



Illinois - Indiana - Iowa - Michigan - Minnesota - Missouri - Ohio - Wisconsin

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

Fall 2015

President's Message



Mike Larson, 2015
NCS President

The board has voted unanimously to recommend a dues increase to \$20/year for regular members. Dues for students and retirees would remain at \$10/year. As always, the decision about dues will be made by members during the annual meeting at the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference. We will provide an opportunity for members to vote online before the meeting also.

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The board believes \$20 for dues is warranted because (1) the overall value of membership is worth it, which I wrote about in the spring newsletter, (2) recent spending is consistent with the Section's priorities and should not be

reduced, and (3) the Section needs additional revenue to prevent unsustainable reductions in account balances.

During the last couple years we have spent approximately \$5,500 annually. Nearly half of that is for supporting students. We (all of us as members) sponsor the Midwest Student Conclave, give our Outstanding Students cash awards, and provide funding to help members of the Student Chapter of the Year to attend the Midwest Conference. When needed we also support travel to the annual meeting by the Professional Award of Merit recipient, members of the board, and speakers for symposia sponsored by the Section. With the exception of sponsoring the Midwest Conference last year, we have very few other expenses. Member benefits like our representation on TWS Council, newsletters, email list server, and conservation affairs work are provided at no financial cost. This year we are sponsoring a Leadership Workshop, the first of what is planned to be an annual series, and I think there is much more we could do to support professional development if we have the resources.

With dues at \$10 we have had income of approximately \$3,100 annually. That has declined from approximately \$3,800, so the board will be using member lists and results of TWS's member survey to work on recruitment. Even returning to previous or slightly higher member levels, however, dues income at \$10/person would not be sufficient to cover the expenses I described above. Although our fund balances are relatively high (see the Treasurer's Report below), having annual income closer to \$6,000 would free the board to invest those

funds more strategically and focus on developing a stronger Section.

Thank you for your membership in the North Central Section of TWS!

Section Rep. Report



David Andersen

October 2015

The Wildlife Society (TWS) Council met in conjunction with the 2015 TWS Annual Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba in mid-October, and there are several updates of Council activities to pass along to North Central Section, state chapter, and

student chapter members. First, TWS' financial position continues to improve, with a net operating surplus from the last fiscal year and a projected surplus for the current fiscal year. Second, the recent decline in membership at the national level appears to have ended, and TWS is working to grow membership by making the value proposition of being a member even more attractive than it is now. If you haven't looked at what TWS has to offer at the national level recently, I encourage you to review the current member benefits and consider renewing your participation in our parent society. Third, with all the uncertainties of hosting the 2015 Annual Conference in Canada, it turned out that the Winnipeg meeting was a resounding success. Attendance exceeded 1,500, with a high proportion of students as part of the total. There were a number of highly relevant workshops, 11 concurrent paper sessions and symposia, engaging plenary presentations, and great opportunities to network with other professionals and students. If you haven't been to a TWS Annual Conference lately, you may want to consider making plans to attend an upcoming conference in Raleigh, North Carolina (2016) or Albuquerque, New Mexico (2017). Also note that it is likely that as future meetings are planned, the preferred period for those meetings will be mid-September, which may result

in fewer conflicts for those of us in the North Central Section who prize the fleeting month of October. Preliminary discussions are also in the works for a joint meeting with the American Fisheries Society and an International Wildlife Management Congress in Chile.

Some other positive developments include working to continue the strong leadership of TWS journals; continuing roll-out of a new TWS website (Wildlife.org); reformatting and new delivery of wildlife policy news, and revision and streamlining of TWS position statements; and continued growth of the Conservation Affairs Network:

TWS publications:--Paul Krausman has assumed the duties of Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Wildlife Management*, taking over from Evie Merrill, whose term ended in June 2015. Dave Haukos will assume the duties of Editor-in-Chief of the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* at the end of Chris Ribic's term in December of this year. Both Evie and Chris contributed mightily to continuing the high quality of TWS publications and deserve much credit for taking on and performing these critical services to our Society. Other issues facing TWS journals that the Publications subcommittee has identified and is working on include transitioning to open access and developing a policy for archiving published data. In addition, Paul, Dave, and others are working on once again providing guidance about what manuscripts are most appropriate for which journal—a task that requires periodic attention. Finally, *The Wildlife Professional* will be produced six times a year, up from the current four. *The Wildlife Professional* has been a highly valued member benefit—take a look if you haven't seen an issue recently.

TWS website:--TWS rolled out a new website in conjunction with the 21st Annual Conference in Pittsburgh in October 2014. The new website has now been operational for a year, and is undergoing constant updating and revision. If you haven't visited the website recently, I would encourage you to view the new website (<http://wildlife.org/>), as I think you will find it informative and engaging.

TWS policy news and position statements:--Over the last several years, a subcommittee of TWS Council worked on revising TWS position statements. The subcommittee recommended revising how position statements are currently structured into (1) standing position statements that broadly address topics core to TWS and that require little revision through time, (2) position statements that address specific, important areas of ongoing interest, and (3) fact sheets that provide summaries of science related to specific topics. A document describing how each of these are developed, approved, and used was presented to Council, and a number of position statements have been combined, revised, or temporarily extended for use in the policy arena, and this subcommittee is expected to have a complete revision to policy statements completed in advance of the March 2016 Council meeting.

TWS Conservation Affairs Network:--The Conservation Affairs Network continues to grow, and the North Central Section has taken several important steps to become more integrated into this national and international network. The idea of the Conservation Affairs Network is to allow more efficient engagement in issues important to TWS membership across all levels of the organization (parent society, Sections, state and student chapters) and the profession. The North Central Section has engaged the Conservation Affairs Network and is working toward implementation at the Section and state Chapter levels, with several chapters and the Section having designated individuals to represent them in this effort. If you are not familiar with the Conservation Affairs Network, please take a few minutes and find out more on the TWS website.

Communication with TWS membership:--As a member of TWS at the national level, you have noticed an increase in communication, including the weekly *eWildlifer* and access to video of presentations made at annual conferences. If you are not a member of the parent society, you are missing out on some great information, and once again I encourage you to consider renewing your membership or becoming a new member of TWS at the national level.

Overall, the discussions and information conveyed at the Council meeting in Winnipeg this October were quite positive. TWS has regained a stable financial footing, is working on continuing to improve the value proposition of membership and increase membership at the parent-society level, and is working to engage sections and chapters to more fully integrate across the entire Society. If you are not a member at the parent-society level or let your membership lapse, I encourage you to take another look at TWS at the national level—I think you will be excited by what you see.

