

# TEXAS SOCIETY OF MAMMALOLOGISTS



## PROGRAM, ABSTRACTS, AND NEWSLETTER

44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

13-15 February 2026

#TSM2026



# Texas Society of Mammalogists

## Officers, 2025–2026

President	Iván Castro-Arellano	Texas State University
President-Elect	Caleb Phillips	Texas Tech University
Permanent Secretary	Joel G. Brant	Midwestern State University
Secretary-Treasurer	Cathy Early	University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
Editor	John D. Hanson	

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(Lifetime Members of the Executive Committee)

Dara N. Orbach	Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
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Cathy Early	University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
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Amy Baird	University of Houston-Downtown
Monte Thies	Sam Houston State University
Scott Chirhart	Centenary College of Louisiana
Michelle L. Haynie	University of Central Oklahoma
Joel G. Brant	McMurry University
Russell S. Pfau	Tarleton State University
Terry Maxwell (deceased)	Angelo State University
Michael Tewes	Texas A&M Kingsville
David O. Ribble	Trinity University
John Bickham	Texas A&M University (emeritus)
Carleton J. Phillips	Texas Tech University (retired)
Thomas E. Lee	Abilene Christian University
Loren K. Ammerman	Angelo State University
Ron Van Den Bussche	Oklahoma State University
Robert D. Bradley	Texas Tech University
Philip D. Sudman	Tarleton State University (retired)
Robert C. Dowler	Angelo State University (retired)
Robert E. Martin	McMurry University (emeritus)
Kenneth T. Wilkins	Baylor University (retired)
Rodney Honeycutt	Pepperdine University (emeritus)
Steven Smith	Humboldt State University (emeritus)
Michael Haiduk (deceased)	Lamar University
Meredith Hamilton	Oklahoma State University (retired)
Ira F. Greenbaum	Texas A&M University-College Station (retired)
Arthur G. Cleveland	California Baptist University (emeritus)
Herschel W. Garner	Tarleton State University (emeritus)
Robert J. Baker (deceased)	Texas Tech University
Earl G. Zimmerman	University of North Texas (emeritus)
Brian R. Chapman (deceased)	Sam Houston State University
Clyde Jones (deceased)	Texas Tech University
David J. Schmidly	University of New Mexico (emeritus)
J Knox Jones, Jr. (deceased)	Texas Tech University
Rollin H. Baker (deceased)	Michigan State University
Guy N. Cameron	University of Cincinnati (emeritus)

**Cover illustration: *Vampyroides caraccioli*, *Artibeus lituratus*, & *Phylloderma stenops*  
by Krysta Demere.**

**Texas Society of Mammalogists  
44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
13-15 February 2026**

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## **MENU 2026**

### **Friday:**

#### **6:00 pm DINNER**

Build your own burger, macaroni and cheese, fries, desert, and salad

### **Saturday:**

#### **7:00 am BREAKFAST**

Breakfast tacos, hash browns, cinnamon rolls, assorted cereal, and fruit

#### **9:35 am Break**

Coffee, tea, water, scones, muffins, granola bars, fruit

### **Saturday:**

#### **12:00 pm LUNCH**

Potato bar, corn salad, taco salad, salad bar, broccoli spears, cornbread, brownies, and ice cream

#### **3:15 pm Break (in Packard Building)**

Coffee, tea, water, cookies, trail mix, fruit

### **Saturday:**

#### **5:30 pm BANQUET DINNER**

Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, cream gravy, green beans, salad bar, wheat dinner rolls, chocolate pie

### **Sunday:**

#### **7:30 am BREAKFAST**

Pancakes, bacon, hash browns, blueberry muffins, English muffins, assorted cereals, and fruit

## **RULES FOR USE OF THE TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY CENTER AT JUNCTION'S LLANO RIVER FIELD STATION**

- Drugs and alcohol are strictly prohibited at the center\*. Unauthorized use of either will result in immediate eviction with no refund. (\*see exception below for TSM social hours)
- Do NOT drive on the grass. Stay on designated roads and out of unauthorized areas.
- Do NOT secure any items to the walls and/or doors without prior approval. This includes the use of tape, nails or screws.
- Do NOT remove or dismantle ANY furniture in the buildings, including beds and mattresses, clocks, other wall hangings or fixtures. DO NOT sit or stand on tables.
- Please remove all your event signs and/or posters before you depart.
- Pets, firearms, and camping are not allowed on campus.
- Fires are allowed ONLY with prior permission and ONLY in designated fire pit areas. The field station adheres to the Kimble County Burn Bans.
- Use of electric skillets, hot plates and other electrical cooking appliances is prohibited in all lodging areas. This also applies to electric heaters.
- Smoking is strictly prohibited inside **any** building.
- All plants and wildlife are protected at the field station and are not to be harvested or removed.
- Use of recreational vehicles is strictly prohibited on center.
- Do not prop open doors in ANY building

