



The Wildlife Society Pennsylvania Chapter



Newsletter—Fall 2017

President's Message

Here in Southeastern PA the leaves have (finally) begun to turn color, birds seem to be congregating and on the move. As winter's chill sets in, I am contemplating a little more leisure time as I hope you are! Now is the time to catch up on reading and chores, and preparing for colder and snowy weather around my home. While it is tempting to settle in to a less active and stressful mode, the PATWS board continues to work on your behalf. We wish to discover how we can become more relevant to our members by providing value and opportunities in professional development, sharing information about the latest research and technologies, improving networking among members and growing the Chapter membership.

In March we will hold our 41st annual conference, and all indications are that we will achieve some of our targeted goals. The conference theme will focus on understanding wildlife by utilizing cutting edge technologies. Our lineup of speakers are both from within the state and from other states, and we plan to have at least one international speaker. During Friday's workshops we will provide training in some of the featured technologies, and will include a session targeted for students and those who wish to obtain certification as a wildlife biologist (CWB) through The Wildlife Society.

As always, your input is welcomed, and we hope you will seriously consider sharing your research during the organized sessions. I thank you for the opportunity to be your Chapter President and look

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forward to getting to know many more of you during the coming months!

Happy Winter! May your Holidays be bright!

*Jane Rowan
President, PA TWS*

**Treasurer's Report
October 30, 2017**

(updated 11/6/2017 with Vanguard information)

Citizens Bank Operating Account	<u>\$7166.67</u>
PayPal	<u>\$120.00</u>
Vanguard Funds	
Star	\$5481.07
Federal MM	\$580.22
Wellesley	\$4147.38
Vanguard (11/6/2017)	<u>\$10208.67</u>
Total PA TWS balance	<u>\$17495.34</u>
Citizen's Bank Other People's Money	\$15228.58

Major activities have been a transition of records and gaining access to the Citizens Bank, PayPal and Vanguard accounts for the new treasurer. Treasurer satisfactorily resolved two PayPal disputes with respect to the Spring meeting. EBBW PayPal account balance was transferred to Citizens Bank. Treasurer will disperse \$15,228.58 to the next host of the Eastern Black Bear Workshop when given a name and address.

*Robert Blye,
Treasurer*

We are on Facebook—LIKE US!

The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society now has a Facebook page. Connect with us. Share with us. To find us on Facebook search:
"PA Chapter -The Wildlife Society"



This Newsletter is produced on a roughly quarterly basis for members of the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Editor: Lillie Langlois

Send items of interest, comments, announcements, questions, or corrections to Lillie at: lal276@psu.edu.

Subject— "newsletter"

**PA Chapter of The Wildlife Society
seeks nominations for officers and directors**

****PA TWS Seeking Board Member
Nominations****

PA TWS is currently taking nominations for six Executive Board positions. Terms of office will begin at our annual business meeting in March 2018:

- Vice President
- Newsletter Editor
- Website Manager
- Membership Coordinator
- At-Large Members (2 positions)

If you would like to nominate someone, please be sure to discuss it with them first, also you may nominate yourself. Nominees shall submit a short biography for inclusion on the ballot to be distributed to the membership in early 2018. All Board members MUST be members in good standing of BOTH the PA TWS Chapter AND the National organization.

Submit Nominations by February 1, 2018

Send to Nominations Committee member Jennifer D. Martin jdziemiela@gmail.com
OR to the chapter email pachaptertws@gmail.com

Brief position descriptions:

Vice-President (3-year term): serves one year in a supportive role to the President, with primary duties of overseeing facility arrangements for the annual meeting and handling the duties of the President in the President's absence. In year two, the VP becomes the President. The President's main duties are to supervise the officers, appoint committee chairs, represent the chapter, and oversee the planning of the annual meeting. Finally in year three, the position shifts to Past-President, and is primarily responsible for annual meeting awards.

Newsletter Editor (2-year term): receives, compiles, and edits chapter newsletter. Chairs annual meeting program committee.

