



INTELLIGENT TINKERING

Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society Newsletter

To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of Intelligent Tinkering. – Aldo Leopold



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Submission Deadlines:
 Winter Issue: February 1, 2014
 Spring Issue: May 1, 2014
 Summer Issue: August 1, 2014

2015 Joint Winter Meeting 2nd Call for Papers & Posters

This year's meeting will be a joint meeting with the Minnesota Chapter and will be held in **Duluth, Minnesota February 17-19, 2015**. Events and sessions will be held in the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center with a block of guest rooms in the adjoining Holiday Inn.

Concurrent/Student Session Abstracts

Please consider submitting an abstract to present in one of our concurrent sessions or the poster session. You can discuss your most recent research findings, updates on management projects, or thought-provoking ideas about advancing wildlife conservation. Students are encouraged to submit oral or poster abstracts of ongoing and recently completed research. All quality submittals will be considered.

Abstracts must be submitted by **January 9, 2015**. Email abstracts or questions to Mark Pfof (markpfof@centurylink.net) in Wisconsin or Richard Olsen (richard.olsen@state.mn.us) in Minnesota. See "MN-WI TWS 2015 Abstract Instructions" for abstract submission guidance.

Special Session Abstracts: Elk, Wild Rice, and LiDAR

Elk Session: Contact Mike Schrage, mikeschrage@fdlrez.com, phone: (218) 878-7103 or John Hart, john.p.hart@aphis.usda.gov, (218) 327-3350 for more information.

Wild Rice Session: Contact Ann Geisen, ann.giesen@state.mn.us, (218) 833-8625.

LiDAR Session: Contact Bob Wright, Robert.wright@state.mn.us, (651) 296-3292.

Please see page 3 for more details on the special sessions.

*A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community.
 It is wrong when it tends to do otherwise. – Aldo Leopold*

Presidents Soapbox

By Scott Craven

Fall is passing very quickly. I hope everyone has had time to enjoy the foliage display, fall fishing and hunting opportunities, and the great weather to be outdoors.

With planning for the upcoming February joint conference with the Minnesota Chapter occupying most of the board's attention, this soapbox will consist of several updates and calls for action. On the subject of the joint meeting, the Call for Papers is out. Consider submitting a paper. I am hopeful that our Wisconsin members will play an active role in the special sessions on elk, wild rice, and LIDAR. The program and related events look great. Mark your calendars for Feb. 16-19, 2015.

I am very pleased to report that several chapter members have expressed an interest in helping with chapter leadership. It should be easier than in some years to provide the membership with a full slate of candidates for the upcoming election. This takes some of the urgency out of the discussion about hiring an Executive Director. That option will be an agenda item at the annual business meeting.

Elsewhere in Intelligent Tinkering you will see an update from Chuck Pils on our engagement in the League of Conservation Voters. Please recall that we decided to expand our role with the League when we withdrew from The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. The board will soon decide on a financial commitment, but Chuck really needs the help of the membership to populate the League website with background information on several important wildlife issues. Please get involved so we can complete this important task.

A bylaws change has been created and is before the board for consideration. The change enables the appointment of a student delegate to serve as a full voting member of the Board. The wording and implications of the change will be presented to the Chapter membership for a vote prior to the winter meeting in Duluth. Personally, I think the idea is a good one. A slightly larger board

will help with the workload and it could help with leadership development for both the chapter and the students.

Two weeks ago, I attended a "Conservation Café" organized by the DNR to obtain input on the planned revisions of the WAP – Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan, and the 10 year plan for Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management. It was a well-run, interesting evening of small group discussions on agency successes (or difficulties), goals, values, etc. I enjoyed it, but sadly it was poorly attended. These are very important guiding documents, but apparently it takes controversy to get people involved. If you receive the newsletter in time, an online survey is open until November 14. Make your thoughtful opinions known to the DNR.

That is all for now. The rut is in full swing and I need to check my trail camera. If you hunt, I hope the hunt is productive and safe. Enjoy the holiday season and see you in Duluth.

