

East Texas Natural History Collection

Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins Texas



Physical plant

10,000 square feet

25 rooms



Entomology

Herbarium

Technical library

Conference/classroom

Imaging center

Visiting Scientist offices

Workshop

Rearing room

Before and After...Herbarium 6000

2011:



2012:



Herbarium houses earliest E. Tex. “in-house” Collections

Region I (1940-43)

First A&M graduates sent to ET

Priority for conservation/research

Dan Lay – First grad Walter P. Taylor

Hilbert Sigler – Under Aldo Leopold

Rollin Baker – Well known mammalogist

Coleman Newman - Assistant Biologist

Walter P. Taylor



Walter P. Taylor
(1882-1948)

Headed Texas Cooperative Wildlife
Research Unit at Texas A&M
1936-

Pittman Robertson Act funded first
wildlife work.

Predecessors of Singhurst et al.



Beaumont Journal
World's First Dam Builders Here On Way
To Work On Streams Of Newton County
July 29, 1939

By EVA FEINBERG

Seven big brown beavers served early Saturday morning to bring shoppers and office folk together for a good look.

The animals, once plentiful but now practically extinct in these parts, were being taken to Newton county to a tributary in the watershed of the Sabine river by Art Cook and Herman Henry. The beavers were captured near Junction, on the banks of the South Llano river, after months of searching.

The men, graduate students of A. and M. college, working for the Texas Cooperative Wild Life research unit, a subdivision of the Texas fish, game, and oyster commission, were accompanied to Newton by Dan Lay, regional manager of the commission.

HARD TO FIND

Very hard to find, and apparently tame, unless you are standing at the wrong end, Mr. Lay explained, the animals are expected to build dams on the smaller streams and thereby increase the number of good fishing holes. Besides, the quiet brown fellows with their work at building, conserve water and help prevent floods.

In years to come, Mr. Lay anticipates, the annual harvest of beaver pelts in 20 counties may eventually amount to \$100,000, but the effects of the animal's habits on streams and water run-off will surpass any other benefit. One colony of beavers in a northern state impounded water in ponds that would have cost man \$2000 to construct. For a brown animal without even a permanent wave in its hair, and no degree in engineering, that's purty smart!

DON'T EAT FISH

"Beavers do not eat fish," Mr. Lay explains. "That is something everyone should know, because many fishermen have the mistaken idea that they do. Judging from the food habits of beavers in other places, it is expected that these seven and their offsprings will feed principally on willow, river birch, sweetgum, black gum, and the numerous other soft woods available along most small streams. They don't like pine."

"Fish life is always favored by the construction of pools with permanent water. Older residents who remember beaver dams say that those were the best places to fish. One of the causes for the decline of the beaver was the practice of destroying a beaver dam in order to drain a pond and get all the fish."

The beaver is a large cousin of the muskrat. Like all rodents it has four, large, chisel-like incisor teeth. These were about the most efficient wood cutters in existence until men invented axes. The tail of the beaver is scaly, broad and flat and



Above, Dan Lay with one of the seven beavers taken to Newton county Saturday morning to be released along the streams. A view of the crate of beavers is shown below.

is used mainly as a rudder and elevator in swimming and diving. The feet are webbed. The adults average in weight between 30 and 40 pounds. The fur is of a rich, bro color, and is durable and thick. Man's little helpers build (See BEAVERS, Page 3)

Dan Lay-

Long career in E. Texas 36-02

Data to Rachel Carson
for Silent Spring

1st endangered species nomination

Early controlled burning for wildlife

Rollin Baker in Big Bend 1937



R. Roseberry (forester), R. Baker (entomologist), E. Marsh Jr. (botanist)

Phil Goodrum

Started early plant collections

Mostly plants for wildlife

Methods to “hold” migrating birds



DUCKS FOR INLAND TEXAS

HAVE you ever heard remarks somewhat along these lines? “Twenty years ago the ducks stopped here by the sands, and man, what hunting,” or “I bought a duck stamp and never even got a shot at a duck.” The man who says this deserves your sympathy, for the whole reason that poor duck hunting in Texas should be entirely unnecessary.

By Herbert R. Siegler

Wildlife Biologist

DOWN OVER THE piney woods of eastern Texas passes the western edge of the Mississippi flyway. It blends in with the eastern edge of the Central flyway. This Central flyway could be called

By the middle of September most of them have arrived in Texas. Some winter in the rice fields, but a large portion flies on to South America. About the middle of September when every little lake in Texas seems to have a few teal, the first pintails show up. From then on a variety of species begin to dribble in. I don't know about western Texas, but the main

Digitization efforts

- Acquire hardware
 - Lean on BRIT....Tiana Rehman
 - Duplicate equipment and protocol
 - In discussion with Summerlee Foundation
 - Willing to take partners and share
 - Emphasis on digitization of historical documents

 - Herbarium sheets
ARE HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS
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