



Turkey in the Brush - Courtesy King Ranch, Inc., Kingsville, Texas



WITTE MUSEUM
Conference On Texas:
Changing Landscapes



May 15 – 17, 2022

Witnessing Changing Landscapes

Welcome to the **2022 Conference on Texas: Changing Landscapes** at the Witte Museum. The 5th annual conference at the Witte examines and explores Texas through environmental conservation, land stewardship and building. Given that the Witte is where Nature, Science and Culture Meet, this conference is especially invigorating to future plans of the Witte to “shape the future of Texas.”

The conference kicks off with the **11th annual Trailblazers Luncheon** in conjunction with Texas Monthly honoring leadership in the state. This year’s honorees are Helen K. Groves and the Trustees of the Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation. The Kleberg family are renowned for their generational impact on land stewardship practices and innovations. We are proud to have the Robert J. and Helen C. Kleberg name on the South Texas Heritage Center, which was founded in 2012, and this award not only acknowledges their legacy and generosity, but also the 10th Anniversary of the Center.

As inspiration from the Kleberg legacy of environmental innovation and conservation, the Witte will be soon renovating the main exhibition in the South Texas Heritage Center to be called *From Tejas to Texas*, a story emblematic of their own family history, but also the story of Texas, through the lens of land, sky and water.

As context for Texas conservation, keynote speaker, Joni Carswell, Executive Director, Texan by Nature, will enumerate conservation successes and movements throughout the state. We are grateful to Laura Bush, founder of Texan By Nature and former First Lady, for sending well wishes to conference attendees. Texan By Nature is well known for bringing conservation and industry together, identifying conservation goals that are achievable.

As context for conservation through building, and as the opening conversation, we are so pleased to hear from innovative leader and CEO of CreditHuman, Steve Hennigan, who will discuss the “Future of the Earth: Climate Ready Buildings,” standing on his success to create sustainable home and business centers.

The conference ranges from wildlife to waterways, land stewardship to solar grids and ends with esteemed naturalist David Smidley addressing a century of change in Texas natural history.

To underscore the beauty of land, sky and water in Texas, the Witte is debuting the work of James Ferdinand McCan during the conference, an artist who



Mossy Oaks and Bluebonnets - Courtesy Carol Griffith

Painted landscapes, the people, wildlife, and livestock in Texas between 1895 and 1925. Although McCan painted alongside Julian Onderdonk and Jose Arpa, among others, his work is largely in private homes, including the King Ranch, and not part of museum collections. Witte Director of Humanities, Mary Margaret McAllen, curated the exhibition and wrote an accompanying catalog, and will be offering a talk and tour along with Caroline (Cina) Forgason of the Kleberg family who brought the paintings of McCan to our attention. We are delighted to share the private works by James Ferdinand McCan. His paintings serve as a visual narrative of how South Texans lived and worked over time on vast ranches and in small towns, ensconced in a wild and vivid land.

The Witte Museum is grateful for the support of the Elizabeth Huth Coates Charitable Foundation, which has supported this conference from its inception. We are especially grateful to the Mays Family Foundation for their support of this year’s Texas Trailblazers Luncheon, and to Texas Monthly for their participation in the luncheon and the conference. Many thanks also to the Tex Elliott Family, Veltri and Velasquez Wealth Management of Wells Fargo Advisors and Wells Fargo, the East Foundation, Jefferson Bank, Bonnie and John Korbell, and Luther King Capital Management.

Sincerely,

Marise McDermott
President and CEO, Witte Museum



WITTE MUSEUM Conference On Texas: *Changing Landscapes*

Featuring: Texas Trailblazers Luncheon
May 15 – 17, 2022

DAY 1 – MAY 15

1- 4 p.m.

Draw Closer to Nature: Plein Air Painting and Sketching Workshop

Instruction provided by Vikki Fields and the San Antonio Art League

Mays Family Center Porch

DAY 2 – MAY 16

11:30 a.m.

