

Talkin' Turkey



Samuel Prescott McManus
March 16, 1933 – May 16, 2022

Happy trails,
Doctor Sam!

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Summer 2022
Issue 48

txnwtf.org



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A few words from Tony.

Greetings fellow NWTF Texas members.

I hope you all had more success in your turkey hunts than I did. Those Ole Tom's just didn't cooperate this year for me. As I write this, I find it hard to believe we are almost halfway thru 2022. With that being said, I know that many of our Chapters have held some very successful Banquets, with several more to go to round out the year. As usual all these Chapters and their Banquet committees deserve a huge thank you for all their time, effort, and dedication towards our mission.

At The National Level:

- We have received the announcement of CEO Becky Humphries retirement in February of 2023 and her replacement with CO-CEO's Jason Burkhalter and Kurt Dryoff.
- The reopening of the Superfund effective September 1, 2022, back to full capacity and no restrictions.
- Waterways For Wildlife project on the Gene Howe WMA for a total project amount of \$100,000.
- The National Board approved more than \$360,000 in funding for seven research projects across a six-state region (Georgia, Mississippi, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Texas). With the including match this equals 2.5 million dollars towards Wild Turkey research. Texas receiving funding for the research of Rio Grande Wild Turkey Habitat and Genetic Connectivity and Disease Prevalence and Survival in the Edwards Plateau Eco Region.

As we enter 2023 the NWTF will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. In addition, the Texas State Chapter will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary. So, stay tuned for upcoming plans for the celebration of these milestones.

At The State Level

- We will attend the God in the Great Outdoors Expo at Rock Hill Baptist church in Brownsboro July 29&30th. If you are in the area stop by and give us a shout.

- The State Awards and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is in the planning stages and will be a live event scheduled to be held in Bryan, January 14, 2023.
- Congratulations to Journalist Chester Moore longtime NWTF Texas supporter for his 1st Place award received at the Press Club of Southeast Texas for his article "Conservation in Action Angelina County Turkey Release" Chester states "It's such an honor to be recognized for that story, as what I have seen from TPWD, NWTF and the Middle Neches Turkey Cooperative do in Angelina County has been amazing" Moore said "It's true environmental stewardship." In addition, he received recognition and awards in various other categories for his coverage of wildlife and conservation issues.

In closing, I can't stress enough our appreciation for our Local Chapters, Banquet Committees, Sponsors, Donors and most importantly our Membership for your continued support. The last couple of years have been tough and you have showed up and continued to support the NWTF Mission. We can't succeed without you and the support you give us.

It's truly amazing

Respectfully,

Tony Hawley
President
NWTF Texas Chapter

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Many thanks to all our contributing writers!



C O N S E R V A T I O N

NWTF partners in Texas to conserve habitat on private lands.



Annie Ferrell, District Biologist
afarrell@nwtf.net

Image courtesy of NWTF.

Biologist Report – Summer 2022

HUNTING HERITAGE SUPER FUND

The Texas State Chapter has budgeted \$91,500 for Super Fund projects in FY22, and all applicants were notified of their application and award status in Fall 2021. Since September 2021, \$66,250.00 has been paid out: TPWD Habitat Projects (\$28,000), ID Fairchild State Forest conservation project (\$9,000), DB position support (\$10,000), Waterways for Wildlife Initiative support (\$15,000), two JAKES events (\$1,000), one WITO event (\$500), one Wheelin' Sportsmen event (\$500), Lone Star Land Steward Awards Banquet bronze level sponsor (\$1,000), Volunteers of the Year travel to state awards banquet reimbursement to the Texas State discretionary account (\$250), and Game Warden travel to convention reimbursement (\$1,000) (see attached Super Fund Report from 5/26/2022). Invoices submitted for payment will be processed as they are received and via the normal approval processes. If anyone needs assistance related to SF proposals, requests, or payments, please let me know.

WATERWAYS FOR WILDLIFE INITIATIVE

NWTF has officially launched this new riparian initiative encompassing 10 states, including Texas. Initial reception on this new initiative has been overwhelmingly positive and we are excited to get funding out to projects across the area.

