



Texas Wildlife



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



As we reflect on 2024, the Texas Wildlife Association (TWA) remains steadfast in our commitment to conserving Texas' natural resources, supporting private lands stewardship, and protecting the wildlife that makes our state unique. Through advocacy, conservation education, and hunting heritage activities, we have made meaningful progress in safeguarding habitats, empowering landowners, and fostering the next generation of conservation leaders. In the coming pages, you will see an overview of the great work of our various programs over the past year; many of which produced record impact numbers.

The impact numbers produced by our Hunting Heritage and Conservation Legacy programs are encouraging, but there is another part to this story. Texas Wildlife Association Foundation (TWAF) exists specifically to raise funds to support our conservation education and hunting programs. 2024 was a banner year for the Foundation with strong event fundraising, great grant support and inspiring end of year donations. We are constantly working to build our TWA education programs but they take an immense amount of funding to keep running at the highest level. Our TWAF Trustees and generous donors continue to step up to the plate to make sure our staff never have to take their foot off of the gas.

Thank you for your continued support of TWA and TWAF. Together we are making a difference for the future of Texas. 🌟

JUSTIN DREIBELBIS

Chief Executive Officer
Texas Wildlife Association
Texas Wildlife Association Foundation

JONATHAN LETZ

President
Texas Wildlife Association

ALAN CURRY

President
Texas Wildlife Association Foundation



📷 Jonathan Vail

Texas Wildlife Association **ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

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TWA MISSION

Serving Texas wildlife and its habitat, while protecting property rights, hunting heritage, and the conservation efforts of those who value and steward wildlife resources.

2024 OFFICERS

JONATHAN LETZ, President

NYLE MAXWELL, Vice President

PARLEY DIXON, Treasurer

LOUIS HARVESON, 2nd Vice President for Programs



📷 Matt Buckingham

STAFF AS OF MARCH 1, 2025

PROFESSIONAL STAFF/CONTRACT ASSOCIATES

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DENELL JACKSON, Controller
BECKY ALIZADEH, Office Manager

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GENE COOPER, Conservation Education Specialist
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CHRISTINE FOLEY, Conservation Educator
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JEANETTE REAMES, Conservation Educator

LOUISE SMYTH, Conservation Educator
MARLA WOLF, Curriculum Specialist
NOELLE BROOKS, Conservation Legacy Program Assistant

HUNTING HERITAGE PROGRAM

MATTHEW HUGHES, Ph.D., Hunting Heritage Director
COL(R) CHRIS MITCHELL, Texas Youth Hunting Program (TYHP) Director
BOB BARNETTE, TYHP Field Operations Coordinator
TAYLOR HEARD, TYHP Field Operations Coordinator
BRIANA NICKLOW, TYHP Field Operations Coordinator
KIM HODGES, TYHP Program Coordinator
KRISTIN PARMA, Hunting Heritage Program Specialist
JIM WENTRCEK, Adult Learn to Hunt Program Coordinator
LORYN CALDERON, Hunting Heritage Administrative Assistant

