



# INTELLIGENT TINKERING

*Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society Newsletter*

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



## *Inside This Issue*

Save the Date – Joint Winter Meeting.....	1
President’s Soapbox.....	2
Candidates for Officer Positions.....	2
Financial Report .....	3
Executive Board Meeting Minutes, 10/6/16...	3
Executive Board Meeting Minutes, 11/16/16.	4
Issue Committee Updates.....	5
Student Chapter Corner.....	6
Trapping – Does it Matter?.....	10
Truisms.....	11
Executive Board/Issue Committees.....	11

## **INTELLIGENT TINKERING**

Published by the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society. TWS is an international nonprofit organization of wildlife professionals. Subscriptions are available with Chapter membership. The editor invites comments and articles for possible publication. Email submissions in MS Word documents to: [lesa.kardash@wisconsin.gov](mailto:lesa.kardash@wisconsin.gov)

Submission Deadlines:

Winter Issue: January 30, 2017

General Mail: WI Chapter TWS,  
P.O. Box 274, Necedah, WI 54646

## First Call for Papers

### 2017 Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society & American Fisheries Society Joint Winter Meeting

*February 28 – March 2, 2017  
Hilton Milwaukee City Center*

Fish and wildlife go together like two peas in a pod and in just 4 months, the WCTWS will be co-hosting a Joint Winter Meeting with the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (WIAFS) in Milwaukee. The Joint Winter Meeting will be held at the esteemed Hilton Hotel in downtown Milwaukee. Close to the Bradley Center, County Zoo, Potawatomi Casino, and Harley-Davidson Museum, it assures to be a venue full of additional opportunities. But most important is the program. We are planning to conduct a joint social/fundraiser on the evening of February 28 that promises to set the stage, expand your network, and drain your pocketbook all at the same time. A plenary session on fish and wildlife management with the theme “Managing Riparian Zones for Fish and Wildlife” will kick off the day on March 1, followed by several breakout sessions, a luncheon, a banquet, and the WCTWS annual business meeting.

**Lodging:** Hilton Milwaukee City Center, 414-271-7250. Room block reserved under Joint Meeting of WI AFS-TWS. Room reservation deadline is January 28, 2017.

**First Call for Papers:** Submission deadline for oral and poster presentation abstracts is January 15, 2017. Submissions on any topic related to wildlife management, research, conservation, education, or policy are welcome. Abstracts should include title, author names (indicate presenting author), agency or affiliation, contact information, and a brief paragraph (250 words or less) describing your work and the wildlife management/conservation impacts. Please indicate if your submission is a student presentation. E-mail your abstracts to Derek Johnson ([derekj.johnson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:derekj.johnson@wisconsin.gov)).

More details on registration and program coming soon.

*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*



## President's Soapbox

By Jason Riddle

I'd like to use this soapbox to brag about the students in our state chapter. Specifically, I'd like to highlight how successful our Student Representative position has been on our Wisconsin Chapter Executive Board. For those of you who don't remember, our chapter decided to create a new voting position on the Executive Board for students.

The Student Representative is the chair of the Student Committee, which consists of one member (typically the President) from each student chapter. The chair rotates among the 3 student chapters each year. Last year, Northland held the chair position. This year it is Point, and next year Madison will take over.

Since the inception of this position, members of multiple student chapters have gathered *outside* the winter meeting and conclave at least twice for workshops or special trainings hosted by one of the student chapters. The students often stay with each other the night before or after the professional activities and go out for meals or ice cream. Next month, students from the Northland and Madison chapters are invited to attend a Conflict Resolution workshop here at Point. The exposure that students from various student chapters are getting with each other is quickly becoming a positive and unifying bond of comradery and professionalism. Now, they already know each other when they meet for regular TWS meetings. For example, I was delighted to see how students from the Madison and Stevens Point chapters were seeking each other out at the Annual Meeting in Raleigh for meals and alumni receptions. I don't think this would have happened without all the other points of contact they've had with each other this year.

Our students are the future of our profession and the resources about which we all care so dearly. Many thanks to all our chapter members for

making the voices of students heard on our Executive Board and for facilitating so much positive development among our student chapters!

