

*The Sense*  
of Place

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE 2001 ANNUAL REPORT



## *Our Mission*

To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

## *Our Philosophy*

We seek to balance outdoor recreation with conservation as we achieve greater self-sufficiency. On one hand, we must manage and protect our natural and cultural resources. At the same time, we must generate increased revenue by adding value through more and better public services. We affirm that a culturally diverse, well-trained staff will best achieve this balance. And we must never forget, not in the haste of business, nor in the pride of science, that the outdoors should above all be a source of joy! Providing outdoor experiences, whereby young minds form values, will be our greatest contribution to the future.

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# To the People of Texas

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE CHAIRMAN

This past year has been a big one for Texas Parks and Wildlife, and we end it with thanks to all of you who made its significant milestones possible.

We successfully navigated the Sunset process in the Texas Legislature with the result that both the Sunset Commission and the Legislature itself awarded our Department with a strong endorsement and applauded its employees for doing an excellent job with limited resources.

The Legislature also provided us with the opportunity to seek your help in the passage of Proposition 8, which will provide Parks and Wildlife with more than \$100 million to address capital repairs throughout our system and to complete the long list of backlogged critical projects.

Thank you for your help with Proposition 8. Your support for this important initiative and much more has made a difference in Texas, and this year's annual report is our letter of thanks to you.

Thank you for all you have done to help us provide greater opportunity for our citizens to enjoy the outdoors, be they hunters, anglers, campers, hikers, birders, paddlers or history buffs. Thank you for helping us strengthen our capacity to protect and manage the resources of Texas for future generations, be they game and fish species, critical ecosystems, non-game and endangered species or historic places. Thanks especially for all you have done to bring the joys of our heritage to hundreds of thousands of children and others who would never have experienced those joys without your commitment.

In the months and years ahead, Texas will face even greater challenges to our resources and our heritage than in the past.

And yet, the culture of Texas Parks and Wildlife is rooted in the belief that the best days of Texas are ahead of us. We are confident that with your support of this remarkable institution, we will continue to meet challenges with skill, determination, and passion and leave Texas a better place for our children.



Andrew Sansom, Executive Director



Katharine Armstrong Idsal, Chairman



# Where We Are

A N O V E R V I E W O F T H E Y E A R ' S

**fy2001** was a legislative year, and that meant intense involvement by Parks and Wildlife in a number of legislative issues concerning the Department's work and its future. Among the Department's top priorities were addressing the issues and recommendations presented in the Sunset Advisory Commission Report. Once the Sunset legislation was passed, the next step for the Department was to begin implementing those recommendations – many of which had already been incorporated into Department plans and policy.

Among the most important of the Sunset recommendations was that the Department put together a master conservation plan for land and water in Texas. The need for such a plan was reinforced by the Governor's Task Force on Conservation, which delivered its recommendations to then-Governor George W. Bush in October 2000, and by another conservation study, *Texas Parks and Wildlife for the 21st Century*, conducted on behalf of Parks and Wildlife by Texas Tech University. The legislation, along with those reports, observes Parks and Wildlife Executive Director Andrew Sansom, "gave us a mandate to build a conservation foundation for the future."

The findings from the Texas Tech study, presented to the Parks and Wildlife Commission at the end of FY2001, were part of that foundation and pointed toward the next big step: the creation of a master plan to govern actions by the Department in the future.

The Tech study, says the Department's Chief Operating Officer Bob Cook, "demonstrated that we're doing what the people of Texas want us to do. People like what we're doing, with hunting and fishing opportunities, with law enforcement, with parks. It established that the message we have about enjoying the outdoors and about the importance of natural resources should be shared with kids in our inner cities. As the study shows, Texas is a very urbanized state. It is growing, and the state needs more public land to provide access to the outdoors for that growing population." Because most of that population is located in urban areas, he observes, "we must provide access to the outdoors within an hour's drive of our cities - San Antonio, Dallas, Houston and others."

The Tech study also demonstrated the importance of building partnerships with private landowners, says Bob Cook, and of finding ways to facilitate conservation on private land.

## **A Resolution for the Future**

Another key action by the Texas Legislature helped the Department move closer to its goals. With HJR97, the Legislature authorized a bond issue of about \$100 million for Parks and Wildlife to be put up for a vote in a statewide constitutional amendment referendum, known as Proposition 8, in November 2001. The funds for Parks and Wildlife were included in a larger issue of \$850 million for repairs and construction on a number of state facilities and infrastructure items.

The bond issue, which passed by a generous margin, presented the Department with an extraordinary opportunity to attain the financial resources to address its critical remaining capital repair needs. With those funds, allocated over a period of six years, says Department Chief of Staff Gene McCarty, "We'll no longer be in a position of having to bandaid some of our infrastructure problems – we'll be in a position to actually solve problems from the ground up."

Already, observes Chief Operating Officer Bob Cook, the Department was beginning to make a difference in a number of facilities, as it worked through the last remaining funds from the previous bond issue. "When you go to the parks, you can see the difference," he

## A C H I E V E M E N T S   A N D   C H A L L E N G E S

says. "We're beginning to hear our park managers saying that these improvements are making a difference in safety and accessibility."

But the new funds will allow even more extensive long-needed improvements. As Bob Cook puts it, "It means that we'll be able to get our water and wastewater facilities into shape and ensure that our buildings are weatherproofed, with good roofs, good windows, good foundations." The Department will use state-of-the-art sustainable design techniques for its facilities, he says, in order to make a minimal impact on the environment.

What's more, he notes, the new funding for five special projects will help the Department in key areas, some of which had been noted in the Sunset and Tech reports. With new funding for the San Jacinto Monument, the Battleship Texas, the Admiral Nimitz Museum and the Levi Jordan Plantation, the state will be able to enhance the range and quality of its historic sites and increase its appeal to a diverse range of visitors. With funding of outdoor education and other programs at Sheldon Lake, located near Houston, it will be better able to meet another important need, which is reaching out to urban populations, particularly to minority youths.

### Facing the Bottom Line

In the meantime, however, during FY2001, the Department faced some difficult budget problems. Because of increasing operating costs, including an across-the-board state employee pay raise, the Department had to cut back on its plans for capital expenditures and to reexamine its fee structure for licenses and entry fees. "We had to take a hard look at what we're doing," says Gene McCarty. "We've had to reevaluate what we're here for. The things we have to do are getting done. Many of the things we want to do had to be put on hold."

There were problems, too, in reconciling the Department's accounting system with those of other agencies - a situation that resulted in some friction with legislators and with other state agencies. As Bob Cook describes it, "We absolutely must get our financial system in order so that the information we provide is consistent with other numbers and believable to the legislators. In some cases, the numbers from our system have not jived with the Comptroller's system. We've been working with the State Auditor, the State Comptroller and the state legislative budget people to get this resolved and come up with reliable revenue

estimates. We need the support of legislators, and our credibility has to remain very high to get and keep that support."

The Department faced another challenge at the end of FY2001, with the resignation of Executive Director Andrew Sansom, who announced that his departure would be effective on December 31, 2001.

All in all, says Bob Cook, "It's been a big year, with the Sunset process, the legislative session, the bond issue referendum, and the announcement that Andy will be leaving at the end of the year. The bottom line is that when you go through all that, and come out as well as we have thus far, it means that Parks and Wildlife has a great group of employees, a strong group of commissioners and legislators who support the Department, and an enthusiastic group of citizens and constituents who hunt, fish, camp, hike and appreciate the outdoors and our historical sites. We must continue to make as much progress in the future."

# *Our Place in Texas*

who we are and what we do



**t**exas Parks and Wildlife manages and conserves the state's fish and wildlife resources and operates a statewide system of public lands and waters. The Parks and Wildlife system includes our Austin headquarters, 62 field offices, 122 state parks and natural areas, 52 wildlife management areas and eight fish hatcheries. The parks cover 628,258 acres and include 40 historical sites. The wildlife management areas (owned and leased) cover 756,635 acres. In addition, we help local political entities around the state develop their recreational resources with grants and technical assistance.

We manage the resources of 800 public impoundments covering 1.7 million acres of water and 80,000 miles of rivers and streams. These resources are used by two million anglers 16 years of age or older. Last year, Parks and Wildlife's massive freshwater fish stocking program put more than 9,583,564 fingerlings into public bodies of water around Texas.

We manage the marine resources of the state's four million acres of salt water, including the bays and estuaries and out to nine nautical miles in the Gulf of Mexico. Last year, coastal hatcheries produced 29 million red drum and three million spotted seatrout fingerlings.





The Emmy-winning Texas Parks & Wildlife television program is broadcast on PBS affiliates throughout Texas.

During FY2001, our 485 game wardens spent 119,633 hours patrolling public freshwater lakes, streams and rivers and the salt waters of the Gulf and coastal inlets by boat. They traveled 10,200,000 miles patrolling 261,914 square miles of land over 254 counties enforcing wildlife resource and water safety laws and regulations. They filed 22,562 criminal cases for wildlife resource violations of the Parks and Wildlife Code and Commission regulations, resulting in fines of more than \$1 million being assessed.

