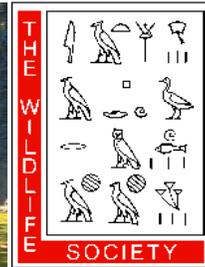


North Central Section TWS



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

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

Fall, 2013

Message from the President

Section Pulse Check: How Are We Doing? Still Alive and Kicking!

The North Central Section of The Wildlife Society was formed in 1962 to focus attention on the wildlife needs, problems and concerns within our eight state region. To achieve this goal, Section organizers proposed the following objectives:

1. Provide opportunities for interaction among the individual members, their Section Representative, State Chapter, and the Society.
2. Evaluate proposed or enacted societal actions that could affect wildlife or its habitats.
3. Recognize and commend outstanding achievement in the wildlife profession.
4. Focus the aims and objectives of the Society and Section upon wildlife needs, problems and events on the local scene.
5. Encourage communication between members and non-members to facilitate understanding and effectiveness of research and management of wildlife resources.

Are we achieving these objectives?

Let's take a pulse check. Let's look back through 2013 and ahead until we all meet again at the annual Section meeting at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Kansas City, Missouri during January 26-29, 2014.

Provide opportunities for interaction among the individual members, their Section Representative, State Chapter, and the Society.

The opportunities are there if you take advantage of them. Section members can interact at the upcoming Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The Section's annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28, or just sit in on presentations and chat with others in the hallways at the Sheraton Kansas City. Our new Section Representative, David Anderson, and past Representative, Karl Martin, will be in Kansas City to listen and discuss news from our parent society. The Section sponsored the wolf plenary session at the 2013 annual TWS conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in October. Beyond these examples, we all have an opportunity to serve on a Section committee or as a Section officer and help promote these important interactions.

I would be remiss if I did not point out another new communication development in 2013. Our website has been updated and moved. The update was performed by Keith Norris, Michelle Horath, and John Loegering this summer. Check it out at www.wildlife.org/ncs.



Another avenue for facilitating the interactions among members, specifically members serving as Section officers, was established by the Section Executive Board this summer. In these tight financial times some officers have not received travel support to attend and participate in the annual Section meeting at the Midwest. The Executive Board, which consists of Section officers, the Section Representative, and the current State Chapter Presidents, voted to provide funds to those officers needing travel support to attend the annual meeting. Up to \$500 per officer is available, if needed, to facilitate Section business work and interactions among members. It is hoped this support will overcome the hurdle some Section members face in even considering serving as a Section officer.

What's inside this issue?

President's Message	1
Student Chapter Reports	3
Announcements	7, 8, 10, 14
State Chapter Reports	9
Treasurer's Report	10
TWS News and NCS Rep Report	11
Book Review	13
Elections, Website, Etc.	15
Officers and Contact Information	16

Message from the President, continued

Evaluate proposed or enacted societal actions that could affect wildlife or its habitats.

The Section did not contribute our voice to issues that could affect wildlife or wildlife habitat through the normal process of writing letters or supporting policy statements. We are, however, focusing on feral swine and the factors making control and management of feral swine problematic by sponsoring a workshop at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. This workshop is tentatively scheduled to occur on Sunday afternoon on January 26. Check the conference schedule at <http://www.midwestfw.org> for further details.

Recognize and commend outstanding achievement in the wildlife profession.

This objective is easy for the Section to achieve. We have several awards that recognize and commend the work and achievements of fellow Section members or students.

First, we will be giving the Section's Professional Award of Merit at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference plenary session in January. This award is given to a Society member within the Section who has demonstrated a career-long string of contributions to wildlife conservation in education, research, or management. Come to the conference to learn who will be receiving the award this year!

The Section also awards a deserving student chapter the Student Chapter of The Year Award. With this award the Section encourages students to develop student chapter programs and activities that provide professional development opportunities, learn new skills and stretch their skill sets, and opportunities to build professional networks outside of the classroom. This award will also be presented at the Midwest plenary session in January. The Section even reimburses the conference travel costs (up to \$1,000) of a delegation of students from the winning chapter.

Another set of awards encouraging student professional growth are the Outstanding Undergraduate and Graduate Student Awards. These awards recognize the hard work, achievements, and promise of two current students within the Section. In recent years the award winners each received \$500 from the Section. These award winners will also be recognized at the January conference.

