

# San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc. Scholarships

Article by **KASSI SCHEFFER**  
Photos courtesy of **CONSERVATION LEGACY**

The Texas Wildlife Association Foundation (TWAF) and the San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc. (SALE) continue to offer scholarships in the amount of \$10,000 to incoming freshmen at Texas universities and colleges.

“As our population has grown, the strain on our natural resources has grown proportionately,” TWAF Trustee Charles Davidson said. “Our future depends on our ability to manage our natural resources wisely, balancing the needs of man and nature. It just makes sense to identify our future leaders and support them while they are getting their educations. We all will benefit from their expertise in the years to come.”

For 12 years, TWAF and SALE have teamed up to offer scholarships to future natural resource stewards. To date, \$500,000 has been awarded through this scholarship program.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on their participation in activities, internships and experience related to the field of natural resources conservation as well as honors, awards and leadership skills. Their plans for using their degrees to impact natural resources conservation along with answers to several essay questions and recommendation letters from community leaders are also considered.



Whitney Edington – Goldthwaite, TX

**2017 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**  
**Whitney Edington – Goldthwaite, TX**  
West Texas A&M University  
Major: Wildlife Biology

**What pathways or mechanisms would you recommend to get more young Texans involved and interested in outdoor activities?**

*Students could use cameras to photograph the changes they see to compare differences in the environment. They could photograph wildlife, plants and landscapes. Then they could bring their photos back to school and label their photos and add a description. Schools could have a photo contest periodically throughout*

*the year with a theme. Themes could include wildflowers, wildlife, trees, water or insects. This gets students outdoors and looking at things they might not normally look at. If students could learn to identify plants or animals in Texas, they might want to protect them. We can't protect or preserve our natural resources, if we don't know what they are.*



Bennett Folsom – Lakeway, TX

**Bennett Folsom – Lakeway, TX**  
Texas A&M University  
Major: Animal Science

**What does the term “land stewardship” mean to you?**





Simply put, land stewardship is sacrificing your time and effort by contributing to an effort greater than yourself, in the wild. This is a concept understood by the best conservationists. One can't manage his land unless the land is deeply known. In order to know the land, we have to work in it.

“Knowing your audience” is a tactic that I learned, and continue to learn, in public speaking. Considering land stewardship, “knowing your audience” is the first place to begin. Don't manage for quail if your “audience” is deer. More importantly, know the stage you're standing on. If you're tripping and stumbling, your audience will never listen. Following suit, once you truly know your land, then you will be able to really dig in, stewarding the land and its natural resources.



Thomas Johnson – Willis, TX

**Thomas Johnson – Willis, TX**  
 Tarleton State University  
 Major: Wildlife and Fisheries Management

**What pathways or mechanisms would you recommend to get more young Texans involved and interested in outdoor activities?**

In addition to reaching youth through social media, there must be more opportunities for the youth in urban areas to get involved in the outdoors. While advertising will be the key to letting youth

know their options, it is also necessary to increase the number of opportunities. Programs like Texas Youth Hunting, Texas Brigades and Fishing's Future need to be expanded. Advertising will get youth there, but giving them hands-on experiences must be an integral part. More landowners must be willing to host experiences; more adults must become mentors and role models. It is imperative that more opportunities be provided within travel range of Texas's four largest cities. Trendy, technology-rich advertising and expanded outdoor opportunities, especially in urban areas, are vital to engaging youth in more outdoor activities.



Micayla Pearson – La Vernia, TX

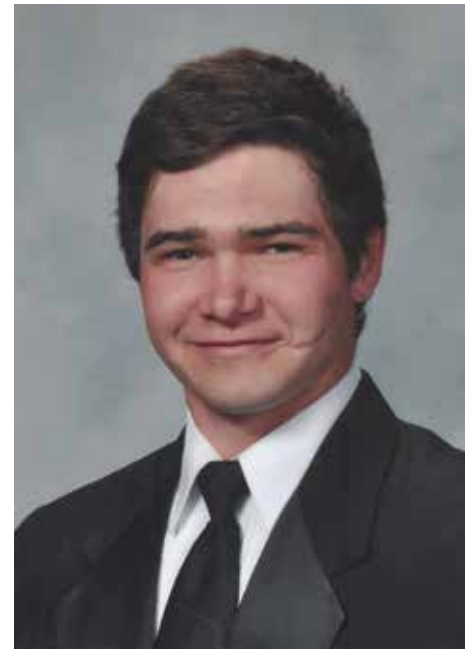
**Micayla Pearson – La Vernia, TX**  
 Texas A&M University-Kingsville  
 Major: Range and Wildlife Management

**What role does hunting play in wildlife conservation in Texas?**

Conservation of the wild things of Texas is my greatest passion, and I am proud of the contribution I make as a hunter. Hunting plays a tremendous role in the management of various species which, left unchecked, would overtake the landscape. Hunting aids in maintaining a viable, healthy species.

As a hunter in Texas, I consider it my obligation to promote hunting and to educate others about hunting. To be successful at both, it is important that I

first educate myself. I have spent time in the field (but that time is never enough) and have been a participant in many hunting education programs. These opportunities are preparing me to be an ambassador for hunting and conservation. Preparing myself is the first step in promoting hunting to others. I hope to make an impact on my goal of becoming an educator in wildlife and natural resource conservation.



Jesse Pfeuffer – Christoval, TX

**Jesse Pfeuffer – Christoval, TX**  
 Texas Tech University  
 Major: Natural Resources Management

**What role does hunting play in wildlife conservation in Texas?**

It is crucial that landowners closely regulate management hunting activities on their property by setting requirements for paid and non-paid hunters about the species of animals that need to be harvested, how many animals of each species, and even the general age and condition of the animal. Sound management practices by private land stewards have had and will continue to have a major positive impact on our wildlife. Overall, most landowners and wildlife agencies have done a great job at taking steps to manage their wildlife herds and should receive due credit for the healthy wildlife populations we have in our great state today. 🐾