Website Manager (2-year term): maintains chapter website by reviewing, editing, and posting pertinent documents and content.

Membership Coordinator (2-year term): maintains membership rolls for the chapter, chairs the membership committee, and distributes information to the membership. Also assists the Treasurer during registration at the annual meeting.

At-Large Board Members (2-year term): provide leadership to the chapter and serve the chapter as directed by the President. Assist the Treasurer with fundraising for the annual meeting, and also assist at the annual meeting as needed.

The strength of our organization is the diverse interests of its members and the leadership provided by the Board. We hope you will consider running for office, or nominating a friend or colleague, so that we can continue to keep our chapter active and influential at the regional and national level.

—Complete Board member duties can be found in the PA TWS By-laws Article V Sec. 3 available on our website at: <http://www.wildlife.org/pa/bylaws>



2018 Call for Papers

41st Annual Conference
Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society
March 23 – 24, 2018
Toftrees Resort & Conference Center – State College, PA

Plenary theme

Using Technology to Understand Ecology: Innovations that Enhance Wildlife Management

INSTRUCTIONS

Abstracts do not have to fit into the plenary session theme. We invite abstracts on any natural resource topic in Pennsylvania and the surrounding northeast region including flora, fauna, water, soils, techniques, human dimensions, outreach, education, policy, and legal or law enforcement issues.

Abstracts are required for all paper and poster submissions.

All oral presentations will be allotted 20 minutes; 15 minutes for formal presentation and 5 minutes for question/answer time. We use MS PowerPoint, so be sure your file is compatible.

Poster authors are required to accompany their poster during the scheduled poster session. Posters will be no larger than 36" in height by 48" in width (3' X 4'). You will be given an easel for poster display—*you will need to bring your own backing or have your poster printed on foam board.* NOTE: a tri-fold poster board is acceptable.

Abstracts should be submitted by email attachment in MS Word. Abstracts should be typed in **12-pt font with no indents, bold, or other special formatting.** Use *italics*, not underline, for scientific names. Please follow punctuation and formatting guidelines exactly as noted below or your abstract may be returned. Also see the Example Submission.

Submit abstracts to: Samara Trusso satrusso@pa.gov; email subject "2018 PATWS abstract"

*****Deadline for abstract submissions is January 19, 2018 *****

Accepted presenters will be informed by February 1st.

2018 Call for Papers

Each abstract submission must contain the following information, in exactly the format below. See Example Submission.

Title of presentation

Author(s), affiliation(s), address(es); include zip code(s)

Name of presenter, telephone number, email address; indicate if the presenter is a professional or student and whether it's a presentation or poster.

Abstract (no more than 250 words) should state what or who you studied; very briefly describe your methods; provide results; and state your conclusion(s). Include scientific names for all species.

Example Submission:

Comparison of cytology and histopathology for diagnosis of avian pox in wild turkeys

Justin Brown, Mary Jo Casalena, and Joshua Johnson, Pennsylvania Game Commission, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110; Kira L. Hydock, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802; Holly Brown, Metzger Animal Hospital, 1044 Benner Pike, State College, PA 16801; Nicole Nemeth, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, 50 Stone Road E., Guelph, ON, Canada, N1G 2W1; Rebecca Poulson, Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, 589 D.W. Brooks Drive, Athens, GA 30602

