

# A State For All Seasons

Texas Parks & Wildlife Annual Report 2000



# To the People of Texas

from the Executive Director and the Chairman

Here at the beginning of a new year, a new legislative session, and a new century, let us take this opportunity to thank all those who helped make possible the significant achievements detailed in this Annual Report of Texas Parks and Wildlife. To the thousands of volunteers who help out each day in state parks, wildlife management areas, hatcheries, and hunter education classes across Texas, to leaders of the Legislature who have provided critical financial and political support, and to the many generous donors whose gifts have helped make the difference in our conservation efforts — we are very grateful.

Thanks to the work of a great staff and this extraordinary community of partners — each contributing in his or her own way — Texas Parks and Wildlife has continued to excel. The Department's commitment to excellence was reflected in the year 2000 by the report of the Legislative Sunset Commission, which affirmed our mission, our strategy and our performance.

Happily, our revenues continued to increase this past year as a direct result of good conditions outdoors, good conditions in the Texas economy, and good entrepreneurial efforts by our team across the state. These additional monies come just in time to meet growing needs throughout the Parks and Wildlife system.

With continued support from the Texas Legislature, we are coming to the end of our maintenance backlog, and in this biennium we will begin to shift to a more regular, annualized repair process, which should keep deferred maintenance to a manageable level.

On the landscape, thanks to the growing enthusiasm of private landowners and beefed-up technical guidance from the Department, we now have over ten million acres of private lands in Texas managed under voluntary conservation efforts certified by professional wildlife biologists.

Our commitment to marine resources is no less. This past year, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission took bold but reasonable steps to stem the tide of commercial over-fishing in our Gulf waters, ensuring both the continued health of all marine species and ecosystems and the promise of a healthy shrimp industry as well.

For these efforts and more, public support remains high and provides a crucial ingredient for the continued esprit de corps of our remarkable staff which, day in and day out, provides you, our customers, with the highest conservation and outdoor recreation value for the dollar of any similar institution in the world.


It is our privilege to bring that service to you.



Andrew Sanson, Executive Director



Lee M. Bass, Chairman



a n O V E R V I E W o f t h e Y E A R ' S

# The Full Circle of Time

C H A L L E N G E S   a n d   A C C O M P L I S H M E N T S

*For the leadership of Texas Parks and Wildlife, it has been a continuous challenge to carry out the Department's dual mission, balancing its obligations to conserve the state's natural and cultural resources and its duties to provide outdoor recreational opportunities to Texans as efficiently and as effectively as possible.*

**Even as the Department works to become more entrepreneurial in its operations,** making the most of its people and its products, it must also manage for the future, which means trying to anticipate and address future pressures on the state's resources.

"We have a unique, direct relationship with the public," observes Executive Director Andrew Sansom. "Every day, we meet face-to-face with Texans who enjoy the outdoors — hunters, boaters, anglers, hikers, birdwatchers, campers, landowners — and with visitors to our historical and cultural sites," says Sansom. "We work hard to make sure that all the citizens of Texas have the best possible opportunities to enjoy what Texas has to offer," says Sansom. "And at the same time, we have to protect our state's priceless heritage and make sure that those unique resources will be there for the future citizens of Texas to enjoy."

As Bob Cook, the Department's chief operating officer, has expressed it, "We're responsible for everything from the bass in the lakes and the pictographs on the stones to the birds in the bottomlands hardwood trees, now and in the future."



## The Full Circle of Time

an OVERVIEW of the YEAR'S CHALLENGES and ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**The first fiscal year of the new millennium was a pivotal time in the history of Texas Parks and Wildlife.** For much of the year, the Department was under close scrutiny by the Sunset Advisory Commission. In addition, two major studies, one by the Governor's Task Force on Conservation and the other by Texas Tech University, were undertaken to help the work of conservation in Texas and to improve the effectiveness of Texas Parks and Wildlife for the future.

It was a time of reckoning, of gathering strong input from within and without the Department on the viability and efficiency of its operations. And it was also a time of looking ahead, of trying to determine how Texas Parks and Wildlife might best carry out its mission in the coming decades. As Gene McCarty, chief of staff, described it, "We spent a lot of time and effort looking forward, culminating in a series of reviews, reports, and studies that give us and the Legislature clear ideas of what needs to be done to ensure the legacy of our natural and cultural resources for the next generations."

**The Department began the fiscal year on a positive note,** with additional funding authority for state park personnel and environmental law enforcement, for twice as many technical guidance biologists offering technical assistance to landowners, for increased grant money for rare species protection on private lands, and for expanded public opportunities for hunting, birding, and fishing.

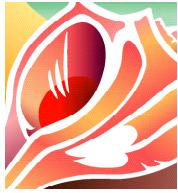




**The Department also embarked on the coming year's tasks with a set of charges from the Chairman of the Parks and Wildlife Commission regarding areas that merited special attention.** As a result, the Department focused efforts on several key areas, including improving its relationship with the public, and better management of bond-financed development and repair projects. Additional priorities included enhancing marketing and promotional opportunities for its services and products, improving public outreach, and looking for additional opportunities for public/private partnerships. And from an even more far-reaching perspective, the Department was charged with taking some crucial steps in planning for future conservation.

Those charges were reinforced by the intensive study of Texas Parks and Wildlife conducted by the Sunset Commission. According to the findings issued by the Commission, the Department's decision-making process has been hampered by the lack of a comprehensive approach to managing the state's public resources. The Commission recommended that the Department develop a comprehensive system to assess future public conservation and recreational needs, beginning with a comprehensive inventory of all the state's natural and cultural resources owned by public agencies, ranging from state to local and county parks and natural areas. The Commission further recommended that the Department develop a set of criteria for evaluating future acquisitions and divestitures.

Even before the Sunset Commission issued its recommendations, Parks and Wildlife had enlisted Texas Tech University to develop a comprehensive set of findings to be used in helping the Department, the Legislature, and other state leadership in setting the Department's policies and building a conservation plan for the coming decades.



## The Full Circle of Time

an OVERVIEW of the YEAR'S CHALLENGES and ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The new study, titled Texas Parks and Wildlife for the 21st Century, is organized into two main phases. The first phase was a massive public opinion survey designed to find out what Texans think about Texas Parks and Wildlife and about conservation and outdoor recreation issues.

The second and concurrent phase is a multipronged needs assessment study to determine, based on research and scientific analysis, the basic outdoor recreation and natural and cultural resource conservation needs in Texas through the year 2030.

In the meantime, the Governor's Task Force on Conservation set out to develop a set of recommendations and strategies to address the coming conservation challenges presented by an ever increasing and changing population and the increasing fragmentation of the state's ecosystems. In addition to calling for some changes and new approaches in state policies, the Task Force also identified the state's most effective current conservation strategies and recommended ways that those programs might be expanded.



**Even as Parks and Wildlife was trying to anticipate its needs and duties for the future,** it was also dealing with the highly demanding everyday tasks of managing an enormous system of public lands and facilities, with helping private landowners in their conservation efforts, with licensing, regulating, and helping to improve opportunities for hunting and fishing, and with educating the public about their cultural and natural resources.

As Larry McKinney, senior director of Aquatic Resources, expressed it, "In a way, Parks and Wildlife staff are like soldiers who are always out there on the line, looking after the interests of fish and wildlife in Texas. There's not a single issue affecting fish and wildlife that we don't address in some way."

**During the course of the fiscal year, there were some particularly challenging and controversial issues to address.**

For the Resource Protection Division, probably the most pressing challenge of the year was its ongoing work with regard to the landmark water reform bill (SBI) passed during the 1997 legislative session. Parks and Wildlife worked with the 16 regions of the state in developing the regional plans mandated by the bill, screening the plans for their environmental impact. Another area of emphasis was a cooperative effort with the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission in revising water quality standards for wastewater discharge permits.

**The Coastal Fisheries Division** was faced with navigating the complex issues involved in regulating the shrimp industry, which included participating in public hearings that inspired lively, even heated, exchanges.



**For the State Parks and Infrastructure Divisions,** there was the always pressing backlog of repairs and renovations to work through. Other highlights were the dedication of the Barrington Living History Farm at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park and the grand opening of the George Bush Gallery of the National Museum of the Pacific War.

**All in all, it was a year that affirmed the present and future importance** of the work of Parks and Wildlife and its partners and that underlined the need for the Department to remain proactive in planning and carrying out its mission.







# Who We Are & What We Do

*Texas Parks and Wildlife manages and conserves the state's fish and wildlife resources and operates a statewide system of public lands and waters. The Texas Parks and Wildlife system includes our Austin headquarters, 62 field offices, 122 state parks and natural areas, 50 wildlife management areas, and eight fish hatcheries.*

Texas parks cover 587,216 acres and include 40 historical sites.

The wildlife management areas (owned and leased) cover 757,329 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.**

Those resources are used by 1.5 million licensed anglers. Last year, Parks and Wildlife's massive freshwater fish stocking program put 15,846,914 fingerlings into public bodies of water around Texas.

**We manage the marine resources of the state's 4 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 37,195,438 red drum, Atlantic croaker, and spotted sea trout fingerlings.

**During FY2000, our 485 game wardens spent**

**119,135 hours patrolling public freshwater lakes, streams and rivers and the salt waters of the Gulf and coastal inlets by boat.**

They traveled 10,700,000 miles patrolling 261,914 square miles of land over 254 counties enforcing wildlife resource and water safety laws and regulations.

