WFSC Aids in Hurricane Harvey Relief Efforts

Extension specialists, staff, and students from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences (WFSC) were quick to aid in Hurricane Harvey relief efforts following the devastating flooding of the Houston Metro area. Staff members and Extension specialists quickly mobilized WFSC work boats and flatbed trailers in the days following Harvey’s landfall to rescue victims of the rising flood waters and to transport victims to rescue shelters. WFSC students organized donation points and delivered a truckload of donations to south Houston within a week following Harvey’s landfall.

Responding to the call from Houston officials in need of boats, trailers, and lifted vehicles, WFSC Extension specialists and staff readied boats and headed to Houston on Sunday, following days of torrential rainfall. These volunteers performed several water rescues by boat of families trapped in their homes by rising water. One Extension specialist equipped with a lifted vehicle and flatbed trailer assisted in the retrieval of pets and personal possessions for displaced Houstonians, as well as transporting flood victims and pets rescued by boats to relief shelters.

WFSC students organized a donation drive for families in need in the south Houston/Dickinson area. The TAMU chapter of the American Fisheries Society organized donation points to collect donations in the week following Hurricane Harvey, and delivered a truck loaded with clothing, paper goods, cleaning supplies, and baby care items to First Baptist Church in Galveston, where supplies were distributed throughout the Galveston/Houston community. Pet supplies collected by the students were donated to the Galveston Island Humane Society, which is working in conjunction with various other animal shelters in the affected area to feed and house displaced pets.

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences faculty, staff, and students would like to remind everyone there is still great need of assistance during the recovery process following the extensive damage caused by Hurricane Harvey. Even though Harvey may fade from the headlines in the coming weeks and months, please remember it will take years to fully recover and Texas residents from Beaumont to Corpus Christi will need your continued support and donations to rebuild their lives.

Dr. William B. “Doc” Davis Commemorative

By Dr. Michael Masser, Department Head

Hired in 1937, the year the Department of Wildlife Science was founded at TAMU, Dr. W.B. “Doc” Davis was a forefather and leader of the Department. In 1938, he became Curator of the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection (renamed the Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections). He was elevated to Interim Department Head in 1944 and then to Department Head in 1946. He continued as Department Head until he retired in 1965. Twenty-one years makes him the longest serving Department Head in the department’s history. His leadership made the Department into one of the premier departments of its kind in the U.S.

As a curator, he “collected” animals for the collections. Back then, collecting in many cases meant shooting them and the tool used was a firearm. Doc’s personal collecting firearm was an 1894 Remington double barrel (i.e., Damascus barrels) shotgun. The shotgun had been sitting in a vault for decades and I thought it should be displayed as part of departmental history and in memory of our most important founding father. Therefore, we purchased a display case and with the help of two graduate students, Zach Johnson and Justin French (left to right), hung it in my office. If you would like to learn more about Doc Davis, please stop by my office and we can visit about Doc’s achievements.