

Session Program

April 14 - 15, 2023 | Abilene



Annual Meeting

West Texas Historical Association

97th Annual Meeting





2023 Program Committee:

John Caraway, Chair	Cisco College
Jim Crownover	West Texas Trails
Golda Foster	Tom Green County Historical Commission
Jason Pierce	Angelo State University
William V. Scott	Texas Tech University
Warren Stricker	West Texas A&M University

Local Arrangements Committee:

Austin Allison	WTHA Special Events Coordinator
Nicci Hester	Texas Tech University
Jennifer Spurrier	Texas Tech University
Lynn Whitfield	Texas Tech University

Hotels – WTHA Room blocks have been reserved at the MCM Eleganté 4250 Ridgemont Drive Abilene, Texas 79606. The room rate is \$114 for a single bed room and \$119 for double bed room which includes a free breakfast. The rooms rates are available for April 12th (Wednesday) through April 16th (Sunday). The cutoff date for reserving a room is March 13. Phone # 325-698-1234 or 888-897-9644. Remember to say that you are with the WTHA group.

Conference location – MCM Eleganté.

Thursday Night – 6 PM Early Bird at the Beehive 442 Cedar St.



**West Texas Historical Association Annual Meeting
Lubbock, April 14-15, 2023**

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Registration: 8:00 A.M. – Lobby

Exhibitors -- Lobby

Silent Auction: 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. MCM Eleganté Hotel
Benefits the Student Scholarship Fund – Viewing and Bidding

Session I: 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

Acapulco Room– Joint Session with the Texas Heritage Trail Program—*Its Significance in Texas*

Chair: Tammie Virden, Texas Forts Trail Region

- Allison Kendrick, Executive Director of Texas Plains Trail Region
- Melissa Hagins, Executive Director of the Texas Pecos Trail Region
- Wendy Little, Executive Director of Texas Mountain Trails Region
- Tammie Virden, Executive Director of the Texas Forts Trail Region.

Baja Room – Joint Session with the Center for the Study of the American West--*Aviation and Urban Development in Twentieth-Century West Texas*

Chair: Patrick Diepen, West Texas A&M University

- Amy Von Lintel, West Texas A&M University, *Aviation: A Hidden Aesthetic in the Texas Panhandle*
- Anna Boydston, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA, *Interwar Development of Aviation in the Texas Panhandle*
- Brian M. Ingrassia, West Texas A&M University, *Sound Investments: Transportation Infrastructure and Residential Development in 1920s Amarillo*

Royal Room –*Abilene Personalities-- Jack Grimm and Anson Thomas*

Chair, Keith Owen, Lubbock Christian University

- TBD. *Hunting Yeti, Noah's Ark, and Titanic--Abilene's Cadillac Jack*
- Judge William Thompson, Triple Arrow Ranch, *You Can Get there from Here (West Texas): The Life and Times of Anson Thomas*

Session II: 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM Friday

Acapulco Room – *Tejano Hero, Filipino Expatriate, and Oklahoman in the Dust Bowl*

Chair: Monte Monroe, Texas State Historian

- Jose Martinez, West Texas A&M University in Canyon, *With His Pistol in His Hand: Juan Cortina, Mexican Agency, and Deprivations on the U.S.-Mexico Border*
- Jose Santos P. Ardivilla, Texas Tech University, *Lonn Taylor: From Archipelagic to Texan*
- Frank V. Bellizzi, Amarillo College, *Living Through The Dirty Thirties in Western Oklahoma: Stories from the Archive of Meta Chesnutt Sager*

Baja Room – *Iconic Shape, Land Hunger, and Looking at the Texas Invasion of Santa Fe from the Other Side*

Chair: Gary Lindsey, Lubbock Christian University

- Joe Weaver, WTHA Board, *How Our Great State Got Its Awesome Shape*
- Marisue Potts, Mott Creek Ranch, *Land, a driving force in settlement*
- Robert J. Torrez, New Mexico Historical Society, *The Texan Pirates Are Coming*

LUNCH: 11:15 AM – 1:00 PM – ON YOUR OWN



Downtown Abilene

Session III: 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM Friday

Acapulco Room. **Joint Session with the Center for the Study of the American West--Student Scholars, West Texas A&M University**

