

Editor: Laura Bies

LI Newsletter Subcommittee Chair: Valorie Titus

In this issue:

- Emerging Leaders Selected for Class of 2017
- Where are they now? An Interview with Mindy Rice
- Alumni News

EMERGING LEADERS SECTED FOR CLASS OF 2017

Congratulations to the TWS members who have been chosen to participate in the 2017 TWS Leadership Institute! These promising early career wildlife professionals, selected from a competitive pool of applicants, will engage in a variety of distance learning projects over the coming summer. The program culminates in September, with intensive hands-on mentoring activities and leadership workshops during the 2017 TWS Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

“The Wildlife Society established the Leadership Institute in 2006 to enrich the future of our membership and our profession,” says TWS Executive Director Ken Williams. “The program has garnered widespread support because it has been very successful in preparing our early career members for active professional leadership roles both within and outside TWS.”

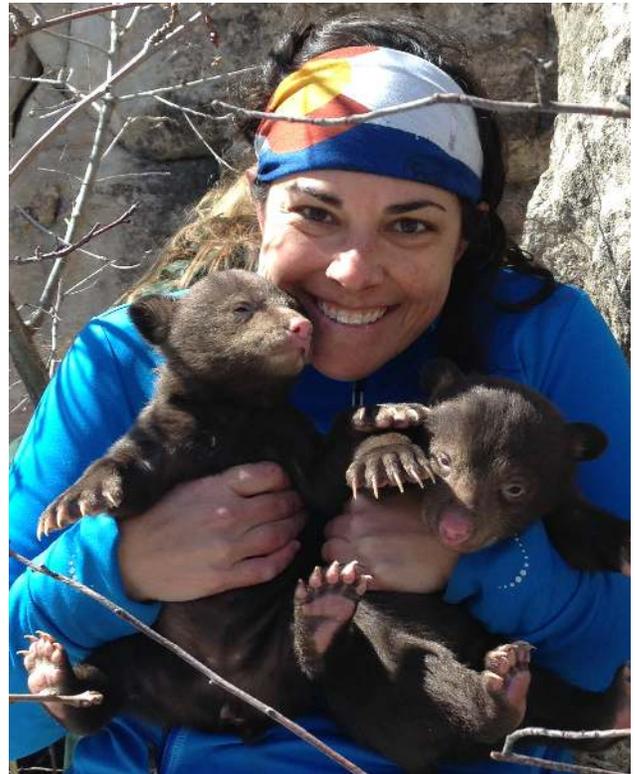
This year’s participants are:

- Kyle Daly, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota
- Paul Di Salvo, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services, Oregon
- Stacey Elmore, Colorado State University
- Marcella Fremgen, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Colorado
- Bryan Kluever, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Massachusetts
- Christopher Lituma, West Virginia University
- Melissa Merrick, University of Arizona
- Sarah Milligan, fRI Research, Alberta
- Pamela Moore, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kansas
- Beth Ross, U.S. Geological Survey, South Carolina

“Many young wildlife professionals entering leadership positions have not necessarily been trained in the skills needed for successful management of large groups or complicated programs,” says Laura Bies, coordinator of the Leadership Institute. “The Leadership Institute introduces these exceptional young people to the management, mentoring, and organizational skills they need to become exceptional leaders.”

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? AN INTERVIEW WITH MINDY RICE

Mindy Rice (Class of 2009) recently expanded her already extensive repertoire to include being the spatial ecologist for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) wildlife refuge system. She is based at the Natural Resource Program Center in Fort Collins, Colorado. Mindy is in high demand but currently concentrates on two main projects. First, she masterminds the Targeted Resource Acquisition Comparison Tool (TRACT), which are a series of spatial models that prioritize land acquisition for the refuge system based on the best available science. Secondly, Mindy supervises Integrated Waterbird Management and Monitoring (IWMM), which is a monitoring protocol for non-breeding waterbirds across the county and at multiple scales.