This year the Section has another occasion to celebrate the achievements of a fellow Section member. Keith McCaffery, a longtime deer biologist for Wisconsin, is receiving the Society's Distinguished Service Award at the annual conference in Milwaukee. Keith's dedication to deer research and management as well as forest-wildlife research over the past 45 years has been impressive. His knowledge has been frequently tapped to help make deer management decisions not only in Wisconsin but also in many other states throughout the white-tailed deer's range. Whereas this award is not a Section award, our Section nominated Keith for the award.

Focus the aims and objectives of the Society and Section upon wildlife needs, problems and events on the local scene.

Again I point to our sponsorship of the feral swine workshop at the Midwest and the wolf plenary session at the Society's annual conference as examples of the Section focusing attention to wildlife problems and needs at the local level.

Another initiative brewing within the Section is the development of the Section's own leadership development program similar to the Society's Leadership Institute program. We have been discussing this concept for several years and taking the steps to make the concept coalesce into a real program. If you think you have something to offer in assisting the development of younger professionals in the field of wildlife conservation, the Section can use your help in developing our own leadership institute! This is a relatively new adventure for the Section. You can help establish the foundation for the Section's newest effort.

Encourage communication between members and non-members to facilitate understanding and effectiveness of research and management of wildlife resources.

In all honesty, the Section has not conducted formal outreach and education during this past year. I imagine each of us has done outreach and education in the roles we play in our day-jobs, but as a subunit of The Wildlife Society the Section has not engaged in these activities during 2013. Here is another opportunity where we can improve. If you see occasions and issues where the Section can and should be reaching out to the public, let's talk about them. Bring some ideas to the Section meeting at the Midwest. After all, we are professionals with a combined hundreds of years of experience. We have standing in communicating issues and serving as sources of information concerning wildlife conservation.

Overall, the Section continues to achieve our goal of focusing attention upon the wildlife needs, problems and concerns within our region. Yet we can do more. Really the next question becomes where do you think you can contribute to the goal of the Section? In helping develop and implement the proposed Section Leadership Institute? Assisting in outreach about conservation issues? No matter what your interests, skills, and talents are, there is a role for you to play within the Section! Jump in!

Student Chapter Reports

Missouri Western State University

Our chapter started this semester in full force by helping at Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) with their last of this year's 1st Fridays events. Our students helped run the event while getting the chance to

work on their interpretive skills. This event featured its own fish fry and a variety of educational stations, including bats and eastern massasauga rattlesnakes. Our

next line of business at Swan Lake NWR let our students try their skills at timber stand improvement during the NWR's first round of habitat workdays. Here our students helped using the "hack and squirt" method with the goal of revamping some bottom land hardwood timber that was becoming overrun with maples and elms. We also completed our first habitat work day at Squaw Creek NWR collecting wildflower seeds and spraying oriental bittersweet. Two of our chapter members finished up the wildflower seed collection as interns at Squaw Creek NWR this fall. We have also begun our volunteer work with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) starting with their annual Insect-O-Rama where our students helped staff the many stations including dip netting at the pond and cockroach races.

We sent a group of students to the Annual Meeting of The Wildlife Society in Milwaukee, WI. The visited Aldo Leopold's "shack" to pay homage! That same week students helped out with the first of the managed hunts at Swan Lake NWR. We also had student representatives at the NWR's volunteer banquet. We will be finishing up the semester at Swan Lake NWR with deer surveys (which happened in October), and our very last event with them this year will



be their handicap hunt in December. We still have a full year of activity planned at Squaw Creek NWR as well. We will be continuing the habitat workdays, hopefully finishing up the last of the oriental bittersweet and moving on to other projects on the refuge. Many of our students will be helping sort through and analyze data from long term summer projects and will be helping with deer surveys and managed hunts.



With MDC, students that are Hunter Education Instructors will be getting their recertification because of changes being made to the Missouri Hunter Education program this year. We have students helping out with a number of programs conducted by Outreach and Education staff at the Northwest Regional Office. We also have students participating in the Volunteer Protection Program with MDC by shadowing conservation agents on a multitude of projects and events.

We will be hosting our annual antler measuring and deer aging workshops later in the year as we get closer to fall firearm deer season. Our students will be doing our deer aging and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) stations. Our students will help with the CWD testing for both week-ends of the firearm deer season collecting lymph nodes from deer that are brought it to be tested.

We will end this semester with our Beast Feast Banquet and Award Reception as we begin to plan our spring semester.



Eastern Illinois University

The fall semester started, and the Eastern Illinois Chapter came out strong! We set up our booth at the Registered Student Organization fair for all the incoming freshmen and added 28 new members to our mailing list. Our first meeting was a guest speaker who is a graduate student here at EIU. She gave a brief talk about her current research on bats, and after the talk, we took a trip out to a nearby creek where we attempted to mist net some bats. Although we were unsuccessful in catching any bats, we did see some, and heard some using a sound amplifier specifically for bats. We also saw many other things in the creek including a few frogs and even a beaver!

For the rest of the year we have many more plans. For our meeting in October we hosted another graduate student from EIU. She talked about her research on multiple snakes and their prey at a local state park. We are also planning on going on a hike at a nature preserve owned by the university. This hike will be intended to show how much diversity there is around us.

This year we also welcome our new officers: Joseph Zigler, President; Jena Nierman, Vice President; Clint Morgeson, Secretary; Meagan Thomas, Treasurer; and Ryan Hastings, Historian.

University of Central Missouri

The University of Central Missouri's Chapter of the Wildlife Society has gained a lot of weight from the addition of many new members!. This fall 2013/spring 2014 semester is led by our new dedicated and enthusiastic Executive Board members that took office at the end of last year's spring semester.

We wrapped up our spring 2013 semester of events through our education outreach festival, the 10th Annual BioBlitz, which took place in Warrensburg on April 27th. The BioBlitz consisted of various booths educating the community on such things as tree coring and tree ring examination, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and a stream table exhibiting the dynamics of streams and rivers. Juvenile copperhead snakes were in attendance at the event and the community was educated on the misconceptions about their safety and the behavior of the snakes

in the wild and around humans. The community was given the opportunity to see a local beaver lodge while being provided with information about the life-history of the beaver, the logistics of trapping methods, as well as the pros and cons of beaver lodges and management practices. The UCM Fisheries Society provided and fried up Asian carp for everyone in attendance in order to promote the invasive species as a viable food source in hopes to increase fishing and consumption to control populations. Mammal trapping, bat mist netting, and bird banding were a few of many other activities that were unfortunately cancelled due to the cold temperature and light drizzle that persisted that day, but all in all we had an amazing crew of volunteers and outreach that made the event a success!

This semester our members have been provided with many volunteer opportunities

such as assisting the Missouri Department of Conservation with collection of dove wings for population survey and records purposes, teaching Boy Scouts about plants in order for them to earn a merit badge, assisting with educational booths during the Family Outdoors Day at the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area, and helping to host the Central Plains Society of Mammalogists Conference which took place at our university on October 11-12.

This year we hope to continue providing our members with invaluable opportunities to meet and work with professionals and agencies in the wildlife field, in addition to providing them with opportunities to volunteer their time educating the public about the importance of wildlife study and conservation. Our goal is to play an integral part in ensuring the public's understanding and participation in wildlife efforts.

Central Michigan University

Many new members have joined us this fall; the chapter currently has 84 people on the e-mailing list. Our first event of the year was the annual trip to the Upper Peninsula for Wolf Howling. In recent years, we have extended this event to a whole weekend instead of one night. This year only coyotes responded to our calls but last year's trip was quite successful as we got wolves to respond to us twice in one night! This year we spent Saturday exploring Tahquamenon Falls and hiking a primitive trail 4.8 miles from the lower to upper falls, seeing a beaver dam and many interesting fungi along the path. Many events are still ahead: canoeing the



Wolf Howlers at Tahquamenon Falls, MI, 2013

Chippewa River, tracking in the snow, then Midwest conclave, and Bio Blitz in the spring. Last year, an event called Owling was introduced to the group in which we go to Deerfield Park, outside of town, a couple nights during late February to April. There members vocalized or played audio calls of Barred and Screech owls to try and get responses from owls in the area. We managed to hear both species respond! We also volunteer at local rehabilitation centers, such as the Wildlife Recovery Association in Shepard, MI giving members hands on experience with disabled raptors in their care. The Wildlife Recovery Association comes to Central every fall to give one of their exceptional programs educating the public on raptors of Michigan. Last spring, we were active participants in collecting signatures for a petition from Keep Michigan Wolves Protected, and we will help again for the second petition. We have our weekly meetings where we plan events, share wildlife news, and discuss classes and future opportunities with each other.

Michigan State University

It has already been a busy year for the MSU chapter. We finished last spring with a few of our signature events and a handful of new activities as well. We held our bi-annual Red Cedar River Clean Up event, which engaged nearly 100 volunteers in a daylong effort to remove debris from the river which flows through our campus. We



also participated in the university-wide Darwin Day, a community event aimed at engaging youth in conservation and natural science. Volunteers talked with young visitors about endangered species conservation, displaying items from our department collection.



Darwin Day outreach activities

Additionally, we worked with a local nature center to celebrate Earth Day, participating in biological inventory activities including mist-netting and small mammal trapping and youth education through an interactive introduction to composting. Finally, we hosted TWS North Central Section Student Conclave, which brought together students from 13 universities and nearly 100 par-

ticipants. Students worked with graduate students, faculty and professionals from Michigan to learn techniques for electro-fishing, mist-netting, identification and professionalism.

The fall semester is shaping up to be just as exciting! We have be-



Mist netting and bird identification at the TWS Midwest Student Conclave

gun a small mammal trapping study in the small area that our club manages, and are hosting a trapping workshop to train members and get them certified to assist with these efforts. We took our members to Cuyahoga Valley National Park for a weekend of camping and learning as we met with National Park Staff to discuss park management and ecosystem restoration. Ongoing outreach efforts will have members in local schools again this semester to share information about endangered species, wildlife and habitat interactions and composting. We'll also be putting together a certification workshop to certify members with Project WILD. Additionally, we've hosted a panel discussion on the ins and outs of graduate school and are working with faculty and Department of Natural Resources staff on two long-term research and restoration projects - herpetological surveys and a fen restoration. We sent a small delegation of students to The Wildlife Society Annual conference in Milwaukee and intend to be represented at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference as well. Hope to see you there!

"Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild and free. For us of the minority, the opportunity to see geese is more important than television."

— Aldo Leopold

Southern Illinois University

The SIU Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society and Zoology Club has gotten off to an exciting start this fall. We began the year with about 80 people attending our first meeting. Our first field event was a day of herping and hiking at the Cache River in southern Illinois where the group saw several snakes, salamanders, and frogs (see pics). Members of the club also helped with the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge clean up day and a Green Earth workday at Oakland Nature Preserve. The first guest speaker for the year was Elizabeth Hillard who discussed her master's work with elk in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Upcoming events for our club include guest Beverly Shofstall from Free Again Wildlife Rehabilitation followed by a workday there, participating in Breaking the Surface community paddling event, and assisting with the Haunted Hollow at Tough of Nature.



Public outreach initiatives by graduate students at Southern Illinois University: bringing wildlife ecologists into the classroom

As the environmentalist Baba Dioum once said, "In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught." Graduate students in the Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory (CWRL) at Southern Illinois University (SIU) are well aware of the connection between public attitudes towards wildlife, their understanding of environmental issues, and wildlife policy. In 2011, we founded GRASS (Graduate Research Assistants Supporting Science), an ecology education program comprised solely of graduate student volunteers. Our aim is to unite our research and scientific interests with the young public by bringing wildlife ecology and management to life for K-12 students. We work closely with teachers and leaders of youth organizations to reinforce and supplement current learning units using presentations and hands-on activities developed by our members and designed to fit curriculum needs.



Over the past 3 years, GRASS has established relationships with local schools, Girl Scout troops, and other conservation education groups. We provide monthly presentations and hands-on activities to classes in our partnering schools. Beyond the classroom, we have expanded our involvement in the community by leading workshops at regional public conservation events and we are always looking for more opportunities to get involved.

GRASS outreach not only benefits K-12 students by fostering an appreciation of nature and science, but graduate students as well by promoting a commitment to professional service. The program also helps prepare graduate students for the wildlife profession by providing opportunities to talk about our research with non-scientists, a necessary skill for anyone working with (or for) the public. Finally, the most important rewards are personal; many graduate students timidly dip their toes in the outreach pond and end up jumping in feet first. Our members return from outreach events with beaming smiles and endless stories. Little did they know how transformative, inspiring, and gratifying it can be to work with kids!

We realize the efficacy of educational outreach is highly variable, and that programs like GRASS can blink in and out of existence like metapopulations. None of this would be possible without the support our faculty advisors in the CWRL and the Center for Ecology and we have worked on ensuring program longevity by becoming an official Registered Student Organization at SIU, by mentoring new graduate, and by training students on K-12 teaching techniques. Our current group leaders are Jorista van der Merwe, Angela Jackson, and Matthew Springer.

Our lasting hope is that GRASS can serve as a model for graduate students in other universities. Public outreach is not always easy, or successful, but if we don't speak for our profession, who will?