WDNR Silviculture Guidance Team Update

Submitted by Ron Eckstein

I represent the Wisconsin Chapter on DNR's Silviculture Guidance Team. The Silviculture Guidance Team is made up of representatives from sawmills, pulp mills, loggers, county forests, national forests, small woodland landowners, forest industry large landowners, DNR Forestry, UW-Stevens Point Forestry, and forestry consultants. I am the sole "Other Resource" representative. The team advises the Division of Forestry on all aspects of silviculture and forestry in Wisconsin. Since 2013 we've met seven times in all corners of the state and toured jack pine management, oak management, a sawmill, and a Nature Conservancy Preserve. New Silviculture Handbook Chapters include white birch (complete), red maple (almost complete) and jack pine (in development). Topics under review include: oak harvest guidelines, a general economics chapter, long-eared bat guidelines, wood turtle guidelines, rotation lengths, beech bark disease guidelines, T&E species guidelines, and DNR research priorities.

Joint Winter Meeting Update

Submitted by Mark Pfost, President-Elect

This winter's meeting will be held jointly with the Minnesota chapter of The Wildlife Society and run from February 17-19 in Duluth, MN. Officers from both chapters are working through the details to make this a successful venture. My understanding is that this is WCTWS's first attempt at such a meeting. Conference activities will either take place in the downtown Holiday Inn or in the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC). The two are connected via a skywalk, so those who don't want to brave Duluth's weather can make the (short) hike between venues without fear of frostbite.

That's the when and where; now for the meat. *Three* plenary speakers (Peter Donovan, Judith D. Schwartz, and Seth Itzkan) will offer their insights on connections between soils, atmospheric carbon, and climate change - or if you prefer, global warming. Work is underway to fill out three special sessions that should interest members: elk, wild rice, and LiDAR.

Submissions for the elk session could delve into elk management in the Midwest, what is involved in re-introducing these animals, things that went right (or wrong) with re-introductions, or a discussion of challenges to overcome. If you have a talk in mind and need additional information contact Mike Schrage [mikeschrage@fdlrez.com, phone: (218) 878-7103] or John Hart [john.p.hart@aphis.usda.gov, phone: (218) 327-3350].

Direct inquiries about the wild rice session should go to Ann Geisen [ann.geisen@state.mn.us, phone: (218) 833-8625]. Possible topics might discuss wild rice management, new information about its ecology, or lake restoration efforts incorporating wild rice.

Bob Wright is the lead for the LiDAR session [robert.wright@state.mn.us, phone: (651) 296-3292]. Unlike passive remote sensing applications that offer two-dimensional information, LiDAR provides information in three dimensions. If you are using LiDAR to examine characteristics of a specific

habitat, or to answer a wildlife research question, consider submitting an abstract.

We anticipate plenty of slots for professionals and students to present their work during the general sessions as well. This is an opportunity to show your peers what you have been doing. Undergraduate and graduate students can showcase their research. With presenters coming from both states, we should have a great mix of topics.

All abstracts are should follow the format sent out with first call for papers. Abstracts for the general sessions should be submitted to Mark Pfost [markpfost@centurylink.net, phone: (608) 565-4418] or to Rich Olsen [MN2015Duluth@gmail.com, phone: (320) 634-0342]. Abstracts for special sessions should be sent to the specific organizer listed above.

Abstracts are due no later than 9 January, 2015.

Additionally, discussions are underway that may result in several student chapters competing in a Quiz Bowl. Most activities will be held jointly—such as a mixer, poster session, and awards banquet; however, each state chapter will conduct its own business meeting. Please attend and please participate! WCTWS sent out the First Call for Papers and Posters a few weeks ago. Registration dates, costs, and other details will be finalized before long. Registration will open December 15th. More to come.



Call for 2014 WCTWS Award Nominations

Submitted by Kris Johansen, Awards Committee Chair

The WCTWS Awards Committee is seeking nominations for chapter recognition at the annual Winter Meeting. Please think of the deserving people that you know and nominate them today.

