



Southwest Section Newsletter

Spring 2013 - Vol. 3 Issue #1

From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

State News

International News

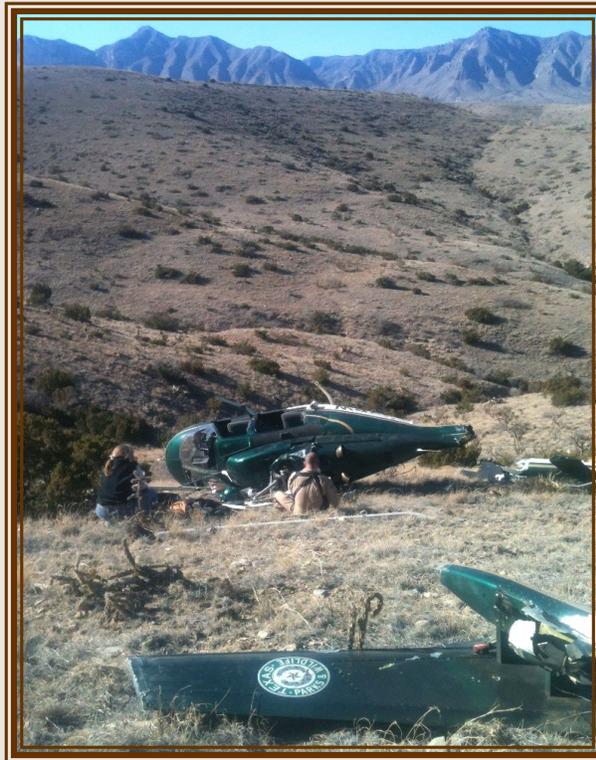
Tribal News

Student Chapters

Council News

President's Message

Misty Sumner 2013 President Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society

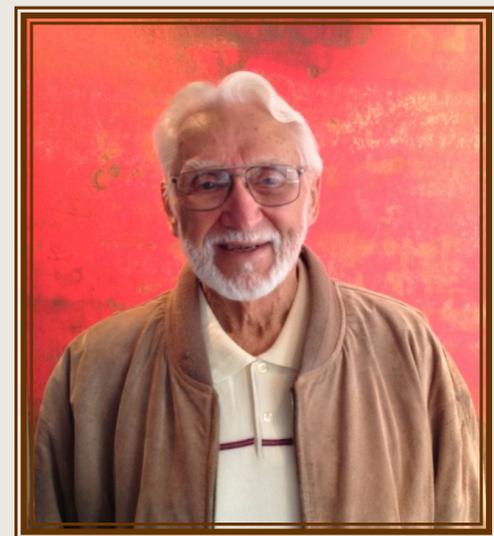


Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologist and Southwest Section President Misty Sumner and TPWD Game Warden Pilot Bryan Reed contemplate the situation after an unexpected turn of events.

Photo by Travis Bryan

Some days just don't go as planned. I'm thankful to be able to write this column after an abrupt ending to this year's aerial mule deer surveys.

It was an honour and pleasure to start my year serving the Southwest Section in my role as president at the Arizona, New Mexico Joint Annual Meeting in Albuquerque. What a great turnout, what a great conference. Meeting so many wonderful members of the Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society and the New Mexico and Arizona Chapter members was easy, remembering all the names is going to be tough! It is always inspiring to meet talented professionals and hear what good things are being done. I hope all of you find a way to get more involved with the Section, remember, it's all about you.



Charter Member Roger Bumstead at the 2013 Arizona/New Mexico Joint Annual Meeting

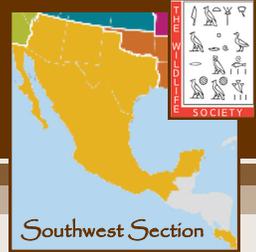
Photo by Misty L. Sumner

Those of you that missed the meeting missed an awful lot including an opportunity to visit with **Roger Bumstead**, one of the Charter members of the Southwest Section. It was such a pleasure to meet him and see the commitment to conservation and The Wildlife Society that he still has. Do you know anyone who embodies his spirit, his perseverance, his attitude? If so, keep your eye on the Southwest Section's website: <http://wildlife.org/SW/>. See past newsletters for more information on Mr. Bumstead. It is time to start recognizing our membership who do great things in conservation.





