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The Biennial Newsletter of the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society

Fall 2016

President's Message



Chris Newbold
2016 NCS President

As my tenure as the President of the North Central Section draws closer to an end, I wanted to reflect on my experiences. Serving as your Section President has been a rewarding experience for me. When I started out in this role, I really had only one overriding goal...don't blow anything up! Thankfully, I have been

surrounded by a group of hardworking, dedicated and very capable individuals that have helped guide me, and the NCS-TWS, through the past year.

In my spring message, I tried to describe my ideas on how the NCS-TWS is working to improve its service to members. And as I write my last President's Message, I am struck by the service that

many NCS-TWS members have provided to the Section over the past year. Executive Board members and many State Chapter representatives have been active in participating in our monthly conference calls and provided advice and guidance on how to address the issues that arise within the Section. Section members have stepped up and volunteered to serve in committee roles – from helping to gather and vet award nominations, participate on and keep the Section informed of the national chapter's Conservation Affairs Network, and recruiting and putting together an outstanding slate of officer candidates for our upcoming elections – all of which keep the Section functioning and moving forward. This past year, when the Section faced with a vacancy on *The Wildlife Professional's* Editorial Advisory Board, several members stepped up and volunteered to fill this role. Several Executive Board Members, particularly our Treasurer Jim Schneider and our Secretary Gary Roloff, stepped up and help lead our Section in the restructuring our Professional Development and Continuing Education Funds to better serve the Section's needs in the future. Currently, John Schulz and Pat Lederle are expanding the Section's Professional Development activities by organizing the upcoming 2017 Leadership Series at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska. Pat and John are leading NCS in the development of partnerships with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA), and the North Central Division of The American Fisheries Society (NCD-AFS) to provide ongoing professional development opportunities. And I cannot forget to recognize the leadership that David Andersen has

In this issue...

President's Message	Page 1
Section Rep. Report	Page 2
Treasurer's Report	Page 3
Announcements	Page 4
Workshops	Page 4
State Chapter Reports	Page 8
Student Chapter Reports	Page 9
Officer Elections	Page 14
Why Membership Matters	Page 17
Upcoming Events	Page 18
Officer Contact Information	Page 18
Leadership Series Agenda	Page 20

provided to the Section as our Representative to the TWS Council. David has served our Section for the past several years in this capacity and his clear thinking and communication will be missed. John Moriarty has stepped up and will be serving the Section as our Council Representative, and has already begun to represent our Section's viewpoints to Council.

So, as I begin to think about closing out my term as Section President, I am thankful for all the support I have been given. And I encourage everyone reading this message to engage with the Section. The next Executive Board is going to need your continued support and help. Our Section is stronger when more people are involved in the development of our programs, engagement in our issues, and participative in our communications. We are fortunate to have a great Executive Board that will lead us to expanded service to Section members. But we are just as fortunate to have the many Section members that are willing to serve one another. Pass the word – as more members join and become active in the Section the stronger and more effective we become.

Thank you for letting me serve as your President. It has been an honor.

Section Representative Report



JOHN MORIARTY
NCS Section
Representative

October 2016

The North Central Rep to the TWS Council changed at the recent TWS Annual meeting in Raleigh, NC. David Andersen completed his term, after spending 3 years doing an excellent job representing and promoting North Central Section concerns and ideas to the

TWS Council and reporting on Council activities

back to the Section and Chapters. I would first like to introduce myself. My name is John Moriarty and I am the Senior Manager of Wildlife for Three Rivers Park District in Plymouth Minnesota. I have been an active member of the North Central Section and Minnesota Chapter for over 25 years. I am looking forward to working with the Section and Chapters to make a stronger and more engaged TWS over the next 3 years.

The TWS held its fall Council meeting in Raleigh NC prior to 23rd Annual Conference. The theme of the conference was partnerships and a number of the plenary sessions and symposia were about partnerships over a variety of management issues. At the Council meeting, President Gary Potts also emphasized the importance of partnerships and how TWS has worked hard over the last 3 years to build a number of strong partnerships. TWS has gone from 2 partnerships to over 30 with a diverse group of agencies, organizations, and companies to promote wildlife issues.

Executive Director Ken Williams reported on recent staff changes, which included 2 new hires in the government affairs section. These have allowed TWS to be more active with issues on a national level, as well as, the continuing to improve the Conservation Action Network with sections and chapters. The finances of TWS continue to be strong and have recovered from the losses associated with the 2008 recession. Ken Williams will be retiring in July and the search for a new Executive Director is underway.

There was a review of recent changes in position statements. Several position statements on invasive and feral species, especially cats, pigs, and horses, have been consolidated into one position statement, with the individual species being called out in issue statements. The government affairs staff and council are looking at other position statement that can be consolidated.

Two new member benefits were announced at the council meeting. Starting in 2017 all memberships will include on-line subscription to both the Journal of Wildlife Management and the Wildlife Society Bulletin at no extra cost. This is a \$75.00 value! The

other new benefit is that when you renew you can nominate a non-member for a free 6 month membership to TWS. The hope is once they see what TWS has to offer, they will renew as regular members. We are looking at this benefit to increase membership into the future.

