



Joint Meeting Program
June 5-8, 2008
The Commons Center
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas

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Introduction

Southwest PARC

The mission of PARC is to conserve amphibians, reptiles, turtles and their habitats as integral parts of our ecosystem and culture through proactive and coordinated public/private partnerships. Southwest PARC is a working group organized for the purpose of implementing the PARC mission within the southwest, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Oklahoma, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Hawaii, Baja California and Mexico. These areas have a very high diversity of amphibians, reptiles and turtles, including the most rattlesnake species as well as some of North America's most threatened frog and toad species. The southwest faces a number of conservation challenges, including ongoing drought and water resource consumption, ever-expanding human populations, habitat and land conversion, and the introduction of crayfish, bullfrogs, and other non-native species into amphibian, reptile and turtle habitats.

Horned Lizard Conservation Society

The Horned Lizard Conservation Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to protecting horned lizards throughout North America. Our Mission is to document and publicize the values and conservation needs of horned lizards, to promote horned lizard conservation projects and to assist with horned lizard management initiatives throughout their ranges. The HLCS was formed in 1990 by a group of concerned citizens in Austin, Texas. HLCS is entirely volunteer based and all officers and members volunteer their time and resources to protect horned lizards. The Society has a National Board of Directors that oversees the general operation of the organization. We promote education and research based on local needs and interests by forming Chapters in those areas. The Society includes three existing chapters in Texas, Southern California, and Oklahoma with emerging chapters in New Mexico, Utah and Nevada.

Texas Herpetological Society

The Purposes of the Society Shall Be (1) to promote the discovery and dissemination of knowledge of amphibians and reptiles, (2) to encourage specifically the study of amphibians and reptiles in Texas, (3) to encourage conservation of wildlife in general and of amphibians and reptiles in Texas in particular, and (4) to stimulate fellowship among herpetologists of Texas and the Southwest. In order to meet the purpose of the Society a Spring Field Meet is held annually in order to foster camaraderie among Texas herpetologists and to further the knowledge of the distributions of Texas herpetofauna. The Fall Symposium focuses greatly on the purposes of encouraging the study of amphibians and reptiles in Texas and the discovery and dissemination of knowledge of amphibians and reptiles. Each Fall Symposium fields a distinguished slate of speakers, who present research on a wide variety of topics regarding Texas Herpetofauna, from biochemistry, to ecology, to systematics.

Introduction

PARC National Coordinators

Ernesto Garcia
Federal Agencies Coordinator

Priya Nanjappa-Mitchell
AFWA Amphibian & Reptile Coordinator

2008 SW PARC Steering Committee

Craig Ivanyi, *Senior Co-Chair*
Rob Lovich
Brian Aucone
Erika Nowak
Gad Perry

Polly Conrad, *Junior Co-Chair*
Randy Gray
Laura Hines
Kary Schlick

2008 Meeting Planning Committee

Gad Perry, *Liaison to Steering Committee*

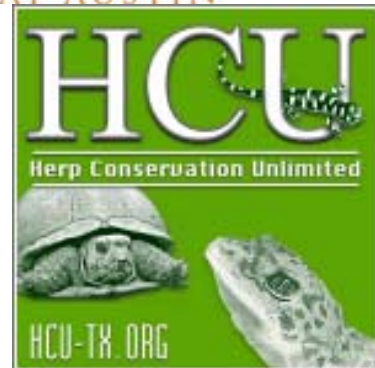
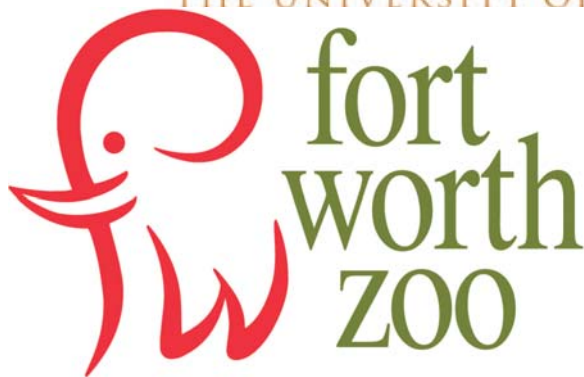
Wendy Hodges, *Local Committee Chair* Travis LaDuc, *Local Committee Chair*
Polly Conrad
Marty Tuegel
Laura Hines
Matt Abernathy

Additional Thanks to

Janet Wallace

Priya Mitchell

Sponsors



Sponsors

Special Thanks to

- Department of Natural Resources Management, Texas Tech University
- Harris County Pct. 4 Parks Department, Jesse H Jones Park and Nature Center
- Nevada Department of Wildlife
- Texas Natural Science Center, Texas Natural History Collections, University of Texas at Austin
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Ecological Services Office
- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Amphibian & Reptile Coordinator

Agenda

Meeting Venue: The Commons Center
 J.J. Pickle Research Center
 The University of Texas at Austin
 10100 Burnet Road
 Austin, TX 78758

Complimentary shuttle service is available to and from the Embassy Suites Arboretum and The Commons Center.