TEXAS WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

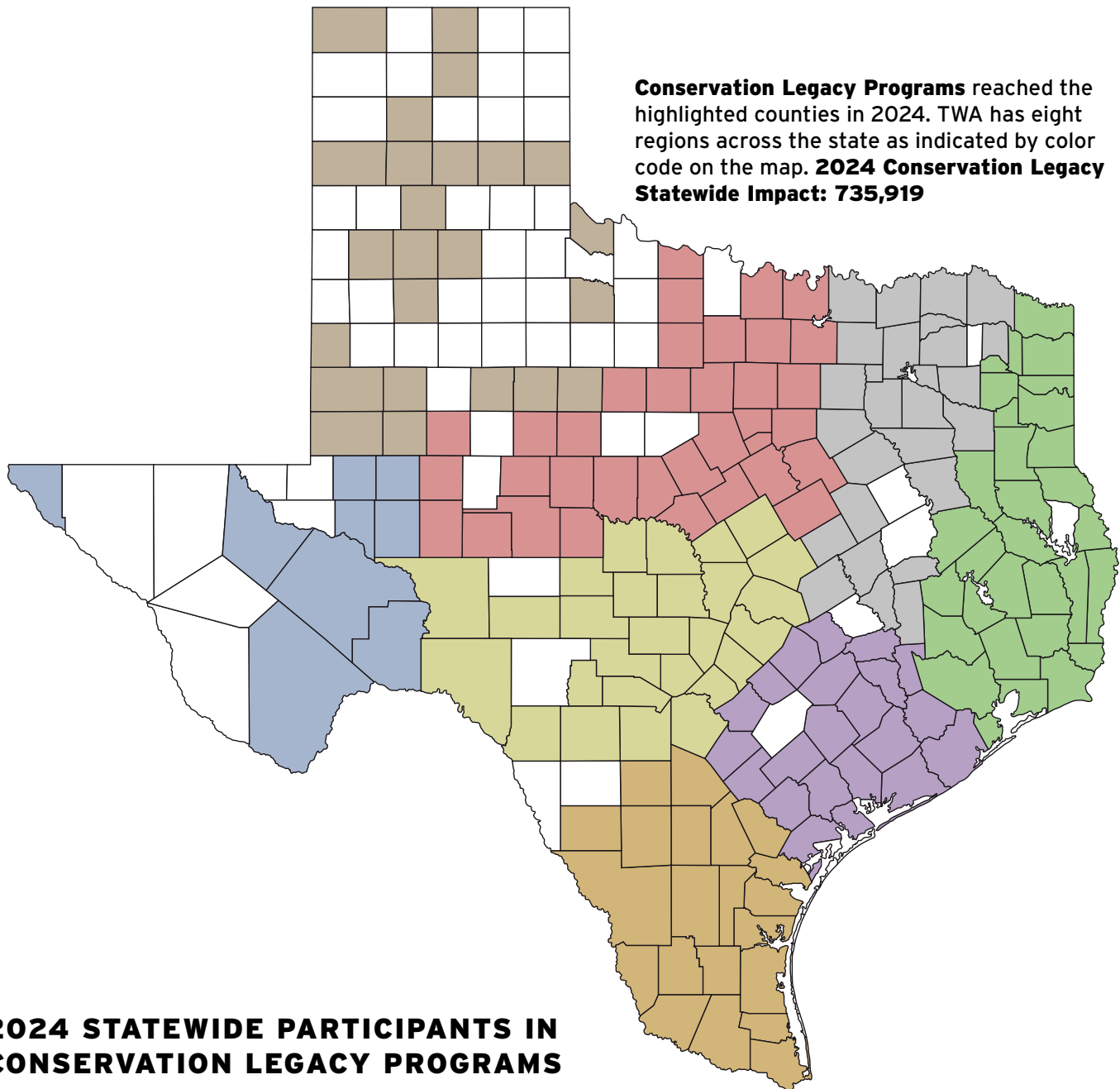
JUSTIN DREIBELBIS, Chief Executive Officer
TJ GOODPASTURE, Director of Development & Operations
DENELL JACKSON, Development Associate/Controller

ADVOCACY

JOEY PARK, Legislative Program Coordinator



Conservation Legacy



2024 STATEWIDE PARTICIPANTS IN CONSERVATION LEGACY PROGRAMS

Distance Learning	86,068	Youth Education Partnered Curriculum	9,818
Discovery Trunks	194,578	Youth Education Workshops & Conferences	847
Wildlife by Design.....	81,200	Adult Education Workshops & Conferences.....	1,470
Critter Connections	327,882	Adult Education Wild at Work Webinars	18,109
Land, Water & Wildlife Expeditions	2,036	Public Events.....	13,911

The Conservation Legacy team is dedicated toward educating Texans of all ages and backgrounds about conservation issues and our wildlife resources.

YOUTH EDUCATION

Two new conservation educator positions were established in 2024 to serve the greater West Texas area. The role of our conservation educators is to collaborate with local teachers and students three days a week through Wildlife by Design classroom presentations, professional development, and hosting a booth at regional and community events throughout the year.

The Land, Water & Wildlife Expeditions Program creates outdoor classrooms that offer anywhere from dozens to hundreds of students an engaging and hands-on field day on private properties, many of which are owned by TWA members. The numbers are impressive considering 2,000 students from nine schools participated in the 2023-2024 school year while more than 2,400 students from 12 schools are scheduled to participate in the program in the current 2024-2025 school year.

Several youth education programs experienced record-breaking impact in 2024. Distance Learning programs reached over 86,000 students, Discovery Trunks were shipped out to over 194,000 students, and more than 327,000 copies of *Critter Connections* were mailed out (surpassing the previous high-mark by more than 135,000 copies).

The organization's youth education efforts impacted more than 700,000 young Texans in 2024!