TWS has been working to revamp its member directory. The new directory will allow members to search for other wildlfers by state, expertise, employer, and more. They still need around 1000 members to update their profiles on the member portal before it can go live. Please take a couple of minutes to update your information, if you haven't already done so.

Treasurer's Report

GENERAL FUND (Checking & Savings)

General Fund Balance as of March 24, 2016
 **\$10,756.93**

Checking Starting Balance	\$ 3,168.60
Checking Income	
1st Qtr TWS Dues	\$1,170.00
2016 Midwest Leadership Workshop Refund	\$ 803.16
MAFWA Leadership Workshop Support	\$ 274.03
2 nd Qtr TWS Dues	\$ 230.00
Transfer from CE-PD Acct for MNTWS Workshop	\$ 250.00
Subtotal	\$2,727.19
Checking Expenses	
2017 Midwest FWC – Elkhorn River sponsor	\$ 500.00
TWS – annual conference sponsor	\$ 250.00
Transfer to CE-PD	\$2,500.00
MNTWS – to support Wetlands Workshop	\$ 250.00
Subtotal	\$3,500.00
CHECKING TOTAL as of 10/1/2016	\$2,395.79

Savings Starting Balance	\$7,588.33
Savings Income	
March 2016 Interest	\$ 0.64

April 2016 Interest	\$ 0.62
May 2016 Interest	\$ 0.64
June 2016 Interest	\$ 0.62
July 2016 Interest	\$ 0.35
August 2016 Interest	\$ 0.26
September 2016 Interest	\$ 0.25
Subtotal	\$ 1.55
Savings Expenses	
Transfer to CE-PD Acct	\$4500.00
Subtotal	\$4500.00
SAVINGS TOTAL as of 1/22/2016	\$3,091.71

General Fund Balance as of October 1, 2016
 **\$5,487.50**

Encumbered Expenses	
2015 Student Chapter of the Year Travel Award (MW) (Oct 16)	\$1,000.00
2016 Student Chapter of the Year Travel Award (UM-C) (Feb 17)	\$1,000.00
2017 Student Chapter of the Year Travel Award (UWSP) (Feb 17)	\$1,000.00
Outstanding Undergraduate Student (Feb 17)	\$ 500.00
Outstanding Graduate Student (Feb 17)	\$ 500.00
2017 Student Conclave Grant (April 17)	\$1,000.00
Subtotal	\$5,000.00

General Fund Balance (minus encumbrances) as of March 24, 2016 **\$ 487.25**

CONTINUING EDUCATION FUND

Continuing Ed Fund Balance as of March 24, 2016
 **\$27,328.24**

Continuing Education Income	
March 2016 Interest	\$ 2.35
April 2016 Interest	\$ 2.25
May 2016 Interest	\$ 2.25
Subtotal	\$ 6.85
Continuing Education Expenses	
Acct Closed – Transferred to CE-PD	\$27,335.09
Subtotal	\$27,335.09

Continuing Ed Fund Balance as of October 1, 2016
 **\$0.00 (Acct Closed)**

SYMPOSIA FUND

Symposia Fund Balance as of March 24, 2016.....**\$10,203.72**

<i>Symposia Income</i>	
March 2016 Interest	\$ 0.87
April 2016 Interest	\$ 0.84
May 2016 Interest	\$ 0.84
Subtotal	\$ 2.55
<i>Symposia Expenses</i>	
Acct Closed – Transferred to CE-PD	\$10,207.98
Subtotal	\$10,207.98

Symposia Fund Balance as of October 1, 2016**\$0.00 (Acct Closed)**

CONTINUING ED-PROFESIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

CE-PD Fund Balance as of March 24, 2016**\$0.00**

<i>CE-PD Income</i>	
Transfer from Cont Ed Acct	\$27,335.09
Transfer from Symposium Acct	\$10,207.98
May 2016 Interest	\$ 0.15
June 2016 Interest	\$ 4.63
July 2016 Interest	\$ 5.47
August 2016 Interest	\$ 5.67
September 2016 Interest	\$ 5.46
Transfer from Checking Acct	\$ 2,500.00
Transfer from Savings Acct	\$ 4,500.00
Subtotal	\$ 44,562.74
<i>CE-PD Expenses</i>	
Transfer to Checking for MNTWS Wetlands Workshop	\$250.00
Subtotal	\$250.00

CE-PD Fund Balance as of October 1, 2016**\$44,312.74**

TOTAL FUNDS as of October 1, 2016
..... **\$49,800.24**

TOTAL FUNDS (minus encumbrances) as of October 1, 2016.....\$44,800.24

Respectfully submitted by the Treasurer of the North Central Section:



Jim Schneider
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
Michigan State University

Announcements

2017 Student Conclave Dates Announced

Rebekah Lumkes, President of the Purdue Student Chapter of TWS

The Purdue University Student Chapter of TWS is excited to announce that they will be hosting the student TWS conclave in spring 2017! It is set for March 24-26, 2017 and will be a great opportunity to meet students from across the north central section and participate in workshops, competitions, and quiz bowl. All student chapters from TWS NCS are welcome, and we look forward to hosting everyone this coming spring!

