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THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY ANNOUNCES 2014 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE PARTICIPANTS

BETHESDA, MD – The Wildlife Society (TWS) announces the selections for the 2014 TWS Leadership Institute. They are promising early-career wildlife professionals chosen from a competitive pool of applicants across North America. Participants will receive leadership training that begins with several distance-learning projects over the coming summer. The program culminates in October with intensive hands-on mentoring activities and leadership workshops during the 2014 TWS Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

“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 to take active professional leadership roles both within and outside TWS.”

A committee of TWS members and staff selected participants based on the applicants’ academic record, demonstrated leadership capability, and proven excellence either in their current professional position or as a leader of a TWS Chapter or Section.

This year’s participants are:

- **Charles Anderson**, Resource Science Supervisor, Missouri Department of Conservation
- **David Dahlgren**, Extension Associate, Utah State University
- **Dawn Davis**, Fish & Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon
- **Alexander Galt**, Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota
- **Sara Hansen**, Wildlife Biologist, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- **Michel Kohl**, Research Associate/Doctoral Student, Utah State University
- **Sonja Leverkus**, Doctoral Candidate, Oklahoma State University and Ecosystem Scientist, Shifting Mosaics Consulting, British Columbia, Canada
- **Erin McCance**, Project Manager/Wildlife Biologist, Joro Consultants, Manitoba, Canada
- **Sonja Smith**, Area Wildlife Biologist, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
- **Heather Stricker**, Wildlife Resources Program Director, Forest County Potawatomi Community, Wisconsin

“The conservation and management issues we face are increasingly complex,” says Williams. “The Leadership Institute prepares our future leaders to develop the innovative and cooperative leadership skills they need to lead the wildlife profession through the 21st century.”

Many young wildlife professionals entering leadership positions have not been trained in the skills needed for successful management of large teams or complicated programs. The Leadership Institute introduces such exceptional young people to the management, mentoring, and organizational skills they need to become successful leaders. To gain those skills, from May through September participants will complete a wide variety of exercises, including reading and reflecting on leadership topics, presenting to peer groups, leading seminars, and developing a vision for their professional leadership goals. During TWS’s Annual Conference in Pittsburgh the participants will serve as mentors for students, be mentored by Leadership Institute alumni and TWS Council members, attend Council meetings, and engage in focused analytical discussions.

Each year the Leadership Institute attracts more interest and support. Past participants can attest to its popularity. “Opportunities for young wildlife professionals to gain such vital leadership training are virtually nonexistent, but the LI program excels at filling that void. This was an excellent opportunity not only for leadership development, but to get a better sense of the many roles we play in the wildlife field and how appreciation and integration of those roles is critical for our future,” says Liisa Schmoele, a graduate of the 2012 Institute and current co-chair of the Leadership Institute Committee. “I have hope for the future of wildlife management and conservation in part because of the amazing people I met in the Leadership Institute and the great things they are doing now and aspire to do in the future.”

In 2014 The Wildlife Society received vital financial support for the Leadership Institute from 17 organizations, including the Dallas Safari Club, the Boone and Crockett Wildlife Conservation Program, the University of Montana, Texas Tech University, and several Sections and Chapters of The Wildlife Society. The Wildlife Society thanks all these contributors (listed [here](#)).

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? AN INTERVIEW WITH BRIDGET COLLINS

Read about what a Leadership Institute alum is up to now and what they have achieved since they participated.

Bridget Collins (Class of 2010) is the Agriculture Policy Coordinator for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) in Washington, D.C. AFWA represents the combined interests of the state fish and wildlife agencies, and Bridget helps them identify policy position and navigate implementation issues of the Farm Bill’s conservation programs. These programs constitute the largest source of funding for conservation work and are absolutely essential to wildlife conservation efforts.

Bridget is a wildlife biologist by training, earning her Master’s in wildlife biology from the University of Delaware. She made the switch to policy because she decided that is where she could make the most impact. She enjoys working on the policy front lines facilitating dialogue between on the ground practitioners and decision makers on the Hill. Every day brings new challenges and political conditions can change in a moment.

Being a part of the Leadership Institute allowed her to understand her own leadership style. The self-reflection exercises taught her to be deliberate and self-aware of personal strengths and weaknesses. Her advice to new LI participants is to take advantage of the opportunities to interact with TWS staff, the council, and the other participants. It is great way to develop relationships with people with different points of view, diverse backgrounds, and extensive experience.

ALUMNI NEWS

Angela Fuller '08 received the Outstanding Professional Award, presented by the New York Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Congratulations, Angela!

Annaliese Scoggin '10 began her new job as Technical Guidance Biologist for the Trans-Pecos Wildlife District of Texas (one of 10 TG biologists in the state) this past May. This is similar to her previous position of Private Lands Biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife, but she now works with landowners across the entire 16 county district and has additional responsibilities, including coordinating training events for state biologists, planning and implementing training opportunities for land owners and land managers, and writing publications on wildlife management and updates for the West Texas area. Congratulations, Annaliese!

Valorie Titus '12 will be joining the faculty at Green Mountain College in Poultney, VT as an assistant professor of natural resources management. Congratulations, Valorie!

LEADERSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Pacific Northwest Regional Fellowship: Offered through the Environmental Leadership Program this year-long fellowship offers opportunities for leadership and skills training along with regional and national networking. The fellowship is only available to those working or residing in OR, WA, or AK. Applications for 2015 are now being accepted on a rolling basis. Learn more at:

<http://elpnet.org/pacific-northwest-regional-fellowship>

Center for Leadership Development: Leadership development courses for federal employees are being offered through the United States Office of Personal Management. Leadership assessment programs are available throughout the year at different management levels ranging from team leaders to supervisors to senior executives. Learn more at:

<https://leadership.opm.gov/index.aspx>