Annually, we conduct more than 2,700 wildlife population surveys, provide recommendations concerning the management of about 1,200 vertebrate wildlife species, conduct more than 75 wildlife research studies, hold public hunts on more than 200 tracts of land totaling more than 1.4 million acres, provide incentives and technical guidance to landowners to manage for endangered species, inform the public about wildlife, and develop more than 3,200 wildlife management plans for about 14.6 million acres of private lands.

We publish *Texas Parks and Wildlife* magazine, produce the Passport to Texas radio series and a weekly show for public television stations, publish weekly news material for the use of outdoor writers and newspapers around the state, publish numerous newsletters, brochures and other information materials for our constituents, and maintain a constantly updated Web site.

september

october

november

december



### Wildlife Expo Shines Again

Spanning the last day of September and the first day of October, the 9th annual Texas Wildlife Expo attracted a record-breaking crowd of more than 46,800 to celebrate the outdoors at Parks and Wildlife headquarters.

### Parks Go Local

Transfer of three Texas historical parks from Parks and Wildlife to local entities was begun, following approval of the move by the Parks and Wildlife Commission. Sites marked for transferal to new local jurisdiction were Jim Hogg State Historical Park in Rusk, Lubbock Lake Landmark in Lubbock and Old Fort Parker in Limestone County.



### Launching Lone Star Legacy Weekend

In celebration of the first statewide Lone Star Legacy Weekend, all state parks and selected fish hatcheries and wildlife management areas offered free admission to the public and a variety of special events. The event raised awareness and donations for the Legacy endowments.

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### Report from the Governor's Task Force

The Governor's Task Force on Conservation, appointed by then-Governor George W. Bush to make recommendations to help conservation in Texas, presented its report, called *Taking Care of Texas*, to the Governor.

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### CARE to the Rescue

Ducks Unlimited, in cooperation with Parks and Wildlife, launched a cooperative public-private initiative for Texas wetland restoration called the CARE (Conservation of Agricultural Resources in the Environment) program.

### Spotlight on History in Brazoria County

Experts from around the country came to Lake Jackson to participate in a groundbreaking symposium sponsored by Parks and Wildlife on examining ways to tell the story of the African-American experience at parks and historic sites.

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### Moving the Bighorns

Using helicopter capture crews to locate and trap bighorn sheep inhabiting the Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area, wildlife biologists transported some 45 an the Black Gap Wildlife Management around two hours away.

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imals to  
ent Area.



### Boost to Recreation Opportunities

The Parks and Wildlife Commission announced \$5.5 million in grants from the Texas Recreation and Parks Account (TRPA) to help underwrite basic outdoor public recreation facilities for local parks and another \$3.3 million from state funds to help local communities build indoor recreation facilities.



### Fighting Algae

*Prymnesium parvum*, a bio-toxic golden algae, was confirmed as the cause of extensive fish kills on Possum Kingdom and Lake Granbury. Large concentrations, or blooms, cause water discoloration ranging from yellow to coppery-brown and are toxic to fish.  
>more on page 22

### Special Snow Goose Season

Texas Parks and Wildlife, which offers seasonal access to more than 50,000 acres of state-managed lands along the mid and upper coast for public snow goose hunting, opened two wildlife management areas, Peach Point and Mad Island, beginning February 10, for a public hunt for the fowl.



### El Paso Tramway Rides Again

What was once one of El Paso's most popular attractions was back in action again as Parks and Wildlife opened the newly renovated Wylar Aerial Tramway, located in Franklin Mountains State Park.  
>more on page 32

### Operation Yard Dog

Following a three-year program of surveillance and evidence-gathering against a large group of poachers, 30 game wardens arrested more than two dozen people operating out of hunting and fishing camps along the Trinity River.  
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### Texas Rail road Steams Ahead

The Texas State Railroad in East Texas marked its 25th anniversary as a state-operated steam railroad. Governor Rick Perry made the traditional Governor's Run aboard the steam train.

### Starring Role for San Jacinto

The annual reenactment of the Battle of San Jacinto brought thousands of visitors to the San Jacinto State Historical Site for a variety of activities marking the 165th anniversary of the crucial battle for Texas independence.

### Bluebonnet License in Bloom

With the new bluebonnet plate, the second in a series of conservation license plates from Parks and Wildlife, Texas drivers were given the opportunity to demonstrate their affection for the state flower and help state parks, too.

### Birders Flock to the Classic

The fifth annual Great Texas Birding Classic brought birding teams from twice as many states as the previous year, plus thousands of non-competing avi-tourists, to the Texas coast to participate in the 10-day event.

m a y

j u n e

j u l y

a u g u s t



**Lone Star Land Steward Awards**  
Texas Parks and Wildlife honored Harold and Joe Schmidt of the Walking Cane Ranch as winners of the top 2001 Lone Star Land Steward Award. The annual awards, which honor owners and managers of Texas ranches and other properties for outstanding efforts to conserve and enhance the state's natural resources, were also presented to nine regional winners and two honorees in the special wildlife management association (co-op) and corporate/foundation categories.

**New Commissioners**

Governor Rick Perry announced the appointments of Joseph B. C. Fitzsimons and Philip Montgomery as new members of the Parks and Wildlife Commission.



**Rafting for Rivers 2001**  
Organizers launched 650 canoes and kayaks for the Rivers 2001 Cleanup in a bid to break the Guinness World Record for the largest free-floating canoe raft while ensuring a record-breaking cleanup along the Colorado River.

**New Chair for the Commission**  
Governor Rick Perry appointed Katharine Armstrong Ildal as chair of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. She is the first woman to serve as chair of the Commission.

**Legislative Action**  
The Texas Legislature passed legislation encompassing the Sunset Commission's recommendations for the future of Parks and Wildlife, thus ensuring the continuation of the department for the next 12 years. In addition, the Legislature authorized \$5 million in new spending for the department and approved a \$100 million bond issue, to be voted on as a constitutional amendment, earmarked for infrastructure repairs and renovations and for selected department projects.

>more on page 2



**Birding Center on the Wing**  
Planning proceeded apace on the World Birding Center in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Parks and Wildlife announced the team of top architects who will design the project. The firms of Lake/Flato and Overland Partners, both based in San Antonio, will design the series of nine resource and information centers stretching from Roma to South Padre Island.

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**Buyback for Fish Licenses**  
Parks and Wildlife began its second round of buying back commercial crab and its first round for finfish licenses to reduce the volume of commercial fishing activities in Texas bays. The voluntary program buys commercial licenses from holders of the licenses who are willing to sell and then retires them.

**TPW Partners with PAL**  
Nearly 200 at-risk kids from cities across Texas participated in a new youth outdoor outreach program launched this year at the PAL (Police Activities League) of Texas Youth Ranch, which offers campers new outdoor learning experiences and adventures.



**Game Warden Dies in Line of Duty**  
Game Warden Mike Pauling, who was murdered while coming to the aid of a person in distress, became the 14th Texas Parks and Wildlife game warden to die in the line of duty since 1919.

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**Important Milestones**  
Andrew Sansom announced his resignation as executive director of Parks and Wildlife, to be effective at the end of 2001. Lee M. Bass stepped in at the behest of Governor Rick Perry as the new chairman-emeritus of the Parks and Wildlife Commission, replacing his father Perry R. Bass. New member Donato D. Ramos, appointed by Governor Rick Perry, joined the Commission.



# THE PLACE FOR *Leadership*

**t**he nine-member, governor-appointed Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission governs Parks and Wildlife and bears the responsibility of adopting policies and rules to carry out all Department programs. The executive director oversees the work of implementing and administering all department programs as directed by the Commission.



**Katharine Armstrong Idsal**  
CHAIRMAN

San Antonio, Texas  
First appointed to the Commission in 1999, Katharine Armstrong Idsal was named chair of the Commission by Governor Rick Perry in June 2001. A fifth generation Texan and part owner of the Armstrong Ranch in Kenedy County, she is a community volunteer, an artist and a member of the board and past vice-president of the Dallas Zoological Society.



**Ernest Angelo, Jr.**  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

Midland, Texas  
Appointed to the Commission in 1997, Ernest Angelo was named vice-chairman of the Commission in June 2001. An independent petroleum engineer, Mr. Angelo is president of Ernest Resources, L.C. and managing partner of Discovery Exploration in Midland. He is a former mayor of Midland, and he has served on the boards of a number of organizations, including the Midland Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Boys Club and Midland Industrial Foundation.



**John Avila, Jr.**  
COMMISSIONER  
Fort Worth, Texas

John Avila, appointed to the Commission in 1997, is president of Thos. S. Byrne, Inc. General Contractors. He serves as director of the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, National Council of Christians and Jews, and the Harris Methodist Health Foundation and Mental Health Association. Previously, he has served on the boards of United Way, Hearts and Hammers and the National Guard Association of Texas.



**Carol E. Dinkins**  
COMMISSIONER  
Houston, Texas

Appointed to the Commission in 1997, Carol E. Dinkins served as vice-chair from 1999 to 2001. A former deputy attorney general of the United States, she is a partner with Vinson and Elkins, Attorneys at Law. She serves on the boards of a number of organizations, including The Nature Conservancy, the Houston Museum of Natural Science, and the Environmental and Energy Study Institute. She has been recognized in International Corporate Law, Best Lawyers in America, Who's Who in America and International Leaders in Achievement.