Workshops



2016 Student Conclave hosted by University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point Student Chapter

Lisa Zoromski
2016 Conclave Planning Chair
2016-2017 UWSP TWS President

This past April 1-3rd, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) student chapter hosted the 2016 North Central Section TWS Student Conclave. There were 104 attendees from 12 chapters across 7 states of the Midwest. Many levels of TWS were represented at this event. Chapter members, officers, Wisconsin Chapter officers and board members, the NCS TWS past president (Mark Larson), and the National TWS president (Gary Potts) were in attendance. Gary Potts was invited as the plenary speaker and presented on partnerships and enjoyed talking with the students. Students had the opportunity to network with 20 speakers from various wildlife agencies and students from other chapters.



Conclave was given a theme this year, Teamwork. The UWSP student chapter collaborates annually with the Wisconsin Center for Wildlife with a leadership series workshop. A teambuilding workshop was incorporated into conclave, with 80 attendees participating. Chapters used a nominal group process to come up with ways to increase membership numbers and engagement within their own chapters. Several team building exercises were incorporated into the workshop as well. This workshop taught attendees valuable teambuilding skills which they could bring back to their chapters.



Students participating in a teamwork activity.

Students had the opportunity to participate in a Wildlife Olympics activity, where they had to work as a team practicing their wildlife skills in related techniques, human dimension, and problem solving tasks. Other conclave activities included quiz bowl, photo contests, nature photography, wolf howling, telemetry, and tie dying conclave t-shirts.



Students are tested on their forestry skills for one of the Wildlife Olympics activities.



Conclave quiz bowl competition. Congratulations to UW-Madison for being the quiz bowl champions!

This event couldn't have been as successful as it was without the help of the 17 dedicated UWSP conclave planning committee members, wildlife professionals, and several sponsors. Conclave had created excellent way for UWSP to provide additional leadership opportunities for members. Conclaves are unique in the fact that they are specifically geared towards students. They provide fun opportunities to learn wildlife techniques and network. UWSP viewed conclave as a huge success from increasing chapter involvement through leadership roles within their chapter, to increasing communication between chapters. UWSP really enjoyed hosting this event, and hope other students will benefit from the skills they gained at conclave.

Minnesota Chapter's Wetlands Workshop Focuses on Practical Management

Bill Severud

Attendees from throughout the state representing a variety of groups came together on 20 September in Brainerd, MN to hear practical methods on managing wetland habitats as part of the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society's annual workshop. This year's workshop, entitled "Minnesota's Wetland Habitats: Managing Across a

Continuum," was held at Cragun's Resort on Gull Lake. Over 120 participants from 45 different organizations listened to 10 speakers discussing wetland habitat management practices. Attendance levels broke unofficial records for a state chapter workshop. Speakers from the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources spoke on topics ranging from the status of Minnesota's wetlands to wetland restoration, from wild rice ecology to lowland conifer forests.

Each summer, the Minnesota Chapter of TWS puts on a workshop designed to provide practical knowledge and skills to wildlife practitioners. This objective was achieved as speakers were asked and came through in presenting "Management Implications" as part of their talks. A roundtable forum occurred following the presentations where the day's speakers fielded a variety of questions from the audience. This year's workshop was sponsored by the North Central Section of TWS, Audubon Minnesota, and The Nature Conservancy. Workshop organizers hope to have all presentations posted on the state chapter's website soon. In addition to listening to speakers, attendees received handouts, including the newly published "Cattail Management in the Northern Great Plains" and guidance for incorporating management for wildlife diversity including rare species. An optional field demonstration of an aquatic vegetation harvester, excavator, and dredger was held the day following the workshop.



Over 120 attendees listened to presenters on a variety of wetlands-related issues.

Organizers were surprised by the number of registrants. “We originally expected maybe 40 attendees,” said Lisa Gelvin-Innvaer, MNDNR Nongame Wildlife Program, one of the organizing committee members. “I’m surprised and happy that we drew on such a wide breadth of organizations,” said Bill Severud, graduate student at UMN, another organizer. In addition to many divisions from MNDNR, there were also attendees from Soil, Water Conservation Districts, the Board of Water Soil Resources, and federal agencies US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, National Park Service, and Natural Resources Conservation Service. Parks, cities, private consultants, and students representing the University of Minnesota, Bemidji State University, and University of North Dakota were also present. “No single organization has all the resources, expertise or authority to accomplish all the needed wetland management and conservation. So we were trying to foster cross-pollination of ideas, networking, and additional collaboration,” says Gelvin-Innvaer. Bruce Anderson, MNDNR and third member of the committee, was happy that things went off without a glitch.



Wetlands Workshop presenters discussing questions from the audience as a panel.

“We realized that we were trying to reach a broad audience, but we think that any one of these topics could make a great, more-focused workshop in the future,” said Anderson. For instance, MNTWS has a

wetlands committee which planted the idea for this workshop. They may plan to capitalize on the interest and host future workshops with more hands-on activities on focused topics. Reception of the workshop has thus far been positive, with one attendee saying “It was a great workshop and well worth the early morning drive.” A follow-up survey will be sent to participants soon to gauge satisfaction and look for ways future workshops may be improved.

“It’s great to see that there was so much knowledge being shared and that many different groups were coming together to hear it,” Gelvin-Innvaer concluded.

