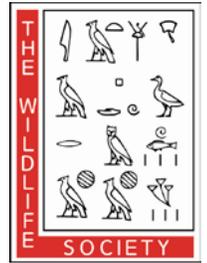




INTELLIGENT TINKERING

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:
Summer Issue: July 1, 2015

Ojibwe Cultural Training June 3-4, 2015 Lac du Flambeau, WI

The purpose of this training is to begin to lay the foundation for understanding Ojibwe culture and how to use that understanding to respectfully interact with tribal governments. You will not be an expert on Ojibwe culture, but it is our hope that you have the knowledge and the resources to explore this culture on your own after you leave.

The training will be led by Dr. Jonathan Gilbert (Wildlife Section Leader, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission). We will open the training with a campfire, traditional feast and talking circle at the Lac du Flambeau Campground on June 3. The training will continue the next day at the Lac du Flambeau Resort conference room. There the participants will hear presentations including; Tribal governance, Treaty rights, the importance of harvesting and preparing natural foods, Ojibwe language, tribal consultation, on-reservation and off-reservation natural resources management.

Location: Lac du Flambeau Campground (June 3, pm) and Lake of the Torches Resort (June 4, all day).

Lodging: Options (1) Lac du Flambeau Campground, location of evening events on June 3, (2) Lake of the Torches Resort, which is across the street from the campground.

Registration: \$60 (includes meal at the campground for the evening June 3; breaks and lunch on June 4)
Registration limited to first 40 chapter members
Registration deadline: May 15, 2015

Registration form found at: <http://drupal.wildlife.org/wisconsin/>
Please mail form and payment to: Carey Strobel, WCTWS
Secretary/Treasurer, P.O. Box 274, Necedah, WI 54646

*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 Mark Pfost

First, thanks to everyone who helped organize or participated in our joint meeting with the Minnesota chapter last month in Duluth. Wisconsin had a pretty good showing, considering the distance people had to travel and constraints that limited attendance. I talked with numerous people who told me that they liked the joint format and hoped we would make it a “regular” occurrence, maybe with other state chapters, not necessarily with Minnesota each time. Of course that all depends on the definition of “regular;” the amount of work involved in coordinating a joint meeting probably means that we would want to schedule the next one a few years out. I wish to commend all the members from both chapters, not only for their efforts, but also for how well everyone worked with each other—no small feat for people who did not know each other before this all started. Scott Craven’s article will delve more into the conference itself, so I’ll leave it at that.

Those of you who attended the membership meeting know that it was high-spirited. To summarize for those not in attendance, much of that spirit derived from the governor’s recent budget proposals that, if passed intact, would include: a moratorium on Stewardship Fund purchases for 13 years; changing the Natural Resources Board to an advisory body; and eliminating 18.4 DNR research positions. Membership and board members all agreed that these changes would be detrimental to natural resource management and wildlife research in Wisconsin. The problem is, what can we do about it? To paraphrase a comment in the meeting, the Chapter is invisible. Some thought we should take our position directly to the legislature; others thought individual letters to elected officials were best. Other opinions were that we should work through the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) and that we had lost allies by dropping our affiliation with the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF). Finally, some thought this dilemma argued for hiring an executive director (ED), an idea that has been discussed on occasion over the past few years. So what do we do? Agency people (at least for my agency) are not allowed to lobby elected officials. Our best chance may be to work through surrogates, which we are doing. Chuck Pils spends a lot of effort taking our concerns to the LCV. The WWF is opposed to these budget items for the same reasons we

are, so in effect is making our arguments. The TWS North-Central Section wishes to provide comments in whichever form we think would be most helpful. We could hire an ED who wouldn’t be constrained by agency ethics rules, but that cannot happen in time to impact the current budget discussions. A motion was made and passed at the membership meeting to instruct the Board to appoint past chapter presidents and other interested members to a “strategic planning committee.” At our subsequent meeting, the Board discussed the fact that planning was a Board function, but that we also needed to honor the membership’s motion. We ask that three members—either past presidents or interested members—agree to become part of an ad-hoc committee to work with the Board on strategic planning. Please contact me. Even if we become better known throughout the state, that doesn’t mean that decision-makers will come knocking on our door. At least for now—that’s not going to happen. Still, it can do us no harm to try. We took the first steps in getting positive messages into the public arena with press releases highlighting the recipients of the Wisconsin Award (Jim Hardin), the Don Rusch Memorial Award (Ken Jonas), and student winners for oral and poster presentations. Educating the public about who our members are and what they do for wildlife management and scientific inquiry may eventually gain us allies. Related to this, our new Secretary/Treasurer, Carey Haralson-Strobel has volunteered to take us into the social media world. I’m sure she’ll appreciate your help.

Other items from the membership meeting dealt with Chapter finances and spending. Investing and spending are tied together. We can’t develop an investment strategy without knowing what our short-term and long-term goals are. For example, if we were to hire an ED, what would compensation be, and how can investments support that position? We have a pretty good bankroll, and members want to have it work for us—but to what end? Submit ideas. Membership asked us to form a committee for financial planning. One member has already approached me. Anyone interested in helping should submit a letter to the Board highlighting their experience in financial management.

A desire to conduct Chapter business on non-agency computers led to a motion to have the board ask for computer donations. A donated machine may not have compatible software. There is also the risk that the donation may be “infected.” Therefore, the Board agreed to Carey’s suggestion that she use her personal computer. The Board authorized purchase of an external hard drive to allow easier transfer of documents whenever a new person takes over

as secretary/treasurer. This also enables us to digitize large quantities of historical records.