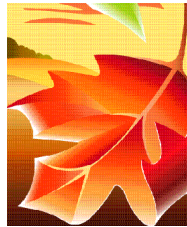
**Annually, we conduct more than 2,740 wildlife population surveys, provide recommendations concerning the management of about 1,200 vertebrate wildlife species,** conduct more than 70 wildlife research studies, hold public hunts on more than 250 tracts of land totaling more than 1.3 million acres, provide incentives and technical guidance to landowners to manage for endangered species, inform the public about wildlife, and develop 2,272 wildlife management plans for about 12.5 million acres of private lands.

**We publish *Texas Parks and Wildlife* magazine, produce a weekly show for public television stations and the daily radio show *Passport to Texas*,** 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.



# As the Seasons Turn

a MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY: SEPTEMBER 1999 - AUGUST 2000



## SEPTEMBER

### **New Employees**

Texas Parks and Wildlife welcomed the opportunity to bring onboard the 44 new employees authorized by the 76th Legislature.

## OCTOBER

### **Record-Breaking Expo**

The 1999 Texas Wildlife Expo attracted a record 44,500 visitors to the annual two-day extravaganza that celebrates the outdoors and showcases the work of Texas Parks and Wildlife.

### **Austin's Woods Conservation Initiative**

Governor George W. Bush announced a new milestone in the Austin's Woods Conservation Initiative, the ongoing project to protect the historic forested bottomlands site along the Brazos River known as Austin's Woods, where Stephen F. Austin established his original colony.

## NOVEMBER

### **Fisheries Outreach Award**

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) won two awards for educational outreach. The center received the 1999 Award of Excellence from the American Sportfishing Association and Sportfish Educational Project of the Year for 1999 from Fisheries Administrators of the American Fisheries Society.

## DECEMBER

### **Seasonal Greetings from the Parks**

Parks across the state invited holiday revelers to celebrate special events of the season. Visitors were treated to Victorian Christmas train rides, stagecoach rides, lamplight tours, Mexican pastries, and more.



## JANUARY

### Boosting Recreation

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved the expenditure of \$6.4 million in state funds to help underwrite basic public recreation facilities in local parks around the state.

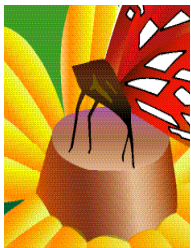
## FEBRUARY

### New Task Force on Conservation

Governor George W. Bush announced the creation of a task force to recommend strategies to conserve the state's natural resources and to promote outdoor recreation in the 21st century.

### CO-OP Grants

Texas Parks and Wildlife issued \$700,000 in the first phase of its Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) grants to 29 local groups around the state with the goal of increasing outdoor opportunities for young people and minorities.



## MARCH

### Depicting History at Barrington

The Texas Independence Day celebration at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park marked key improvements in interpreting farm life of the Texas Republic era and in reflecting the contributions by African Americans to that period of history. Texas' first "White House," the recreated farmhouse of Anson Jones, president of the Republic of Texas, was rededicated as the centerpiece of the new Barrington Living History Farm at Washington-on-the-Brazos.

## APRIL

### Fundraiser at Sea Center Texas

A fundraiser for Sea Center Texas featuring Parks and Wildlife Commissioner and baseball legend Nolan Ryan raised more than \$278,000 for the Sea Center Texas Endowment Fund, as part of the Lone Star Legacy campaign.

### Bringing Birders Home to Roost

The final segment of the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail was completed, just in time for the start of the annual Great Texas Birding Classic, which attracts birders from around the world to the Texas Gulf Coast for a week-long bird-watching tournament.

## MAY

### Honoring Texas Landowners

Twelve conservation-minded Texas landowners were honored as Lone Star Land Stewards for the management of their land with special regard to protecting the state's natural resources.

### Sunset Commission Issues Report

The Texas Sunset Advisory Commission released its report on Texas Parks and Wildlife, commending its efforts in meeting public needs in imaginative and innovative ways and recommending the continuation of the agency.



## JUNE

### Regional Recreational Opportunities

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved \$3 million in grants under a new regional parks pilot program that will put more recreational opportunities within reach of Texans in four major metropolitan areas. The state funds will help local governments develop parks, greenways, hike and bike trails, and other recreational amenities and protect wildlife habitat in El Paso and Williamson counties, Houston and McAllen.

## JULY

### Building Leadership

Parks and Wildlife instituted Natural Leaders, an employee leadership development program and began the selection process to inaugurate a new class of leaders for the future.

## AUGUST

### Saving Shrimp for the Future

Following decades of gathering biological data and an intense period of scientific review and outreach to stakeholders by Parks and Wildlife staff, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted a set of changes to the state's shrimping regulations in order to ensure the long-range health and viability of this valuable public resource.

### Happy Trail

Public meetings were held to inform residents and business leaders about a new birding and nature trail encompassing more than 100 counties from Laredo through the heart of Texas and into the High Plains.



# Seasoned Leadership

t h e C O M M I S S I O N a n d t h e D I R E C T O R S

*Executive Staff and division directors bring to bear their extensive experience in research, innovative management, and field work. Their knowledge of the land, the water, the people, and the wildlife of Texas is itself a valuable state resource.*



**The Texas Parks and Wildlife division directors are** (left to right front row): Andrew Sansom, executive director of Texas Parks and Wildlife; Suzy Whittenton, senior director of Administrative Resources; Hal R. Osburn, director of Coastal Fisheries; Gene McCarty, chief of staff; Lydia Saldaña, director of Communications; (left to right back row): Robert L. Cook, chief operating officer; Phil Durocher, director of Inland Fisheries; Scott Boruff, director of Infrastructure; Walt Dabney, director of State Parks; Larry McKinney, senior director of Aquatic Resources; Gary Graham, director of Wildlife; Jim Robertson, director of Law Enforcement. Not pictured: Annette Dominguez, director of Human Resources.



## Seasoned Leadership

the COMMISSION and the DIRECTORS

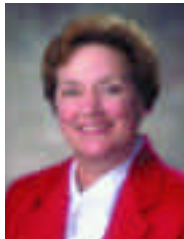
*The nine-member, governor-appointed Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission governs Parks and Wildlife and bears the responsibility of adopting policies and rules to carry out all department programs. The executive director oversees the work of implementing and administering all department programs as directed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



CHAIRMAN

**Lee Marshall Bass** | Fort Worth, Texas

Lee Bass was appointed to the commission in 1989 and reappointed for another six-year term in 1995, when he was named chairman of the commission. Mr. Bass, a graduate of Yale University and the Wharton School of Finance, is president of Lee Bass, Inc.



VICE-CHAIR

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

Carol Dinkins was appointed to the commission in 1997 and selected as vice-chair in 1999. A former deputy attorney general of the United States, she is a partner in the law firm of Vinson and Elkins, where she is a member of the firm's management committee and heads the environmental practice.



COMMISSIONER

**Ernest Angelo, Jr.** | Midland, Texas

Ernest Angelo, who was appointed to the commission in 1997, is an independent petroleum engineer, president of Ernestar Resources, L.C., and managing partner of Discovery Exploration in Midland.



COMMISSIONER

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

Appointed to the commission in 1997, John Avila is president and CEO of Thos. S. Byrne, Inc. General Contractors. A retired brigadier general in the Texas Army National Guard, he has degrees from the University of Texas, the University of Houston, and the U.S. Army War College.



COMMISSIONER

**Richard (Dick) Heath** | Carrollton, Texas

Richard Heath was appointed to the commission in 1995 and served as vice-chairman from 1997-1999. He is president and CEO of BeautiControl Cosmetics, Inc. and member of the board of directors of Haggard Clothing Company.



COMMISSIONER

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

Alvin Henry was appointed to the commission in 1999. He has degrees from Howard University and the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. A human services consultant and advisory director of Comerica Bank Texas, he is owner of the East Fork Ranch in Tyler.



COMMISSIONER

**Katharine Armstrong Idsal** | San Antonio, Texas

Appointed to the commission in 1999, Katharine Armstrong Idsal is a community volunteer, artist, and member and past vice-president of the Dallas Zoological Society.



COMMISSIONER

**Nolan Ryan** | Alvin, Texas

Nolan Ryan was appointed to the commission in 1995 and served as vice-chairman from 1995 to 1997. A baseball legend whose career on the mound spanned more than 25 years, he has been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.



COMMISSIONER

**Mark E. Watson** | San Antonio, Texas

Appointed to the commission in 1999, Mark Watson owns and operates the Diamond K Ranch in Kendall County. Former president, chairman, and CEO of Titan Holdings, Inc., a casualty insurance company.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Andrew Sansom**

Andrew Sansom has served as executive director of Texas Parks and Wildlife since 1990. He has 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 has more than doubled, and the Department has established itself as the most businesslike of such operations in the country. He has written two books and numerous magazine articles.





S O W I N G a n d

# Spring

W A T E R I N G   S E E D S   f o r   t h e   F U T U R E

*Over the years, Texas Parks and Wildlife has initiated a number of programs designed to enlist the citizens of Texas in helping to preserve the state's important resources for the benefit of future generations. Lone Star Legacy, launched in 1998 by Governor George W. Bush, is a campaign to enable Parks and Wildlife to serve a more diverse group of users in the future and to meet the conservation challenges facing Texas in the next century.*

## **Lone Star Legacy**

Partners in Lone Star Legacy are Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas, Inc., a private nonprofit organization that supports the public conservation projects of the Department with private funds. "This is a unique partnership that shows the diversity of the conservation approaches we're taking to protect our natural and cultural resources," says Andrew Sansom.