Wisconsin Workshop: Trapping – Does it Matter?!

John Olson, Chair of the WCTWS Trapping Issues Committee

Jamie Nack, Past President of WCTWS, Extension Senior Wildlife Outreach Specialist

Lisa Zoromski, Stevens Point TWS Student Chapter President, WCTWS and NCS Student Representative

Jason Riddle, WCTWS President

On September 24th the Wisconsin Chapter of TWS, combined with student chapters and several other co-sponsors including the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), Max McGraw Institute, the Wisconsin Trappers Association (WTA) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, to host a *Trapping Matters Workshop* at the Dan Trainer Building on the Stevens Point campus. This workshop focused on three important components – Humane Trap Research, Communications Skills, and Traps & Trapping Techniques.

Members of our state chapter (Jamie Nack, Shawn Rossler, and John Olson) combined with John Irwin of the WTA and Dennis Brady of North American

Fur Auctions, Inc. to present a well-rounded view of the importance of regulated trapping as a management tool in North America. Presenters shared their knowledge of human dimensions' research, key messages, how to gain informed consent of society, how to work with media in developing positive messages, the importance and findings of decades of humane trap research, and why regulated trapping is important in furbearer management and wildlife management.



Hands-on activities included trap setting, mock interviews, and interactive "trap stations" set around the perimeter of the resource building – all while dozens of tour groups were wandering the campus! Evaluations gave us a great deal of information on benefits to participants and suggestions for future such efforts. Eighty-eight percent felt "a great deal" or "moderately" more familiar with the Best Management Process (BMP) as it relates to improving trapping and assurance of animal welfare. Eighty-eight percent of participants also felt "a great deal" or "moderately" more knowledgeable about how to communicate about trapping to others. When asked: "What did you enjoy most?" one participant responded: "...the trapping stations outside and all the demonstrations. I wish they were a little bit longer." Overall thoughts of the workshop included: "I learned a lot in this workshop and have a better understanding of [regulated] trapping. I had a good time." And of course we'd have to add this one(!): "I loved the enthusiasm of the instructors and the outside aspects with stations." And one great summary comment: "It cleared up a lot of misconceptions I had."



This type of workshop was the first ever for our state and chapter, and worked well with its emphasis geared toward new professionals, spokespersons for resource-related organizations, and even crusty administrators! This one-day effort provides another option in trapper education in Wisconsin, which complements Wildlife Fur School (5 days), Law Enforcement Fur School (4 days), University Fur Schools (3 days) and critically important standard trapper education classes (taught by over 200 trained WTA members). Attendance also qualified folks for 7 credit hours (Category 1) towards TWS certification and professional development. Food was great, instructors were charismatic and participants left with smiles! Future Trapping Matters workshops are likely, but would occur during winter/spring, not summer/fall - expecting a much larger turnout! Nevertheless, this workshop had the highest student turn-out of any of our state chapter's technical trainings.

State Chapter Reports

Illinois Chapter

No Report.

Indiana Chapter

No Report.

Iowa Chapter

No Report.

Michigan Chapter

No Report.

Minnesota Chapter

Jodie Provost – MN Chapter, Conservation Affairs Network

The MN TWS Chapter continues to be vibrantly active. Recent activity has included:

- An excellent workshop "Minnesota's Wetland Habitats: Managing Across a Continuum", held on Sept. 20 at Cragun's Resort. It was attended by about 140 professionals from a wide array of agencies and organizations. Abstracts, biographies, presentations and an overview of management implications are available.
- A letter to parent TWS regarding concern about the Feed a Bee Partnership, and specifically the seed mix being used. Additional follow up is planned.
- A letter regarding attempts to divest of public lands, especially federal lands, has been approved by the board. It will be sent to our 10 U.S. Senators and Representatives soon.
- USDA State Technical Committee (STC) involvement including input to NRCS practice standards for filter strips, forest mgt., and agriculture, as well as participation in the last STC meeting on July 27.
- Planning for our Annual Meeting next Feb.14-16 at Maplelag, near Detroit Lakes is underway. The plenary session and presentation will focus on monitoring. It will also feature a special Conservation Affairs Network session in which Keith Norris, TWS Director of Government Affairs and Partnerships, will participate.
- Input to the Sand Dunes State Forest operational plan process and plan via a stakeholder advisory group and letter. This State Forest has globally imperiled plant and wildlife communities.

- Continued effort on the non-toxic ammo front, including attendance by several members at a 2nd Non-toxic/Copper Ammo Roundtable organized by Carroll Henderson this summer.
- Alerts to our state membership regarding opportunities to sign on-line petitions to protect our public lands and support a stronger CRP in the next Farm Bill.

Our Chapter sincerely thanks its members involved in these conservation efforts.

Missouri Chapter

No Report.

Ohio Chapter

No Report.

Wisconsin Chapter

No Report (but see article about recent Trapping Workshop on page 6).

Student Chapter Reports

Ball State University

Sarah Clark

The fall semester has started off great for Ball State TWS! We have gained a lot of new members after participating in Ball States Fall Activity Fair. We started the semester with participating in a Bat Blitz where students got to learn the basics of capturing and recording data on bats. Our students also participated in a dove hunt where students learned about hunting, dove management and gun safety. Our first official meeting of this year had great attendance with 54 people who came to hear our speaker talk about raptor rehabilitation and give professional development advice. For the rest of the semester we have speakers lined up who will be discussing topics such as urban ecology, bird evolution and zoo keeping.