## Candidates for Chapter Officers Needed

Submitted by Lesa Kardash, Editor

It is that time of year again where the Wisconsin Chapter of TWS Executive Board makes a plea to membership to consider throwing their hat into the ring or speak to other members about running for a chapter officer position. I equate this to radio commentators seeking pledges during the annual Wisconsin Public Radio (WPR) Fall Fundraiser drive.

So, in my best radio voice, let me remind you what the Chapter provides members such as yourself. As a member, not only do you receive this quarterly newsletter, you are provided scientific presentations and discussions, networking, and training opportunities through the annual winter meeting and technical training workshops; a voice on pertinent issues/policies via our issue committees; and a venue to recognize the contributions and accomplishments of our members thru chapter awards

The Chapter depends on dedicated, passionate members like you to step up and serve as officers. Please consider giving back to your chapter by serving as an officer. If you haven't run for an officer position, this is your year!

We are seeking at least two candidates each for the following positions:

**President-Elect** (3-year term)

**Board Member** (2-year term)

**Secretary/Treasurer** (3-year term)

These positions will begin following the joint winter meeting February 28-March 2, 2017 in Milwaukee. If you want to learn more about the duties of each officer position, please contact the current officers. Their names and contact information can be found on page 11. Please send me an email at [skuldt@uwalumni.com](mailto:skuldt@uwalumni.com) if you want to run for a position.

## *Financial Report, 10/20/16*

*Submitted by Carey Strobel, Secretary/Treasurer*

### Income

Membership	\$100.00
Technical Training	\$255.00
Total	\$355.00

### Expenses

Travel Grant – Kelly VanBeek	\$1,000.00
Total	\$1,000.00

<u>Account</u>	<u>1/1/16 Amount</u>	<u>10/20/16 Amount</u>
<b>CHECKING</b>	\$3,931.65	\$5,339.83
<b>SAVINGS 1</b>	\$15,957.90	\$15,969.93
<b>SAVINGS 2</b>	20,974.02	\$22,949.90
<b>CD1</b> (closed 2/28/16)	\$1,958.08	\$0
<b>CD2 (Bjerke)</b> (matures 9/24/16)	\$64,070.36	\$64,263.04
<b>CUNA Brokerage</b>	\$18,031.77	\$18,551.50
<b>Saving/Investment Total</b>	\$120,992.13	\$121,734.37
<b>Total Balance</b>	<b>\$124,923.78</b>	<b>\$127,074.20</b>

Membership: 229

## *Executive Board Meeting Conference Call Minutes*

**October 6, 2016, 9:15-10:30am**

*By Carey Strobel, Secretary/Treasurer*

Attending: Jason Riddle, Lisa Zoromski, Lesa Kardash, Carey Strobel, Derek Johnson

1. Letter from Chuck Pils  
 Minor edits were discussed.  
 Jason needs to determine how letter should move forward.
  
2. Quick update regarding the Fall Technical Training  
 Two weeks ago held at UWSP campus, 16 people came, mostly students.  
 Survey results were very positive. Registration was \$15.  
 Jon Olson requested that this money may be used as seed money to invest in a future fall technical training.  
 Possibly do another trapper training workshop, maybe every other year.  
 Lisa, Jason and Jon will work together to put together an article for both IT and the North Central section.
  
3. Quick update regarding the Strategic Planning Committee  
 Delayed progress, need to move forward on investments
  
4. Joint Meeting Planning
  - a. Progress to date (Scott H. et al. have worked out some of contract so far)  
 Discussion on numbers attending the meeting. Derek and Jason will get in touch with Tami.  
 Not overlap the board meeting with registration time at the meeting.

b. Timeline between now and meeting  
Fisheries agreed to have a Riparian focus plenary session. Shorter than our typical Plenary session, but we compromised with Fisheries. Time for 2 speakers, AFS finds 1 and Jason finds another. Discussion on plenary topics.

c. Details on plans to call for abstracts  
AFS and WCTWS may put out a call for their own abstracts. We are willing to do a joint program. Discussion on plenary topics and abstract.

5. Next IT Issue  
Items needed by October 24<sup>th</sup> for the fall newsletter. And include the Technical Training summary.