Treasurer’s Report

GENERAL FUND (Checking & Savings)

General Fund Balance as of October 8, 2015.....\$ **9,926.33**

Checking Starting Balance	\$ 1,343.64
Checking Income	
1 st & 2 nd Qtr TWS Dues	\$1,170.00
Subtotal	\$1,170.00
Checking Expenses	
None	\$ 0.00
Subtotal	\$0.00
CHECKING TOTAL as of October 8, 2015	\$2,513.64

Savings Starting Balance	\$8,582.69
Savings Income	
July 2015 Interest	\$ 0.73
August 2015 Interest	\$ 0.73
September 2015 Interest	\$ 0.71
Subtotal	\$ 2.17
Savings Expenses	
	\$ 0.00
Subtotal	\$0.00
SAVINGS TOTAL as of October 8, 2015	\$8,584.86

General Fund Balance as of October 8, 2015.....\$ **11,098.50**

Encumbered Savings Expenses	
2015 Student Chapter of the Year Travel Award	\$1,000.00
Subtotal	\$1,000.00

General Fund Balance (minus encumbrances) as of October 8, 2015.....**\$10,098.50**

CONTINUING EDUCATION FUND

Balance as of July 31, 2015 **\$28,660.29**

Continuing Education Income	
July 2015 Interest	\$ 2.43
August 2015 Interest	\$ 2.43
September 2015 Interest	\$ 2.36
Subtotal	\$ 7.22
Continuing Education Expenses	
None	
Subtotal	\$0.00

Balance as of October 8, 2015**\$28,667.51**

Encumbered Continuing Education Expenses	
2016 Leadership Workshop - MWFWC	\$1,500.00
Subtotal	\$1,000.00

Continuing Education Balance (minus encumbrances) as of October 8, 2015.....**\$27,167.51**

SYMPOSIA FUND

Balance as of July 31, 2015..... **\$10,196.88**

Symposia Income	
July 2015 Interest	\$ 0.87
August 2015 Interest	\$ 0.87
September 2015 Interest	\$ 0.84
Subtotal	\$ 2.58
Symposia Expenses	
None	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$0.00

Balance as of October 8, 2015.....**\$10,199.46**

TOTAL FUNDS as of October 8, 2105..... \$49,965.47

TOTAL FUNDS (minus encumbrances) as of October 8, 2015..... \$47,465.47

Respectfully submitted by the Treasurer of the North Central Section:



Jim Schneider

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
Michigan State University

Contributed Essay

How to Avoid the Madness of Crowds and Get Groups to Work Smarter



John H. Schulz (MO-TWS Chapter member, NCS-TWS member, and TWS Fellow

Collaboration, coordination, and cooperation; working in groups is an ever growing phenomenon in wildlife management. Nationally, regionally, and locally there’s team-work everywhere with inter-disciplinary teams working in multi-agency coalitions and task forces. Joint ventures, flyway councils and technical committees, landscape conservation cooperatives, and bird conservation regions; a complete list of groups and committees fills a notebook. Today’s technician, biologist, or agency administrator likely spends more time in meetings and pouring through related email than conducting wildlife management or actually working in the out-of-doors. This isn’t necessarily a problem. Working with a group of diverse individuals provides the benefits of different points of view and professional perspectives generating unique solutions to complex environmental problems. On the other hand, poorly constructed and orchestrated groups can lead to an unhealthy groupthink where creativity is stifled and new ideas are eliminated before being seriously considered. How do we ensure we have effective teams and accomplish meaningful outcomes as compared to having more meetings as a measure of conservation success? Two texts, one old and one new, provide insights for recognizing and avoiding these predictable problems, and suggest possible solutions toward developing more effective groups.

In “**Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds**” (published originally in 1852, reprinted multiple times since), Charles Mackay provides multiple historical examples

where groups of people repeatedly demonstrate their foolishness and resulting horrific errors amplified by groupthink

(<http://www.amazon.com/Extraordinary-Popular-Delusions-Madness-Crowds/dp/1463740514>).

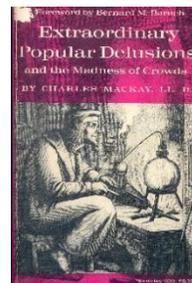
Some examples involve “get rich quick” land speculation deals in the French and English colonies during the early 1700s where numerous investment schemes destroyed the lives and reputations of many famous aristocrats. Similarly, the rage over tulips and tulip bulbs among Dutch investors in the 1630s brought frenzied speculation nearly destroying the entire European economy. New England witch hunts and volatile crowds of like-minded religious groups had no problem solving local problems by burning or drowning “witches” during the late 1600s; i.e., if you had a crop failure this year, burn a witch. In another example, religious relics or tokens once belonging to famous individuals became items of great value and status with the belief the items retained the essence of the original owner. Regardless of the example, people seem to repeatedly demonstrate groupthink isn’t always a path toward improved success. How often does a “new” wildlife program or planning committee emerge without anyone asking for measurable outcomes, and the process of having more meetings becomes the measured outcome? How do we get groups to have more effective and meaningful outcomes?

In “**Wiser: Getting Beyond Groupthink to Make Groups Smarter**” by Sunstein and Hastie (2015), the authors not only explore similar challenges of working with groups, but they provide several suggestions for improving the likelihood of group success and outcomes (<http://www.amazon.com/Wiser-Getting-Beyond-Groupthink-Smarter/dp/1422122999>). Similar to Mackay’s sixteenth and seventeenth century examples, Sunstein and Hastie provide examples and rationale behind the failures of today’s group work:

- People working in groups tend to amplify individual judgement errors rather than correct or challenge group errors; i.e., go-along, get along. “Conventional wisdom”,

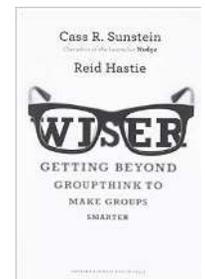
however, is often incorrect and leads groups into quick and suboptimal decisions.

- Some quiet or reserved group members have a tendency to follow more vocal group members; i.e., a cascade of effects. When putting groups or committees together we need to remember we tend to exaggerate how consistent people are across space and time; different people may be needed for slightly different roles at different times.
- Group members tend to become more polarized and adopt more extreme views than they would individually. Positive reinforcement within the group dynamic provides rewards for more and more polarized positions creating a vicious cycle.
- Instead of establishing a synergistic creative environment, groups tend to dwell on information everybody already knows and overlook critical information known to just one or two individuals. In complex problem solving, general knowledge or general intelligence is usually more important than technical expertise.



The real value of Sunstein and Hastie’s text is the general nature of their suggestions and the broad application of their ideas. Unlike many modern leadership books on the market with cookbook recipes for success, these authors have real-life experience in multiple venues of government and private industry. They suggest group leaders need to listen more and talk less; surprisingly, this simple grandmotherly advice is news to many leaders. They also suggest ideas for allowing new ideas to emerge without being criticized, new methods for providing rewards within the group, and when to effectively play a “devil’s advocate” role within a group.

The shorter days of fall and winter provide more opportunities to read next to the kerosene lantern in deer camp, next to the wood stove in the basement, or in the dorm room. Regardless of where you find



yourself this fall, I suggest carrying both of these books in your backpack and read them when time permits. Both will be well worn and marked in the margins by the time you're finished and spring field work arrives.

Plan to Attend the 2016 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Leadership Series

**Sponsored by the North Central Section
Chapter of The Wildlife Society and the
Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife
Agencies**

Sunday January 24, 2016

Grand Rapids, Michigan

The Leadership Series Workshop is aimed at providing training and continuing education for all natural resource professionals ranging from students to seasoned professionals. Workshop organizers recognize everyone is a leader within their respective agencies. The workshop will emphasize practical skills, tools, and experiences applicable to all attendees. Students and professionals will enhance their leadership skills, expand leadership contacts, and explore areas for professional growth. State natural resource agencies will benefit by increasing leadership their capacity, and NCS-TWS will engage new leaders and increase professional relevancy to its members. An additional benefit of this new initiative is the emerging cadre of conservation leadership speakers sharing their knowledge and experience.

Although several leadership opportunities exist for fish and wildlife professionals, they have limited enrollment compared to the extensive need.

