

WELDER NOW

VOL. 2, ISSUE 7



Fun Facts from the Welder Wildlife Foundation Scrapbooks

The First Foundation Fellows

In April 1956, the Welder Wildlife Foundation awarded its first three fellowships, each valued at \$2,400, marking the beginning of a long tradition of supporting scientific research and education. The first Welder Fellow, John M. Langford, pursued a master's degree in range management while studying the forage preferences of cattle and deer. His work helped develop methods to determine whether specific plants had been grazed by cattle or deer, providing valuable insight into wildlife and livestock interactions on rangelands. The second Welder Fellow, Thadis W. Box, became the first student to earn a degree through a Welder fellowship. His research focused on range plant utilization, plant succession, and ecology, creating a permanent record of the range conditions at the Welder Wildlife Foundation during that era. Together, these pioneering fellows laid the groundwork for decades of impactful research and conservation efforts.



List of Volunteers - June

Thank you to our volunteers for lending a helping hand with our first round of summer camps!

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| — Sally Scroggs | — Amber Brown |
| — Greg Simmons | — Dustin Windsor |
| — Phil Woods | — Ashley Reed |
| — Albert Flores | — Jocelyn Hernandez |

Soil to Sky

Due to our abnormally high rainfall we have received over the past two months, the refuge has been mostly inaccessible. For this month's Soil to Sky, I'd like to highlight a recent infrastructure upgrade due to this. As of last week, our new sidewalks heading to the Dorm and Rotunda were completed. These buildings are vital to our programs here at the foundation, and we now have sidewalks on par with the quality of our programs.



Events Attended/Hosted

Who have we reached this month?

At Outreach Events

- 119 people

At the Foundation

- 82 people

- June 1-5
 - Texas Leaders in Conservation with Audubon
- June 8
 - Sinton Bridge Program
- June 11
 - Brookdale Senior Living Center Outreach
- June 12
 - ME by the SEa Convention
- June 17
 - Freer AG Camp Field Trip
- June 24
 - Land Stewardship Camp
- June 26
 - VIK Camp at TAMUCC



SINTON BRIDGE PROGRAM

Projects

Upcoming

- Herbicide Spraying
- Intern Projects
- Bus Barn
- New HQ Sidewalks



Volunteer Opportunities



Education:

- Camps
- Outreach
- Intern Field Work



Workday: Refuge Maintenance

- July 6: Archery Camp Prep
- July 13: Fossil Camp Prep



Collections: Organizing

* Join our Volunteer Team!

Education Team

Monthly Outdoor Family Activity

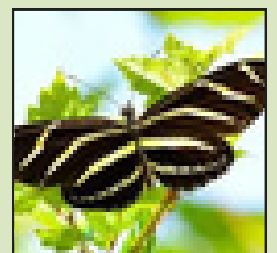
RUN A BUG SAFARI

- Bring a magnifying glass and a bug pot.
- Look for insects under logs, in the grass, and on leaves.
- Carefully catch an insect in the bug pot so you can observe it closely.
- Use the magnifying glass to study the insect's features.
- Try to identify the insect by noticing its size, color, shape, and markings.
- Gently release the insect where you found it.
- Draw a picture of the insect in a notebook or on a worksheet.
- Repeat these steps for any other insects you find.
- Think about how each insect uses camouflage to blend into its environment.
- Discuss where each insect fits in a food chain and how it helps the ecosystem.



WELDER INSECT FACT - ZEBRA LONGWING BUTTERFLY

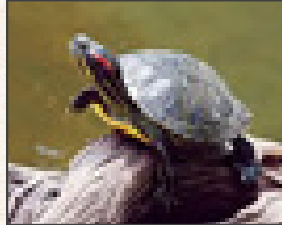
The zebra longwing butterfly is a beautiful black butterfly with bright yellow stripes that can be found in parts of South Texas. It likes warm habitats with flowers, where it feeds on nectar and pollen. Unlike many butterflies, the zebra longwing can live for several months because its pollen-rich diet provides extra nutrients. These butterflies also help pollinate plants as they move from flower to flower.



Reptile Facts

Uno's Corner - Red-Eared Slider Turtle

Red-eared slider turtles are common reptiles found in the ponds, lakes, and wetlands of South Texas. They are easy to recognize by the bright red stripe behind each eye and their smooth, greenish-brown shells. These turtles often spend hours basking on logs or rocks, soaking up the sun to stay warm. Red-eared sliders are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals, including insects, fish, and aquatic vegetation. When startled, they quickly slide off their basking spot and splash into the water, which is how they got their name. By helping control insect populations and serving as prey for larger animals, they play an important role in wetland ecosystems.

*Joke of the Month*

Q: Why did the cow go to space?

A: To see the MOOOOON!

Check out our Handouts

2026 Calendar

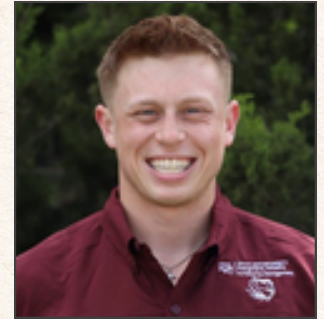
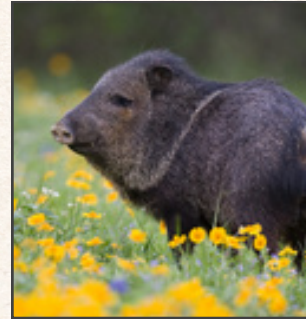


2026 Summer Activity Book



Explore the amazing world of wetlands in this summer's Nature Nook Activity Book! Journey through the wetlands of the Welder Wildlife Refuge and discover fascinating wetland habitats from around the globe. Meet incredible animals and plants that call these watery ecosystems home, challenge yourself with fun games and activities, and test your knowledge with a wetland quiz. Don't miss this issue's Welder Tales story, where you'll dive into the history of the Welder family and learn how ranching first became part of their legacy. Adventure, discovery, and learning await on every page!

Research



Spotlight on a Welder Fellow

Samuel Campassi, M.S.

EFFECTS OF WOODY BRUSH CONTROL ON COLLARD PECCARY SPACE USE AND HABITAT SELECTION

As a newly inducted 2026 Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation Fellow, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to conduct meaningful research that supports the Foundation's mission of advancing wildlife research, continued land stewardship, and conservation education. With my acceptance as a Welder Fellow being so recent, I have yet to begin the project outlined in the proposal included in my application (Effects of Woody Brush Control on Collard Peccary Space Use and Habitat Selection), as I am in the first week of my first semester of graduate school at Texas A&M University. However, I will be spending ample time in the field this semester, familiarizing myself with data collection and biological sampling processes that pertain to my research. Furthermore, I will be assisting other graduate students with javelina hunter-harvest data collections at the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area (CWMA), occurring on 1/30-2/1 and 2/6-2/8. This will be an incredible opportunity to gain experience in specimen handling techniques, biological sampling, measurements, and additional data collection methodologies. Additionally, I will also be participating in South Texas javelina camera and helicopter surveys, which will include surveys conducted on my study site, La Copita Ranch.

Texas Leaders In Conservation Camp



CONTACT INFORMATION



Office Phone: (361) 364-2643



Email: tzamora@welderwildlife.org



Website: www.welderwildlife.org

Upcoming Public Events

Summer

MOVIE NIGHT

FREE Family Fun! Come enjoy burgers, popcorn, games, and a showing of Migration with family and friends!

**24 JULY
2026**

START AT 5:30 PM
 10429 HWY 77, Sinton, TX

Land Stewardship Camp

