previously received the Southwestern Wildlife Student Scholarship.

Resumes should contain detailed information on educational experience including: field of study; college or university where currently enrolled and those previously attended; expected date of completion; completed relevant coursework; and cumulative grade point average. Additional information on honors, awards, and/or scholarships previously received is also appropriate. Resumes should also include information on professional experience, whether paid or volunteer, including employers, locations, time periods, and brief descriptions of work responsibilities.

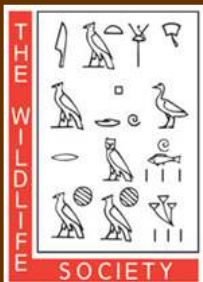
Scholarship Criteria:

The Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society Board reviews applications and determines awardees through a ranked review process based on the following criteria:

Current cumulative grade point average and related educational experience and/or achievements receive the highest consideration during the review process.

Contribution(s) to the field, especially current and anticipated future contributions to the conservation of biodiversity in states within the Southwest Section, receive secondary consideration.

Demonstrated leadership through professional and/or academic experiences is also given consideration during the review process, as is the inclusion of geospatial data and/or technology in a student's graduate research project.



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SWS TWS Southwestern Wildlife Graduate Student Scholarship Call for Applications: (continued)

Application Submittals:

Applications for the SWS of TWS Southwestern Wildlife Student Scholarship should be submitted electronically to:

Fidel Hernández, President of the Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society at fidel.hernandez@tamuk.edu

Please write Southwestern Wildlife Student Scholarship in the subject line and include the submittal package as one email attachment (pdf is preferred) using the following naming format:

Applicant Name_SWSTWS_SWScholarship_Year

Example: FidelHernandez_SWSTWS_SWScholarship_2020



Immature Cooper's Hawk.
Photo courtesy Eres Gomez.



Southwest Section News



Members' News

Until We Meet Again ~ John Koprowski

"Happy trails to you, until we meet again" may conjure images of life out on the land of the Southwest. To me, it has special meaning as a favorite saying of H. Reed Sanderson, a good friend of mine and many who will read this essay, who passed away just a couple of weeks ago. The phrase also fits my recent professional transition as I write this message from my new home in Laramie, Wyoming. I recently decided to take on a new challenge as Dean of the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming after 20 years at the University of Arizona. I retired as a Professor Emeritus from University of Arizona and headed north in late September. My impeccable timing is on display...a pandemic, budget challenges in academia, a horrific fire season and the Wyoming winter...yes, the perfect time to move.



To some around the country, the Southwest Section covers arid wastelands with endless miles of 'desert' said with disdain. For those of us who have called the Southwest Section home, we know that our region is incredibly diverse in topography and biotic communities from the wonder of blooming deserts to the crispness and clarity of alpine meadows. From remote ranches to small towns to tribal communities to metropolises, our people have long valued the sustainability of our landscapes and livelihoods. Our unique landscapes range from the vastness of a saguaro-filled Sonoran Desert and solitude of the West Texas Plains to the incredible diversity (and humidity!) around a tiny tinaja or a subterranean cavern. What a wonderful place to have spent two decades of my life.

The efforts of my mentors, colleagues, collaborators and students to make a difference have been inspirational. The challenges of vast landscapes are not simply with logistics. Most of us have driven the backcountry in our wildlife conservation and management efforts and changed a tire just in time to beat the sunset or completed the walk of shame after high centering our vehicle before we even knew what the term 'high center' meant! Working these landscapes for wildlife management and conservation requires working with a variety of people to bring people together and find a way forward on some of the most challenging wildlife issues that face our world. Managing

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Until We Meet Again ~ John Koprowski (continued)

our game populations from quail to bighorn, endangered species conservation from Sonoran tiger salamanders and Mt. Graham red squirrels to Mexican wolves, ocelots and jaguars, and human-wildlife conflict from javelina in our garbage cans to rabies in our meso-carnivores, the challenges are many. Southwest Section wildlifers are a hearty bunch and are attracted to such difficult and complex problems...because making a difference is what motivates our group.

The Southwest Region is such an incredibly important region of the country and one in which I have thoroughly enjoyed working on wildlife conservation and management issues of the last 20 years. I will continue to research the challenges of the Southwest from more northerly climes and will hope to make a difference. I rest assured that the region is in the good hands of my talented, committed and passionate colleagues and legions of excited, energetic and well-trained students poised to take on the challenges of climate change, water, urban growth, international borders, inclusion, energy development, and sustainable livelihoods. Thank you until we meet again!