Lone Star Legacy, with an initial \$25 million goal for endowment and capital improvements, will benefit all TPW sites. This legacy of Texans working together will continue to build over the next several decades.



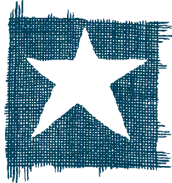
## Spring

SOWING and WATERING SEEDS for the FUTURE

**Parks and Wildlife has established a special annual event called the Lone Star Legacy Weekend**, designed to raise public awareness of the Lone Star Legacy program, with the first state-wide event in October 2000.

As the sites chosen for special emphasis by the Legacy campaign become fully operational, Lone Star Legacy will create endowments to maintain them. The George Bush Gallery of the National Museum of the Pacific War, which opened at the Admiral Nimitz Museum and Historical Center in Fredericksburg with an operational endowment in place, will serve as a prototype for the five new sites.

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE



### Lone Star Legacy™

**“Lone Star Legacy is a vision for the future of Texas.”**

- Andrew Sansom,  
Executive Director.



**Among the beneficiaries of the Lone Star Legacy campaign are five initiatives now under development:**

- Texas State Bison Herd at Caprock Canyons State Park near Amarillo.
- Austin's Woods Habitat Area in Brazoria County, south of Houston.
- Texas Rivers Center at San Marcos Springs, between Austin and San Antonio.
- World Birding Center in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.
- Government Canyon State Natural Area in the Hill Country near San Antonio.

Also a part of Lone Star Legacy is Outdoor Kids, Parks and Wildlife's umbrella youth outreach program with the objectives of:

- Assuring a unified and consistent conservation message.
- Fostering programs that are educationally sound and cost effective.
- Creating an integrated network of Parks and Wildlife's youth oriented programs.
- Providing a link with external partners to mutually enhance efforts.
- Government Canyon State Natural Area in the Hill Country near San Antonio.

The Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas has set an initial fundraising goal of \$1 million to support Outdoor Kids. The funds will be used to support regional applications at state sites such as the Sheldon Lake Environmental Education Center at Sheldon Lake State Park.



## Lone Star Legends

---

*Each year, Parks and Wildlife honors its remarkable corps of volunteers with a series of Lone Star Legends awards. "I hear all the time from our staff about how valuable our volunteers are," says Human Resources Director Annette Dominguez. "There are many unsung heroes throughout the state who devote their time, energy, and resources to our sites and programs. This is an opportunity to show our volunteers, sponsors, and supporters just how much they are valued."*



## Spring

SOWING and WATERING SEEDS for the FUTURE

### **Last year, there were a number of milestones in the Legacy Program:**

reaching a total of 185 site endowment funds with contributions of \$2.5 million; design completion for the new Visitor Center at Government Canyon; and the announcement of the Austin's Woods Conservation Initiative by Governor George W. Bush. Austin's Woods is an area of rich, historic forested bottomlands along the Brazos River where Stephen F. Austin established his original colony. Austin's Woods adds more than 3,000 acres of wetlands to Peach Point Wildlife Management Area, which has been identified as an important migratory bird habitat. The project is a partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation and with The DOW Chemical Company, which is purchasing the land and donating it to Parks and Wildlife.



“This is a landmark achievement in conservation that preserves some of the most critically important habitat in the United States. This effort manages growth in a responsible way by balancing the benefits for wildlife and the environment with a common sense realization that roads are going to be built, and industry needs to grow so people can have jobs. Texans can take care of Texas, and this is a stunning example of what happens when communities, business and government come together.”

- Gov. George W. Bush  
on Austin's Woods



Lone Star Legend  
*Chairman's Award*  
For Public Service

**Building Conservation Partnerships  
that Grow and Multiply**

With 97 percent of the state's land in private ownership, Texas Parks and Wildlife has worked to institute a number of programs aimed at private landowners in order to enlist them as partners in conservation.

**Technical Assistance for Landowners**

The Private Lands Technical Guidance program administered by the Wildlife Division is the most comprehensive program of its kind in the nation. Says Wildlife Division Director Gary Graham, "Technical guidance to landowners is one of our core functions, one of the things we do well. It's a unique conservation tool." Landowners who request assistance from the Department in managing their lands for the benefit of wildlife can take advantage of a written Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) developed by a Department biologist to enhance habitat for game, non-game and rare species of animals and plants.



**Leonard Ranne**  
Freshwater Anglers  
Association

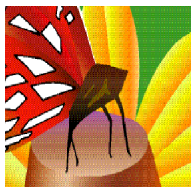
A simple passion for competitive bass fishing led Leonard Ranne to dedicate the past 25 years to conservation of Texas freshwater fisheries. Since 1985 Ranne has helped

form and was elected president of Texas Black Bass Unlimited, helped organize fishing events for physically challenged adults and children, served on Parks and Wildlife's exotic species task force, raised \$129,000 for the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center and other programs, helped form and serves as executive director of the Freshwater Angler Association, Inc.



**March for Parks of Commerce, Texas**

In addition to being a government professor at Texas A&M at Commerce, Barbara Lenington has volunteered the last four years to provide funding for additional facilities at Cooper Lake State Park Doctor's Creek Unit. Each year she organizes a march in which the funds are donated to local parks. To date, \$10,000 has been raised to purchase a new playground, an outdoor amphitheater and a sand volleyball court at Lake Cooper State Park.



## Spring

SOWING and WATERING SEEDS for the FUTURE

**Another increasingly important conservation tool is the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP).** Initiated in 1997, the LIP was the first program in the nation to focus exclusively on financially assisting landowners to help conserve rare plants and animals on their property.

The Governor's Task Force on Conservation has recommended that the Landowner Incentive Program be expanded to include all wildlife species, not just those that are declining: "This preventative approach will also improve the eventual health of all species. LIP should also be expanded to include historical and cultural objectives. Technical assistance, which is vital to the success of LIP, should be expanded through additional staff."



- Texas Parks and Wildlife has assisted landowners with 2,272 WMPs covering about 12.5 million acres in 200 counties.
- LIP is currently assisting landowners to enhance or restore more than 42,000 acres of rare species habitat.



In recognition of the contribution of private landowners to conservation in Texas, Parks and Wildlife selects every year a dozen exemplary landowners as recipients of the Lone Star Land Stewards awards. For the fifth year, the Department recognized owners and managers of ranches and other property in each of the ecological regions of the state and in the special categories of Wildlife Management Associations and Corporate/Foundation. Parks and Wildlife also announced the winner of the annual Lone Star Land Steward of the Year award, which went to the Ayres family of the Shield Ranch in Central Texas. Patricia Shield Ayres and her children Robert Ayres and Vera Ayres Bowen own and manage the 6,700-acre ranch in southwest Travis County on Barton Creek that has become one of the state's foremost models of conservation.

### **Nature Tourism:**

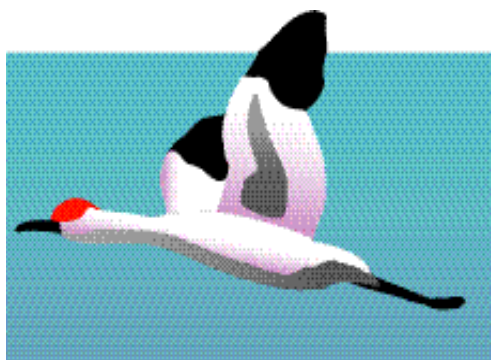
#### **The Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail**

After more than four years of development, the \$1.4 million, 700-plus-mile Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail (GTCBT) was completed. The last of the trail's more than 300 distinctive brown signs was erected at a highway rest area 27 miles south of Laredo, marking the final stop on the trail's lower Texas coast segment.

Originally conceived as a way to link birding spots along the Texas coast, the GTCBT has evolved into a major project to help birders discover the outstanding avian resources along the Texas coast. A partnership between Parks and Wildlife and the Texas Department of Transportation secured Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act funds to develop and publicize the trail.



**The GTCBT is attracting much-needed tourist dollars to economically depressed Texas coastal communities. As a result, conservation is paying for itself and giving a financial boost to local communities as well.**



Some 200,000 copies of the central and upper coast maps developed by Parks and Wildlife and TxDOT have been distributed to birding enthusiasts throughout the United States and as far away as Europe and Australia. One-hundred thousand copies of the new lower Texas coast map were printed in time for the Great Texas Birding Classic's opening ceremony in Brownsville on April 7, 2000.





## Spring

SOWING and WATERING SEEDS for the FUTURE

### Water: Managing the Torrents and Trickle of Spring

Almost all of the work by Parks and Wildlife is affected by water, whether it's wildlife and fisheries or recreation and conservation issues. And one of the principal issues concerning water that the Department has been addressing is the complex water reform bill (SB1) that is prompting the state to plan and manage its water use for coming generations.

Says Larry McKinney, Senior Director of Aquatic Resources, "We worked with the 16 planning regions of the state to develop their water plans. Our staff has gone through more than 25,000 pages of documents." Unfortunately, few of the regions were able to evaluate the environmental impact of their plans, he says, and Department staff will be involved for the next several years doing those evaluations. "Those plans affect everything we do," says Larry McKinney. "The plans have to be screened for their effect on the environment," he says, "or the interests of fish and wildlife and the overall health of the ecosystems will be pushed aside."

A related issue that the Department has been addressing is water-quality regulation. The Department worked closely with the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission in revising water quality standards with regard to



wastewater discharge permits. "We're moving from chemical parameters to biological measures," says Larry McKinney. "This year we adopted standards that are measures of impact on the health of ecosystems."