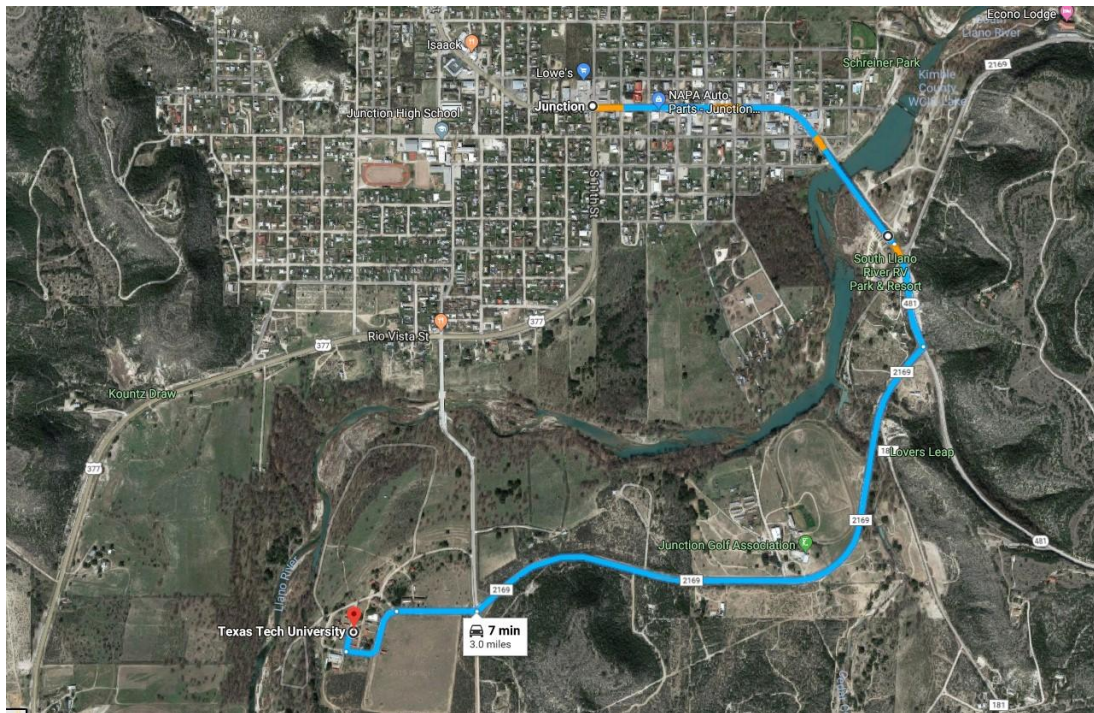
Any infractions, disregard, and/or negligent behavior resulting in the damage to the facilities, furniture, or equipment will be assessed a fee of no less than \$1000.00. This includes outside areas as well as tampering with thermostats in locked boxes. This damage/tampering fee will to be added to the Society's final bill.

**\*Alcohol Rules for Texas Society of Mammalogists: Consumption of alcohol by persons over 21 years of age is permitted only in the Dining Hall from 7 pm to 12 midnight Friday and Saturday night. Attendees must show their ID at registration to receive a wrist band that will verify their legal age and two drink tickets. A licensed bartender will be present to distribute up to two alcoholic beverages per attendee wearing a wrist band. A Security Officer will be present on campus to monitor and respond to any illegal activities or safety concerns. Please follow the rules and behave yourselves so TSM can continue to meet at the Junction Center each year! Thank you!**

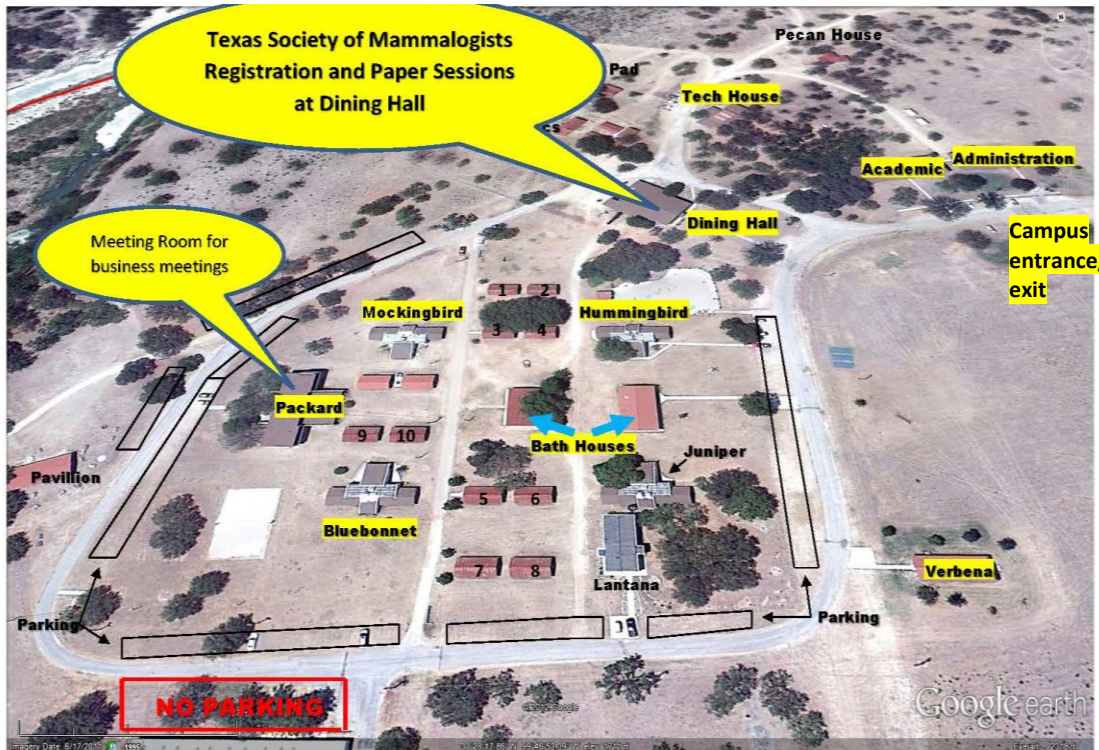


## DIRECTIONS TO TTU LLANO RIVER FIELD STATION FROM JUNCTION

The bridge via the “back way” to campus has not been replaced. Please use the route shown below.



