

Monthly Newsletter

September 2024

¡SALUDOS A TODAS Y TODOS!

Hispanic Heritage Month

Highlight Latino Wildlife Society Members



The Wildlife Society and LACWG is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month (September 14 - October 15). This is a special month celebrating Latino heritage here in the US and across Latin America and the Caribbean! LACWG members will be featured on The Wildlife Society's *Meet a Member Monday* Series on the TWS Weekly Newsletter/Instagram **and** in a [Wildlife Vocalizations](#) article. These materials along with infographics, featured research articles, and more will be posted throughout the month.

Also - be on the look out for **give aways** and **fundraising** activities!

Celebrate Latino Conservation Week

September 14-22



Latino Conservation Week is an initiative by the [Hispanic Access Foundation](#) that aims to encourage the Latino community to engage with the outdoors and natural resources.

Throughout Latino Conservation Week, various organizations hold events nationwide. These activities range from hiking and camping to community roundtables and film screenings. They promote conservation efforts within the community and provide Latinos with an opportunity to support the permanent protection of the environment.



You can access the list of Latino Conservation Week events happening **across** the country by using the following link: <https://latinoconservationweek.com/events/2024-events>

We are still looking for volunteers! If you are interested in participating please send an email to Interim-Chair Carlos Hinojosa (Carlos12611@vt.edu) or lacwg.tws@gmail.com

If interested in helping execute Hispanic Heritage Month, please consider joining our **Events and Planning Committee!**

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Welcome Our New Board Members!



Ana Meiga Brazil Engagement Chair

I am a Brazilian biologist and PhD Candidate at the University of Florida. My research focuses on animal movement, behavior, and conservation. I have an MS in Biodiversity and Conservation from São Carlos Federal University, Brazil. I evaluated the potential impact of mammalian defaunation on the regeneration of palms in the Atlantic Forest. I also participated in projects in the Amazon and Pantanal biomes. My quest for knowledge and global perspective led me to Seattle (USA) and has been instrumental in enhancing my leadership abilities, and intercultural communication, all while contributing to community service and volunteer projects.

Steffani Singh Caribbean Engagement Chair

I am an MSc student at the University of British Columbia Okanagan with a concentration in conservation science. I am studying what habitat types within burned forests are used by at-risk bird species, as well as how populations recover as forests regenerate over time post-fire. I also currently volunteer as an editor intern for the Caribbean-based CESaRE Impacts magazine, selecting and editing articles about conservation and environmental science in the Caribbean. I received my BSc in Ecology Biodiversity from the University of Malaya, Malaysia. I am extremely enthusiastic about spreading knowledge about the importance of our wonderful wildlife.



MEET ALL OF OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMEBRS


JOIN OUR OFFICER BOARD & COMMITTEES

- Treasury & Grants Chair
- Social Media Chairs (3)
- Student Development Chair

To apply go to:
tinyurl.com/lacwg-join

Help Us Expand Our Leadership Team!

We have multiple Officers and Committee Chairs open for those interested. Access or share the link below:

[Join Our Team!](#) 

For more information on the positions and their roles access the link below:

[Learn More](#)

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Membership Trial Database

Would you or someone you know benefit from a trial TWS membership?

We have started a database of individuals that are eligible for a six month Wildlife Society membership trial. The only requirement is that the recipient cannot have been a member of TWS previously. If you or someone you know meets the criteria and wants to be a member, **fill out this form** so another member can gift them a free membership!

Individuals from the list will be chosen at random when a trial becomes available.

Benefits of a membership:

- Online access to TWS journals
- Can become an official member of LACWG (with \$5 fee)
- Reduced fees for conferences
- Many others!

[Put your name on the list for a Membership Trial](#) 

Share your field stories and pictures with us!

We want to hear more from you and the work that you do, we will have a space in our newsletter to share the stories and pictures you have, please fill out this form if you want to see your story in our next bulletin.

[Tell Us Your Field Stories!](#) 

Salamanders in Tennessee



Hi! I'm Carlos Hinojosa, a Mexican-American undergraduate senior from Virginia Tech. Every year, I volunteer to help my professor, Dr. Kevin Hamed, with his Four-toed Salamander (*Hemidactylium scutatum*) fieldwork. Not only are these plethodontid salamanders cool, with unique spotting that aids in identification, like giraffes or jaguars, but females have also been noted to use the same nesting locations—often clumps of moss adjacent to water—year after year.

Four-toed salamanders have striking white bellies with black spotting. However, during the spring of 2023, while I and a group of students were assisting with fieldwork, we came across not one, but two Four-toed Salamanders with dark or melanistic coloration. To the best of our knowledge, this hadn't been seen before, so it was super exciting to make such a unique discovery during one of my first fieldwork experiences as a freshman. Although I can only dedicate one or two weekends a year to helping out with the fieldwork, I am incredibly grateful for the experience and recommend that other undergraduates seize any opportunity to try something new. You never know what you might find!

Top left: Melanistic Four-toed Salamander. Top right: Carlos Hinojosa. Bottom: Typical Four-toed Salamander specimen (Photo Credit: Charlie Holguin) Note the difference in the undersides between the two individuals. Salamanders were handled with proper permits.

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Other Updates

Annual Conference

The Latin American & Caribbean Working Group will host its first In-Person Meeting at the 2024 Annual Conference in Baltimore!

More details to come but the current plan is:

- Hold roundtables to discuss issues in our community
- Host a networking session
- Hear updates from the Mexico and Southwest Chapter

You can access more information about the annual conference and register [here](#)



Resources

- [The Wildlife Society Annual Conference Travel Grants](#)
- [Native Peoples' Wildlife Management Working Group: Professional Development Program](#)



If you are able, we'd be honored to have you as an official member of the LACWG. At this time, it costs \$5 USD, and you must be a current member of TWS. Please reach out to us if you have any concerns regarding the fee.

Join the working_group

- Log in to your TWS account.
- Under Membership, select Add Organization Unit Membership.
- Under Working Groups, select Latin American and Caribbean Working Group.
- Check out.

The TWS Latin American and Caribbean Working Group is dedicated to fostering collaboration and addressing critical issues in the region related to wildlife and conservation.

Our primary aim is to create a platform for professionals, researchers, and enthusiasts to come together, share knowledge, and work to better serve TWS members in Latin America, the Caribbean, and those within the regions' diaspora.

[THOUGHTS AND SUGGESTIONS](#)



The Latin American & Caribbean Working Group
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

[TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF!](#)