The Wisconsin Award is our chapter's highest recognition of a person or group that exemplifies the wildlife profession in our state. The award is intended to be given out annually and nominees are rated on the basis of their overall achievement or service to the wildlife profession in the fields of management, research, teaching, public relations, or legislative direction. Nominees may be any member of the wildlife profession and its supporting disciplines including members of governing bodies. Tim VanDeelen was the 2013 recipient of this award.

The Don Rusch Memorial Award is presented annually to a nominee who has made an outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation and meets the following requirements: 1) A wildlife professional actively working in the field of management, research, or education in the State of Wisconsin. 2) A member in good standing of the Wisconsin Chapter of TWS. 3) An active participant in or a strong supporter of the role of hunting in wildlife conservation.

Nominees are judged on the significance of their contribution to wildlife conservation in the state of Wisconsin for either the short /or long term. The person selected for this award will be the type of individual who is recognized by their peers as an excellent representative of a working wildlife professional. Scott Hull was the 2013 recipient of the Don Rusch Award.

The nomination for the **WCTWS Student Award** is open to any person that is in their junior or senior year enrolled in a Wisconsin university or college during the 2014-2015 school year. Nominees will be judged on the basis of grade point average, leadership qualities, participation in wildlife conservation organizations,

and the potential for future contributions to the wildlife profession. Jacob Marty UW-Stevens Point was the 2013 student award winner.

To submit nominations for these prestigious awards please supply any member of the Awards Committee with a statement of nomination and any relevant supporting information that you have available. If you know of other persons or organizations having additional information on the nominee's accomplishments, please furnish us with those leads. Your Awards Committee is currently composed of: Jim Ruwaldt, USFWS (Retired) – Madison, Scott Lutz, UW - Madison, Jim Evrard, DNR (Retired) Grantsburg and Kris Johansen, DNR – Black River Falls. Nominations may be submitted to Kris Johansen at kris.johansen@wisconsin.gov. Deadline for submissions is January 9, 2015.

We all know deserving, dedicated people who put their hearts and souls into this wildlife calling, whether at the student or professional level. Please nominate them today!

Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarship Nominations

Submitted by Lesa Kardash, Scholarship Committee Chair

The purpose of the WCTWS Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarship is to provide support and recognition for wildlife researchers/managers who are continuing their professional training, and in so doing, honor the memory of Aldo Leopold. A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to both a **graduate student and an undergraduate student** who have made a commitment to the wildlife profession, have successfully completed initial stages of their formal education, and who have shown exceptional commitment to developing themselves professionally. **Graduate and undergraduate students** at any of Wisconsin's accredited colleges or universities are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

The criteria for awarding the scholarship are as follows:

Applicants should ---

- a) be currently enrolled at a college or university within Wisconsin;
- b) be majoring in wildlife management or ecology, zoology, biology or related area with the goal of pursuing a career in wildlife ecology (research, management, etc.)
- c) have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (4.0 maximum).

To apply, students must submit the following information, postmarked no later than **January 9, 2015** to: Lesa Kardash, 473 Griffith Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494; Lesa.Kardash@wisconsin.gov

Application Materials:

Electronic submission of all documents is highly preferred (documents may be scanned)

- 1) A letter of application including a statement of professional goals and philosophy, and a summary of experiences or activities that relate to and show a commitment to wildlife conservation.
- 2) An official copy of college or university transcripts.
- 3) Two letters of recommendation from people familiar with your academic ability, and commitment to the wildlife profession.

Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- a) A demonstrated desire to pursue a career in wildlife ecology;
- b) Demonstrated academic ability;
- c) Evidence from student's application letters of support that demonstrates a serious commitment to the wildlife profession (types of extracurricular activities, volunteer activities, jobs, etc.)

NOTE: This scholarship award will be presented to the successful recipient at The Wildlife Society - Wisconsin Chapter annual meeting to be held in Duluth, MN, March 16-19, 2015.