Southwest Section News



From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

State News

International News

Tribal News

Student Chapters

Council News



President's Message

A huge thank you to **Bruce Taubert** for making our first workshop a success. We didn't make enough money from it to hold a free workshop but the model worked and we will continue to have 'pay for' workshops and work toward our goal of having free workshops for members as often as we can. Watch the website <http://wildlife.org/SW/> and 'friend' the Southwest Section's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wildlife-Society-Southwest-Section-Chapters-Hub/205755042835210> to learn about future workshops.

A few of you asked for an explanation of why we were proposing to raise the dues and/or what we would spend the money on if the proposed dues increase passed. Great questions and I'm glad they were raised. The board has a vision of the SWS providing professional development opportunities. If we had a strong bank account, we could provide workshops, symposiums, and outreach. I believe we can become solvent enough not to have to chose between the three. It is easy to forget that the Section covers three states and three countries. Everyone knows travel budgets have been slashed. It is important for the growth of the Section to spread the word about The Wildlife Society and Southwest Section and what we can do for members. To do this costs money, money in getting board members to various meetings, money to print fliers, money to hold workshops. We also would like to provide money for well deserving professionals and students to attend Section Meetings, workshops and participate in quality training. We know budgets are in tough shape and hope that members won't be able to resist some 'paid for' workshops and that money will be able to be used to hold some critical training workshops at either no or very low costs. I am committed to providing the tools and opportunities for our members to improve themselves professionally.

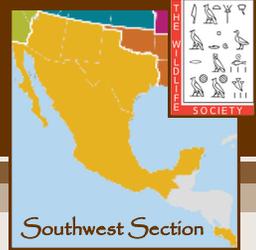
I'm pleased that New Mexico's Fish and Game Director Jim Lane accepted an invitation to write the first column of the "Director's Corner". Look for his column in this newsletter and that feature to appear in future newsletters with representation from Texas and Arizona's Directors as well as Mexico.

I look forward to continuing to work with **Stu Tuttle** in his new role as Past-President and working with the new folks on the board, President-Elect **Leland Pierce**, Secretary/Treasure **Annaliese Scoggin**, as well as continuing to work with and be inspired by Southwest Section Representative **Carol Chambers**. Remember, we are here to represent you and welcome phone calls and emails. Let us know what we can do for you.

- Continued on page 3



Southwest Section News



From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

State News

International News

Tribal News

Student Chapters

Council News

President's Message

A huge thank you to everyone who has taken on SWS duties. Listed below are dedicated folks that will keep the Southwest Section growing and improving. If you see a committee you'd like to help with or a committee that doesn't exist you think we need, please contact the appropriate Chair or myself.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! The next SWS TWS meeting will occur during the 50th Annual Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society meeting February 19-22, 2014 in Austin, Texas. In 2012 the Section hosted a very successful cross-border symposium on wildlife issues. Anyone interested in proposing or working on a SWS symposium for 2014? If so, I'd like to hear from you.

Introducing the 2013 SWS TWS Committee Chairs

Archives: **Selma Glasscock** sglasscock@welderwildlife.org 361-364-2643

Audit: **Terry Blankenship** tblankenship@welderwildlife.org 361-364-2643

Conservation Review: **James Ramakka** jramakka@aol.com 505-334-6140

Diversity: **Joe Beach** joe.beach@tpwd.state.tx.us 512-538-4059

Electronic Communications: **Mike Frisbie** Mike.Frisbie@tpwd.state.tx.us
512-757-0899

Finance Committee: **Donny Worthington** donny_worthington@xtoenergy.com
817-897-3144

Newsletter: **Renaë Held** rheld@hotmail.com 505-471-4445

Nominations Committee: **Leland Pierce** leland.pierce@state.nm.us
505-476-8094

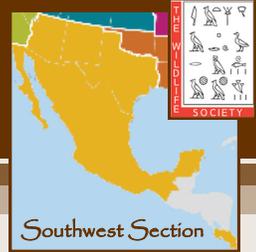
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The 11th National Wild Turkey Symposium seeks original papers on ecology and management of wild turkeys. Abstracts due September 20, 2013. Manuscripts due August 8, 2014 Contact the editor: darren.miller@weyerhaeuser.com





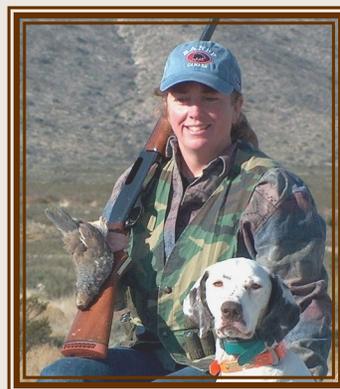
Southwest Section News



President's Message

In May of 2012 the Canada/United States/Mexico Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management held a meeting in Santé Fe, New Mexico. The Trilateral, as it is referred to, is a committee formed to coordinate the wildlife agencies of the United States, Mexico, and Canada in an attempt at a continental effort in ecosystem management. I had the opportunity to attend and introduce myself and the Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society to Mexican biologists from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT), the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), The Nature Conservancy, and other Mexican biologists. Members from Arizona and New Mexico attended as well and new relationships were built. We gained a few Southwest Section members from Mexico and they were very excited about the opportunity to share their work via the newsletter. Changes in the Mexican leadership sometimes make for large scale changes in the jobs and responsibilities and sometimes personnel of those working with the natural resources there. I am confident that despite the changes in leadership, one day soon we will have regular reporting from our southern neighbors.

Look for information from Maria Araujo, Texas Parks and Wildlife's International Affairs Director, later in this newsletter where she shares information regarding a partnership program currently underway between Mexico and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD).



Misty L. Sumner
2013 SWS President

From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

State News

International News

Tribal News

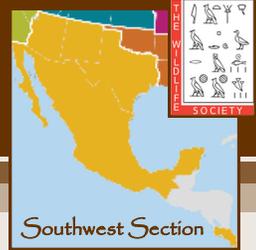
Student Chapters

Council News





Southwest Section News



From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

State News

International News

Tribal News

Student Chapters

Council News

What's Happening with TWS

Carol Chambers, Southwest Section Rep to Council

On the national news front, our new Executive Director, Dr. Byron Kenneth (Ken) Williams, started March 4 with TWS. Ken's expertise is in adaptive management, biological modeling, and habitat conservation. He has a strong research and publishing record, recently completing service as Chief of USGS Cooperative Research Units. He has a PhD in rangeland ecology from Colorado State University.

With the departure of Shannon Pederson (who is pursuing her PhD at University of Maryland), Katie Edwards has been hired as the new Professional Development Coordinator. We are also going to see change in Editor in Chief (EIC) of both journals at the end of the year – Chris Ribic will take over as EIC for WSB and Evelyn Merrill for JWM. These are the first women serving as EICs for TWS journals. Speaking of WOW – the Women of Wildlife mixer was a success again this year with your support and this has led to a workshop, symposium, and panel discussion featuring diversity in the wildlife profession at the upcoming annual TWS meeting in Milwaukee (Oct 5-10).

The Leadership Institute (LI) is being supported from Sections and Chapters this year and has received pledges of \$11,000 to date (\$15,000 needed). Arizona, the Southwest Section, and Texas Tech University Natural Resources Management are helping support LI by providing \$2500! TWS launched a new online action center in 2012 to help members communicate with elected officials. To date, 6 action alerts were sent to members on issues such as the Farm Bill, Fish and Wildlife Trust Funds, and science-based wildlife conservation and management.

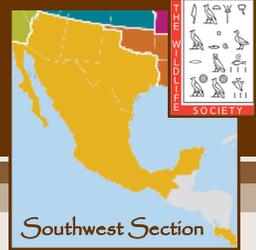
In more good news, membership was highest ever in 2012 with 10,929 at the end of the year. The Portland annual conference drew 1909 attendees (almost a record). New Mexico submitted a bid for the 2017 annual conference. There were 198 applications for certification this year (2nd highest number in a 35 year history). As of end of 2012, there are 3668 CWBs and 533 AWBs. In its first year, the 7th edition of the Wildlife Techniques Manual has sold over 2600 copies! A new book series from TWS has started and Essential Readings in Wildlife Management and Conservation is newly released March 2013. Check these out!

- Continued on Page 6





Southwest Section News



From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

State News

International News

Tribal News

Student Chapters

Council News

What's Happening with TWS

Carol Chambers, Southwest Section Rep to Council

At the Section level, incoming officers are Misty Sumner (President) and Annaliese Scoggin (Secretary/Treasurer). Stu Tuttle (Past President) led an effort to **revise the Section Bylaws** last year so **please review these** updates posted on the Section web site (<http://joomla.wildlife.org/SW/>) and make sure you're ok with the dues increase to \$2000 per year. Just kidding on that one but please send your comments to Misty Sumner (MMIISSTYY@aol.com) or me.

Welcome our new official student chapter at Abilene Christian University in Texas and know there are several more (Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona) in final stages of being approved. The Section now has 124 likes on its Facebook page, TWS national has almost 10,000! Check us out at The Wildlife Society Southwest Section Chapters Hub (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wildlife-Society-Southwest-Section-Chapters-Hub/205755042835210>).

Whether you like to tweet, Facebook, or use LinkedIn, use of social media is on the rise and can help us all connect more.

As always if you have questions or comments for me, please contact me: Carol.Chambers@nau.edu or 928-523-0014 (office).

SWS Bylaws Change

Bylaws and bylaw changes can be found at

<http://joomla.wildlife.org/SW>



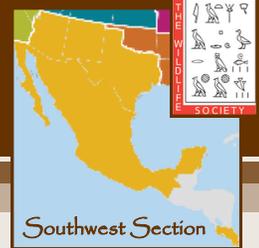
Pronghorn find alfalfa on the Texas/New Mexico border.

Photo by Misty L. Sumner





Southwest Section News



Director's Corner

DIRECTOR'S VIEW

By Jim Lane

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Director
jim.lane@state.nm.us



The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has a long history of managing the resources of the state to produce some of the world's best hunting and fishing. To that end, the Department employs professionals who have dedicated their careers to being active managers and stewards of New Mexico's natural resources.

Those professionals are the key to the continued success and relevance of the Department within the context of changing societal values and continued pressure to properly manage wildlife resources that have a deep intrinsic value to each and every one of us.

As the new Director, I am excited to lead a Department that is poised to manage the resource and work with our customers in a way that maintains and fosters the foundation of hunters, fishermen and trappers that funds the conservation of wildlife resources for all New Mexicans. Under the current funding structure of the agency, the cost of management of both game and non-game species of fish and wildlife in New Mexico continues to be borne by the landowners of the state, by those who buy licenses from the Department, and those who purchase hunting and fishing gear from retail stores across the country. To reiterate, sportsmen-based funding is the model upon which successful wildlife management has been accomplished.

Unfortunately, this successful model has not protected the traditions upon which it stands from the attacks of protectionist groups who actively work against the fundamentals of sound wildlife management. These groups, under the auspices of 'conservation' and being 'environmentalists', have become very effective in the dissemination of misleading information and half-truths through popular media and within our school systems. To counter misinformation and better educate our youth, the Department, in cooperation with the Public Education Department, is integrating a conservation education curriculum into school systems throughout New Mexico. With a science and math approach, this curriculum addresses the importance of sound scientific wildlife management and the role of traditional land uses of hunting, fishing and trapping in future management direction and decisions.

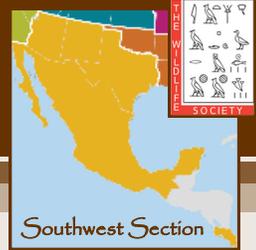
- Continued on page 8

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





Southwest Section News



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

Director's Corner – Cont.

The primary goal of the conservation education curriculum will not be recruitment of hunters, anglers or trappers. The goal will be long-term recruitment of voters who have a basic understanding of the natural resources we often take for granted, and an understanding of sound wildlife management by state agencies. The children we reach today will hold the future of wildlife management in their hands as laws are proposed that have the potential to impact the way our wildlife resources are managed well into the future. I intend for the Department to be instrumental in building a foundation for those children to make wise and well-informed decisions.

We often overlook the fact that wildlife management as employed by the Department's professionals has resulted in monumental conservation success stories in New Mexico including the restoration of elk, wild turkeys, river otters, peregrine falcons and desert bighorn sheep, to name a few. Future success will depend on our ability to continue to hire the best professionals in the nation and ability to effectively communicate our conservation message and mission with the public and with those in positions to effect change. My Executive Staff and I look forward to guiding the Department in working toward those ends.

Alison Haskell Award Winner

Charlie Painter, herpetologist for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, is the 2013 recipient of the Alison Haskell Award for Excellence in Herpetofaunal Conservation.



Charlie Painter

The national organization Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation honored Painter for his more than 26 years of dedication to the conservation of the amphibians and reptiles of the Southwest. As the Department's first herpetologist, Painter has authored more than 80 academic papers and was one of the authors of the seminal 1996 book, "Amphibians and Reptiles of New Mexico."

Throughout his career, Painter has worked to build partnerships with government agencies, organizations and private landowners for the conservation of the Jemez Mountain salamander, Sacramento Mountain salamander, Chiricahua leopard frog, dunes sagebrush lizard, New Mexico ridge-nosed rattlesnake, boreal toad, western river cooter, Big Bend slider and many other species of amphibians and reptiles in New Mexico. Painter was recognized Tuesday at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Crystal City, Va.

Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation is a national partnership dedicated to the conservation of reptiles and amphibians and their habitats. The award for excellence in herpetofaunal conservation is named in honor of the first federal coordinator for the organization, Alison Haskell.

- NM Department of Game and Fish Press Release





Southwest Section News



From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

State News

International News

Tribal News

Student Chapters

Council News

JAM Awards

The Arizona Chapter of the Wildlife Society (AZTWS), along with the New Mexico Chapter of the Wildlife Society and the AZ/NM Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, held its 46th Annual Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) in Albuquerque, NM on February 3-5, 2013. The JAM is an opportunity for wildlife and fisheries professionals and laymen to exchange information pertaining to science, management, and policy of natural resources. For information on AZTWS, visit www.aztws.org, or follow our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AZTWS.

Each year AZTWS, which has over 260 members, bestows awards to deserving people or organizations during the banquet at the JAM. This year, as always, the chapter recognized the outstanding accomplishments of some of the key players in Arizona wildlife management.

