

Society for Ecological Restoration

Texas Chapter



Restoration Update

January, 2015

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TXSER Newsflash

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Texas Pollinator PowWow - TXSER is pleased to co-sponsor the Texas Pollinator PowWow which will take place at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin on Saturday, February 28, 2015 from 8am - 5:30pm.

The Texas Pollinator PowWow addresses topics ranging from native plants and bees, to monarchs and bats, to urban and rural land management best practices by experts from around the state. The registration fee of \$25 includes speaker presentations, pollinator-related exhibitors, a light breakfast and box lunch, admission to the LBJ Wildflower Center grounds, free parking and a 10% discount at the LBJWC gift store. For more information, click on the above link.

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Big Thicket Science Conference - The Big Thicket Science Conference takes place April 17-19, 2015 at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches.

The Science Conference provides a forum for scientists and resource managers to share their research in the West Gulf Coastal Plain ecosystem. Topics will include: plant communities, wildlife, restoration ecology, effects of climate change, invasive species, fisheries, and large-scale disturbance ecology. For more information, click on the above link.

Member Spotlight

Name: Taylor Houston

City: Dripping Springs, Texas

Affiliation: 7eco10

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We also post a wide range of
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SAVE THE DATE!!

Celebrate TXSER's
20th Anniversary

at our

2015 Annual Conference

Scheduled for:
November 13-15, 2015

On the campus of:
Trinity University
in
San Antonio, Texas

Briefly describe your ongoing efforts/interest in ecological restoration. It's an exciting time for restoration! At no time have there been more dedicated people, planning tools, and knowledge in the field, and we are improving with every project. One of my first projects was to plan restoration activities on an environmental remediation site. During that time, I stumbled across Steven Whisenant's *Repairing Damaged Wildlands: A Process-Orientated, Landscape Scale Approach*. That book is still on my shelf, well worn, referenced, and I hope put to some good use.

My first job out of college was as a wildland fire fighter at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Later, as a contractor, I managed projects for the DoD and other federal agencies. These projects included compliance and impact assessments, ESA consultations, wetlands restoration projects, prescribed burns, and invasive species management. I have had a few projects in the Mariana Islands for the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force conducting surveys and interdiction planning for invasive species, particularly the infamous brown treesnake. Mitigation planning included ungulate control for forest regeneration and afforestation and other erosion controls for nearshore corals.



Taylor Houston in his natural environs.

In 2006, we started **Zeco10** with other biologists. Our first project was to design and install a moist soil management system and other upland restoration projects. My favorite project is ongoing: providing surveys for black-capped vireos and golden-cheeked warblers, along with management planning for private conservation lands in Real County.

One of my main interests is exploring interdiction techniques and planning tools, from others' work in diverse fields such as the food service industry and even counter-insurgency strategy. These tools can provide excellent planning frameworks for restoration practitioners to reduce the number of invasive species in pathways and facilitate landscapes to be more resilient to invasions.



Describe your favorite outdoor activity. I love canoeing and canoe racing, and spending time outdoors with my wife (Dawn) and two boys (Levi and Benjamin).



What is your favorite Texas plant and/or animal? My favorite Texas animal is the Central Texas Bird Biologist (*Homo sapiens* var. *featheris*). They are often gregarious, especially when vocalizing about what birds they have seen that morning. They all seem to be facebook friends and are extremely intelligent. There is some hybridization with regular people, which may be part of a larger plan.

Coordinator's Corner

Like me, in the midst of the holiday rush, you may have missed several end of the year publications and discussions. The following are several, recently brought to my attention, that TXSER members may find of interest.

1. **Ecological Restoration in the US-Mexico Border Region** - This is the 16th Report of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board to the President and Congress of the United States, published in December, 2014. The report may be downloaded from the above link.
2. **The Conservation Social Sciences: What?, How? and Why?** - This document addresses the relationship between humans and nature in improving conservation outcomes. It was edited by N.J. Bennett and R. Roth in January 2015 and may be downloaded from the above link.
3. **The Battle for the Soul of Conservation Science** - This article by Keith Kloor in the Winter 2015 *Issues in Science and Technology* highlights the "two titans of ecology -- Michael Soulé, father of Conservation Biology and Peter Kareiva, Chief Scientist at The Nature Conservancy -- squaring off over the future of conservation" at the Western Society of Naturalists mid-November conference in Tacoma, Washington.

**A Heartfelt Thanks to the Following Organizations for their
Generous Support of our 2014 Conference!!**

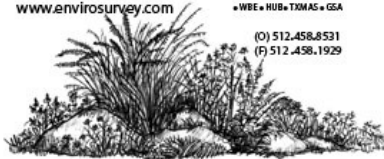




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Join the Texas Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration. Chapter members receive valuable benefits including:

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;
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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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