



23rd Annual Conference

Making Restoration Work in Texas

November 9-11, 2018

San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio, Texas

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9th
Friday Lunch & Learn: Mission Reach Restoration
&
Food Truck Social at San Antonio River Authority Headquarters (SARA)

11:30 am	Arrival at the Mission Reach Operations Center (Directions Here)
12:00 pm	Mission Reach Lunch & Learn (box lunches and drinks provided)
1:00 – 4:30	SARA Restoration Workday: come prepared to actively participate in restoration activities: field clothes, closed-toe shoes, gloves and water bottle; those who prefer to observe are encouraged to do so.
6:00 – 7:00	Student & Young Professionals' Roundtable, SARA (100 E. Guenther St.) Check-in Table Open
6:30 – 8:30	Food Truck Social, SARA (100 E. Guenther St.) Check-in Table Open
After Social	Informal Mixer at Low Country (318 Martinez Street, San Antonio, TX 78205) (lowcountrysa.com)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH
Welcome & Keynote Address
San Antonio River Authority Headquarters (SARA) - 100 E. Guenther St.
Board Room

7:00	Check-In and Breakfast at SARA (100 E. Guenther St.)
8:00	Welcome and Introduction Dr. Kelly Lyons, TXSER Board President & Suzanne Scott, General Manager of SARA
8:30	Keynote Address <i>Relevance of the old-growth grassland concept to ecological restoration</i> Dr. Joseph Veldman, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University, College Station
9:30	Morning Break

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH
Morning Concurrent Session - [View Abstracts Here](#)
SARA Salado Room & Board Room

	Salado Room	Board Room
Moderators	Michelle Villafranca, Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge	Forrest Smith, Texas A&M Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute
10:00	<i>Evaluation and Development of Native Seed Sources for West Texas</i> Presenter: C. Shackelford, Texas A&M University Kingsville - Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute	<i>Black-capped vireo in adjacent arid and mesic communities: population and habitat change over 15 years</i> Presenter: Jacqueline Ferrato, The Nature Conservancy
10:20	<i>*Evaluations of tea bag index (TBI) in predicting decomposition rates in black mangrove (Avicennia germinans) sediment</i> Presenter: M. Partain, Texas A&M - Corpus Christi	<i>Mesquite Savanna-Texas Wintergrass Complex: Best Management Practices for Conversion to Native Warm Season Grasses</i> Presenter: Darrell Murray, Tarleton State University
10:40	<i>SARA Overview Q&A - Mission Reach Restoration/Low Impact Development Features</i> Presenter: Kevin Pride, San Antonio River Authority	<i>Comparison of Seasonal Prescribed Burning effects on Forage Production and Composition of Gulf Cordgrass Communities</i> Presenter: J.S. Avila Sanchez, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute
11:00	<i>*Facilitative interaction between Batis maritima and Avicennia germinans seedlings: a look at microenvironmental parameters and implications for mangrove restoration</i> Presenter: Javier Navarro, University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley	<i>Hurricane-induced flooding has minimal effects on east Texas forests</i> Presenter: Charlotte Reemts, The Nature Conservancy
11:20	<i>An invasive ungulate may restrain mangrove range expansion on the south Texas coast</i> Presenter: Alejandro Fierro, University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley	<i>Quail Habitat Restoration in Areas Dominated by Non-Native Grass</i> Presenter: Ellart "Dutch" Vreugdenhil, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute
11:40	<i>*The use of prescribed fire, herbicide application, and native plants to restore bottomland Blackland Prairie in constructed wetlands</i> Presenter: C.A. Sutton, Texas A&M - Commerce	<i>Restoration of Native Submersed Aquatic Macrophytes for an Endangered Fish Species: Results After Five Years</i> Presenter: Casey Williams, BIO-WEST Inc.

* considered for student oral presentation award

<p>12:00 – 1:20 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH TXSER Annual Business Meeting Buffet Lunch <i>Grab your lunch and join us to discuss the past, present and future of TXSER - all interested parties are welcome</i> Board Room</p>
<p>12:15 - 1:15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TXSER 2018 Annual Business Meeting Agenda</p> <p>Call to Order - Matt McCaw, Secretary Attendance Sheet Distributed Adopt Today's Agenda Unfinished Business New Business: TXSER Executive Board and Regional Representatives Introductions - Matt McCaw 2018 Year in Review and Looking Forward - Dr. Kelly Lyons, President Vision and Mission Statements, Matt McCaw Revised Bylaws Overview and Vote, Matt McCaw Committee Chair and Liaison Briefs (Introductions by Matt McCaw):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Financial Chair - Colin Shackelford, Treasurer ● Conference Chair - Kate Crosthwaite, Vice President ● Communications Chair - Charlotte Reemts, Regional Representative and Past President ● Legislation & Policy Chair - Matt McCaw ● Membership Chair - Dr. Bill Forbes, Regional Representative ● Mexico Liaison - Dr. Alejandro Fierro-Cabo, Regional Representative ● Student Liaison - Ingrid Karklins, Regional Representative - ● SER Student Groups - Texas A&M University and University of North Texas <p>Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner Program - Ingrid Karklins Board Roles, Nominations, and Vote - Matt McCaw Member Input and Feedback Request - Matt McCaw Date and Place of Next Meeting - 2019 Conference - Dr. Kelly Lyons Adjournment - Matt McCaw</p>