Thursday, June 5

1000-1200: SW PARC Executive Meeting

1200-1330: Lunch

1330-1400: Welcome & Opening Remarks

1400-1430: Keynote; Texas Herpetofauna

1430-1500: Keynote; Herpetofauna Conservation on Private Lands

1500-1530: Break (*Refreshments Provided*)

1530-1600: National PARC Updates

1600-1630: Existing Working Group Updates, Discussion and Questions

1630-1730: Herpetofauna Conservation on Private Lands in Each State

1800: Museum trip to the Texas Natural History Collections: The University of Austin's herpetological collections are extensive, numbering over 75,000 specimens. The collections are located at the Pickle Research Center, near our meeting site. Assistant Curator Travis LaDuc will host a tour of the collections for all those interested. We'll carpool from The Commons Center. Please register in advance at the registration table.

1900: No-Host Social at Opal Divine's (*Details Coming Soon*)

Friday, June 6

(Morning Refreshments Provided)

0800-1000: HLCS Presentations

1000-1030: Break (*Refreshments Provided*)

1030-1200: HLCS Presentations

1200-1330: Break

1330-1500: Herp Conservation on Private Lands - Round Table

1500-1530: Break (*Refreshments Provided*)

1530-1700: Identify Herp Conservation Priorities for the Southwest Region for the Upcoming Year

1730: SWPARC-THS-HLCS Hosted Social at The Commons Center (*hors d'oeuvres will be served & a cash bar will be available*)
Poster Presentations

1830: Awards

Agenda

Saturday, June 7

(Morning Refreshments Provided)

0800-1000 THS Presentations

1000-1030: Break *(Refreshments Provided)*

1030-1200: THS Presentations

1200-1330: Break *(Lunch Provided)*

1330-1445: Herpetofauna Conservation Break Out Groups

1445-1500: Update Entire Group

1500-1530: Break *(Refreshments Provided)*

1530-1630: SW PARC Organizational

1630-1700: Closing Comments

1700-1730: Shuttle Service from The Commons Center to Embassy Suites

1700-2200: Drinks, snacks and auction items' display at the Embassy Suites
Arboretum atrium & ballroom

1730-1830: Live Auction at the Embassy Suites Arboretum ballroom

1830-2200: No-host dinner at the Embassy Suites Arboretum restaurant, DJ's
American Grill. Continue with drinks in the atrium.

Sunday, June 8

Field Trips

0900-? Barton Springs: Texas has a number of salamander species that are associated with small springs. Perhaps the most famous is the Barton Springs salamander (*Eurycea sosorum*), whose entire world range is limited to Barton Springs in downtown Austin. This small, highly endangered amphibian is being actively protected and managed by the City of Austin, which also operated Zilker Park and Barton Springs as recreational areas. We have arranged to see both the habitat of this neotenic salamander and the breeding facility built especially for it. Our guide will be Dr. Laurie Dries, the City of Austin Environmental Scientist in charge of salamander research and management. We will be able to visit several places closed to the public - an unusual opportunity. **HOW MUCH:** \$7/person, including entrance to Barton Springs. Parking at Barton Springs is an extra \$3/car - we recommend carpooling from the meeting place. **WHERE:** Meet at the breeding facility, located at the Zilker Park Nature Center. Following a short drive to the springs, participants will be allowed into Eliza Spring, where seeing a salamander is virtually guaranteed. Finally, everybody will see the primary habitat at Barton Springs themselves. **COMMENTS:** 1) Please sign up for this field trip at the registration table, 2) Following the 1.5 hour tour, participants are welcome to remain and swim at Barton Springs, and 3) For those interested, an opportunity to assist with restoring salamander habitat will be available immediately after the tour. Those interested should indicate so on their registration form and be prepared to get physical in the water.

Agenda

1000-? Warbler Woods: In keeping with the meeting theme of conservation on private lands, we made arrangements with the owners of Warbler Woods, a private preserve 60 miles south of Austin. The site is rich in wildlife, including a variety of amphibians and reptiles. The owners have agreed to provide an introduction to the site and their management objectives. HOW MUCH: \$10/person. WHERE: Meet at Warbler Woods. COMMENTS: 1) Please sign up at the registration table, 2) We can help arrange carpools - please state your interest when you register, 3) Herping is allowed and encouraged at Warbler Woods and you may stay and search for as long as you wish - we will compile a herp list for the owners afterwards, and 4) For participants or families wishing to visit the site during the meeting, private arrangements can be made by contacting the owners at Warblerwoods@gmail.com. Explain that you are with the meeting and would like to tour the place on your own - there will not be an organized tour. Please wear hiking boots - rattlesnakes are fairly common.