Before joining USFWS, she worked for 8 years as the statewide spatial ecologist for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. In that essential role, Mindy collaborated with biologists and researchers to develop a spatial approach for wildlife management across the agency. She performed analyses on numerous high-profile projects including greater sage-grouse resource selection in Northwest Colorado, Gunnison sage-grouse resource selection models, and movement models for elk and deer. Her research has been crucial to conservation of important prairie and montane species in Colorado. Mindy went above and beyond her regular responsibilities to provide technological resources for field staff. She developed useful tools for biologists to use when analyzing basic spatial data for annual reports. When she observed that biologists needed analytical assistance, Mindy conducted software workshops on project design to better address the spatial nature of wildlife.

Mindy served as an At-Large Board Member for The Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society (CCTWS) in 2010 and quickly became President-elect. She led CCTWS as President for 2 years. Mindy inspired the Board and chapter members. Annual meeting attendance noticeably increased through her leadership. She completed 2 years as past President of the CCTWS. Mindy continues to be actively involved as the membership coordinator. She was elected as an At-Large Board member on the Central Mountain and Plains Section (CMPS) for a two-year term (2015-2016). She took initiative to organize the Section's entire 2016 annual meeting, which was a very successful event for CMPS. She remains co-chair of the Leadership Institute

(LI) working with Laura Bies on the program and logistics.



Her career path so far and continuing into the future is to provide applicable spatial models for managers and biologists on the ground and to avoid academic, complicated spatial models that are not used. In the near term, her goal is to bring this type of spatial analyses to wildlife refuges in the field. In the far future, she would like to return to international conservation hopefully through the USFWS division of international conservation.

Mindy's advice for alumni is to stay involved both within TWS and within the LI. "There is a growing number of people in the LI alumni category, and it provides a wealth of knowledge and experience as we all move through our careers." She got her current job in part because her boss knew her from her time as President of the CCTWS, so she recommends taking those leadership roles when you can! "As they say, 'the wildlife world is small,' so keep those connections as you never know when they might come in handy!"

ALUMNI NEWS

Lindsay Smythe ('10) currently works in Flagstaff, AZ for the Coconino National Forest, but is going on detail this summer to the Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands in KS and CO as their biologist to help with a Lesser-Prairie Chicken reintroduction project (among other things). She'll be working with several of the people mentioned in the LPCH article in this month's Wildlife Professional. She's also working with Kent Fricke on the LPCH project, who went through TWS LI with her and is now working for Kansas Parks & Wildlife.

Raquel Wertsbaugh ('06) and her significant other, Nick, welcomed a baby girl, Grace Elizabeth, on March 15th.

Ray Iglay ('11) started a new position in January, as Assistant Research Professor at Mississippi State University, Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Michel Kohl ('11), who is currently finishing his PhD, is also now the Utah Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework Coordinator, a Post-doc position within the Berryman Institute at USU.

Dr. Serra Hoagland ('12) recently accepted a new position with the US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station as the Liaison Officer to the Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, MT.

Ashley Gramza ('15) has a new position as the National Bird Conservation Social Science Coordinator. This position is housed at Virginia Tech, but is national in scope. More specifically, she performs social science research related to bird conservation and work to increase social

science knowledge and research within the bird conservation community through serving as the co-chair of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative's (NABCI) Human Dimensions Subcommittee.

Shawn Crimmins ('15) just finished up his first year as an Assistant Professor of Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Three LI alumni, Michel Kohl ('13 and Past-Chair: Native Peoples WG), Serra Hoagland ('12 and Chair-elect: Native Peoples WG), and Ashley Gramza ('15), along with Jessica Homyack, Chair of the Ethnic and Gender Diversity WG, authored a book chapter entitled "Professional Diversity: the key to conserving wildlife diversity" in the new book by Scott Henke and Paul Krausman that comes out in July.