WILDLIFE BY DESIGN

Taylor Cabler did a great job working with my children in the classroom. My head of school came and watched one lesson and was very impressed. Taylor circulated between groups and asked the students questions while they were identifying the animal skins. You managed to hire an amazing educator who is passionate about wildlife! This was a follow up to the Adaptation Investigations Discovery trunk. Since we had studied frogs and discussed camouflage, her lesson created connections between what they knew and what she brought to our class. TWA offers an amazing educational program that helps teach skills and engages students in areas that may be unfamiliar to them.

KINDERGARTEN & 1ST GRADE TEACHER

Trinity School of Midland

Roughly 30% of STAAR questions cover life science units and the structures and functions questions are very difficult. TWA's classroom lesson give students a better understanding of structures and functions so that they have the tools to formulate sufficient answers to the questions. I am grateful for Yvonne and TWA for the opportunity to provide our students with a purposeful, hands-on learning experience.

5TH GRADE TEACHER

Pleasanton Elementary School

★ CONSERVATION LEGACY TESTIMONIAL





DISCOVERY TRUNKS

Fantastic as always! The materials are hands-on items that I cannot purchase for my classroom. Your free resources are something my students love and look forward to. The trunks help me make learning in my classes fun and engaging while affording students a wildlife experience they wouldn't have access to otherwise. It has increased their respect and appreciation of nature and wildlife, in addition to increasing their scientific knowledge. Thank you so much for continuing to offer these resources!

11TH & 12TH GRADE TEACHER

Blue Ridge High School

LAND, WATER & WILDLIFE EXPEDITIONS

Student Evaluation Question: Which station rotation was your most favorite?

The Critter Habitat Walk - I chose this one because the walk made me realize how many different animals and plants can use a small parcel of land. It also taught me the importance of protecting the ecosystem.

6TH GRADE STUDENT

Judson ISD STEM Academy





More than 19,000 adults were impacted through educational programming in the past year.



ADULT EDUCATION

Each day, more and more are calling Texas home and establishing roots. As our population increases, TWA continues to offer a range of adult learning opportunities for landowners and conservationists of varying levels of stewardship education across our state. Dozens of landowners participated in tax valuation, conservation easement and native plant workshops throughout the year, all hosted alongside local partners. TWA also partnered with the Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation for another sold out installment of the QuailMasters program, providing advanced lessons on quail ecology and management.

The Wild at Work webinars, held monthly during the lunch hour, provided opportunities for members and non-members alike to learn from experts on a variety of wildlife, conservation and hunting initiatives such as chemical toxicants for hog control, introduction to pond management and research updates on the impact of wind energy projects on local bat populations. This online content was viewed by more than 16,000 in 2024 and is available on the TWA YouTube Channel.

TWA was also an active partner in co-hosting the Texas Waterfowl Symposium in Corsicana, the Panhandle Wildlife Conference in Lubbock, the Range & Wildlife Field Day in Corpus Christi and the South Texas Wildlife Conference in Pleasanton. We presented at the Houston Rodeo Ranching & Wildlife Expo, guest lectured at Texas A&M University and Hill Country Alliance Leadership Summit, and assisted partners in carrying out several more events across the state.

All told, more than 19,000 adults were impacted through educational programming in the past year. 🌟



Hunting Heritage

TWA's Hunting Heritage programs continue to create opportunities for youth and adult Texans to venture into the field and experience the hunting way of life--as well as recognize them for their efforts.

2024-25 HUNTING HERITAGE IMPACT

Adult Learn to Hunt Program	Texas Youth Hunting Program	Texas Big Game Awards 2024
Hunts30	Hunts 245	Scored entries.....523
Applicants 709	Applicants 2,001	First harvest entries.....273
Drawn hunters146	Youth drawn for hunts.....1,127	Youth division entries 240
Volunteers and mentors182	Youth, parents and volunteers..3,479	Landowner recognition awards..370
Total volunteer hours7,300	Total volunteer hours 52,500	Texas Slam awards5

★ TYHP TESTIMONIAL



Dylan and his mother, Tamica, on the Rancho Buen Vecinos Ranch TYHP hunt. Rodney Koenig served as huntmaster.

I want to take a moment to thank you and your team for the incredible outdoor experience my son, Dylan, and I shared Jan. 10-12 at Rancho Buen Vecinos.

