

Texas Society for Ecological Restoration (TXSER)

***TXSER 2015 Annual Conference:
Celebrating 20 Years of Ecological Restoration in Texas***

November 13-15, 2015
Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas

Conference Agenda



Friday, November 13, 2015

**Field Trips
&
Opening Dinner
Bourbon Street Seafood Kitchen at Wyndham Garden Riverwalk Hotel**

9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Field Trip 1. Grassland Restoration - Hixon Ranch Meet in the parking lot of Alamo Stadium by Trinity University. Park in Lot B. Leaders: Eric Grahmann, CKWRI & Mike Hehman, Hixon Ranch
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Field Trip 2. Restoring Riparian Habitat – San Antonio River Authority Meet in the parking lot of Alamo Stadium by Trinity University. Park in Lot B. Leader – Lee Marlowe, SARA
9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Field Trip 3. Native Seed for the South Texas Region, Douglass King Seed Co. Meet in the parking lot of Alamo Stadium by Trinity University. Park in Lot B Leaders: Dean Williams, DKS, Co. & Keith Pawelek, CKWRI
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Field Trip 4. Urban Restoration, Phil Hardberger Park Meet in the parking lot of Alamo Stadium by Trinity University. Park in Lot B. Leader: Gail Gallegos, San Antonio Parks & Recreation
4:30 – 5:30 pm	Intercollegiate Plant Identification Competition – 4th Floor Hallway, Center for the Sciences & Innovation (Professional Plant ID Competition on Saturday – All conference participants are eligible to compete or to informally enjoy testing your skills.)
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Registration Open – Atrium, Center for the Sciences and Innovation, Trinity University
6:30 pm	Opening Dinner – Bourbon Street Seafood Kitchen, Wyndham Garden Riverwalk Hotel, 103 9th Street, San Antonio. Riverwalk Patio. On-street parking available. Valet event parking \$5.
Post Dinner –	Informal Mixer – The Esquire Tavern, 155 East Commerce Street (on the Riverwalk, downtown)



Saturday, November 14, 2015

Welcome & Plenary Presentation

Room: Jewel Box, Trinity University, Center for the Sciences & Innovation (CSI)

8:00 am	Welcome and Introduction Charlotte Reemts, TXSER Board President
8:30 am	Plenary Presentation: <i>Grassland Invasion by Non-Native Grasses: Ecological Issues of Multiple Species at Multiple Trophic Levels and Their Associated Restoration Concerns</i> Dr. Mitchell Greer, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Coffee Break - Atrium, Center for the Sciences & Innovation

**Saturday, November 14, 2015
Morning Concurrent Tracks**

	Room 448, CSI Building	Room 170, Marrs McLean Building
Moderator:	Kelly Lyons, Department of Biology, Trinity University	Colin Shackelford, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University, Kingsville
10:00 am	<i>Edwards Aquifer Region of South-Central Texas: Unique Challenges and Solutions to LID Implementation</i> Presenter: Annalisa Peace, Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance	<i>Fish Assemblage Structure Indicates Limited Progress in Restoration Process Over a Lustrum in a Severely Degraded Estuary of Southern Tamaulipas, Mexico</i> Presenter: Alejandro Fierro Cabo, School of Multidisciplinary Sciences, University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville
10:20 am	<i>Utilizing Biological Monitoring and Designed Experiments to Guide the Implementation of an Aquatic Plant Restoration: The Comal River Experience</i> Presenter: Casey Williams, BIO-WEST, Inc.	<i>Developing Habitat Restoration Model for Narrow-mouth Frog (<i>Kaloula borealis</i>)</i> Presenter: Sohyun Park, Department of Landscape Architecture, Texas Tech University
10:40 am	<i>Improving Ecological Functions with Rain Gardens</i> Presenter: Lee Marlowe, San Antonio River Authority	<i>Alleviation of Abiotic and Biotic Stressors to Improve Thornscrub Forest Restoration in South Texas</i> Presenter: Heather Alexander, Department of Forestry, Mississippi State University
11:00 am	<i>Restoring Carbon Sequestration in Austin Riparian Zones</i> Presenter: Angela England, City of Austin, Watershed Protection Department	<i>Use of Mature and Revegetated Woodlands by Breeding Birds in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas</i> Presenter: Timothy Brush, Department of Biology, University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville
11:20 am	<i>Assessing Ecosystem Health in Restoring and Unrestored Resacas of the Lower Rio Grande</i> Presenter: Buford Lessley, School of Multidisciplinary Sciences, University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville	<i>Population Response of Wintering and Breeding Songbirds to Large-scale Ongoing Grassland Restoration</i> Presenter: Anthony Henehan, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University, Kingsville
11:40 am	<i>Restoration Implications of Differential Responses to Interspecific Competition and Physiological Stressors for Native and Non-Native Submersed Aquatic Vegetation in Spring-Fed Central Texas Rivers</i> Presenter: Sarah Hester, Center for Reservoir and Aquatic Systems Research, Baylor University	<i>Using GIS to Develop Priority Areas for the Restoration of Eastern Wild Turkeys in Texas</i> Presenter: Jason Estrella, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
12:00 – 1:15 pm	Lunch & TXSER Business Meeting Lunch Buffet Atrium, Marrs McLean Building	
	TXSER Business Meeting Marrs McLean Building, Room 170 (Please join us to discuss the past, present and future of TXSER)	

