



April 20, 2024

Dear TPWD Volunteers:

Life's better outside.®

Commissioners

Jeffery D. Hildebrand  
Chairman  
Houston

Oliver J. Bell  
Vice-Chairman  
Cleveland

James E. Abell  
Kilgore

Wm. Leslie Doggett  
Houston

Paul L. Foster  
El Paso

Anna B. Galo  
Laredo

Robert L. "Bobby" Patton, Jr.  
Fort Worth

Travis B. "Blake" Rowling  
Dallas

Dick Scott  
Wimberley

Lee M. Bass  
Chairman-Emeritus  
Fort Worth

T. Dan Friedkin  
Chairman-Emeritus  
Houston

David Yoskowitz, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) would like to acknowledge each of you, our dedicated and talented volunteers, who support TPWD's mission with your skills and passion for the outdoors. TPWD volunteers teach others about conservation, stewardship, and outdoor recreation. You are often the "face" of TPWD interacting with visitors to our public lands, state hatcheries and outreach events. Thank you for your service!

This past year, State Parks celebrated its 100-year anniversary with centennial events across the state. State Park volunteers stepped up and pulled out all the stops to ensure visitors had experiences that would last the next 100 years. More corporations are recognizing the importance of allowing their employees to give back by spending the day volunteering for State Parks instead of working in the office.

New ride-along volunteer programs, such as Career Opportunity Program (COP) with State Park Police and Career Development Program (CDP) with Texas Game Wardens, provide opportunities for those interested in a conservation law enforcement career. To date over, 280 volunteers have participated.

Angler Education volunteers trained 681 new instructors and reached over 82,000 people through their classes and outreach events. These 468 volunteers provided over 20,000 hours of service.

Additionally, Texas Master Naturalist Program celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this past year in a big way with more than 15,300 volunteers across 49 chapters, making an impact on more than 256,792 acres, developing more than 3,010 miles of trail, and reaching more than 6.628 million people! The Texas Master Naturalist Program's volunteer service includes more than 6.787 million hours of service with over a \$215 million impact.

Through your volunteer efforts, you create memories for a lifetime. Children are given the opportunity to learn how to catch a fish, shoot an arrow, pitch a tent, or hike. Volunteer interpreters provide insight and knowledge of cultural and natural resources to visitors. Individuals and families who have never engaged with the outdoors are being welcomed with open arms by you, our volunteers. These efforts create new stewards of our lands and waters and provide new appreciation for outdoor recreation.

All of us at TPWD are deeply grateful for your service. I hope you will take great pride knowing in 2023, you and your fellow volunteers contributed over 1.1 million hours to conservation and recreation. This is equal to 551 full-time employees and

TPWD Volunteers

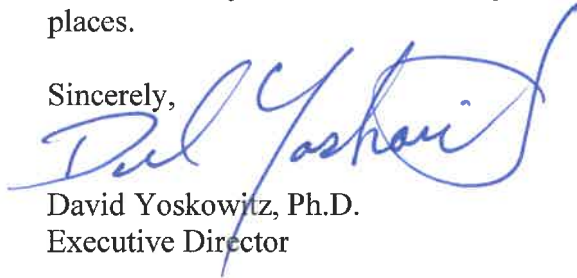
Page 2

April 20, 2024

has an estimated value of more than \$36.5 million! I would like to personally express my appreciation to each of you who do so much for our state and for all of us who live and visit here.

On behalf of your TPWD, thank you for caring about our wild things and wild places.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Yoskowitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

David Yoskowitz, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

DY:dh

cc: Mr. Craig Bonds  
Ms. Patty David