## CAMPUS MAP



**Note:** There are two single-stall restrooms available in the Dining Hall. In the case of long lines, or the restrooms being out of order, the Bath House restrooms are available for use.

soctopus

alht.Studio

Soctopus Store

Crazy Opossum Lady



Peppermint Narwhal

BottleShopEngraving

Feral Pony Shop

AallFormsofLife

Odd Craft Designs

Fineasslines

Davis Mountains Rock Shop

Jabebo Earrings

Phil Sudman

Joel Brant

Loren Ammerman

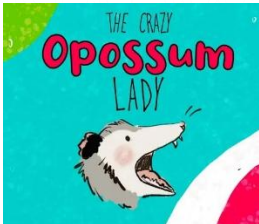
Robert Dowler

Cathy Early

Krysta Demere

Rachael Connally

And Many More\*



\*Donor list as of 02/9/2026



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

The 7 student presentation awards offered by Texas Society of Mammalogists are made possible by the generous donations of the society's members and many external businesses to our annual live and silent auctions. The support of our donors ensures that we have the resources to recognize and reward current students and future professionals in the academic, state, and national wildlife fields for excellence in mammalian research.



## 2026 Program Schedule

### Friday, 13 February

3:00–7:30 pm	Registration	Dining Hall
4:30–6:00 pm	Meeting of the Executive Committee	Packard Building
6:00 pm	Dinner (serving line open 6:00–6:30 pm)	Dining Hall
7:00 pm	Announcements/Welcome Address TSM President Iván Castro-Arellano	Dining Hall
7:30–9:30 pm	Poster Presentations	Dining Hall
9:30 pm	Meeting of the Student Honoraria Committee	TBD

### Saturday, 14 February

7:00 am	Breakfast and Registration (serving line open 7:00–7:30 am)	Dining Hall
8:00 am	Introduction and Announcements TSM President Iván Castro-Arellano	Dining Hall

### PAPER SESSION 1

(Presenters' names are underlined)

**Moderator: Michelle Haynie, University of Central Oklahoma**

*Paper 1 is to be considered for the Packard Award.*

8:15 Paper 1 – **BLUBBER METABOLITE PROFILES REVEAL ENVIRONMENTAL ADAPTATIONS IN NORTHERN GULF OF MEXICO DOLPHINS** Makayla Guinn, Dara N. Orbach, and Hussain Abdulla

*Papers 2-9 are to be considered for the William B. Davis Award.*

8:30 Paper 2 – **EIGHT YEARS OF SMALL MAMMAL MARK-RECAPTURE RESEARCH IN WESTERN OKLAHOMA: TRENDS AND HANTAVIRUS PRESENCE** Claire Wiley, Francisca M. Mendez-Harclerode, Gloria M. Caddell, Chad B. King, and Michelle L. Haynie



- 8:45 Paper 3 – **PRELIMINARY FINDINGS ON HABITAT PREFERENCES OF DAVIS MOUNTAIN COTTONTAILS (*S. HOLZNERII ROBUSTUS*) IN THE DAVIS MOUNTAIN RANGE** H. A Shapiro, C. Wzientek, D. Karelus, and A.M. Martin
- 9:00 Paper 4 – **BATS AND WATER: GUZZLER DESIGN INFLUENCES BAT ACTIVITY IN THE TRANS-PECOS OF TEXAS** Manuel Quispe-López, Bonny McKinney, and Richard D. Stevens
- 9:15 Paper 5 – **ENVIRONMENTAL DRIVERS OF MIGRATION AND ECTOPARASITE DYNAMICS IN MEXICAN FREE-TAILED BATS (*TADARIDA BRASILIENSIS*)** Kristin. E. Dyer, Meagan Allira, Bret M. Demory, Mackenzie G. Hightower, Jackson T. Wingert, Krystie A. Miner, Amanda M. Adams, Winifred F. Frick, Jeremy D. Ross, Kevin T. Castle, and Daniel J. Becker
- 9:30 **30 Minute Break**

## PAPER SESSION 2

**Moderator:** Jenna Grimshaw, Tarleton State University

- 10:00 Paper 6 – **WHEN ROADS BECOME BARRIERS: BOBCAT (*LYNX RUFUS*) AND OCELOT (*LEOPARDUS PARDALIS*) MOVEMENT AND LANDSCAPE PERMEABILITY IN SOUTH TEXAS** Sean Kiernan, Simona Picardi, Emma Brookover, Elizabeth Grunwald, Terry Hanzak, Thomas Langschied, Daniel Scognamillo, Jack Towson, Thomas Yamashita, John Young, and Michael Tewes
- 10:15 Paper 7 – **WHY DID THE CAT CROSS THE ROAD? EXPLORING THE GENOMIC LINK UNDERLYING DECISION-MAKING BEHAVIOR IN WILD CATS** Jack Towson, John Young, Emma Brookover, Brian Davis, Jan Janečka, Lucas Spetic da Selva, and Michael Tewes
- 10:30 Paper 8 – **HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY DISTRIBUTION OF *MEPHITIS MACROURA* IN TEXAS** J. Clint Perkins, Robert C. Dowler, and Richard D. Stevens
- 10:45 Paper 9 – **AN UPDATED R PACKAGE FOR ECOLOGICAL CYCLICAL DATA: AN APPLICATION EXAMPLE FOR CERVID ACTIVITY PATTERNS** Tatiana Velásquez-Roa, Maria A. Hurtado-Materón, Ángel L. Robles-Fernández, and Iván Castro-Arellano

*Paper 10 is to be considered for the Rollin Baker Award.*

- 11:00 Paper 10 – **COMMON DOLPHINS (*DELPHINUS DELPHIS*) INCREASE SWIMMING SPEED AS AN AVOIDANCE RESPONSE TO VESSEL APPROACHES** Soleil Delorge, Fadia Al Abbar, Lorenzo Fiori, and Dara N. Orbach
- 12:00 **Lunch** (serving line open 12:00–12:30 pm)

1:15 **Group Photo** in front of the Dining Hall – All members, please attend and please be on time! ☺