Check in and Registration – Feik Family Pavilion

Continues all day Monday and Tuesday – HEB Lantern

12:00 p.m.

Texas Trailblazers Luncheon

Presented by the Mays Family Foundation
in partnership with Texas Monthly



Honoring:

The Trustees of the Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation

Helen K. Groves, Helen C. Alexander, Emory A. Hamilton, John D. Alexander, Jr., Caroline A. Forgason, Henrietta K. Alexander, and Dorothy A. Matz

12:15 p.m.

The Witte: Witnessing Changing Landscapes

Marise McDermott, President and CEO, Witte Museum

12:25 p.m.

Presentation of Award Honoring

12:40 p.m.

Texan By Nature

Joni Carswell, CEO and President
with special message from Laura Bush, founder and former First Lady

Catering by the RK Group

Conference On Texas

Session 1

2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Future of the Earth: Climate Ready Buildings

Steve Hennigan, CEO, CreditHuman

A conversation with Don McDonald, Architect, and James Grizzard, Harvest Rain

Mays Family Center

Session 2

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Panel A

New Land Stewards: The Next Generation

Speaker: Jenny Sanders and Roel López, Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute

Moderator: Neal Wilkins, East Foundation

Panel B

Waterways, the Gulf, and Migration

Speakers: Romey Swanson, Audubon Texas and Larry McKinney, Harte Research Institute

Moderator: Suzanne Scott, The Nature Conservancy

Session 3

4:45 – 5:30 p.m.

James Ferdinand McCan: Painting a Historical Portrait of Texas, 1885 - 1925

Speakers: M. M. McAllen and Cina Alexander Forgason

Prassel Auditorium

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Opening Reception and Book Signing for

J. FERDINAND M^CCAN

A TEXAS ARTIST REDISCOVERED

Valero Great Hall, Ewing-Halsell Hall, Russell Hill Rogers Texas Art Gallery, Laura and Sam Dawson Gallery

Catering by Page Barteau Catering

DAY 3 – MAY 17

9:00 a.m.

Coffee and Pastries

Sponsored by the East Foundation

Prassel Foyer

Session 4

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Panel A

The Ocelot – Mascot for Habitat Change

Speakers: Michael Tewes, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute and Neal Wilkins, East Foundation

Moderator: Helen Holdsworth, Witte Museum

Panel B

Inspiring Outdoor Adventure

Speakers: Josie Gutiérrez, Latino Outdoors and Leon McNeil, City Kids Adventures

Moderator: Heather Welder Russo, Witte Museum

Session 5

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

Panel A

Wild Focus: Twenty-Five Years of Texas Parks and Wildlife Photography

Speaker: Earl Nottingham, Photographer



Texas Rivers

Speaker: Wes Ferguson, Author

Moderator: Kathy Blackwell, Texas Monthly

Panel B

Solar Energy – Feeding the Grid

Speakers: Richard Estrada, Statewide Renewable and Robert Miggins, Big Sun Solar

Moderator: Dirk Elmendorf, r26d

Session 6

12:00 p.m.

Boxed Luncheon

Sponsored by Veltri and Velasquez Wealth Management of



Texas Natural History in the 21st Century

David Schmidly, Naturalist

Mays Family Center

Sunset on the Cliff – Courtesy of Dr. and Mrs. J. Marvin Smith III





WITTE MUSEUM Conference On Texas: Changing Landscapes

Biographies of Speakers and Abstracts of Presentations

Texas Trailblazers Award Luncheon

Honoring the Trustees of the Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation

Joni Carswell, CEO and President, Texan by Nature The Future of Conservation

The future of conservation, just like Texas's beautiful landscape and leadership role in industry, is ever evolving. With an eye toward the future, Texan by Nature exists to advance conservation and lead the evolution in bringing conservation and industry together. Acting as an accelerator for conservation and a strategic resource for industry, explores new models, focuses on conservation metrics, and demonstrates best in class collaborations with the goal of inspiring new partnership and driving conservation innovation and impact.