Expanded leadership training opportunities are important as agencies face retirements, vacancy management, and declines in institutional memory. NCS-TWS recognizes these needs and feel annual leadership training can provide tangible benefits to all professionals in the Midwestern states. This need can be met through a collaborative partnership between NCS-TWS, MAFWA, and other partners to establish an annual Leadership Series held in connection with the annual Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference. The long-term goal is to establish an annual tradition of holding the workshop the Sunday afternoon prior to the annual Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference with a different theme each year.

Workshop Details and Registration:

- Registration is through the official Midwest Fish & Wildlife Annual Conference web site:
 - <http://www.midwestfw.org/html/meetings.shtml>
- Workshop is limited to first 50 registrants; to ensure your spot register early!
- Cost is \$25 for NCS-TWS member, and \$40 for non-members; membership has its benefits!
- Workshop will be located in the same hotel at the conference; the Amway Grand Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI (exact room to be determined at a later date).
- This workshop will apply toward 3.5 contact hours in Category I of TWS's Certified Wildlife Biologist Renewal/Professional Development Certificate Program.



You can review the Workshop Agenda and Speaker Biographies at the end of this Newsletter!

State Chapter Reports

Illinois Chapter

No Report.

Indiana Chapter

No Report.

Iowa Chapter

No Report.

Michigan Chapter

No Report.

Minnesota Chapter

Richard Olsen



There is an old saying, “many hands makes light work” and how true that mantra is as I look back on what our chapter has

accomplished during the last 6 months or so.

Stephen Winter, President-Elect, is currently planning our Annual Meeting in Mankato, February 9-11, 2016. It is during our Annual Meeting when we elect our next group of MN Chapter of The Wildlife Society leaders. If you haven't served, please think about it. If you are thinking about it, then act. If you have served with the chapter, we thank you.

Our Chapter has provided input and comment to the Minnesota State Wildlife Action Plan, Minnesota DNR Forestry Certification Audit, and CRP Grassland Initiative. Several members continue to actively serve and provide input to the Minnesota State Technical Committee that serves in an advisory capacity to the Natural Resources

Conservation Service (NRCS) on the implementation of the natural resources conservation provisions of Farm Bill legislation.

The Chapter helped support the North Central Student conclave held March 27-28 in Sandstone Minnesota and attracted 107 students from 11 universities. Chapter members continue to participate and provide input to the Minnesota State Technical Committee with serves in an advisory capacity to the natural resources conservation provisions for Farm Bill legislation.

Our chapter helped to support the Copper Roundtable held in Big Lake, MN. Chapter involvement with copper bullets or perhaps more appropriately, non-toxic shot, grew out of the plenary session from our 2014 annual meeting and has led to copper bullet demonstration and education of non-toxic shot through shooting clinics. The MN Chapter's use of shooting clinics to encourage hunters to try copper ammo for deer hunting is setting an example that is spreading to other states and provinces.

Our Chapter sent a Letter to Governor Dayton expressing concerns about the implications of Executive Order 15-10 to the management of Minnesota's public trust wildlife resources, and that science-based information is essential to making credible, fact-driven decisions for wildlife populations managed in public trust. Executive order 15-10 directed a cessation of capture and collaring of moose in Minnesota. Subsequently, Chapter representatives had a meeting with Governor Dayton's Senior Policy Advisor to directly express our views and to introduce the Chapter as experts regarding wildlife and natural resource conservation.

Missouri Chapter

Ted Seiler

The Missouri Chapters of The Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society joined forces this year to hold a joint spring student workshop on April 17 – 19 in St. Louis, MO. Students from Missouri State University in Springfield, University of Central

Missouri in Warrensburg, Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, and Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau all made the trek to St. Louis for a weekend full of fun and education.

On Friday evening, students arrived and set up camp.



Tony Elliott (MDC) led the students on a herp sampling presentation, then had them dig in a drift fence array. We then showed a series of videos highlighting the propensity of lead ammunition to fall apart as it penetrates an animal, compared to copper bullets which leave no lead fragments in the meat. To cap off the evening, we went to the river and tried our hands at catching some of the abundant gamefish the mighty Missouri has to offer. I will take credit for how good the fishing was because I generally have success like that when I go fishing. You probably guessed it, we didn't even get a bite.

Saturday morning started bright and early with



Veronica Mecko and friends from the Missouri River Bird Observatory demonstrating mist netting, banding, and recording data

from song birds. Since the activity involved getting up close with live animals, everyone seemed to think it was well worth crawling out of the tent early for. After a little breakfast, Bob Alexander and Alec Sonnek from USDA, Wildlife Services gave a presentation about wildlife damage prevention and management and again students got to get up close and personal with the wildlife.

Ryan Diener and Mary Crowell (Quail Forever) taught the students some quail management practices, complete with the students installing a shrub planting. Then Emily Flinn and Gus Raeker (MDC) presented about the current deer research project and forest management for wildlife. It was a packed morning and students got to learn about a lot of different wildlife management techniques and everyone had worked up an appetite. We grabbed a quick lunch and headed out to the Missouri river for some fisheries management experience.

Kyle Winders, Adam McDaniel, and Quinton Phelps and crew (MDC) demonstrated electro-fishing, trotline sampling, trammel nets, and gill nets as sampling methods. There was a lot of good discussion about fish sampling and management and again the students got to get their hands dirty pulling fish into the boats.

Ohio Chapter

No Report.

Wisconsin Chapter

No Report.

Student Chapter Reports

Ball State

Bridget A. Stancombe



The Ball State Chapter of TWS is having a successful fall semester thus far! Our fall semester meetings had many excellent guest speakers. Dr. Bruce Jayne from the University of Cincinnati gave a presentation about arboreal snake locomotion and also brought in live snakes for our members to get experience learning how to handle properly. USFWS Private Lands Biologist, Susan Knowles, presented about habitat restoration on private lands. We have many other exciting guest speakers

planned for this fall, including Dr. Richard Fischer, IDNR Furbearer biologist Shawn Rossler, and Dr. David Russel. In addition to our many speakers, we held a pizza party/bonfire to welcome returning members from their busy summers and newly added members.



Our chapter also participated in a dove hunt at Goose Creek Gamebird Area sponsored by the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife. Members got the chance to network with wildlife professionals while also learning about dove management and biology, and also getting the chance to learn how to shoot and clean/prepare doves for the table. A big thank you to the coordinators of the event: Sam Whiteleather, Travis Stoelting, and Mike Schoof. We plan to join in on a put and take pheasant hunt at Goose Creek Fish and Wildlife Area in November, also sponsored by the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Our chapter has plans to be active in volunteering with the local community this semester. In November, members will be spending a day at



McVey Memorial Forest with Red-tail Land Conservancy eradicating invasives and clearing brush from a newly installed canoe launch. In November, we also plan to volunteer in manning deer check stations around the state in order to help the Indiana Division of Natural Resources. These,

and many other volunteer opportunities are being planned for our 2015 fall semester!

Lake Superior State University

Michelle Kane

Our club has had a very exciting kick off to the year. On September 18-20th, 6 members of our club journeyed to Wolverine, MI to learn about elk management from Doug Reeves, the assistant chief of the wildlife division of the Michigan DNR. We got to visit the Green Timbers elk management habitat, talk with managers and hunters to understand the different perspectives on elk management, and got the ability to go elk viewing on private property. We were able to bugle to the bull elk of a herd of 20 or so cows and calves and received several responses. We were also able to get within 20 yards of another bull elk. It was an amazing experience that allowed us to experience how thrilling wildlife management can be and talk to professionals in the field. Our club is also working on a few other wildlife events to take place in the near future. We are in the process of planning a trip to St. Ignace to assist the Mackinaw Straits Raptor Watch with owl banding. The seniors in wildlife management are also organizing a tracking and telemetry workshop for the underclassman in our club. They will teach the underclassman basics of print identification, skin identification, and telemetry work, and the underclassman will have the opportunity to track down a radio collar.