Membership also voted to allow the Awards Committee the flexibility to give two awards (\$1000 each) to undergraduate and graduate students. Potentially, this is a \$4000 annual expense that the Board will need to incorporate into its budget decisions.

The last two major items discussed in the membership meeting were John Olson's proposal for a new fur-bearer committee (approved) and Jon Gilbert's proposed technical session involving tribes' perspective and role in wildlife management—see Jon's article.

So we can celebrate a successful conference. Members expressed strong opinions because they are dedicated to our profession. We don't know what will happen with the budget process. We can keep our fingers crossed that Wisconsinites care enough to force changes. However these developments turn, we can take solace in knowing that we are doing the best we can for the state's wildlife and natural resources. Eventually, we might once again get a government that understands that those things are important.

2015 WI-MN Joint Winter Meeting

Submitted by Scott Craven, Past President

Wisconsin and Minnesota TWS members came together February 17-19, 2015 in Duluth, Minnesota for a joint chapter annual conference. While some questioned the wisdom of traveling to Duluth in mid-winter, the weather was excellent for travel and total attendance was close to 400! About 100 Wisconsin chapter members made the trip. From the Wisconsin side, budget issues reduced travel opportunities and distance may have been a factor for some, but overall it was a large and outstanding conference.

Chapter members should thank their Board and a few other volunteers for the considerable time and effort it took to coordinate this meeting. In particular, now President Mark Pfof was the key contact for papers and program issues along with his counterpart in Minnesota, Rich Olsen. Mark also made a site visit last summer and was in on all the planning discussions with Rick and then President, Scott Craven. Lesa Kardash kept communications flowing, handled

the Wisconsin chapter scholarships, and served as our institutional memory along with Travis Anderson. Travis also worked on registration and handled all the financial details. Amanda Kamps helped with planning and student activities. Brian Heeringa helped with planning and did a great job on fund raising. Tami Ryan helped with planning and student awards. Krista McGinley, once again did a fantastic job coordinating the program. Other members pitched in when asked. A big THANK YOU to all involved.

The conference began with an afternoon plenary session in the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. Titled "Global Warming: Carbon Solutions for a Warming World". Professor Ben Zuckerberg from UW-Madison did a terrific job leading off the plenary by describing observed and predicted trends in climate. He then related trends in climate change to ecological and evolutionary impacts on selected wildlife species and conservation. The next 3 (2) speakers (one was stuck in Texas due to ice) emphasized the role of carbon and soil in climate change.

After the plenary adjourned, a spirited student – professional mixer was held, followed by an evening fund raiser and social. Beer and food contributed to a very enjoyable evening. Wisconsin did not participate in the fund raiser, BUT we should certainly learn from what the Minnesota chapter did (and does every year). They modeled their fund raiser on the kinds of things normally seen at a DU, RGS, PF, NWIF, or other NGO banquets. There were raffles, silent auction items (about 20), bucket raffles (about 20 items) and several games of chance on major prizes and extra raffle tickets. It was fun and unofficially, I was told that Minnesota cleared nearly \$5,000.!! With some help from chapter members, such an event could become a regular part of our in-state annual meetings.

Paper and poster sessions dominated day 2 of the conference. There were as many as 4 concurrent sessions. Feedback suggested that, in general, the presentations were excellent with a good mix of species, conservation issues, ecological considerations, and geography represented.

In the afternoon, Minnesota and Wisconsin went separate ways to 2.5 hour chapter business meetings. The Wisconsin meeting was well attended (50+) and a wide range of topics were discussed, most of which will be addressed elsewhere in the issue of IT. There was considerable concern over the impact

of proposed budget cuts to the DNR, the University, and conservation in general. The North Central Section tried to intervene on our behalf, but substantive ideas were elusive. The discussion and the meeting ended with directives from the membership to re-evaluate our need for an Executive Director and our opportunities with the League of Conservation Voters.

After the business meetings, there was an enthusiastic quiz bowl competition won by UW-Stevens Point. Congratulations students from UWSP!

The last full day of the conference ended with an excellent banquet and awards program at the Entertainment and Convention Center overlooking Lake Superior. On the Wisconsin side, the Wisconsin Award was presented, posthumously, to Dr. James Harden from UW-Stevens Point. The award was accepted by Jim's wife, Helen, who presented a piece of Jim's favorite artwork to be displayed at UWSP. The Don Rusch Memorial Award was presented to Ken Jonas. Thanks to Kris Johansen for a fine job on the awards committee.

On Thursday morning, about 40 students and chapter officers attended a breakfast meeting. The Wisconsin students were advised of bylaws changes that allow for a student representative on the state chapter board. That new student board member will have been chosen by the time you read this newsletter. Paper sessions, student papers and poster awards, and a workshop entitled "Telemetry 101" rounded out the program and attendees headed home during the afternoon.



WCTWS Annual Winter Meeting Award Recipients

Wisconsin Award Recipient – Dr. James Hardin



Pictured: Ellen Hardin accepting the Wisconsin Award on behalf of her late husband Dr. James Hardin and Dr. Scott Hygnstrom accepting Jim's favorite print and plaque, which Ellen donated to UWSP College of Natural Resources to be displayed in Jim's memory.

Jim Hardin completed his Bachelor and Master of Science degrees at the University of Kentucky and taught at Memphis State University prior to obtaining his PhD. in Wildlife Ecology at Southern Illinois University. He taught at SIU and was Assistant Director of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory for four years. He wrote the first recovery plan for the endangered Florida key deer in 1974. In 1978, he began teaching wildlife courses in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where he taught students for over 30 years and continued advising until his illness in September 2014. Jim developed eight new courses and taught 17 different courses at UWSP. He taught and advised thousands of students, many of whom went on to work for state and federal agencies, direct wildlife programs for nongovernmental organizations, and teach at universities across the nation. Jim loved working with students and devoted his life to them.