This major step in improving water quality, says McKinney, emerged from the Seagrass Conservation Plan for Texas, the major plan developed by Parks and Wildlife, TNRCC, and the Texas General Land Office to preserve the ecologically important submerged seagrass meadows that are a crucial component of marine life habitat.

### **Inland Waters**

One of the goals of Inland Fisheries, says Division Director Phil Durocher flatly, is to “provide the best freshwater fishing in the world.” And another goal, he says, is to ensure that as many Texans as possible, including those in urban areas and those from diverse ethnic backgrounds, have opportunities to fish and to learn about fishing.

In order to carry out those goals last year, the division made improvements to the A.E. Wood Hatchery, implemented a marketing plan at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, and worked to develop a strategic plan to address diversity issues.



**Lone Star Legend**

### *Teamwork*



### **Kid Fishing Event Volunteers**

Sea Center Texas

This team of volunteers has dedicated more than 644 hours and endured hot summer days and cold windy winter weather to teach kids to fish. Last year, they hosted 46 fishing events with a total of 756 participants. Each volunteer taught children how to bait hooks, cast, reel in the big fish and emphasized the importance of catch and release. Additionally, team members helped build a youth fishing pier. Some members of the group travel more than 45 miles to participate in the events.



## Spring

SOWING and WATERING SEEDS for the FUTURE

### The Value of Fishing

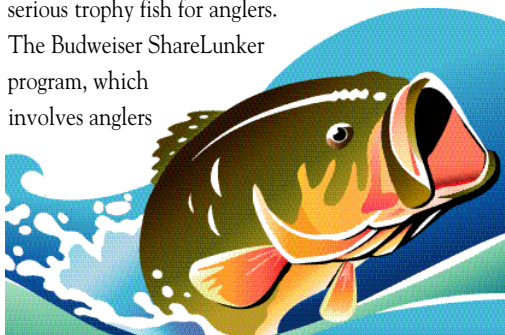
The division also continued to gather data concerning the economic value of recreational fishing. In findings from a recently completed yearlong study of fishing at Toledo Bend Reservoir, researchers at Texas A&M University estimated the value of sport fishing at Toledo Bend to be more than \$38 million.

“The economic information provided by this report could not have come at a better time,” says Dr. Larry McKinney, senior director for aquatic resources. “Regional water planning boards are assessing how Texas’ water resources, including those of Toledo Bend, will be allocated during the next 50 years. We believe it is essential that everyone involved in the water planning process have an accurate understanding about the contributions of the recreational fishery to the economy of Texas.”

### Breeding Bigger Bass: Operation World Record

Another key to improving the quality of fishing in Texas, according to Phil Durocher, is to provide some serious trophy fish for anglers.

The Budweiser ShareLunker program, which involves anglers



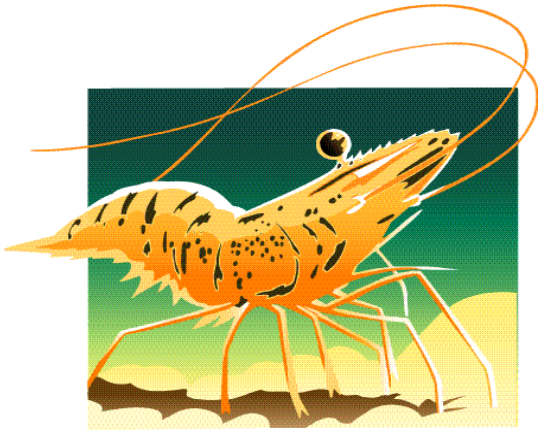
in boosting the breeding program, and which has grown more successful every year, is an integral component of a new Parks and Wildlife initiative to produce a new world record largemouth bass in Texas.

Program officials believe the knowledge and experience gleaned from 13 years of borrowing trophy bass from Texas anglers for hatchery production and research, combined with resources at the state-of-the-art Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC), make this an attainable goal.

Since 1986, 298 bass weighing 13 pounds or more, including two state record fish, have been loaned or donated to the program. The trophy bass are used by TFFC’s hatchery staff in research and to produce potential trophy-sized bass for stocking in Texas. In this way, the best big-fish genes will be captured and passed on to improve bass fishing in Texas.

### Tournament Exemption Study at Lake Fork

Acting on direction from several state legislators who expressed concern about a bill introduced during the last session that would have exempted bass tournaments from certain harvest restrictions, Parks and Wildlife biologists designed research procedures to identify the biological, social, and economic impacts of tournament waivers. Fisheries biologists undertook a yearlong project to monitor a series of Lake Fork bass tournaments that were conducted under special exemptions to find the impacts of modified regulations for competitive fishing events. The results of the study will be provided to state legislators.



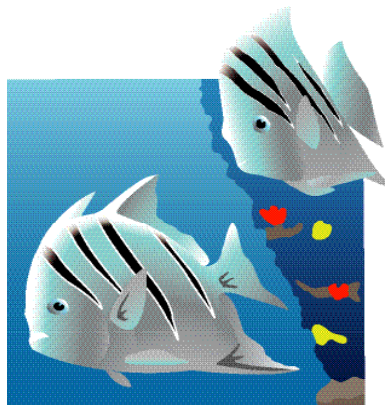
### Coastal Waters

With a mandated duty to protect the resources of the coastal waters of Texas, Parks and Wildlife is responsible for regulating the commercial fishing industry as well as sport fishing in Texas' four-million-acre portion of the Gulf of Mexico. Among the most complex issues facing the Department has been managing the increasing pressure on marine life, particularly shrimp populations in the Gulf and bays. For three decades, Parks and Wildlife has been collecting data that has pointed toward the need for proactive management steps to ensure the long-term viability of this important public resource.

Much of the Department's time and energy during the summer was devoted to the subject of shrimping regulations. Executive Director Andrew Sansom and a team of the Department's conservation scientists, headed by Hal Osburn, director of the Coastal Fisheries Division, worked closely with a group of stakeholders that included industry leaders to forge what became the ultimate rules adopted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. The public meetings held by the Department to gather input from stakeholders were as intense as any in recent Department history.

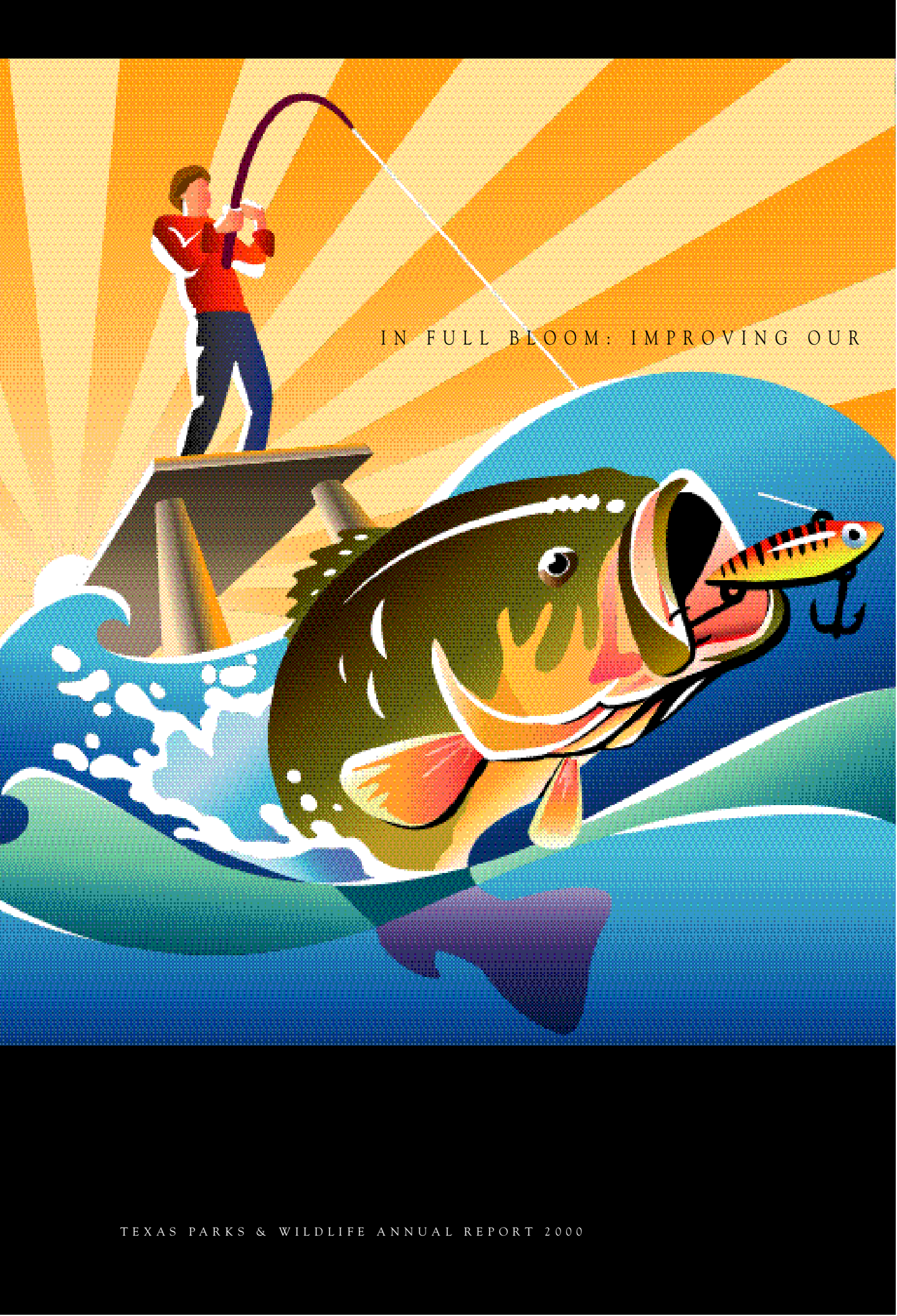
On August 31, the Commission adopted a slate of shrimping regulation changes, taking into consideration the input from stakeholders as well as the wealth of data that had been analyzed during an 18-month period of scientific review.