Michigan State University

Hailey Yondo

This semester, the MSU Fisheries and Wildlife Club has been as active as always. Earlier this fall, our Wildlife Committee conducted small mammal trapping in our management area on campus where club members learned how to appropriately trap and handle small mammals. Our Wildlife Committee Chair, Samantha Courtney, is currently working toward developing a long-term study to observe small mammal populations before and after prescribed burns on the land of a local community

member, Cliff Welsh, who has restored his land to a native Michigan prairie. In partnership with the Michigan DNR, we also plan to conduct an inventory of the vegetation and small mammal population in the Orange Flooding Area at Rose Lake State Game Area to determine long-term effects of flooding to the area. We are excited for our spring semester; as we have begun planning our annual Earth Day Extravaganza event, where club members help educate children and our local community members about Michigan's nature and gain experience mist netting, pond dipping, small mammal trapping, restoring habitat, and maintaining the park.

Recently, our Habitat Committee hosted our bi-annual clean up of the Red Cedar River to continue to support stewardship in our community. We focus our cleaning effort on the river reach that runs through MSU's campus. With 100 volunteers in attendance, we were able to remove an inflatable raft, a refrigerator door, a TV, a library cart, as well as construction signs and barrels from the river. Our Outreach Committee, lead by Katelyn Burns, has continued to commit their time teaching elementary students about wildlife species both native and non-native to Michigan at local elementary schools, nature centers, and MSU affiliated events. Our Fisheries Committee has begun coordinating the Park Lake Ice Fishing Derby scheduled for early next year. This event gives members an opportunity to process fish and engage in outreach with young, local anglers.

Our club partnered with several student organizations, including a new student group, Know Tomorrow, to plan a campaign to encourage students to play a role and stay updated as our United Nation leaders attempt to come to an agreement to combat climate change during the United Nations Climate Summit. This campaign was a National Day of Action supported by college campuses across the country. The event on MSU's campus had involvement from multiple university organizations and over 300 students participate.

We plan to have a large number of members at the 76th annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference this January 2016, as attending conferences has

always been a valuable pre-professional development opportunity for club members. This past February, we sent five members to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Four of those members presented research they conducted during the summer field season and previous semesters. We hope to help subsidize the cost for club members to attend the 2016 conference, thanks to the commitment of club members volunteering for fundraising opportunities.

This past spring, we had several members present their research posters at the MSU Graduate Student Organization Research Symposium. This symposium allows club members to learn more about the fisheries and wildlife research being conducted by MSU graduate students, as well as enhance our presentation and communication skills. Our current president, Aaron Aguirre, won best poster at the event! As undergraduates, our relationship with graduate students is treasured, as we receive great advice and guidance from MSU graduate students, in particular our Undergraduate Liaison, Rebecca Cain.

In addition to participating in our club activities and attending conferences, we have been enjoying the outdoors through our camping trip to Tahquamenon Falls State Park, volunteering for a workday at Kellogg Biological Station's Bird Sanctuary, and participating in meetings directed to get members outdoors including edible plant identification, the basics of wildlife photography, maintaining our management area on campus, and clearing trails for our Halloween event, The Haunted Trail.

Missouri Western University

Bailey Bryan



This semester, the Missouri Western State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has been involved in a series of partnerships, community service events, and research

related endeavors. To promote recruitment and maintain the Northwest Regional Office of the Missouri Department of Conservation's outdoor education area, a group of Griffon-edge students re-mulched the hiking trails. We continue to work closely with the Conservation Department, as we have helped them staff a Dutch Oven Cooking presentation, Hunter's Safety education classes, an Effective Wing Shooting class, and a presentation at the Wonders of the Ozarks Learning Facility – speaking to eighth graders about career paths in conservation and how to succeed in a conservation-based college program. A small group of students gave short promotional presentations at the beginning of the semester to each general biology class for recruitment and publicity of our student chapter.



Pony Express Conservation Area hosted a dove wing collection event that our members were able to staff. They explored surveying techniques and

research dynamics, and got hands-on experience at a real check station. Pony Express quail covey surveys are also being collected by our members, as part of a large scale population study. We attended a grape-picking fundraiser event that helped our chapter generate funds for activities, and also benefited the Mound City Chamber of Commerce.

Insect-O-Rama is a Missouri Department of Conservation sponsored event for community outreach and education pertaining to invertebrate biology. Our members collected pond samples and assisted kids and young adults in operating microscopes and preparing specimens.

The chapter exercises our relationship with Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge regularly. So far this semester we have been participating in habitat

work-days, focused on wildflower seed collections, monarch tagging, and removal of invasive species. We hosted a Bio-Blitz biological inventory of Squaw Creek, where professionals in the fields of



mammalogy, ornithology, and herpetology could actively share research tools and technical abilities with interested

students. We also helped staff Squaw Creek's Annual Family Day- a community outreach event. Booths were staffed with active wildlife students, teaching children and adults how to shoot a chemical capture gun, how to use traps and biology data collection equipment, how to use radio telemetry equipment, how to canoe and kayak, and various other outdoor skills. We have also participated in Squaw Creek's deer spotlighting surveys, using Trimble GPS equipment and operating spotlights to create an accurate inventory of whitetail deer on the refuge. Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge is also an active partner with our chapter. For them we have also participated in deer spotlighting surveys, and also a milkweed planting event to benefit butterfly populations.

Tiny-tot-town was a city-wide event: our members had the opportunity to encourage toddlers and small



children to become involved with biological sensory exercises and participate in conservation related activities. Our chapter developed a new relationship with Crowder State Park, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Trenton community, by helping staff an Outdoor Education Day. We were able to man several biological studies booths and outdoor skills booths. Some of our members obtained

special certifications over the summer, including Federal ATV/UTV Certification, Level 1 Burn certification,



motor boat, first aid, gun safety, CPR and AED certifications. At our chapter meetings we have hosted several guest speakers; Brian Gilbert, who discussed quail surveying on the Pony Express Conservation Area and career success tips, Steve Whitson, who discussed Swan Lake watershed projects and deer spotlight surveys, Ben Olsen from Texas A&M, who discussed graduate school opportunities and quail studies, and Bryan Gragg, who discussed active conservation efforts in Africa, general forestry, and level 1 burn certification for the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Our chapter has been extremely active so far this semester, and have many things planned yet for winter and spring, including managed wheelchair hunts, assisting the Missouri Department of Conservation in lymph node and incisor extraction of whitetail deer, the Missouri Natural Resource Conference, and Multidisciplinary Research Day.

Purdue University

Sarah Meronk

The Purdue Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society had an eventful spring semester. The club had regular biweekly meetings with extra outdoor activities interspersed throughout the spring semester. Our indoor meetings consisted of a graduate student Q&A panel where our students were able to talk to graduate students about the difficulties of graduate school. We also had faculty member Dr. Trevor Stampor discuss wildlife forensics with the club and give us a tour of his lab.