### PAPER SESSION 3

**Moderator: Marie Tipps, Texas A&M University – San Antonio**

*Papers 11-14 are to be considered for the Bobby Baker Award.*

1:45 Paper 11 – **UNRAVELLING THE DIVERSITY OF NONVOLANT SMALL MAMMALS ALONG THE PURUS RIVER, CENTRAL BRAZILIAN AMAZONIA, THROUGH FIELD WORK AND DNA BARCODING** Aramide Oladiran, Camila Mayume, Joyce A. Voltolini, Maria Clara Ribeiro, Ana Lazar, Joyce R. Prado, Renato Gregorin, Ana Paula Carmignotto, Alexandre R. Percequillo, and Edson F. Abreu

2:00 Paper 12 – **TEST OF A NUCLEAR GENE MARKER TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE *MYOTIS CALIFORNICUS* / *CILIOLABRUM* / *LEIBII* COMPLEX** Lela Faison, Halle Summers, and Loren K. Ammerman

2:15 Paper 13 – **POPULATION STRUCTURE OF BOWHEAD WHALES USING MTDNA SEQUENCES** Alexandra A.Hernandez, John W. Bickham, John Citta, Amy B. Baird

2:30 Paper 14 – **GENETIC CHARACTERIZATION OF PARASITIC NEMATODES (*CRASSICAUDA*) IN BOWHEAD AND BELUGA WHALES** Tamsin L. Ward, Raphaela Stimmelmayer, David Rotstein, and Amy B. Baird

*Paper 15 is to be considered for the TSM Award.*

2:45 Paper 15 – **IDENTIFICATION OF NUCLEAR MITOCHONDRIAL INSERTIONS (NUMTS) ACROSS THE POCKET GOPHER GENUS *GEOMYS*** Haider A. Khan and Russell S. Pfau

3:00 pm Meeting of the Student Honoraria Committee TBD

3:30 pm **Members Business Meeting** Packard Building  
All members, including students, please attend!

5:30–9:00 pm **Annual Banquet and Auction** Dining Hall

5:30–6:30 Dinner (serving line open 5:30–6:00pm)

5:30 Silent Auction opens for bidding

6:30–7:00 Award Presentations

7:00–8:00 Guest Speaker Address:

*Five Decades of Mammal Research: Dynamics of Biodiversity*

**Michael R. Willig**  
**Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor Emeritus**  
**Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology**  
**University of Connecticut**

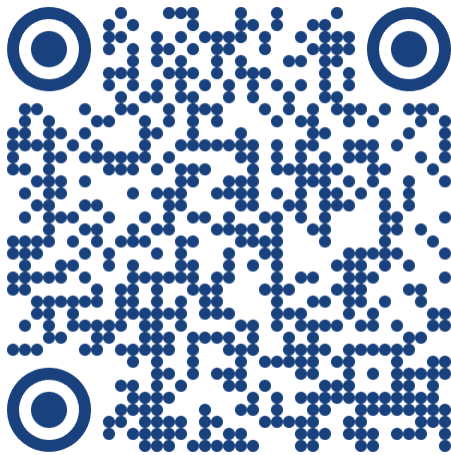
8:00–9:00 Live Auction  
Silent Auction ends 10 minutes after Live Auction

9:00–midnight Socializing and Dancing Dining Hall

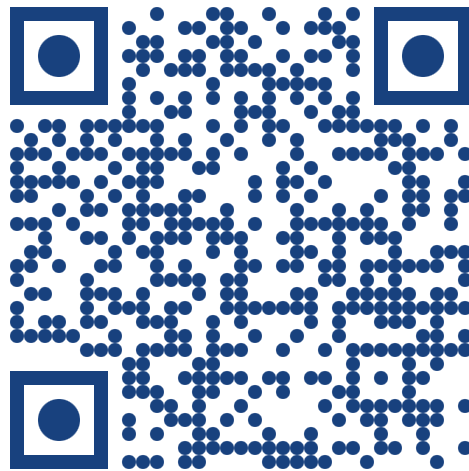
**Sunday, 15 February**

7:30 am Breakfast (serving line open 7:30–8:00am) Dining Hall

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oral & poster abstracts



Scan this QR code to download the  
2026 TSM Newsletter



## POSTERS AT-A-GLANCE

*Competing for the Clyde Jones Undergraduate Award (Posters 1-2):*

1 – GENETIC IDENTIFICATION OF *PEROMYSCUS* SPECIMENS FROM SMALL MAMMAL MARK-RECAPTURE STUDIES IN WESTERN OKLAHOMA

Kayli D. Newport

2 – GENETIC VARIATION AND PHYLOGEOGRAPHY OF *EUMOPS PEROTIS* (WESTERN MASTIFF BAT)

Daniela Childress

*Competing for the Vernon Bailey Undergraduate Award (Posters 3-7):*

3 – SEVEN YEARS OF CAMERA TRAPPING MAMMALS AT ABILENE STATE PARK, TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS

Lyndsey K. Klein

4 – MESOPREDATOR USE OF WILDLIFE CROSSINGS IN SOUTH TEXAS

Elena Gonzales

5 – A TEST OF RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF GRAY FOX (*UROCYON CINEREOARGENTEUS*) AND COYOTES (*CANIS LATRANS*) IN URBAN VERSUS RURAL LANDSCAPES

Isabella Ortiz de Camargo

6 – HORMONES, HIGHWAYS, AND THE ROAD AHEAD: GENOMIC INSIGHTS INTO BEHAVIOR AND SURVIVAL OF SOUTH TEXAS WILD CATS

Denay Hernandez

7 – ASSESSING THE CORRELATION BETWEEN BOBCAT PRESENCE, PREY PRESENCE, AND SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT IN SOUTH TEXAS

Emma McMillian

*Competing for the Vernon Bailey Graduate Award (Posters 8-15):*

8 – CAMERA TRAPPING IN RIPARIAN CORRIDORS WITHIN PEARL JACKSON CROSSTIMBERS PRESERVE (WIP)

