A Semester in Review

This semester, for the first time ever, the TTU Wildlife Society was part of the Texas Wildlife Film Tour for their Lubbock tour stop. Members also volunteered at the Llano Estacado Pheasant/Quail Forever banquet where they received a $1500 donation. At the TCTWS annual meeting, Madeleine Thornley presented on her research, Colin Merritt presented his poster, and Jonathon Bentley won first place with his poster. Additionally, our Wildlife Quiz Bowl team made it to semifinals, Mady Hill was the member of the year, Madeleine won third place with her remote camera photo, and we won the Battle of the Alumni Bucks challenge, and the Collegiate Raffle Ticket challenge. Thank you to all friends and alumni who attended and supported our first NRM Alumni Reception at the TCTWS annual meeting. We raised > $1400 on our special raffle items, and congratulations to Devin Erxleben and Dr. Louis Harveson! Thank you to everyone who gave our chapter opportunities to gain hands on experience and allowed the organization to raise funds. Thank you to all the speakers at our meetings: Kevin Rhodes of the Science Spectrum, Manuel De Leon from NRCS, Jeff Bonner from TPWD, and Dr. Clint Boal from the USGS Coop Unit here at TTU. A special thank you to the 2018-2019 TTU Wildlife Society officers for service and dedication: Robert Looney, Fall Ag Council Rep; Price Clayton, Spring Ag Council Rep; Martha DeLuzio, Fall Outreach Coordinator; Jonathan McClellan, Spring Outreach Coordinator; Micah Rainey, Social Media Chair; Madeleine Thornley, Secretary; Candice Zuniga, Treasurer; Mady Hill, Vice President; Sara Hamilton, President.

Lesser Prairie-Chicken Capture

Members in our chapter had the opportunity to trap lesser prairie chickens at the Sand Ranch. On the day of the members arrival, they started setting up and rearranging funnel traps and a drop net. They were able to capture both female and male, and collected mass, measurements, blood samples, and then banded and released the chickens. The data that was collected by our members will be used to assess habitat selection, nest survival, nest ecology, and brood ecology, in a study examining the interactive effects of prescribed fire and grazing on the reproductive ecology of lesser-prairie chickens. Students participated in this capture under the supervision of Dr. Blake Grisham, who holds all permits required to capture lesser-prairie chickens.
Awards Ceremony

As the 2018-2019 school year came to an end, members, officers, faculty, and staff were recognized for this school year's accomplishments, with guest speaker Robert Stubblefield from the Llano River Field Station. The chapter hosted the end of the year awards ceremony where graduation cords were presented to all graduating seniors for the 2019 school year. Awards were also presented to individuals who went above and beyond for the organization and department: Member of the Year, Price Clayton; Officer of the Year, Madeliene Thornley; Faculty of the Year, Dr. Clint Boal; and Staff of the Year, Gim McClarren. Dr. Blake Grisham and Dr. Warren Conway were also acknowledged for their dedication as advisors. Thank you to all the members and guests who attended, as well as Lucas Schilder for photographing the awards ceremony.

Alumni Spotlight

Duane Lucia | USFWS Fish & Wildlife Biologist | Class of ‘90

Favorite memory at Texas Tech?
My favorite memories at Texas Tech would include extensive field trips for habitat management class or the big game management class, where we would travel to ranches, wildlife management areas, and refuges to study habitat management practices and stewardship.

What does your current work involve?
Currently, I am a private lands biologist and a collateral wildland fire fighter with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In our program “Partners for Fish and Wildlife,” we deliver conservation stewardship to private landowners that are managing their properties for wildlife habitat. A typical day for me is meeting with private landowners and discussing their goals and objectives for their property, and then using that information to develop a habitat management plan. Additionally, I help them implement the habitat management plan practices for their property.

Advice for current students?
My advice to the current students is to follow your goals or dreams and don’t settle for less. Get as much experience in the profession as you can, even if it means volunteering for grad students or agencies on projects.

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