This year we had many outdoor activities for our members! To help our club raise money we participated in an invasive species workshop that

helped remove invasives from Purdue property's. Our members also gained hands on experience with large mammals by volunteering with Mississippi State 's bear den checks. Once the weather was warmer we tested our members field skills with Wildlife Olympics. We then ended our year with a bonfire at Sally Week's house where we were able to enjoy watching flying squirrels!

Some important events our chapter participated in were the Midwest Conclave at the Audubon Center North Woods and the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Indianapolis. At the Midwest conclave our members were able to mingle with other wildlife students and learn about the different chapters within the Midwest. While attending the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference members learned about the new wildlife research being conducted and were able to connect with professionals and other students.

This fall The Purdue Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society has many hands on activities that our members can participate in. Our next meeting takes place on September 16th, where we will be listening for bats on campus through the Anabat. Some other outdoor activities that we have planned for this fall is telemetry tag, small mammal trapping, and inputting trail cameras on Purdue property to gain a better idea about the local wildlife.

Some of our greater events this fall are the TWS Annual Conference in Winnipeg, Canada and a dove hunt for inexperienced hunters with the Indiana DNR. At the TWS Annual Conference we have 5 members presenting their research in the student in progress poster symposium. Here we hope many of our members will be able to connect with other wildlife professionals and find out about the newest up and coming wildlife research. The dove hunt that our inexperienced hunters are participating in has a safety training session and clay shooting session at the Purdue Wildlife Area before the official dove hunt at the Indiana DNR Game and Bird area. We hope this opportunity exposes more members to the gun safety and the importance of hunting in the field of wildlife management.

Our chapter members are very appreciative for all of these opportunities and for the funding we received from various groups and organizations. We are excited for the new school year where we hope for more exciting events!

University of Wisconsin – Madison

Lucas Olson

It has been an exciting year so far for us Badgers, as the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society at UW-Madison has been off to a booming



UW-Madison Quiz Bowl Team

semester! We have seen remarkable attendance at meetings, and a lot of fresh faces with enthusiasm about wildlife. Our meetings have included a telemetry workshop, a deer aging workshop, and a presentation on the status of the Urban Canid Project. For events, we've hit the ground running. Beginning the semester several members assisted with trail camera monitoring for the DNR's ongoing citizen science project. Many members are also



Telemetry Worskhop

getting involved with the Urban Canid Project as the field season gets rolling by assisting with trapping, telemetry, and scat collection. On top of that there have been field trips to the Horicon Marsh, Swamplovers preserve, the UW-Arboretum, and Devil's Lake State Park. The National Conference in Winnipeg was attended by six of the student chapter members. While there, the quiz bowl team made it to the 3rd round of the quiz bowl tournament!

We are looking forward to saw-whet owl banding in early November, and helping the Wisconsin DNR with wolf track surveys this winter. Our Annual Game Dinner is set for December 3rd, from 6pm-8pm at 1609 University Ave, Madison, WI 53726. There will be delicious game dishes for dinner, a raffle, and silent auction. If there are wildlifera in the area, we encourage you to attend!

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 \$10 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 & professionals with awards
- Advocate for wildlife, their habitats, and the use of science in conservation decision-making

Please support the NCS of TWS today by going to <http://wildlife.org/join/> and join or renew your

North Central Section Proposed Position Statement

The North Central Section's Executive Board has accepted a draft Position Statement on Feral Swine in the North-central United States. **This draft Position Statement can be found below in this edition of the North Central Section Newsletter.** All NCS members are encouraged to read the proposed Position Statement and cast a vote in either support or rejection. The results of the election will be announced at the Annual Meeting at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Grand Rapids Michigan. Votes for or against this

proposed Position Statement can be cast at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, January 24-27 or online. **Online voting will be available December 15th, 2015 and an announcement on where to access the on-line ballot will be made via the List Serve.**

Officer Elections

Meet the Candidates

President-elect



**Adrian P.
Wydeven**

I am a retired wildlife biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and currently Coordinator of the Timber Wolf Alliance with the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, at Northland College, Ashland, Wisconsin.

Education: B.S. in Biology and Wildlife Management, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (1976); M.S. Wildlife Ecology, Iowa State University (1979).

Work Experience: Assistant Area Wildlife Manager in northeast Missouri for the Missouri Department of Conservation (1980-1982); Wildlife Manager in Oshkosh, Appleton, and Shawano, Wisconsin for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)(1982-1990); Nongame Biologist (1990-1993) and Mammalian Ecologist (1993-2012) for the WDNR heading up the state wolf recovery program and other conservation programs for rare and endangered mammals; Large Carnivore Specialist for WDNR (2012-2013) heading up program on wolf management and investigating cougar occurrences in Wisconsin; and Forest Wildlife Specialist for WDNR (2013-2015) promoting wildlife conservation in forest practices across Wisconsin. I retired from the WDNR on January 3, 2015. On September 16, 2015 I began part-time work for the Timber Wolf Alliance at the Sigurd Olson Institute of Northland College,

Ashland, WI promoting education on wolves and use of sound science in wolf conservation.

TWS Activities: Member of TWS since 1976; member Missouri Chapter TWS 1980-1982; member Wisconsin Chapter TWS (WC-TWS) 1982-present; Executive Board WC-TWS; Certified Wildlife Biologist 1993; President WC-TWS 2004-2005; Wisconsin Award from WC-TWS 2013; Jim McDonough Award from TWS 2014.

Views: With my retirement from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, I see how TWS at chapter, section and national levels continues to be so important to the profession of wildlife management communicating among members, providing continuing education, mentoring to new wildlife professionals, and promoting sound science. I see an attack on wildlife science here in Wisconsin, and to some extent in other locations across the North Central Section. Those of us who can speak more openly on the wildlife issues affecting our region need to speak out. Therefore I am running for the Section President for the North Central Chapter of TWS to lend my voice in promoting sound science in wildlife conservation in our region.



Katy Reeder

I spent my childhood daydreaming of studying chimpanzees in Tanzania, but over time I become completely at home admitting that I'm inescapably a product of the Midwest, and am likely to remain

firmly planted here. (I imagine people on the coasts might call refer to me as "corn-fed" but I prefer "product of the Midwest.") My family's roots are in Ohio and Illinois, I grew up in Wisconsin, and I've lived in Indiana, Minnesota and Iowa. I received my bachelor's degree in Biology from Earlham College in Indiana, and my Master's degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Iowa State University.

Since 2007, I've been privileged to serve as Iowa's Wildlife Action Plan coordinator.

I have participated in The Wildlife Society at the national, section and state chapter level for 8 years. I've served as the North Central Section (NCS) Secretary since 2013. Over the past several years, NCS members have worked hard to demonstrate the value of membership in the Society and to improve service to members. We do this by recognizing excellent students and leaders in the wildlife profession, by developing professional development opportunities, through sponsorship of the Student Conclave and other valuable events, and by engaging in TWS's Conservation Affairs Network. If elected as this section's next president-elect, I'll look forward to working with other TWS members to maintain the momentum that the NCS has been gaining on these initiatives and more.

The Wildlife Society has been an integral part of conservation successes in North America for generations. I view the NCS President-Elect role as an important way to be engaged as the Society continues to serve the conservationists that safeguard the future our kids will inherit.