**Joseph B. C. Fitzsimons**  
COMMISSIONER  
San Antonio, Texas

Joseph B. C. Fitzsimons, appointed to the Commission in May 2001, practices law in the areas of natural resources, oil and gas, environment and water. He is the managing partner of San Pedro Ranch, a diversified ranching and wildlife management company in Dimmit County. He is director of the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and served on the 2000-2001 Governor's Task Force on Conservation.



**Alvin L. Henry**  
COMMISSIONER  
Houston, Texas

Alvin L. Henry, appointed to the Commission in 1999, is a human services consultant and owner of the East Fork Ranch in Tyler. He is an advisory director at Comerica Bank Texas and vice-chairman of the Texas Southern University Foundation. He has served as president and chief executive officer of Neighborhood Centers, Inc., Houston's largest social services agency.



**Philip Montgomery**  
COMMISSIONER  
Dallas, Texas

Philip Montgomery, appointed to the Commission in May 2001, is president of P.O.B. Montgomery & Company, which specializes in the development, acquisitions and management of neighborhood and community shopping centers. He serves as president of the Dallas Committee on Foreign Relations, director of Communities Foundation of Texas, director of the Southwestern Medical Foundation and member of the Texas Book Festival Advisory Committee.



**Donato D. Ramos**  
COMMISSIONER  
Laredo, Texas

Appointed to the Commission in August 2001, Donato D. Ramos is a partner in the law firm of Person, Whitworth, Ramos, Borchers & Morales, L.L.P. He is a board member and immediate vice-chairman of the American Herford Association and serves on the board of St. Mary's Law School Alumni. He previously served as board member and vice-chairman of the Texas Board of Law Examiners.



**Mark E. Watson, Jr.**  
COMMISSIONER  
San Antonio, Texas

Appointed to the Commission in 1999, Mark E. Watson owns and operates the Diamond K Ranch in Kendall County.

The former president, chairman and chief executive officer of Titan Holdings, Inc., a property and casualty insurance company, he is a member of the Texas and Exotic Wildlife Associations and serves on the Cancer Therapy and Research Board.



**Lee Marshall Bass**  
CHAIRMAN-EMERITUS  
Fort Worth, Texas

Appointed to the Commission in 1989, Lee Marshall Bass was named chairman of the Commission in 1995. Upon stepping down

from that position in 2001, he was named chairman emeritus of the Commission, succeeding his father Perry R. Bass in that position. Mr. Bass, a graduate of Yale University and the Wharton School of Finance, is president of Lee Bass, Inc. He serves on the boards of a number of foundations, including the Sid W. Richardson Foundation, the Bass Foundation and the Peregrine Fund.



**Andrew Sansom**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Austin, Texas

Andrew Sansom has served as executive director of Parks and Wildlife since 1990.

Before coming to the Department, he served as executive director of the Texas Nature Conservancy and special assistant to Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton. During his tenure at Parks and Wildlife, the amount of acreage held by the state for conservation more than doubled, and the department established itself as the most businesslike of such operations in the country. He resigned his position as executive director on August 31, 2001, to be effective at the end of the year.



The Texas Parks and Wildlife division directors are (left to right front row): Hal R. Osburn, director of Coastal Fisheries; Gary Graham, director of Wildlife; Phil Durocher, director of Inland Fisheries; Suzy Whittenton, chief financial officer; (left to right center row): Lydia Saldaña, director of Communications; James Stinebaugh, director of Law Enforcement; Andrew Sansom, executive director of Texas Parks and Wildlife; Gene McCarty, chief of staff; Annette Dominguez, director of Human Resources; (left to right back row): Robert L. Cook, chief operating officer; Larry McKinney, senior director of Aquatic Resources; Scott Boruff, director of Infrastructure; Walt Dabney, director of State Parks.



*The Sense of Place*



LONE STAR  
LEGACY

*Here to Stay*

As part of its strategy to enlist the citizens of Texas in helping to preserve the state's important resources, Parks and Wildlife has joined with the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas, in a fund-raising campaign known as Lone Star Legacy. The goal of the Legacy campaign is to ensure that the state's natural and cultural treasures abide for the enjoyment and education of future generations of Texans.



Lone Star Legacy.

The campaign has set out to establish endowments for each Parks and Wildlife site and to raise funds for five special sites chosen for their richness in natural, recreational, cultural and historic resources:

Texas State Bison herd at Caprock Canyon





### Austin's Woods

Austin's Woods, a tract of old growth bottomland hardwood forest, where Stephen F. Austin settled in the 1800s, that preserves wetlands and protects migratory birds as well as nesting bald eagles.



### Government Canyon

Government Canyon, a natural area outside San Antonio that will offer educational programs and a variety of outdoor activities while preserving the natural beauty and resources of the Edwards Aquifer.

### The Texas Rivers Center

The Texas Rivers Center, to be developed in partnership with Southwest Texas State University, which will showcase the rich historic, archaeological and ecological aspects of San Marcos Springs.



*More than 600,000 visitors attended the first annual Lone Star Legacy Weekend.*

### The World Birding Center

The World Birding Center, which will feature a central visitors center where galleries and various media will illustrate bird migration and bird habitat conservation, and from which visitors will be directed to satellite viewing sites located throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

### The Texas State Bison Herd

The Texas State Bison Herd at Caprock Canyon, a collection of rare animals that are the last genetically pure examples of the original stock of Southern Plains bison. The herd is the focus of an exhibit and educational program highlighting the role of bison in Texas history.

### Outdoor Kids

In addition, an endowment has been established to ensure the growth of Outdoor Kids, a project that presents innovative programs and activities to develop in young people a love of and interest in the outdoors and to instill in them an awareness of the value of our natural and cultural resources.



In recent developments, architects have been chosen for the World Birding Center and the visitors center for the Texas State Bison Herd, and construction documents have been completed for work at Government Canyon. The Houston Endowment awarded a grant to acquire the Levi Jordan Plantation in Brazoria County, site of an extraordinary legacy of artifacts left by African Americans who were enslaved at the plantation and who later worked there as sharecroppers.

In October 2000 a new annual event called Lone Star Legacy Weekend was launched, bringing more than 60,000 visitors to state sites, most of which offered free entry and special events for visitors. The event raised more than \$60,000 for site endowments.

Thus far, more than \$16 million of the \$25 million Lone Star Legacy campaign goal has been raised.

PATHWAYS TO NATURE & CULTURE

# *Parks & Historic Sites*



**t**he State Parks Division has been hard at work making the most of the state's natural and historic sites. And according to Division Director Walt Dabney, that has meant not only keeping facilities in good repair and making them as accessible to the public as possible, but finding ways to explain and interpret to a diverse audience the natural and cultural resources that those sites encompass.

## **Starstruck at San Jacinto**

Capping a year of renovations and repairs of state park facilities and historic sites was the



completion of Phase I of the restoration of the San Jacinto Monument. The scaffolding came off the 30-foot three-dimensional star atop the monument to reveal the Texas Cordova shellstone ornament in all its Lone Star glory.

Less spectacular in appearance but just as important in meeting the needs of the public was the progress the



*The Varner-Hogg and Levi Jordan plantations are the subject of new historical research that helps to tell the story of the African Americans who were enslaved there.*

division made, working with the Infrastructure Division, on its repairs, maintenance and construction at other sites. Two cabins at Palo Duro Canyon State Park dating from the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) era were renovated, and eight stone cottages were built at Lake Colorado City State Park. In March 2001, the Wylar Aerial Tramway was reopened in El Paso, drawing large numbers of riders to the popular attraction.

### **Interpreting for the Public**

Of the 74 new positions authorized by the Legislature for the Parks Division, 15 will be in the areas of interpretive and educational programs. "We'll be able to bring our interpretive programs and our outreach education programs working with schools to a higher level," says Walt Dabney. Each region of the state will have a specialist to work on improving those programs, he says. The idea is to work with staff at each site to develop an interpretive plan for the entire park, from tours to signage, identifying what the stories are to be told and training staff in interpretive skills.

The division is focusing on four major projects, including comprehensive plans for Sheldon Lake, Penn Farm at Cedar Hill, Hueco Tanks and Brazos Bend.

### **Telling the Stories Better**

The Parks Division intern program has provided Parks and Wildlife with an extraordinary pool of talent from which to draw its future employees. The program brings on board several dozen college students with the idea of providing them with varied experiences in working at the parks, giving them a feel for the day-to-day operation of the facilities. The hope is that the students will look at parks as a career. And according to Walt Dabney, the program has already paid off. "Our interpretive specialist at Varner-Hogg was hired out of that program," he says.

Parks and Wildlife made another step in improving interpretive programs at its parks – and in parks around the country – when it sponsored a ground-breaking symposium in Brazoria County on telling the story of

the African-American experience at historic sites. The symposium, called "Viewing the Past Through Different Lenses," focused on the region along the Brazos River south of Houston, including Varner-Hogg and Levi Jordan plantations, and brought experts from around the country.