This past year, our members actively volunteered at a variety of places and events such as DNR deer check stations, land conservancies, animal rehab centers, and events put on through Ball State. The deer check stations have always been a valuable opportunity for hands on experience working with DNR biologists and working to communicate effectively with the public. Another favorite event for TWS was Ball State's Science day in which TWS and other organizations on campus held booths each teaching local kids about the different sciences. The TWS booth was about bat biology in which kids learned "how to be a bat biologist". Kids got to learn what to do when recording data on a bat caught in a mist net. This past winter we also attended the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Michigan. This gave students the opportunity to network with and hear about research being done by a variety of biologists in the area.

This year we plan to continue having presentations at our biweekly meetings from professionals in biology fields. We have also committed to volunteering with the DNR deer check stations and Red Tail Land Conservancy again this fall, as well we will be participating in Ball States science events. We are also planning a camping trip including a volunteering day to Mounds State Park. We are working on coordinating to again attend the Midwest Fish and Wildlife conference in Nebraska this year as well as Indiana TWS conference in the spring. Overall we are looking forward to a busy year of wildlife education and conservation!

Missouri Western State University

Deric Bishop

This has been a great start to the school year for our Student Chapter. Our members have been very active in a variety of different projects and events since our last report in the spring. Recruiting numbers have started out very good this year. We have been able to assist several of our partners with numerous different events. Our work with Missouri Department of Conservation has been very extensive throughout September and the start of October. We were also able to aid Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge to work towards several

management goals. Over the course of the last month and a half, we have helped out at multiple workdays at Squaw Creek. In addition to working extensively with our partners, we achieved several of our own projects.

Missouri Department of Conservation made the call again this year and we answered. They needed assistance with a late summer deer antler measuring event in St. Joseph. Even though school was not in session at the time, we still were able to send people to help with the event. Many people brought in antlers, mounts, and skulls of the deer they had taken the previous year or so. It turned out to be a good showing of people, even though the event was scheduled at a different date than usual.



We also helped out with a brand new event at Wallace State Park, which was explorer day. We helped inform and teach the public, focusing on the kids, about many things involving the outdoors. These included canoeing, turtles, many amphibians, mammal furs, hiking, and cooking with a Dutch oven. There was a great turnout of people during the day and the kids all enjoyed learning and experiencing nature.



With Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge we have been very active and have done several workdays. We have started the semester with two workdays over Monarch Tagging and Wildflower seed collection. At these workdays, we collected wildflower seeds and began the drying process of the seeds. The wildflowers we helped pick seed for included Beard-tongue, Ironweed, Rattlesnake Master, Blazing Star, and Cup Plant. These seeds will be planted come spring to help reestablish high quality prairies across the refuge. During the Monarch Tagging, we helped to catch and tag over 400 Monarchs between the two workdays. This data is added to a collection of national data used to help track the Monarchs on their way to Mexico for the wintering grounds. The public was also invited to both these workdays, which gave us chances to help inform and educate the public on many things around the refuge.



We have started up with helping the Pony Express Conservation Area with their Quail Whistle Count surveys. We helped them collect their first year data last year, which showed that the quail are doing very well at Pony Express Conservation Area. This year they are expecting another set of great quail population numbers for this year as well. This research will be an ongoing event every year and we are grateful that we can be a part of this.

In addition to these events, we also have started up work on our own projects for the year. Our tutor our own mentorship program has been kicked off again this year. This program helps new members by assigning them a mentor to help them with courses, time management, and with getting them involved. It has experienced immense success especially with getting new members active and involved. We have also put on our own social meeting with food and a speaker from Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge. This event was put on to help welcome the new members to the organization and meet the rest of the members of the society.

To sum it up, this has been a very active month and a half since our last report. We have done much work with Missouri Department of Conservation including helping with Deer Antler Measuring and Quail Whistle Count surveys. At Squaw creek we did several events to assist with the management of the habitat and the wildlife that inhabits it, including tagging Monarchs and collecting native prairie wildflower seed. Over all, we have been have a great time developing our professionalism and skill sets.

Purdue University

Morgan Sussman

Our chapter has been very active this semester in addition to preparing to host North Central Section Conclave. In early September, two of our working groups, herps and birds, teamed up and took a trip to Kankakee Sands in northern Indiana. Some of their finds included a bullsnake, foxsnake, bobolinks, and a few warbler species. Kankakee Sands will also be the site for reintroducing bison this November to Indiana. Our mammals working

group is currently working on getting a trip planned to go see them after they've settled in.

Birds working group will be taking their annual saw-whet owl banding trip in late fall. The location is to be decided. Last year, members got to hold a couple of the owls. We hope for more luck this year!

Hunting working group has begun their squirrel hunts this season. The hunts are open to all hunters, beginners to experienced, and guns and ammo are provided.

As a chapter, we've gone herping, put up tree swallow nest boxes, and had a bonfire. We're looking forward to an exciting year!