- **Funding:** The Texas State Chapter was one of the first to commit SFs to this new initiative. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! The OK, KS, NE, SD, and ND State Chapters have committed SFs as well (\$52k total). In addition, we have funding from industry, grants and donors that will be disbursed to selected riparian restoration projects through this initiative.

- **Request for Proposals:** The RFP was sent to potential applicants and partners across the 10-state initiative focus area, and proposals were due in mid-February. NWTF staff received 18 proposals and selected 14 proposals for funding totaling \$167,000, including \$2.8 million in match from partners. These projects will potentially conserve or enhance 7,677 acres and impact 77.9 stream miles in 8 out of the 10 states.
- **Communication & Outreach Efforts:** Look for a feature article and focus on this new initiative in the spring edition of Turkey Call magazine.
- **Texas W4W Project:** Grantee is Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (\$25,000.00, total project amount is \$100,000.00). This project is on Gene Howe WMA and consists of silt removal in a derelict pond to help facilitate their rotational grazing program on the WMA by providing water for livestock. TPWD will also be grubbing invasive species such as Russian olive, salt cedar and Eastern red cedar.

HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

NWTF and TPWD work cooperatively with the NETX CDN to conserve and enhance habitat on private lands for priority bird species, including the Eastern wild turkey. Conservation treatments include prescribed burning, timber stand improvement, and reforestation. Since 2017, we have conserved 19,335 acres of private lands in NE TX for \$892,093.62 on 72 projects, and we have 13 projects in progress for FY22. The FY23 RFP closed on June 1 and proposal review is in progress.



E D U C A T I O N

Kids who spend
time outdoors
are tomorrow's
conservation
leaders.



Kim Potts, Outdoor Education Coordinator
kpotts@reg8.net

Photos courtesy of Kim Potts.

Hello Summer!

Summer is here and another spring turkey season has come and gone. The spring season was very exciting for me this year. My daughter and I have not had the opportunity to spend time together in quite a while with her being a new mom so enjoying time with her on our first turkey hunt together was very special to me. I must admit that we did not harvest a turkey, but we learned a lot and are already making plans for next year.

I would like to extend a thank you to our NWTF friends who were readily available to answer questions and quick to send us suggestions via text while we were in the field. Niki and I were the recipients of one of Texas Parks and Wildlife's draw hunts and not only did we gain some new hunting knowledge, but also had the pleasure of making some new friends. We were blessed with the opportunity to hunt on a private ranch near Breckenridge. It was a short and extremely windy hunt, so the odds were stacked against us, but being outdoors with family and friends is never a waste of time. It is times like these that I want our Texas youth to have access to and the joy of experiencing and the National Wild Turkey Federation is an awesome avenue for those experiences.

The National Wild Turkey Federation and Texas Parks and Wildlife work hand-in-hand to provide opportunities for kids, adults and veterans to participate in mentored hunts at little or no cost. You can reach out to your local NWTF chapter to learn more about these opportunities or visit our website at txnwtf.org to learn more.

The 2022 Texas-NASP/IBO State 3-D Challenge was a big success this year with almost 3,700 students participating from all sides of our wonderful state.

This year's tournament was exciting as usual but had a little twist of sadness added with the announcement of Burnie Kessner's retirement after serving 15 years as the Archery Coordinator for Texas Parks and Wildlife. Burnie built the NASP program from the ground up and he is much deserving of this milestone that we all look forward to. Congratulations Burnie, you will be missed!

The number of Outdoor Education classes being offered in Texas classrooms is on the rise once again! District Administrators are already gearing up for the 2022-2023 school year and Outdoor Education is back in their sites and back on their schedules. I am excited about the renewed interest in this program because of the benefits it provides our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren for some. Studies show that kids who spend time in the outdoors are tomorrow's conservation leaders.

