The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society is allowing early sale of raffle tickets for 3 different hunts: 1st Alligator Hunt, 2nd Duck Hunt, 3rd Fishing Trip. This is a competition among collegiate chapters and there are prizes for the top school. To help fundraise for the Texas Tech Chapter, please follow the link to our Facebook page for more info, or purchase tickets here: https://tctwsraffle.eventbrite.com

December Graduates

Meghan Mahurin | B.S. Natural Resources Management | Wildlife Biology

“The Wildlife Society has provided many opportunities for me as an undergraduate that I would not have received otherwise. At the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society meeting in 2018 I heard about the wildlife conservation camp and was later accepted as a college mentor. I got to spend a week with high school students from all over the state talking about wildlife conservation and why it is so important. That was probably my favorite experience during my career at Texas Tech. I am in the process of pursuing graduate school for my masters and hope to begin fall 2019.”

Fall 2018 Review

Our officer team thanks our members, alumni, faculty, and friends who made Fall 2018 a successful and prosperous semester. Our 4th Annual Wild Game Dinner raised > $1,200 and was our largest dinner yet. With more than 70 people attending, we raised money for our chapter and also bonded with new friends, department faculty, alumni, and graduate students. If you missed this event, don’t worry! Our Game Dinner is always during homecoming weekend, so mark your calendars now and see you next year! Along with the Game Dinner, the fall semester is also when we send members to participate in wildlife captures. This year we were fortunate enough to have members present at both a white tail deer capture hosted by the East Foundation and mule deer captures in coordination with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas A&M University Kingsville, and the Borderlands Research Institute. Thank you to everyone who provided our chapter with opportunities to gain hands on experience, opportunities to raise money, and for supporting us. A special thank you to those who came to speak at our meetings about their wildlife careers: Gail Barnes, South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center; Brady Griffith, New Mexico Game Warden; The Center for the Integration of STEM Education and Research (CISER); Andrew Skipton, Texas Youth Hunting Program Hunt Master; and our TTU Graduate Panel who promoted their research assistant positions and gave advice about graduate school.
John Failla | B.S. Conservation Law Enforcement

“One of my favorite memories from the society was going on a mule deer capture last fall. It was an amazing hands-learning experience, getting to work with all the individuals brought in to be worked. Also, all the people that I have gotten to meet through my years at Texas Tech. After graduation I will be pursuing a career as a Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Warden. I have also considered to come back to Texas Tech and finish a degree in Wildlife Biology. My advice for undergrads is to get involved early, that is the best way to meet new people. Also get to know your professors, although they can be intimidating at first it’s important for them to know you because they are how you may get hired in the future.”

Katie Doyle | B.S. Natural Resources Management | Wildlife Biology

“I have absolutely no idea what I am doing after graduation. I am hoping to get a seasonal field technician position or a wilderness therapy guiding position and then to get my dog training certification and eventually train search and rescue dogs. My ultimate goal for life is to never have a job that is inside. My tips/advice for undergrads is to get to know your professors, they will help you with more than just schoolwork. Get to know someone in every single class, you will meet people who are extremely cool and very similar to you. Get involved in as much as you can, most of the things we do in NRM are super cool and fun and interesting. Take your classes seriously. This does not mean skip fun things to stay home and study and it does not mean to freak out over every single grade. It means to take the time to learn what you are being taught. If you chose the right major, you will find something interesting in every class you take. Don't waste that opportunity.”

Alumni Spotlight

Dr. Tyler A Campbell | 1996 B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Management
Chief Program Officer and Principal Scientist, East Foundation (2013 – Current)

Why did you choose this field?

“As a pimply-faced high school kid in northeast Kansas, I loved working outside, wild things, and open spaces – I worked at both a dairy and Christmas tree farm. I arrived at Texas Tech’s Range and Wildlife Department in 1993 without really knowing what I was getting into, but eager to learn. Honestly, I chose the field because it just sounded cool – and it truly is, making a difference for wildlife and the land!”

What did you get involved in?

“I got involved in everything I could within the department. Research technician positions included, catching herps and small mammals on a prescribed fire study, radio-tracking (this was way before GPS collars) desert kit foxes, and examining white-tailed deer antlers for causes of breakage. I was also an active member of the Range and Wildlife Club and served as president of the organization during the 1995–1996 term. My undergraduate degree at TTU provided a tremendous foundation for my follow-up graduate work. TTU’s professors were excellent and the quality of instruction was second to none. After completing my B.S. from TTU, I received a M.S. degree through the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville (I studied white-tailed deer nutrition), and a PhD degree from the University of Georgia (I studied white-tailed deer movement ecology in West Virginia). In 2004 I was hired as the Field Station Leader for the new USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Service-National Wildlife Research Center’s research station in Kingsville. Here and for a brief time in Gainesville, Florida I led the Center’s wild pig research efforts.”

Favorite memory at TTU?

“Without question, Dr. Bryant’s Wildlife Habitat Management early fall field trip to Vermejo Park. He bugled in all bull elk from within a 2-mile radius – and there were a lot of elk in this valley. Best part was seeing Dr. Bryant shake like a leaf, uncontrollably – he was fired up! Being in nature has this effect and his reaction was contagious.”

Advice to current students?

“First, always do your best – in the classroom, on volunteer assignments, and on the job. Don’t hold back; leave everything on the field, so to speak. Your effort and positive attitude will get you noticed. Being a hard-worker with a good attitude who is willing to learn new things will go a long way. Second, and perhaps implied in the above, get involved. Volunteer functions, student chapters, church activities, whatever it is, get involved and be engaged. Life is about relationships and these are forged when folks work together toward a common goal. Lastly, purposely and intentionally build your professional network. Everyone knows everyone in the wildlife field.”

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