"There are many constituents affected by this complex issue," says Hal Osburn, "and our outreach process generated a lot of useful discussion about how to balance their viewpoints and interests." In passing the rule changes, the Commission directed Parks and Wildlife staff to develop a study of the shrimp industry to determine the economic and biological impacts of the new rules.



### Other Species

Although the main focus was on shrimp, the Department was also concerned with addressing problems affecting other marine species. "Many marine species continue to need conservation efforts," says Hal Osburn. "By developing an ecosystem approach and improving co-management efforts with partners, we can move toward providing greater benefits for everyone."



IN FULL BLOOM: IMPROVING OUR

# Summer

PLACES in HISTORY and OUR PLACES in the WILD

*The Parks and Wildlife team has been working very hard not only to improve the quality of the state's parks and wildlife management areas, but to improve the quality of visitors' experiences of those resources. With strong outreach and education efforts in each division, the Department has also been working very hard to make sure as many Texans as possible learn about and experience first-hand their state's valuable cultural and natural resources.*

## **Washington-on-the-Brazos**

Texas Independence Day marked the culmination of a major project to create a living history farm at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park. Texas' first "White House" - that is, the homestead of Texas Republic President Anson Jones - was rededicated as the centerpiece of the Barrington Living History Farm.

The Brazos River Valley farm completes Texas Parks and Wildlife's triad of living history farms that interprets Texas' agrarian heritage from the 1840s to the 1950s. The Sauer-Beckmann Farm at Lyndon B. Johnson State Historical Park depicts a turn-of-the-century farm, and Penn Farm at Cedar Hill State Park offers a glimpse into Texas farm life from the 1930s to 1950s.



## Summer

IN FULL BLOOM: IMPROVING OUR PLACES in HISTORY and OUR PLACES in the WILD

**As Parks and Wildlife works to keep its historical sites and parks in good repair,** explains State Parks Division Director Walt Dabney, “we are also working to close some gaps in interpreting the history that those sites represent.”

### **Strengthening San Jacinto**

One of the state’s most beloved landmarks, the San Jacinto Monument, emerged from its surrounding scaffolding as bright and impressive as ever following a much-needed facelift. Funds for the \$10-million restoration were approved by the 74th Legislature.

Work soon will begin toward implementing a five-year, \$50-million master plan to build a new museum and visitors’ center and return the grounds to as close to their native state as possible. More than half of the money likely will come from private donations.

The Department’s goal is to make the park relevant to all Texans. The site will reflect the memory of the Tejanos who fought for Texas as well as the eight African Americans who fought in the Battle of San Jacinto.



### **Hidden Bounty: The Wildlife Management Areas**

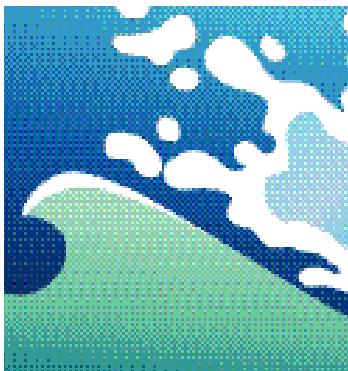
Texas’ wildlife management areas contain examples of quality habitat in every ecological region of the state. The areas owned and leased by Parks and Wildlife have previously been used primarily for research and experiments in wildlife management, but the Department has been working to make the areas more accessible to the public, not just for hunting, but for wildlife viewing. A new guide to Texas’ wildlife management areas, published by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Press, details the attractions of these 50 natural treasures around the state.

### **Building Knowledge: Wildlife Research Programs**

The Wildlife Division has continued to develop its coordinated approach to wildlife research, with some 75 projects carried out during FY2000. Projects are aimed at improving habitat and populations and gauging the impact on the environment of both game and nongame species, from white-tailed deer and wood ducks to bison, roadrunners, and diamondback rattlesnakes.

## Boating

Parks and Wildlife continued its successful boating safety campaign called “Don’t be a pain in the boat.” The campaign aims to educate boaters about boating safety and reduce boating accidents and incidents of boating while intoxicated (BWI). During FY2000, law enforcement personnel contacted 362,086 boaters during 119,135 hours of boat patrol and issued 12,194 water-safety-related citations and arrested 218 individuals for BWI, a 30% increase in BWI arrests from the preceding year.



In FY2000 there were fewer reported boating accidents, with fewer injuries and one less fatality than in FY1999.



## Lone Star Legend

### Leadership



#### Maggie Johnson

Palo Duro Canyon State Park

In 1993, Maggie Johnson began volunteering as a park host at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, working more than 40 hours each week. A short time later she became the acting secretary and treasurer of the facility’s new support foundation.

Between 1995 and 1998 she served three consecutive terms as the president of the support foundation, at which time she reopened the park visitor center, which had been closed for several years.

### Partnership



#### Brazos Bend State Park

Brazos Bend State Park has the single largest park volunteer program in the state with a record membership of 125. In 1999, volunteers dedicated a total of 18,390 hours to the park and reached more than 21,657 persons during outreach events and more than 50,000 persons from more than 40 different countries who stopped by the visitor’s center.





## Summer

IN FULL BLOOM: IMPROVING OUR PLACES in HISTORY and OUR PLACES in the WILD

### Pushing the Media Envelope



*Texas Parks and Wildlife* magazine continues to improve its reach among Texans. Circulation was up 7.5% for the year, and ad revenue increased by 35%. Texas Parks and Wildlife Press has continued to develop

apace, with its guide to Texas wildlife management areas as its latest title. In keeping with the Department's drive to reach out to a diverse constituency, the Communications Division is developing a bilingual television show to be piloted next year on Spanish-language television stations in Texas.



Parks and Wildlife's Web site has made continual improvements in its offerings, including its Virtual Field Trips, a series of live Webcasts for children

that allowed youngsters to watch events for Goliad's 250th anniversary celebration and follow dinosaur tracks at Dinosaur Valley.

### Marketing the Wild

While the Texas horned lizard, better known as the horny toad, may be decreasing in numbers in the wild, the beloved reptile can often be spotted moving quickly down the roads of Texas — on special Parks and Wildlife license plates, that is.

First-year sales exceeded expectations. The initial business plan projected sales of 5,000 plates, which was revised upward to 6,500. Sales for the fiscal year topped out at 6,875, which resulted in close to \$60,000 being raised for the conservation of wildlife diversity and habitat. "This was a good start for this effort," says Communications Director Lydia Saldaña. "We're now working on the launch of a second plate in 2001, which will benefit state parks."



## Outreach

All divisions of Parks and Wildlife have a mandate to further their outreach efforts, with an emphasis on promoting the Department's work by means of communications, education, and marketing.

Among the Department's most effective outreach tools have been its special events. This year's Wildlife Expo was the most successful ever, drawing a crowd of more than 40,000 to the two-day outdoor extravaganza.

Another of the Department's most important outreach efforts is its series of minority community outreach programs. Among the most popular of these programs has been the Buffalo Soldier project, which teaches young people about the historical and military heritage of African Americans during the settlement of the western frontier in Texas.

Parks and Wildlife has created a field support services unit in order to bolster its wildlife interpretive programs. One of the program's most ambitious projects has been creating interpretive exhibits and materials concerning the Texas State Bison Herd at Caprock Canyon. The program highlights the role of bison in Texas history, from their role in Native American cultures to their impact on the early settlement of towns.



## Lone Star Legend

## Customer Service



### Eunice Chenoweth

Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center, Terlingua

Eunice Chenoweth has been a Barton Warnock volunteer for the past 19 years. She has become a favorite of Big Bend area visitors, and has amassed a loyal group of return customers. Even though she suffers from chronic arthritis, she shows up for work at 8 am and is assigned the front desk in the visitor center, where she shares her vast knowledge of Big Bend with visitors.

## Conservation



### Gordon Huber

Kerrville Schreiner State Park, Kerrville

Gordon Huber has been a park volunteer for six years and routinely works more than 150 hours a month. As a volunteer, Gordon has been responsible for clearing about 33 park acres of unwanted cedar, cactus, and mesquite as well as planting 300 new trees to replace those lost to disease.



a S H A R E D

# Autumn

H A R V E S T o f H A R D W O R K

*Much of the work of Parks and Wildlife goes on behind the scenes, in the ongoing accountability measures and constant upkeep required to manage the state's natural and cultural resources as efficiently as possible. The bottom line and customers alike have gotten a boost from the Department's constantly improving programs, while the Department has benefited in multiple ways from its corps of volunteers who help to carry out its mission.*

**The Infrastructure Division is responsible** for the planning, design, and construction of new Parks and Wildlife facilities and for the repair, renovation, and upkeep of existing facilities. Many of those existing facilities were built during the 1930s, and in recent years, the task of keeping up those aging park facilities has become increasingly demanding.