Teague Fox

9 – EVALUATING BAT COMMUNITIES ACROSS THREE WEST TEXAS MOUNTAIN RANGES USING MOBILE ACOUSTIC SURVEYS

Kennedy Berry

10 – THE USE OF BRIDGES AS DAY-ROOSTS BY BAT SPECIES IN EAST TEXAS

Jayne E. Czap

11 – SPATIAL VARIATION OF AN INSECTIVOROUS BAT ASSEMBLAGE IN RESPONSE TO LANDSCAPE HETEROGENEITY AND PREY AVAILABILITY IN THE RURAL LANDSCAPE OF LIMA-PERU, PACIFIC COASTAL DESERT

Jorge Rivero

12 – IMPACTS OF CAPTIVITY ON BONE DENSITY AND LOCOMOTION IN MEXICAN GRAY WOLVES (*CANIS LUPUS BAILEYI*)

Scott C. Spencer

13 – MULTI-SPECIES ASSESSMENT OF WILDLIFE–VEHICLE COLLISIONS USING BOBCATS AND SYMPATRIC WILDLIFE TO INFORM OCELOT CONSERVATION IN SOUTH TEXAS

Rupesh Maharjan

14 – UNDERSTANDING DIEL ACTIVITY PATTERNS IN WILD BOAR (*SUS SCROFA*) INVASION SUCCESS: BEHAVIORAL PLASTICITY VERSUS CONSERVED TEMPORAL TRAITS

Namrata Bhandari

15 – CHARACTERIZATION OF *MYOCPLASMA* COMMUNITIES IN AOUDAD (*AMMOTRAGUS LERVIA*) POPULATIONS ACROSS TEXAS

Brendan Amman



**Texas Society of Mammalogists  
44<sup>th</sup> Annual Members Business Meeting  
14 February 2026**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2025 Member's Business Meeting
3. Officer Reports
  - a. Secretary-Treasurer, Cathy Early
  - b. Permanent Secretary, Joel Brant
  - c. Editor, John Hanson
4. Committee Reports
  - a. Report of Honorary Membership Committee, Amy Baird
  - b. Report of Financial Advisory Committee, Phil Sudman
  - c. Report of the Student Honoraria Committee, Caleb Phillips
  - d. Report of the Committee on Conservation, Michael Tewes
  - e. Report of the *ad hoc* Informatics Committee, John Hanson
  - f. Report of the *ad hoc* Committee on Human Diversity, Iván Castro-Arellano
  - g. Report of the *ad hoc* Conduct Committee, Dana Lee
  - h. Report of the *ad hoc* Auction Committee, Krysta Demere
5. Officer Elections
  - a. President-Elect
  - b. Secretary-Treasurer
6. Old Business
7. New Business
  - a. Address Change for Bank Account
  - b. Selection of site for 2027 Annual Meeting
    - i. 12-14 February 2027
    - ii. 11-13 February 2028
8. Closing Remarks of TSM President, Iván Castro-Arellano
9. Adjourn

**Texas Society of Mammalogists**  
**Treasurer's Report for 2025 Fiscal Year (Jan 1 – May 31)**  
**Submitted by Cathy Early, Secretary-Treasurer**

Income and expenses of TSM for the 2025 fiscal year are shown below. Note that this is the first annual cycle since TSM transitioned from calendar year to fiscal year, thus only the first 5 months of 2025 are included.

In January, our checking account was transferred from the Bank and Trust of San Angelo to Extraco Bank in Belton. Our investments are handled by Morgan Stanley. The value of the investment fund increased \$6,835.69

Checking Account Balance as of 1 January 2025	\$892.84
Investment Account (Morgan Stanley) balance 1 January 2025	\$119,593.65
<b>Total TSM assets as of 1 January 2025</b>	<b>\$120,486.49</b>

**2025 Income**

2025 Annual Meeting income (registration, meals and lodging fees)	
Student Registration (\$15, waived for presenters)	\$315.00
Late Registration	\$0.00
Non-Student Registration (\$30)	\$1,500.00
Late fees	\$0.00
Meals (\$40/\$12 full plan/banquet only)	\$3,596.00
Lodging & linens (\$30/\$45 study unit/suite, \$30 discount for presenters)	\$2,015.00
2025 Membership dues	\$1,090.00
2025 Patron Memberships	\$835.00
Other pre-paid donations	\$314.00
Pre-paid T-shirts (\$15 each, free for presenters)	\$765.00
Auction Income	\$8,000.00
Transfer from Morgan Stanley account	\$5,000.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$23,430.00</b>

**2025 Expenses**

2025 Annual Meeting Expenses to TTU Center	\$14,189.00
Event Insurance – paid by private donor, about \$400	\$0.00
Keynote Speaker	\$757.00
Entertainment	\$750.00
Bartender – stipend	\$300.00
Refreshments, Beverages, Kegs	\$478.34
Office Supplies (new checks for bank account)	\$98.60
Printing Name Tags	\$0.00
Printing Programs – covered by UMHB Biology Department	\$0.00
Student Awards	\$3,700.00
T-shirts – 102 shirts ordered	\$1,392.31
Stripes Fees	\$48.94
Postage & Wire Transfer Fees	\$0.00
Reimbursements	\$280.00
Money Returned to Morgan Stanley Investment Account	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$22,443.06</b>

Checking Account Balance 31 May 2025	\$3,275.40
Outstanding Check (eventually cashed in August 2025)	-\$400.00
Investment Account (Morgan Stanley) Balance 31 May 2025	\$116,602.70
<b>Total TSM Assets as of 31 May 2025</b>	<b>\$119,478.10</b>

**Texas Society of Mammalogists  
Members' Business Meeting  
15 February 2025**

The meeting was called to order by President Dara Orbach at 3:15 pm. The minutes of the 2024 Members' Business Meeting were approved.

