

## **Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society**

### **Clarence Cottam Award**

**Deadline for receipt of abstracts is December 15, 2006.**

#### **Clarence Cottam Award Eligibility:**

Graduate and undergraduate students are eligible to enter. Students who have graduated since the last annual meeting are also eligible if they are members of the Texas Chapter of TWS at the time of the annual meeting. Students must be the senior author of the abstract and oral presentation. The work being reported must be primarily that of the student. Research projects should be nearing completion so that results and their interpretations can be included. To ensure that students present 'final' results, they will be limited to 1 Cottam presentation per academic degree (M.S./Ph.D.). Additionally, only students that are affiliated with a Texas college or university at the time of research OR students that have conducted field work in Texas but are affiliated with a non-Texas based college or university are eligible to compete.

#### **Judging Criteria:**

The judging of Cottam Award presentations will be conducted in two phases. First, Cottam Award abstracts are reviewed by committee and ranked numerically. The highest rankings will be invited to present their papers for the competition; the number of presentations will be dependent upon the number of submissions, number of available slots, and the quality of the extended abstracts. Second, Cottam Award presentations will be reviewed using the standardized form (adopted and modified from TWS). Seventy-five percent of the weighting is on the presentation and 25% on the abstract.

#### **Extended Abstract:**

The extended abstract must be < 3 pages, double-spaced 10-12 pt., and in the style and format of the Journal of Wildlife Management (JWM). First give the title in all caps, double space, and then give authors and their affiliation. Capitalize all authors name and state abbreviations. After authors and their affiliation have been given, double space, start with the word "Abstract:" then begin the abstract. Do not indent any part of the abstract. The abstract should be a single paragraph. Abstracts should include a statement of objectives, brief description of methods used, concise presentation of results, and a summary of conclusions and inferences drawn. Do not include tables, appendices, or a literature cited section.

#### **Judging of extended abstracts will be based on:**

1. Significance and originality of ideas.
2. Creativity of research design and implementation.

3. Quality of methodology, including statistical analyses.
4. Validity of conclusions drawn from the results.
5. Neatness and conformity to JWM style and format.

### **Oral Presentations:**

Clarence Cottam Award Session Papers will be scheduled at 15-minute intervals. Presentations should therefore be limited to 10-12 minutes in order to allow 3-5 minutes for questions and comments. All presenters must use Powerpoint as the presentation medium for their oral presentations; traditional slides and overheads will not be allowed. Presentations must be submitted on disk or CD in accordance with the requirements established by the program committee for general session presentations.

### **Judging of oral presentations will be based on:**

#### Scientific Merit

1. Significance of ideas and originality.
2. Creativity of research design and implementation.
3. Quality of methodology, including statistical analyses.
4. Validity of conclusions drawn from the results.

#### Presentation

5. Justification for research and introduction.
6. Clarity of objectives, and hypotheses being tested.
7. Clarity of methods (including analytical procedures), results, interpretation of results, and implications.
8. Quality and clarity of slides and /or graphics.
9. Student's ability to engage the audience's attention throughout the presentation, including fielding questions and staying within the allotted time.

### **Prizes:**

1st place-\$500 provided by the Welder Wildlife Foundation + plaque.

2nd place\*-\$200 provided by the Texas Chapter, TWS + plaque.

3rd place\*-\$50 provided by the Texas Chapter, TWS + plaque.

\* 2nd and 3rd places will be awarded only if 6 or more entries are submitted for consideration.

### **Abstract Submission Requirements:**

Extended abstracts can be submitted as hard copy (4 copies) through regular mail, or as a pdf file attached to an e-mail. Hard copy or pdf file format are preferred to facilitate accurate representation of formatting. The words "Clarence Cottam" must appear in the upper left margin of the abstract and in the subject line of the e-mail, if electronic submission. Abstracts should be submitted to Randy DeYoung, Clarence Cottam Award

Chairman, at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, MSC 218, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX 78363 [randall.deyoung@tamuk.edu](mailto:randall.deyoung@tamuk.edu) 361-593-4520.

Deadline for receipt of abstracts is 15 December, 2006. Additionally, students must submit one (1) abbreviated abstract (<=250 words) to the Program Chair through the online submission link on the TCTWS webpage ([www.tctws.org](http://www.tctws.org)) by 1 December, 2006. The abbreviated abstract should follow instructions outlined in the general call for abstract submission from the program committee and should be labeled "Cottam Award Entry" in the upper left hand margin. For additional information regarding the Clarence Cottam Award, follow the scholarship link on the TCTWS web page or contact Randy DeYoung.