Society for Ecological Restoration
Texas Chapter

Restoration Update
February, 2014

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TXSER News Flash
18th Annual TXSER Conference is scheduled for October 17-19, 2014 in Alpine, Texas!

Mark your calendars! The 18th Annual TXSER Conference is scheduled for October 17-19, 2014 in Alpine, Texas. This year we will be co-hosting the conference with SER’s Southwest Chapter (SER/SW). The joining of forces with SER/SW will allow for a cross-fertilization of restoration issues, ideas, and priorities across the Central & South United States. We hope you will put it on your calendars and join us in Alpine.

TXSER Board Changes

Marissa Sipocz, Wetland Program Manager at Texas AgriLife Extension Service/Texas Sea Grant has stepped down from the TXSER Board of Directors. Marissa served as TXSER's Coastal Representative since 2012. We are grateful to Marissa for her time, energy, and support and wish her much success with her new job responsibilities.

William "Bill" Forbes, Associate Professor of Geography at Stephen F. Austin State University, has joined the TXSER Board as our East Texas Representative. Bill served as TXSER's North Texas Representative in the late 1990s. We look forward to having Bill's expertise back on the Board. Welcome Bill.

Announcements

Invasive Plant BMPs - Manuals and Video: The California
Invasive Plants Council has two manuals "Best Management Practices for Promoting the Spread of Invasive Plants" available to download for free. The manuals target two specific audiences: (1) Land Managers (2) Transportation and Utility Managers. Additionally, CAL-IPC recently completed a 42 minute video covering the basics of cleaning, disturbance, planning, and awareness, pulling BMPs from both manuals. The video is available for $10. To order click here: Training Video.

Volunteer Opportunities at The Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge: The FWNCR has weekly recurring volunteer opportunities for those looking to get their hands dirty working on a variety of restoration efforts.

(1) Natural Guard Program - Volunteers work on projects that benefit the Refuge visitors, animals, and plants. Projects include: trail construction, habitat restoration (replanting native vegetation), and facilities construction (benches, bridges, shelters).

(2) Restoration Greenhouse Program - Volunteers assist with the establishment and maintenance of FWNCR’s plant materials program, building the inventory of native plants and their seeds for use in on-site restoration projects.

For more information on these and other opportunities, visit: Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge.

Volunteers Needed for San Marcos River Clean-Up: Texas Rivers is looking for volunteers for the March 1st San Marcos River Clean-Up. They are hoping to cover the entire 90 miles of the river and are looking for bank crews, recreational paddlers, canoe racing enthusiasts, campers, church goers, anyone who loves the San Marcos River who is willing to pitch in. For details of the day’s events, visit: San Marcos River Cleanup or contact Tom Goynes at tomgoynes@mac.com.

Please Note: We post many articles on a wide variety of ecological restoration issues, job openings, volunteer opportunities, etc. on our Facebook page. Click the Facebook tab to the left or find us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/TXSER.

Member Spotlight

Name: Jon Brandt
City: Austin, TX
Affiliation: Texas Abandoned Mine Land Program; part of the Surface
Mining and Reclamation Division at the Railroad Commission of Texas

**Briefly Describe your ongoing efforts/interest in ecological restoration.** I've been at my current job for nearly 25 years; indirectly addressing ecological restoration by focusing on the mitigation/reclamation of highly disturbed landscapes that resulted from the mining of uranium or lignite in Texas. The primary goal of our work at the Abandoned Mine Land Program is the protection of "public health, safety, general welfare, and property from the adverse effects of mining practices." It has been a bonus when we can salvage on-site soils and re-establish plant species so the resulting reclamation better matches the surrounding landscape.

![Jon at a uranium mine in Karnes County. He is holding a bucket auger with extensions used to sample the soil and wearing a respirator due to radioactive dust. Photo Credit - Jacob Eickstead.](image)

**Describe your favorite outdoor activity.**
1. Riding the surf in the Gulf of Mexico on a sit-on-top kayak or paddleboard; and 2. hiking in the Chisos Mountains (a close second); AND taking photos during either activity.

**What is your favorite plant and/or animal?** Favorite Texas Plant - Agarita (Mahonia trifoliolata)

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Coordinator's Corner
Historic Conservation Deal

T.L.L. Temple makes historic conservation deal protecting 19,000 acres of some of the best hardwood forest and wetlands in East Texas, known as Boggy Slough. The Foundation purchased the unique lands of Boggy Slough and donated a conservation easement on the property to The Conservation Foundation. To read the entire article visit the Texas Conservation Alliance website at: Texas Conservation Alliance.

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The Society for Ecological Restoration, Texas Chapter promotes ecological
restoration as a means of sustaining the diversity of life on Earth and re-establishing an ecologically healthy relationship between nature and culture.

Become a member today!  

Join the Texas Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration. Chapter members receive valuable benefits including:

- the opportunity to network with restoration practitioners and enthusiasts;
- discounts to our Annual Conference, an opportunity to share and learn;
- invitations to attend volunteer workdays around the state; and,
- monthly updates and quarterly newsletters with articles and notices about regional events that allow you to connect to the local restoration community.

Chapter membership fees of $15 support chapter administration. The TXSER Board of Directors consists of volunteers who share a passion for furthering ecological restoration in Texas.

Joining SER links you with a global restoration network. SER member benefits include:

- RESTORE bi-weekly e-bulletin;
- SERNews quarterly newsletter;
- discounts on journal publications;
- discounts to SER World Conferences;
- discounts on SER Career Center;
- access to a searchable, online member directory, and,
- promotional opportunities through the SER Calendar of Events, and Restoration Project Showcase.

To become a member visit:  www.ser.org/membership

Be sure to click the Texas Chapter as your Chapter Affiliate. We look forward to having you join us!

Forward this email

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