Jim Hardin was remarkably skilled at teaching, for which he was recognized with the CNR Outstanding Teacher Award an unprecedented four times (1982,

1989, 1996, 2001) and the UWSP Excellence in Teaching Award twice (1982, 2001). He received the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Teaching Award of Merit (1989, 1996), the UWSP Theta XI Fraternity Excellence in Teaching Award (1995), and was nominated for the national Robert Foster Cherry Award for Outstanding Teaching (2003). He was a TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist (1980) and in 2005, was named a Fellow by The Wildlife Society for his significant contributions to wildlife resources and the profession.

Jim also was an active member of the Stevens Point and Central Wisconsin Area communities. He made over 70 presentations to community groups and was a consultant to the City of Stevens Point, the Portage County Humane Society, and the Golden Sands Resources Conservation and Development Council. He was an active volunteer with Portage County Meals on Wheels Program and the Stevens Point Paws Reading Program. He and his therapy dog, Bachelor, visited St. Michael's Hospital, Clinic, and area nursing homes on a weekly basis to bring the love and companionship of a family pet to patients. Jim had an unending capacity for kindness, compassion, and caring. His smile was genuine, warm, and radiant. You always knew he truly was glad to see you. Jim was not a man to call attention to himself or want to leave a legacy that bore his name. He will, however, be missed and remembered by all who knew him.

Don Rusch Memorial Award – Ken Jonas



Ken Jonas started his career in the 1970s as an LTE Wildlife Technician working on the initial wild turkey restoration project in SW Wisconsin for the WDNR. Later, he was hired as a permanent Wildlife Technician in Menominee. Ken later promoted to Wildlife Biologist in Neillsville, then transferred to Spooner. In 2003, he promoted to Area Wildlife Supervisor in Hayward where he continues today. Throughout his career, Ken has and

continues to make outstanding contributions to wildlife conservation in the state of WI.

Ken has been an active member on numerous species advisory committees throughout his career, including, elk, wolf, sharp-tailed grouse, wildlife health, American marten, and bear. He is well respected and his knowledge and opinions are always sought out by his peers and staff. Ken believes that science is the backbone of wildlife management and always does his utmost to ensure that decisions affecting wildlife conservation are made based upon science. He is also an invaluable voice of reason and common sense. Ken's decisions are always responsible, ethical and timely. He is always in tune with local opinions and attitudes. He has ample experience, both social and scientific, to take a sound approach to just about any situation. He is always supportive, always diplomatic, always respectful, and doesn't look for credit.

There are few people in the wildlife profession who value and promote hunting, the tradition of hunting, and the role that hunting plays in wildlife conservation in Wisconsin as much as Ken. Not only does Ken participate in all forms of hunting, he also makes sure that the interests of hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts are well represented while managing our state's natural resources. For instance, he has been a champion of sharp-tailed grouse conservation his entire career even when some in the wildlife community wanted to give up on this important native game bird. In recent years, Ken was an integral part of the team that rewrote the statewide sharp-tailed grouse management plan. He was an advocate of starting new research programs that would generate badly needed information for making sound management decisions. In true Don Rusch form, Ken was also a champion of maintaining sharp-tailed grouse hunting opportunities for generations to come.

In summary, Ken Jonas is one of the contemporary leaders in the wildlife conservation field in Wisconsin. Ken's long standing dedication to his profession and the natural resources of Wisconsin is admirable. His passion for our natural resources is shown everyday through his professional and personal life. Ken's deep commitment to ensuring that hunting remains the staple of wildlife conservation are exhibited by the accomplishments and successes of his longstanding professional career and his personal passion to engage and enjoy conservation through hunting. Congratulations Ken!

WCTWS Aldo Leopold Scholarship Recipients

Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient – Molly O’Grady



Molly O’Grady, this year’s undergraduate student scholarship recipient, has demonstrated great pride in being part of the Leopold legacy. She is majoring in Wildlife Ecology and minoring in International Resource Management and Biology at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and has maintained a 3.7 GPA.

She is president of the UWSP Women in Natural Resources organization, Education Coordinator of the Student Chapter of TWS, Co-leader for the Student Chapter’s flying squirrel project, was co-leader for the Fisher project, Public Relations Officer for UWSP

Multi-Cultural Awareness in Natural Resources organization, volunteer with the Potawatomi Tribe, a campus peer advisor, and Coordinator for the WI Wildlife Federation Conservation Leadership Corps.

She is heavily involved in several research projects. She collaborated on a project to assess the ability of observers to locate bird nests and presented the results at the National TWS conference in Pittsburg. She is also collaborating with a graduate student to assess the ability of observers to estimate vegetation obstruction of prairie chicken nests. Other projects she’s been involved with include fisher habitat models, flying squirrel thermal ecology, and rodent foraging.

She has demonstrated great initiative and interest in human cultures and wildlife at the international scale. She was one of 25 students nationwide to

attend the Student Congress on Public Land Policy and Management to work on developing a National Land and Sea Ethic. These interests have taken her to Guatemala to build fuel efficient stoves, Poland/Germany/Iceland to study alternative fuels, Kenya to obtain a permaculture certificate, and will continue to South Africa this year to learn more about their national parks.

One of her recommenders said “She epitomizes the very best of our student scholars and leaders.” Congratulations Molly!