Justin Brown, (814) 863-8370, judbrow@pa.gov; professional oral presentation

Avian poxvirus is a common cause of proliferative skin lesions in wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*); however, other etiologies may produce grossly indistinguishable lesions (e.g. neoplasia, bacterial infections). Histopathology and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) are common diagnostic approaches for avian pox. While these methods are sufficient in most cases, both have limitations (e.g. antemortem testing, lack of preservative or laboratory support). Cytology is a rapid approach that may be useful when histopathology or PCR are not feasible. The objective of this study was to evaluate cytology relative to histopathology and PCR for avian pox diagnosis in wild turkeys. Thirty-seven wild turkeys with proliferative skin lesions were included in this study; 19 of these birds also had lesions in gastrointestinal tract. Samples were collected from skin and gastrointestinal tract lesions for cytology, histopathology, and PCR. There were no significant differences between cytology and histopathology for skin ($p = 0.2482$) or gastrointestinal tract ($p = 1$) lesions. Relative to histopathology, cytology had a sensitivity of 90% and a specificity of 100% for skin lesions and a sensitivity of 75% and a specificity of 0% (all 19 samples were due to avian pox) for gastrointestinal tract lesions. There were no significant differences between PCR and histopathology ($p = 0.6171$) or cytology ($p = 0.2482$) for skin lesions. Relative to PCR, cytology had a sensitivity of 89.3% and a specificity of 100%. These results suggest cytology may serve as a useful tool for diagnosing avian pox in wild turkeys.

****Awards****

Recognition awards for the best student oral presentation and best student poster will be presented during the banquet dinner. To be eligible for this award the student must be enrolled in school or have completed the presented research within the past year, be the lead author, and be the presenter of the paper or poster. Be sure to indicate in the abstract submission that it is a student entry.

Looking for volunteer instructors

The Northeast Section: Student Wildlife Field Course is looking for instructors. Held annually for 2 weeks in May, the field course offers students an opportunity to learn skills from professionals in the wildlife field. This intense 2 week session offers students the opportunity to learn a wide range of skills, but they are in need of assistance from you. The Field Course is looking for instructors who can commit a few days to share their knowledge with the future of our profession. Those interested can offer to be a lead instructor in a discipline or assist one of the other professionals who has already volunteered their time. As a lead instructor you would be able to pick your own discipline to teach, or use your expertise to fill in one of the current disciplines that the field course already has outlined and needs an instructor. Current skills needed are assistance with line transects, birding skills, and woody plant identification, but if you have a unique skill, they are willing to work it into the course. Remember the course instructors are all volunteers, but they do offer meals and lodging on site, as well as a chance to spend some time in the majestic mountains of Vermont.

If interested contact the Field Course Director, John McDonald (twsmcdonald@gmail.com) and take a minute to check out the field courses website.

<http://wildlife.org/ne-section/about/student-field-course/>

*Kyle Van Why,
Northeast Section
Representative*

Newsletter for tracking invasive species

We would like to introduce our members to a great newsletter:

Pennsylvania iMapInvasives—Fall 2017 is now available online.

In this issue, you will find the following:

- Feature Story: Managing invasive species in Pittsburgh's city parks.
- High Priority Finding: The discovery of European frog-bit in Lake Wilhelm (Mercer County).
- Emerging Invasive Threats: Be an early detector by keeping a look out for 12 species identified by the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program.
- Hardy Kiwi Vine Species Profile: Get introduced to this terrestrial invader by learning how to identify it and understanding the negative impacts it has on the environment.
- Engaging Citizen Scientists: A recent effort by the Huntingdon County Conservation District encourages citizen scientists to report their findings of invasive species.
- iMapInvasives in Action: A summer event challenges participants to hunt for water chestnut, a high priority aquatic invader in Pennsylvania.
- Encourage Words: Benjamin Mummert of the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy provides his perspective on the value of iMapInvasives as a tool to share data.

[Read the newsletter online.](#)

Link: https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/ed0c71_fa50f4ac60504b839734595826890af1.pdf

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS FOR AWARDS AND GRANTS

Professional Development Grant

The Pennsylvania State Chapter of The Wildlife Society will award one, \$1000 professional development grant annually to a non-student member of PATWS to attend a conference or professional development program.

The Professional Development Grant is intended to provide an opportunity for wildlife professionals to continue their education throughout their career. Those applicants gaining credits to maintain their TWS wildlife biologist certification will be given preference. The grant can be used for registration, travel, lodging, food, supplies, or fees associated with attending a conference or training program.

Minimum Eligibility

All applicants must be a non-student member of PATWS and must have maintained that level of membership for at least the most recent two years. Those applicants gaining credits to maintain their TWS wildlife biologist certification will be given preference. An individual can receive this grant once per five years.