**Officers' Reports**

**Secretary-Treasurer.** Secretary-Treasurer Cathy Early began by thanking the work of past Secretary-Treasurers. Cathy announced that part of her role as Secretary-Treasurer was to examine the accounts and determine where we could save money. One of the changes she would like to see is to not print the entire Program & Newsletter next year. The abstracts and newsletter portion will be available online while the program and agendas would be printed out. If members wanted the abstracts and newsletter in a printed form, they will be able to purchase those separately. Cathy called up Tom Lee (immediate past Secretary-Treasurer) to review the Treasurer's Report for 2024. Tom began his report by noting that the 2024 meeting lost ~\$2,500 (expenses over revenues), primarily due to the costs associated with the Junction Center. The good news is that our Morgan Stanley investment account made ~\$5,000 over the course of the year (so the Society's finances were positive for the year). Tom mentioned that he was glad to see that some of the registration fees were increased for 2025 to help offset the meeting expenses. Instead of reading through the Secretary-Treasurer's report, Tom mentioned that the detailed report is available on page 33 of the program. A question was asked regarding the costs associated with the Junction Center. As seen on the report, the current costs were ~\$15,000 and Tom mentioned that 4-years ago the costs were ~\$10,000. A question regarding the increase in fees was asked. The increase in fees was only for members who were not presenting at the meeting (mostly non-student members). The motion to approve the 2024 Treasure's Report was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

**Permanent Secretary.** Permanent Secretary Joel Brant reported that his main role at the meetings was to keep the minutes and take photos for inclusion in the archives. The Permanent Secretary is also responsible for assembling the Program & Newsletter, as such all the many typos are his responsibility. Because he misidentified the mammal on the cover of the program, Joel was docked 5-points from the Mammal Challenge Joel was asked to report on who was registered for the meeting. As of this morning, there were 26 affiliate institutions, 37 professional faculty, 7 non-academic professionals, and 60 students including ~40 first-time attendees. Most of the first-time attendees have a ribbon on their name tags identifying them as first-time attendees. We have 4 states that are represented (New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Texas) and 2 countries (Colombia and USA). We have ~110 registrants as of now. The motion to approve the 2025 Report of the Permanent Secretary was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

**Editor.** Newsletter Editor John Hanson reported that the editor's job is primarily to handle the newsletter and the website. John pointed out to the membership that the newsletter is intended to highlight the professional members of the Society so that folks can see the opportunities provided by these folks. John encouraged everybody to check the accuracy of their bio in the newsletter and to make sure to send an update when John calls for submissions to the newsletter next year. John is also responsible for the website and has expressed a desire to update the website. One of the items he'd like to add is a page for meeting photos. John asked for any other ideas to improve the website as well if anyone want to help with the website. President Orbach also praised the work John does with the website to make our registration process operate smoothly. The motion to approve the 2025 Report of the Editor was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

## Reports of Committees

Phil Sudman, Chair of the Honorary Membership Committee, briefly described what Honorary Membership entailed and noted that his report would continue at the awards ceremony just before the banquet. Phil encouraged members who wish to nominate someone for Honorary Membership to contact any of the Executive Committee members.

Phil Sudman, Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee, reported that he meets regularly with the Secretary-Treasurer to monitor the investment account. The investment account began the year with \$115,113.12 and ended the year with \$119,593.65. As of 13 February 2025, the account was \$123,249.25. Last year we netted (minus the funds withdrawn to support the meeting) ~\$4,500. Phil commented that over the course of three decades, TSM has put in ~\$67,000 into the investment account and the account currently sits at ~\$123,000. His calculations suggest that our return on our investment is 81.6%. Thankfully the Society is doing well enough that we can continue to make withdrawals as needed to keep the meeting friendly for students. Phil encouraged the membership to donate when they register for next year in order to keep this meeting an affordable meeting. Patron membership is another way to donate to the society. Phil thanked everyone who contributed to the society and praised the student focus of TSM. The motion to approve the 2025 Report of the Financial Advisory Committee was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

Ivan Castro-Arellano, Chair of the Student Honoraria Committee, reported that the bulk of his report would occur during the awards ceremony immediately before the banquet speaker. Ivan thanked all the presenters for their posters or talks. Ivan thanked all the judges for volunteering to judge the various posters and talks. He encouraged folks to volunteer ahead of time to judge as that makes things a bit easier for this committee. The motion to approve the 2025 Report of the Student Honoraria Committee was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

Mike Tewes, Chair of the Conservation Committee, reported that Texas is a battleground state for White-Nose Syndrome (WNS). The big concern at TPWD is that several new species of *Myotis* have been infected in Central and West Texas and *Perimyotis subflavus* has been infected. These increases in susceptible species has caused concern at the state level. Loren Ammerman pointed out that all the bats mentioned from West Texas have tested positive for the fungus (*Pseudogymnoascus destructans*) but not WNS. On a positive note, recently ~80 *Ovis canadensis* were released into the Franklin Mountains, increasing the range of this species in Texas. Finally, trapping of *Puma concolor* continues to be a concern for TPWD. Recent proposed regulations ban canned hunts and require a 36-hour check for traps. TPWD is preparing a management plan for *Puma concolor* scheduled to take effect in 2026. Mike encouraged member to attend the American Society of Mammalogists at Purdue University this summer. He also encouraged members to attend the Texas Conservation Symposium in Georgetown, TX, every January. The motion to approve the 2025 Report of the Conservation Committee was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

John Hanson, Chair of the *ad hoc* Informatics Committee, referred everybody to his comments as Editor regarding the website. The *ad hoc* Informatics Committee primarily focuses on social media and website footprint of the Society. John encouraged anyone who wished to help with this committee to contact him.