Graduate Scholarship Recipient – Rachael Toldness



Rachael Toldness is in her first year of a PhD assistantship in the Biological Sciences program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. As an undergraduate, she worked on the demography and behavior of pronghorn antelope on the National Bison Range. She spent 3 summers collecting data for her senior thesis on their nocturnal predatory defense mechanisms. She also classified land cover of mountain goat home ranges as a GIS technician and volunteered as a technician in a conservation genetics lab. After graduating, she worked on a variety of projects as a lab technician, such as analyzing wolf hair and fecal matter to

estimate wolf population size in Idaho and estimating predator populations in Newfoundland. She was also a co-author on a project to determine the sex of monomorphic beaver.

For her MS project, she examined culling strategies to maintain genetic diversity of the bison population at the Range. She developed a genetic model to aid managers in these decisions. Her PhD work will focus on the genetics of white-tailed and mule deer, particularly the evolution of immune genes in mule deer, in order to design better management strategies.

Through her diverse experiences, she has adopted the philosophy that species should be managed with an eye toward long-term sustainability and that management should take into consideration not only an organism's complexity, but the complexity of the environment it inhabits as well. She wants her research to directly improve the management of wildlife by combining genetics and demography. As one of her recommenders stated, "She will be able to manage wild populations by incorporating molecular tools, theory from wildlife biology and captive population management, and modeling to test strategies prior to implementation. A truly triple threat." Congratulations Rachael!

Joint MN-WI Winter Meeting Best Student Paper/Poster Awards

Presentations recognizing the best student papers and posters for undergraduate and graduate students were held on February 19 at the Joint MN-WI winter meeting in Duluth, MN. Please join us in congratulating the accomplishments of these students.

Best Graduate Student Paper – Gunnar Kramer

"There and Back Again: Migratory Behavior of Golden-Winged Warblers Discovered Using Geolocators"

Best Undergraduate Student Paper – Ryan Menebroeker

"Recent Declines in Gray Jays on Christmas Bird Counts in Northern Wisconsin."

Best Graduate Student Poster – Bryn Evans

"Semi-aquatic Mammal Populations in the St. Louis EPA Designated Area of Concern."

Best Undergraduate Student Poster – Rebecca Kelble

"Seasonal Food Habits of Bobcat (*Lynx Rufus*) in Central Wisconsin."



In order (left to right): Bryn Evans, Rebecca Kelble, Gunnar Kramer, and Ryan Menebroeker.

WCTWS Business Meeting Minutes February 18, 2015 Duluth, MN

Submitted by Travis Anderson, Former Secretary/Treasurer

1PM Call to Order Scott Craven

Agenda repair

- Discussion to remove last agenda item. Motion to vote on its removal, seconded. Discussed about what does the agenda item hope to obtain? Motion withdrawn and agenda item will remain on the agenda.

Treasurers Report Travis Anderson

- Financial Report submitted and accepted
- Can we duplicate the efforts that MCTWS did for fund raising? We can do something similar in our next meeting.

Recognition of outgoing officers Scott Craven

- Tami Ryan, Travis Anderson
- Recognize Lesa Kardash for her long and tireless work with membership and newsletter and numerous other work
- New President Mark Pfost recognizes Scott Craven for running for President a 2nd time

Election Results:

- Jason Riddle (President Elect), Mandy Kamps (Board), Carey Haralson-Strobel (Sec/Treasurer)
- By-laws change to include a student rep on the Executive Board passed unanimously

Committee Reports.... Climate, Deer management, Farm Wildlife, Government affairs, Wildlife Damage, Wolf Management, Silviculture guidance, Awards, Finance

- Climate: no report
- Deer: Keith McCaffery reports: advanced a few things for the legislature to consider regarding deer. Written report was submitted to the Board and will appear in the newsletter
- Farm: no report
- Govt: no report
- Damage: Jason Suckow has left WI. We are searching for a new chair.
- Wolves: Randy Jurewicz reports: Written report submitted and will appear in the newsletter. Drafted an issue brief on wolves and attended all DNR Wolf Committee meetings. 4 proposals out for public review on various population goals. Recent ruling by a federal judge re-listed the wolf as endangered, which has halted the public review process of the 4 proposed goals. U.S. Congress members are working on a bill that will exempt wolves from the endangered species list. HSUS is petitioning the FWS to list wolves as threatened.
- Silviculture: Ron Eckstein reports: Ron represents the chapter on the DNR's Silviculture Advisory Committee. We advise the DNR's Division of Forestry on timber harvest strategies with wildlife in mind. We review their guidance as well as chapters in the Silviculture

Handbook. A new White Birch Chapter is in. Jack pine, red maple, and bottomland hardwoods chapters are in the works to be added in the future. Long-eared bat guidelines, DNR research priorities are also future topics of interest.

- o There is increasing pressure by the forest industry to cut more timber, and a desire for lessened restrictions
- o A harvest restrictions study is up-coming, to determine how various harvest restriction affect the timber industry (restrictions such as oak wilt, ER restrictions, wildlife restrictions). It appears the timber industry is funding this research.
- Awards: Leopold Scholarships: Molly O'Grady (UWSP) and Rachel Toldness (UWM)
- Finance: no report

Student Chapter reports.. UWSP, UW-Madison, Northland College

- UWSP: 20 student run projects
 - o Urban wildlife focus
 - o 250 members
 - o 7 members attend National conference
 - o 8 attended Midwest
 - o Hosting a leadership workshop, and students from Madison and Northland will attend, as well as students from universities with natural resources emphasis
- UW-Madison: no report
- Northland College: no report

North Central Section up-date Section Rep David Anderson

- David handed out a word document that summarized his update.
- Highlights at National level
 - o Financially on better ground (small budget surplus)
 - o Concerned about declining membership
 - o Contract for 5 yrs of electronic publishing of JWM and Bulletin

- New editors for JWM and Bulletin
- New TWS website
- TWS is revising its policy statements
- Developing a Conservation Affairs Network
- Next conference is in Winnipeg

Chapter business/old

Chapter relationship with Wi Wildlife Federation

- We are no longer members of the WWF
- Our name still appears on their mailings however
- Members again discussed the motion and vote made by membership at the 2014 Winter Meeting to remove ourselves as members of WWF occurred, and whether it was a wise decision. Further discussion about whether we really needed to be affiliated with WWF. The Chapter can still provide our input, and it appears that WWF is open to that, and willing to accept it.
- We have instead focused money to the League of Cons. Voters and will provide them info on deer and wolves for their website.

