



Team EcoMod News

NextGen 2024 Collaboration Meeting Special Edition

June 2024

NextGen Webinar Dates

- **July 24**
Megan Conley and Belize Lane, Utah State University
- **Aug 14**
Brook Herman and Iris Foxfoot, USACE ERDC
- **Sept 18**
Data Visualization Submissions Expo

EcoMod visited San Marcos, TX for our annual collaboration meeting in May! This meeting consists of three components: a progress report on current projects, a collaboration opportunity between USACE ERDC and academic partners, and a chance to show off laboratory or local field sites. Texas State University hosted the meeting and welcomed ERDC researchers, as well as other academics from Texas A&M, Utah State, MS State, St. Catherine's, and Central Michigan University. There were 24 technical presentations and 11 student posters highlighting accomplishments from projects finishing up under Phase I and new projects just beginning under Phase II. Students competed for best presentation and best poster, and were given more guidance on our upcoming Data Visualization Challenge.



Todd Swannack
The accomplishments of NextGen



Over the last 5 years, the NextGen collaboration has produced amazing results, including developing 40 models, publishing 17 journal articles and technical reports, and presenting 50 posters and webinars. Most importantly, we have worked with over 30 graduate students, post-docs, and technicians, bringing awareness to the importance of ecological modeling to restoration and scientific studies. The coming years will continue to integrate modeling into this research and we look forward to even more collaborations with academic institutions!

The group also visited the Mission Reach in San Antonio. This restoration success story not only illustrates the importance of using natural resources to solve flooding and ecosystem issues, but also highlights how collaborations are essential to tackle complex projects. This site used experts from ERDC, USACE-SWF, universities, and the San Antonio River Authority to create and maintain the space, and continues to provide a real-world data laboratory to develop ecological models. Sarah Anderson, Kiara Cushway, and Todd Swannack all got up-close to the local fauna!