Northeastern Section Update

Submitted by David E. Anderson, NE Section Representative

The Wildlife Society (TWS) Council met in conjunction with the 21st Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in late October 2014, and there are several updates of Council activities to pass along to North Central Section, state chapter, and student chapter members. First, as many of you know, TWS has experienced financial difficulties the last several years, and in October 2013, approved a budget and direction on a path toward financial sustainability. You may also recall that TWS changed fiscal years, from calendar years to a fiscal year that runs from July through June, and this year is the year that change-over happened. As a result, Council reviewed finances for parts of two fiscal years at this meeting—hopefully the last time that has to happen! Overall, Executive Director Ken Williams reported a small surplus for the period January-June 2014 and a larger, projected surplus for the new fiscal year beginning July 2014. TWS still has a way to go to reach the financial position we all desire, but the organization seems to have turned the corner and is back on the right track. TWS Executive Committee members (President Jon Haufler, Past-President Wini Kessler, President-Elect Rick Baydack, and Vice President Gary Potts) have worked diligently with TWS staff to track budgets, align spending with strategic goals, and otherwise work to get TWS back in the black. I'm pleased to report that TWS finances are headed in the right direction, and that Council is working hard to continue that trend.

Some other positive developments include a new publishing contract with Wiley, roll-out of a new TWS website (Wildlife.org), hiring a new Publications Director (Nancy Sasavage) and filling other vacancies, reformatting and new delivery of wildlife policy news, revision and streamlining of TWS position statements, approval of a new Strategic Plan, and continued development of the Conservation Affairs Network:

TWS publications:--Our current publishing contract with Wiley expires in 2015. As the publishing landscape continues to change (think open-access and digital publication), TWS needs to consider how best to continue providing high-quality scientific information, and the finances of publication. To help inform a decision about a publishing contract, TWS hired a publishing consultant who

reviewed the offer of a new contract from Wiley and the alternative of soliciting proposals for a new publisher. Our consultant indicated that the Wiley contract offer was very good in the context of the current publishing environment, but suggested several areas where it could be improved. With input from Council, TWS staff negotiated an even more favorable contract with Wiley that increases revenue while also providing flexibility for renewal and the possibility of venturing into open-access publishing. The good news is that our publishing arrangements are strong in the short term, but the publishing landscape is changing quickly, and TWS needs to be proactive going forward. How best to innovate and be successful in the future (both near- and long-term) is a major challenge, and one that is receiving much consideration.

TWS website:--TWS rolled out a new website in conjunction with the 21st Annual Conference in Pittsburgh. The website is designed to be more user friendly, and provide better access to resources for members. As with all websites, it is a work in progress. I encourage you to view the new website and provide feedback to TWS for upgrades and improvements.

TWS staffing:--There are quite a few new names and faces in TWS, and the current TWS staff is enthusiastic and engaged. Executive Director Ken Williams has been in his position for about a year and a half, and with the assistance of Council, has filled several vacancies and reorganized staffing to align with TWS's new strategic plan. Some new names and faces include Ed Thompson (Chief Operating Officer), Nancy Sasavage (Director of Publications), Hedy Ross (Development Manager), Keith Norris (Assistant Director of Government Affairs and Partnerships), Zahir Shad (Digital Content), Mariah Simmons (Wildlife Programs Coordinator), and Cassie Martin (Science Writer).

TWS policy news and position statements:--Over the last year, a subcommittee of TWS Council worked on revising TWS position statements. Some existing position statements had or were close to expiration, and several were no longer relevant or had been supplanted by more recent statements. The subcommittee recommended revising how position statements are currently structured into (1) a statement of principles and values that broadly identify topics core to TWS, (2) position statements that address an area of broad interest, (3) issue statements that relate to a specific proposal, and (4) fact sheets that provide summaries of science related to specific topics.