Chapter relationship with Wi League of Conservation Voters

- See above note in WWF notes.

Report on July past – President’s summit

- Held in Fitchburg
- 18 past presidents were present
- Suggested to continue holding these every 5-6 years.

Results of chapter survey...advocacy issue

- Survey of members showed a favor for dues increase for a paid executive director, if it is deemed necessary

Investment strategy

- Scott discussed meetings with a Financial advisor, resulting in 4 plans for investing our funds in that would get us ~5% interest.

Chapter relationship with North Central Section TWS

- Membership is declining at the Section level

Wi Conservation Hall of Fame membership

- We are annual members

Chapter business/new

Chapter Scholarship awards

- See Awards Committee notes
- Discussion to explore the possibility to increase the amounts for scholarships, or give out more money in the form of “other” scholarships. Motion made for the board to explore a \$1000 for a first place and \$500 for a second place for each undergrad and graduate level (Jurewicz). Proposal was 2nd.
- Amendment to the motion (Van Deelen): allow the Awards Committee the flexibility to award up to 2 awards for each category, \$1000 each. Amendment is accepted by member of the original motion and seconded.
- Call for a vote: In favor: 43 Oppose: 3

Technical Training plans for 2015 Jon Gilbert

- A training opportunity to explain the relationship and role the Tribes play in wildlife management. Jonathan is seeking help with timing, topics and would like input from the membership as to what they’d like. Would May be a good time? Located in northern WI (inside the Ceded Territory), perhaps on a tribal reservation. Would also like help with the schedule: 1 day or 2?

Bylaws change...new student initiatives... UWSP leadership training

- We will cover this with the students during the Board/Student breakfast
- By-laws change was unanimously approved by the membership to include a student rep on the Executive Board
- Also see UWSP Student Chapter report

WI Associations Directory

- We are still listed

Role of chapter in Cherish Program

- Opportunities for the public to donate money for management of state lands
- Natural Resources Foundation is handling the donations
- Has been targeted towards hunters, fishers, and trappers so far.
- Call to the membership of the WI Chapter help to spread the word of the program.

New furbearer committee

- John Olson proposed a new Furbearer Committee at the 2014 Winter meeting
- There seems to be a “prejudice” against predators, and this has affected seasons and bag limits for various fur bearer species.
- The WCTWS may have a role to play with furbearer issues in WI, as well as around the world.
- The WI Chapter should develop a new position statement on trapping (humane trapping methods)
- John has agreed to chair the committee, and would like 4 additional members
- (David Drake) Motion is made to direct the board to form a Furbearer Committee, and motion 2nd (Tim Van Deelen).
 - o Voice vote is unanimous towards the motion

Planning for 2018 Midwest Conference

- Hold in Green Bay
- What role does the Chapter play in the planning for this meeting?
 - o Head fundraising efforts?
 - o DNR will direct the Chapter as to what help they may need
- The DNR will be the lead in the planning of this meeting

Planning for next years’ annual conference

- Typical venues have been the Dells or Rothschild
- Rotate between southern and northern WI venues
- Student chapters preferred the Wausau – Madison axis
- Also may depend on the location of DNR’s Wildlife Statewide

- Scott Hyingstrom suggests Stevens Point/Wausau area.
- Timing to avoid mid-term exams for students

New Post Office box for chapter

- Executive Board will discuss. PO Box has been renewed for 2015.

Open discussion on impacts of WI state budget reductions on agencies and programs (NC Section)

- The membership discussed the Chapter’s role on advocacy.
- Few people (general public) know what the Wildlife Society is or that it exists. We need to change this
- Suggestion to draft a letter about the importance of using science in making management decisions about natural resources. . . . science is taking a backseat to politics in decision making.
 - o Send to Legislature, WWF, major media, Conservation Congress, League of Conservation Voters?
- Science has to be on the table when decisions are being made.
- Continue discuss the option of hiring a person (Executive Director) to advocate on behalf of the Chapter. Or hire a consultant to begin discussions on advocacy.
- Can the National Organization or North-Central Section be our advocate? The North-Central Section is looking for ways to help, but needs insight from the State Chapter. Motion made for Ex Board to work with N-C Section on this matter. Seconded and passed unanimously.
- A motion that Ex Board will appoint a committee to work on the issue of strategic planning (Van Deelen) Motion seconded.
 - o Starting point for members of this committee should be Past Presidents or any other interested members
 - o UW Extension can help facilitate this committee
 - o Voice vote and motion passes.
- Motion to obtain a WCTWS computer for business matters (Mike Foy). Motion 2nd
 - o Voice vote and motion passes

- Put a note in the newsletter to membership that the Executive Board is seeking a computer to be used for Chapter business matters.
- We need to make the League of Conservation Voters aware of the issues and our concerns, and they could help carry the work.

Other items from the floor

- Further discussion about other ways to strategize how we use our money (scholarships, invested, etc.). We need to develop a strategy. Members should send ideas to the Executive Board for discussion.
- Suggested that a new Committee needs to be formed to determine the strategy for financial planning. The Finance Committee is not the right committee for this topic.