Secretary



Gary Roloff

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University (MSU). I oversee the Applied Forest and Wildlife

Ecology Lab, where we conduct research on a variety of applied topics including the effects of timber management and prescribed fire on wildlife, control of feral swine, using citizen science to index hard and soft mast production, and pine marten ecology (see <http://www.roloff.fw.msu.edu>). Prior to MSU, I worked as a wildlife biologist for Boise Cascade Corporation, an integrated forest products

company. I have been a member of The Wildlife Society since the early 1990s and have served the organization in a variety of capacities including President of the Michigan Chapter (2 terms), Associate Editor for the Journal of Wildlife Management (4 years), and Program Chair for the Pittsburgh annual meeting. Recently, I also drafted a position statement on feral swine for the NC Section of TWS, and have actively participated in the Forestry and Wildlife Working Group. I look to continue my contributions to our professional society as Secretary of the NC Section. Our task as a Section is to stay relevant, demonstrate value to our members, and advocate for the use of science and education in wildlife management.



Bud Veverka

I have been the Farmland Game Research Biologist with the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife for the past eight years, coordinating annual statewide

monitoring for northern bobwhite, ring-necked pheasant, American woodcock, and mourning dove. I was born and raised in western Pennsylvania, where I grew up on Pymatuning Lake with a strong family hunting tradition. When I was 14 years old, I attended a presentation by PGC bear biologist Gary Alt at the Pymatuning Wildlife Learning Center, and decided on that day to become a wildlife biologist. I earned the Eagle Scout Award from the Boy Scout of American, before heading off to Unity College in Maine where I received a B.S. in Wildlife, which included an internship with the West Virginia DNR. After seasonal positions in Nebraska and Georgia, I attended Eastern Kentucky University, receiving a M.S. in Biology. I then had a couple short-term positions with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources before heading to Indiana. Recently, I have been a bit in the spotlight as the biologist responsible for

managing the only black bear in Indiana, the first confirmed in the state in 144 years.

I am the Past President and Membership Chair of the Indiana Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and have only recently gotten involved in the North Central Section, chairing the Outstanding Wildlife Student Awards Program for the 75th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. I hope to continue to do whatever he can for the Section in any capacity.

Personally, I enjoy hunting, canoeing, hiking, and camping, and am heavily involved in Boy Scouting of American and it honor society, the Order of the Arrow. I have been married for 15 years to my lovely wife Alisa, and we have a beautiful 6-year-old daughter, Adriana Mia.

Ballots for 2016 Officers and the Proposed Position Statement on Feral Swine in the North-Central United States can be cast at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, January 24 -27 or online. Online voting will be available December 15th, 2015 and an announcement on where to access the on-line ballot will be made via the List Serve.

If you know of any NCS members that have trouble accessing the electronic newsletter or on-line voting, please contact Chris Newbold at Chris.Newbold@mdc.mo.gov and we will be happy to send out a mailed copy of the newsletter and voting ballot.

Announcements

Illinois Department of Natural Resources Releases its 2015 CWD Surveillance Report

Tom Micetich, CWB
Deer Project Manager
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
700 S. 10th Street
Havana, IL 62644

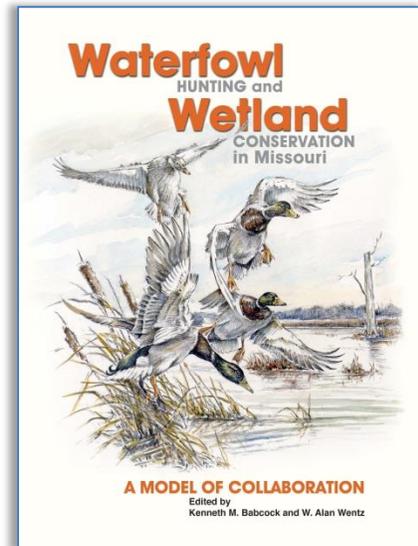
The Illinois Department of Natural Resources' 2014-15 Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance and Management Report has been posted their website at: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/programs/CWD/Documents/CWDAnnualReport20142015.pdf>

Since testing began, Illinois Department of Natural Resources has had a total of 538 positives (from >89,400 samples) detected through June 30, 2015. Seventy-one (the highest annual tally) of the 7861 usable samples tested positive during this past fiscal year (2014-15). Two new counties were added, bringing Illinois to 16 which have had at least one CWD-positive animal detected. Overall prevalence for hunter harvested adult animals was at 1.2%.

A map of cumulative Illinois CWD-positive sections may be found at: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/programs/CWD/Documents/CWDMap.pdf>

For those who cannot get enough CWD information all annual reports (2003-2015), tables of positive animals detected by county and year, and much more may be found at: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Programs/CWD/Pages/default.aspx>

New Book Celebrates Wetland Conservation in Missouri.



The success of Missouri's waterfowl and wetland conservation is not an accident. Careful planning, skillful execution of well-designed strategies, public and private partnerships, strong citizen support and dedicated funding have all led to the quality wetland habitats and migratory bird populations that we enjoy today. This book chronicles and celebrates this success. The book's authors, many of them former waterfowl biologists and wetland managers, have donated their services to produce this book. Sponsors, anchored by Bass Pro Shops, the Missouri Department of Conservation, Ducks Unlimited, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation and private citizens, have covered all production costs.

High quality color photographs, reproductions of well-known waterfowl artwork and historic black and white photos are found throughout this book. This is a must have book for all serious migratory bird hunters, and **all net proceeds from sales of the book will be dedicated to wetland and waterfowl conservation that benefits Missouri.**

For more information and to order a first edition copy of the book, visit www.mochf.org.

Upcoming Meetings

20th Central Hardwood Forest Conference

Long-term Forest Management Experiments in the Eastern Deciduous Forest: Lessons for Tomorrow

The Central Hardwood Forest Conference is a biennial meeting dedicated to the sustainability and improvement of the Central Hardwood forest ecosystem. The conference objective is to bring together forest managers and scientists to discuss research and issues concerning the ecology and management of forests of the Central Hardwood Region. We are pleased to announce that the 20th Central Hardwood Forest Conference will be hosted by the University of Missouri and the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, and the Missouri Department of Conservation. The meeting will be held March 28-April 1, 2016, on the campus of the University of Missouri in Columbia.

- Concurrent session papers and posters are welcomed on any aspect of forest ecology, silviculture, forest health, harvesting, utilization, biometrics, stand dynamics and modeling, GIS/remote sensing, physiology, economics, hydrology, forest soils, wildlife, recreation, or human dimensions related to Central Hardwood Forests.
- There also will be a concurrent session on findings from long-term experiments, including the Missouri Ozark Forest Ecosystem Project (MOFEP).
- The Proceedings of the Central Hardwood Forest Conference will be published as a General Technical Report by the Northern Research Station.
- A select group of papers submitted to the session on long-term experiments will be published in an interdisciplinary ecologically-based journal.

Web site with conference details:
<http://oak.snr.missouri.edu/centralhardwood/>



The 76th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference will be held January 24 - 27, 2016 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The annual conference attracts over 800 biologists and students from state, federal and tribal natural resource agencies across the 13 Midwestern states. Highlights include: over 400 technical talks, poster displays, plenary sessions, networking opportunities and social events.

More information regarding the 76th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference can be found at: <http://midwestfw.org/>



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

For current articles and publications



The Wildlife Society
THE NORTH CENTRAL SECTION

Proposed Position Statement

Feral Swine in the North-central United States

Introduction and Biology

Feral swine (*Sus scrofa*) are members of the swine family *Suidae*, which is native to Europe and Asia. Feral swine should not be confused with North America's only native pig-like animal – the collared peccary (*Pecari tajacu*; or javelin), of the family *Tayassuidae*. For centuries non-native domestic swine have been propagated throughout North America and a wild population has been established from intentional releases and accidental escapes. Intentional releases of swine historically have occurred most frequently in the southeastern United States. As a result, the region between Texas and South Carolina has been identified as the epicenter of feral swine populations in North America. However, in the past decade (2000-2010), the range and abundance of feral swine has increased markedly. In 2010, feral swine were known to occur in at least 40 states, including 7 of the 8 states in the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society (Source: USDA APHIS Public Affairs Specialist). Although a reliable estimate of the continental population is not available, research suggests it is in the millions of individuals nationwide (USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service^a).