Doug Morrison Award

The Doug Morrison Award is given in memory of Doug Morrison to an Arizona Biologist in a non-supervisory position who has made significant contributions to the management and conservation of wildlife in Arizona and exemplifies the dedicated work ethic of the Chapter's former President and U.S. Forest Service Biologist, Doug Morrison. This year, the Doug Morrison was presented to Russ Haughey Scottsdale Community College residential Biology faculty, for his efforts in education and training. Over the years Russ's role has grown from his role as protecting wildlife first as a law enforcement officer, then as a habitat specialist, and now as a recruiter and educator of future wildlife professionals and caretakers of nature. Russ was ahead of his time in encouraging and supporting students into pursuing a career in wildlife, especially during his last few years while working with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Russ was constantly pushing the administration to conduct more outreach to high schools and colleges to encourage students to consider a career in wildlife management. His efforts and contributions to education and training, especially in his new role at Scottsdale Community College, qualify him to be in the company of other award recipients for this honor.

And the winner is...

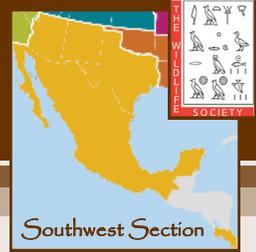
Jesse Gordon Oetgen, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, was the winner of the **Autographed 2-Volume Set of The 2012 Wildlife Techniques Manual** - signed by Dr. Nova Silvy, the editor of the 2012 edition. The giveaway was part of the 2012 SWS Membership drive.

Renaë Held, Newsletter Editor, can be contacted at rheld@hotmail.com.





Southwest Section News



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

AZ Chapter of the Wildlife Society - Student Workshop

Students and young professionals recently spent a warm, sunny weekend in April at the Horseshoe Ranch for a workshop that will help enrich their future careers as wildlife professionals. The Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society was hosting the 3rd annual Wildlife Techniques Workshop, a hands-on opportunity to gain valuable professional experience and to meet and learn from members of the chapter. Students participated from multiple colleges, including Scottsdale Community College, Northern Arizona University, University of Arizona, Arizona State University, Prescott College; six students from Eastern New Mexico State University even drove all the way out to partake in the fun!

The Wildlife Techniques Workshop offered classes and hands-on training for various techniques that are commonly used while working in the field of Wildlife Management and the price for attending this day long workshop couldn't be beat - free! Everyone that participated in each class, which included animal tracking, fisheries techniques, radio telemetry, geocaching, and wildlife capture techniques such as use of net guns and blow dart guns. This workshop continues to be a great way to get students out of their classrooms (and professionals out of their offices!) and put them in a setting where they learn from professionals in their fields.

Arizona State University Polytechnic - Quiz Bowl

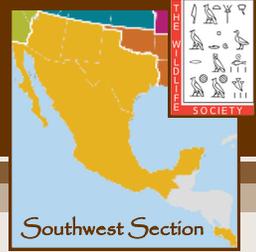
Arizona State University Polytechnic campus fields its first Quiz Bowl Team

The Department of Natural Resources at ASUP has announced plans to offer an accredited independent study class to facilitate its first Quiz Bowl Team. The 7 and a half week class leading up to the National Meeting of The Wildlife Society in Milwaukee will offer students a chance to study and hone their skills in preparation for competing at the national level against their peers from other wildlife schools. This effort is being headed up by student chapter liaison Dr. William Miller. Dr. Heather Bateman also from ASUP, and both Bill Burger and John O'Dell from the Arizona Game and Fish Department will be assisting in the efforts as well. All Section members are encouraged to attend the Quiz Bowl in Milwaukee and cheer on the newest team from the Southwest!





Southwest Section News



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

TWS Annual Meeting



Preliminary Program

Plenary

Bringing Our Science to the People

General Session

Wolf Conservation at the Crossroads.

Sponsored by the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society



Call for Student Research in Progress Posters

Deadline: June 2, 2013

The Student Development Working Group invites students to submit Research-in-Progress Posters covering topics in wildlife science, management, conservation, education, human dimensions, or policy. All undergraduate, master's, and Ph.D. students are eligible for this session. Eligible posters include:

Research that is in progress;

A proposed research project (with a focus on study design);

Results from completed undergraduate research projects; or

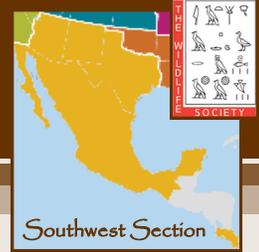
Student chapter research projects that may not be appropriate for the regular poster sessions (these may include a class or group research project).