Saturday, November 14, 2015
Early Afternoon Concurrent Tracks

	Room 448, CSI Building	Room 437, CSI Building – Treehouse
Moderator:	Eric Grahmann, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University, Kingsville	Brad Hoge, Department of Natural Sciences, University of Houston - Downtown
1:20 pm	<i>KR Bluestem: Restoration to Native Grasses and Forbs</i> Presenter: David Davidson, Wild Mercury Preserve, Kendall County	<i>Bicarbonate Utilization Potential of Submersed Aquatic Vegetation and its Implications for Native Plant Restoration in a Spring-Fed Central Texas River</i> Presenter: Sarah Hester, Center for Reservoir and Aquatic Systems Research, Baylor University
1:40 pm	<i>Coreopsis tinctoria Avoids Competition with a C₄ Grass Through Temporal Gaps</i> Presenter: Kevin Eddy, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Texas, San Antonio	<i>Trickle Channel Resurrection: A Wetland and Stream Restoration in Urban Austin</i> Presenter: Staryn Wagner, City of Austin, Watershed Protection Department
2:00 pm	<i>The Effects of Density in a Three-Species System of Texas C₄ Grasses</i> Presenter: Ann Adams, Department of Biology, Trinity University	<i>Techniques for Restoring Incised and Eroded Stream Channels</i> Presenter: Chase Currie, Rancho San Pedro Joint Venture, San Antonio
2:20 pm	<i>Changes in Soil Microbial Community and Structure Along a Tanglehead (Heteropogon contortus) Density Gradient in South Texas</i> Presenter: Joshua Grace, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University, Kingsville	<i>Evaluating the Efficacy of Management Techniques (Mowing, Burning, and Herbiciding) on the Control of Cattail (Typha spp.) Across a Gradient of Nitrogen Loading</i> Presenter: Jason Martina, Department of Mathematics and Sciences, Our Lady of the Lake University
2:40 pm	<i>Pipeline Rights of Way Revegetation in the Eagle Ford Shale Oil and Gas Play</i> Presenter: Keith Pawelek, South Texas Natives Project, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University, Kingsville	
3:00-3:30 pm	Coffee Break - 4th Floor Hallway, CSI Building	

**Saturday, November 14, 2015
Late Afternoon Concurrent Tracks**

	Room 448, CSI Building	Room 437, CSI Building – Treehouse
Moderator:	Charlotte Reemts, The Nature Conservancy	Michelle Villafranca, Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge
3:30 pm	<i>Large Scale Ecosystem Restoration – How We Do It In Texas</i> Presenter: Georganna Collins, Ecology and Environment, Inc.	<i>Effects of Shrub Encroachment and Shrub Removal on South Texas Prairies</i> Presenter: Parker Watson, Department of Biology, University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville
3:50 pm	<i>Forb and Woody Species Restoration in the Texas Hill Country: A Sequential Approach</i> Presenter: David Mahler, Environmental Survey Consulting	<i>The Consequences of Changes in Grassland Species Composition on Rangeland Forage Value and Nutrient Cycling</i> Presenter: Austin Phillippe, Department of Biology, Trinity University
4:10 pm	<i>Restoration Planning for Degraded Arid Landscapes</i> Presenter: Meshal Abdullah, Ecosystem Science and Management, Texas A&M University, College Station	<i>Potential Trade Offs of Regulating and Cultural Ecosystem Services in Urban Areas of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas</i> Presenter: Katharine Jones, Urban Ecology Lab, University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville
4:30 pm	<i>Restoration of Ecosystem Services on Organic Agricultural Landscapes in South Texas with the Use of Cover Crops</i> Presenter: Savannah Rugg, Department of Biology, University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville	<i>Season of Prescribed Burning on Kleberg Bluestem (Dichanthium annulatum) in South Texas</i> Presenter: Adam Toomey, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Department of Animal, Rangeland and Wildlife Sciences, Texas A&M University, Kingsville
4:50 pm	<i>Science Can't Tell Me What To Do: The Limitations of Science and the Necessity of Emotion in Decision Making</i> Presenter: Matt McCaw, City of Austin, Austin Water Utility, Water Quality Protection Lands	<i>Journal Review Groups: Why Is Your Work Area Not Doing This?</i> Presenter: Kevin Thuesen, City of Austin, Wildland Conservation Division
5:10 pm	Matt McCaw – Continued from above	Kevin Thuesen – Continued from above
5:30 – 7:00 pm	Posters and Social Atrium, Center for the Sciences & Innovation Tribute to Mark Simmons, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Informal Gathering, 6pm, Marrs McLean Building, Room 170	