Texas is the perfect place for this collaborative conservation model. Texas has the world's 9th largest GDP, 29 million citizens, and 10 diverse ecoregions. Pairing these unique attributes with conservation knowledge and business leadership provides an opportunity to increase economic status while advancing sustainable usage of our natural resources. Texas is at a unique point in time to address these opportunities as well as their adjacent concerns. Home to seven of the 15 fastest growing cities in the U.S., Texas's population has increased over 48% in the last decade alone. With this mass urbanization, less than 1% of Texans are landowners and there's a diminished connection to nature and our natural resources. As Texas develops, it's critical that conservation and industry work together to create innovative spaces, practices, and leaders to care for our natural resources, prosperity, and health for generations to come.

Joni Carswell is the CEO and President of Texan by Nature where she leads the mission to advance conservation by bringing conservation and business together. Prior to Texan by Nature, Joni was the President and CEO of LivingTree. Joni also held leadership roles in planning and strategy at Polycom and Dell. As a top graduate of the Kellogg School of Management (Masters, Business Administration)

and Northwestern McCormick School of Engineering (Masters, Engineering Management), Joni is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma and served on the Advisory Board for the Kellogg Women's Business Association. Joni holds a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Texas A&M University.

Session 1

Future of the Earth: Climate Ready Buildings

A Conversation with Steve Hennigan, CEO of Credit Human; Don McDonald, Architect; and James Grizzard, Harvest Rain

Steve Hennigan is the President and CEO of Credit Human, a Federal Credit Union, where he is responsible for providing leadership and vision for a cooperatively-owned financial institution serving more than 200,000 households across the United States. In this role, Steve is focused on transforming the organization's values to enable it to fulfill its mission of helping people create and maintain financial slack. Hennigan joined Credit Human in September 1993 and since that time has served in a variety of roles across the organization. This included starting a new indirect lending division that built Credit Human into a national lender, as well as transforming Credit Human's \$2.0 billion, mature retail banking business in Texas. Steve served most recently as Chief Operating Officer before assuming his current role of President and CEO in 2012. Hennigan is a licensed Certified Public Accountant and has a BBA in Finance and Accounting from St. Mary's University in San Antonio. He has served as a Board Trustee of CPS Energy and on the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas' Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council. Steve is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Session 2 - Panel A

Waterways, the Gulf, and Migration

Larry McKinney will reveal how Texans have redefined nature on a Texas scale. McKinney has studied the Gulf of Mexico, and especially the Texas coast. The biggest driver of change started with how we have managed the state's water after the drought of the 1950s. That one momentous event began an ecological cascade of changes not seen before. So subtle, few are aware of it. Our bays and estuaries will never be the same. But like the rest of the state and Texans in general, our coast is resilient. It scored a B- on a 2019 report card evaluating the Gulf coast. The challenges before us from climate change and growing populations are daunting. Yet, McKinney remains optimistic, and he will explore why in this presentation. He will share some of the "treasures" he has witnessed and why they are worth saving. Many Texans that share this common vision and are stepping up to drive positive change. It is a Texas sized challenge, but when did that ever stop a Texan?