Aside from a Cub Scout campout, this was our first big outing since my other son and I were burned in a minor house fire last year. That incident led us to relocate to Shriners Galveston Burn Center for 65 days. Being able to accompany my 10-year-old on his first hunting trip was a truly remarkable way to start a new year.

We laughed, we cried, and we almost froze, but most importantly, we got out of the house and created lifelong memories. I will never forget the moment I watched my son harvest and skin his first deer. On the way home, he told me he's eager to hunt again and wants to share more experiences like this with me.

Brandon Kirby planted the seed that brought us to this experience, but the field expertise, the patience of your team, and the heartfelt hospitality of Mr. Janke truly nurtured his interest. Please pass along my deepest gratitude to Rodney, Mr. Janke and everyone at Rancho Buen Vecinos. I couldn't bring myself to express all of this at the end of the hunt without becoming too emotional.

Thank you once again for giving us such a memorable and meaningful experience.

TAMICA BARNES
Mother of TYHP participant

TEXAS YOUTH HUNTING PROGRAM

The Texas Youth Hunting Program (TYHP) offers children and teenagers hunting opportunities for native and exotic game thanks to private landowners who generously open their gates and host the hunts. While TWA oversees the program, TPWD serves as a vital collaborator. During the 2024 hunting season, 1,127 youth were drawn for 245 hunts. With the addition of parents and volunteers, the total number of participants reached 3,479 for the TYHP hunts.



ADULT LEARN TO HUNT PROGRAM

Texans with a desire to procure their own organic protein are major participants in the Adult Learn to Hunt Program (ALHP). This past season, 146 new hunters were ushered into the hunting brotherhood through 30 hunts. Like our TYHP hunts, the success of this program hinges on private landowners who are willing to host hunts on their property as well as the 182 volunteers and mentors who logged over 7,300 hours. Harvest totals include 94 MLDP does, 12 MLDP bucks, 22 non-MLDP does, two non-MLDP bucks, four javelina, three turkey, 24 feral hogs, eight aoudad, six nilgai, two axis and two fallow.

More than 700 adults applied for these mentored hunts which exemplifies the growing demand for adult Texans to connect with land and wildlife.

ALHP hosted an inaugural Culinary Camp in Mason that equipped participants with the necessary skills to serve as volunteer cooks for the 2024-25 hunting season. The comprehensive curriculum included essential topics such as wild game cooking basics, butchery techniques, sanitation and safety protocols, menu planning, recipe scaling, and hands-on wild game cooking. Participants left the camp well-prepared and enthusiastic to apply their newfound culinary expertise in the field.

The offseason remains busy with five training sessions planned, as well as specific skill education sessions focusing on firearms, optics and butchering. We continue to host social gatherings to encourage community development amongst hunters and volunteers.





My name is Kennedy Bailey, I am a senior at Texas A&M University (TAMU) studying Wildlife Management, and I am a proud proponent of the Adult Learn to Hunt Program. I first learned about the Adult Learn to Hunt Program (ALHP) in 2023 when Justin Dreibelbis encouraged me to coordinate a hunt with the TAMU Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Little did I know the profound impact ALHP would have in my life.

I had the privilege of collaborating with Matt Hughes to spearhead the first ALHP hunt with the TAMU Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, where students can harvest their first deer. My father and I opened up our ranch for this and it is now something we look forward to all year. As a landowner, the structure of the program gave me peace of mind and I could see the respect ALHP staff had for our land and wildlife. Utilizing our land to bring people into conservation and teach them the true meaning of hunting and harvest has been more than fulfilling.

Apart from being involved as a landowner, I have also mentored and will soon lead hunts. As a mentor and guide, it is deeply rewarding to teach and spread my love of hunting and conservation. I've often watched a person's entire demeanor shift after their first harvest—bright eyes, a radiant smile, and a newfound confident stride. I also admire the intentionality in the program to emphasize important conservation principles: gratitude, honoring the animal, ethics, integrity, and the spiritual connection to the land that forms in hunting. This intentionality has strengthened my connection and competence in hunting as well. ALHP has provided me with opportunities to positively impact people's lives in a lasting way, and that means everything to me.

KENNEDY BAILEY

Adult Learn to Hunt Program

Participant



TEXAS BIG GAME AWARDS

Now in year 34, the Texas Big Game Awards (TBGA) recognizes first time harvests from youth and adults, as well as exceptional native Texas big game animals—and the land managers who produce them. One thousand entries were submitted in 2024, including 523 scored entries, 273 first harvest and 204 in the youth division. Three hundred-seventy landowner recognition rewards were distributed, and five hunters earned Texas Slam honors. TWA is proud to partner with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department in this effort to promote our strong Texas hunting heritage.