---

## *Executive Board Meeting Conference Call Minutes*

**November 16, 2016, 1430-1530**

*By Carey Strobel, Secretary/Treasurer*

Attending: Jason Riddle, Lisa Zoromski, Carey Strobel, Derek Johnson, Scott Hygnstrom

1. Attendance and projected pricing  
Scheduling the business meeting, is there a conflict with WDNR staff holding this during the day? This is blocked with the hotel from 1-3pm.  
Discussion on attendance. What will happen if we are low, will there be financial repercussions? Fisheries thought they under estimated their

numbers, it might wash out. Need to push to promote it.  
Registration costs for the 60 WDNR will be covered -Derek Scott H. is trying to make improvements to the contract.  
Registration Professional \$100, Retirees \$75, Students \$50

2. Updates on abstracts, vendors, etc.  
Send it do Jamie to put it on the website. It is in IT and Fisheries has published it on their website. Put it up on Facebook as well.  
No abstracts yet.  
Address Mandy's email about Vendors  
Silent Auction should be run longer to allow people to bid.  
Carey needs to get a square and/or set up PayPal account for the Chapter for registration and silent auction.
3. Critical next steps for joint meeting  
Have reached out to Krista Pham at Madison for program printing, haven't heard back. Derek will send a follow up email.  
Reach out plenary speakers -Jason.  
Advertise the meeting as much as possible.  
Filling open board positions; secretary/treasurer, board position, President elect.
4. Financial directions.  
Provide Investment plan options at the business meeting. Carey and Jason will meet with Thrivent investment to discuss investment options. They are willing to work with small sums and work with socially and environmentally responsible investments.

## *Issue Committee Updates*

### **Forestry Issues Committee**

I represent the Wisconsin Chapter on DNR's Silviculture Guidance Team (SGT). The main work activities for the Silviculture Handbook included continuing the long process of revising rotation ages for aspen and red pine plantations and revising the tree marking guidelines (order of removal) for northern hardwoods. Field tours included a review of northern hardwood canopy gap management on the Oneida County Forest and attending the Kretz Lumber Landowner Conference (150 attendees) at their mill near Antigo. In addition, work continues on the state legislature's Forest Practices Study. I represent The Wisconsin Chapter on "Committee C" which evaluated proposals for increased economic returns (but decreased wildlife habitat) from northern hardwood management.

The list of meetings attended included: SGT meetings at Rhinelander, Stevens Point, and Wausau; two Forest Practices "Committee C" meetings at Wausau; and a Wisconsin Council on Forestry meeting in Crandon.

A significant development is Paul DeLong's departure as Wisconsin Chief State Forester. Paul took a new job at the American Forest Foundation. Paul has been a leader in forest conservation and actively promoted integrating wildlife habitat considerations in all forest management work. Paul's advocacy for forest habitat will be missed.

Ron Eckstein, Chair, 10/24/16

### **Furbearer and Trapping Issues Committee**

#### **WCTWS Training Opportunities**

It's been a busy time of late! Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll see a more detailed article on the WCTWS September 24<sup>th</sup> *Trapping Matters* workshop held at UW-Stevens Point. On a national level most such workshops have been directed toward agency administrations, but we discovered it's well

received by chapter students as well. We hope to offer additional workshops in the future.

In Frankfort, Kentucky, October 3-7, we were co-hosts of a Wildlife Fur School for agency personnel from four states. Other important co-hosts include Kentucky Fish & Game, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), Max McGraw Institute, North American Fur Auctions, Inc., and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Twenty-five wardens, wildlifers and wildlife educators were participants. We had an active trap line on one of the Jim Beam distillery properties!

#### **Beavers!**

The WDNR will host regional public hearings this winter regarding the 2015-2025 approved Beaver Management Plan recommendation of slight changes in the harvest season in northern zones (A & B). Long term population declines in the north prompted the Beaver Task Force to recommend a goal of "maintain or slight increase" for these two zones (everything north of Highway 64). The proposal would shorten the spring season on warm waters yet continue to retain the longer spring season on all classified trout waters. With the depressed fur market resulting in less interest in harvest, combined with the need to maintain free-flowing cold waters, this proposal strikes a good balance between concerns for the overall population (and multiple benefits beavers bring to our landscapes), while addressing concerns over exponential growth.