TWS Strategic Plan:--Prior to the 20th Annual Conference in Milwaukee in 2013, Council spent two days discussing and developing the outline of a new strategic plan. Unlike TWS' previous strategic plan, the format for this plan was to identify issues and topics core to TWS, and to provide guidance about how to address those goals. The plan was revised, provided to TWS membership for comment, and used to align TWS operations over the last year. Council voted to approve our new strategic plan, with the addition of language identifying international efforts as a priority. Look for the new plan on the TWS website.

TWS Conservation Affairs Network:--The Conservation Affairs Network has been developed by TWS Council and staff over the last several years, and was rolled out during 2014. The idea of the Conservation Affairs Network is to allow more efficient engagement in issues important to TWS membership across all levels of the organization (parent society, sections, state chapters) and the profession. Sections and chapters are in various stages of engagement in the Conservation Affairs Network, and the North Central Section is deliberating how it best fits into the network. In addition, the Conservation Affairs Network is a key component of the TWS Strategic Plan, in that it is a mechanism to more closely engage all levels of the society. If you are not familiar with the Conservation Affairs Network, please take a few minutes and find out more on the TWS website.

Although there was mostly good news to report from the recent TWS Council meetings, not everything is positive. TWS has a distressing downward trend in membership, and if this trend continues, the financial stability of TWS will again be at risk. TWS staff are focused on engaging current, lapsed, and potential new members, and increasing membership is a high priority. Part of the issue is making clear what the value of TWS membership is to former and potential new members, something that current members can help accomplish.

Finally, a reminder that the 22nd Annual Conference (2015) will be in Winnipeg, Manitoba (make sure your passport is up to date!) next October, followed by an Annual Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina in 2016. TWS is also a co-sponsor (jointly with the Mammal Society of Japan) of the 2015 International Wildlife Management Conference in Sapporo, Japan in July 2015.

Financial Status Report, 11/06/14

Submitted by Travis Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer

Credits – 2014	Amount	Year (total)
Winter Meeting		\$11,390.00
Silent Auction/Garage Sale		\$ 152.00
Membership		\$ 1,480.00
Donations		\$ 10.00
Pint glasses		\$ 512.00
		\$13,544.00

Debits – 2014	Amount	Year (total)
Winter Meeting		\$ 14,964.86
Awards – Winter Meeting		\$ 997.80
Conservation Hall of Fame		\$ 100.00
Leopold Scholarships		\$ 2,000.00
Outstanding Student Award		\$ 116.00
Mileage & Meetings		\$ 252.00
Postage/clerical/etc.		\$ 118.08
		\$ 18,548.74

ACCOUNT	DATE	AMOUNT	DIFFERENCE
CHECKING	5/31/14	\$2,095.09	
	11/6/14	\$2,031.91	-\$63.18
SAVINGS 1	5/31/14	\$15,932.49	
	11/6/14	\$15,939.19	-\$6.70
SAVINGS 2	5/31/14	\$1,068.59	
	11/6/14	\$1,069.07	\$0.48
CD #1	5/31/14	\$1,951.72	
	11/6/14	\$1,953.40	\$1.68
CD #2 (Bjerke)	5/31/14	\$83,568.23	
	11/6/14	\$83,673.40	\$105.17
CUNA Brokerage	5/31/14	\$16,141.29	
	11/6/14	\$16,141.29	\$0.00
TOTAL	5/31/14	\$120,757.41	
	11/6/14	\$120,808.26	\$50.85

Student Chapter Corner

University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point



By Emilia Kenow, President

The University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point student chapter of The Wildlife Society has had a busy semester. Many new members attended our first few meetings and they have continued to trickle in as the semester progresses. We are lucky enough to have a wide range of professionals at our weekly meetings and cannot thank them enough. At the start of the year, our Felid project was able to track down the remains of one of their collared bobcats and have continued the project with a collared male. Towards the end of September our Saw-whet Owl and Wild Bird projects were able to get many members out banding saw-whets at two separate locations. Meanwhile, in October the small mammal project conducted their study in Schmeekle, the reserve adjacent to campus. The Wild Bird project has also taken trips to Hawk Ridge and has continued to conduct their raptor road survey at Buena Vista twice a month. Many more projects will start up once things cool down and a layer of snow appears.