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Research Gate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/John_Koprowski



Note from the editors: John may be a little misplaced for now but like many members that move away from the Southwest, he is maintaining his membership in the Southwest Section TWS.



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In Memoriam

H. Reed Sanderson July 8, 1932 — October 8, 2020

Reed was a great friend to many and always so kind to students at TWS conferences, whether national or regional. He passed peacefully after a long battle with a series of maladies. Always a great proponent of The Wildlife Society, Reed attended the virtual TWS conference from his hospital bed. He will be missed.

I am hoping that we might find a way to support a student travel grant to the AZ/TWS in Reed's name or if you have other ideas, please let me know. ~ John Koprowski

~~~~~

In visiting with Reed's son Allen, it brought a smile to my face to hear that Reed insisted Allen bring his laptop to the hospital prior to the start of The Wildlife Society's Virtual Conference so he wouldn't miss the Plenary. We should all strive to be as loyal to The Wildlife Society and our friends and colleagues as Reed was. ~ Misty Sumner

~~~~~



Photo and obituary
Courtesy Allen Sanderson

Reed was born at home near Huston, Idaho on July 8, 1932 and died on October 8, 2020 in Salt Lake City, Utah. His parents were Rowland Frost and Leanore Sanderson. His father died in 1934 and after his mother married Burton Sanderson, he was adopted by his step-father. Reed was married to his wife Georgiana (Georgie) for 58 years. She preceded him in death in May 2019.

He grew up in California spending the school years in Likely and Williams where his mother taught school on the Indian Reservations and his summers in the San Francisco Bay area with Grandparents and Uncles. When WWII started, they moved to Tiburon as his step-father was stationed there as part of the Navy's defense forces manning the antisubmarine nets across the San Francisco Bay. He and his younger brother Rod spent many hours hiking the foothills of Mt. Tamalpais, climbing Redwood trees and swinging in the Bay trees. To earn money they delivered newspapers, which allowed them to have bicycles during the war.





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After WWII his family moved to Pleasant Hill where in 1950 he graduated from Mt. Diablo High School while working for Laila's Florist shop. Some 40 years later his niece Lynn also worked there. Because of the long family connection, the owner personally made deliveries of flowers to his mother. While in High School he was part of the Naval Air Reserves at the Oakland Naval Air Station. As an Airman Apprentice he reported to an F-6 fighter squadron where his job was to warm and check out the engines and unfold and fold the aircraft wings as they left and returned to the parking area.

After High School he attended Eastern Contra Costa Junior College in Martinez (now Diablo Valley College) for two years where he discovered a real interest in biological science and decided to become a wildlife biologist. His plans to attend Humboldt State University with his lifelong friend Russ got put on hold because of the outbreak of the Korean War.

Though part of the Naval Air Reserves, he was draft exempt but could be called to active duty sooner than those being called for the draft. His step-father who was career Navy suggested he request active duty with the fleet so to earn credits for the GI Bill and funds for college. So he did and was stationed on the USS Rendova an escort carrier out of San Diego, California. During one of the training exercises his step-father's destroyer was assigned as their escort. While at sea, his step-father's destroyer came alongside to be refueled, so he went to the signal bridge and through hand wave communication the Chief on the destroyer located his step-father and arrangements were made to meet in Long Beach after the exercise concluded. That was the highlight of his Navy career as otherwise he made a lousy sailor as every time the seas got rough, he got sick!

With the war ending in 1954 he was released from active duty and finally headed to Humboldt State University. In the summer of 1956, he worked for the National Park Service at Dinosaur National Monument as a Ranger Naturalist. During that summer he floated part of the Green River and nearly 50 years later floated the same section of river with his son, Allen. After graduating in 1957 with his Bachelor's of Science in Wildlife he worked at Muir Woods National Monument as a Ranger.

In 1959 he graduated from Colorado State University with his Master's of Science in Range Management with a thesis on jackrabbit forage on short-grass range. He and his pet skunk moved back to



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California and soon afterwards he started working for the US Forest Service as a Research Range Conservationist in Susanville, California. While there a young lady was interviewed for an office position. Afterwards the Administrative Assistant, who did the interview, enthusiastically asked him what he thought of her. He replied, "You are hiring our Clerk Typist; not my wife." Words that he would later eat!