Ivan Castro-Arellano, Chair of the *ad hoc* Human Diversity Committee, reported that this committee is currently focused on gathering data. Ivan encouraged everyone to click on the QR code projected (and displayed around the meeting) to complete the 2025 demographic survey. The committee has begun an effort to familiarize students with the various pathways to a career in mammalogy. This year Dara Orbach discussed the core experiences that led her to her current career at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi. Ivan encouraged interested members to contact him about serving on this committee. Dara mentioned that as a result of the 2024 survey, the Society designated the Packard classroom as a

quiet space for those who needed one. Dara also encouraged folks to submit suggestions to the survey and that the Executive Committee would seriously consider ways to improve the Society. The motion to approve the 2025 Report of the *ad hoc* Human Diversity Committee was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

Dana Lee, Chair of the *ad hoc* Conduct Committee, reminded everybody that the Society has a Code of Conduct which can be found on the website. The society has appointed 3 Ombudspersons (Dana Lee, Russel Pfau, & Cody Thompson) who the membership can bring issues to and who will address conduct violations. Dana encouraged anyone who has questions regarding the Code of Conduct or would like to report a violation of the Code, please seek out the Ombudspersons. Dana reported that there were no conduct violations reported this year. The motion to approve the 2025 Report of the *ad hoc* Conduct Committee was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

Krysta Demere, Chair of the *ad hoc* Auction Committee, reviewed the auction report from 2023. The live auction raised \$2,765. The silent auction generated \$1,252. Several folks added monetary donations to bring the total generated by the auction to \$4,554.71. On page 5 of the program is a list of folks who donated to this year's auction. Krysta thanked all those who helped facilitate the auction. Krysta encouraged anyone who wanted to take an active role in the committee to contact her. Krysta mentioned that it is sometimes difficult to keep track of who has won an auction item so this year she has added a sticker to everyone's name tag with a number. When you win an auction item, this number will be used to keep track of your items so Krysta and her helpers at the check-out table can keep track of your items. Krysta discussed the various types of payment available for the auction. Finally, Krysta asked students to help with moving tables and materials to the banquet site. The motion to approve the 2025 Report of the *ad hoc* Auction Committee was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

### **Election of Officers**

President Orbach announced that the Executive Committee had nominated Caleb Phillips (Texas Tech University) and Marie Tipps (Texas A&M University – San Antonio) for the office of President-Elect. The floor was opened for additional nominations. No additional nominations were put forward. After a ballot election, Caleb Phillips was elected President-Elect for 2026.

President Orbach announced that the Executive Committee had re-nominated Joel Brant (McMurry University) for the office of Permanent Secretary. The floor was opened for additional nominations. No additional nominations were put forward. Joel was elected by acclamation.

### **New Business**

It was moved and seconded to hold the 2026 TSM meeting at the TTU Center at Junction. There was discussion of the dates for next year. We have the option of choosing the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of February. The Texas Wildlife Society generally meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of February and the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of February is generally when the Texas Academy of Sciences meets. The membership voted for the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in February. The 2026 meeting will be held February 13-15. The 2027 meeting will be held February 12-14. Motion passed.

President Orbach called on Krysta Demere and Cathy Early to discuss ideas to develop decals or other TSM related imagery for fund raising purposes. Specifically, they are asking for the Society's permission for them to explore and develop this imagery. Ideas include notepads, stickers, pens, decals, etc. A motion was made and seconded to allow Krysta to develop a proof-of-concept for these images that can then be offered next year. Motion passed.



President Dara Orbach praised the quality of the student presentations this year. She thanked all the students and faculty who presented their research as well as all the folks who participated in the logistics of the meeting. She encouraged everyone to return next year and to complete the 2025 Diversity Survey.

**The Members' Business Meeting was recessed at 4:07 pm.**

**The Members' Business Meeting was reconvened at 6:30 pm.**

Phil Sudman, Chair of the Honorary Membership Committee, continued his report from the Members Business Meeting. Phil began by noting that awardees are revealed in one year but are presented their awards at the next year's meeting. Phil continued by revealing the 2025 class of Honorary Members (Michael Willig, Michelle Haynie, & Joel Brant). Phil closed his comments by encouraging members to bring nominations for Honorary Membership to any member of the Executive Committee.

Jessica Light announced the winners of the Mammal Challenge. Emily Schmalzried of Texas Tech University won the Student category of the Mammal Challenge. Adam Ferguson of the Field Museum won the Non-Student category of the Mammal Challenge.

Ivan Castro-Arellano, Chair of the Student Honoraria Committee, announced the winners of the presentation awards. Each winner received a cash award (\$500 for the Packard Award and \$400 for all others) and was recognized by the society with applause. Ivan congratulated all the presenters for their presentations and encourage everyone to submit abstracts next year.

Oral presentation award winners were:

1. Robert L. Packard Award — Brian McElligott, Texas State University
2. TSM Award — Ashley E. Loehn, Angelo State University
3. William B. Davis Award — Daniel Benson, Texas A&M University
4. Rollin H. Baker Award — Scott C. Spenser, University of New Mexico
5. Bobby Baker Award — Solomon K. Meraz, Cameron University

Poster presentation award winners were:

1. Clyde Jones Award (graduate) — Alyssa Arguijo, Texas State University
2. Vernon Bailey Award (graduate) — Annaleigh Laine, Texas Tech University
3. Clyde Jones Award (undergraduate) — Ivette Sarabia-Cintron, Cameron University
4. Vernon Bailey Award (undergraduate) — Caleb Dale, McMurry University

The Members' Business Meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joel G. Brant  
Permanent Secretary

## STUDENT AWARDS

***These awards are made possible by the generous donations of the Society's members and by fundraising activities.***

Robert L. Packard Award – The Robert L. Packard Award is presented for the Best Overall oral presentation. Eligibility is open to any student who has not previously received this award. This award currently includes an honorarium of \$500.