Recipients of the grant must attend the indicated conference or program within 18 months of receiving the grant or forfeit the grant money. Recipients must write a summary of their experience for an edition of the PATWS chapter newsletter.

Applicants must submit the following materials:

- Resume or CV
- Essay: Explain your grant request. The name, date, and location of the conference or professional development program must be provided, and an agenda included if available. Please note if you will receive TWS certification continuing education credits for attending. Essay should be no more than 500 words.

Email all materials in one PDF by February 15, 2018 to: PAChapterTWS@gmail.com.

You must include "Professional Development Grant" in the subject line of the email.

All submissions must include a phone number (with area code) for the winner to be notified. Finalists may be interviewed by telephone. The recipient will be notified by March 1.

See our website for additional information: <http://www.wildlife.org/pa/awards>



Student Scholarship Opportunities

Annual Chapter Meeting Student Grants

The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society will offer ten (10) grants to cover the cost of student registration to attend The Chapter's annual conference (Grant will cover cost of registration, the Friday night mixer, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday). The grant is available to graduate and undergraduate students. A portion of the grants will be given to students giving a presentation/poster.

The Frank Felbaum Scholarship

The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society established the Frank Felbaum Scholarship more than a decade ago thanks to the generosity of Frank Felbaum, longtime director of Pennsylvania's Wild Resource Conservation Program and tireless conservationist. The scholarship is a one-time \$500.00 award intended to assist outstanding students who are pursuing a career in the wildlife field.

The scholarship is available to any undergraduate student currently enrolled in a wildlife ecology or related natural resources program at a Pennsylvania college or university, or a Pennsylvania resident currently enrolled in such a program at a college or university outside Pennsylvania. The recipient should have a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.2 and have demonstrated an interest and commitment to wildlife through volunteer and/or work experience and extracurricular activities, including membership in conservation/ecology clubs. The scholarship is awarded only once per recipient.

Applications must include the following items to be considered: Letter of Recommendation, transcript, and essay.

Full scholarship details:

<http://wildlife.org/pennsylvania-chapter/awards-grants-scholarships/>

Gordon Kirkland Lifetime Achievement Award

The Kirkland Award is named in honor of Dr. Gordon Kirkland Jr., noted mammologist, and Director and Professor of Biology at Shippensburg University. The award is meant to recognize mid-career and beyond professionals with demonstrated accomplishments in and dedication to the wildlife field.

–THIS IS A PEER-NOMINATED AWARD

All application materials must be sent as a PDF **by February 15, 2018:**

PAChapterTWS@gmail.com.



Student Chapter News

Editor's note: The Student Chapter News section covers what's new with our six PA student chapters (California University of Pennsylvania, Clarion University, Delaware Valley College, Juniata College, Penn State University, and Penn State DuBois)

****California University of Pennsylvania****

The California University of Pennsylvania student chapter of the wildlife society has already had a busy semester. Ten students and their advisor went to the TWS National Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico this past September. The students attended a variety of symposia and meetings while at the conference, all the while networking and building connections to help them in their future careers. In addition four Cal-U seniors and one alternate student competed in the annual quiz-bowl competition where they took third in the nation.

Since coming back from New Mexico the club already has a variety of activities planned. Example of some of our activities include our annual camping trip in Benezzete, Pa and our annual field day at the Roscoe rod and gun club where students are exposed firearms and are taught how to properly care and use them. In addition at the end of October the Cal-U of Pa student chapter will be heading out to the Wilds in Cumberland Ohio for a weekend long ecological restoration certification course. Additional activities the student chapter intends to conduct this semester includes a number of smaller fundraisers, hiking trips, and continuing to work towards establishing our environmental education program.



Quiz bowl team at National Conference

Jake Newbill



Student Chapter at Roscoe Field Day

Student Chapter News, cont.

****Juniata College****

This has been a busy semester for the Juniata College Chapter of The Wildlife Society!