University of Minnesota – Crookston

Bailey Yliniemi

The University of Minnesota Crookston's (UMC) student chapter of The Wildlife Society had a great start to the semester. We kicked off the year with the annual new member cookout at the Red River Valley Natural History Area near campus. Over 50 new and returning members got an opportunity to meet and greet club officers from the two student organizations in the Natural Resources program. We currently have twenty-eight members.

Our first activity was banding ducks at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge near Thief River Falls, MN. Next month, our members will assist in a hunt for persons with disabilities at Rydell NWR, and northern saw-whet owl banding. We are fundraising to attend both the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society meeting next February.



Ethan Nagel with a Blue-winged Teal



Justin Kobberdahl with a Blue-winged Teal



Bailey Yliniemi with a drake Wood Duck

University of Wisconsin – Madison

Danny Erickson

It has been an action-packed start of the year to say the least for the Student Chapter of TWS of UW-Madison! We are excited about all of our new members and the amazing lineup of speakers and events the officer team has planned. Some of our recent events include our annual Devil’s Lake hiking and camping trip, volunteering at the 2016 Wisconsin Bat Festival in Milwaukee, and attending the ‘Trapping Matters’ workshop in Stevens Point where members were able to gain experience in handling traps as well as speak with natural resources professionals about all aspects of trapping.



Devil's Lake



Devil's Lake



“Trapping Matters” Workshop

A few upcoming events of ours include saw-whet owl banding, one of our most popular, where members get the chance to observe bird banding practices and hold these adorable creatures. This event will take place on November 5th. Another time-honored event is the pilgrimage to Aldo Leopold’s shack in Baraboo. This will be lead by an expert in the matter, Emeritus Professor Stan Temple. Scheduled for November 20th, members will be able to learn about the historical connection that the University of Wisconsin-Madison has within the field of wildlife ecology. This trip also coincides with the Sandhill Crane migration in which attendees will have the opportunity to experience while there.



Volunteering at the Wisconsin Bat Festival



Building a bat house at the Wisconsin Bat Festival?

This year, our chapter is working collaboratively with UW-Stevens Point graduate Marcus Mueller and the UW Urban Canid Project. Under Dr. David Drake, a Madison professor and outreach specialist, the project is designed to help us gain a better understanding of the behavior and movements of coyotes and foxes in urban and residential settings. From this, we will be able to find ways in which we can live with these wild canids in our backyards. Marcus is aiming to increase student involvement in the project by having a trained team of radio-telemetry trackers and trappers so the project can continue when he finishes his M.S. this spring.



The UW-Madison Student Chapter has also been preparing for our annual Game Dinner fundraiser. The dinner is scheduled for Friday December 9th. At this event, we host faculty, students, and community members in an enjoyable night which includes a wild game feast, silent auction, and raffle

prizes. Additionally, we are sending 6 members to the 23rd Annual TWS Conference held in Raleigh, North Carolina. It is shaping up to be yet another great conference with so much to offer TWS members and we can't wait to interact with other student chapters and see what everybody else is up to. We are determined to make our mark in Quizbowl this year!

All in all, this fall could not have started off any better for our chapter. With a great team of officers and a new batch of devoted members, the rest of the fall semester is poised to become one for the books!

Officer Elections

Meet the Candidates

President-elect



Jodie Provost with her family at Denali National Park.

Jodie Provost

As a North Dakota farm girl, long hours of horse riding, playing in the creek, building tree forts, shooting my BB gun, and other outside unstructured play gave me a boundless gratitude and passion for the great outdoors, its habitats and wildlife. A bachelor's degree in Zoology with an emphasis in wildlife at NDSU only seemed natural, followed by

the last 25 years as an assistant area wildlife manager, wildlife resource assessment specialist, and currently as a private land habitat coordinator on our forest team.

The Wildlife Society has been a key part of my professional development and “wildlife family” since college days. As a Minnesota Chapter member for decades, I have developed position statements, served as President, become a Certified Wildlife Biologist, and currently serve as our representative on the Conservation Affairs Network and on the USDA State Technical Committee. As Chapter President, reinvigorating our advocacy and bringing student involvement and support back to our annual meetings were high priority. If elected as President-elect for the North Central Section, I would work to further Section priorities, continue to strongly support our students, and encourage use of our Conservation Affairs Network. I am very proud to be a member of The Wildlife Society and the excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education that we represent.

My husband Tom, a Minnesota DNR Conservation Officer, and I have been married nearly 28 years. We are blessed with three wonderful sons and relish time together hunting and fishing. Kayaking, cross country skiing, hiking, horse riding, bird watching, gardening and volunteering for our church community and Crow Wing County Sheriff's Mounted Patrol provide additional life adventure.



Tyler Harms surveying summer wetland conditions in the Prairie Pothole Region of Iowa from a fixed-wing aircraft.

Tyler Harms

After spending much of my time outdoors as a child, exploring the wetlands, streams, and other areas near our home in north-central Iowa, I decided a career in natural resources was an obvious choice. Currently, I'm a Natural Resources Statistician for the Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology at Iowa State University. I earned my B.S. in Animal Ecology and M.S. in Wildlife Ecology, both from Iowa State University, and am currently working towards my Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology at Iowa State University. After finishing my M.S., I worked temporary positions for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources before being hired by Pheasants Forever, Inc. as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist. After a short, but extremely rewarding term with PF, I came back to Iowa State to work as a Research Associate on the Iowa Multiple Species Inventory and Monitoring (MSIM) Program, a statewide, long-term wildlife monitoring effort started in 2006. I guess you can say I like Iowa State so much I can't get away. Go Cyclones!