"Until about 10 or 20 years ago, there was very little said about the experience of African-Americans at these kinds of places, even though they made up a significant part of the colonial or pioneer population," says Bill Dolman, the Parks and Wildlife historian in charge of the Department's historic sites. "That has changed in recent years as historians first began to re-examine the role of ethnic minorities, and park interpreters then began to use this new historical research to develop new historical interpretation programs. The result is a richer experience for the public that better encompasses the entire history."

*The Sense of Place*



P L A C E S F O R

# *Wildlife*

**S**ome of the most important work of the Wildlife Division goes on behind the scenes, says Division Director Gary Graham. "It's hard work that gets things done incrementally in conserving lands and wildlife populations. That's why I'm so proud of our technical guidance program," he says.





*Senecio quaylei*,  
a newly-discovered  
plant by a Master  
Naturalist volunteer.

"We've been steadily increasing the acres we cover - we've increased the area by 48 percent over the last three years," says Graham. "In FY2001, we had an increase of 16 percent over the previous fiscal year." The total number of acres under technical guidance by Parks and Wildlife staff is now 14,573,694. "That's real-world, on-the-ground conservation," says Graham. "What that means is better wildlife conservation and better functioning ecosystems. And ultimately it means better quality for the water we drink and the air we breathe."

The key to the technical guidance program as well as to other Department programs is partnership. "Partnerships between us and the Texas public is the key to our success," says Graham. "And the partnership with private landowners is the most fundamental partnership that we have."

### Extending the Reach of Stewardship

Another of Parks and Wildlife's more important partnering initiatives is represented by the Master Naturalist program, which the Department sponsors along with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. The program has trained hundreds of volunteers in urban areas to become activists and educators on behalf of the state's natural resources, says Gary Graham. The

program has helped to enhance thousands of acres of wildlife habitat, he observes, and it has won a number of local, state and national awards, including the Community Care Award and the National Audubon Society Habitat Heroes Award. One of the keys to its success, he says, is how well the program has encouraged initiative and creativity on the part of its volunteers. Michelle Haggerty, the director of the Master Naturalist program, points out that one of the program volunteers discovered a plant new to science, an achievement that was honored when the plant, *Senecio quaylei*, was named after him.





### The Great Bighorn Sheep Shift

One of the more dramatic examples of the division's partnership projects was the transfer of a group of desert bighorn sheep to a new habitat. Nearly a half-century after the bighorn sheep – one of North America's most impressive and sought after big game animals – was all but exterminated from the Trans Pecos, Parks and Wildlife biologists, working with the Bighorn Sheep Society, took a giant step toward restoring the majestic animals to their historic range. Using helicopter capture crews to locate and trap the elusive sheep along the rims and canyons that make up the Elephant Mountain Wildlife

Management Area, wildlife biologists moved 45 animals to suitable habitat two hours away at the Black Gap WMA. Black Gap is just north of Big Bend National Park, near the Mexican border. The move, effectively doubling the population of bighorns at Black Gap, provides the state with two herds of brood stock for future expansion efforts.

"This is an exciting time for Texas," said Clay Brewer, leader of the Big Game program for Parks and Wildlife in west Texas. "We're restoring a native species to its original habitat in Texas – an animal that was erased from the landscape less than 50 years ago."

*Nearly a half-century after the desert bighorn sheep was all but exterminated from the Trans-Pecos, Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists took a giant step toward restoring the majestic animals to their historic range.*



Another kind of partnership for the Department is represented by its ambitious program of establishing wildlife viewing and bird-watching trails around the state. The World Birding Center, which represents a partnership among the Department and nine different communities in the Rio Grande Valley, has been making progress apace. And the Department has just embarked on the planning phase for its set of wildlife viewing trails that will eventually extend from the border with Mexico through the Hill Country to the Panhandle. The planned Heart of Texas and High Plains Wildlife Trails



encompasses such cities as Laredo, San Antonio, Austin, San Angelo, Brownwood, Abilene, Lubbock, Childress and Amarillo.

The response by private landowners to a notice from Parks and Wildlife to submit potential viewing sites has been impressive, says Gary Graham. "Landowners are starting to appreciate that they can help support the future of their ranches by providing opportunities for nature-based tourism," he says.

Another area of expansion for Department programs involving the public is the youth hunting program. Passing the hunting tradition through the generations



*"We hope these youth hunting seasons will become as much a part of our state's hunting tradition as opening day of dove or deer season."*

and providing opportunities for young hunters this fall are the goals of special youth-only seasons. Texas Parks and Wildlife sets aside the special seasons for white-tailed deer, Rio Grande turkey and waterfowl in October, before the general hunting seasons, to encourage adults to share the hunting experience with the next generation of hunters.

"We hope these youth hunting seasons will become as much a part of our state's hunting tradition as opening day of dove or deer season," said Gary Graham. "We hope these opportunities will motivate folks to devote some time afield with kids and pass on Texas' hunting heritage to the next generation."





# Watering

P L A C E S

## Protecting the Resource

**W**ater, in one way or another, affects almost all the resource protection work by Parks and Wildlife. And the quality of water, says Larry McKinney, Senior Director of Aquatic Resources, is also a measure of the quality of life in an ecosystem.

One of the main issues concerning water that the Department has been addressing is the complex water reform bill (SB1), passed during a previous legislative session, that has prompted the state to plan and manage its water use for coming generations. The Department, which is responsible for working with the state's 16 water planning regions to assess the environmental impact of their plans, has completed its review of the first round of regional plans. The next step, says Larry McKinney, is to draw up a master plan that ensures the protection of the ecosystems that supply the water. "We want to make sure we don't destroy the nest we all live in," he says.





### Measuring Quality

Ensuring water quality by improving sampling methods has been a major focus for the Department's Water Quality Program and Resource Protection Division, observes



McKinney. Throughout FY2001, staff from Parks and Wildlife and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) met regularly to discuss issues related to sampling of aquatic communities. The aim is to create a new paradigm for water quality, using regional indices of biotic integrity – that is, using biological indicators to ascertain water quality. As the standard for measuring water quality changes from chemical to biological, says McKinney, experts will be better able to determine the health of ecosystems.



### Dealing with Spills

Another important partnership among Parks and Wildlife and other agencies involves the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) program. Federal NRDA statutes give state agencies – Parks and Wildlife, the TNRCC and the General Land Office (GLO) – the authority and tools to ensure that polluters take responsibility for damages they cause. As Larry McKinney summarizes the program: If you pollute an area, you'll pay to restore it.

It often takes years, says McKinney to recover damages from spills by oil tankers or pipelines. As a consequence, he observes, during the first years of the program, there were not a lot of results. But after being in place for ten years now, he says, the program is beginning to show results. "Over \$10 million has been recovered," he says, "and that has resulted in the restoration of more than 4,000 acres of wetland and marshes." For example, he points out, following a spill at Mustang Island State Park, the Department was able to recover a million dollars from lost recreational opportunities and to put the money into improving the park.



*"The quality of water is also the measure of the quality of life of an ecosystem," says Larry McKinney.*

### Protecting Seagrass

Another point of progress for the Department in resource protection and water quality has been its work in seagrass protection. The Department has begun implementing the Seagrass Conservation Plan for Texas, the plan developed by Parks and Wildlife, the TNRCC and the GLO to preserve the ecologically important submerged seagrass meadows that are a crucial component of marine life habitat.

Parks and Wildlife staff have been working with aquatic guides to minimize damage by boat propellers to seagrasses. And during FY2001, Parks and Wildlife worked with TNRCC and the Nueces County Water Control District No. 4 to issue a wastewater discharge permit that contained explicit protection for seagrasses. This was the first permit of its kind, and it sets a precedent, says McKinney, for implementing the new state water quality standard that protects the valuable aquatic resource.



### Coastal Waters

It was a year of monitoring, consolidation and follow-up for the Coastal Fisheries Division, notes Division Director Hal Osburn. "We spent the year consolidating the gains we made in conservation," says Osburn. At the end of FY2000, the Commission adopted a slate of shrimping regulation changes, and during FY2001, the division began monitoring the impact of those regulations. "We'll owe a report to the Legislature next year," says Osburn.

The 2001 legislative session addressed a number of issues of considerable importance to the division, he points out. For example, there was the matter of abandoned crab traps in coastal bays, which pose a hazard to boats. Parks and Wildlife staff worked with constituent groups and legislators in crafting a solution to the problem. Senate Bill 1410 from the 77th Texas Legislature provided the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission new authority to establish a closed crabbing season for the purpose of removing abandoned crab traps. Removal of those floating hazards will



enhance boating safety and aid in the conservation and management of crab resources. The Legislature also addressed the issue of oyster leases, offering guidance in clarifying some questions over rules and regulations and terms of the leases that had been unresolved.

The division also made progress in one of its long-term goals – the recovery of tarpon in Texas waters. Parks and Wildlife has partnered with constituent groups and research agencies in investigating the problem, and the Department has joined forces with interested parties in Florida and Mexico in improving the numbers of the legendary game fish.



In its day-to-day work, the division held its own, says Osburn. "Our hatchery program reached its stocking goals despite environmental constraints, which including high salinity, heat and algae blooms. Our hatchery staff are miracle workers," says Osburn.

Overall, says Osburn, despite the pressures on the coastal fish population, he feels optimistic about the future of the resources the Department is pledged to protect and enhance. "We have a lot of things in place



*"We spent the year consolidating the gains we made in conservation," says Hal Osburn.*

now," he says. "We have new shrimping rules, legislative authority, the license buyback program, the sport-fishing conservation ethic, and a monitoring program that will allow us to continue our conservation work and to continue to enhance the opportunities for sport and commercial fishing."



*Golden algae was responsible for massive fish kills that caused substantial economic and ecological damage.*

### Inland Waters

The news has been so positive in recent years for the Inland Fisheries Division that the setbacks and difficulties the division staff faced in FY2001 brought an uncharacteristically grave tone to Division Director Phil Durocher's lilting Louisiana accent, as he assessed the year's events. "Mother Nature pitched us a curve this past year," says Durocher ruefully. Although the state's lakes, ponds and rivers began to fill up following two years of drought, an outbreak of golden algae (*Prymnesium parvum*) was responsible for massive fish kills in several north central Texas reservoirs, causing substantial economic and ecological damage.

The toxic algae impacted fisheries at Possum Kingdom Reservoir, Lake Granbury and Lake Whitney, with 600,000 fish lost, valued at \$650,000. In addition, the algae wiped out the Department's entire yearly production of striped bass when it spread into the Dundee Hatchery's water source. Fishery managers had to obtain striped bass from other states to replenish some lost stocks, while many lakes received no supplemental striper stocking.

In response, a group of scientists led by Parks and Wildlife is initiating research projects to address management and potential control options for the alga,

based on discussions that took place during a public workshop at Possum Kingdom. "Our staff is working hard to ensure we don't lose another year of production," says Durocher.

The situation highlighted the growing problems of some of the hatcheries, which are overdue for overhaul and renovation. Some of the hatcheries date back three-quarters of a century, and their water systems are antiquated. Durocher points out that the Jasper Hatchery, for example, has not been updated in the last 50 years, and it still accounts for nearly 30 percent of the division's largemouth bass production.



"In some ways," says Durocher, "we have spoiled our anglers. We have helped to provide some of the best fishing in the country, and people expect it to get better and better. We have the best production staff in the country. But with the declining condition of some of our facilities, even with the dedication and hard work of our staff, we're reaching a point of diminishing returns. We need to make improvements to our hatcheries' infrastructure if we are to continue providing the fishing our anglers have come to expect. We made considerable progress in the past several years, but we've got to finish the job."



Says Durocher, "As time goes by, there will be more demand for water, and the need for hatchery fish production will increase. Fish hatchery construction and renovation is very expensive, and we have to look at new ways of doing things. Funds provided by Proposition 8 will help, but we're looking at innovative ways of getting other funding, including partnerships with some of the people who benefit from what we do, such as the owners of reservoirs."



These challenges, says Durocher, help to point the way ahead for the future of fishing in Texas. "Yes, we had some setbacks this past year," he says. "But I'm extremely confident and optimistic about the future and our ability to deal with these issues. Many of our lakes are now full, and the stage is set for some outstanding fishing in the coming years."

Fishing, Durocher observes, is not only a great sport in Texas, but it also means big business for the state, with freshwater fishing bringing in \$4.2 billion annually, with another \$1.9 billion from saltwater fishing.

*The Sense of Place*



# *Spreading the Message*

COMMUNICATION  
EDUCATION &  
OUTREACH

One of the most significant challenges in communications for Parks and Wildlife in recent years was the effort to communicate to the public the importance of Proposition 8, one of 19 constitutional amendments that was put on the statewide ballot in November 2001. Proposition 8, which authorized the largest bond issue in Parks and Wildlife history, up to



## PROPOSITION 8

*The approval of Proposition 8 will provide \$102 million in general obligation bond authority for repairs and improvements including \$12.5 million for dry dock repairs on the Battleship Texas.*



\$100 million for repairs and improvements at state parks, wildlife management areas and fish hatcheries across the state, represented an issue of enormous importance as well as an issue that demanded great care in the way it was communicated by the Department.

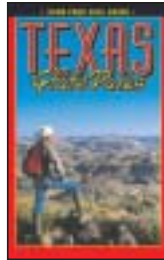
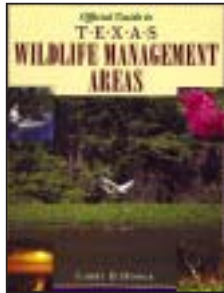
It is illegal for state employees to lobby for or against legislative proposals, so Department employees could not ask people to vote for the Proposition. What they could do, however, was to express the importance of the issue and describe the potential of what it could do for conservation in Texas. Led by the Communications

Division, Parks and Wildlife worked with 13 other agencies to conduct an ambitious and well-executed educational effort to inform Texas citizens about the constitutional amendment affecting the future of conservation in Texas. Says Communications Director Lydia Saldaña, "This was the most comprehensive communications operation we've ever undertaken. It was a huge team effort, with our employees and our constituent groups getting involved and spreading the message." And it was clearly an effort that paid off when the proposition passed by a generous margin.

### Promoting the Legacy

Another major campaign for the Communications Division involved the launching of the first annual Lone Star Legacy Weekend. During the special two-day event in October to promote awareness of the Lone Star Legacy campaign, all state parks and selected hatcheries and wildlife management areas offered free admission to the public, and a number of the sites hosted special events in honor of the occasion. Even though rain clouded much of Texas for Legacy weekend, the event drew 60,000 visitors and raised more than \$60,000 for the site endowments that are the cornerstone of the Legacy campaign.





## Getting the Message Out in Print, on the Airwaves and on the Web

The Communications Division has continued its full-court press in promoting the Parks and Wildlife conservation message, its parks and its programs in a variety of media. In addition to its award-winning *Texas Parks and Wildlife* magazine and a variety of other products, the Department offered some brand new publications.

The *Official Guide to Texas Wildlife Management Areas* covers 51 wildlife management areas all over the state, ranging from the tiny Old Tunnel WMA near Fredericksburg to the sprawling Black Gap WMA in

the Big Bend. Author Larry Hodge visited every wildlife management area in the state gathering the essential information hunters, fishers, birders, hikers, bikers and campers need to enjoy these wild places. Also making its debut was the new *Texas State Parks* annual, a digest-sized color magazine offering feature stories on state parks and locator maps as well as facility charts. The magazine, whose printing costs are covered by advertising, is free to the public.

Meanwhile, the division's bread-and-butter publications and productions were bringing home a plateful of awards. Parks and Wildlife swept the annual competition for the Association for Conservation

Information, the nationwide professional group for state and federal natural resource agency communications. Parks and Wildlife won more awards than any other state, including seven first-place prizes.

The Department's Web site continues to expand and diversify, including more Web casts, more information and more subject matter. "We're continuing to harness the power of the Web," says Saldaña. "Increasingly, our Web site has become a key communications tool. In the past, it has been supportive of other communications efforts, but now it's beginning to come into its own." Currently, says Saldaña, the site is getting an astonishing 600,000 visits a month.





*The Outdoor Kids and Outdoor Woman programs bring outdoor skills to young people and women around the state.*

### Marketing the Message

Another new promotion tool for the Department has been its special license plates. Following the success of the popular horned lizard plate, honoring the official state reptile, the Department launched a new plate featuring a bluebonnet in bloom, with revenue to go to state parks.

And if the bluebonnet didn't catch the public's fancy, the Communications Division was hoping that some catchy travel articles featuring some of the state's other legendary symbols would do the trick. In an effort to increase marketing for state parks, Parks and Wildlife brought in 23 travel writers for a whirlwind tour of heritage sites interpreting Texas' fight for independence. The trip began at Washington-on-the-Brazos and ended at the San Jacinto Battleground.

### Outreach On the Rise

Parks and Wildlife sponsors an increasing number of outreach and education programs for a variety of constituents, ranging from hunter and boater education to special programs to introduce women and young people to hunting, fishing and all manner of outdoor adventure.

FY2001 brought special emphasis to some new Department education initiatives, says Education Director Steve Hall. Outdoor Kids, a program that includes all Parks and Wildlife youth education and outreach programs, has been getting considerable attention from Department staff. The Junior Angler program is a new program that teaches basic fishing skills and aquatic conservation to youngsters, while the Texas Youth Hunting program offers young people the

opportunity to hunt on private lands. Coordinated by Parks and Wildlife staff, in partnership with the Texas Wildlife Association, the program trains Huntmasters to work with private landowners to schedule hunts on their properties.

Regional Outreach is a new initiative to bring the Outdoor Kids and Outdoor Woman programs to urban areas, beginning with Houston, Dallas/Fort Worth and San Antonio. Three specialists were hired in FY2001 to work with local Parks and Wildlife staff to develop plans and partnerships to bring conservation and outdoor programs to the inner cities and to bring residents from the inner cities to nearby Parks and Wildlife sites.