Perhaps one of the greater highlights of the semester so far was attending and presenting at the National TWS Conference in Pittsburgh. We were able to send seven members, two of which presented their own research. In addition, our chapter was asked to take part in the “Strategies of Successful Student Chapters: Recruiting, Engaging, Involving, and Promoting” session. Two of our past and present officers gave a talk entitled “The Wildlife Society: Building Your Success Through Leadership Roles”. Throughout the morning other speakers shared their thoughts, ideas and things they do with their student chapters. It was a good place to share and gain ideas. All members greatly enjoyed the rest of the week. Hopefully we can send more members to other conferences this year and in the future.



Felid Project collecting the remains of a bobcat



National TWS Conference in Pittsburgh, PA

WCTWS Issue Committees

Climate Change

Michael.Meyer@wisconsin.gov

Deer

Keith.McCaffery@wisconsin.gov

Farm Wildlife

Scott.Walter@wisconsin.gov

Government Affairs

Chuck Pils, cmpils@sbcglobal.net

Wildlife Damage

Jason.Suckow@aphis.usda.gov

Wolves

Randy Jurewicz, jurewrb@yahoo.com

Truisms - Contributed by Tom Bahti

Shamelessly borrowed, stolen and plagiarized from other sources

Good friends offer advice and words of wisdom. Real friends come over unannounced with vodka, chocolate, glitter, duct tape, cat suits, explosives and a plan.

Too bad you don't live closer, because there are evil plots to be hatched and twisted deeds to be done.

Politeness has become so rare that some people mistake it for flirtation.

Sometimes I wrestle with my demons. Sometimes we just snuggle.

I've got to stop saying "How stupid can you be?" Too many people are taking it as a challenge.

When people tell me "You're going to regret that in the morning.", I sleep until noon because I'm a problem solver.

The good thing about science is that it's true whether or not you believe in it.

I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

WCTWS Executive Board

Scott Craven, President
srcraven@wisc.edu

Mark Pfof, President-Elect
Mark_pfof@fws.gov

Tami Ryan, Past President
Tamara.Ryan@wisconsin.gov

Travis Anderson, Sec/Treasurer
Travis.Anderson@wi.gov

Brian Heeringa, Board Member
Brian.Heeringa@gmail.com

Amanda Kamps, Board Member
Amanda.Kamps@wisconsin.gov

Our Wildlife Family

Richard Allen "Dick" Hunt, age 87, of Fall River, and formerly of Horicon, Wis., ended a well-lived life on Thursday, Oct. 23, 2014, at Hillside Manor, Beaver Dam, following a brave battle with complications from diabetes. His family was by his side.

Dick, who often said his life's motto was "let me live in a house by the side of the road and be a friend to man," was known for his never-ending smile, positive good humor, strong Christian faith, and willingness to help others.



Dick was born on Dec. 23, 1926, in Edgerton, to Roy and Clara Hunt. He grew up in the Madison area, and was the 1936 and 1939 Dane County Marble Champion. He graduated from Madison East High School and then served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Upon his return, Dick attended UW-Madison, where he earned his undergraduate and master's degree in wildlife management. Following graduation, Dick began his 36-year career as a waterfowl research biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at Horicon Marsh.

He married the love of his life, Janis Krueger, on Sept. 12, 1953. They raised four children and made their home in Horicon for more than 50 years. Dick was a member of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church for 61 years, where he was a Deacon, helped in the early planning stages of the current church, and volunteered at the food pantry.

Dick was highly respected by his colleagues for his far-sighted, straight-forward and rigorous approach to preserving Wisconsin's natural resources. Considered one of North America's top waterfowl researchers, he contributed to

protecting, promoting and managing Wisconsin's migratory birds and their wetland habitat for more than 60 years. His work led to the development of one of the finest state wetland and waterfowl conservation programs in the country. Dick received many honors during his career, including The Wildlife Society's Wisconsin Award and the Mississippi Flyway Council Conservation Award. In 2012, he was humbled to be inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. Dick often marveled at how lucky he was to have a job he loved.