Chair: Katelyn Denney, Center for the Study of the American West, West Texas A&M University

- Marin Bullock, *A History of the Barrel and Indian Creek Ranch of Briscoe County*
- Ashley Callaham, *The Texas Panhandle Curriculum Initiative: Regional Materials with the TEKS*
- Edie Heuss, *Stories from the XCEL Energy Digital Archive*
- Sierra Villarreal, *Stories from the Forgotten Frontera Oral History Initiative*

Baja Room—*Culture, Socialism and an International Language—in West Texas?*

Chair: William V. Scott, Texas Tech University

- Kimberly Hieb, West Texas A&M University in Canyon, *The Amarillo Symphony in the 1950s and 1960s*
- Carroll Brincefield, Independent Scholar, Hallettsville, Texas, *Socialism in West Texas*
- Cindy Martin, Lubbock Historical Commission, *A 1909 Lubbock Esperanto Mystery*

Royal Room – *The West Texas Historical Review: Ask the Editors!*

Chair: Elissa Stroman, West Texas Historical Association

- Elissa Stroman, *West Texas Historical Review* Editor, *Celebrating the Upcoming Centennial of the WTHA/WTHR*
- Wes Sheffield, WT Social Media Editor, *Connecting with WTHA on Social Media/Facebook, - 101 Checklist for Historical Organizations and Individuals to create a History/Research Facebook page*
- Jim Matthews, *The Cyclone* Editor, *The Cyclone: How to Submit Short Articles and News of our Members and Member Organizations.*



Session IV: 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM Friday

Acapulco Room – *Texas Rangers and U.S. Army Frontier Defense*

Chair: David Murrah, Texas Tech University, Ret.

- Byron Johnson, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, *Founding and Evolution of the Texas Rangers*
- William V. Scott, Texas Tech University, *George Gibson Huntt: Career Army Officer and Founder of Fort Concho*
- Jim Matthews, West Texas Historical Association, *Fort Martin Scott: First in the Line of Frontier Defense in Texas.*

Baja Room – Joint Session with East Texas Historical Association: So You Say You Want to Start a Podcast: Our Experience Beginning “Talking Texas History:” A Panel Discussion

Panel Members:

- John Caraway, Cisco College
- Light Cummins, Austin College
- Debbie Liles, Tarleton State University
- Brad Maule, Stephen F. Austin State University
- Monte Monroe, Texas Tech University
- Gene Preuss, University of Houston, Downtown
- Scott Sosebee, Stephen F. Austin State University

Session V: 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM Friday

Acapulco– *West Texas Music*

Chair: Lynn Whitfield, Texas Tech University

- Robert Reitz, Dallas, *A Catch in your Throat: Tuvan Throat Singing from the far East and Yodeling from the Texas West*
- Joe Specht, McMurry University (retired), *Slim Willet’s Winston Records: Rock ‘N’ Roll and Country Music with a West Texas Flair*

Baja Room– *Remembering David Gracy: a legacy for Texas and beyond*

Chair: Warren Stricker, West Texas A&M University

- David Murrah, former director of the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University, and Vice President of Southwest Museum Services, Houston (retired)
- Tonia Wood, Information Services Supervisor, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin
- Sarah Canby Jackson, Harris County Archivist (retired), Houston
- Christina Zamon, Head of Special Collections and Archives, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Ga.



Slim Willett, 1916-1966
Courtesy McMurry University



West Texas Historical Association
Founded 1924

5:30 PM Presidential Reception for President Becky Matthews
6:30 PM Banquet at the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature

President Becky Matthews, Presiding

Keynote Speaker: John Erickson

[Title to be determined]



Courtesy Hankthecowdog.com

John R. Erickson has written and published 75 books and more than 600 articles, and is best known as the author of the Hank the Cowdog series of books, audio-books, and stage plays.

His stories have won a number of awards, including the Audie, Oppenheimer, Wrangler, and Lamplighter Awards, and have been translated into Spanish, Danish, Farsi, and Chinese.