## **Repairing, Managing, and Maintaining**

A Project Management System has been put in place to track and manage some 300 projects involving the critical repair and restoration of historical structures under the Department's care. "Our goal is to make that system increasingly efficient over time," says Division Director Scott Boruff. "We're also bringing online the Facility Management System that allows us to identify and anticipate repair, restoration, and replacement needs. In the future, we will be able to predict accurately the capital requirements to sustain and improve the infrastructure of our parks, wildlife areas, and fisheries."

Some of the key projects for fiscal year 2000 included:

- Building cottages at Lake Colorado City State Park
- Improvements to the Texas State Railroad, including rebuilding Diesel #7
- Renovation of CCC cabins at Caddo Lake
- Reroofing cabins at Bastrop State Park
- Rehabilitating the Possum Kingdom State Fish Hatchery
- Building a new catwalk, observation decks, and landing dock areas for the new tram cars of the Franklin Mountain State Park Aerial Tramway



## Autumn

a SHARED HARVEST of HARD WORK

### Technology Additions

Other technological improvements have supported Parks and Wildlife's business and operations. In FY2000, 23 Parks and Wildlife locations were added to the Department's statewide data network, bringing the total number of field locations with direct access into the Department's information systems to 52.

Parks and Wildlife also announced further improvements to its licensing system. The Department signed a five-year contract with World Com, Inc. to provide the network architecture and customized database applications for the automated licensing system. Last year, the Department conducted nearly 3.3 million hunting and fishing license-related transactions through its automated statewide network of 3,000 license vendors.

### Efficiency Measures

The Department has continued to look for cost-cutting and efficiency measures, as recommended by the Sunset Commission report. One of those measures during FY2000 involved shutting down the Department's in-house print shop, which was replaced by a printing services unit that can outsource the Department's printing needs more efficiently.

### Staffing

Parks and Wildlife has 2,954 budgeted full-time equivalent employees stationed at more than 225 locations throughout the state.

### Funding

Parks and Wildlife's total budget was \$256.4 million for fiscal year 2000, broken out as follows:

- \$177.2 million for ongoing Department operations
- \$50.2 million for capital projects
- \$29 million for grants

The State Parks Division received the largest share of the operating budget, \$49.7 million, or 28 percent. The Law Enforcement Division had the second largest piece of the budget, approximately \$39.9 million, or 22.5 percent; and Inland Fisheries, Coastal Fisheries, and Wildlife jointly made up 23.9 percent of the budget, or \$42.5 million.

### Financial Management

Drawing on the funds generated by the \$60 million bond issue authorized by the Legislature in 1997, Parks and Wildlife has been working steadily to address its large backlog of critical repairs. (The last \$12 million has been requested and is expected to be available by February 2001.) "Although we have been able to address much of the backlog through use of the bonds," says Chief Financial Officer Suzy Whittenton, "a scheduled maintenance program must be put in place in order to prevent recurrence of the backlog."

## Where the Money Comes From - FY00

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

Anglers and commercial fishing operations	40.5
Hunters	34.0
Boaters	36.5
Park users	36.5
Sporting goods purchasers (nonconsumptive)	19.8
Bond proceeds	37.1
Federal	33.3
Other sources (general revenue, self-funded initiatives, etc.)	14.7
	<b>252.4</b>

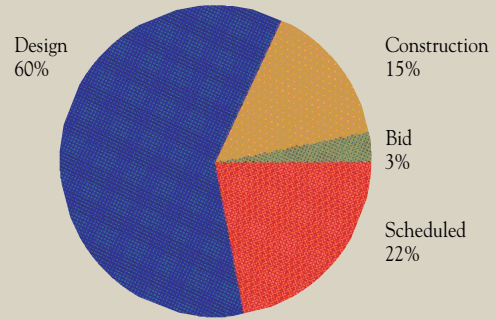
## Where the Money Goes- FY00

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

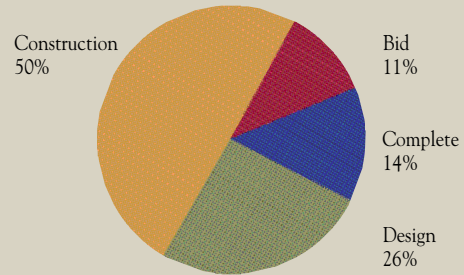
State Parks	49.7
Law Enforcement	39.9
Wildlife, Conservation	23.3
Administrative Resources	13.4
Inland Fisheries	10.9
Coastal Fisheries	9
Communications	6.4
Resource Protection, Outreach	8.5
Executive Office	1.6
Human Resources	1.5
Infrastructure	4.5
Texas Outdoor Connection License System, Salary Increase and Other Initiatives	8.5
<b>Annual Capital Program</b>	
Critical Repairs	19.5
Other Capital Projects	30.7
<b>Grant Program</b>	
Local Park Grants	15.2
Boat Ramps, Other	13.8
	<b>256.4</b>

Note: Budget is funded from a combination of cash balances and revenues. Cash balances are not reflected.

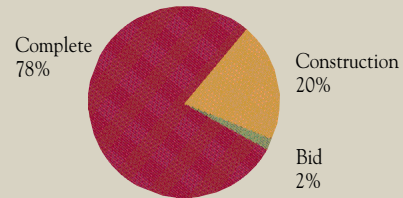
**FY00 Bond Issue: \$20 Million**  
125 Projects | \$0.42 Million Spent | \$3.68 Encumbered



**FY99 Bond Issue: \$18 Million**  
139 Projects | \$8.35 Million Spent | \$3.10 Encumbered



**FY98 Bond Issue: \$12 Million**  
87 Projects | \$10.20 Million Spent | \$0.70 Encumbered



Accountability Measures	Responsible Division <sup>1</sup>	FY98	FY99	FY00
<b>Fish Production</b>				
Number of fingerlings stocked in fresh water	IF	17,325,179	17,534,476	15,846,914
Number of fingerlings stocked in salt water	CF	37,300,000	36,586,844	37,195,438
<b>Donations</b>				
Estimated value of labor, cash, and service contributions	All	\$9,988,868	\$10,016,944	\$10,541,588
<b>Park Visitation</b>				
Estimated number of state park visits (in millions) <sup>2</sup>	SP	21.0	21.8	19
<b>Conservation</b>				
Percent of Texas' bays and estuaries with inflow needs determined	RP	43%	84%	85.7%
Percent of private land acreage in Texas managed to enhance wildlife	WL	6.5%	6.9%	8.0%
Percent of fish and wildlife kills or pollution cases resolved successfully	RP	88%	87%	83%
Public compliance rate	LE	99%	99%	98%
<b>Efficiency</b>				
Ratio of employees to facilities managed	All	12.7:1	12.8:1	12.6:1
Ratio of fingerlings produced to hatchery employees	CF, IF	646,138:1	535,644:1	609,682:1
<b>Infrastructure</b>				
Percent of maintenance needs met	SP	63.4%	79.3%	99.6%
Percent of major repair needs met <sup>3</sup>	INF	2.27%	2.39%	51.0%
<b>Direct Service</b>				
Percentage of department's direct service expenditures to total expenditures	AR	90.5%	92.5%	93.9%

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

2 FY2000 figure reflects increased staff focus on reducing double-counting and improving accuracy of the count of state park visitors.

3 Change in method of calculation between 1999 and 2000. In FY99 this measure was calculated based on estimated needs of close to \$232 million. In FY2000, the calculation was based on identified needs of roughly \$46 million.

Accountability Measures	Responsible Division	FY98	FY99	FY00
<b>Public Access</b>				
Number of WMAs available for wildlife viewing and other non-hunting forms of outdoor recreation				
	WL	50	50	50
Acres of public hunting land provided (including state parks)				
	WL, SP	1,420,599	1,393,780	1,388,198
Annual percentage change in public hunting days provided				
	WL	+5.8%	-1.6%	+6.0
Number of state parks open to public hunting				
	WL, SP	39	38	38
Number of facilities managed that provide recreational opportunities or service to the public <sup>4</sup>				
	All	232	231	235
<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	10.6%	9.9%	6.6%
<b>Department Operating Self Sufficiency:<sup>6</sup></b>				
Level 1 - Revenues as a percent of all direct operating costs				
	AR	83.99%	81.78%	74.3%
Level 2 - Revenues as a percent of all direct and indirect operating costs (HR, EO, and most of AR, excluding employee benefits)				
	AR	75.25%	74.71%	68.1%
Level 3 - Revenues as a percent of all direct and indirect operating costs, including all associated employee benefits				
	AR	65.36%	64.44%	58.9%
<b>Outreach</b>				
Estimated number of outreach programs and events held				
	All	26,099	30,013	32,483
Estimated number of Texans reached by programs and events				
	All	1,639,668	1,790,649	2,355,026

4 FY2000 count includes Parrie Haynes Youth Conservation Camp, North Texas Education Center, Sea Center Texas, and GCCA/CPL Marine Development Center.