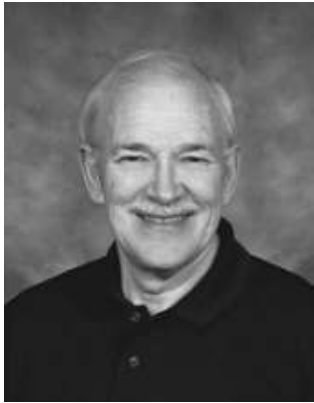
Dick was an avid outdoorsman, renowned for his skilled aim and knowledge of everything that swam, flew, crawled, walked or ran. He especially enjoyed the many years of hunting and fishing with his brother, Bob. In retirement, Dick was active in many conservation groups and loved traveling the backroads of the state with Janis, always on the lookout for wildlife and a spot for a picnic lunch. He was a dedicated walker, voracious reader, and engaging conversationalist.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Janis; daughters, Rebecca Hunt (Jim Koch) of Middleton, Christine (Dan) O'Connell of Bristol, and Amy Hunt of Madison; three grandsons, Rob Snyder, and Brice and Zachary O'Connell; his sister, Marian; sister-in-law, Phyllis Hunt; nieces, Lori and Cyndy; nephew, David; his sister-in-law, Lois (Jim) Asmus; niece, Dawn; nephews, Greg and Mike; brother-in-law, Don (Betty) Olson; and niece, Nancy. Dick was preceded in death by son, Kim; sister, Dorothy; brother, Bob; and his parents.

Special thanks to all the caregivers at Hillside Manor who so compassionately cared for Dick and supported our family for the past five months.

He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather who will be greatly missed by his family and remembered fondly by friends and colleagues.

The family prefers memorials to St. Stephens or a conservation organization of your choice.



James W. Hardin, 71, of Custer, Wisconsin, passed away on November 15, 2014, at House of the Dove, Marshfield. Jim was born in Martin County, Kentucky, son of the late T. J. and Lucille Hardin. He completed his Bachelor and Masters degrees at the University of Kentucky and taught at Memphis State University prior to obtaining his PhD. in Wildlife Biology at Southern Illinois University. He taught at SIU and was assistant director of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory. In 1978, he began teaching in the College of Natural Resources at University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, where

he was dedicated to his students and continued advising until his illness in September, 2014.

He was an active volunteer with Meals on Wheels and the Paws Reading Program, in second grade at Bannach School. He and his therapy dog, Bachelor, visited St. Michael's Hospital and the Clinic, as well as area nursing homes on a weekly basis. He married his beloved wife and life partner, Ellen, in 1976.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to "UWSP Foundation – James and Ellen Hardin Wildlife Field Scholar," 2100 Main Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481, or online at www.uwsp.edu/givenow and designate "James & Ellen Hardin Wildlife Field Scholar."

Source: <http://www.jjbfbh.com/obituaries/obituary-listings?obId=362189#/obituaryInfo>

Eulogy given by Dr. Eric Anderson, printed with permission

Hello. My name is Eric Anderson and I taught with Jim for 15 years in the wildlife program at the University of Wisconsin –Stevens Point. I'm honored to be able to say a few words about him today - as a colleague, a mentor, and a friend.

More years ago that I care to remember, I read a story to our kids about John Henry. If you recall the story, John Henry was a legendary figure that pitted his strength against the steam drill and died trying to best the machine. One line in that story has stayed with me all these years. In the book John says: "Dying ain't important. Everybody does that. What matters is how well you do your living."

By any measure you can name, Jim Hardin did his living well.

I can tell you about his significant professional life. The fact that he wrote the first recovery plan for the Florida Key Deer, served as Assistant Director of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab at Southern Illinois for 4 years, worked with 13 grad students on everything from Karner Blue butterflies to Greater Prairie Chickens and in 2005 was named a fellow by the Wildlife Society for his significant contributions to wildlife resources and the profession. Clearly he was highly regarded and well respected as a scientist.