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH
Afternoon Concurrent Sessions - [View Abstracts Here](#)
SARA Salado Room & Board Room

	Salado Room	Board Room
Moderators	Alejandro Fierro, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	Forrest Smith, Texas A&M Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute
1:30	<i>The art and science of King Ranch bluestem restoration</i> Presenter: David Davidson, Wild Mercury Preserve	<i>Healthy Watershed Approach To Managing Streams in a Dynamic World for Resistance, Resiliency and Restoration: Role of Science, Stakeholders, Education and Partnerships</i> Presenter: Thomas Arsuffi, Texas Tech - Junction Llano River Field Station
1:50	<i>*Exploring allelopathy of native woody species as potential approach for thorn forest restoration: a test on inhibition of germination and emergence</i> Presenter: Jennifer Baez, University of Texas - Rio Grande	<i>Lessons learned from a Section 203 feasibility study</i> Presenter: Jamie Childers, TetraTech
2:10	<i>Giant Ragweed is the Answer</i> Presenter: Lee Marlowe, San Antonio River Authority	<i>Establishing a Native Prairie Vegetation Bioswale to Assess Runoff Reduction</i> Presenter: Stephen Benigno, Harris County Flood Control District
2:30	<i>*Mycorestoration of a Ligustrum japonicum-invaded urban park in Austin, Texas</i> Presenter: C.M. deLeon, St. Edward's University	<i>Savannah Plant Community Dynamics of the Eastern Edwards Plateau</i> Presenter: Devin Grobert, Austin Water
2:50	Afternoon Break	
3:10	<i>*King Ranch bluestem and fire: impacts and control of an invasive grass</i> Presenter: Carolyn Whiting, University of Texas - Austin	<i>What's wrong with novel ecosystems really?</i> Presenter: Ingrid Karklins, Environmental Survey Consulting
3:30	<i>Soil microbe composition can facilitate Sideoats Grama (Bouteloua curtipendula) establishment when growing in competition with Bermuda grass (Cynodon dactylon)</i> Presenter: J. Rodolfo Valdez Barillas, Texas A&M - San Antonio	<i>Ecological Restoration in an Urban Park Context: Bringing Habitat to Memorial Park</i> Presenter: Daniel Walton, Memorial Park Conservancy
3:50	<i>*Variation in Growth of KR (Bothriochloa ischaemum) and Little (Schizachyrium scoparium) Bluestem in the Presence and Absence of Field-Collected Fungal Endophytes</i> Presenter: Olivia Roybal, Trinity University	<i>Conservation of Private Lands with High Ecological Values for Butterfly Diversity in Hong Kong, China</i> Presenter: Siu Tai Tsim, Trinity University

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH
Poster Session 4:10 – 5:00 pm
[View Poster Abstracts Here](#)
SARA Lobby