#### **Regulated Trapping, Humane Issues, and Global Interests**

Led by AFWA and supported by all 50 states, continued dialogue occurs regarding the European Union Fur Import ban proposed in 1992. This legislation involved the US Trade Office and ultimately states concerned about retaining regulated trapping as a viable management tool – while addressing humane issues. In the U.S. it's known as an Agreed Minute, and more affectionately known as Best Management Practices for Trapping (BMPs). In Canada, the Russian Federation, and the EU it's known as the Agreement on International Humane Trap Standards (AIHTS), with status reports required at annual meetings, to which the U.S. is invited under official "observer" status. At these meetings the U.S. and Canada report on significant humane trap research progress while the Russian Federation and the EU listen!

The next meeting is planned for Ottawa, Ontario, Canada November 17-18 with all four entities in attendance. This is a key meeting for the U.S. as we agreed (in 1997), to complete initial humane trap research on 23 different furbearer species by 2016! With direct involvement by 43 states, 1200+ trappers/technicians, 100+ furbearer biologists/researchers we have completed this huge effort on 22 species with an investment of over \$10 million. Only the wolverine remains, with various plans that include Alaska and Canada, with completion yet this winter. If interested in this huge effort go to the AFWA website: [www.fishwildlife.org](http://www.fishwildlife.org).

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Olson, Chair

---

## *Student Chapter Corner*

### *Northland College*

By Michaela Fisher, President

Several NCTWS students attended a Safe Capture training in Stevens Point, WI. This two day training gives them certification to chemically immobilize animals within the context of animal control and research.

Northland College students have been working on developing their first trail camera research project. They are going to be looking at species frequency and abundance in the context of vegetative content. The cameras, having been placed on campus in late March, have currently documented several cases of raccoon, white tailed deer, black bear, and gray fox.





By Danny Erickson, President

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 saw-whet owl banding. Additionally, we sent 6 members to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual TWS Conference held in Raleigh, NC. Many of us had the opportunity to make career connections and build communication among other student chapters.

A few upcoming events of ours include a 'Conflict Resolution Workshop' with members from UW Stevens Point. This event provides members the chance to build valuable interpersonal and communication skills useful to the profession, but may not necessarily learn in the classroom. Another time-honored event is the pilgrimage to Aldo Leopold's shack in Baraboo. This will be led by an expert in the matter, Emeritus Professor Dr. Stan Temple. Scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup>, 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. The UW-Madison Student Chapter is also preparing for our annual Game Dinner fundraiser. The dinner is scheduled for Friday December 9th on campus and anyone is welcomed to attend. At this event, we host faculty, students, and community members in an enjoyable night that includes a wild game feast, silent auction, and raffle prizes.

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.

All in all, this fall semester is going better than I anticipated 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!



TWS National Conference, Raleigh, NC



Saw-whet owl banding



Wisconsin Bat Festival, Milwaukee

Education Group Inc.. Six UWSP students also participated in the Wisconsin Chapter technical training trapping matters workshop.



UW-Madison and UW-Stevens Point students enjoying their time after the trapping matters workshop. Photo credit: Siena Muehlfed, UW-Madison

## University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

By Lisa Zoromski, President



I can't believe how fast time flies. We are already halfway through the semester. Our chapter has been very busy with so many activities. The flying squirrel, saw-whet owl, wild bird, and otter research projects have been taking volunteers out. Dr. Jacob Straub, the new waterfowl and wetlands endowed chair, led 10 students to visit the Waterfowl Flyways museum and Fairfield Marsh WPA in Baraboo, WI. Students volunteered on a few other events with graduate students and Raptor

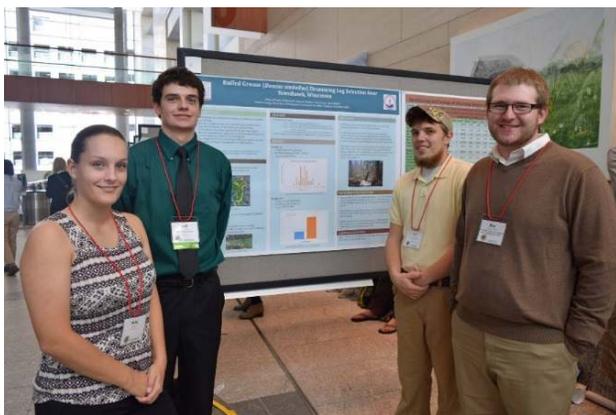


Flying Squirrel research project.