For more info visit: wildlifesociety.org





Southwest Section News



11th National Wild Turkey Symposium

January 2016, Tucson, AZ

The National Wild Turkey Symposium seeks original research and synthesis papers on the ecology and management of wild turkeys for presentation at the Symposium and publication in the Proceedings. The Symposium occurs every 5 years and brings together state, federal and private wild turkey researchers, land managers, and enthusiasts to exchange ideas relative to ensuring sustainability of the wild turkey resource.

Contributed papers will be peer-reviewed. Submissions can include presentation of original results, case studies, and review articles of pertinent topics. The proposed areas of emphasis for the Symposium include: understanding the future of wild turkey habitat; delivery of science to affect policy; science behind hunter recruitment and retention; and maintaining sustainable wild turkey populations.

Process: Authors are asked to submit an abstract by **20 September 2013**. The abstract is limited to 300 words, not including the title, author(s), and author(s) affiliation(s). The abstract must include contact information for the corresponding author. Submit abstracts to: darren.miller@weyerhaeuser.com with "Wild Turkey Symposium abstract" in the email subject line. An Editorial Board will review all submitted abstracts and authors of selected abstracts will be asked to submit a full manuscript for consideration. Authors of accepted manuscripts are expected to present their work at the Symposium in Tucson. The Proceedings will be available at or soon after the Symposium.

Key Dates:

Abstracts due Sept. 20, 2013

Manuscripts invited Nov. 15, 2013

Initial manuscripts submission due Aug. 8, 2014

For more Information: Please direct questions to the Symposium Editor: Dr. Darren A. Miller, Weyerhaeuser Company, P.O. Box 2288, Columbus, MS, 39704; (662) 245-5249; darren.miller@weyerhaeuser.com.



From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

State News

International News

Tribal News

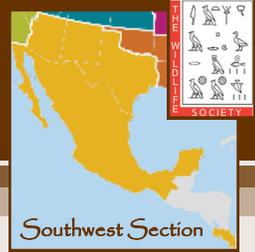
Student Chapters

Council News





Southwest Section News



The Hard Season in the Southwest

Kerry Mower - New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Winter cold is now behind us. As the weather warms, we all begin to think about being outside again, and people begin to enter the country and wild lands again. This is the time of year in the southwest I receive the greatest number of reports of wildlife with abnormalities, disease, illness, and unexplained mortality. This is related to increased human activity and good visibility in the bare forests, but it is more related to the poor range conditions at the conclusion of winter. Much of the forage is gone, and any standing forage has been leaching long enough that nutritional content is low. Weeks are required for new green growth to appear after warmer temperatures begin to attract humans into the outdoors. If conditions are dry, new green growth can be further delayed. When receiving reports of poor or sick deer and elk, I like to remind people that, although it is warm and feels good to be outside, this is probably the toughest time for wildlife. Wildlife enters this hard time just as their energy and nutritional stores are depleted from winter conditions. The warmer weather alone cannot replenish lost body condition. Many animals survive the severe winter weather but lack the extra reserve to survive until the range provides needed nutrition even though temperatures are mild.

Some people provide supplemental feed. Supplemental feed programs have supporters and critics. Before beginning a supplemental feed program it must be understood that the program will become ever larger and more expensive. Once started, any supplemental feed program should not be abruptly stopped. This applies to all feeding programs, those designed for the smallest hummingbirds to the largest ungulates.

As general health of wildlife declines, animals become susceptible to numerous proximate problems. An animal in decline will carry greater parasite loads and be more exposed to bacterial and viral infections. Lower energy levels make prey species more vulnerable to predation. A quick field test for malnutrition involves examination of the marrow from a long bone. A nourished animal will have marrow containing fat which will appear pink with a paste-like consistency and the marrow will fill the cavity. Marrow from malnourished animals will be red and gelatinous to a watery consistency. It will not fill the bone cavity.