Hunters who participated in the 2023-24 TBGA were celebrated at one of three Regional Sportsman's banquets over the summer. The 2024 banquet season began in Bryan-College Station, then headed to San Antonio before the final banquet in the Ft. Worth. There was a great turnout of awardees at our 39th annual TWA Wildlife Convention in July 2024 where the top three in each category were awarded along with our five Texas Slam awardees.

Since the program's inception in 1991, TBGA has recognized over 43,000 hunters, first time hunters, youth and landowners.

Additionally, TWA offers \$25,000 in TBGA scholarships to college students who major in agriculture or natural resource-related majors. Fifty-two students applied for the scholarship in spring 2024. TBGA scholarship funds are made possible through generous donations from sponsors such as Hixon Land and Cattle Company, Carter's Country Outdoor Stores, Busch Light, Nyle Maxwell Family of Dealerships and Capital Farm Credit. 🌟





Issues & Advocacy

TWA continues to serve as a proponent for landowner-led and hunter-friendly wildlife conservation policy in Texas. In 2024, we actively engaged in state and federal legislative and regulatory arenas to protect property rights, advocate for wildlife management and conservation tools, and promote and preserve hunting heritage.

LEGISLATIVE

In 2024, TWA worked with partner organizations, lawmakers and staff to prepare for the 89th Texas Legislative Session and remained an active contributor to private lands conservation in Congress. TWA staff and volunteers organized coalitions, refined legislative priorities and scrutinized funding asks in preparation for the session, and in 2025 look forward to advancing sound policies addressing some of the most pressing issues facing the future of Texas' wildlife and working lands. Among others, these include:

- TPWD & Working Lands Conservation Funding
- Groundwater Ownership & Conservation
- Renewable Energy Development
- Wildlife & Disease Management Issues

Beyond the Lone Star State, TWA was an active voice for private lands conservation nationally as a founding partner of American Wildlife Conservation Partnership. Through the AWCP, TWA's voice was heard on topics such as Farm Bill Reauthorization, the Endangered Species Act, Second Amendment issues and more.

REGULATORY

TWA leadership and volunteers were a fixture at Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission meetings this past year. The organization provided written and verbal testimony on multiple issues of importance to Texas native wildlife as well as the landowners and wildlife professionals which steward their habitats. These range from changes in hunting & fishing license sales, seasons and bag limits, to disease and predator management.

Outside of the hearing room, TWA leaders worked diligently to build relationships and find common cause with other stakeholder groups and associations across the state. These same leaders volunteered countless hours serving on a host of TPWD and university advisory committees throughout 2024. Via in-person and remote communication, the organization has grown its commitment to being solution-oriented in how we represent our membership and address the challenges that face their lands. 🌟



**TWA is active in the state
regulatory process to
improve land and wildlife
management issues such
as water, renewable
energy and wildlife
disease containment.**





Financials

TWA Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2024 (un-audited)

ASSETS

Cash and Investments	\$1,093,013
Receivables	\$941,474
Other Current Assets	\$82,645
Fixed Assets	\$217,184
Total Assets	\$2,334,316

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Accounts Payable.....	\$222,135
Other Current Liabilities	\$61,644
Net Assets with Donor Restriction	\$698,856
Net Assets without Donor Restriction	\$1,351,681
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$2,334,316

REVENUES

Donations/Contributions.....	\$349,140
Sponsorships.....	\$112,332
Annual Convention.....	\$895,029
New Grants from TWAF.....	\$1,448,802
Program Income.....	\$349,306
Membership Dues.....	\$449,454
Investment Income.....	\$92,408
Advertising Income	\$80,878
Advocacy Income.....	\$29,872
Publication Income.....	\$7,198
Miscellaneous Income	\$79,167
Total Revenues	\$3,893,586

EXPENSES

Payroll	\$1,757,325
Professional & Contract Services	\$729,509
Operations Expenses.....	\$626,382
Convention Expenses.....	\$418,299
Facilities & Equipment.....	\$167,126
Travel & Meetings.....	\$119,279
Business Expenses.....	\$52,664
Miscellaneous	\$111,440
Total Expenses	\$3,982,024





Texas Wildlife Association Foundation

The Texas Wildlife Association Foundation, Inc., promotes educational and informational activities in support of wildlife, habitat, and sound management. This programming includes science curriculum and classroom plans for elementary, middle and high school students, leadership camps, youth and adult hunting opportunities, and teacher training and adult education seminars, all of which are performed by the Texas Wildlife Association.