Motion to adjourn at 3:53.

Student Breakfast Notes

February 19, 2015 Duluth, MN

Submitted by Travis Anderson, Former Secretary/Treasurer

- Representatives from both the MN and WI TWS Chapter Boards, as well as students and advisors from UM-Crookston, UM-Bemidji, UM, Vermillion College, UWSP, and Northland College attended
- “breakout session” with WI Students
 - Scott updated the students on the by-laws change
 - Laid out the plans for how the 3 Chapters would nominate a “student rep” to the Executive Board, which would be a voting member of the board.
 - Will let students decide how to select this person
 - Discussion about a possible “Travel Fund” that the WI Chapter can use to help students with travel costs to attend various meetings, such as the Winter Meeting, Technical

Trainings, and student led events such as the UWSP Leadership Training (as an example)

- No official motion was made to direct the board to do this however
- Request by student advisors at UWSP and Northland College that the WI Chapter help offset costs for students traveling to the upcoming Leadership Event at UWSP.
 - Motion made by Brian that WCTWS reimburse gas costs to students from Northland College up to \$200, when traveling to the Stevens Point to attend UWSP’s led Leadership Training Event. Motion seconded (Carey). Northland College will provide a receipt to Carey (Secretary/Treasurer) for gas expenses.



WCTWS Executive Board Meeting ***March 5, 2015 Conference Call***

Submitted by Travis Anderson, Former Secretary/Treasurer

Those in attendance: Mark, Scott C., Lesa, Mandy, and Carey
Begins at 12PM

Strategic Planning Committee (SPC)

- Discussed the duties of the board and what we as a chapter offer members, that a SPC may not be the best for the chapter, but should be shouldered by the board. The board would like the opportunity to work with the LCV.

Financial Planning Committee (FPC)

- Discussion looking for members (2-3 people) of the chapter who may have experience with investments to assist and form a FPC.

Cultural training

- Discussion of incorporating costs of tech training into a \$50 per person fee. However, the chapter will cover some additional costs of the training.
- Check into opening it up to the public or other agencies or expand to include other tribes.

Chapter records

- Discussed keeping financial records for 7 yrs for tax purposes. Carey will check with National to see how far back we need to keep paper work or hard copies, or if we can convert to digital. Any items of historical value should keep the originals.
- Motion made for Carey to purchase external hard drive to back up files. Carey currently uses a non-DNR computer.

External communications:

Press releases/positive messaging

- Carey will set up Facebook page

Inability of agency people to advocate

- Mark is not able to advocate, but will try to work on letters with NC Section who wants to assist; send a letter to WWF, or League of Conservation Voters. Essentially advocating for us.

League of Conservation Voters

- Chuck Pils is supporting

WI government

Student awards—since amounts for scholarship have recently been raised, and a continuing lack of nominations for student awards, should we eliminate student awards? Discussion.

- Scott: Has the student award outlived its utility. Look into dropping it and fold funds into scholarships?
- Lesa: Get feedback from Awards board.
- Further discussion about scholarships and funds available

Scott: 1) Add chapter to contact list for grants, to put in the newsletter for members

2) Have meeting at Sentry building in Stevens Point.

Mark: Schedule another meeting for end of April via conference call

Meeting adjourned 1:00PM

Financial Status Report, 12/31/14

Submitted by Travis Anderson, Former Secretary/Treasurer

Student Chapter Corner

<u>Credits – 2014</u>	Amount	Year (total)
Winter Meeting		\$11,442.00
Silent Auction/Garage Sale		\$ 152.00
Membership (currently 250 members)		\$ 2,500.00
Donations		\$ 66.00
Pint glasses		\$ 512.00
		\$13,544.00

<u>Debits – 2014</u>	Amount	Year (total)
Winter Meeting		\$ 14,964.86
Awards – Winter Meeting		\$ 997.80
Cons. Hall of Fame/League Cons. Voters		\$ 200.00
Leopold Scholarships		\$ 2,000.00
Outstanding Student Award		\$ 116.00
Mileage & Meetings (Past Presidents/Winter Mtg)		\$ 805.18
Postage/clerical/etc.		\$ 285.38
Aldo Leopold Foundation		\$ 500.00
UM-Crookston (Quiz Bowl)		\$ 250.00
		\$ 20,119.22

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>
CHECKING	1/01/14	\$5,226.83	
	12/31/14	\$1,764.61	-\$3,462.22
SAVINGS 1	1/01/14	\$17,926.67	
	12/31/14	\$15,941.87	-\$1,984.80
SAVINGS 2	1/01/14	\$1,068.11	
	12/31/14	\$1,069.26	\$1.15
CD #1	1/01/14	\$1,950.06	
	12/31/14	\$1,954.07	\$4.01
CD #2 (Bjerke)	1/01/14	\$83,464.57	
	12/31/14	\$83,715.37	\$250.80
CUNA Brokerage	1/01/14	\$16,141.29	
	12/31/14	\$17,141.92	\$1,500.63
TOTAL	1/01/14	\$125,777.53	-\$3,690.43
	12/31/14	\$122,087.10	

University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point



By Emilia Kenow, President

The UW-Stevens Point student chapter has had a busy couple of months. Our chapter was able to send seven students down to Indianapolis, IN for the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference while just one week later twelve students headed north to the joint state meeting between Minnesota and Wisconsin in Duluth, MN. At both conferences many members presented their research and Rebecca Kelble earning an outstanding undergraduate research award at the Duluth meeting. During the state meeting, Molly O’Grady was awarded the Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarship. We also were able to take home the title of Quiz Bowl champs. Several members also attended the Wisconsin Waterfowl Hunters Conference. Aside from sending members to conferences, the board worked hard on developing and hosting a leadership workshop that took place on Saturday, February 28th.