If you would like to learn how to get one or all of these programs started, please do not hesitate to call me at 903-348-1845. I would love to share more about what the National Wild Turkey Federation can offer your area. Also, because of my involvement in public education, I can point you in the direction of federal grants and organizations that will help provide curriculum, training, and funding for Outdoor Education programs for your schools.





H A R V E S T

Some turkey numbers thrive better than others.



Chester Moore, Texas Fish and Game magazine
chester@chestermooore.com

Photo courtesy of Chester Moore

Why do some East Texas Eastern turkey populations thrive and others fade away?

Researchers from Louisiana State University (LSU) and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) hope to answer that question and others in a new study that involves fitting turkeys with GPS tracking units.

“We can gain a tremendous amount of information from turkeys with these devices. A similar study has been going on in Louisiana for a decade, and we have learned much about them in the Kisatchie National Forest and other areas,” said LSU’s Dr. Bret Collier.

In January, LSU graduate student Chad Argabright and the TPWD Wildlife District 6 leader Rusty Wood and his crew set rocket nets and captured turkeys on a hunting club near the northern tier of the Angelina National Forest.

“This area has consistently had strong turkey numbers compared to many other locations in East Texas, yet it is not classic turkey habitat. TPWD partnered with the landowners and leaseholders here and made arrangements to capture and study these birds with the GPS units,” Wood said.

Dr. Collier said the collars give 17 location points throughout the day and are especially helpful with providing data on issues like travel distance and discovering where hens feed with their poults.

“There is a ton of published research on wild turkey and their habitat requirements. However, this elusive bird still seems to thrive in some areas while struggling in other areas with perceived useable space,” said TPWD Turkey Program Leader Jason Hardin.

“The information gained from this study will be value-added to wild turkey management in East Texas and potentially across a much larger portion of the birds range.”

According to Hardin, TPWD is continuing its translocation of turkeys in the region.

They recently completed a stocking project with 13 Maine birds in Franklin County and added 27 birds from Maine to the Middle Neches Eastern Turkey Cooperative in Angelina County.

The agency under his leadership has moved forward with “super stockings” of turkeys with a minimum of 80 birds stocked in a location with a male/female ratio that allows for optimal population expansion.

“TPWD started the super stocking effort in 2014, and we have released close to 1,000 birds since,” he added.

In January, numerous birds (mainly adult hens) from the Angelina County stocking were fitted with transmitters, which began sending data to researchers upon release.

This will give researchers valuable information on the successes and challenges of turkey restoration in East Texas.

“TPWD hopes to continue with the current program until we can daisy chain restocked and established populations across our Neches and Sulphur River Priority Areas in order to create a large range of connected populations capable of exchanging populations over time,” Hardin said.





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Texas State Chapter

2021 Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

This year's Volunteer Appreciation Banquet was held in Lufkin January 15th, 2022. This year's banquet had a "Beach Party" theme. Everyone was invited to wear Hawaiian shirts and there were flower lei's and even a fun photo booth. There was even a concert by local country artist Sam Shupak. This was a fun time to celebrate all the great volunteers around the state. Our Texas volunteers are some of the best in the country.

The Texas State Chapter Board of Directors would like to recognize the following volunteers and chapters for their efforts over past year;



Thanks Dorothy!

Thanks Bob!

- **East Texas Volunteer of the Year** - Larry Jordan, Pineywoods Chapter
- **West Texas Volunteer of the Year** - Adolph Pompa, South Plains Chapter
- **North Texas Volunteer of the Year** - Cotton Guest, Northeast Chapter
- **South Texas Volunteer of the Year** - Jessica Fitch, Houston Chapter
- **NWTF Officer of the Year** - Trey Kram
- **Top WITO Event** - Houston WITO Chapter
- **Rising Star** - Dillion Taylor, Henderson County Chapter
- **Top Wheelin Sportsman Event** - Kaufman County/Cottonwood Creek/Cross Timbers Chapters
- **Top Jakes Event**
 - 1st Place - Blackland Prairie Chapter
 - 2nd Place - Kaufman County Chapter
- **Top Virtual Event** - Blackland Prairie Chapter
- **Most Sponsor Memberships** - Pineywoods Chapter
- **Most Memberships** - Highland Lakes Chapter
- **Highest Net Income**
 - 1st Place - Pineywoods Chapter
 - 2nd Place - Highland Lakes Chapter
 - 3rd Place - April AWOL Chapter
- **Highest Net to Gross**
 - 1st Place - Houston Chapter
 - 2nd Place - Highland Lakes Chapter
 - 3rd Place - Tri County Chapter
- **State Board Member Emeritus** - Dale Bounds
- **State Board Member Retirees**