2024 TRUSTEES

ALAN CURRY

President

TOM VANDIVIER

Vice President and Secretary

CHARLES DAVIDSON

Treasurer

STEVE C. LEWIS

President Emeritus

TERRY ANDERSON

MARKO BARRETT

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GEORGE "TIMO" HIXON

BRYAN KING

J.B. RICHTER

GREG SIMONS

STAN STUDER JR.

JIMMIE V. THURMOND III

FAY WALKER

The TWAF Legacy Society continued to play an important role in 2024. The program allows donors to fund the TWAF endowment through various methods including testamentary bequests and other planned giving strategies. The Legacy Society recognizes and honors those donors who help protect the land, water and wildlife of Texas by contributing to the TWAF endowment fund in the amount of \$25,000 or greater. 🌟

TWAF LEGACY SOCIETY

\$1 MILLION+

McLean Bowman

Rae & Richard Hill*

Susan C. & Steve C. Lewis*

\$500,000-\$999,999

The Petty Family

Deborah & Greg Simons*

\$100,000-\$249,999

Pam & Will Harte

Luke Kellogg*

\$50,000-\$99,999

Jimmie Thurmond III*

Sonja & Tom Vandivier*

\$25,000-\$49,999

Alfred S. Gage Foundation

Ray Murski

* Testamentary Bequest

Financials

TWAF Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2024 (un-audited)

ASSETS

Cash and Investments	\$5,407,264
Receivables	\$627,990
Other Current Assets	\$11,883
Fixed Assets	\$3,952,134
Total Assets	\$9,999,271

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Accounts Payable	\$16,616
Grants Payable	\$698,856
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions ...	\$2,789,238
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$6,494,731
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$9,999,441

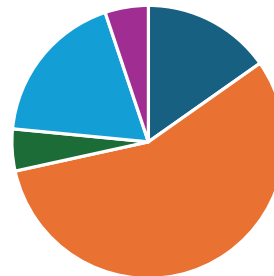
REVENUES

Total Direct Public Support	\$306,611
Grant Income	\$1,133,824
Event Income	\$100,000
Investment Income	\$369,132
Miscellaneous Income	\$103,300
Total Revenues	\$2,012,867

EXPENSES

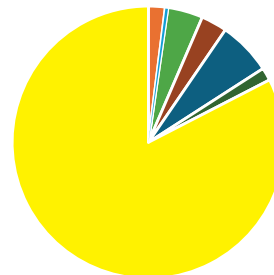
Insurance	\$34,871
Miscellaneous	\$5,286
Professional & Contract Services	\$73,455
Business Expenses	\$53,995
Facilities & Building Expenses	\$111,281
Advertising & Event Expense	\$26,813
New Grants to TWA	\$1,448,802
Total Expenses	\$1,754,503

REVENUE



Public Support	15.2%
Grants	56.3%
Events	5.0%
Investment Income	18.3%
Miscellaneous Income	5.1%

EXPENSES



Insurance	2.0%
Miscellaneous	.3%
Professional & Contract Services	4.2%
Business Expenses	3.1%
Facilities & Building Expenses	6.3%
Advertising & Event Expenses	1.5%
New Grants to TWA	82.6%

2024 TWAF DONORS

700 Springs Ranch	Zinda Carroll	Nancy & Arthur Epley	Hobby Family Foundation
Ruth & John Agather Fund	Ellen Carter	Susan & Gary Farmer	Ned Holmes
Sharon & John Alexander	Diane Castleman	E. David Fausel	Julianna Holt
Tom Alexander	Robert Cavender	George Ferguson	Bill Horabin
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William Butler	David Dunham	William Hicks	Bill Landreth
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 Terry Neans
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 Kim & Richard Nunley
 American Online
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 Jamie Packer
 Michael Palmer
 Pegasus Resources, LLC

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 Katie Shipman
 Cynthia Siegel

Laura Simms
 Deborah & Greg Simons
 Singing Dog Wildlife
 Christy & Jason Smith
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 South Spur, LP
 Elma Dill Russell Spencer
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 Starry Night Ranch
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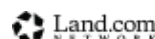
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