5 Based on a 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.

6 Change in measure names compared to previous reports, but no change in information reported.



Accountability Measures	Responsible Division	FY98	FY99	FY00
<b>State Parks and Public Lands<sup>7</sup></b>				
State park reservations	SP	252,217	261,798	258,755
Texas Conservation Passports sold	AR	46,445	47,831	49,445
Volunteer hours in state parks (including inmate labor)	SP	696,047	742,360	836,287
New state parks opened	SP	0	0	0
State park acreage	SP	661,466	616,859	587,216
Wildlife management acreage (owned)	WL	285,304	294,344	303,492
Wildlife management acreage (leased)	WL	472,325	472,107	453,837
Number of acres in the department's Public Lands System per 1,000 Texans <sup>8</sup>	AR, WL, SP, IF, CF	49.3	47.9	43.9
Hours of criminal justice labor (state parks)	SP, INF	249,808	255,576	259,298
Hours of criminal justice labor (WMAs)	WL, INF	64,083	63,487	43,037
<b>Community Outreach</b>				
Fish and wildlife events held for targeted user groups	IF, CF, WL, LE, ED	4,263	3,607	4,268
Local park grants awarded	SP	\$15,900,000	\$16,600,000	\$16,500,000
Boat ramp grants awarded	SP	\$1,500,000	\$1,030,000	\$1,200,000
Students in hunter education	ED	31,916	33,924	34,399
Students in boater education	ED	15,079	7,919	9,006
Magazine subscribers	C	143,000	145,000	155,964
Number of TV show viewers	C	284,000	284,000	215,000
<b>Facilities Managed</b>				
Field offices managed	All	61	61	62
Hatcheries managed	CF, IF	8	8	8
WMAs managed	WL	50	50	50
State parks managed	SP	123	122	122

7 Changes in Acreages are due to changes in classification of lands and improved accuracy of numbers reported.

8 Calculation is based on all acreage owned by the agency, including WMAs, Parks, Historic Sites, Hatcheries, and other facilities. The calculation excludes leased WMA acreage.

<b>Accountability Measures</b>	<b>Responsible Division</b>	<b>FY98</b>	<b>FY99</b>	<b>FY00</b>
<b>Hunting, Fishing and Boating</b>				
Resident hunting-type licenses <sup>9</sup>	AR, LE	466,969	461,545	457,073
Non-resident hunting-type licenses	AR, LE	53,487	54,417	59,185
Hunting stamps	AR, LE	199,480	184,221	176,042
Resident fishing-type licenses <sup>9</sup>	AR, LE	1,040,732	1,066,594	1,050,431
Non-resident fishing-type licenses	AR, LE	103,384	107,379	103,387
Fishing stamps	AR, LE	510,027	517,214	529,792
Combination hunting/fishing-type licenses	AR, LE	485,801	493,378	498,847
Annual boat registrations	AR, LE	304,688	305,432	311,506
Public hunts on department lands, leases	WL	5,675	5,971	6,273
<b>Fish and Wildlife</b>				
Deer harvested	WL	371,332	392,573	424,815
Turkeys harvested	WL	70,369	57,856	53,847
Mourning doves harvested	WL	4,314,415	4,555,264	4,483,585
Ducks harvested	WL	1,207,998	1,440,588	1,149,117
Geese harvested	WL	266,364	276,444	500,207
<b>Law Enforcement</b>				
Vehicle miles patrolled by game wardens	LE	10,820,000	10,800,000	10,700,000
Boat hours patrolled by game wardens	LE	129,989	124,521	119,135
Arrests (game and fish)	LE	21,229	20,693	21,344
Arrests (water safety)	LE	11,399	10,629	12,125
Field contacts by game wardens	LE	1,580,892	1,547,444	1,516,303
<b>Resource Protection</b>				
Environmental permit/document reviews	RP, WL	1,791	1,418	1,837
Fish kills and pollution complaints investigated	RP	290	323	313

9 Numbers reported do not include combination hunting/fishing licenses.



## Autumn

a SHARED HARVEST of HARD WORK

### In the Hunt

Some of the best hunting in Texas awaited the 18 winners of this past year's Big Time Texas Hunts (BTTH) drawing. But public hunting and wildlife management programs in Texas were the big winners in this unique Parks and Wildlife promotion.

BTTH creates new funding for wildlife management and public hunting in Texas through drawings for outstanding hunting packages. The hunt packages include the Grand Slam, a once-in-a-lifetime package containing four separate hunts for desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope, and mule deer; the Texas Exotic Safari; and three new categories: the Texas Whitetail Bonanza, the Texas Waterfowl Adventure, and the Texas Big Time Bird Hunt.

Parks and Wildlife relied on a targeted direct-mail campaign to more than 250,000 hunters and previous Grand Slam buyers to increase sales. Direct-mail respondents accounted for 90 percent of all the entries purchased.



"We had a tremendous response this year," said Gary Graham, director of wildlife. "We've generated almost half a million dollars for wildlife management and public hunting programs that benefit all hunters in Texas, and at the same time are providing truly spectacular hunting opportunities for the winners."



## Lone Star Legend

---

### Education

#### Partnerships and Volunteers

Much of the work of Parks and Wildlife is enhanced by the contributions of time and work by thousands of volunteers around the state. Volunteer activities range from working with Parks and Wildlife programs and activities to dedicating time to specific parks or other Parks and Wildlife sites.

In addition to volunteering their time, citizens across Texas have joined together to form non-profit support organizations for more than half of the state parks as well as the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center and Sea Center Texas. These groups conduct fundraising activities and serve as important links with local communities, allowing those who may not be able to contribute time to support these sites in other ways.

**Parks and Wildlife estimates that last year volunteers completed 450,000 hours of work valued at \$3.7 million. During the year volunteers:**

- Certified 34,000 students in hunter education, 9,000 students in boater education, and 7,000 students in aquatic education courses, racking up more than 73,000 hours of instruction.
- Trained 2,000 Project WILD teachers and 600 Aquatic WILD teachers.
- Spent more than 10,000 hours conducting wildlife surveys, cave surveys, and research at wildlife management areas.
- Devoted 300,000 hours at state parks to visitor services, trail work, interpretive tours, and general upkeep.
- Spent another 25,000 hours at state parks as living history re-enactors at historic sites.



#### James and Velma Parker

Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

James and Velma Parker have been involved with Parks and Wildlife programs for about 30 years and are active volunteers for the mandatory boater and hunter education programs, the aquatic education program and the statewide angler education program. Their leadership and persistence has resulted in the teaching of 17 hunter education courses, educating 539 students in 1999.

---

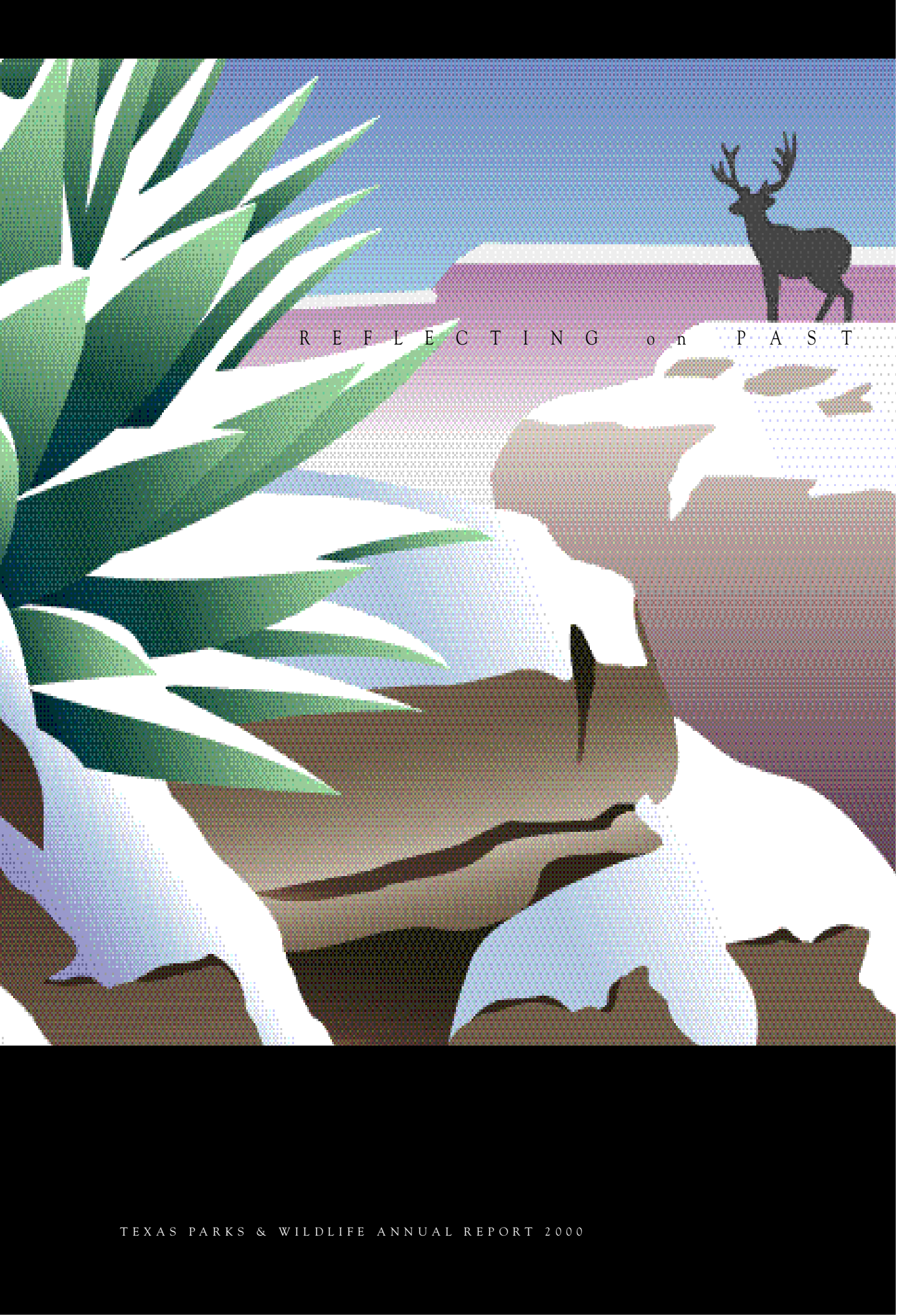
### Youth



#### Richard Esquivel

Texas Youth  
Hunting Association

Richard Esquivel has dedicated hundreds of hours to the Texas Youth Hunting Association and served as an assistant huntmaster and youth leader on many youth hunts. During his time with TYHA, Richard devised and successfully implemented a team-hunting concept, assisted with the hunter education phase of youth hunts and taught firearm safety and marksmanship skills.