The workshop was an idea developed by members of the board after identifying the need to seek out more leaders early in their academic career. This was a growing need in our chapter because we have about fifty leadership roles between the officers, board, and project leaders. Other student chapters voiced similar concerns during the Student Chapter Session and student breakfast at the National TWS meeting in Pittsburg this past October. Therefore, we extended invitations to the other student chapters in Wisconsin (UW-Madison and Northland) as well as other student organizations in the College of Natural Resources. We had a total of 45 participants. Part of the leadership training required participants to take the Myer-Briggs Personality Test prior to meeting as a group. Then, students met at the UWSP campus on Saturday to hear from speakers, Dr. Bernie Patterson (UWSP Chancellor), Dr. Karl Martin (Program Director for UWEX- Community Natural Resource Economic Development), and John Zach (UWSP Career Services). Chancellor Patterson began the morning by addressing the value of

student leaders on campus and in the community as well as the importance of diverse leaders. Dr. Martin followed with a discussion on leadership and teamwork in the field of Natural Resources. Following a quick break, John Zach finished off the morning by applying the results from the Personality Tests to types of leadership.

Participants were assigned to groups after lunch for the afternoon breakout sessions. Each group had a UWSP faculty leader who facilitated discussion on the relationship between personality types and leadership styles in the context of a team. Groups had a problem solving activity that demonstrated various personalities within their group. The groups then identified an issue from within their student organization, brainstormed solutions, and created action items to solve the issue. Following these breakout sessions, all groups then presented and discussed proposed action items with each other. These action items were recorded and distributed in a follow-up communication to all participants to implement within their own groups. The day ended with a closing statement from Dr. Scott Hygnstrom (Douglas R. Stephens Chair in Wildlife at UWSP and Director of the Wisconsin Institute for Wildlife) and the presentation of certificates.

Participant enthusiasm, feedback, and evaluations all indicated the workshop was a success. This was a huge learning opportunity for the officers and steering committee as we worked to make this happen. We hope this is the first of many workshops and look forward to improving and expanding our Leadership Workshop offerings. Specifically, we plan to create a three-year workshop series rotation on leadership development, teambuilding, and conflict- resolution.

A special thank you goes out to our speakers and faculty leaders who helped to make this possible. We would also like to thank the UWSP College of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Institute for Wildlife, and the Wisconsin State Chapter for their financial support and encouragement of our efforts.

In regular business, our weekly meetings have had high attendance with over 100 members some weeks. The flying squirrel, grey squirrel, wolf, woodpecker and deer projects have all been extremely active while prairie chicken and woodcock will be starting up over the next month or so. As the semester comes to a close we will be hosting our game feed on April 21st and holding

elections April 28th. It has been quite the year and I am extremely grateful to have been able to be a part of such a great officer team and chapter.



Welcome by UW-Stevens Point Student Chapter President Emilia Kenow (left)



UW-Madison Student Chapter President, Victoria Fuller, presents action items from her discussion group to the rest of the participants (right)



Participants enjoy lunch together between sessions.

Northland College

By Sarah Moodie, President

The Northland College TWS student chapter is happy to be nearing the close of its first full year functioning as an official student sub unit, as momentum has steadily been building since last August. We have held at least one meeting every month since September 2014, typically featuring a professional speaker. We have hosted several Northland professors who presented on their research, Brian Heeringa (Washburn USFS office), and Adrian Wydeven (retired WDNR). Our chapter was also able to help fund a chapter member's bioacoustics research in Costa Rica this semester.

In early February, we hosted a career development night. Five students presented on natural resources related summer jobs and internships they had participated in and how they got them. One of our chapter members was able to attend the Indianapolis Fish and Wildlife conference the following week. We were able to send five members to the joint winter TWS meeting in Duluth, two of which presented posters in the poster session. The following weekend, we had five more members attend the leadership workshop hosted by UW-Steven's Point. Our student chapter president was nominated to sit as the first student TWS board member, and our chapter will lead the student committee during the upcoming academic year. We are very happy to be a part of Wisconsin's TWS unit and are eager to see continued growth in our own student chapter.



University of Wisconsin-Madison



No report.

Truisms - Contributed by Tom Bahti

Shamelessly borrowed, stolen and plagiarized from other sources

When people say "You look so familiar." responding with "Were we in prison together?" always is a conversation killer.

The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.

I believe we have the opportunity to make some extremely poor choices.

I should come with a warning label.

Ever notice how "What the hell." is always the right decision?

If it wasn't for my incredible willpower, I would be exercising right now.

Cigarettes are like squirrels. They're only dangerous when you put one in your mouth and light it.

Sadly, I do my best proofreading after I hit SEND.

Issue Committee Updates

Wolf Committee

Adrian Wydeven drafted a WC TWS Issue Brief on Wolf Management in Wisconsin.

The three members of the WC-TWS Wolf Committee were also all on the WI DNR Wolf Advisory Committee and attended all of the nearly monthly DNR WAC meetings in 2014. In the end, the “DNR Administration” decided to take out to the public several population alternatives for additional input. At this time the 4 wolf population alternatives being considered by the Wisconsin DNR are: (Goals are based on late winter minimum counts using radio-tracking, snow-track surveys, and wolf observation reports).

- Numerical goal of 350 +/-10%
- Numerical goal of 650 +/-10%
- Threshold goal of at least 350 wolves, with emphasis of reducing conflicts and maintaining healthy wolf population, without setting a cap, but acknowledge that controls and harvest will eventual stabilize the population at some level below biological carrying capacity.
- Numerical goal of 300-650 wolves

The public review of these options was put on hold because on December 19, 2014 WI wolves were once again listed as a Federal Endangered Species. This was due to a Federal Court action as a result of a law suit filed against the US Fish and Wildlife Service by the Humane Society of the United States.