Tiki Chris

Thanks Trey!

Many thanks for your many years of service and dedication to NWTF Texas

- Dorothy McCarver, Northeast Chapter
- Robert Linder, Highland Lakes Chapter



Thanks Dale!



A TRIBUTE TO OUR FRIEND

Doctor Sam McManus

Samuel Prescott McManus
March 16, 1933 – May 16, 2022



Oh My!!! Where do I start???

First—I am deeply honored to write a few words for our Texas NWTF newsletter about a man whose life of generosity, dedication and his love for the noble gobbler affected so many in “our turkey world”. Dr. Sam McManus never asked anything from any of us here in TEXAS NWTF, except to care for that precious feathered treasure that we all enjoy. He reminded us of the critical habitat needs of the wild turkey. Sam’s desire was that future generations would share the excitement for that first early morning gobble, each Spring, from “a waking long beard” on the roost that he had experienced. That “unique sound” got Sam’s heart racing with the anticipation of a “mano y mano” hunt with that wily, mystical bird.

Sam McManus had many, many stories of turkey camps and the thrills of bagging the tough ones and also the thrills of a few long spurs that he let slip away. Sam welcomed the “pre hunt scouting”, the hoot of an owl and his own hen calls ringing through the air while imagining a flushed red head soon to be coming his way. The excitement of Anticipation!

Sam McManus was a serious turkey hunter. He loved those that shared his passion for challenging tough Toms. That is what bonds the very best of turkey hunters. Sam knew that. He shared his years of experience in the woods and many turkey tips with most of us. We learned from Dr. Sam. He was a mentor for many.

He raised money for NWTF scholarships at our local banquets in Houston. Twisting the arms of his golf partners to dig deeper for the kids. Sam’s energy rubbed off on those around him. It was my

pleasure to hunt gobblers with Sam in both Texas and New Mexico. The best part was actually after those hunts. We swapped stories about other animals we saw while hunting a Rio Grande or a Merriam - - or -when he got over to Mississippi hunting Easterns. He had his early stories. Sam hunted with Preston Pittman when Preston was a young boy acquiring national championship turkey calling fame. Later he would become one of America’s best turkey call makers. Sam’s other turkey hunting “partner” was one of the Deans of American Custom call makers, Allen Jenkins. My goodness, what two super turkey men did Dr. Sam run with? !WOW! The Best! - - and Sam was in that fine fraternity. What a champion of the wild turkey was Dr. Sam!

He was, what we in Texas would call, a “High Bidder” at our NWTF Banquets. To be honest—Sam did not need a gun, nor a call, nor a bag, nor a turkey vest or a trip or a hunt. What Sam needed was to help focus on the needs of “a flock of wild turkeys”. That was why he bid high. Dr. Sam bought hunts at national conventions and hunted with top level administrators of the NWTF, not for the prestige, but so he could donate more money to the NWTF to help habitat. The McManus group was not just Sam, although he was the prime force. Sam made sure that (son) Stuart was well heeled in the NWTF and personally, I watched (grandson) Mitch grow up with the influence of his grandfather. Sam was like a boss hen covering up her poultts with her wings in the rain, to make sure they were around to enjoy the woods later—the NWTF woods. Sam sold the NWTF to people like Houston member Ken O Rear and many others that he inspired to join “the NWTF cause”.

Sam was on the Texas State NWTF Board and was “everywhere” when it was for the wild turkey.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention that Dr. Sam would occasionally “sip” bourbon. YES!

