

College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences Newsletter

Upcoming Events

- ◆ TSC of The Wildlife Society falconry meet & greet, Oct. 2, 2018 @ 6PM, Autry 113
- ◆ [Grad Finale, Oct. 3, 2018](#)
- ◆ [Stockmanship & Stewardship, Oct. 5 & 6, 2018](#)
- ◆ [Texan Tour—Campus Preview Day, Oct. 13, 2018](#)
- ◆ [Homecoming, Oct. 14-20, 2018](#)
- ◆ [Pre-Vet Mock MMI Practice Day, Oct. 27, 2018](#)



DEAN'S CORNER

A Message From Dr. Damron

The National FFA Officer Preparatory Academy just wrapped up. Truly gratifying are the notes I receive afterward. The first three I received this morning (shortened slightly):

...I just wanted to take a minute to thank {the college}...for this event. I have had the desire to run for national office since my first national convention in 2013. I wanted to make sure you knew that {the college's} contribution and support mean more than words can say to me. This training really showed me where I need to make some last minute improvements before convention; played a role in making that happen.inspired me to make a difference in whatever path I choose in life. Thanks again!

Thank you ... for the hospitality to the 36 National FFA Officer Candidates this weekend at Tarleton State University. I cannot tell you how grateful I am for this experience; I have learned more about myself, my organization and my skills. But even further, I have been blessed to see a true example of a community committed to excellence, integrity and service at Tarleton. I am incredibly grateful ... It is evident that the work you, your faculty and your students do on a daily basis makes an enormous impact on our world.

And from one of our own: After helping out with the National FFA Officer Training for the past 6 years, I have seen a tremendous outpouring of the administration and community to assist with this large endeavor.Thank you.... As a TSU Alumnus, I am so proud to say that this University built me.

Many thanks to all who gladly share the responsibilities for this event. It is an incredible happening in terms of its contribution to human capital. It is also an important contribution to the future of this college. Thanks especially to David Frazier, Ted Ford, Michelle Damerau, Tyler Sebek, Wacey Newman and the entire Ag and Consumer Sciences department. We also deeply appreciate the monetary support from Mark Martin and Interbank!

Construction of the new Equipment Shop and Storage Building and the new Animal and Plant Sciences Center continue. The progress is steady and easy to observe. Feel free to go by and take a look.

We have 2021 students in the college this fall, an increase of 4.44% over last year. We have more freshmen, transfer students, and graduate students than last year. Faculty, staff, current students, and alumni all play important roles in student recruitment and retention. With committed faculty and staff, exceptional programs, and a student-centered attitude, good things are bound to continue happening. Thanks to everyone for what you do for our students, our college and our university. We are making progress toward a stronger and better future with greatly expanded opportunities. The best is yet to come!

WSD

Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society supports Recovering America's Wildlife Act

By: Kathryn Burton, Historian for Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Tarleton SCTWS followed The Wildlife Society's stance to support H.R. 4647 Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) and join the Texas Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife. In August, the Student Chapter began collaborating with Forrest Cobb from Texas A&M AgriLife, Natural Resources Institute and James Teer Conservation Leadership Institute Fellow, and Rachel Rommel from the Texas Alliance, as well as with other Student Chapters of The Wildlife Society in Texas. The goal is educating people on RAWA and generating support for the important legislation.

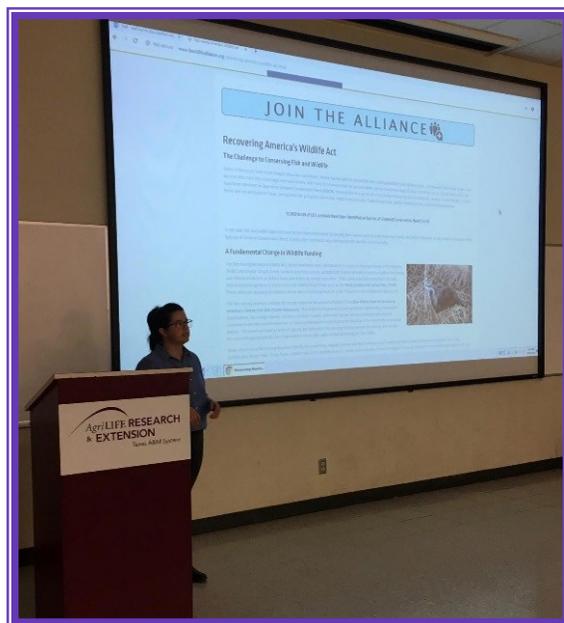
Recovering America's Wildlife Act is a bipartisan bill that would dedicate financial support to Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). These are species whose population numbers and habitat have declined and support is desperately needed to research threats to the species and to conserve habitat. There are over 1,300 species with the SGCN designation in Texas and over 15,000 species nationwide that need dedicated protection. Species in Texas include the Ocelot, American Bumble Bee, Eastern Box Turtle, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Swift Fox, Big Brown Bat, and many rare plant communities. RAWA will provide preventative measures to avoid having to list these SGCN as threatened or endangered in the future. It will also help fund control of invasive species, habitat restoration, and control of wildlife diseases.

The challenge is that this bill is not controversial, so it is not getting the attention that it needs. The act would provide over \$1.3 billion to states, of which Texas would receive about \$64 million annually. Funding would come from existing royalties from energy and mineral production on federal lands and waters. In other words, the money is already there it just needs to be dedicated to fund State Wildlife Action Plans. This also means no new taxes or need for citizens to support this program! Currently, there are 93 co-sponsors, 7 from Texas, but we need 32 more to reach our goal of 125 co-sponsors. SCTWS has collaborated with others to generate more attention to this bill and encourage representatives to support RAWA.

SCTWS has given presentations to TSU students and to the Prairie Oaks Texas Master Naturalist chapter to educate them on the importance of RAWA. Additionally, they have collected over 60 signatures of support for RAWA. Individual letters will be collected and sent to local representatives, Mike Conaway and Roger Williams, to increase awareness about the importance of this bipartisan bill.

Passage of this bill would guarantee Texas and the other states the financial means to help struggling species. In Texas, the funds would be distributed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and divided between research and habitat restoration, education and outreach, and outdoor recreation.

Please come by the WSES office or our RAWA booth to sign and support this movement. For more information, contact Dr. Heather Mathewson at mathewson@tarleton.edu or Kathryn Burton at kathryn.burton@go.tarleton.edu. You can find out more about RAWA on the Texas Alliance for American's Fish & Wildlife or The Wildlife Society websites.



Kathryn Burton educates wildlife enthusiasts about the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Agriculture Field Machinery (AGSD-3340)

This class teaches students the principles of construction, operation, adjustment, calibration, and repair of agricultural tillage, planting, cultivating, spraying, fertilizing, and harvesting machinery. Laboratory activities include set-up of new equipment, wear analysis and repair of used equipment, calibration of equipment, and field operations.

In lab, students have the opportunity to get hands-on experience to plow a field with Dr. Langley, operate a skid-steer and move round bales with Graduate Assistant Matt Boerner and see how a baler works from Farm Foreman Garren Wetzel. This was great for students to operate different types of farm equipment used daily on operations.



Farley's Farm Supply, located in DeLeon provides seed, herbicide, pesticide and fertilizer. They ran the fertilizer truck out to the field the students plowed, Dr. Langley and the rig driver explained to the class about the spreader and how it operates.



Tarleton Students Visit Fossil Rim Wildlife Center for a Behind Scenes Tour

By: Cheyenne Holt, Secretary for Tarleton State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

The Tarleton Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society sent 21 members to take part in a day trip and behind the scenes tour of Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Glen Rose, Texas on Sunday, 16 September.

Fossil Rim is home to a variety of exotic species including addax, cheetah, blackbuck, gemsbok, giraffe and European red deer. The attending members were able to learn about Fossil Rim's participation in the AZA's Animal Programs, including Species Survival Plan Programs. Through programs such as this, Fossil Rim manages a variety of endangered species in an attempt to create sustainable captive populations. Fossil Rim has participated in a reintroduction program that has re-introduced scimitar-horned oryx to Chad. This species was extinct in the wild up until 2016, when re-introduction efforts began. Closer to home, Fossil Rim is working with Attwater's prairie chickens, in an intensive breeding program that sees many birds released into restored coastal prairies in Texas every year. The work that is done with these species at Fossil Rim is vital in preventing their extinction.

The TSCTWS students spent the morning and early afternoon learning about the wildlife and history of Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. Members were given the opportunity to glimpse the maned wolves, red wolves, cheetahs, black rhino, and white rhinos that call Glen Rose home. In addition, they were also given the same opportunities as other guests to feed the antelope and deer that roam throughout the pastures, as well as the inquisitive giraffes, who gratefully stuck their heads into the safari buses looking for tasty snacks. Fossil Rim had something to offer every student, whether their interest was in education, veterinary medicine, or with a specific animal at the wildlife center.

Mr. Kelley Snodgrass, the executive director of Fossil Rim Wildlife Center and a Tarleton Alum, also took time out of his busy schedule to meet with the members and share his role at Fossil Rim. He shared the history and mission of Fossil Rim, as well as success stories of the wildlife center. Members were able to learn about volunteer opportunities and internships available throughout the year. They were also able to hear about different research projects made possible through collaboration between Fossil Rim and Tarleton State University.

The Tarleton Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society had a wonderful time on this trip, and are grateful for the learning opportunities that were made available to them. A special thanks to Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, Mr. Kelley Snodgrass, and everyone that made this trip possible.

For more information on the Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, contact the WSES office or Dr. Heather Mathewson (mathewson@tarleton.edu).



Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society visits Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Glen Rose, Texas.

Josef Leachman, junior in WSES and member of Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society is visited by a curious giraffe at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center.



Tarleton State University Dairy Judging Team



The Tarleton State University Dairy Judging Team, coached by adjunct instructor and alumnus Barry Cavitt ('85 and '86), recently traveled to the northeast to compete in two intercollegiate judging competitions. On September 15th they competed in the Eastern States Exposition Intercollegiate Dairy Judging Contest in Springfield, Massachusetts and on September 17th they competed in the All-American Dairy Show Intercollegiate Judging Contest in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Their placings at these contests included:

Eastern States Exposition

4th Team in Jersey

5th Team in Brown Swiss, Ayrshire, Guernsey and Milking Shorthorn

6th Team Overall

Landry Vieth – 3rd High Individual in Jerseys

Ashley Willits – 9th High Individual in Reasons

All-American Dairy Show Judging Contest

7th Team in Jerseys

8th Team in Ayrshires

Ellen Schilderink – 6th High Individual in Brown Swiss and 10th High Individual in Jerseys

Ashley Willits – 7th High Individual in Jerseys

Their next competition is the National Intercollegiate Dairy Judging Contest held at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin on October 1st. The team wishes to thank the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the university and the many others who have and continue to support and cheer them on as they compete and represent Tarleton with pride!

Team Members (L to R): Billie Nail (Sophomore Animal Science Pre-Vet major from Killeen, TX), Landry Vieth (Junior Agribusiness major with concentration in Dairy Business Management from Windthorst, TX), Ellen Schilderink (Sophomore Agribusiness major from Nazareth, TX) and Ashley Willits (Senior Agricultural Communications major from Copenhagen, NY)

WSES presents at the Texas Plant Conservation Conference

Two graduate students within the Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences Department attended the Texas Plant Conservation Conference at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas in Fort Worth September 19th-21st, 2018.

Seth Hamby presented his thesis research: Patterns of Habitat-Specific Ecology and Regional Genetic Diversity in the Texas Endemic Plant *Dalea Reverchonii* (Fabaceae): An Exploratory Study.

Katherine Hood presented her thesis research: Effects of Single-Season, High-Stock, Short-Duration Grazing on Texas Wintergrass (*Nassella leucotricha*).

The Conference was attended by representatives of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, USDA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, TxDOT, Texas Railroad Commission, local universities, and various non-governmental organizations. It was a great opportunity to network and showcase some of our research within the college.



Distinguished alumni return for Tarleton's 26th Annual Academic Forum

Michael Bosco earned his Bachelor's of Science degree in Plant and Soil Science from Tarleton in 1996 and purchased Safe Haven Pest control in 2014. He is a certified entomologist, arborist, professional agronomist, structural pest control service applicator and Texas Department of Agriculture commercial applicator.

In 1996, Bosco founded and continues to serve as owner of Soils Alive, an organic plant health care service company that provides organic fertilization, weed, disease and insect control for residential and commercial properties throughout the Metroplex.

With more than 650 clients, Soils Alive is the largest organic service provider in the area. The company has maintained the Liberty Garden in Southlake, Texas, since 2003 in honor of 9-11.

Bosco is the Organic Education Committee Chairman of Region IV for the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association and serves as chairman of the Texas Discovery Gardens Board. He is the plant health care specialist on the Katy Trail Landscape Advisory Committee. Bosco is also a member of the International Society of Arborists and the Texas Organic Farmers and Gardeners Associations.

He is heavily involved with the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, holding a variety of positions and receiving numerous accolades within the organization.

[Full article](#)



Tarleton State University alumni (l-r) Claudia Southern, Michael Bosco, Dr. Dan McCoy, Kevin Kolbye, Clint Haggard and Dr. Cheryl Stenmark returned to campus for the annual Alumni Academic Forum to speak with current students about their university experiences and careers upon graduation. The annual event is sponsored by the Tarleton Alumni Association and hosted by Tarleton's six academic colleges.

Have something to share? Please submit articles, pictures and ideas to jcamp@tarleton.edu

Horticulture Center receives a special delivery

A while back, the Horticulture Center ordered a Soil Mixer through Mr. Oscar Castillo's company, Kase Industries of Whitney, Texas. However, when it arrived staff were pleasantly surprised to see the mixer had a custom paint job that included our iconic purple and white along with the Tarleton Logo.

Castillo's son, a senior business management major, attends Tarleton. Castillo wanted to make sure that the new addition to the Horticulture Center was 100% Tarleton.



Mid-South Ruminant Nutrition Conference

By: Chandler Travis

Dr. Barbara Jones and Chandler Travis, an Animal Science Graduate Student had the privilege of attending the [Mid-South Ruminant Nutrition](#) Conference held at the Embassy Suites in Grapevine, TX, August 8th & 9th. The Texas Animal Council and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service sponsored the event. The conference was focused on dairy cattle nutrition with various topics. Dr. Lance Baumgard from Iowa State University spoke about the research in metabolic health of transition cows and how current rancher's perception of these cows should be re-evaluated and updated. The second presenter, Dr. Phil Cardoso, talked about the positive and negative effects of altering energy and amino acid nutrition on health and reproductive performance of dairy cows. I felt these two topics were the most engaging and informative to my person set of interests and studies.



And... they're off!

By: Kathryn Burton, Historian for Tarleton State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

With a successful start to the Fall semester, Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society officers invite their 150 new members to participate in wildlife related trips and a fish fry!



(SCTWS members, Amber Kashin, Daniel Wilcox, John Cruz, and Dillon McAuliffe participate in a SCTWS research project at Caprock Canyon State Park. The research is on movements of predators and other mammals across the park.)

The first week of September took five members to Caprock Canyon State Park for this year's first round of camera placements for the ongoing predator survey. Officers, Daniel Wilcox and Cody Carter, took three new members to experience the 19-mile journey to set out game cameras and scent stations.

The following weekend, SCTWS officers hosted their first Fish Fry Cookout at Heritage Park on campus. They fed students and professors fish, hushpuppies, fries, and of course sweet tea! The fun-filled weekend also took 21 members on a Safari Tour at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. Students enjoyed giraffes, Red Wolves, Blackbuck, Mountain Bongo, and the Attwater's Prairie Chicken's unique enclosures. Officer, Wyatt Bagwell, spent this weekend volunteering at the Lonestar Youth Outdoors Outing helping kids improve their outdoor skills with fun activities including camping, hunting, archery, and fishing! Continuing the excitement at the Society meeting that week, Mark Pyle, DFW Herpetological Society Educational Director, visited with 20 different species of snakes. He spoke about identification and safety when encountering a snake.



SCTWS is happy to announce that the missing Harris Hawk, Grim, owned by falconer Roger Crandall is safe at home! SCTWS members helped locate the missing falconer's hawk in Stephenville. Come see some of Grim's family when falconer Roger gives a presentation at the SCTWS meeting on October 2nd at 6:00 pm in Ag 113.

Upcoming events with the Student Chapter include guided bird and plant walks, a trip to the Texas coast for small mammal surveys, and deer captures. Come join the SCTWS members for more adventures and opportunities! For more information, please contact SCTWS advisor Dr. Heather Mathewson at mathewson@tarleton.edu or SCTWS President Daniel Wilcox at daniel.wilcox@go.tarleton.edu.

The Prairie Oaks Master Naturalists



The Spring 2018 training class of the Prairie Oaks Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists concluded May 3, with 20 participants successfully completing an initial 40 hours of basic training and six of those participants completing an additional eight hours of advanced training and 40 hours of volunteer service to achieve the status of Certified Texas Master Naturalist. Upon reaching this status, the member receives a certificate, a permanent name tag, and the coveted dragonfly pin, tangible symbols of joining an elite corps of over 10,000 Texans who are united in a desire to serve in natural resource conservation and education. Of particular note, five of those who successfully completed 40 hours of basic training were undergraduate and graduate students at Tarleton, whose participation was part of a course in Conservation Outreach and Interpretation. One participant, who literally

got his feet wet doing volunteer service at the Possum Kingdom Fish Hatchery, not only completed certification, but logged an additional 40 hours of volunteer service and eight hours of extra advanced training, thereby completing a “double certification” marked by receipt of this year’s special Texas Master Naturalist ocelot pin, an iconic endangered Texas animal.