Larry McKinney, the son of a pioneering West Texas family made an easy transition from the open range around Coahoma and Big Spring to the rolling seas of the Gulf of Mexico, after securing a PhD in Marine Biology in 1976. Since then, he has led development of science-based conservation/management and research programs at Texas A&M University-Galveston, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Over his 50-year career as a researcher and resource manager, McKinney has secured some \$186 million in research and conservation funding and spent nearly seven and a half months underwater, completing over 8,000 dives. While the bulk of that time has been in the Gulf of Mexico, he has worked in the Arctic, Antarctic, Caribbean and even the Aral Sea, as well as, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. There is no Texas bay, estuary or lagoon untouched by McKinney's research or conservation efforts. McKinney has contributed many scientific and peer-reviewed articles, like his 2020 *Overview of the Gulf of Mexico*, for the Journal of Oceanography. McKinney was the first science director the Harte Research Institutes, one of the most impactful and well-known research centers in the Gulf of Mexico. The institute has grown from 37 staff and students with a \$2.9 million annual budget in 2008 to 154 staff and students and an annual budget of nearly \$27 million in 2020, including two international chairs – one in Cuba and one in Mexico. He launched international research projects in both Cuba and Mexico on fisheries development, biodiversity, and coral reefs. Through his leadership, HRI has become now one of the most impactful and well-known research institutes in the Gulf of Mexico.

Romey Swanson will explore the status of and challenges to Texas birds. Texas is a state of stark contrasts influenced by a dizzying array of elevational, meteorological, and geological gradients. All of these gradients support an assortment of ecosystems including sky islands and desert seas in the west, spring-fed rivers maintained by complex aquifer systems throughout central Texas, and an expansive islands and shorelines along the Gulf Coast. These ecosystems support one of the richest and most diverse assemblages of species within the US including endemic species found nowhere else in the world. Perhaps most illustrative of these points are the 650 species of birds documented within Texas, of which, approximately 500 regularly use Texas as part of their annual life cycle. However, we are not without conservation challenges. Texas supports 100 avian species of greatest conservation need including 15+ federally listed species. Sea level rise has already resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of acres of coastal marshes, rookery islands, and protective dunes. Additional stressors associated with climate change are considerable but, so too, are the direct impacts associated with rapidly growing renewable energy portfolios.

Romey Swanson is the Director of Conservation Strategy for Audubon Texas where he works with state, national, and international partners to identify and advance important conservation strategies for the benefit of birds, landscapes, and the communities that depend on them. Romey is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and immediate Past President of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society - Texas' largest professional society of wildlife managers and researchers. He is active within the Texas Land Trust Community and was appointed to the Texas Farm and Ranch

Lands Conservation Council by Governor Abbott during 2021. He received a Master's Degree from Texas State University studying Wildlife Ecology. Romey lives in Austin and enjoys spending time with his family hunting, camping, and photographing wildlife.

Session 2 - Panel B

New Land Stewards: The Next Generation

Roel Lopez will delve into consequences of changes in land ownership and enterprise focus, and trends in working land fragmentation and conversion, which lead to consequences and impacts on goods and services. Changes in Texas rural working lands are driven by ownership patterns, as illustrated by the Texas Land Trends project.

Roel Lopez is Director of the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute and Department Head for the Department of Rangeland, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management at Texas A&M University. He has over 25 years of natural resource and land management experience with academia, federal and state agencies, and private industry. His research focuses on endangered and fragmented wildlife populations, sustainability of military lands, and rural land trends and demographics.

Jenny Sanders will present a stewardship typology framework, based on a 2004 Texas A&M study, which illuminates the dominant value systems found in the contemporary land steward community. Insight into the values that guide the motivations and decisions of private land stewards can lead to deeper relationships that result in greater synergy between practitioners, policy makers, and land stewards as they seek to work together for the greater good of land management and conservation in Texas.

Jenny Sanders is a project specialist for the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute in the Private Lands Stewardship Program. Jenny has worked in the private lands conservation realm throughout her career, managing multiple programs focused on providing outreach and support to landowners interested in conservation and restoration of native ecosystems. The daughter of a third-generation Texan and wildlife biologist, Jenny was raised on ranches in the Texas Hill Country, Trans Pecos, and Rolling Plains, and graduated in 2004 from Texas A&M University with degrees in Rangeland Ecology and Wildlife Management. Jenny now lives in the East Texas Pineywoods.