Our chapter just sent 15 undergraduates on an 18 hour car ride to the TWS Annual Conference in Raleigh, NC. Nine of these students presented posters, with Lisa Zoromski receiving the undergraduate Honorable Mention Award for her poster: *Parasite prevalence of the South Dakota Nature Conservancy free-roaming American bison*. Two students, McKenna Hammons and Sarah Johanson, submitted photos for the photo contest and both received an award for their category.



UWSP National Conference attendees



UWSP TWS ruffed grouse project students presenting their poster at TWS National Conference.



UWSP Quiz Bowl team

Four students represented UWSP in the quiz bowl competition. Even though they didn't proceed to the second round, they enjoyed the competition.



Students enjoying their time at a TWS conference field trip.



UWSP students pictured with Gary Potts (TWS National President), with the Student Chapter of the Year award.

Students enjoyed making connections with professionals and other students at this conference. To top it all off, our chapter received the 2016 Student Chapter of the Year award!

Several projects will begin taking volunteers out coming up and there are many more opportunities in store for students. The next large event is a Conflict Resolution Workshop put on by the Wisconsin Center for Wildlife and UWSP student chapter on November 12th. Northland and Madison student chapters are invited to attend as well as other UWSP conservation organizations. We are hoping to get about 100 attendees. I'm excited for this event and other events our chapter will lead this semester.

## *Trapping – Does it Matter?*

On September 24<sup>th</sup> 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: “...was 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 turnout of any of our state chapter's technical trainings.

Compiled by

- 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

## *Truisms - Contributed by Tom Bahti*

*Shamelessly borrowed, stolen and plagiarized from other sources*

Beware of the dog. The cat is shady as hell too.

I don't have the blood alcohol to deal with you right now.

I took the road less traveled. Now I don't know where the hell I am.

Apparently you have to eat healthy more than once to get in shape. This is cruel and unfair.

If God wanted me to touch my toes he would have put them on my knees.

The only time I consider myself a self-starter is at happy hour.

I've reached the age where my brain went from "You probably shouldn't say that." to "What the hell, let's see what happens."

Leadership is about submission to duty, not elevation to power.

### WCTWS Executive Board

Jason Riddle, President  
Jason.Riddle@uwsp.edu

Derek Johnson, President-Elect  
Derek.Johnson@wi.gov

Mark Pfof, Past President  
Mark\_pfof@fws.gov

Carey Strobel, Sec/Treasurer  
WCTWS.secretary@gmail.com

Scott Hygnstrom, Board Member  
Scott.Hygnstrom@uwsp.edu

Amanda Kamps, Board Member  
Mandy\_kamps@hotmail.com

Lesla Kardash, Newsletter Editor  
skuldt@uwalumni.com

Lisa Zoromski, Student Rep.  
Lzoro502@uwsp.edu

### WCTWS Issue Committees

**Climate Change**  
Vacant

**Deer**  
Keith McCaffery  
Keith.McCaffery@wisconsin.gov

**Farm Wildlife**  
Mark Witecha  
markjwitecha@yahoo.com

**Forestry**  
Ron Eckstein  
roneckstein@charter.net

**Furbearer**  
John Olson  
johnfolson@gmail.com

**Government Affairs**  
Chuck Pils  
cmpils@sbcglobal.net

**Wildlife Damage**  
Daniel Hirschert  
Daniel.L.Hirschert@aphis.usda.gov

**Wolves**  
Randy Jurewicz  
jurewrb@yahoo.com

Webmaster  
Jamie Nack  
jlnack@wisc.edu

Facebook Administrators  
Carey Strobel  
Lesla Kardash

Website: <http://wildlife.org/wisconsin>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wisconsin-Chapter-of-The-Wildlife-Society/963763133656811>