In response to the successful law suit, several members of congress, led by Rep. Reid Ribble (R-WI) are working on a federal law that would exempt wolves in the Great Lakes Region from the Endangered Species Act of 1973. In response to this threat, the HSUS has filed a petition with the US FWS to downlist wolves to Threatened status. The HSUS has asked for other organizations to join in and co-sign their petition.

Committee members: Randy Jurewicz (Chair) , Adrian Wydeven (Chair Elect), Jason Suckow (retired)

Climate Change Committee

Two grant reports and 2 peer-reviewed scientific papers have recently been published by members of the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) Wildlife Working Group which provide a preliminary assessment of climate change impacts on Wisconsin wildlife and identify management opportunities for climate change adaptation in the Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest. The papers also focus on identifying barriers adaptation implementation in the state and federal agencies.

The publications include:

Martin, K, Knoot, T., LeDee, O.E., Zuckerberg, B. Barriers and Opportunities to Managing for Disturbance and Environmental Change. Final Report to the USFWS Upper Midwest and Great Lakes Landscape Conservation Cooperative. 2015. <http://greatlakeslcc.org/research-project/climate-adaptation-recommendations-for-site-managers/>

LeDee, O.E., Hagell, S., Martin, K.J., MacFarland, D., Meyer, M.W., Ribic, C.A., Paulios, A. Sample, D., Van Deelen, T. R. Climate Change Impacts on Wisconsin’s Wildlife – A Preliminary Assessment. Technical Bulletin 197. Wisconsin DNR. 2013.

LeDee, O. E., Ribic, C. A. 2015. Determining climate change management priorities: a case study from Wisconsin. *Journal of Conservation Planning*. 11: 1-12.

Hagell, S., Ribic, C.A. 2014. Barriers to climate-adaptive management: a survey of wildlife researchers and managers in Wisconsin. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 2014. DOI: 10.1002/wsb 459.

Martin et al., in a Final Grant Report to the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes LCC assessed the perceptions of forestry and wildlife land managers concerning adaptation to a range of potential climate impacts within the LCCs.

LeDee et al., in WDNR Technical Bulletin 197 documents past and current climate change impacts in Wisconsin, anticipates changes in wildlife

distribution and abundance, and proposes development of adaptation strategies to maintain the vitality and diversity of Wisconsin's wildlife populations.

LeDee and Ribic, in a 2015 Journal of Conservation Planning publication, present a ranking Wisconsin's terrestrial wildlife and key invertebrates for potential sensitivity to climate change and engage natural resource professionals in a process to identify priorities for monitoring, research, and adaptation strategy implementation.

Hagell and Ribic, in a 2014 Wildlife Society Bulletin article, present the results of a survey of wildlife researchers and wildlife managers in Wisconsin, with the goal of identifying barriers to climate change adaptation in the state.

In addition, 6 research wildlife/climate change research projects are ongoing or have been completed in Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest the past year. The project titles, locations, partners, brief descriptions, and investigators are listed below:

Warming winters and decaying subnivium conditions in the Great Lakes Region

Project Location: Wisconsin and Michigan UP

Partners: UW-Madison, Wisconsin DNR, Operation Fresh Start

Investigators: Benjamin Zuckerberg

Climate change vulnerability of species of conservation concern

Project Location: Upper Midwest

Partners: UW-Madison, Northeast Climate Science Center, Upper Midwest Great Lakes LCC

Investigators: Benjamin Zuckerberg

Assessing climate change vulnerability using demographically-informed species distribution models

Project Location: Upper Midwest

Partners: UW-Madison, Northeast Climate Science Center

Investigators: Benjamin Zuckerberg and Chris Ribic

Range boundary shift of snowshoe hares in Wisconsin

Project Location: Wisconsin

Partners: UW Madison, WDNR

Investigators: Benjamin Zuckerberg, Jon Pauli

Demographic consequences of attenuating winters: Cryptic declines of ruffed grouse throughout the Upper Midwest

Project Location: Wisconsin

Partners: UW Madison, USDA, WDNR

Investigators: Benjamin Zuckerberg, Jon Pauli, Zach Peery

An "ecological time machine" to restore cyclical population dynamics in forested ecosystems

Project Location: Wisconsin

Partners: UW Madison, USDA, WDNR

Investigators: Jon Pauli, Benjamin Zuckerberg, Zach Peery

Summaries of these reports, publications, and research summaries can be obtained from the WICCI Working Group Council by contacting Eric Verbeten at Eric.Verbeten@wisconsin.gov. Please request the Activity Descriptions of the Wildlife Working Group. The reports, manuscripts, and research findings are excellent sources of information for long-term wildlife conservation planning in Wisconsin.

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Silvicultural 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 May of 2013 we've met eight times and toured jack pine management in central Wisconsin, oak management in southwestern Wisconsin, sawmill operations in Antigo, and a Nature Conservancy Preserve in Iron County.

New Silviculture Handbook Chapters that we've reviewed include white birch (complete), red maple (almost complete), jack pine (in development), bottomland hardwoods (in development), and beech bark disease guidelines (complete).

Topics currently under review include: oak harvest guidelines, a general economics chapter, northern hardwood marking guidelines, long-eared bat guidelines, wood turtle guidelines, American marten guidelines, DNR research priorities, and seasonal harvest restrictions.

There is constant pressure from the forest industry to remove harvest restrictions on MFL and public lands and increase harvest, particularly sawtimber, on all lands.