Session 3

James Ferdinand McCan: Painting a Historical Portrait of Texas, 1895 – 1925

Mary Margaret McAllen will address the recent rediscovery of the art of James Ferdinand McCan. McCan's paintings illustrate the people, landscape, wildlife, and livestock of Texas at the beginning of the 20th century. McCan, an Irish immigrant was popular with art enthusiasts in a rapidly changing Texas, but to date, his works remain in private homes. While his works were shown in the Witte Museum's inaugural exhibition in 1926, the exhibit and catalog captures McCan's first major solo exhibition. The catalog reveals his observations as he illustrated the beauty of adopted region just as Texas art began to surge in popularity. McCan saw Texas as though he was making a great discovery about the unique beauty of the terrain, people, and creatures great and small.

Mary Margaret McAllen, Director of Humanities at the Witte Museum, is the curator of the spring 2022 McCan art exhibition and author of the accompanying catalog. McAllen was raised on a storied South Texas ranch. Her previous three books including the award-winning and best-selling *I Would Rather Sleep in Texas* (2003); *A Brave Boy and a Good Soldier: John C. C. Hill and the Texas Expedition to Mier* (2006); and *Maximilian and Carlota: Europe's Last Empire in Mexico* (2014). She has appeared on the PBS series *History Detectives* and contributed to Henry Louis Gates's *Faces of America*. After earning her M.A. in history, she taught as an adjunct professor of history at the University of Texas at San Antonio and served as president of the Texas State Historical Association.

Session 4 - Panel A

The Ocelot – Mascot for Habitat Change

Michael Tewes will make a case for why private ranch lands are key to the future of ocelots in South Texas. While the exact numbers and distribution of ocelots remains undetermined, the known number of individuals is commonly estimated at 80-100. While there are some ocelots on the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, most of these secretive cats rely on the habitats found on large private ranches along the South Texas Coast. With such small numbers, and in isolated habitats, ocelots are at risk of genetic isolation. With most known ocelots concentrated in areas of low elevation along the coast, this species is also at risk from the impacts of a single hurricane. This presentation will include a discussion of the work of a group that is exploring the idea of what it would take to establish a new population of ocelots in South Texas, eventually contributing to recovery of a species many identify as iconic of the Tamaulipan thornscrub of deep South Texas.

Michael Tewes is a 6th generation Texan with early family arriving in East Texas during 1825. After growing up in the small town of Odem, just north of Corpus Christi, he received his B.S. and M.S. in Wildlife Science at Texas A&M University, and a Ph.D.

at the University of Idaho. Mike currently holds the Frank D. Yturria Endowed Chair in Wild Cat Studies and is Regents Professor at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute of Texas A&M University at Kingsville. Although he has studied 12 different cat species in Texas and elsewhere, his primary attention has been the endangered ocelot of South Texas.

Neal Wilkins is President and CEO of the East Foundation, where he is responsible for leading its mission of promoting land stewardship through ranching, science, and education. With Headquarters in San Antonio, the East Foundation owns and operates about 218,000 acres of South Texas ranchland where scientists and managers work together to address issues important to wildlife management, rangeland health, and ranch productivity. Neal holds a PhD in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Florida, a MS in Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University, and a BS in Forestry from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Session 4 - Panel B

Inspiring Outdoor Adventure

Josie Gutierrez will share how Latino Outdoors was founded, where it is now and how the organization continues to grow. She will share the mission and vision and more importantly, the need for Latino Outdoors, its outings, and the leaders and volunteers that make up the Texas chapter.

Josie Gutiérrez has had a lifelong dedication in celebrating the love of her heritage and deep roots in the Latino community. Josie has spent decades connecting to nature and loves nothing more than to share her love for the outdoors with her family, friends and community. On any given weekend you will likely find Josie *afuera*, learning and exploring. Born and raised in San Antonio, Josie has had a wonderful outdoor playground, the Texas Hill County. Openly sharing each step of her life's journey, her intention is to awaken the childlike wonderment in all of us. Josie just celebrated five years as the program coordinator for Latino Outdoors – Southwest. Her love for nature has no boundaries and with help from her amazing team of leaders and volunteers they will continue make a positive impact in the community.