R E F L E C T I N G o n P A S T

# Winter

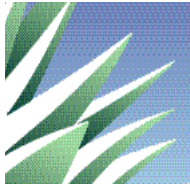
P E R F O R M A N C E   a n d   F U T U R E   N E E D S

*Contemplating the past year's work, Parks and Wildlife division directors, while upbeat about what the Department was able to accomplish, all acknowledge that their people and their resources were often stretched to the limit. And they observe, too, that the state's natural resources are often stretched to the limit as well.*

As fast as staff can stock lakes and streams and bays and inlets with fingerlings produced by their hatcheries, an ever increasing number of anglers, sport and commercial, chase a limited supply of fish. As effectively as they encourage landowners to manage their land for the benefit of native plants and animals, other stretches of land are bought for subdivision and development, and other groups of plants and animals come under pressure.

With the results of the Texas Tech study beginning to come in, it was perhaps an even more daunting prospect to contemplate what it will take in the future to deal with the needs and pressures of an ever-growing population — a population that is in jeopardy of losing its traditional connections to the land, to nature, and to rural life.

Texas Parks and Wildlife, along with its governmental and nongovernmental partners, will have to provide the ways and means for an increasingly urban population to have easy access to the outdoors and to provide opportunities and inducements for that population to learn about nature and the outdoors. They will have to find ways to connect to an increasingly diverse population, to build the relevance of their historical and cultural resources for people who don't always find their own histories and ethnic identities adequately reflected in state historical sites.



# Winter

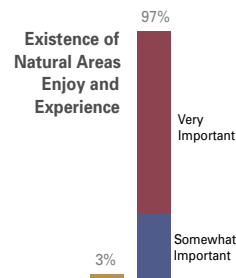
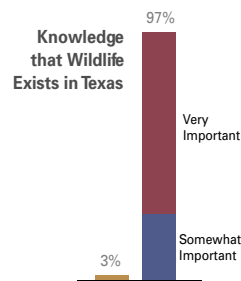
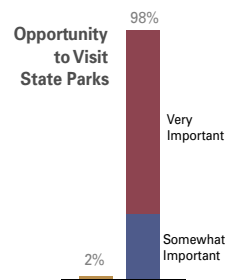
REFLECTING on PAST PERFORMANCE and FUTURE NEEDS

## What Texans Think

According to the results of the public opinion study conducted for Texas Tech by Responsive Management:

- Ninety-eight percent of those polled felt it was either very important (72%) or somewhat important (26%) that people have the opportunity to visit state parks in Texas.
- Ninety-seven percent said that it was either very important (80%) or somewhat important (17%) to know that wildlife exists in Texas.
- Ninety-seven percent stated it was either very important (79%) or somewhat important (18%) that natural areas exist in Texas for enjoying and experiencing nature.

Those findings made it clear that Texans' love of the land is not just a myth, but a strongly imbedded value held by a great majority of Texans. Just as strongly entrenched in Texans' list of values is a deep appreciation of nature and wildlife and of the historical sites that embody Texas' past. The people of Texas expect these resources to be protected, and they are eager to have the state support that protection through a variety of means.



### What the Experts Say

The second phase of the Texas Tech study demonstrated just what a challenge it's going to be in the coming years to provide Texans what they want in the way of outdoor recreation opportunities and in the protection of the state's natural and cultural resources.

According to experts consulted during a Professional Needs Assessment Conference and from other research into national and state standards conducted by the firm Loomis Austin, Texas faces mounting conservation and recreation needs. By those measures, if the state takes no action to increase its protected lands, it will fall far behind standard national goals of recreation lands and natural areas by the year 2030, when its population is expected to double.

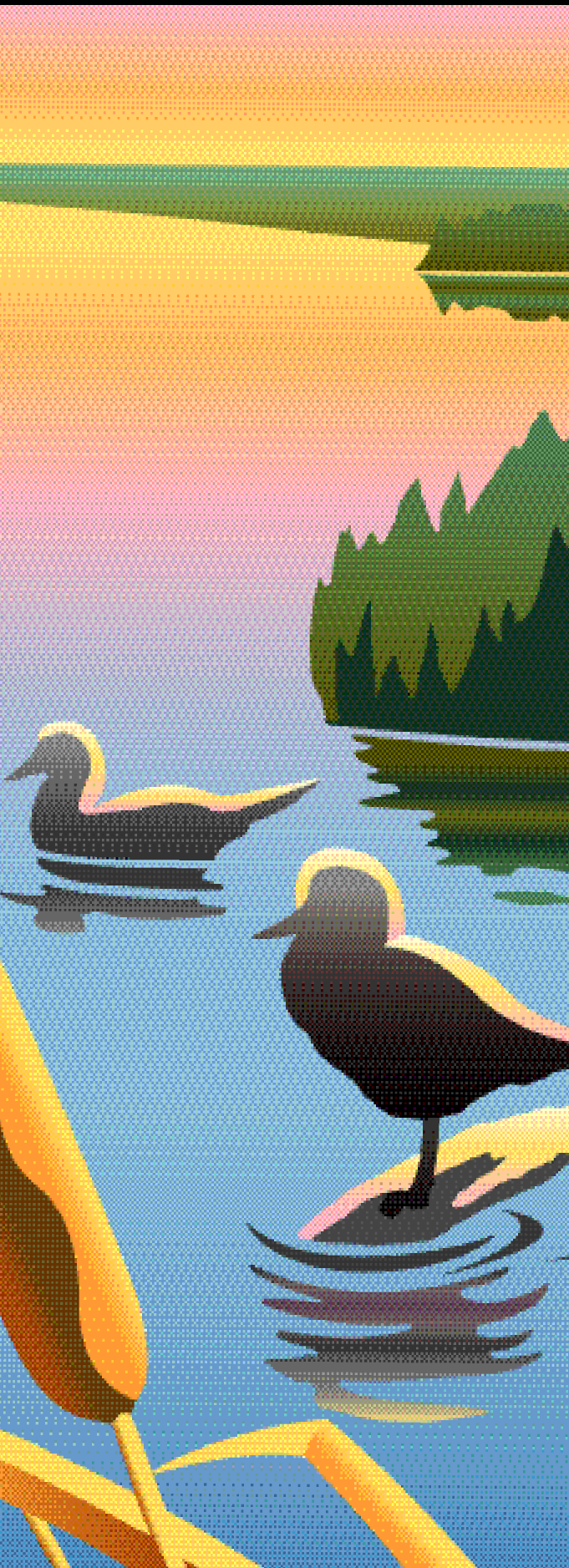


“We envision a future for Texas in which conservation not only keeps pace with the growth of our economy and population, but allows us to avoid potential problems. As we grow and prosper, our population will also become more diverse and less connected to the land. And so we must ensure that all of our citizens not only have opportunities to enjoy our natural and cultural resources, but actually have a stake in maintaining and improving them.”

– *Taking Care of Texas: A Report from the Governor’s Task Force on Conservation*







# Seasons to Come

*If this past year was a time of reckoning, the years to come will bring a time of decision, of determining the future of conservation in Texas.*

“I think we’re at a very important point in time for decision making, for setting directions for the future,” says Executive Director Andrew Sansom. “We have to think at least twenty to thirty years ahead, looking at where we are now and where we’ll need to be in the future. If we don’t have more parks and other outdoor recreation opportunities to accommodate our growing population, we’re not going to be even close to providing people with what they want and expect and what they’ve said they’re willing to pay for.”

*The future of the state’s remarkable natural heritage hangs in the balance.*

# About this Report

This is the Annual Report of Texas Parks and Wildlife for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2000 [FY2000]. 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.

## Contributors

**Communications Division Director**  
Lydia Saldaña

**Creative Direction and Design**  
Tim Peterson

**Writer and Editor**  
Carol Flake Chapman

**Illustration**  
Rob Fleming  
Clemente Guzman III  
Gilbert Medina

**Photography**  
Earl Nottingham

**Proofreader**  
Carol Otto

**Printing Coordination**  
Jeannie Swinton

**Printed By**  
Capital Printing Company

## Staff Contacts

**Administrative Resources:** Suzy Whittenton,  
Julie Horsley

**Coastal Fisheries:** Hal Osburn

**Communications:** Lydia Saldaña, Marian Edwards,  
Darcy Hamburg

**Executive Office:** Bob Cook, Gene McCarty,  
Emily Armitano, Michelle Klaus

**Human Resources:** Annette Dominguez

**Infrastructure:** Scott Boruff, Shana Pokorny,  
Steve Whiston, Karen Marshall

**Inland Fisheries:** Phil Durocher

**Law Enforcement:** James Robertson

**Resource Protection:** Larry McKinney

**State Parks:** Walt Dabney, Bill Dolman, Laura David

**Wildlife:** Gary Graham, Kirby Brown, Shirley Jones



4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, Texas 78744  
512-389-4800  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)