The Robert L. Packard Award was first awarded in 1985 for the best student presentation. In 1990, when the TSM Award was established, the Packard Award was designated for the best presentation in classical mammalogy. Since 1998, the Packard Award has been designated for the Best Overall oral presentation. The award was named in honor of Robert L. Packard (1928-1979), the founder of the Texas Society of Mammalogists.

TSM Award – The TSM Award is presented for the best oral presentation in mammalian molecular biology, evolution, and systematics by a graduate student. Eligibility is open to any graduate student who has not previously received this award. This award currently includes an honorarium of \$400.

The TSM Award was established in 1990.

William B. Davis Award – The William B. Davis Award is presented for the best oral presentation in classical mammalogy at the organismal level by a graduate student. Eligibility is open to any graduate student who has not previously received this award. This award currently includes an honorarium of \$400.

The William B. Davis Award was established in 1998 in honor of William B. Davis (1902-1995), a leading mammalogist in Texas and the first Head of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M University. Davis authored or co-authored five editions of *The Mammals of Texas* (1947, 1960, 1966, 1974, 1994).

Bobby Baker Award – The Bobby Baker Award is presented for the best oral presentation in mammalian molecular biology, evolution and systematics by an undergraduate student. Eligibility is open to any undergraduate student who has not previously received this award. This award currently includes an honorarium of \$400.

The Bobby Baker Award was established in 2013 in honor of Bobby Baker (1986-2012), who was an active and award-winning undergraduate member of the Texas Society of Mammalogists.

Rollin H. Baker Award – The Rollin H. Baker Award is presented for the best oral presentation in classical mammalogy at the organismal level by an undergraduate student. Eligibility is open to any undergraduate student who has not previously received this award. This award currently includes an honorarium of \$400.

The Rollin H. Baker Award was established in 2002 in honor of Rollin H. Baker (1916-2007), president of the Society in 1984-85 and an active member of TSM from 1984 until his death in 2007.

Clyde Jones Awards – The Clyde Jones Awards are presented for the best poster presentations by one graduate student and one undergraduate student in mammalian molecular biology, evolution, and systematics. Eligibility is open to any student who has not previously received the award at the respective academic level.

The initial Clyde Jones Award was established in 2004 in honor of Clyde Jones (1935-2015), Horn Professor of Biological Sciences at Texas Tech University. Jones was an active member of TSM since its inception in 1983 until his death in 2015, and was President of the Society in 1987-88.

Vernon Bailey Awards – The Vernon Bailey Awards are presented for the best poster presentations by one graduate student and one undergraduate student in classical mammalogy at the organismal level. Eligibility is open to any student who has not previously received the award at the respective academic level.

The initial Vernon Bailey Award was established in 2004 in honor of Vernon Bailey (1864-1942), Chief Field Naturalist and Senior Biologist for the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Biological Survey (1897-1933). Bailey conducted the first and most complete biological survey of Texas, from 1889 to 1905.

# TEXAS SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS

## Honorary Members

<b>Class of 1985</b> W. Frank Blair (D) Walter W. Dalquest (D) William B. Davis (D) Robert L. Packard (D) <b>Class of 1986</b> Rollin H. Baker (D) <b>Class of 1991</b> Howard McCarley (D) <b>Class of 1992</b> J Knox Jones, Jr. (D) <b>Class of 1995</b> Clyde Jones (D) <b>Class of 1997</b> Robert J. Baker (D) <b>Class of 1998</b>	James Scudday (D) Herschel Garner <b>Class of 1999</b> David J. Schmidly <b>Class of 2002</b> Art Harris <b>Class of 2003</b> Arthur G. Cleveland <b>Class of 2004</b> Ira F. Greenbaum Robert E. Martin <b>Class of 2006</b> Ann Maxwell Terry Maxwell (D) <b>Class of 2007</b> Guy N. Cameron	Earl G. Zimmerman <b>Class of 2008</b> John Bickham <b>Class of 2010</b> Robert C. Dowler <b>Class of 2011</b> Ron Pine <b>Class of 2013</b> Fred Stangl (D) <b>Class of 2015</b> Rodney Honeycutt <b>Class of 2017</b> Michael Tewes <b>Class of 2018</b> Lisa Bradley Robert D. Bradley	<b>Class of 2019</b> Loren K. Ammerman Philip D. Sudman <b>Class of 2020</b> Thomas E. Lee Marcia Revelez <b>Class of 2023</b> Michael T. Dixon John D. Hanson Russell S. Pfau <b>Class of 2025</b> Joel G. Brant Michelle L. Haynie Michael Willig
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## Patron Members

Jo Actkinson Loren K. Ammerman Amy Baird Robert Baker (D) Rollin Baker (D) John Bickham Lisa Bradley Robert Bradley Joel G. Brant Jorge Salazar-Bravo Dan Brooks Guy Cameron Darin Carroll Brian Chapman (D) Ron Chesser Scott Chirhart Arthur G. Cleveland	J. Andrew DeWoody Danielle Dillard Michael Dixon Robert C. Dowler Cathy Early Carla Ebeling Adam Ferguson Herschel Garner Jim Goetze Ira F. Greenbaum Meredith Hamilton John Hanson Michelle Haynie Steve Hoofer Mandy Husak Michael Husak Clyde Jones (D)	Stephen Kasper Thomas E. Lee Jessica Light Robert E. Martin Ann Maxwell Terry Maxwell (D) Molly McDonough Kevin McKinney Steve McReynolds Anne Merchant Chris Montag Jim Patton Clint Perkins Russell Pfau Caleb Phillips Carl Phillips Brenda Rodgers (D)	Duke Rogers Kent Rylander David J. Schmidly Stephanie Shelton Steve Smith Phil Sudman Michael Tewes Ron Van Den Bussche Christopher Walker Cody Webb Kenneth T. Wilkins Don Wilson Ray Willis Bernd Wursig Earl Zimmerman
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