That was part of Sam's “turkey hunting persona”. IT had a twofold pay off for him. It relaxed him after a day of chasing smart gobblers, but mainly, Bourbon really loosened up the back of Sam's tongue - and you wanted to be there at campfire time to hear him tell the stories of the early days. It was then that he would remember a special hunting tip that he would share. He would get excited about his stories of past hunts and Sam was not going to bed soon and we weren't either. We were lucky to be in the presence of a man that God had blessed with a deep love for his wily competitor, a displaying strutting gobbler.

Dr. Sam McManus had that disease that only other serious turkey hunters understand. I was so fortunate to have shared the years with this man so that I caught the same disease. I know many of you feel the same. You can't replace a Dr. Sam, but you can cherish those magical moments we all had with him.

Thanks so much, Sam!

Robert Linder
2016 NWTF Roger Latham Award Recipient
Rlinderhaus@aol.com



I first met Dr. Sam McManus when he was turkey hunting on a farm in Liberty, MS. back in the early 1960's. We formed a strong friendship right off. At this farm, 5 or 6 of us hunting buddies wanted to see who could be the first to kill a gobbler with a 10" beard and one who could kill the heaviest turkey during that 2 week season. Dr. Sam was hunting alone one morning but with no luck so that afternoon he asked me if I wanted to go with him so, off we went to where he had hunted that morning. We set up & I called and immediately had a turkey answer so I called again and we could tell the gobbler was getting closer to us. In about 5 minutes we had 5 gobblers to step out into an opening in our gun range. Dr. Sam picked out one that he thought was the heaviest & shot him! When he picked up the turkey he didn't think it was quite heavy enough to meet the criteria for him to win for the heaviest turkey soooooo Doc decided he had the 'cure' for that tiny problem. With nothing else we could do, it was decided to take some 12 gauge shotgun shells and stuff in the bird where the sun don't shine!!! After 6 or 7 shells were “inserted” we figured he then weighed over the 18 pounds needed to win. We both were very confident that Doc's name would go in the WIN column. And lo and behold when they weighed him the scales registered over 18 pounds!!!! That evening at dinner we were celebrating Sam's win UNTIL we found out a wildlife biologist was also at dinner. He decided to check the 3 gobblers that were killed that afternoon and wanted to further find out what they had been eating. Sam started sweating and I started squirming!!!! The biologist came back inside with a bowl full of 12 gauge shotgun shells!! Needless to say, this duo was caught and Sam didn't win for the LEGAL heaviest bird but still DOC and I have shared many good laughs about this together over the years. Among so very many special memories I have of Sam, I think the one that means the most to me was our last hunt together when he killed his last gobbler.

Allen Jenkins



The 46th Annual Convention and Sport Show was held in February at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville. The convention was back as an “In Person” event this year after being “virtual” in 2021. It felt like a big family reunion as we were able to gather together again. Texas had a good size group in attendance this year.

There was musical entertainment and speakers throughout the convention including a concert by Country Music star Chris Janson. There was also an inspirational speech given during the Veteran’s breakfast by FOX Nation reporter and veteran Johnny Jones. Mr. Jones lost both his legs in Afghanistan. There were many exhibitors on hand. The Grand National Calling Contest was held as well as taxidermy and custom call making contests.

Texas has some of the best volunteers and chapters in the nation. Several of which received national recognition for their conservation efforts.

- Outstanding State Chapter Award for chapters with 2,500-4,999 members - Texas State Chapter - 3rd Place
- Half Million Dollar Club - Highland Lakes Chapter, Palo Pinto Co Chapter
- Grand Slam Club - April AWOL Chapter, Blackland Prairie Chapter, Houston Chapter, Highland Lakes Chapter
- Royal Slam Club - Pineywoods Chapter
- Partnership Award for Wheelin Sportsmen Event - Kaufman Co Chapter, Cross Timbers Chapter and Cottonwood Creek Chapter

Next year’s convention will celebrate The National Wild Turkey Federation’s 50th Anniversary. We hope you can join us February 15-19, 2023 in Nashville.