Feral swine come from 3 distinct lineages; 1) domestic, 2) pure strain Eurasian (or Russian) boar, and 3) hybrids. The majority of feral swine in the North Central Section descended from domesticated herds, but the Eurasian lineage is most common in some states (e.g., Michigan). In areas where both previously domesticated pigs and Eurasian wild boar exist, hybridization can and does occur. Regardless of the lineage, all feral swine in North America are *Sus scrofa* and can cause irreparable harm to native ecosystems.

Feral swine are extreme habitat generalists. Whether released or naturally invading, they can survive in most areas of North America by feeding on a variety of plants and animals and changing food preference based on availability. Feral swine also are one of the most prolific large mammals in North America. With abundant resources, female pigs can begin breeding as juveniles and, while most produce a single litter annually, are physiologically capable of reproducing twice a year. Individual sows typically have 3 to 8 young per litter, but litters >10 have been documented. High reproductive output and low natural mortality rates tend to result in high population growth potential.

^bMayer, J. J. 2009. Wild pig population biology. Pages 157-192 in J. J. Mayer and I. L. Brisbin, Jr. eds. Biology, damage control techniques and management. SRNL-RP-2009-00869. Savannah River National Laboratory. Aiken, SC.

Although feral swine can be a popular large game mammal among hunters in North America, the problems caused by feral swine far outweigh any positive recreational benefits they provide. Because of their population size in some parts of North America, opportunistic feeding behaviors, and tendency to exist in groups, feral swine can damage agricultural commodities, aquatic systems, forested ecosystems, and native wildlife. In addition, feral swine carry diseases that pose risks to humans, livestock, and other wildlife.

Damage

Feral swine damage to property, agriculture, and natural resources often occurs as a result of their aggressive rooting (i.e., grubbing, plowing, digging) and wallowing activities. Both of these activities result in significant soil disturbance; in sandy soils rooting may reach a depth of 1m. Wallowing can reduce water quality and disrupt sensitive wetland ecosystems. Other documented damage includes destruction of livestock fencing, damage to farm equipment in rooted areas, and predation on young livestock, ground nesting birds, amphibians, reptiles, and other wildlife. Economic losses resulting from feral swine damage is estimated at greater than \$1 billion per year and is increasing nationwide.

Disease

Feral swine are highly mobile disease vectors and can carry at least 30 important viral and bacterial diseases, and a minimum of 37 parasites that affect people, pets, livestock, or wildlife. Some of the more important diseases known to affect people include leptospirosis, salmonellosis, toxoplasmosis, trichinosis, bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis, and balantidiasis. Recently, there has been growing concern over the role feral swine may play in the establishment of new strains of influenza viruses (e.g., pandemic H1N1 virus).

The potential for disease transmission from feral to commercial swine has serious implications to the U.S. economy. Large, widely distributed populations of feral swine jeopardize ongoing efforts to control a number of livestock diseases and the considerable financial investments that support those efforts. For example, the U.S. commercial swine industry recently achieved pseudorabies-free status after a 17-year effort and the expenditure of approximately \$200-250 million. Feral swine are known reservoirs of pseudorabies.

The role that feral swine could play in spreading and perpetuating exotic diseases is particularly troublesome. For example, foot-and-mouth disease, which was eradicated in the U.S. in 1929, would be essentially impossible to re-eradicate in areas with feral swine. This would cripple the U.S. pork industry and would likely have negative impacts on wild species such as white-tailed deer and elk. Landowners, outdoor recreationists, and state natural resources agencies also could be impacted by strict quarantines that would prevent access to lands for hunting, wildlife viewing, and other activities.

Management

The most widely accepted methods for control and eradication of feral swine include trapping, snaring, shooting, use of trained dogs, and aerial gunning. Some models have indicated that established and breeding feral swine populations must be reduced by 70 percent each year to simply keep the population from increasing (Mayer 2009^b). In the absence of control efforts, a local population can triple in a single year. Although hunting has been viewed as important for controlling feral swine, hunting alone cannot eradicate feral swine populations. In fact, hunting of feral swine may stimulate interest in maintaining established populations and creating new populations for hunting, a phenomenon that has been documented in Tennessee and Kansas. Recent management direction has emphasized disassociating legal hunting and feral swine (e.g., New York State).

Because numerous methods are essential to control feral swine, approaches beyond those most commonly used must also be explored. Depending on the location, a key strategy might include curtailing the use of consistently available supplemental food sources for wildlife and livestock, which may effectively sustain a feral swine population and hinder control efforts. Whereas no chemical toxicant is registered for use on feral swine in the U.S., research is underway to identify species-specific toxicants and delivery systems that minimize non-target poisonings and other environmental harm.

Agencies with responsibility for feral swine include state/provincial Departments of Agriculture, Fish and Game, and Natural Resources, and federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture/APHIS/Wildlife Services. Some states manage feral swine as a game species whereas others have regarded them an invasive species with plans for eradication. These varying laws and classifications of feral swine complicate control and eradication efforts, especially for cross jurisdiction populations. Recent evidence indicates that associating feral swine with any type of legal hunting activity can be detrimental to control and eradication efforts, because sportspeople value the swine hunting experience and may work to perpetuate feral swine to increase hunting opportunities. Exposing feral swine to hunting can also reduce the effectiveness of professional control efforts. Several state agencies in the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society have indicated that the harvest of feral swine by the general public should be illegal. Additionally, one state (IL) has made it illegal to harvest feral swine outside of the firearm deer season.

The control and eradication of feral swine is costly to state/provincial and federal agencies, placing a burden on budgets, taxpayer dollars, and agency staff. For successful feral swine eradication and control, management must be integrated across land ownerships and jurisdictions. Existing laws and regulations have been insufficient to deter illegal introduction of swine for the purpose of creating free-roaming feral swine populations. Delay in implementation of serious control efforts will increase costs and the time needed to achieve control or eradication, while significant ecological impacts continue to increase.

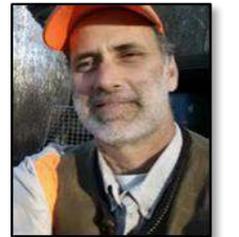
^bMayer, J. J. 2009. Wild pig population biology. Pages 157-192 *in* J. J. Mayer and I. L. Brisbin, Jr. eds. *Biology, damage control techniques and management*. SRNL-RP-2009-00869. Savannah River National Laboratory. Aiken, SC.