Saturday, November 14, 2015

**Poster Session - 5:30 – 7:00pm
Atrium, Center for the Sciences & Innovation**

1.	<i>Solarization: A Restoration Tool</i> Presenter: David L. Davidson, Wild Mercury Preserve, Kendall County, TX
2.	<i>Vegetation Surveys Corroborate the State and Transition Model of Three Ecological Sites at Peri-Urban Abandoned Cropland in South Bexar County Texas</i> Presenter: Sarah Galvan, Department of Biology, Texas A&M University, San Antonio, TX
3.	<i>Comparison of Seasonal Prescribed Burning on Coastal Cordgrass Vegetative Communities</i> Presenter: Victoria Haynes, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University, Kingsville, TX
4.	<i>Proposing Citizen-Based Restoration in an Urban East Texas Forest Preserve</i> Presenters: Dalton McInnis and Madison Peters, Sustainable Community Development, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX
5.	<i>Operationalizing Resilience in a Shrub-Encroached Semi-Arid Rangeland Ecosystem: A New Opportunity for Ecological Restoration?</i> Presenter: William E. Rogers, Ecosystem Science and Management, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
6.	<i>Evaluation and Development of Native Seed for West Texas</i> Presenter: Colin Shackelford, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University, Kingsville, TX
7.	<i>Restoration of Native Submersed Aquatic Macrophytes for an Endangered Fish Species</i> Presenter: Casey Williams, BIO-WEST, Inc., Round Rock, TX

Saturday, November 14, 2015
Evening Events

7:00 – 8:00 pm

Keynote Banquet

Excellence in Ecological Restoration Award

Graduate and Undergraduate Student Awards

Plant Identification Competition Awards

Room – Jewel Box, Center for the Sciences & Innovation

8:00 – 9:00 pm

Keynote Address

Ecological Restoration: An Evolving Agenda

Dr. Steven Whisenant

Professor Emeritus

Department of Ecosystem Science & Management

Texas A&M University

College Station, TX

Room – Jewel Box, Center for the Sciences & Innovation

Post-Dinner –

Informal Mixer – The Cove, 606 West Cypress Street

Sunday, November 15, 2015

**Plenary Session
Treehouse – Room 437, Center for the Sciences & Innovation**

8:30 – 9:30 am

Plenary Presentation:
20 Years of Fire Management in Texas: What Have We Done?
Glen Gillman, Park Land Manager, Travis County Parks, Austin, TX

**9:30 –
10:00 am**

Coffee Break, 4th Floor Hallway, Center for the Sciences & Innovation

Sunday, November 15, 2015

**Morning Session
Treehouse – Room 437, Center for the Sciences & Innovation**

Moderator:

Kate Crosthwaite, HDR, Inc.

10:00 am

Fuel Management at the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): Field Notes from the Water Quality Protection Lands of Austin, Including Review of an Air Curtain Incinerator (ACI) for On-Site Biomass Disposal
Presenter: Devin Grobert, City of Austin, Austin Water Utility

10:20 am

Small-Scale Land Restoration – A Case Study
Presenter: Meg Inglis, Native Landscape Certification Program, Native Plant Society of Texas

10:40 am

Use of Competitive Dynamics to Inform Species Selection for Restoration
Presenter: Kelly Lyons, Department of Biology, Trinity University

11:00 am

Early Succession in a Restored Native Grassland in Southwestern Bandera
Presenter: Chris Best, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

11:20 am

Monitoring Old World Bluestem (Bothriochloa ischaemum) Invasion as Part of the Global Invaders Impact Network
Presenter: Charlotte Reemts, The Nature Conservancy