$40,000 In Natural Resource Scholarships Awarded

SAN ANTONIO – The Texas Wildlife Association Foundation (TWAF) and the San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc. (SALE) have awarded four $10,000 Natural Resource-Excellence in Education Scholarships to four deserving Texas youth. The scholarships were awarded to four freshmen at Texas universities who are majoring in natural resource related field such as agricultural science, wildlife science, forestry, range science, etc.

Scholarships were awarded to Samantha Futrell of Abilene (Abilene Christian University); Ben Schmidtke of Pearsall (Tarleton State University); Aaron Michalewicz of Big Lake (Texas A&M University); and Michaela Murphy of Dripping Springs (Texas A&M University). Each will receive a $10,000 scholarship.

“As our population has grown, the strain on our natural resources has grown proportionately,” said TWAF President Charles Davidson. “Our future depends on our ability to manage our natural resources wisely, balancing the needs of man and nature. It just makes sense to identify our future leaders and support them while they are getting their educations. We all will benefit from their expertise in the years to come.”

This is the third year that TWAF and SALE have teamed up to offer scholarships to future natural resource professionals. With these scholarships, the organizations have awarded $100,000 in college scholarships.

“Last year, we were gratified by not only the number of applications, but by the high quality,” Davidson said. “There are a lot of talented young people who are committed to caring for our natural resources. TWAF and SALE are dedicated to supporting their efforts, so we doubled the number of Natural Resource-Excellence in Education Scholarships available this year.”

The scholarships were awarded based on participation in activities and experiences related to the field of natural resource conservation, honors, awards and leadership skills, grade point average, and answers to a series of essay questions about natural resources conservation in Texas.

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Additional Information: In 1991 leaders of the Texas Wildlife Association created the Texas Wildlife Association Foundation (TWAF) to help fund the organization’s education and conservation initiatives. Currently, TWAF invests in projects that educate Texans on the positive effects of land stewardship, foster habitat and wildlife conservation, and preserve our hunting heritage. TWAF supports programs that promote natural resource literacy in schools, through its Learning Across New Dimensions in Science (L.A.N.D.S.) initiative. TWAF also supports youth hunting and youth wildlife leadership programs. In addition, TWAF trains land stewards and conservation leaders through workshops, field days, and effective conservation collaborations. If you would like to support TWAF, please contact Caroline Cage, Director of Development, at 800-TEX-WILD.