1.	<i>Can prairie restoration make your drinking water cleaner?</i> Presenter: Charlotte Reemts, The Nature Conservancy
2.	<i>*Oyster Reef Restoration: A Living Shoreline Approach For Sustainable Shorelines</i> Presenter: Foy H Moody High School
3.	<i>Successful dune restoration using foundation species: case study of South Padre Island, Texas</i> Presenter: Alejandro Fierro, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
4.	<i>*Microbial analysis in plant-soil interaction between sideoats grama and Bermuda grass</i> Presenter: M. Narvaez, Texas A&M - San Antonio
5.	<i>*The influence of belowground biotic symbionts and aboveground herbivory on plant regrowth rates, recovery, and reproductive fitness</i> Presenter: H. Locke, University of Houston
6.	<i>*Fitness response of <i>Asclepias asperula</i>, antelope horns milkweed, with the inoculation of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi</i> Presenter: R. Woodard, St. Edward's University
7.	<i>*Response of insect diversity to prairie restoration at Commons Ford Metropark in Austin, TX</i> Presenter: A. Brom, St. Edward's University
8.	<i>*Changes in plant and animal diversity and movement in response to shaded fuel break fire mitigation</i> Presenter: J. Brooks, St. Edward's University
9.	<i>*Exploring Effects of an Urban Prairie Restoration Project on Public Engagement</i> Presenter: A. Carranza, St. Edward's University
10.	<i>*Changes in forb communities following prescribed fires</i> Presenter: W. Behr, University of Texas - Austin
11.	<i>Solarization - a tool for soil restoration</i> Presenter: D. Davidson, Wild Mercury Preserve
12.	<i>*Biogeography and Citizen-Inclusive Restoration in an Urban East Texas Forest Preserve</i> Presenter: M. Andrews, Stephen F. Austin University
13.	<i>*Vegetation Survey of North Central TX Urban Area Begins Long-term Documentation of Land Use Impacts on Biodiversity</i> Presenter: K. Carroll, Trinity University
14.	<i>*Stepping Stones for Conservation: Dragonfly Diversity in Urban Ponds</i> Presenter: G. Graham, University of North Texas
15.	<i>*An assessment of the morphometric techniques used to differentiate <i>Empidonax</i> flycatchers</i> Presenter: K. Ceynar, University of North Texas
16.	<i>*Effects of single-season, high-stocking rate, short-duration grazing on Texas wintergrass (<i>Nassella leucotricha</i>)</i> Presenter: K. Hood, Tarleton State University
17.	<i>Accelerating Growth of Ocelot Thornscrub Habitat</i> Presenter: J. Cortez, Texas A&M - Kingsville
18.	<i>The Mission Reach Avian Study – Urban Ecosystem Restoration</i> Presenter: K. Pride, San Antonio River Authority

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH
Awards Banquet at Freetail Brewery
2000 S Presa St, San Antonio, TX 78210 (freetailbrewing.com)

**7:00 –
9:00 pm**

AWARDS BANQUET

Welcome SER Student Associations – Texas A&M University and University of North Texas

Graduate & Undergraduate Presentation Awards

Excellence in Ecological Restoration Award

2018 Team Recipient

City of Austin Water Quality Protection Lands

Raffle Results

**After
Banquet**

Informal Mixer at Dorcol Spirits at 1902 South Flores, San Antonio, TX, 78204 (dorcolspirits.com)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH
Notorious Ecological Restoration Discussion (n)ERD: *On the Road*
SARA ([100 E. Guenther St.](#)) Board Room

8:30 am **Coffee and Breakfast**

Passive and Active Recovery after Disturbance

**9:00 –
11:30 am**

Join us for this year's Sunday morning (n)ERD: OTR (Notorious Ecological Restoration Discussions: *On The Road*) when we will discuss the journal article ***Restoration and Repair of Earth's Damaged Ecosystems***.

The discussion will begin with a focus on the methods and results of the article. We will then break into smaller groups organized by ecosystem type – grassland, forest, freshwater, and marine – to discuss the article's implications for participants' practice or field of study. Participants will share examples of success and failure of passive and active restoration strategies from their particular ecosystem. Finally, each group will provide the other participants with lessons learned from their discussion.

Download and read the article in advance:

Jones, Holly P., et al. 2018. Restoration and repair of Earth's damaged ecosystems. Proc. R. Soc. B 285

Abstract: Given that few ecosystems on the Earth have been unaffected by humans, restoring them holds great promise for stemming the biodiversity crisis and ensuring ecosystem services are provided to humanity. Nonetheless, few studies have documented the recovery of ecosystems globally or the rates at which ecosystems recover. Even fewer have addressed the added benefit of actively restoring ecosystems versus allowing them to recover without human intervention following the cessation of a disturbance. Our metaanalysis of 400 studies worldwide that document recovery from large-scale disturbances, such as oil spills, agriculture and logging, suggests that though ecosystems are progressing towards recovery following disturbances, they rarely recover completely. This result reinforces conservation of intact ecosystems as a key strategy for protecting biodiversity. Recovery rates slowed down with time since the disturbance ended, suggesting that the final stages of recovery are the most challenging to achieve. Active restoration did not result in faster or more complete recovery than simply ending the disturbances ecosystems face. Our results on the added benefit of restoration must be interpreted cautiously, because few studies directly compared different restoration actions in the same location after the same disturbance. The lack of consistent value added of active restoration following disturbance suggests that passive recovery should be considered as a first option; if recovery is slow, then active restoration actions should be better tailored to overcome specific obstacles to recovery and achieve restoration goals. We call for a more strategic investment of limited restoration resources into innovative collaborative efforts between scientists, local communities and practitioners to develop restoration techniques that are ecologically, economically and socially viable.

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