*The Sense of Place*



# Holding the Line

law enforcement

**J**im Stinebaugh, the new director of Law Enforcement at Parks and Wildlife, notched more than 30 years in conservation law enforcement, including four years as a Parks and Wildlife game warden, before taking his new job at the Department. "I have strapped on a pistol and badge in just about every part of the state," he says. While working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, he was known for cracking down on violations of the Bald Eagle Protection Act. And he can still scramble over a five-strand barbed-wire fence, he says.



*Game wardens, says Jim Stinebaugh, "are working with the citizens of this state to preserve our natural resources."*

He's brought that kind of hands-on approach and deep knowledge of the Texas landscape and people to the Law Enforcement Division. "I have always thought that being a game warden was the best job in the world," he says. "And I want every game warden in Texas to feel the same way." He has also brought a strong understanding of conservation as an integral part of the work of law enforcement.

"In town or on the back roads of Texas," says Stinebaugh, "our wardens are working with the citizens of this state to preserve what makes Texas great – our natural resources. I want the people of Texas to know that their wardens are out on those cold, dark nights and during those long, hot days protecting the wildlife that we all love, making our lakes and rivers safe, and enforcing environmental laws."

### Effective Enforcement

A significant portion of the enforcement effort by game wardens was directed at ensuring public safety on the state's waterways. These enforcement efforts, observes Jim Stinebaugh, contributed to a reduction in FY2001 from the previous year on the number of boating accidents and injuries on state lakes, rivers and coastal waters. Specialized BWI (Boating While Intoxicated) units and emphasis on peer training resulted in a 40 percent increase in the number of BWI arrests.



Game wardens also made progress in cracking down on poaching in Texas. Capping a nearly three-year surveillance effort known as Operation Yard Dog, game wardens in East Texas gathered before dawn on March 27 to fan out across seven counties and arrest 28 people who had been involved in breaking a variety of fish and game laws in hunting and fishing camps along the Trinity River. Charges ranged from Class C misdemeanors to a second degree felony and included taking fish with an electronic device, possession of untagged deer, hunting from a vehicle or boat, and possession of a firearm by a felon. Most of the charges involved taking fish with shocking devices, known as zappers.

In a new area of conservation enforcement, the Law Enforcement Division of Parks and Wildlife entered into a joint enforcement agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service Office for Law Enforcement in enforcing regulations dealing with Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs), reef fish and highly migratory species. Increased enforcement efforts are necessary, says Stinebaugh, in order to protect endangered sea turtles and to address fishing pressure on such species as red snapper, tuna and swordfish.

### Interacting with the public

The role of a Parks and Wildlife game warden involves more than simply enforcing laws. Wardens are called on to work with the public in education and prevention programs as well. During FY2001, Parks and Wildlife game wardens presented public information programs on wildlife resource regulations to civic groups, outdoor sports clubs, orphanages, school and church groups, scouting organizations and others – reaching a total of more than 200,000 Texans. In an ongoing effort to introduce young people to hunting, fishing, camping, water safety, wildlife conservation and other outdoor activities, wardens sponsored 591 outdoor events and served as mentors and field guides to more than 49,000 young Texans.



## Operation Game Thief

As part of its public education and outreach role, the Operation Game Thief (OGT) program, Parks and Wildlife's privately funded wildlife resource crime stoppers program, had representatives at nearly three dozen conservation events around the state, attended by more than 165,000 participants. The program promotes cooperation by the public in helping game wardens apprehend violators and educates the public on the negative effects of poaching. As a testament to the program's effectiveness, wardens received 1269 calls reporting poaching violations during FY2001, resulting in the arrest of 109 violators on 189 criminal charges.

Through the support of constituents, OGT raised \$200,000 during FY2001 to promote the program and to provide funding of death benefits for the family of any game warden killed in the line of duty.

Sadly, the program had its first occasion to pay a death benefit when Game Warden Michael Charles Pauling was killed on August 2, 2001. Pauling, age 47, was on duty when he stopped to assist a woman apparently in distress on the shoulder of a road. When he went to check on the welfare of the woman's children who were in a parked vehicle, the driver of the vehicle sped off, throwing the warden violently to the roadway,



*The death of Parks and Wildlife game warden Michael Pauling affected everyone in the Department.*

where he was run over and killed. Michael Pauling had been a Parks and Wildlife game warden since 1996. He was the 14th Texas game warden to lose his life in the line of duty since 1919.

Andrew Sansom paid tribute to Michael Pauling at a memorial service, saying that his tragic death had affected every member of the Parks and Wildlife family. Said Sansom, "It has been a time to reflect that the men and women who have served this state in the cause of conservation, in the cause of enforcing the law, put themselves at risk every day."

SETTING THE STAGE  
*Infrastructure*

The work of the Infrastructure Division at Parks and Wildlife includes considerably more than brick and mortar, says Division Director Scott Boruff. "We're much more than a construction shop," he says. The division is committed to fulfilling the Department's conservation mission in every stage of its work, from planning and design to repair and construction. The division is also committed to innovations in technology and management in combination with proven business approaches.

One of the division's biggest challenges last year came in transforming the Wyler Aerial Tram in El Paso into a safe but breathtaking way to ascend 5,632-foot Ranger Peak. The project was a test of the division's engineering capabilities as well as its entrepreneurial spirit, says Boruff. This one-of-a-kind facility required intense coordination among international experts and the division's own crews, with their specialized teams of carpenters, masons, electricians, welders and plumbers who were willing to work under difficult conditions, in a remote location far from home.



*The Infrastructure Division is committed to carrying out the Department's conservation mission in every stage of its work.*

For much of FY2001, observes Scott Boruff, the division was focused on remedying historically neglected resources – working through the backlog of repairs and renovations allowed by the previous bond issue, including work on water and wastewater systems; facility repairs at a number of parks, fish hatcheries and wildlife management areas; and improvements made in compliance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). But Boruff and his staff were also focusing on the division's role within the agency and new strategies for the expenditure of the bond issue authorized by Proposition 8. "Our goal is to set the stage for the resource divisions to work their magic," he says. "Buildings and other facilities that have an impact on the environment have to be assessed carefully."

The division has been incorporating into projects whenever possible a sustainable design initiative that is in keeping with the Department's larger goals. "We're emphasizing design that minimizes the impact of our facilities on natural habitat and maximizes renewable resources and the use of materials from local sources,"

says Boruff. "We want to step lightly on the land. And that often means improvements in long-term maintenance and energy efficiency as well." Such projects, says John Warrick, head of design, can "send a powerful message in the way they demonstrate innovative approaches to sustainability. People who visit our facilities in the future will see green building practices in action."

The division is transforming the way it manages projects as well, says Boruff. Those changes are reflected in the Project Controls and Contracting Branch of the division, which has taken the lead in developing new project-management tools. According to Boruff, more sophisticated procurement procedures have allowed the division to use a number of methods to deliver its projects, including the "design-build" and "construction management at risk" models that speed delivery and help minimize risks to the Department. Says Boruff, "We're taking an innovative but flexible approach that lets us be the best stewards of the public's dollars that we can be."

Those innovative approaches to project management will be aided by the division's new Facility Management System (FMS), a customized software system that will keep track of every item in the Department inventory, including the resource divisions. The comprehensive database and tracking system will allow a more efficient management of repairs and maintenance of everything from tractors to wastewater systems. This integrated data system, says Scott Boruff, "will allow us to forecast repair, maintenance and development needs. It will give us a clear picture of what those needs will cost from year to year."

The division, says Boruff, has continued to broaden its reach in the Department, taking an active role in promoting industry standards in project management and in helping to support and develop a number of Department projects, including several Lone Star Legacy projects. Most recently, the division was tapped to sponsor the Sheldon Lake Environmental Education Center, which is aimed at bringing a strong educational focus to a state park near an urban center.

THE PLACE FOR

# *Practical Concerns*



**P**arks and Wildlife relies substantially on license fees, boat registration fees and state park fees for its operating budget. A small percent is derived from general revenues, as appropriated by the state legislature. And in the summer of 2001, some hard financial facts began to hit home, observes Chief Financial Officer Suzy Whittenton. Faced with rising costs and a pay raise for its employees, the Department was going to have to cut operating budget requests from all divisions by more than three percent, delay hiring and vehicle purchases and defer capital (construction) projects in order to balance the next year's budget.

During the past year, the costs of doing business for Parks and Wildlife rose substantially. For example, electricity went up 18 percent, while the cost of natural





gas rose 57 percent. In order to continue its operations and improve services to the public, the Department was having to evaluate all fees it charges the public, many of which have not increased for at least five years, as well as assess the efficiency of its operations.

### Bringing In More Technology

Technology improvements during FY2001 include the addition of 14 Parks and Wildlife field locations to the statewide data network, bringing the total number of field offices with direct access into the Department's information systems to 66.

The WorldCom point-of-sale license system, which will replace the existing Transactive point-of-sale system, offers numerous customer improvements including a new format with tags surrounding the body

of the license. This system should be fully deployed by the end of calendar year 2001.

During FY2001, the Department's network security came under scrutiny. "Most of our findings were positive and the vulnerabilities were addressed or are currently being addressed," says David Archer, director of information resources. Another positive outcome of the review was the creation of a more definitive policy for technology standardization.

Newly acquired software allows agency applications to be developed as "Web-enabled," meaning that they are Internet-ready. Running Web-enabled applications will facilitate future customer innovations such as on-line boat registration renewal and payment.

### WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM – FY01

(Based upon initial annual projected receipts - \$ Millions)

Anglers and commercial fishing operations	41.5
Hunters	34.1
Boaters	36.9
Park users	37.0
Sporting goods purchasers (nonconsumptive)	20.1
Bond proceeds	13.8
Federal	38.7
Other sources (general revenue, self-funded initiatives)	15.5
	<b>237.6</b>

### WHERE THE MONEY GOES – FY01

(Based upon approved annual budget by division - \$ Millions)

State Parks	51.4
Law Enforcement	41.3
Wildlife	25.2
Administrative Resources	12.1
Inland Fisheries	11.4
Coastal Fisheries	9.5
Communications	7.5
Resource Protection, Outreach	11.1
Executive Office	1.4
Human Resources	1.6
Chief Operating Officer	2.1
Infrastructure	4.8
Texas Outdoor Connection License System, Salary Increase and other Initiatives	8.3
<b>Annual Capital Program</b>	
Critical Repairs	12.0
Other Capital Projects	15.5
<b>Grant Program</b>	
Local Park Grants	17.3
Boat Ramps, Other	12.9
	<b>245.5</b>

Note: Budget is funded from a combination of cash balances and revenues. Cash balances are not reflected in the chart "Where the Money Comes From."

ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES	RESPONSIBLE DIVISION <sup>1</sup>	FY99	FY00	FY01
<b>FISH PRODUCTION<sup>2</sup></b>				
Number of fingerlings stocked in fresh water	IF	17,534,476	15,846,914	9,583,564
Number of fingerlings stocked in salt water	CF	36,586,844	37,195,438	25,537,963
<b>DONATIONS</b>				
Estimated value of labor, cash and service contributions	All	\$10,016,944	\$10,541,588	\$10,446,625
<b>PARK VISITATION</b>				
Estimated number of state park visits (in millions)	SP	21.8	19	17.5
<b>CONSERVATION</b>				
Percent of Texas' bays and estuaries with inflow needs determined	RP	84%	85.7%	100%
Percent of private land acreage in Texas managed to enhance wildlife	WL	6.9%	8.0%	9.7%
Percent of fish and wildlife kills or pollution cases resolved successfully <sup>3</sup>	RP	87%	83%	69%
Public compliance rate	LE	99%	98%	97%
<b>EFFICIENCY</b>				
Ratio of employees to facilities managed	All	12.8:1	12.6:1	12.7:1
Ratio of fingerlings produced to hatchery employees	CF, IF	535,644:1	609,682:1	403,696:1

<sup>1</sup> Abbreviations as follows: Administrative Resources (AR), Coastal Fisheries (CF), Communications (K), Education (ED), Executive Office (EO), Infrastructure (INF), Inland Fisheries (IF), Law Enforcement (LE), Resource Protection (RP), State Parks (SP), Wildlife (WL), Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

<sup>2</sup> High water salinities, red tide and a strategy of growing fingerlings to a larger size prior to stocking all contributed to lower total numbers of fingerlings stocked in 2001.

<sup>3</sup> A number of FY2001 responses will not be counted until FY2002 due to database issues that have made it difficult for staff to enter all completed investigation records.

ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES	RESPONSIBLE DIVISION	FY99	FY00	FY01
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>				
Percent of maintenance needs met	SP	79.3%	99.6%	94.2%
Percent of major repair needs met <sup>4</sup>	INF	2.39%	51.0%	39%
<b>DIRECT SERVICE</b>				
Percentage of Department's direct service expenditures to total expenditures	AR	92.5%	93.9%	91.6%
<b>PUBLIC ACCESS</b>				
Number of WMAs available for wildlife viewing and other non-hunting forms of outdoor recreation	WL	50	50	51
Acres of public hunting land provided (including state parks)	WL, SP	1,393,780	1,388,198	1,427,707
Annual percentage change in public hunting days provided	WL	-1.6%	+6.0%	-7.4%
Number of state parks open to public hunting	WL, SP	38	38	38
Number of facilities managed that provide recreational opportunities or service to the public	All	231	235	232
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
Percent of Parks and Wildlife public use facilities that are revenue generating and self sufficient <sup>5</sup>	SP, WL, IF, AR	9.9%	6.6%	4.53%
<b>DEPARTMENT OPERATING SELF SUFFICIENCY:</b>				
<b>Level 1</b> – Revenues as a percent of all direct operating costs	AR	81.78%	74.3%	71.3%
<b>Level 2</b> – Revenues as a percent of all direct and indirect operating costs (HR, EO and most of AR, excluding employee benefits)	AR	74.71%	68.1%	65.2%
<b>Level 3</b> – Revenues as a percent of all direct and indirect operating costs, including all associated employee benefits	AR	64.44%	58.9%	56.0%
<b>OUTREACH</b>				
Estimated number of outreach programs and events held	All	30,013	32,483	28,957
Estimated number of Texans reached by programs and events	All	1,790,649	2,355,026	2,214,639

<sup>4</sup> Change in method of calculation between 1999 and 2000. Additional changes in method of calculation made in 2001 in response to State Auditor's recommendations.

<sup>5</sup> Based on calculation that compares fees collected at sites/operating costs at sites. Method of calculation changed in FY2000 to include fringe benefits as part of standard operating costs.

ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES	RESPONSIBLE DIVISION	FY99	FY00	FY01
<b>STATE PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS<sup>6</sup></b>				
State park reservations <sup>7</sup>	SP	261,798	258,755	248,999
Texas Conservation Passports sold	AR	47,831	49,445	50,310
Volunteer hours in state parks (including inmate labor)	SP	742,360	836,287	625,516
New state parks opened	SP	0	0	0
State park acreage	SP	616,859	587,216	592,888
Wildlife management acreage (owned)	WL	294,344	303,492	306,784
Wildlife management acreage (leased)	WL	472,107	453,837	453,837
Number of acres in the Department's Public Lands System per 1,000 Texans	AR, WL, SP, IF, CF	47.9	43.9	42.8
Hours of criminal justice labor (state parks) <sup>8</sup>	SP, INF	255,576	259,298	174,047
Hours of criminal justice labor (WMAs)	WL, INF	63,487	43,037	20,442
<b>COMMUNITY OUTREACH</b>				
Fish and wildlife events held for targeted user groups	IF, CF, WL, LE, ED	3,607	4,268	3,600
Local park grants awarded	SP	\$16,600,000	\$16,500,000	\$16,800,000
Boat ramp grants awarded	SP	\$1,030,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,300,000
Students in hunter education	ED	33,924	34,399	32,690
Students in boater education	ED	7,919	9,006	10,110
Magazine subscribers	K	145,000	155,964	153,654
Number of TV show viewers	K	284,000	215,000	190,000
<b>FACILITIES MANAGED</b>				
Field offices managed <sup>9</sup>	All	61	62	66
Hatcheries managed	CF, IF	8	8	8
WMAs managed	WL	50	50	51
State parks managed	SP	122	122	123

6 Changes in acreages are in large part due to changes in classifications of land and improved accuracy of numbers reported.

7 Figures represent CRC reservations only.

8 FY2001 - TDCJ work crews were not as readily available to work in parks and WMAs due to TDCJ guard shortages.

9 Increase in Number of Field Offices Managed in FY2001 reflects increased accuracy in counting offices, rather than a real increase in offices. Several offices were previously thought to be shared between divisions and therefore counted only once in prior years.

## ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

## RESPONSIBLE DIVISION

FY99

FY00

FY01

**HUNTING, FISHING AND BOATING**

Resident hunting-type licenses	AR, LE	461,545	457,427	441,262
Non-resident hunting-type licenses	AR, LE	54,417	59,185	60,024
Hunting stamps	AR, LE	184,221	176,042	162,919
Resident fishing-type licenses	AR, LE	1,066,594	1,050,785	1,029,048
Non-resident fishing-type licenses	AR, LE	107,379	103,387	95,690
Fishing stamps	AR, LE	517,214	529,792	482,400
Combination hunting/fishing-type licenses	AR, LE	493,378	498,847	549,759
Annual boat registrations	AR, LE	305,432	311,506	306,248
Public hunts on department lands, leases	WL	5,971	6,273	6,106

**FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Deer harvested	WL	392,573	424,815	428,879
Turkeys harvested	WL	57,856	53,847	48,017
Mourning doves harvested	WL	4,555,264	4,483,585	4,531,714
Ducks harvested	WL	1,440,588	1,149,117	1,364,023
Geese harvested	WL	276,444	500,207	205,080

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Vehicle miles patrolled by game wardens	LE	10,800,000	10,700,000	10,200,000
Boat hours patrolled by game wardens	LE	124,521	119,135	119,633
Arrests (game and fish)	LE	20,693	21,344	22,240
Arrests (water safety)	LE	10,629	12,125	11,421
Law enforcement contacts by game wardens	LE	1,547,444	1,516,303	1,549,712

**RESOURCE PROTECTION**

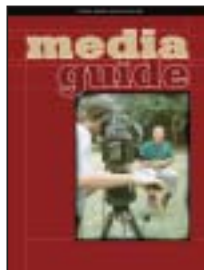
Environmental permit/document reviews	RP, WL	1,418	1,837	1,671
Fish kills and pollution complaints investigated	RP	323	313	366



THE PLACE FOR  
PEOPLE AND  
PARTNERSHIPS

*Involving  
the Public*

**t**he Human Resources Division has been recruiting leaders to carry on the Parks and Wildlife mission from within and outside the Department, says Division Director Annette Dominguez. At the end of FY2001, the Department graduated its first class of Natural Leaders – a program that aims to provide leadership development experiences to ambitious staff interested in pursuing positions of leadership in the Department. Those who enroll in the program, says Dominguez, learn through



on-the-job assignments that stretch their capabilities and have them look at issues that are broader than their own division.

The program has already produced some valuable projects developed by resourceful staff members, says Dominguez, including a media guide for field staff and a hazardous chemicals disposal guide. Another staffer in the program developed a guide for Texas boaters, cataloging the access points for many of the state's lakes, rivers and bays. The project resulted in a brochure and Web site that have proved useful not only for Parks and Wildlife staff, but also for state river authorities and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In order to make sure the Parks and Wildlife can count on hiring such enterprising and valuable employees in the future, points out Annette Dominguez, the

Department has been placing summer interns around the state in various divisions. In addition to the interns who work in various capacities in state parks and historic sites, others assist biologists with a variety of tasks and work with game wardens in water safety and lake patrols. "The intern program offers interns an opportunity to see firsthand what we do and make informed career choices," says Dominguez.

Another of the division's major projects involved an analysis of all the positions in the Department for possible reclassification. "We wanted to make sure we had classifications and salaries that are competitive," she says, "to make sure we keep our skilled work force." The project also developed new career ladders for several categories of employees to allow faster and higher advancement, based on demonstrated knowledge, skills, abilities and performance.

### Recruiting Volunteers

One of the biggest boosts to the Parks and Wildlife bottom line comes from the free labor donated by volunteers. "Our volunteers expand our work force in countless ways," says Dominguez. Last year, Parks and Wildlife volunteers donated 450,000 hours worth an estimated \$3.7 million dollars to provide services that directly benefit the Texas public. Volunteers certified 34,000 students in hunter education, 9,000 in boater education and 7,000 in aquatic/angler education. They also devoted 300,000 hours to state parks for visitor services, trail work and interpretive tours, spent 10,000 hours conducting wildlife surveys and research at wildlife management areas, and 25,000 hours performing living history reenactments at historical sites.

## Honoring the Lone Star Legends

Each year, Parks and Wildlife honors its remarkable corps of volunteers with a series of awards known as the Lone Star Legends. From interpretive tours at state parks to conservation research projects, volunteers around the state help to carry out the Department's mission. The volunteers, says Human Resources Director Annette Dominguez, are the "unsung heroes" who devote their time, energy and resources to Parks and Wildlife sites and programs.



### Customer Service John and Betty Dietz

Since 1994, the Canyon couple has put in more than 2,500 hours in visitor services for Palo Duro Canyon State Park. They serve in the park's visitor center and gift shop, greeting visitors with "proper Texas hospitality." They also promote the importance of conserving the natural and cultural resources of the area. They have helped recruit and train volunteers to assist in park presentations, visitor center and the gift shop. They also are founding members of the park's support organization and have served as board members for the last three years.



### Leadership Clarence Forse

Since 1995, this Lake Jackson resident has dedicated more than 3,300 hours at Sea Center Texas to building awareness of fish hatcheries and coordinating youth fishing events. In 2000, he organized 47 youth fishing events with more than 700 participants, including special education students, physically challenged students, scout and church groups, children with cancer and senior citizens. He also has served as a tour guide for park centers and hatcheries to educate the public about marine conservation.



### Education Kathryn Haynes

Haynes taught and certified more than 500 Houston students in outdoor fields ranging from bowhunter education to quail ecology. She is an area chief instructor, training and certifying new instructors for the Hunter Education program. Haynes has traveled across Texas to expand and offer her knowledge and outdoor skills to more than 1,000 high school students. She has assisted TPW with outdoor booths, shooting exhibits and the Texas Wildlife Expo.



### Conservation Will Myers

Myers, of Austin, Texas, was the driving force in developing the seagrass plan for the Texas coast. He invested personal time and money in seeing the plan implemented. He also served on all three subcommittees of the Texas Seagrass Conservation Task Force. Myers surveyed the North Harbor Island area and opened the new Gulf Coast Paddling Trail for paddlers, anglers and bird watchers. His work and dedication to Texas' natural resources led to the creation of the first marine state scientific area, Redfish Bay State Scientific Area, in June 2000.



### Youth Kevin Hicks

Hicks, a San Antonio resident, has helped conserve the state's natural resources by serving as a mentor and role model for young hunters. His dedication of more than 500 hours to the Texas Youth Hunting program has provided insight into the joys and pleasures of the outdoors. As an assistant huntmaster, he has trained more than 100 volunteers for the youth hunting program workshops.





### Partnership Cowbird Trapping Team



In an area around Fort Hood in Central Texas, this team demonstrates how a partnership among organizations with diverse environmental philosophies can find common ground. They have built public awareness of agricultural and conservation habitats while protecting two endangered species on federal and private lands and rebuilding relationships between private landowners and outside agencies. Their project has received recognition from national media for its innovations in reaching landowners.



### Teamwork African-American History Symposium Steering Committee



This team based southwest of Houston, centered at Varner-Hogg Plantation, has come together for the state parks system and for the future of Texas heritage. The team planned, organized and implemented the first-ever state-sponsored symposium on African-American history. With 300 people participating, the team helped tell the entire story of African-Americans in Texas.



### Chairman's Award for Public Service Oilfield Park Endowment Charity "Legacy" Committee



Since 1994, the tournament committee, based in the Falcon area on the Rio Grande River, has brought fisherman, future fishermen, oilfield personnel and local community members together to improve Falcon State Park by participating in a bass tournament. They have worked with park staff, fisheries, volunteers and community service workers to put on the tournament each year. They have donated \$10,000 toward an endowment fund for Falcon State Park and have provided additional funds for park facility improvements.

# A PLACE FOR *Remembering*

**t**exas Parks and Wildlife has undergone great changes and made great progress in the years since 1990, which have brought new leadership and new vision to the Department. Under the guidance of Executive Director Andrew Sansom and a series of strong Texas Parks and Wildlife Commissions, and with the support of the Texas Legislature, the team at Parks and Wildlife has continued to seek new and creative ways to carry out its mission of conserving the treasures of the state's natural and cultural landscape for generations to come.



## Meeting Recreation Needs

As the state's population has grown increasingly urbanized, the Department has made great strides in providing more parks and recreational opportunities near large cities.



## Legislative Advances

The Department has worked with the Texas Legislature in important areas of funding and regulations affecting the state's natural resources. Among those successes are changing the source of Department funding from cigarette taxes to the sales tax on sporting goods and the buyback program for commercial fishing licenses.



## Conservation Acquisitions

During the 1990s, the state made some strategic acquisitions of lands that were of statewide significance in their rarity and beauty, in their historic meaning to Texas, and in the richness of their native flora and fauna.

Big Bend Ranch



### Sea Center Texas and the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

These fisheries centers that are also sources of education and recreation for their surrounding communities are the first of their kind in the country.

### Partnerships with Private Landowners

The Department has reached out to the private landowners of Texas to make them part of the state's conservation efforts. Working in

cooperation with willing landowners, the Department's technical guidance program has worked to enhance wildlife and natural resources on millions of acres of land.



### Strengthening Infrastructure

The Department has put together the best construction operation in state government.



### Public Outreach

The Department has continually reached out to new constituents, endeavoring to bring educational and recreational programs to an increasingly diverse and urbanized population.

### Partnership with the Private Sector

The Department has reached out to the private sector to acquire partners for many of its activities. Under the umbrella of the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas, Inc., the Department has brought in a number of corporate sponsorships and partnerships.



### Entrepreneurial Skills

Over the years, the Department has been operating more and more like a business, emphasizing marketing to its customers, automating as many of its functions as possible, and relying on volunteers to expand its work force and activities.



### Serving Core Constituents

The Department has never forgotten its core constituents, the hunters and anglers and campers who have traditionally been the most devoted users of the Department's facilities and services. The Department has opened up more public lands for hunting and worked to make fishing in Texas the best in the country. The Texas Conservation Passport program targets frequent park visitors with special benefits.

### Environmental Protection

The Department has worked with other state and federal agencies and with the Texas Legislature to protect wetlands, preserve hardwood forests, and to protect and improve water quality for people and ecoregions around the state.



### Improving Law Enforcement

The Department has worked to increase professionalism and diversity in its game warden ranks, and it has expanded the role of game wardens in enforcing conservation in the state.

# About This Report

This is the Annual Report of Texas Parks and Wildlife for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2001 [FY2001]. The report is one of several documents Parks and Wildlife produces to provide information to our employees and the public. More information can be found on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Web site at [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us).

This report was prepared by the Communications Division, with information provided by all other divisions.

No state funds were used in printing this report.

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