I've been a member of The Wildlife Society since 2007 and have had the great pleasure of serving the organization at various levels. I'm currently Past President of the Iowa Chapter and Past Chair of the Education and Information Committee for the Iowa Chapter. I currently serve as Chair of both the Awards Committee and the Professional Award of Merit Committee for the North Central Section and am a member of the Jim McDonough Award Committee at the National level. I'm also a member

of both the Biometrics and Wetlands Working Groups.

I enjoy hunting, fishing, birding, and cycling in my free time, as well as sharing those experiences and others with my wife and 3-year-old son.

In an era during which we, as wildlife professionals, face several challenges related to the political, financial, and social aspects of wildlife management, I feel it's the role of the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society to serve as the voice for wildlife professionals, providing the knowledge, experience, and reason to push effective wildlife management forward. The Wildlife Society has been an extremely valuable part of my career development, and it's my goal to continue serving and giving back to the organization to help them in furthering the science of wildlife management.

Treasurer



Jim Schneider shows off his catch.

Jim Schneider

I am currently the Undergraduate Program Coordinator in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University, and have held similar roles related to undergraduate advising in the department since coming to MSU in April 1999. Prior to that I was a Coordinator of

Undergraduate Programs for the School of Forest Resources at Penn State. I have a B.S. in Wildlife from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (1991), and a M.S. in Wildlife Resources from the University of Idaho (1994). I've been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1991, the North Central Section since 1999, and the Michigan Chapter since 1999. I became a Certified Wildlife Biologist in 2009. I've served the Wildlife Society in a number of different capacities and at several different levels, including: President of the Michigan Chapter, Faculty Advisor of the MSU Fisheries and Wildlife Club, NCS Professional Award of Merit Selection Committee; ad hoc committee on certification; Nominating Committee and Aldo Leopold Memorial Award Selection Committee. I've co-organized the "Beginning your Professional Journey" workshop for undergraduates, hosted at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conferences since 2005. For the past 7 years, I've proudly served as an instructor for the Wildlife Management Institute's Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow program.

It's been my pleasure to serve the North Central Section and its members as Treasurer for the past 4 years. I believe I've made some positive contributions to this position, including consolidating all banking within one institution and converting all the Section's ledgers over to an electronic spreadsheet format. Some of the challenges the Section's accounting still faces is trying to find a permanent home for their funds, so the funds don't have to get moved to a new bank every time we change Treasurer's. The Section also needs to figure out the best way to stretch our available funds and make the funds work for us (CD's, Money Market, etc.). I'm very interested in continuing my role as North Central Section Treasurer for at least another 2 years, to continue the efforts I started and help solve the Section's accounting challenges.



Stephanie Shepherd with a Trumpeter Swan.

Stephanie Shepherd

One of the brightest spots in my career as a wildlifer has been interacting with the community created by professional organizations like The Wildlife Society. This is why I feel incredibly grateful for the opportunity to run for treasurer of the North Central Section of TWS.

For ten years, I have worked as a biologist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Diversity Program. I have the great fortune to work on everything from Bald Eagles to butterflies and also that ever perplexing creature the Human Being. My education is a regular old Biology degree from the University of Richmond in Virginia where I'm from and an M.S. in Animal Ecology from Iowa State University which is how I was introduced to and really connected to the landscapes of the Upper Midwest. I have spent almost half of my ten years at the DNR, serving in some kind of leadership role for our State TWS chapter: two years as Secretary/Treasurer and another three years as president-elect, president and then past president. I also served on committees and was an active member of Virginia's state chapter when I worked there. I really believe in The Wildlife Society and it's been incredibly rewarding to make time to be as involved as possible in the organization.

I am interested in serving on the North Central Section's executive board as treasurer in hopes that I might continue to help promote all the functions of TWS: creating unity and dialogue among wildlife professionals, government affairs and advocacy and also professional development and mentoring. Personally, I would also welcome the greater opportunity to interact with colleagues in all the states of the section, sharing ideas and bright spots. Thank you for the opportunity!

Ballots for 2016 Officers can be cast online at the following link:

http://twselection.org/election_nc_section_2016/index.cfm Online voting will be available December 15th, 2016 – January 31st 2017. An announcement on where to access the online ballot will be also made via the List Serve.

Why Membership Matters

Your support of The Wildlife Society is important at all levels (i.e., chapter, section, parent society). TWS is our professional home – where we network, learn, and serve. The North Central Section needs your membership support to fulfill our mission of upholding and promoting wildlife and conservation professionals. For only \$20 your membership and support allows the North Central Section to:

- Sponsor symposia at the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference
- Sponsor workshops of regional importance
- Sponsor conclaves for student chapters in the North Central Section
- Recognize students and professionals with awards
- Advocate for wildlife, their habitats, and the use of science in conservation decision-making

Please support the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society today by going to <http://wildlife.org/join/> to join or renew

Upcoming Events

77th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference



Annual Membership Meeting

All section members are invited to the Annual Meeting of the North Central Section held in conjunction with the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting is scheduled for 5:00-6:30 pm on Monday, February 6th. Please check the final conference program for the location of the meeting. We hope to see you there!