She was hired and Reed and Georgie were married February 11, 1961 in Reno, NV. They had two children, Christine Butson and Allen R. Sanderson; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. In the spring of 1963 they moved to the US Forest Service San Joaquin Experimental Range outside of Oakhurst California working there until 1966 when he moved his family to Morgantown, WV and continued working for the US Forest Service as Wildlife Biologist studying the habitat of the Eastern Gray Squirrel. To understand their denning and breeding behavior, Reed built the world's first and only squirrel pen; an acre of hardwood forest surrounded by 8-foot-high fence topped with a 3 foot of sheet metal top. Reed spent many hours there in a tree-top blind observing squirrel behavior. Much to Georgie's displeasure more than once after a day in the field checking squirrel nests he would come home with fleas. During their time in West Virginia Reed and Georgie's love of birding came about as they along with friends founded the Mountaineer Chapter of the Audubon Society, which just celebrated their 50th year as an organization. During the 70s Reed played a jug in the Appalachian folk band known as the Wild Turkey String Band.

In 1976 he and his family moved west once again settling in La Grande, Oregon working as a Range Scientist at the US Forest Service's Range and Wildlife Laboratory where he lead the Oregon Range Evaluation Project. In 1989 he retired from the US Forest Service and he and Georgie migrated south to Arizona to continue their birding adventures while volunteering as caretakers at the US Forest Service Santa Rita Experimental Range. In 1996 they settled permanently in Green Valley, Arizona and built a home that was an oasis for birds while he and Georgie became interested in genealogy. They joined the Green Valley Genealogy Society where Reed was the President for several years.

Reed retired again in 2007 after working part time for the University of Arizona for 15 years monitoring the Mt. Graham Red Squirrel as a



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liaison with federal and state agencies. Reed was committed to making a difference and bringing people together to take on the most difficult challenges. He authored or co-authored more than 30 scientific papers and hundreds of technical reports on wildlife and range management to provide applied approaches to increasing the quality and sustainability of landscapes. His final publication was the 2009 book for which he served as primary editor, *The Last Refuge of the Mt. Graham Red Squirrel: Ecology of Endangerment*.

Reed was an active member of his profession and especially enjoyed meeting and encouraging student and junior professionals. Whether it was the Society for Range Management or The Wildlife Society (TWS), Reed was always viewed as an engaged mentor, chatting with students about a wonderful life in the profession as he proudly wore his Past President's pin next to his supporter of Women of Wildlife pin. He served in many roles for these professional societies but his favorite role was as a tireless proponent of TWS Retired Wildlife Professionals Committee to capitalize on the energy and life experience of this group. This quote from Reed remains on the Committee's web page: "I attended The Wildlife Society's 20th Annual Conference in Milwaukee. I've been to many others, and I am always amazed at the changes I see. The most encouraging is the increasing number of students and women. But one thing remains unchanged: There are always dedicated retirees remembering the past, discussing the present, and looking to the future of TWS. I'm one of those who can take the long view. I joined TWS in 1955 when I was a wildlife student at Humboldt State University. One of my professors, Ray Dasmann, said: "If you are going to be a wildlife biologist, you need to join The Wildlife Society." I'm glad I did".

In honor of a lifetime of service to the wildlife management profession, Reed was elected by his peers as a Fellow of The Wildlife Society in 2013. He considered this his ultimate professional honor and the professionals that elected him were honored to have known Reed.

Reed's ashes will be mingled with Georgie's and will be placed to rest in the Trinity Center Cemetery, Trinity County, California. Reed and Georgie will be remembered by family and friends at a gathering in the Redwoods at a later time.



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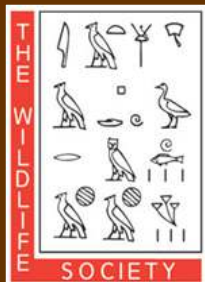
H. Reed Sanderson July 8, 1932 — October 8, 2020

Reed may be remembered by sending a donation to Save the Redwood League, 111 Sutter Street, 11th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104

or Reed and Georgia Sanderson Student Travel Award Fund, Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society, PO Box 41337, Phoenix, AZ 85080.



John Koprowski, Reed Sanderson, and Melissa Merrick at Aldo Leopold's Shack .
Photo Courtesy Reed Sanderson's Facebook page.



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In Memoriam

Buddy "Bud" Bristow January 4, 1938—September 22, 2020

Buddy Dale Bristow passed into eternal rest on September 22nd, 2020 in Tucson, Arizona. He was born on January 4th, 1938 to Pete and Eilla Bristow of Massey, Oklahoma and grew up in nearby Crowder. It was here, in the woods and waters of the family ranch, that he acquired his strong moral compass, and a deep love for wildlife and the outdoors. Buddy was very proud of his Oklahoma heritage.

He attended Crowder High School, Class of 1956, and Oklahoma State University, Class of 1961, where he received a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Wildlife Management.

He soon moved his young family to Arizona to begin a career with the Arizona Game and Fish Department which spanned 25 years, culminating with the position of Director of the Agency. Bud retired from the Arizona Game and Fish Department in 1986. Following a short break and an extensive African safari, Bud dove back into the wildlife conservation arena when he was asked to serve as the Director of Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. He lived and worked in Richmond, Virginia for the remainder of his career and entered into retirement, for real this time.

Bud and his wife, Alicia, moved back to Arizona to be closer to their grandchildren but remained active in the conservation arena during his retirement years. He served on various advisory boards and committees on both the state and local level. He attended the grandkids' soccer, baseball, gymnastics and football games and was always available to take his grandchildren hunting and fishing to pass on his wildlife legacy.

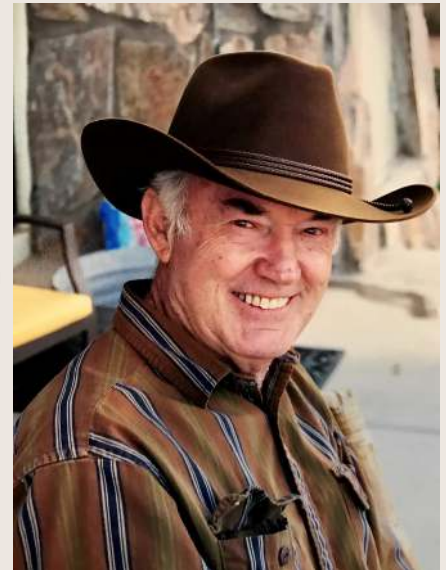


Photo courtesy Alicia Bristow.

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In Memoriam (cont.)

Dr. Robert Otto Dittmar, II DVM . October 18, 1955 — August 8, 2020

Many wildlifers think of Dr. Dittmar as the first state wildlife veterinarian for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, but before this position he served his community for over 30 years as a small and large animal veterinarian in the Hill Country. In all aspects of his life, Dr. Dittmar was known for his dedication to service, whether volunteering with local junior livestock shows, at Texas Brigades, or during youth hunts on his family ranch. Dr. Dittmar passed along his passion for conservation not just to youth, but to all who were blessed to work alongside him.

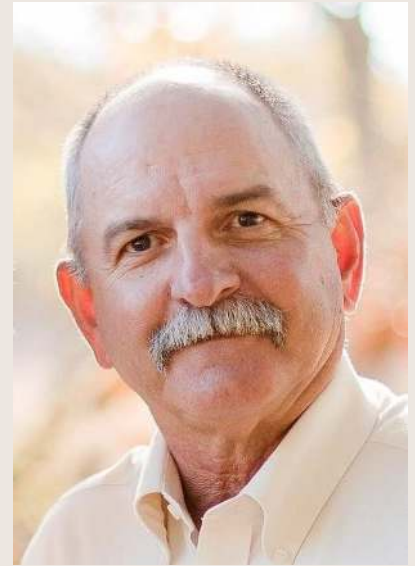


Photo courtesy Grimes Funeral Chapel 2020.

Dewey Douglas Stockbridge November 16, 1983—August 8, 2020

Conservation of desert bighorn sheep was Dewey's passion throughout his wildlife career, starting with his first position as a technician at Black Gap Wildlife Management Area and eventually leading to his role as Wildlife Biologist for Elephant Mountain WMA. Through his dedication to habitat restoration for desert bighorn, Dewey has helped preserve this iconic Texas species. Dewey also contributed to wildlife conservation through membership and service in many organizations, and, perhaps most importantly, through sharing his knowledge and passion with friends, family, and his young children.



Photo courtesy TPWD 2020.

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In Memoriam (cont.)

Brandon Keith White December 7, 1967—August 8, 2020

Toughness with love and work ethic with laughter were qualities that characterized Brandon's life and cherished by those who knew him. Brandon could teach himself nearly any skill yet was fortunate that his vocation and avocation met in his role as fish and wildlife technician for TPWD, where he contributed to conservation of desert bighorn sheep and many other species of his beloved TransPecos. The outdoors were truly Brandon's home, whether he was on horseback or on foot, working diligently alone in the vast west Texas landscape or hunting side by side with friends.



Photo courtesy Alpine Memorial Funeral home 2020.



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

Newsletter:

Jamie Killian 7race13@gmail.com 830-480-9043
& **Misty Sumner** msmuledeer@gmail.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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