Texas State Chapter



Houston Chapter



Pineywoods Chapter



Blackland Prairie Chapter



Highland Lakes & April AWOL



Enjoyin' great eatin'.



H A R V E S T

Taking a guest hunting is the best way to preserve our hunting culture.



Jason Hardin , TPWD Wild Turkey Program Leader
Jason.hardin@tpwd.texas.gov

Photo courtesy of NWTF Texas.

The hunter population in Texas is aging and on the decline. We need new hunters.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife's Small Game Survey Harvest recorded the lowest number of turkey hunters since the survey was initiated in the 1980s and one of the lowest harvests since the survey began. Only the 2011 season recorded fewer birds harvested. This is indicative of poor hunting conditions, but also due to decline in the number of hunters being recruited. The average hunter age goes up each year, which also indicates the fact we are not recruiting new hunters. This decline in hunter recruitment will have an impact on hunting culture in the years to come. The way out is obvious. Get new hunters into the field with you. They do not need to be kids. We need to get new adult hunters into the field as well as those hunters who have not purchased a license in the last few years. Taking a guest hunting is the best way to preserve our hunting culture.

The spring drought conditions, the above average heat, and high winds played havoc on Rio Grande turkey hunters almost all spring. Many of our Rio Grande wild turkeys were just trying to maintain body condition and nesting efforts have been reduced due to the harsh conditions. It is getting late in the year to pull of a decent hatch. The only silver lining is with few hens attempting to nest survival will be much higher and those hens will have an opportunity to nest in 2023 when conditions are favorable.

The eastern turkey season saw another uptick in harvest getting close to 2020 numbers. Harvest was up 33% with 192 eastern wild turkey reported harvested through the My Texas Hunt Harvest App.

Most southeastern counties with an open season saw harvest exceeding the 10-year average. Unfortunately, the northeastern counties are still below the 10-year average for harvest. Bowie County was the exception with matching the record harvest reports going back to 2005 and 2006. Newton County and Sabine County also saw good increases in harvest reporting with Newton County having another record harvest at 48 birds reported and Sabine County tying their highest report going back to 2007.

Mandatory harvest reporting with the My Texas Hunt Harvest went online in 10 new counties in Central Texas this spring. Turkey hunters in Bastrop, Caldwell, Fayette, Jackson, Lavaca, Lee, Matagorda, Milam, and Wharton Counties were all required to report their harvested birds for the first time this spring to assist TPWD in monitoring that eastern most Rio Grande wild turkey season. These counties have a one gobbler bag and a season that runs from April 1-30 each year. TPWD has been lacking harvest data from these counties due to lower turkey and hunter densities. Mandatory harvest reporting will allow TPWD to track harvest more accurately. A big surprise was Lavaca County harvest was head and shoulders above all other counties in the 10-county landscape with 54 birds reported harvested. Behind Lavaca County included Bastrop with 24 harvest reports, Fayette with 15 harvest reports, Caldwell with 14 harvest reports, Jackson with 6 harvest reports, Lee with 6 harvest reports, Milam with 1 harvest report, and Wharton County with 1 harvest report. There was no harvest report from Matagorda County. TPWD anticipates increased harvest reporting as the new regulation becomes more familiar to local turkey hunters.

There is not much to report for new wild turkey regulations for the 2022-23 hunting season. The TPWD Commission has approved closing eastern Ellis County east of Interstate 35 to protect wild turkeys as part of an ongoing restocking effort along the Trinity River watershed. Fortunately, most if not all huntable turkey populations in Ellis County are found west of the I-35 corridor and the new regulation should have little to no impact on hunters.

Texas Parks and Wildlife, with assistance from NWTF, restocked 56 eastern wild turkeys at two sites in Angelina and Franklin Counties this past winter. The Franklin County site is located along White Oak Creek and was a continuation of restocking efforts initiated in 2020.