Leon McNeil will analyze how City Kids Adventures is a program strategically designed to uncover and brighten a flame within every young person. This is unique among other programs, in that against discouragement, the goal is to relight the fire of hope every child is born with. Sponsors, parents, and participants help to change helplessness into helpfulness, creating a network of support and space to grow through outdoor adventures. Starting in the six grade, kids share experiences from camping, hunting, fishing, kayaking, and archery often on private and untouched land. They are also encouraged through planned excursions to tour law firms, doctor's clinics, construction companies, colleges, dairy farms, and other career centers. The expectation is that as they are a part of the whole, their lives will transform. The founding principle is to emphasize humanity and promote a community of support.

Leon McNeil was once told “if your environment never changes, what does it have to offer.” This question rattled his world when he finally got to see a different one. The experiences, people, problems, community, and norms of his surrounding population just never changed, until he did. Thus, he went to college, learned what change has to offer and made his wake in the new world. He met his wife, Leticia, and together founded City Kids Adventures – a program dedicated to inspiring the eyes of young folks through experiential education, striving to change minds through capturing hearts.

Session 5 - Panel A

Wild Focus: Twenty-five Years of Texas Parks and Wildlife Photography and Texas Rivers

Earl Nottingham's presentation could also be called "Wild Focus - 25 years of using the camera as a tool for conservation". The camera plays an important role in communicating the many facets of being a good steward of outdoor Texas. He will use images from his recent book Wild Focus, to illustrate the places, people and things that define conservation efforts of the state

Earl Nottingham is considered one of Texas' preeminent photographers. He attended the Art Institute of Atlanta and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Photography from East Texas State University. After operating as a freelance photographer for several years, he took over as chief photographer for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 1996, where he then served for 25 years, retiring in 2021. His assignments for TPWD and its magazine took him to every corner of the state, documenting its landscape, people and historical treasures. Based in Temple, Texas, Earl continues shooting professional assignments and teaching workshops.

Wes Ferguson will make a case for the Blanco River as the defining element of the Hill Country's most beautiful scenery. From its placid headwaters near Luckenbach to its many limestone ledges and secluded, gin-clear swimming holes, the Blanco River is unique in its beauty. But the Blanco also sits at the epicenter of rapid change between San Antonio and Austin, one of the nation's fastest-growing regions. For his book about the Blanco, author Wes Ferguson paddled, swam, waded and hiked the 87-mile river to explore its natural splendor, history, wildlife, danger and conflict, ultimately telling a story that resonates far beyond the banks of the Blanco and connects to all the free-flowing streams of Central Texas.

Wes Ferguson, East Texas native, is the author of nonfiction books about the Sabine and Blanco Rivers. A regular contributor and former staff member of both Texas Highways and Texas Monthly magazines, Ferguson was a finalist for a National Magazine Award in Feature Writing in 2020. He recently completed “Standoff,” a podcast on the 1974 Huntsville prison siege, and is currently working on a book about the Camino Real de los Tejas, the first trail across Texas.

Session 5 - Panel B

Solar Energy – Feeding the Grid

Robert Miggins will discuss why solar offers tremendous opportunities for Texas, the effects large solar farms have on Texas land and why solar sets Texas up for success for generations to come. Miggins will also cover the federal tax incentives and local rebates currently available to businesses and consumers for their investment in solar energy. Miggins asserts that the U.S. Energy Information Administration expects U.S. utility-scale solar generating capacity to grow by 21.5 GW in 2022. Most planned solar additions in 2022 will be in Texas (6.1 GW, or 28% of the national total), followed by California (4.0 GW).