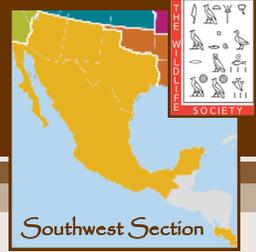


- From the Board
- Southwest Section
- National News
- State News
- International News
- Tribal News
- Student Chapters
- Council News

Kerry Mower has worked for New Mexico Department of Game and Fish 19 years. He is the Wildlife Health Specialist and coordinates the drug program. Kerry received a BS in biology from Utah State University, an MS from Brigham Young University in Zoology, and a PhD in Animal Science from The Ohio State University.



Southwest Section News

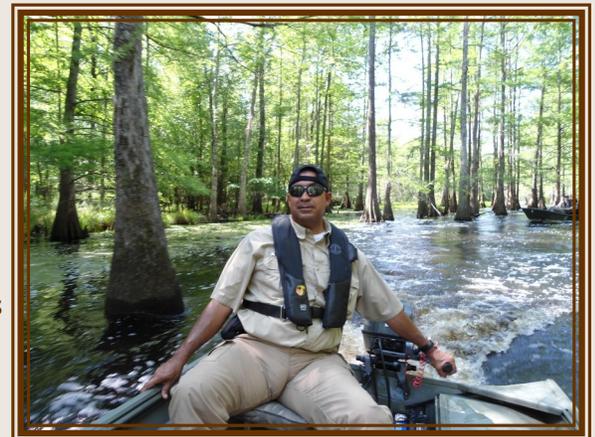


- From the Board
- Southwest Section
- National News
- State News
- International News
- Tribal News
- Student Chapters
- Council News

Mexico

Maria Araujo
 International Affairs Director
 Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Cadet Antonio Chavez-Ramirez is participating in the Texas Game Warden training through a cooperative sponsorship among Safari Club International and its foundation, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the state of Chihuahua, Mexico. This is a capacity building project of the Wildlife Table of the Border Governors Conference, which was established in 2004 as the six Mexican states along the U.S. border received some wildlife management authority as part of the decentralization policies of former President Vicente Fox. Three other staff from the state of Nuevo Leon have trained in the Texas Game Warden training as the new state wildlife agencies try to address the need for more personnel, particularly in the area wildlife law enforcement.



Cadet Antonio Chavez-Ramirez on the Angelina River

Costa Rica

The first step in gaining members from Costa Rica is taking or making the opportunity to meet professionals from those countries. With a little help, there just might be this opportunity.

July 10-15, 2013 at the Albuquerque Convention Center the 2013 there will be a Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. **Leland Pierce** has contact with professionals that have shown an interest in renting a van and shuttling professionals to the meeting from Costa Rica and Mexico. This is an opportunity to introduce students and professionals to the Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society and its members in both a personal and professional setting.

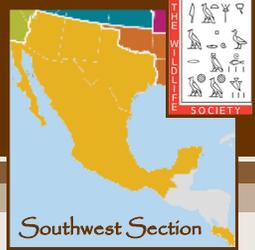
This will; however, take some funds to make happen. If you would like to contribute to Southwest Section recruitment efforts, and help make this happen, contact President-Elect and New Mexico's Recovery Coordinator, Terrestrial Species **Leland Pierce** at: leland.pierce@state.nm.us or 505/476-8094

For information on the meeting: <http://www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/jointmeeting/>





Southwest Section News



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Join!



Membership Application

Membership Fee \$5.00

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix
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Mailing Address

City	State	Zip Code	Country
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E-mail address	Work Phone
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Member Type (Please circle one): Student Regular Retired

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

Membership benefits for the Southwest Section TWS

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

