



Society for Ecological Restoration Texas Chapter



Restoration Update

July, 2014

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TXSER Newsflash

Registration for the 2014 TXSER & SER-SW Annual Conference "Ecological Restoration in the Southwest" will begin Friday, August 1st.

We are continually updating our website as conference plans develop. Click here for information: [2014 Conference](#)

We hope to see you in Alpine!

2014 Conference Update

October 17-19, 2014, Alpine Texas



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Ecological Restoration in the Southwest

Call for Abstracts

The 2014 joint conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration, Texas and Southwest Chapters will be held October 17-19, 2014 in Alpine, TX on the campus of Sul Ross State

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University. We invite submissions for presentations and posters on any topic related to restoration, management, or conservation of natural areas in the Southwest in either rural or urban settings.

Abstracts should be sent by September 15th as an MS Word document to Gwen Thomas at: gmthomas_eco@fastmail.fm. Please include with your abstract submission the information below. Authors will be notified of the status of the acceptance of their abstracts by September 20, 2014.

- Title
- Abstract (not to exceed 250 words)
- Authors (format - Lyons, K., Pendleton, R.,... Please add an asterisk before the last name of the presenting author.)
- Authors' affiliations
- Preferred presentation type (Talk or Poster)
- E-Mail and phone number for presenting author
- Indicate if you would like to be considered for a best graduate or undergraduate student presentation or poster award

For updates on registration, field trips, & program information, visit: [2014 Conference](#)

[Photo credit: www.nationalparks.org]

Member Spotlight

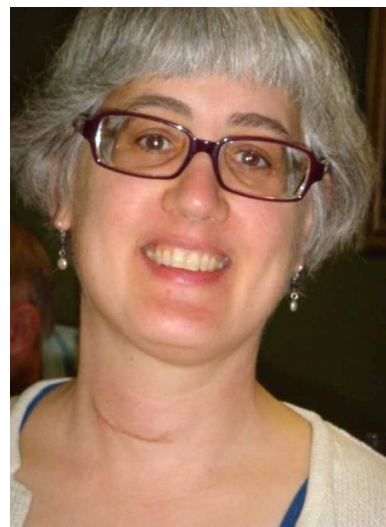
Name: Ann B. Mayo

City: Arlington

Affiliation: Department of Biology,
University of Texas-Arlington

Briefly describe your ongoing efforts/interest in ecological restoration:

I am an ecologist completing my Ph.D. at the University of Texas-Arlington. My doctoral research focuses on the ecology of the Comanche harvester ant (*Pogonomyrmex comanche*). As part of this project, I am evaluating the ant assemblages (all the ant species in one area) and have become interested in using ants as indicators of ecosystem health and function. There is currently much interest in this possibility because ants have diverse and important ecological roles, they are easy to assess and monitor, and repeated sampling of ants does not harm their populations. One of the most important ecological functions which ants as a whole perform is recycling. Many ecologists consider ants more important than earthworms for soil turnover and incorporation of humus because of their extensive underground nesting, their extensive foraging



Ann B. Mayo

ranges, and that they are significant members of all terrestrial habitats (including deserts where earthworms are absent; ants are not found in Antarctica.) These traits also often make ants better choices for assessment than bird or mammal species which are usually difficult to assess and handle without interfering with their populations. My work on ant assemblages may have some important impacts for land management and ecological restoration.



Comanche Harvester Ant (*Pogonomyrmex comanche*) on a native daisy at the Fort Worth Nature Center. There are about 1000 colonies of these ants in the FWNC. Photo credit: Ann Mayo

Describe your favorite outdoor activity:

My current favorite outdoor activity is to have a natural history day. This is a day I take to a natural area - right now I go to a small prairie where the Comanche ants nest - and I walk around in the prairie and investigate the phenology of the plants and what the animals are up to. I usually put a camcorder on an ant colony hoping to catch something special and I take lots of photos. I have found it a great joy to spend time just getting

to know a prairie, looking at the little things. It is a way to get reconnected to what matters.

What is your favorite plant and/or animal?

Favorite Plant: I love natives. I think, if I can only have one, I would say Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*). When I first saw this plant in Big Bend National Park, it reminded me of an aquarium plant. It was the coolest terrestrial plant I had seen and whenever I see it, I know where I am: Chihuahuan Desert!

Favorite Animal: Well I guess I am a bit partial to native ants - their diversity will blow your mind.

Coordinator's Corner

Innovative Partnerships Restore Natural River Corridor Along the Rio Grande

In her blog post "Along the Rio Grande, An Innovative Water Market Restores Riverside Habitat," Sandra Postel describes the unique partnerships being developed to restore riparian zones along the Rio Grande from Caballo, NM to El Paso, TX.

The project aims to restore a 105 mile stretch along the Rio Grande damaged seven decades ago by the *Rio Grande Canalization Project* which disconnected the river from its natural floodplain. Efforts bring

together an unlikely group of partners including government, conservationists, and irrigators in a "locally crafted solution" involving the recategorization of floodplain vegetation as agricultural crops in order to receive federal irrigation water under the U.S. reclamation law and to allow for the voluntary transfer of irrigation water from farmlands to floodplains. The approach protects farmers while helping to restore the riparian zones along this stretch of the Rio Grande.



Young cottonwoods and willows get their first deep drink of irrigation water at a restoration site along the Rio Grande near Las Cruces, NM.
Photo credit: Ken Stinnett

To read the blog post and learn more about the project, click here: [Rio Grande Restoration](#)

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!

Click Here to Join Us!

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:

- SERNews quarterly newsletter;
- discounts on journal publications;
- discounts to SER World Conferences;
- discounts on SER Career Center;
- access to Restoration Project Showcase;
- 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!

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