We began the year with our own freshman orientation program for students who were interested in wildlife. Over the course of three days, we went mist-netting, searching for fence lizards, owl-calling, kayaking, and marking turtles for research. The program was incredibly successful in introducing freshmen to our chapter, and getting them to join the club. Many of them are now playing an active part in club leadership!

Once school began, our chapter got busier. Our opening campfire was a hit, with mountain pies, hot dogs, and s'mores for all. A few weeks later, 10 students took a trip to Hawk Mountain. While there wasn't much luck in seeing hawks that day, they did have a successful Cabela's visit to end the trip. Mid-October, 12 of our members took advantage of a beautiful Sunday and went on a canoe float trip down the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River to look for otter signs. We did find a few, but not before we got our canoes stuck too many times to count. Next time, we'll be sure to avoid water levels that low.

Most recently, a few members of our club took a trip to Assateague Island over Fall Break. Although they faced some brutal winds (thanks, Hurricane Nate), they were happily surprised to find that it was the 150th Anniversary of the Assateague Lighthouse. There was cake, free light house visits, and a party all around.

We have a few events planned for the rest of the semester including pumpkin carving at our advisor's house, a resume workshop for government jobs, a club retreat, and more!

After this semester, we're excited to see what the spring has to offer.

Sydney Spicer



Mist netting during our freshman wildlife program was a success!



The otter float trip on the Raystown Branch of the Juniata. On the trip, we found four or five active otter latrines along the bank!

Little Fish in a Big Pennsylvania Pond *by Cavan McIntyre-Brewer*

Nature has always been something important to me. As a small child, I loved wandering in the forest, hiking, spending time near water, and just enjoying the natural world around me. As a teen, I have learned that environmental sciences are a great way to be in my comfort zone, learn about things I'm passionate about, and spend time around others who feel the same as me. The Wildlife Leadership Academy was an excellent way for me to be able to do all the things that I enjoy and learn at the same time. From the moment that I got to the facility where the Brookies field camp was held, I enjoyed the beauty of nature and the facilities we were using. Over the course of the week, I was able to learn from some wonderful experts who helped me understand more about the life cycle of the brook trout, its ecosystem, and so many other facets of its existence. This micro look at biology, environmental science, and laboratory skills helped to prepare me for the projects I am now pursuing at a larger scale.

Since coming home from the field experience, I have created educational products for display at my area fair with Perry County 4-H and was also fortunate enough to qualify to present at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January, as well. I have been a team leader for younger children out at Little Buffalo State Park, educating kids about the importance of clean water and its effects on biodiversity. I've taught preschoolers about runoff and why flooding happens. I even had an opportunity to do a presentation on the different types of snakes in Pennsylvania. While my training with the Wildlife Leadership Academy was focused on one species prevalent in Pennsylvania, the tools garnered there prepared me to be able to expand my knowledge and influence in the community. I am learning about so much more than the brook trout and bringing awareness to issues such as conservation, pollution, invasive species, and the need to think progressively about the future of our environment. It is a pleasure to be an ambassador for the Wildlife Leadership Academy.



Cavan (right) and his teammate collecting macroinvertebrates in the stream to assess stream health.



Group photo of Cavan's team at the Brookies field camp: Mayfly Ask You A Question?



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

2018 Membership Application

Pennsylvania Chapter

- Check One: Renewal
 New Member
 Student Member
 Lifetime Member
 Dues Paid through National Headquarters

Annual Dues: \$10.00
 Student Dues: \$6.00
 Life Membership: \$200.00

The following information is new, updated, or corrected
 unchanged

Name: Dr. Mrs. Miss
 Mr. Ms. _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Home: (____) ____ - _____
 Office: (____) ____ - _____ Ext. _____
 Fax: (____) ____ - _____
 E-mail: _____

Please make checks payable to: **PA-TWS**
 (Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society)

Mail to: Robert W. Blye
 34603 Doe Run
 Lewes DE 19958-3332