Leadership Series Workshop:

The North Central Section has teamed up with the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) and AFWA's Management Assistance Team to host a pre-conference workshop entitled **Leadership, the Public Trust, and Trust in Natural Resource Agencies**. To be held Sunday, February 5, 2017. Please see agenda and speaker biographies on beginning on page 20.



Don't Forget to Visit

<http://wildlife.org/publications/>

For current articles and publications

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Please send corrections to Katy Reeder
(Katy.Reeder@dnr.iowa.gov) and
Mariah Simmons (MSimmons@wildlife.org).

If you know of any NCS members that have trouble accessing the electronic newsletter, please contact Katy Reeder at Katy.Reeder@dnr.iowa.gov and I will be happy to mail them a hard copy of the newsletter.

Visit us online at
www.wildlife.org/NCS/

**North Central Section of the Wildlife Society (NCS-TWS)
Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
2017 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Leadership Series Workshop**

**Leadership, the Public Trust, and Trust in Natural Resource
Agencies**

- **8:30 – 9:00 AM Registration**
- **9:00 – 9:15 AM Introductions**
 - NCS-TWS President, TWS Past-President, and Workshop Moderator
- **9:15 – 9:30 AM Influence of Leadership on Trust and Fulfillment of Public Trust Responsibilities**
 - Pat Lederle, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- **9:30 – 10:30 AM Wildlife Governance Principles and Adaptive Leadership**
 - Ann Forstchen, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- **10:30 – 10:45 AM Break**
- **10:45 – 12:00 Factors that Build or Erode Trust in a Public Agency**
 - Pat Lederle, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- **12:00 – 12:45 PM Lunch (Provided)**
- **12:45 – 1:30 PM Facing Complex Challenges**
 - Bettina Fiery, Management Assistance Team/National Conservation Leadership Institute
- **1:30 – 1:45 PM Break**
- **1:45 – 3:45 PM Building Trust with a Focus on Leadership**
 - Bettina Fiery, Management Assistance Team/ National Conservation Leadership Institute
- **3:45 – 4:00 PM Summary and wrap up; evaluations**

2017 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Leadership Series

Speaker Biographies



Ann Forstchen is the Human Dimensions Coordinator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). She has a B.S. in Marine Biology/Marine Technology and MBA that focused on leadership development. Ann worked briefly on a container ship in the Pacific and held a U.S.C.G. 3rd Mate's license, unlimited tonnage. Ann has worked for FWC or its predecessor agencies for 24 years in a variety of roles at the marine sport fish hatchery and research facility, led the marine sport fish health unit, became the Research Coordinator for the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute and then evolved into leading FWC's human dimensions initiative. She coordinates and provides training opportunities agency staff who are interested in learning about new tools and methods for improving fish and wildlife management decisions. She is Past President of the Organization of Wildlife Planners. In her spare time, she renovates houses, gardens and is experimenting with an aquaponics system raising tilapia and vegetables.



Bettina Fiery is the Professional Development Program's Manager for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Management Assistance Team. She's led a varied career in healthcare and the education industries... even spent some time in television! Bettina is passionate about personal and professional growth for self and others; believing we never stop learning until we've taken our last breath. She holds undergraduate degrees in Nursing and Communications from Shepherd University, a Master's degree in Counseling from WVU, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from University of Phoenix, and is an ICF credentialed leadership coach from Georgetown University.



Pat Lederle is the Planning and Adaptation Supervisor for the Wildlife Division of the Michigan DNR and has been with the Department >15 years in research, planning, and administrative positions. He has led efforts on change management, strategic planning, and alignment of resources to ensure implementation of plans and fulfillment of public trust responsibilities. Pat is an adjunct Associate Professor with the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University, is a Certified Wildlife Biologist, and is Past President of the North Central Section of the Wildlife Society. Prior to working for Michigan DNR, Pat was involved with research on ecological impacts from Department of Energy's Yucca Mountain Project, a proposed nuclear waste repository, and spent more than ten years in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan running a comprehensive research project evaluating the impacts of extremely low frequency electromagnetic fields on birds and mammals. Pat tries to spend as much spare time as possible hunting, canoeing, bicycle touring, and camping.



Gary Potts is the Immediate Past-President of The Wildlife Society. Gary has served on TWS's Leadership Institute committee since its inception in 2006. He has served the North Central Section of TWS as President and on numerous committees for the past three decades. Gary served two terms as the NCS Representative to TWS Council from 2001-2007. He has worked over 30 years in the wildlife profession for the Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab at Southern IL University, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, IL Natural History Survey and the IL Dept. of Natural Resources.



Chris Newbold is the outgoing President of the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society. In addition to serving as the North Central Section's president, Chris has served terms as Secretary and President of the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society and has participated on several state and regional planning committees. Chris started his career with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and has worked for the Missouri Department of Conservation for the past 17 years. Currently Chris serves as a regional Natural History Biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation.