



Southwest Section Newsletter

Spring 2014 - Vol. 4 Issue #1

From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

State News

International News

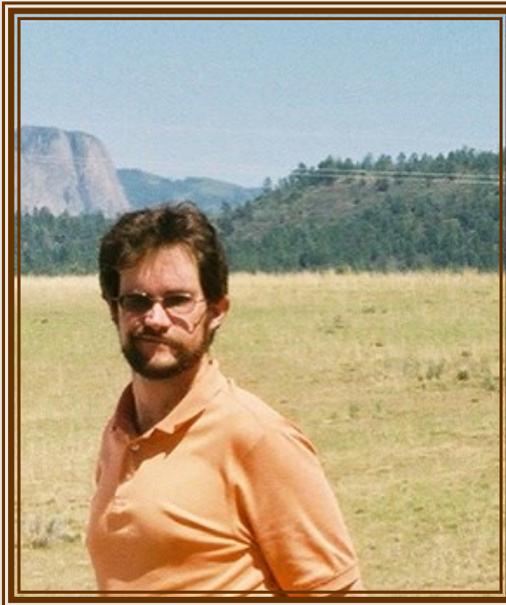
Tribal News

Student Chapters

Council News

President's Message

Leland Pierce, 2014 President Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society



Leland Pierce
leland.pierce@state.nm.us

"Go west, young man."

That's what the American author Horace Greeley proposed for the United States prior to 1900. My suspicion is the Wildlife Society is heading there as well, heading here. The trick will be to be ready for it. Later on in this newsletter there will be a bit of information on the Section's new Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC), which is part of the National TWS Conservation Affairs Network. The parent society to the Section is getting their ducks in a row, setting up a network to effectively communicate and act upon conservation issues from the chapters on up to national-and the sections will serve as the conduit for this communication. What's more, the Southwest Section is rife not only with issues but with leaders; look at who it was

that put on the stellar "Women of Wildlife" Session at the Milwaukee national conference last year, look at who is the chair of the Retired Wildlife Professionals committee for the parent society (hint: all come out of our Section). I strongly believe the Southwest Section can be a leader, a trailblazer, for the TWS Conservation Affairs Network. If we have the warm bodies to make it happen.

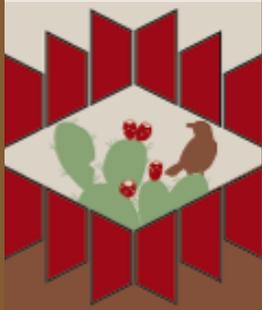
I am out of New Mexico and therefore have regularly attended an annual meeting held jointly between the Arizona and New Mexico chapters. This year I was able to attend the Texas chapter meeting, their 50th, in Austin. Arizona is different from Texas and Texas is definitely different from New Mexico but one thing is commonly shared between the three chapters: all are very strong. And therein is an challenge if the Southwest Section is to move forward as an important leader in the TWS Conservation Affairs Network. In order to provide the people, the infrastructure, to allow the Section to be a leader in conservation under the Conservation Affairs Network, the Section has to provide value that helps people identify with the Section, that encourages our members to participate in Section activities - including the CAC.

- Continued on page 2

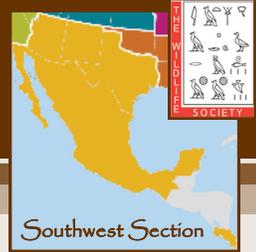


Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Ot
68	46	82	1	17



Southwest Section News



From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

State News

International News

Tribal News

Student Chapters

Council News

President's Message

The thing is, the chapters all provide scholarships and workshops and meetings and professional development and awards galore; Texas even has its own Leadership Institute now. To build up our reservoir of people to aid the parent society in its Conservation Affairs Network, the Section needs to build value - and therefore participation - while not in direct competition with our chapters.

Therefore, along with movement on the SWS CAC and a committee for Women of Wildlife, members should look for the Section to engage some strategic planning, be it from scratch or from the National TWS Strategy or something where we are building on the fly. Business 101: develop a strategy, roll out products (in this case, not in competition with the chapters), build up value for the members, increase revenue, invest in bigger and better products like an active Section Conservation Affairs Committee.

In addition, there are some business matters this year to attend, such as elections, so please consider serving. We will be splitting up the Secretary/Treasurer position this year. Our Section Representative to the TWS Council has one more year before her run is up - please consider that position as well. We will need to revise our bylaws in terms of the CAC.

Before I close, I want to thank some folks for their time and effort: **Stu Tuttle** (AZ) is moving away from the board for the Section and I want to thank him for his time as President; **Misty Sumner** (TX) is now our past-president and I thank her for her time and for her diligence in getting the Roger Bumstead award going; **Annaliese Scoggin** (also TX) has served as Secretary and Treasurer and is returning to serve in that capacity this year-thank you Annaliese; thank you to the many folks you serve on our committees, often all by themselves; **Mark Wallace** (TX) is our new President-elect and I want to say welcome aboard and thanks for serving; and finally to the Arizona Comet, the Southwest Section Representative to the National TWS Council, **Carol Chambers**, whose spirit, energy, and willingness to give astounds and inspires all. Many many thanks, even if none of us can keep up with her.

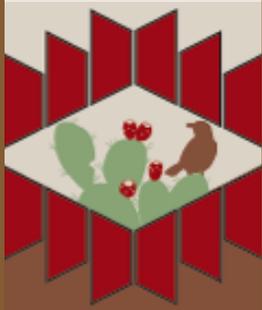
Carol and Stu and Misty, not to mention **Selma Glasscock** (yep, TX) have re-energized the Section and now it is up to the rest of us to build up and out from the foundation they have laid. I hope we can work together in the near future to make that happen.

- *Leland Pierce, 2014 SWS President*

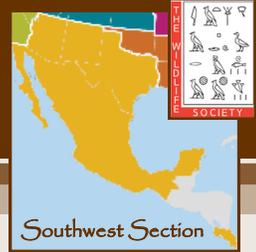


Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Ot
68	46	82	1	17



Southwest Section News



From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

State News

International News

Tribal News

Student Chapters

Council News

What's Happening at TWS

Carol Chambers, Southwest Section Rep to Council

With a dry spring in Arizona, we're already well into fire season. My field season started in the mountains of northern Arizona, determining effects of wildfire on bat habitat. It is nice to be outside again!



Long-legged myotis with radio tag; this bat roosted in a ponderosa pine snag with 100 female bats

At the Denver mid-year TWS Council meeting in March, Council and TWS staff developed a new **TWS strategic plan**. The draft 5-year plan was posted in *The Wildlifer* in May and it will be on the SW Section website soon. The plan provides general direction for TWS and will be implemented annually with a detailed operational plan. The new plan describes 5 broad themes:

1. The Wildlife Society achieves a positive impact on the sustainability of wildlife populations.
2. The Wildlife Society is a recognized and trusted organization for expertise on science-based wildlife management and conservation.
3. The Wildlife Society supports, encourages, and enables its members to conserve and manage wildlife through the application of science.
4. The Wildlife Society supports and encourages networking among student chapters, state/provincial chapters, sections, working groups, Council, and headquarters to leverage synergies and communications that advance science-based wildlife conservation.
5. The Wildlife Society is professionally managed and financially robust.

The plan maintains the vision of TWS as a strong and effective voice in representing wildlife conservation and management. Council will vote on the plan in October so provide your feedback to me soon.

Position Statements are under review – we are categorizing them into 3 groups. *Values and Principles* that will be incorporated into the TWS Strategic Plan, Bylaws, or a separate document and reflect our philosophical views and science-informed perspectives.

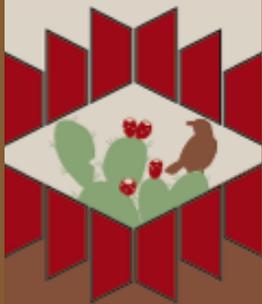
TWS is again fully staffed with the addition of **Ed Thompson** as Chief Operating Officer and **Hedy Ross** as Manager for Development. TWS is on strong financial footing and will finish the year in the black. With these additions, we hope to

- Continued on page 4



Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Ot
68	46	82	1	17



Southwest Section News



From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

State News

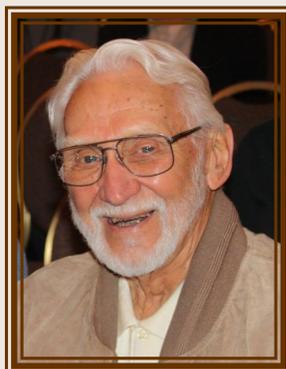
International News

Tribal News

Student Chapters

Council News

rebuild TWS membership and we'll be launching a new Wildlife Partner Program to encourage new members this summer. Good news—we have great student involvement and now have 17 student chapters in our Section. Please consider sponsoring (\$41) a student to introduce them to TWS at the national level.



Roger Bumstead

SW Section had successful meetings this year. The Section annual meeting was in conjunction with the Texas Chapter TWS 50th anniversary meeting in Austin. The Section presented 2 awards. The Lifetime Achievement Award was given to **Roger Bumstead** (NM) who helped establish the Section and the Outstanding Service Award was presented to **Selma Glasscock** (TX). At the AZ/NM TWS Joint Annual Meeting (JAM), the Section sponsored a Women of Wildlife Lunch and a Venomous Reptile Workshop. Both were successful.

TWS and the SW Section have been active in Conservation Affairs. At the national level, look soon for new web content, and a newsletter. At the SW Section level, Conservation Affairs Committee Chair **Jim Ramakka** is organizing responses for the Section to support funding for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program and to healthy waters and wetlands. Be proud of the active lead that the SW Section is taking in conservation issues and offer your help to Jim.

Here are a couple of reasons to attend the upcoming 2014 TWS annual conference in Pittsburgh (October 25-30):

“TWS Annual Conference is THE place to get current on advances in research, education, and management while networking with colleagues.”

– Dana Sanchez, OR

“It was a great networking opportunity and I walked away with many internships, continuing education and job opportunities as well.”

– Holly Taylor, TX

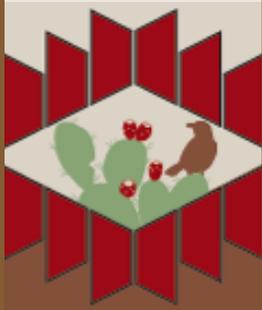
Visit the [SW Section Facebook page](#) (226 likes) And the [Women of Wildlife](#) Facebook page (804 likes).

And, as always if you have questions or comments, please contact me at Carol.Chambers@nau.edu or 928-523-0014.

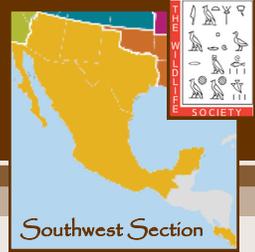


Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Ot
68	46	82	1	17



Southwest Section News



From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

State News

International News

Tribal News

Student Chapters

Council News

National Conservation Affairs Network

The Wildlife Society engages in policy related issues relevant to wildlife professionals and conservation at the Parent Society level through the work of staff within the Government Affairs and Partnerships program. Sections and Chapters also fill a similar role at their level, engaging in more localized issues that impact the work that members do on a regular basis.

The Conservation Affairs Network, through its defined structure, promotes increased collaboration and interaction among subunits on policy-related issues. Based on the concept of collaboration and interconnectedness, the Conservation Affairs Network bridges the gap between Chapters, Sections, the Parent Society, and the membership by defining clear roles for members to engage in conservation work at each level of the Society. The common element that ties everything together is the establishment of **Conservation Affairs Committees (CAC)** at all levels of the organization.

What is a Conservation Affairs Committee?

A CAC is a new committee that has clear and transparent roles for every single committee member so that **you** as a volunteer know exactly what's being asked of you and how much work is actually in store. For example, each member of the CAC may be responsible for a single issue or priority such as Endangered Species, Wetlands Management, or the Farm Bill, or private lands conservation. By clearly defining roles, the overall workload for each committee member is greatly reduced and the overall effectiveness of the committee is maximized. Every CAC is also connected to the larger network of subunits. Chapter CAC Chairs serve on the Section CAC. Section CAC Chairs communicate directly with the Parent Society and each other to share information and garner support and training on conservation affairs issues.

A website is pending, for more information please contact **Keith Norris**, Assistant Director of Government Affairs & Partnerships, at knorris@wildlif.org.



The Role of the SW Section Conservation Affairs Committee

When I first joined The Wildlife Society almost 45 years ago, my main professional focus was on the details of wildlife biology and incorporating the latest research findings into management. I had little interest in how wildlife policy and regulations were developed and no real knowledge of the influence of The Wildlife Society on national level policy decisions.

- Continued on page 6



Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Ot
68	46	82	1	17



Southwest Section News



From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

State News

International News

Tribal News

Student Chapters

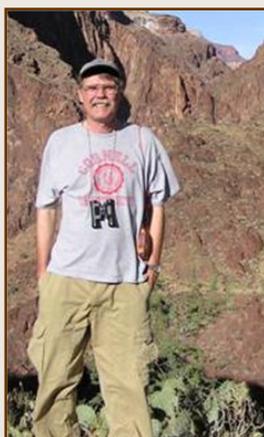
Council News

All of that changed in the intervening years as my career pulled me into a variety of controversies in the West including the spotted owl wars, rangeland reform, and oil and gas and renewable energy development. In my last assignment before retiring, I had a close up view of how national level policy is developed and how the folks developing that policy often do so with little firsthand information from the field.



Whether we like it or not, political decisions and the resulting laws and regulations have always controlled how we manage our wildlife resources. The "Law of Unintended Consequences" can play a major role in any decision where the policy maker has inadequate or incorrect information.

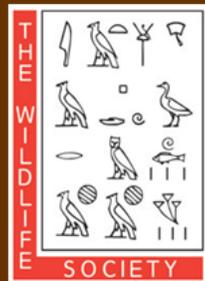
One of the great strengths of The Wildlife Society is its reputation for providing professional scientifically-based, practical information to law makers and upper level regulators. The limited staff of the TWS Government Affairs Program cannot stay on top of all of the wildlife related issues across the continent without good local and regional input to help advise decision makers on the potential effects of proposed national level policies. Under the proposed Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC) structure, commenting on statewide or local issues of concern would be a responsibility the Chapters. When those issues have the potential to overlap state boundaries, the Section CAC would serve as the focal point for consolidating



chapter comments and concerns to forward on to the Government Affairs Program. The Government Affairs Program would be responsible for using Section CAC input to address national level issues.

We're in the process of getting this whole thing started. It would be a great help if folks would look at their Chapter Bylaws in regard to commenting on policy issues and if those procedures could be integrated into the CAC structure. Please contact me or SW Section President Leland Pierce with your thoughts and suggestions.

- Jim Ramakka, Chair SW Section CAC (jramakka@aol.com)



Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Ot
68	46	82	1	17



Southwest Section News



From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

State News

International News

Tribal News

Student Chapters

Council News

WOW - Another Woman of Wildlife!

Game Commission names Alexandra Sandoval Department of Game and Fish director

Alexandra Sandoval, a 20-year employee of the Department of Game and Fish, is the department's new director, the State Game Commission announced Thursday.

Sandoval, currently the department's chief financial officer and Administrative Services Division chief, was selected among four finalists chosen after a nationwide search that began Jan. 24 and ended March 24.

Sandoval began her career with the department in 1994 as a district wildlife officer (game warden) in Roswell and Clayton. She went on to become a wildlife specialist, federal grant manager, licensing supervisor and Administrative Services Division chief and chief financial officer. She holds a master's degree in Business Administration from New Mexico Highlands University and a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management from Colorado State University and is a graduate of the National Conservation Leadership Institute.



As the second woman director in the department's 101-year history, Sandoval will be responsible for managing a state wildlife agency with more than 300 employees and an annual budget of more than \$38 million.

The other finalists were Edward "Ted" Koch, Nevada state supervisor for Ecological Services and Fisheries programs for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Brian Wakeling, Wildlife Management Branch supervisor for the Arizona Game and Fish Department; and Matthew Wunder, chief of Ecological and Environmental Planning for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

- NM Game and Fish Press Release

Are you certifiable? If so, we'll pay!

Don't forget to take advantage of the SWS scholarship program (http://wildlife.org/SW/scholarships_grants) for TWS certification as a Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB) or Associate Wildlife Biologist (AWB). And also thank **Scott P. Lerich**, CWB (NM, slerich@nwtf.net), National Wild Turkey Federation, for representing the SW Section on the Certification Review Board. Scott's second 3-year term starts as his first ends, in October 2014!



Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Ot
68	46	82	1	17



Southwest Section News



- From the Board
- Southwest Section
- National News
- State News
- International News
- Tribal News
- Student Chapters
- Council News

State Chapter Meetings

Inaugural Student Quiz Bowl at the New Mexico-Arizona Joint Annual Meeting



New Mexico State University Team - Thomas Lubenau, Clay Morrow, Will Lubenau, and Trey Turnbull

For the first time in 2014, the Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) included a Student Quiz Bowl. It was a tremendous success, with teams from New Mexico State University, University of Arizona, Arizona State University – Polytechnic, Northern Arizona University, and at-large participants from Eastern New Mexico University – Ruidoso and the Bosque School (Albuquerque) taking part.

The format adhered as closely as possible to the rules used at The Wildlife Society Annual Conference (National), so as to help prepare teams for competition at this level and to encourage increased participation at Annual. JAM organizers reported that paid student attendees at the Joint Annual Meeting (2014) were up significantly from the previous year, due perhaps in part to the Quiz Bowl.

The winning team was from New Mexico State University, captained by **Thomas Lubenau**. All members of the winning team will receive free registration to the 2015 Joint Annual Meeting, which will be hosted by the New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society. In addition to the competitors, the event was attended by many onlookers, who packed a small conference room at the Hon-Dah Resort. In 2015, Quiz Bowl organizers hope to hold the event in a larger conference room, and to encourage even wider participation, perhaps including a head-to-head matchup between the winning student team and a "professional team" consisting of TWS and AFS professionals.

- Continued on page 9



Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Ot
68	46	82	1	17



Southwest Section News



- From the Board
- Southwest Section
- National News
- State News
- International News
- Tribal News
- Student Chapters
- Council News

Many professionals from both Arizona and New Mexico helped organize the inaugural event, and the (presumably) larger second iteration will require increased participation from professionals as well as students. Look for more information on the 2015 Quiz Bowl as plans for the 2015 Joint Annual Meeting are solidified. If you are a student member, or a faculty member at an institution in New Mexico or Arizona, please consider participating in this fun and educational event or encouraging your students to participate. The worst you can do is have a good time! Thanks to all those who helped organize the event: **Robert Fink, Audrey Owens, Rachel Williams, Kent Mosher, Holly Hicks, Amberle Jones, Tiffany Sprague, and Kay Nicholson.**

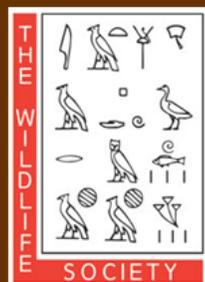
- *Quentin Hays, Eastern New Mexico University and Heather Bateman, Arizona State University*

Images from the JAM and TCTWS meeting



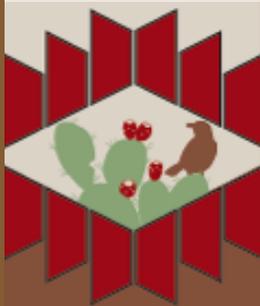
Misty Sumner and Carol Chambers (left) and Carol Chambers (above) at the JAM Business Meetings

At the Texas Chapter 50th anniversary meeting: sharing research results and identifying great blue heron tracks



Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Ot
68	46	82	1	17



Southwest Section News



- From the Board
- Southwest Section
- National News
- State News
- International News
- Tribal News**
- Student Chapters
- Council News

Thoughts from a Young Native American Biologist

Lias A. Hastings, White Mountain Apache and Navajo

I was fortunate enough to grow up before the rise of the internet and personal electronics. These were the days when kids actually played outside. My family lived in a small community just outside of Flagstaff, Arizona. Flagstaff is a neat mountain town that rises 7000 feet above sea level. The greatest part of living outside the city was



Lias with big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)

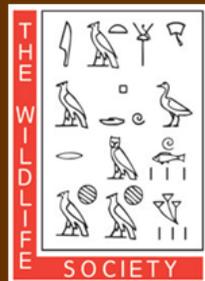
having the forest right outside your front door. I spent a lot of time in the forest, many times from sunrise to sunset. I did not realize this back then, but my childhood experiences allowed me to develop a deep appreciation for the forest and its wildlife. Growing up my father would take me back to the White Mountain Apache Reservation to hunt. I still remember the first bull elk I killed. My father and uncle showed me how to gut and quarter out the elk. I learned a lot that day about what hunting meant to the Apache people. I was taught to respect the animal that had just given its life to feed me and my family. My culture has also shaped the

way I view the forest and its resources. Apaches historically lived and prospered as nomadic people. They knew everything about the land they inhabited. They respected the land and all its wildlife. They only took what they needed; I am proud to say that these values have been passed onto me. I respect all life, no matter how small.

During high school I decided that I wanted to have a career working with wildlife. It was my senior year at Flagstaff High school when I was accepted to Northern Arizona University. My freshman year at NAU I was accepted into the Otten's Program for Native American Students. The Otten's was a program that paired freshman undergraduates with a Faculty member who would serve as a mentor. Under my mentor I received my first hands on experience in wildlife biology. It all started with bats for me. They are such neat little mammals and I will always have a soft spot for them.

During my junior year, I applied for an Arizona Game and Fish Department internship. I knew these internships programs were extremely competitive and honestly did not expect to hear back. I was on a field trip with my ecology class when I got a phone call from the Arizona Game and Fish asking if I would be available for an interview.

- Continued on page 11



Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Ot
68	46	82	1	17



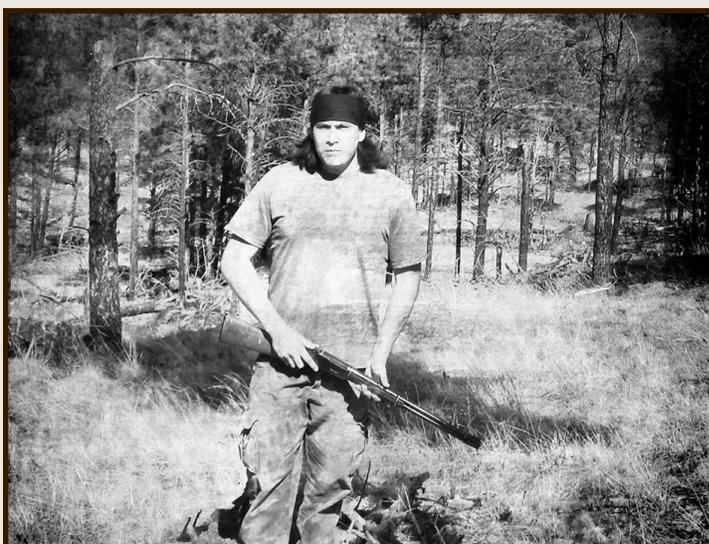
Southwest Section News



- From the Board
- Southwest Section
- National News
- State News
- International News
- Tribal News
- Student Chapters
- Council News

I am starting my fourth year with the Arizona Game and Fish Department this year. Although I am a young biologist, I have been fortunate enough to get hands on experience with a variety of animal species. Whether it's trapping elk on the San Francisco Peaks or catching bats in urban Flagstaff, I feel deeply blessed to have such an amazing job.

- *Lias A. Hastings, Arizona Game and Fish Department, lah228@nau.edu*



The Wildlife Society Annual Conference Website is Live!

Start making your plans to attend the 21st TWS Annual Conference in October! The conference website is live (<http://wildlifesociety.org/>) with an updated schedule that will help you start planning your learning and networking experience. Check it out today at <http://wildlifesociety.org/schedule/>.



Come to Pittsburgh!
October 25-30

"One of the largest and most exciting meetings for wildlife professionals in the U.S." - Kent Fricke, TX



Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Ot
68	46	82	1	17



Southwest Section News



Venomous Reptile Workshops

Question: What type of snake does a baby play with?

Answer: A rattlesnake!

Ok, not really! And we certainly didn't "play" with snakes at 2 recent workshops sponsored by the SW Section during the Arizona/New Mexico TWS Joint Annual Meeting. **Dr. Erika Nowak**, a herpetologist with the Colorado Plateau Research Station at Northern Arizona University used her 20 years of experience to train student and professional wildlife biologists in ecology and safe handling of rattlesnakes. Most snakebites occur when rattlesnakes are deliberately handled or killed. Thus, handling is a critical part of training during workshops. Participants learned how to quickly and safely pick up and move rattlesnakes short distances in situations where snakes are considered a threat to human safety or are being threatened by humans.

In addition to handling, we discussed conservation and management issues such as translocation. Translocating rattlesnakes is often ineffective because of high mortality rates. When snakes are moved from their home range they often try to return, and sometimes even succeed due to their homing skills. Also, a common practice in Arizona is to move large numbers of snakes (hundreds or thousands per year) to a few favored dumping sites on the edges of urbanized areas, yet we know little about the ecological, disease transmission, or genetic effects on existing populations. Short-distance translocation (moving snakes as short a distance as possible, within their home range, or within 1 km of the capture site) of nuisance rattlesnakes is preferred over long-distance translocation (outside of the home range) if the goal is to promote snake survival. Additional aids to survival are to move the snake into the same type of habitat where it was found, locate it near possible den sites such as rocky areas or outcrops during the fall and away from these areas in late spring and summer.



Erin Saunders, NAU Masters student in the School of Forestry, learns how to safely handle a Mojave rattlesnake named "Moenkopi".

- Continued on page 13

From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

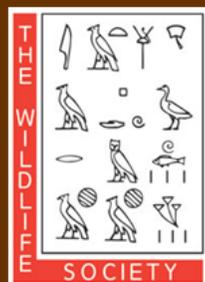
State News

International News

Tribal News

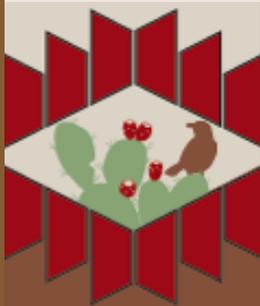
Student Chapters

Council News



Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Ot
68	46	82	1	17



Southwest Section News



- From the Board
- Southwest Section
- National News
- State News
- International News
- Tribal News
- Student Chapters
- Council News

These workshops raised awareness of venomous species and helped participants overcome fears about snakes. Dr. Nowak covered research on rattlesnake behavior and ecology, normal snake defensive behavior, and snakebite statistics. The workshops concluded with practice on safe and humane handling of both venomous and non-venomous snakes. Participants used snake-safe tongs to learn the skills of gently picking up rattlesnakes. Dr. Nowak is currently working with members of Southwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) and others to develop a similar standardized regional rattlesnake awareness and safe handling program.

- Carol Chambers, Southwest Section Rep



Erika Nowak won the Arizona TWS Chapter 2013 Doug Morrison Award for her research contributions toward snake conservation and education.

You Asked For It!

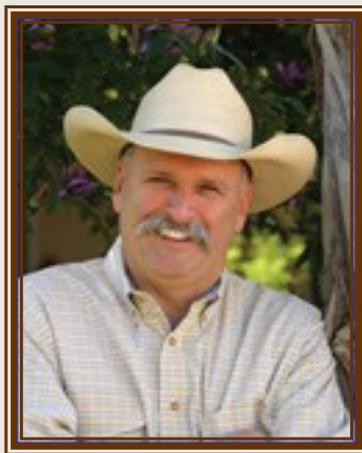
Over the past few years, Southwest Section members have really been stepping forward supporting the Section with their time and expertise. Long-time member and 2013 Finance Chair **Donny Worthington**, took it one step farther and with a GENEROUS donation jump started the funds we have available for putting on the workshops that you, the members, requested. This set in motion a match by **Fred Bryant** and the Caesar Kleberg



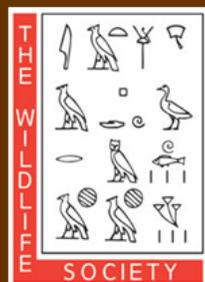
Donny Worthington

Wildlife Research Institute! Watch your email for more details and don't be surprised if you receive something from me asking what you can offer as an instructor. We will post scheduled workshops on the Section's Web and Facebook pages. Be sure to thank these gentlemen when you see them and thank **Donny** for his service as Finance Chair!

- Misty Sumner, Immediate Past President, Southwest Section



Fred Bryant



Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Ot
68	46	82	1	17



Southwest Section News



From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

State News

International News

Tribal News

Student Chapters

Council News

SWS TWS - Present and Accounted For

The Southwest Section was one of a dozen sponsors that made the 26th Biennial Pronghorn Workshop possible. This sponsorship allowed us to display our information and visit with attendees.

We were able to let over 120 folks know exactly who and what the Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society is and gained new members from Mexico, New Mexico, and Texas in the process. SWS Member **Ryan Walker** with the New Mexico Fish and Game Department added to the SWS presence with his outstanding presentation "*The Evolution of the Pronghorn Private Land Use System in New Mexico*".



SWS members James Pitman, Ryan Darr and Ryan Walker willingly pose with three Boone and Crockett pronghorn displayed at the 26th Biennial Pronghorn Workshop.



With members acting as moderators and speakers, The Southwest Section was well represented throughout the two day workshop. We need to have this continued presence throughout the Southwest at meetings, symposiums, or workshops. Be sure to let us know what is going on in your world and we will do our best to be there.

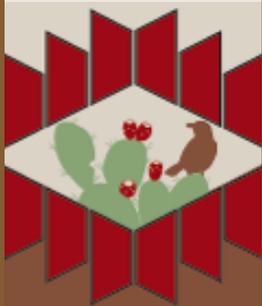
- Misty Sumner, Immediate Past President, Southwest Section

Texas Wildlife Association President Greg Simons (left) visits with new SWS TWS members Bill and Charlotte Sibley at the Museum of The Big Bend in Alpine, Texas.



Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Ot
68	46	82	1	17



Southwest Section News



SWS Board and Committees

2014 Southwest Section TWS officers

Leland Pierce (NM) - President, leland.pierce@state.nm.us

Mark Wallace (TX) – President-Elect, Mark.Wallace@ttu.edu

Annaliese Scoggin (TX) – Secretary/Treasurer, annaliesescoggin@hotmail.com

Carol Chambers (AZ) – Southwest Section Representative to TWS Council, carol.chambers@nau.edu

Misty Sumner (TX) - Past-President, MMIISSTTY@aol.com

2014 Southwest Section Committee Chairs

Selma Glasscock (TX) - Archives

Terry Blankenship (TX) - Audit

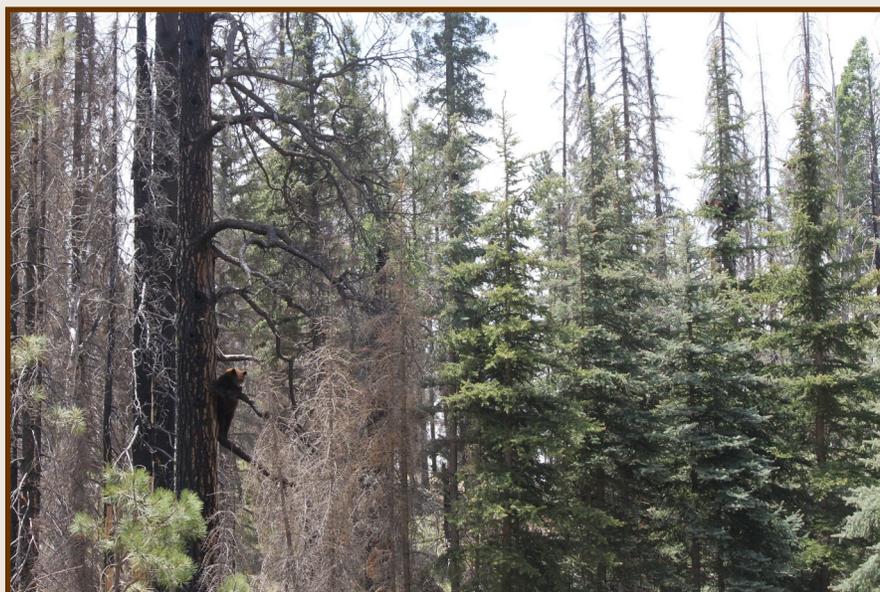
James Ramakka (NM) - Conservation Affairs

Joe Beach (TX) - Diversity

Mike Frisbie (TX) - Electronic Communications

Renae Held (NM) - Newsletter

To become more involved in the SW Section, check out committees you can join at <http://wildlife.org/SW/committees>



**This black bear sent her cubs up a tree— can you find them?
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, Arizona**

From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

State News

International News

Tribal News

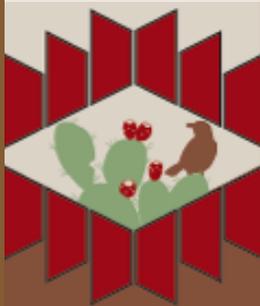
Student Chapters

Council News



Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Ot
68	46	82	1	17



Southwest Section News



From the Board

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Join!

Membership benefits for the Southwest Section TWS

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

Membership Application

Membership Fee \$5.00

 First Name Middle Name Last Name Suffix

 Mailing Address

 City State Zip Code Country

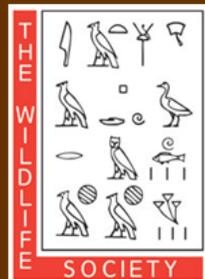
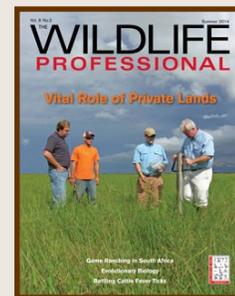
 E-mail address Work Phone

Member Type (Please circle one): Student Regular Retired

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

Membership benefits of The Wildlife Society

- Expert networks, wildlife science and policy
- Certification and professional development
- Opportunities to kick-start your career through internships, assistantships, and temporary jobs.
- Job resources through Wildlife Careers Center
- Peer connections through Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube
- TWS publications (The Wildlife Professional, The Wildlifer, Wildlife Policy News)
- And much more! Join online at <http://www.wildlife.org/membership>



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