Restocking efforts are now complete at the Franklin County release site and all effort have moved to our Angelina County release site along the Neches River. Since 2021 TPWD staff have release 62 eastern wild turkeys at this Angelina County release site and hope to wrap up restocking efforts there this coming winter. TPWD staff plan to initiate two new release sites in northern Hopkins County this coming winter.



Wild turkey being released in Angelina County to support ongoing restocking efforts within TPWD's Neches River Priority Area.



NWTF APRIL AWOL CHAPTER



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MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSOR: MIKE PERRY DODGE/JEEP, NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS.

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**NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION
50TH ANNIVERSARY**





H A R V E S T

More than
one third of
our wildlife
is facing
extinction.



Mike Shouse - Government Affairs Liaison
512-966-9539

Photo courtesy of CNWTF



Save Our Wildlife

Our nation is experiencing what many scientists are referring to as a wildlife crisis. Nearly 40% of wildlife and plant species worldwide are facing the threat of extinction, and more than one-third of fish and wildlife in the United States are facing a similar fate. States have identified more than 12,000 species of “greatest conservation need,” ranging from federally listed threatened and endangered species to species potentially in need of federal protection. This is why the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act H.R. 3742, new legislation introduced by Reps. Debbie Dingell, D-Mich., and Jeff Fortenberry, R-Neb., is so important to the future of wildlife in the U.S.

Currently, wildlife conservation relies in large part on Pittman-Robertson dollars. The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act, was enacted in 1937 and uses revenues generated by excise taxes on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment to fund state wildlife conservation efforts. Even with the assistance of Pittman-Robertson dollars, current funding for wildlife conservation is less than 5% of state agencies’ estimated needs. Recovering America’s Wildlife Act will provide \$1.395 billion annually in dedicated funding to the recovery and conservation of our nation’s wildlife. These funds will be available for wildlife conservation without any added burden to

taxpayers, allocating \$1.3 billion of existing funds to the states to carry out their State Wildlife Action Plans and \$97.5 million to tribal wildlife plans.

Each state created a State Wildlife Action Plans through a collaborative process with the state wildlife agency, the public and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conserve at-risk wildlife and habitat. The purpose of these plans is to conserve wildlife and its habitat before requiring protection from the Endangered Species Act; in other words, conserving these species before they end up in the emergency room. Recovering America’s Wildlife Act will provide funding for vital on-the-ground conservation work to protect these species.

Passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would mean more than \$50 million in new dollars each year for Texas, transforming efforts to conserve and restore more than 1,300 species of concern here in the Lone Star State, the majority of which are at-risk, non-game fish and wildlife.

It would do this by tapping existing federal revenue — there would be no new or additional taxes. By focusing on species of concern and their habitats, it would keep common species common and avoid the need for endangered species listings by getting ahead of wildlife declines while

there's still time to act. That's good for jobs and the economy as well as wildlife, which is why this plan started with buy-in from industry and business. These creatures and their wild homes are the "goose that lays the golden egg" that sustains multi-billion dollar nature tourism industries in our state, clean air and water, and healthy outdoor recreation. This bill would mean millions in new grants to nonprofits, universities, landowners, local communities and others. Besides natural resource benefits, this could also transform nature-based recreation and education opportunities for including children and families. It would be the greatest wildlife conservation breakthrough in decades.

The NWTF thanks Reps. Dingell and Fortenberry for their introduction of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, and the 61 original cosponsors for their support. This legislation is vital to protect wildlife and habitat for future generations. We look forward to working with our partners and friends in Congress to enact this legislation and put funding to work for our nation's wildlife. Please contact your representative and ask him/her to sponsor this legislation.



Dr. James Earl Kennamer Scholarship

2022 Recipient: Ms. Jaci L. Diviney from Krum, Texas

Jaci is a worthy recipient of the Dr. James Earl Kennamer Scholarship because of her involvement in her community, her extra curricular activities, maintaining a high GPA and class rank and still be able to hunt and preserve our hunting heritage.