The Hank the Cowdog series began as a self-publishing venture in his garage in 1982 and has endured to become one of the nation's most popular series for children and families. Through the eyes of Hank the Cowdog, a smelly, smart-aleck Head of Ranch Security, Erickson gives readers a glimpse of daily life on a ranch in the West Texas Panhandle. USA Today calls the series "the best family entertainment in years."

Born in Midland, Texas, on October 20, 1943, to Joseph W. Erickson and Anna Beth Curry Erickson, he is the youngest of three children. In 1946, the family moved to Perryton, Texas, in the northeastern Texas Panhandle. . . John and [his wife] Kris live on their cattle ranch near Perryton, Texas . . . They have three grown children (Scot, Ashley, and Mark) and four grandchildren.



SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2020

Session VI: 8:30-9:45 AM

Acapulco Room – *Paint Rock, Justice for the Warren Wagon Train, and Massacre at the Brazos Agency*
Chair, John Caraway, Cisco College

- James Hays, Brown County Historical Commission, *Jack Hays' Indian Fight at Paint Rock*
- Ken Wise, 14th Court of Appeals, *Their Day in Court: The Rule of Law and the War on the Plains*
- Casey Doherty, Doherty & Doherty LLP, Houston, *The Choctaw Tom Massacre: Indians, Rangers, the federal government, and the Dawn of the Texas Reservation War*

Baja Room – *West Texas Goes Modern—Stage Routes, Shortlines and Power Plants.*
Chair, TBD

- Tom Ashmore, West Texas Archeological Society, *Butterfield Overland Mail's Antelope Spring Station*
- Helen Cozart, Ranger College, *Shortline Railroads in the 1917 Oil Boom*
- Dixie Hoover, Preservation Texas, *Water Plus Natural Gas Makes Electricity and Ice: the West Texas Utilities Power and Ice Plant*

Royal Room – **Joint Session with the Center for Big Bend Studies**

Chair: Austin Allison, West Texas Historical Association

- Bryon Schroeder, Center for Big Bend Studies, *For Fiber or Fiber: Paleoarchaic Desert Plant Baking as Calories or Raw Material?*

-----Silent Auction Closed@ 10:00 AM-----

Session VII: 10:15 AM – 11:30 AM Saturday

Acapulco Room – *Finding a Way West*

Chair, Kevin Sweeney, Wayland Baptist University

- Troy Ainsworth, La Cruces, *Over uncertain and unknown paths": Native Pathfinders of the Oñate Entrada in 1598*
- Holle Humphries, Quanah Parker Trail, *Who Knew? Comanches as Underacknowledged Guides for Those Singularly Credited as "Trailblazers" or "Finders" or "Fearless Adventurers" Across the Vast Reaches of West Texas*
- H. Allen Anderson, Texas Tech University, *Delaware Scouts and Opening of the West*

Baja Room – *Finding History in Abilene in 2023*

Chair: John Davis, Hardin-Simmons University.

- Jeremy Maynard, Hardin-Simmons University, *Finding Abilene History in the Research Center for the Southwest*
- Tim B. Chandler, Hardin-Simmons University, *Finding Abilene History Using Drone Technology*
- Rich Traylor, Hardin-Simmons University, *Influencing Abilene: Pastor Jack Riddlehoover at Pioneer Drive Baptist Church*

Royal Room – *Cornelia Adair, Weldon Edwards,*

Chair: Jack Becker, Texas Tech University, Retired

- Alex Hunt, Center for the Study of the American West, *Cornelia Adair and the JA Ranch: Latest Findings*
- John Caraway, Cisco College, *Weldon Edwards: Guiding Light of the Hereford Industry*
- Leland Turner, Midwestern State University, *The Ranch in the History of Texas: From Central Texas to the Caprock*



Weldon Edwards of Clyde (1917-2001)
National Hereford cattle leader and innovator
Courtesy Cattle Raisers Museum

WTHA Business Meeting and Lunch: 11:30 AM– 1:00 PM

Banquet Room at the MCM Eleganté

President Becky Matthews, Presiding

- Rupert Richardson Best Book Award
- Mrs. Percy (Ruth Leggett) Jones Best Article Award
 - Election of Officers

Presidential Address

Ms. Becky Matthews



Presidential Address---

Looking Forward, Looking Back: 100 Years of Collecting West Texas History.

