

Society for Ecological Restoration

Texas Chapter



Restoration Field Notes

December, 2014

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Message from TXSER's President

TXSER is turning 20!

TXSER wrapped up another successful conference in November. We co-hosted the conference with the SER Southwest Chapter this year and had great interactions with that newly formed chapter. The conference was an inspiring example of many different people pulling together for a fun and educational event. This chapter is blessed with many enthusiastic volunteers; thanks to everyone who helped!

Now we are preparing for our 20th year and our next conference, which will be held November 13-15, 2015, at Trinity University in San Antonio. During the coming year, we also plan to finalize our independent non-profit status. If you are interested in helping with the conference or have ideas for other activities you'd like to see TXSER lead, please contact me at creemts@tnc.org or any other board member. We look forward to growing TXSER and building a foundation for the next 20 years.

Charlotte Reemts
Board President

Geography Student Internships at The Nature Conservancy's Roy E. Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary, Hardin County, Silsbee, Texas

**By: William Forbes, Associate Professor of Geography,
Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX**

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TXSER
info@txser.org
(469) 321-4883

Employment Opportunities & More

For up-to-date
announcements of positions
open in ecological restoration
and environmental science,
visit our website at:
[Job Postings](#)

We also post a wide range of
articles on ecological
restoration issues as well as
job and volunteer
opportunities on our
Facebook page at:
[TXSER Facebook Page](#)

SAVE THE DATE!!

**Celebrate TXSER's
20th Anniversary**

at our

2015 Annual Conference

**Scheduled for:
November 13-15, 2015**

On the campus of:

Geography students have served as interns from 2009 to 2014 at The Nature Conservancy's Roy E. Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary, located in the southern part of East Texas. Interns have primarily worked on longleaf pine habitat restoration through prescribed burning, manual brush removal, and spot herbicide application. Preliminary results indicate all three treatments may work best to restore rare/endangered species such as orchids or Texas trailing phlox. Other tasks include surveys of indicator species such as bobwhite quail and freshwater mussels, mapping of management units, trail maintenance, and long-term forest ecological monitoring.



Geography students conduct freshwater mussel survey
Photo credit: William Forbes

The internships have benefited both students and the Sanctuary through accomplishment of work tasks and gaining of hands-on experience with natural resource management. Four of the six interns were employed in natural resource positions after their internships (two currently full-time with The Nature Conservancy), while two are in the process of graduating. Students had taken a class in biogeography prior to their internship, while several also took a class in local flora to prepare. Students will next help with long-term monitoring to continue the relationship between the Stephen F. Austin State University geography program and The Nature Conservancy.

Trinity University
in
San Antonio, Texas



Texas Trailing Phlox

Photo credit: Texas A&M University, Kingsville

Member Spotlight

Name: Bob Ayers

City: Austin, Texas

Affiliation: Managing Partner, Shield Ranch



Black-capped Vireo on nest

Photo credit: Rebekah Rylander

Briefly describe your ongoing efforts/interest in ecological restoration: I'm a landowner with degrees in literature, theology, and creative writing. What I know about ecological restoration I've

learned from paying attention to what's happening on the land, and by hanging out with people who are much smarter than I - like my fellow SER members. In Real County, my family is actively managing our ranch for the benefit of the Black-capped Vireo through a program that includes prescribed burning, management of deer and exotics, brush control, cowbird trapping, and biological monitoring. In a world rife with grim environmental news, it is deeply satisfying to see the population for this endangered species increasing on our ranch as a result of these efforts and with the help of our many partners.



Black-capped Vireo habitat on Shield Ranch
Photo credit: Rich Kostecke

Describe your favorite outdoor activity: On a trip to New Zealand, I was once introduced as "keen" birder, which I thought clever, because it suggests enthusiasm without suggesting expertise!

What is your favorite Texas plant and/or animal? One of my favorite birds is our State Bird, the Northern Mockingbird. The mockingbird seem entirely comfortable around people, though the way it cocks its head, together with that certain look in its eye, suggests it wonders just what we humans could possibly be thinking, so far as land use is concerned.

Texas A&M SER Student Association News

"Eat Your Enemy" Potluck

The Texas A&M Society for Ecological Restoration Student Association (TAMU SER) closed out the semester with our traditional "Eat Your Enemy" potluck. We had a number of creative entries which included Fennel, Wild Cucumber and Himalayan Blackberry Salad, and Fire Ant Casserole (including lizards preying on the ants).



Leafy Spurge.
Photo Credit: Ingrid Karklins

We
had

two winners in our contest:

For presentation: Leafy Spurge by Roy Rocha (celery, popcorn and ranch dressing)

For flavor: Juniper by Jake Aitken (broccoli and spaghetti squash)

A delightful time was had by all!



Juniper. Photo Credit: Ingrid Karklins



Fire Ant Casserole
Photo Credit: Ingrid Karklins



TAMU SER Student Association, December 2014

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 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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