But that would not capture what was truly remarkable about Jim.

I can tell you about his exceptional teaching abilities. During his 27 year career at UW-SP he was awarded the CNR Outstanding Teacher an unprecedented 4 times – and the top University Teaching Award twice. He taught and advised literally thousands of students – many of whom have gone on to work for state and federal agencies, direct wildlife programs for non-profits, and teach at other universities. For 10 years he advised the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society during which time the organization won the national award for best student chapter twice. He created the captive wildlife minor – a minor still alive today with more than 200 students enrolled. I never saw Jim's office door shut when he was there. The message to students was that they were always welcome to stop by to say hi, ask him questions, or seek his help. Jim loved working with students and devoted his life to them. Today the flag at UW-SP flies at half-mast to honor his commitment to the university and its students.

But that would not capture what was truly remarkable about Jim.

I can tell you about the gifts he brought to the community of Stevens Point. How he played the trombone and oboe in this church and in community orchestras. How in retirement he and his Golden Retriever Bachelor would visit the hospital weekly to bring the love and companionship of a dog to patients, and how Jim and Bachelor would regularly visit Bannach School to let the 2nd graders read to them. And for anyone who ever heard that beautifully rich and deep baritone voice of his – here at St. Paul's or out in the world – would know that he could never share enough of that gift. And Jim's smile – what a remarkable smile – was genuine, warm and radiant. You always knew he truly was glad to see you.

But that would not capture what was truly remarkable about Jim.

What was truly remarkable about Jim was his gentle and unending capacity for kindness, compassion, and caring. In all the years I knew him, I never heard him utter an unkind word about anyone. That was his very essence. In the last few days of his life, I had the honor to spend a few hours with him. Most of his cognitive functioning had left him, and he was floating adrift between consciousness and unconsciousness. As I got up to leave, he gently touched my arms and in a voice nearly too raspy to hear said "Thank you...thank you so much for coming". When you stripped away all that was a comfort in his life, emaciated his body, stole his capacity to think...still at his core was the kindest, gentlest man I may have ever known. I wept.

The other thing that lived at Jim's core was his truly selfless humility. I am quite sure that if Jim could hear me, he would stop me and say – "thank you, but look at all that you've done". He was so quick to raise everyone else's banner, but never his own. Jim was not a man to call attention to himself or want to leave a legacy that bore his name. Not some stone and mortar edifice with his name over the door, nor a memorial so people would remember how

great a man he was. But that doesn't mean he didn't leave a legacy...a powerful and long lasting one that was given freely to any one that knew him. It was the inspiration he offered, simply by knowing him, to be a little bit **kinder**, a little less **judgmental**, a little more **humble**.

Truly good men like Jim are far too uncommon on this earth. The entire world may not mourn his passing, but for those of us that knew him, it is a great loss.

Jim, thank you for the gifts you leave behind and for enriching the lives of thousands of students, colleagues, and friends by your gracious and humble presence. You will be missed. You will be remembered.

Project Passenger Pigeon

Submitted by Chuck Pils, Chapter Member

I had the opportunity to attend A passenger pigeon symposium in Madison on November 1st led by Dr. Stan Temple of The UW-Madison Department of Forestry and Wildlife Ecology.

The Symposium featured speakers addressing the history, economic impacts, and lessons learned from the extinction of a bird that numbered in the billions and was found throughout Wisconsin. Attendees also viewed the new movie, "From Billions To None" which will be shown on various Wisconsin PBS stations this fall. A trailer for this documentary can be found at: <http://vimeo.com/30054385>.

Joel Greenberg, a Chicago area naturalist has also written a new book on the passenger pigeon: "A Feathered River Across The Sky-The Passenger Pigeon's Flight To Extinction" (\$17.00-soft cover). It looks like an excellent read. For more information, go to the web site: www.passengerpigeon.org, the web site for the Project Passenger Pigeon.