Jaci started hunting at the age of six. Whether it was deer, turkey, or even an oryx she was always ready to go hunt. Being raised in an environment where her family hunted, she learned very many lessons and understood how important the outdoor and hunting are.

Every year she looked forward to attending the Cross Timbers Chapter banquet because it was her dream to win a gun. One year, she recalls, she bid on a pink .22 Crickett against other kids and was lucky to snag it even after raising her hand a few more times than her parents may have wanted her to.

Jaci is thankful for the opportunities that she has been given to get outdoors and hunt because she has been able to learn, grow, and share memories with her family. Eventually, she would like her kids to have those same opportunities she did as a child.

She knows that hunting is not only about trophies. Jaci realizes many people hunt to put food in their freezers. That's a large reason she feels conserving our hunting heritage is so important.

Jaci understands the importance of conserving our hunting heritage.

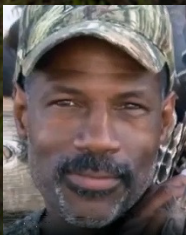
We will be awarding Jaci \$2500 to be paid to her school of choice. She is now also eligible for a NWTF National Scholarship.





TRINITY OAKS

The outdoors is a powerful, healing, and fundamentally life changing experience.



Norm Wade, State Calling Contest Coordinator
lastofmochians@yahoo.com

Photo courtesy of NWTF

Special Turkey Hunt

Recently, Norm Wade and Harry Watson, members of HCWG-NWTF Chapter, served as callers for a special turkey hunt. Terminal cancer patient Lee Collier of Virginia went on his 1st Texas turkey hunt. The hunt was held in Batesville, Texas on the Thumbtack Ranch run by Trinity Oaks. Trinity Oaks is an organization who puts on hunting and fishing trips for terminally ill people from around the country/world. In addition to dream hunts for the sick, Trinity Oaks also serves wounded warriors, first responders and youth. They have a large facility to meet the needs of their guests including, track chairs for those who need them. The ranch is 2,000 acres with lots of wildlife.

James Hauke, Volunteer Coordinator for Trinity Oaks, served as host on this hunt. James is also a great cook.

The turkey hunt was awesome with lots of activity every day. Even though Mr. Collier was in noticeable pain, he never once complained.

Mr. Hauke and Trinity Oaks hope to continue a partnership with the NWTF for more events in the future.

For more information about Trinity Oaks, see the website at <https://www.trinityoaks.org>



Upcoming Banquets & Events

Kaufman County Double Beards,
Terrell, TX
07/09/2022 - 6:00 PM

Perryton Strutters
Perryton, TX
07/15/2022 - 5:30 PM

Van Zandt County Hunting Heritage
Canton, TX
07/16/2022 - 6:00 PM

Deep East Texas
Jasper, TX
07/22/2022 - 6:00 PM

Pineywoods Chapter
Lufkin, TX
07/23/2022 - 6:00 PM

Highland Lakes Chapter
Llano, TX
08/05/2022 - 6:00 PM

Washington County Banquet
Brenham, TX
08/13/2022 - 6:00 PM

Rusk County Gobblers
Henderson, TX
08/20/2022 - 6:00 PM

Blackland Prairie Chapter
West, TX
08/20/2022 - 5:00 PM

2022 Convention Gun of the Year
Texas
08/21/2022

Northeast Texas Chapter WITO Event
Mt. Pleasant, TX
08/27/2022 - 8:00 AM

Permian Basin Chapter
Odessa, TX
09/01/2022 - 5:30 PM

South Plains
Lubbock, TX
09/01/2022 - 6:00 PM

Pioneer Chapter of N.E. Texas
Clarksville, TX
02/24/2023 - 6:00 PM



Keep up to date with all the NWTf event information across Texas by visiting www.nwtf.org/events.



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We recruit all kinds of hunters through our hunter education programs and mentored hunts.

We support public hunting access through lease programs.

We embrace all outdoor enthusiasts of any age and encourage anyone to become a member of our growing family.

We believe the outdoors is for everyone to enjoy.

**Healthy
Habitats.
Healthy
Harvests.™**



txnwtf.org