Robert Miggins co-founded Big Sun Solar to be a part of the future of energy. He believes moving to more renewable energy is not just the right thing to do, but it creates opportunities, jobs and growth. Prior to founding Big Sun Solar, he spent 15 years in executive leadership roles at high growth web hosting and cloud computing companies - first at Rackspace as Vice President Sales and Product Development and then at Peer1 Hosting as Senior Vice President Business Development. He holds a BA in economics from Washington and Lee University and an MBA from the McCombs School of Business.

Richard Estrada will discuss how solar power as a renewable source lowers energy costs for rural Texas electric co-ops and municipal utility companies. The popularity of electric vehicles has led to improvements in battery storage along with charge control. Solar power both in businesses and homes can keep flowing, even if the power grid goes down. Statewide Renewable's solar arrays also work with the natural surroundings. Kidneywood trees and goldenrod plants, which flower at different times of the year, are planted on the perimeter of the array to provide food sources for honey bee colonies established within the enclosed area.

Richard Estrada started Statewide Renewable in 2017. Statewide offers its clients a focused approach to solar energy. Its first project was developed in South Texas in cooperation with the oldest continuously held ranch in Texas and Magic Valley Electric Coop. The success of this project has led to numerous opportunities with other utilities. Prior to starting Statewide Renewable, Richard had been with Circular Energy since December of 2010. He helped to sell, develop and manage over \$15,000,000 in solar projects in Texas alone, including the campus of Tito's Vodka near Austin. He also helped Georgetown Municipal Energy to develop their solar program and solar incentives. This helped Georgetown learn how solar works but also how to release their D.O.E funds to jurisdiction members. This relationship with Georgetown has helped Richard hone his skills in navigating governmental restrictions and bid while showing the City of Georgetown how feasible solar energy can be. This process led to Georgetown becoming 100% dependent on renewable energy.

Session 6

Texas Natural History – A Century of Change

Texas Natural History in the 21st Century by David Schmidly is an all-encompassing compendium about the influence of human-dominated changes in landscapes and land uses that have influenced the state's wildlife fauna, emphasizing mammals, over the past 120 years with predictions for the remainder of the 21st century. This is a sequel to his 2002 book, "Texas Natural History: A Century of Change," which chronicled the changes to Texas's biology and biota that occurred during the 20th century. No similar compilation exists or has been attempted for the state. *Texas Natural History in the 21st Century* highlights both successful and failed initiatives and offers 11 suggestions for implementation that would improve wildlife conservation in the 21st century. The compounding impacts of environmental pollution, animal borne diseases and zoonoses, and climate change are highlighted, and the book concludes with a BHAG ("Big Hairy Audacious Goal") that if implemented could significantly augment conservation efforts in the state.

David J. Schmidly, Ph.D., a native of Levelland, Texas, has spent his entire career in higher education. He served as President of his alma mater, Texas Tech University, Oklahoma State University, and the University of New Mexico. He is an internationally respected researcher and scientific author, having published 13 natural history and conservation books and more than 150 scientific articles about mammals in Texas and Mexico. His most recent book, "*Texas Natural History in the 21st Century*," will appear later this year.

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WITTEMUSEUM.ORG/TIMEFLIES



In honor of the Witte Museum's 95th anniversary, Ryan Berg, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Witte Museum, his wife Jessica, and sons Zach and Adam, set a Chairman's Challenge. For the Time Flies Giving Challenge, every gift will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$95,000. **Your gift directly supports Witte for All, encouraging families and individuals to spend time at the Witte during Free Tuesdays and Museums for All initiatives.**

When giving to Time Flies, you'll help families:

- Expand their time to enjoy the museum at no cost during Free Tuesday
- Explore more time to enjoy wonders of the Witte through Museums for All, those receiving food assistance (SNAP benefits).