In addition to the Tarleton students, participants in the course came from Palo Pinto, Comanche, and Eastland counties, as well as the Stephenville area. Some are retirees dedicated to lifelong learning, while others are younger with active careers. Two of the participants have BS degrees in Environmental Science but are somewhat new to Texas. Other participants came with experience in business, engineering, pharmacy science, landscaping, farming, homemaking and more. Some participants own small farms, others hundreds of acres; some grew up in rural areas while others have spent most of their lives primarily in towns and cities.

The Prairie Oaks Master Naturalists host a chapter meeting on the third Thursday of each month at the AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Stephenville. The chapter meeting is followed by a program that is open to the public, usually presented by a guest speaker. In addition, the chapter occasionally hosts a major public outreach session to introduce the Texas Master Naturalist program to the community, followed by a distinguished feature speaker with special focus on local natural resources. For Prairie Oaks members, all of these programs provide part of the advanced training required annually to maintain active certification and enhance their preparation to serve as volunteers. And making the programs available to the public is part of the chapter’s charge to support natural resource conservation and education.

The tradition began with a “Backyard Birds” program in February 2017 that provided the key cues to identify several dozen common local species of birds that often appear in residential yards, at bird feeders and bird baths. That first program drew a crowd that overflowed seating, an indication that there was strong public interest in natural resources. The next program in March 2017, “Riparian Management, Why Creeks Act the Way They Do” described the mechanisms of creek bank erosion that produce immense soil loss from fields and rangelands, and management approaches to stabilizing banks and reversing erosion. In October 2017, the chapter hosted “The Beauty, Mystery and Importance of Dragonflies” where the audience learned about the diversity, ecosystem roles and life stages of dragonflies, and the story of the magic used to obtain close-up photos of the jewel-like colors of living dragonflies.

So here we are in 2018, and the special fall public outreach program is at hand. This year, a biologist from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will present “Wildlife Management Tax Valuation”. If you are a rural property owner, know a rural property owner, want to be a rural property owner, or just have an interest in nature, this program is for you! The presentation will describe how wildlife conservation can be effectively incorporated into property management in a way that is both good business and good land stewardship. We will be offering a hybrid Spring 2019 Certification Training class that is open to Tarleton students through the University and to the public through the POMN website (www.txmn.org/prairieoaks). Registration opens Nov. 1st for community members, and is now open for students to register through myGateway. The course is called “Special Topics: Conservation Outreach and Interpretation.” We are truly passionate about natural resource conservation and education. We hope you can join us at our chapter meetings, our outreach programs, our training classes, or all of the above!

*Marsha Stephens and Seth Hamby
Prairie Oaks Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists*



On The Home Front

The COAES Family

Welcome Home Matthew Tarpley

Matthew (the son of Agriculture & Consumer Sciences Professor Dr. Rudy and his wife Crystal Tarpley) has been in the mission field of Nepal for over a year. He will complete his service and return home at the end of September, 2018. While in Nepal, Matthew has had the opportunity to travel to Turkey, Tibet, China, and to multiple villages in the Himalayan Mountains. Once home, he will begin Seminary studies in the United States.



Matthew Tarpley with his Nepal mission team from the Antioch Center for Training and Sending (ACTS), a mission center out of Colorado Springs. This group trained in the Rocky Mountains for service in the Himalayan Mountains.

Notice the “Texas” cap found halfway around the world.



Matthew Tarpley wearing a Tarleton jacket and interacting with people from different faiths, cultures, and languages.



The Lone Star ...



Welcome to Tarleton!

Dr. John E. Montoya, Jr. is a new assistant professor of horticulture in the department of Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences.

He has three degrees to include:

A BS in Biology from Texas State University

A M.Ed. in Agricultural Education from Texas State University

A Ph.D. in Horticultural Sciences from Texas A&M University



Dr. Montoya is proud to have grown up in a military family where he received the opportunity to grow up in several different countries, namely Germany and Belgium. Before receiving his Ph.D., Dr. Montoya spent time in Hawaii working for the USDA, in the Plant Protection Quarantine division. It is Dr. Montoya's goal to share his unique experiences with the students at Tarleton State University.

Dr. Montoya's research includes plant-pollinator interactions, compost science and technology, and the field of sustainable agriculture. Dr. Montoya has a deep passion for horticulture and is eager to share it with students!

Social Links



[Tarleton COAES](#)
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[Equine Center/Program](#)
[FFA Events](#)
[Dairy Judging Team](#)
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[Wildlife, Sustainability & Ecosystem Sciences](#)
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