The position of the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society regarding feral swine is to:

1. Promote the maintenance of biological diversity and ecosystem integrity and oppose the modification and degradation of natural systems by feral swine.
2. Encourage agencies within the North Central Section to eliminate feral swine wherever feasible.
3. Manage damage caused by feral swine with techniques that are effective and efficient.
4. Encourage research by public and private agencies and organizations on cost effective methods to control, reduce, or eliminate feral swine and their impacts.
5. Support programs to monitor diseases in feral swine and their impact on humans, domestic livestock, pets, and wildlife.
6. Encourage the collaboration of state, and federal agricultural and natural resources agencies, private landowners, and organizations to develop and support educational programs and materials that discuss the agricultural, ecological, and social damages caused by feral swine.
7. Encourage the passing and enforcement of effective laws and regulations at the state, and federal level that would help reduce and combat the spread of feral swine and eliminate feral swine on state, federal, tribal, and private lands.
8. Encourage state, federal, and tribal agencies to share technical data on feral swine among the management agencies, such as maps of local populations and other information for eradication purposes.
9. Encourage the state agencies in the North Central Section to provide leadership and consistent direction on feral swine issues including increased collaboration among all regulatory agencies and other organizations involved with feral swine control and eradication.
10. Encourage states in the North Central Section to define “feral swine” in statute, and where a statutory definition exists encourage regulatory agencies to pass laws making the possession of live, feral swine illegal.
11. Encourage state regulatory agencies in the North Central Section to make public, recreational harvest of feral swine illegal.

Presented to the Board of the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society for consideration on June 22, 2015.

TWS North Central Section Officers

	<p>Mike Larson, President 235 SW 4th Street Grand Rapids, MN (218) 929-7372 Larson.GRapids@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Chris Newbold, President-Elect 3500 E. Gans Rd. Columbia, MO 65201 (573) 815-7901 x3392 Chris.Newbold@mdc.mo.gov</p>
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	<p>Jim Schneider, Treasurer Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Michigan State University East Lansing, Michigan 48824 (517) 353-2979 schne181@msu.edu</p>
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Please send corrections to Chris Newbold
 and
 Mariah Simmons
 (MSimmons@wildlife.org).

Visit us online at

www.wildlife.org/NCS/

North Central Section of The Wildlife Society
2016 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Leadership Series
January 24, 2016
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Agenda

- 12:00 – 1:00 Registration
- 1:00 – 1:10 Background and Introductions (Gary Potts, TWS President; Mike Larson, NCS-TWS President)

Panel #1: Leadership Along Your Career Path

- 1:10 – 1:20 Panel Background and Introductions (Gary Roloff, Michigan State University)
- 1:20 – 1:45 Undergraduate/Graduate Leadership Opportunities and Lessons (25 minutes, 1–2 questions): “I’ve been following everyone else, how can I be a leader while in school?” Tracy Swem, Michigan State University.
- 1:45 – 2:10 Early Career Leadership Opportunities and Lessons (25 minutes, 1 – 2 questions): “How can I be a leader if I’m relatively new on the job and still learning the job?” Dr. Karl D. Malcolm, Regional Forest Service Ecologist, U.S. Forest Service, Albuquerque, NM
- 2:10 – 2:35 Mid to Late Career Leadership Opportunities (25 minutes, 1 – 2 questions): “Nobody told me I was going to be a leader . . . “. Doug Reeves, Assistant Chief, Michigan DNR.
- 2:35 – 2:45 Audience Questions and Panel Discussion (Gary Roloff, panel discussion moderator)
- 2:45 – 3:00 BREAK

Panel #2: The Big Picture Affects Everyone

- 3:00 – 3:30 Leadership Issues of Color and Gender: The Ever Changing Face and Color of Conservation. Dr. Janet Haslerig, Resource Scientist, Missouri Dept. Conservation, Jefferson City, MO
- 3:30 – 4:00 Collaborative Governance: Can’t We All Just Get Along? Dr. Patrick Lederle, Planning and Adaptation Supervisor, Michigan DNR, Lansing, MI
- 4:00 – 4:30 Effective Problem Solving: Leaders Make Decisions and Solve Problems, Regardless Their Role Within an Organization. John H. Schulz, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
- 4:30 – 4:45 Audience Questions and Panel Discussion (Gary Roloff, panel discussion moderator)
- 4:45 – 5:00 Wrap Up and Evaluations

2016 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Leadership Series

Speaker Biographies



Gary Potts: Current 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.



Mike Larson: Mike is current president of the North Central Section of TWS, past-president of the Minnesota Chapter, and alumnus of TWS's Leadership Institute. He leads the Forest Wildlife Research Group for the Minnesota DNR. Mike's professional interests include the avian population ecology, decision analysis, climate change, and ecological economics. Mike is also an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology at the University of Minnesota. He has a B.A. in Biology from Gustavus Adolphus College, an M.S. in Wildlife from Michigan State University, and a Ph.D. in Wildlife from the University of Missouri.



Gary Roloff: Gary is an Associate Professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University. Gary oversees the Applied Forest and Wildlife Ecology research laboratory at Michigan State, has served as President of the Michigan Chapter of The Wildlife Society multiple times, and is the Principal of Wildlife and Ecology Consulting Services.



Tracy Swem: Tracy received degrees in Aviation Flight Science, Biology and Environmental Studies from Western Michigan University in 2011. She completed her M.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University in 2015, studying prescribed fire effects on eastern box turtles, and is currently a Ph.D. student in the Applied Forest and Wildlife Ecology Lab at MSU. She plays an active role in the TWS Climate Change and Wildlife Working Group, was the 2015 recipient of the NCS-TWS Outstanding Wildlife Graduate Student Award, and is currently a fellow at the USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center. Her research focuses on climate change adaptation strategies in Alaska's Kenai Peninsula. She enjoys playing the fiddle just good enough to attract stray dogs and leading MSU's first study abroad program to the Republic of Fiji.



Karl Malcolm: Karl works for the U.S. Forest Service as the southwestern regional wildlife ecologist based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Among other responsibilities he coordinates broad-scale wildlife monitoring across 20.6 million acres on 11 national forests and three national grasslands spanning Arizona, New Mexico, and portions of Texas and Oklahoma. Karl began his Forest Service career in 2012 after graduating from the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and accepting a two year agency appointment as a Presidential

Management Fellow.



Doug Reeves: Doug is the Assistant Wildlife Division Chief in with the Michigan DNR and has been with the agency for 28 years. He worked as a habitat biologist, field supervisor, and was acting Chief for more than a year. Earlier, Doug was the Nongame Research Biologist with the Iowa Conservation Commission. He has a BS from Lake Superior State University in Sault St. Marie and his MS in from Michigan State University. Doug is married and the father of two young men. He is active in scouting, sings in a quartet, and is a passionate hunter and angler. He has been an outspoken advocate for honesty, accountability, and doing the right thing for the right

reasons.



Janet Haslerig: Since 2010, she has been a Resource Scientist with the Missouri Department of Conservation where she serves as the principal investigator for the long-term MOFEP Song Bird project, bald eagle and interior least tern recovery leader, and state coordinator for the Breeding Bird Survey. She is the co-advisor for the Lincoln University student chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resource and Related Sciences (MANRRS). In her spare time she enjoys reading, traveling, shooting sports, hiking, birding, motor cycle riding, and spending time with her 5 dogs.



Pat Lederle: Pat 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.



John H. Schulz: Currently a part-time Research Associate at the University of Missouri, John is an active member of The Wildlife Society (TWS) since 1980 and is a TWS Fellow. John recently worked for a nonprofit group in Washington DC after working 28-years with the Missouri Department of Conservation as a Research Scientist. He's worked on a variety of wildlife management related topics including migratory shore and upland game birds, deer and turkey, wildlife impacts of Pb poisoning, urban ecology, and the integration of science, policy and politics. He's an avid runner having completed 52 full marathons, and enjoys taking his granddaughter for rides in his Danish-made cargo bicycle.