TEXAS TRAILBLAZER AWARDS LUNCHEON

Menu

Salad

Black Garlic-Rubbed Beef Sirloin Served on Top of Artisan Greens, Puffed Blueberries and Corn, Black Pepper Goat Cheese, Maple Pecans and White Balsamic Vinaigrette

Fresh Baked Assortment of Artisan Rolls

Dessert

Blackberry and Dark Chocolate Ganache Tart with Blackberry and Lemon Curd, Meringue, Cocoa Nibs and Mace Spice Dust

Or

Honey Panna Cotta with Coconut Milk, Puffed Ginger, Lemon-Syrup Pistachios and Candied Mint

Coffee Station Available in the Zachry Family Acequia Garden directly following the Texas Trailblazers Luncheon

Catering by



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as of May 2, 2022

PAST WITTE MUSEUM TRAILBLAZERS

2014 – Mayor Julian Castro and Estrella
Hernandez

2015 – Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison

2016 – Peggy & Lowry Mays

2017 – Susan Naylor

2018 – Kittie West

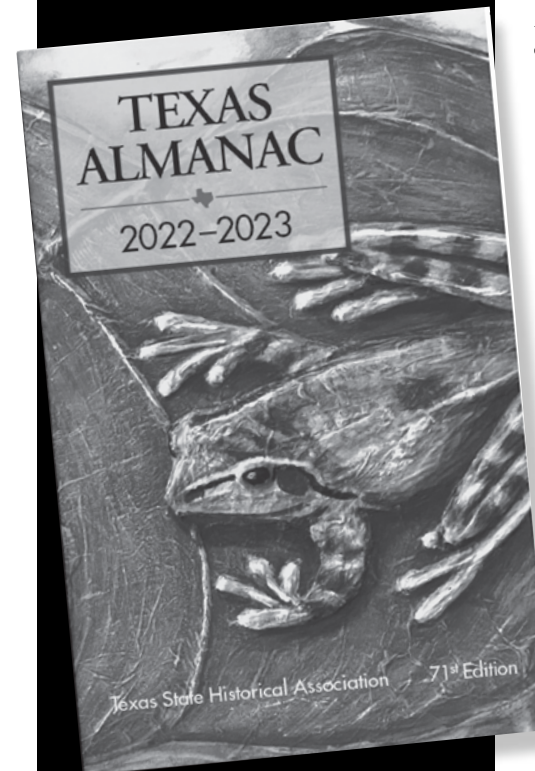
2019 – San Antonio River Authority &
Bexar County Commissioners Court

2020 – Graham Weston

2021 – Mike Bolner and Bolner's Fiesta
Products

2022 – Trustees of the Robert J. Kleberg, Jr.
and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation

A BOOK FOR ALL TEXANS



**Includes facts and figures
on all 254 counties and
special features:**

COVID–19 in Texas

Dr. Ana Martinez-Catsam, professor of history at the University of Texas Permian Basin, brings us a look at how COVID–19 hit the state and impacted just about every aspect of our lives. You'll also learn what the pandemic did to our economy and how it compares to the last major pandemic, the Spanish Flu of 1918.

African American Texans

The long, often heartbreaking, history of African Americans in our state began in 1582 when the first African slave, Esteban, arrived as one of the four survivors of the Cabeza de Vaca expedition. Read the rest of the history up to today, and learn how African Americans have contributed to the culture of Texas, in this feature written by Dr. Merline Pitre, professor at Texas Southern University.

Texas Wildlife

Like our cover? Then you'll love our newly expanded section, where Dr. Travis LaDuc and Dr. Drew Davis give an overview of the five major orders: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Following the article are lists and descriptions of common animals found in our rivers, marshes, forests, deserts, and everywhere in between!

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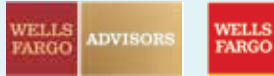
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James Ferdinand McCan: A Texas Artist Rediscovered, both the exhibition and the companion publication, is generously supported by the Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation, O'Connor and Hewitt Foundation, the McCan Cannon Families, and Summerlee Foundation.