For more information about our program please visit our website (<http://www.ecology.siu.edu/pages/grass.html>) or email one of our group leaders at grass.siu2011@gmail.com.

Joanne Crawford, Doctoral Candidate and Founding Director of GRASS

The Wildlife Society Names John H. Schulz and Charles M. Pils as Society Fellows

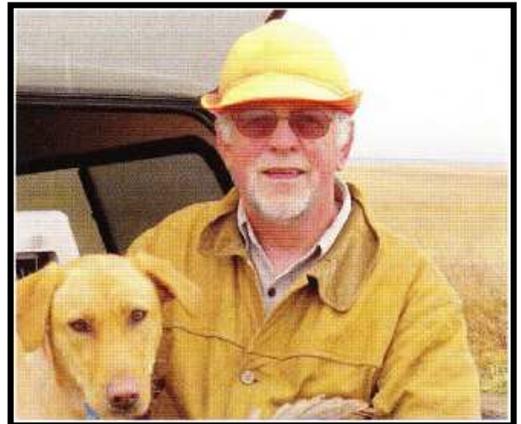
Bethesda, MD – John H. Schulz and Charles M. Pils were both named as Fellows of The Wildlife Society (TWS) during The Wildlife Society Annual Conference which recently took place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

John Schulz — As a Resource Scientist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, John Schulz's research has resulted in numerous peer-reviewed scientific articles, book chapters, and an untold number of scientific and popular presentations. He wrote the 1990 white paper reestablishing a USFWS research funding program for webless migratory gamebirds, and led the effort for the Mourning Dove National Harvest Management Plan that provided a new national paradigm for harvest management and population monitoring. This document provided a platform for a new era of cooperation among the states, flyways, and the USFWS. John has been very active in the Missouri Chapter and North Central Section. He helped develop the 2009 TWS Final Position Statement: *Lead in Ammunition and Fishing Tackle* and co-authored a manuscript the same year for *The Wildlife Professional* titled, *The Question of Lead: Considerations for a mourning dove nontoxic-shot regulation*. In addition to all his activities, John has a passion for mentoring and guiding students and young-career professionals.



John Schulz receiving his Fellow designation from Society President Wini Kessler.

Chuck Pils — With experience in both research and management and a deep interest in all wildlife species, Charles Pils is responsible for a number of impressive accomplishments on behalf of natural resources in Wisconsin. Chuck was one of the early pioneers in using radiotelemetry techniques in pheasant research in the state and his research on red fox is still considered the definitive work on the species in Wisconsin. He worked on controversial beaver management issues, a court challenge to the agency's authority to regulate bobcat harvest, expansion of the State Natural Areas program; recovery of trumpeter swans, peregrine falcons, bald eagles, and timber wolves; Today, Wisconsin has a model trapper education program, in no small part, because of Chuck's initial vision in setting up the program. He also worked on a strong landowner contact program that achieved conservation of rare resources on private lands, and a pioneering effort to develop a habitat conservation plan for the Karner Blue Butterfly. Chuck is not only a consummate professional, but always exhibits a genuine passion for life, the resources, and the people he works with.



Chuck Pils

Congratulations John and Chuck and thanks for all of your efforts on behalf of our profession, the Society and Section!



The logo for the 74th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference is a rectangular graphic. On the left, a black silhouette of a fish jumps out of blue water against a yellow and orange sunset background. On the right, black silhouettes of birds fly over a green field with tall grasses against a blue sky with clouds. The text is centered in the middle: "74TH MIDWEST" in green, "FISH AND" in large black letters, "WILDLIFE" in large black letters, and "CONFERENCE" in green.

SAVE THE DATE!

January 26 - 29, 2014
Sheraton Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri

Modern Conservation:

Celebrating Legacy, Discovery and Innovation

Please plan on attending the Annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, held this year in beautiful Kansas City, Missouri. This annual event brings together over 800 professionals and students from universities and state, federal and tribal natural resource agencies across the 12 Midwestern states. Highlights include: over 400 technical talks, poster displays, plenary sessions, social events and unlimited networking opportunities for all of us. In addition, you are invited to participate in the annual meeting of the North Central Section and voice your support for our Section. We hope to see you there! Visit the conference web site at <http://www.midwestfw.org/>

State Chapter Reports

Iowa State Chapter

The Iowa Chapter has hosted two meetings this year. The winter meeting, held on February 19-20 in Ames, IA, featured state and regional research and wildlife issues. A highlight was Dr. Jim Miller, past president of The Wildlife Society, who spoke about “The Truth of Farming White-tailed Deer” and addressed concerns around deer confinement operations which commercialize wildlife and have played a significant role in the spread of diseases such as Chronic Wasting Disease. Other topics presented on at the meeting included bats and wind turbines, an overview of US Fish and Wildlife Service Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, new methods

Michigan State Chapter

The Michigan Chapter of the Wildlife Society recently held elections for all of our Executive Board positions. Gary Roloff was elected President, Dave Luukkonen President-elect, Michelle Rosen Secretary/Treasurer, and Joseph Bump and Mark Sargent as Board Members. Jim Schneider will continue to serve as Past-President. The Michigan Chapter is undergoing a revitalization effort and we look forward to sponsoring a statewide meeting dur-

Minnesota State Chapter

Since last spring, the Minnesota Chapter has addressed and accomplished several tasks including development and approval of a position statement on conservation grazing, formal adoption of TWS’s position statement on feral and free-ranging domestic cats, selection of a representative on a Citizens Input Panel that will review implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for the Beltrami Island LUP lands, selection of a representative on the Minnesota USDA State Technical Committee’s Tile Outlet Initiative, and signing on both a group letter and an individual Chapter letter to Congress to support the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program and other federal conservation programs. We also had representation at a roundtable to discuss copper ammunition for deer hunting and are currently in the process of a board vote to formally adopt TWS’s position statement on lead ammunition and tackle. As always, our board conducts the much appreciated, behind-the-scenes activities that keep our Chapter running effectively.

Our most successful activity of the summer was our workshop held August 22 at the Fergus Falls, Prairie Wetland Learning Center regarding “Ecology and Management of Shallow Lakes”. Over 130 people from state and federal agencies and conservation organizations attended – a testament to interest in the topic! Topics ranged from an overview of Minnesota DNR’s Shallow Lakes Program to the many aspects of shallow lake management, restoration and reha-

for studying lead exposure in eagles, bison mediated seed dispersal in prairies and assessing ecosystem condition in pothole wetlands. On October 2-3, we teamed up with the Iowa Chapter of The Society of American Foresters to host a professional development workshop in Decorah, IA on forest management. One other major activity for the chapter this year was doing our part to support sustainable wildlife funding initiatives in the state. This included having a booth at the Natural Resources Funding Day at the Iowa Capitol on February 26th.

ing the spring of 2014. Members of the Michigan Chapter have recently or currently serve on several Michigan Department of Natural Resources advisory committees including the Wolf Management Advisory Council, Michigan Deer Advisory Team, and Black Bear Consultation Team. As representative of The Wildlife Society on those committees, our members represent the use of science and education to further wildlife conservation.

bilitation. A big hit was time lapse photography depicting the changes to a shallow lake after rehabilitation. Our Chapter looks forward to providing more workshops to meet our members’ and other natural professionals’ education needs.

Our Chapter looks ahead excitedly to what we’d like to accomplish in the coming months. In progress are a position paper on wetland drainage and tiling and a soon-to-be released survey to our members to learn what they want from our Chapter and how our operation can be improved. An ad hoc committee recently explored new methods of Chapter communication and will report back to the board soon, to determine if we should not only use our Google Groups and digital newsletter but other methods such as Facebook. We are especially interested in increasing our effectiveness in conservation through the new Conservation Affairs Network under development by TWS. Finally, plans for our annual meeting are underway. It will be held February 4-6 at Bemidji and include a plenary session revolving around the issue of lead ammunition and tackle. It’s sure to be another excellent gathering. We again plan to make it very student friendly. Stay tuned for the spring 2014 newsletter to hear how it went!

Other North Central News

Ohio Fish and Wildlife Presentation Series Begins

The Ohio Fish and Wildlife Management Association, the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative and the Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society, have recently started a monthly online presentation series called “Ohio Fish and Wildlife Presentation Series”. The series offers convenient year-round opportunities for wildlife professionals to learn about current issues related to fish and wildlife management and research in Ohio without leaving their desks.

Matthew Shumar from the second Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas started the series out with a presentation titled “Beyond Occurrence: Monitoring Bird Populations with Atlas Data”. Forty-one people signed on to listen to the first presentation and the recorded version, which can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/user/OBCI1>, has been viewed more than 70 times. The next presentation, held on Oct. 31, 2013 highlighted ginseng management in Ohio. Ginseng is a native plant in Ohio unlike any other. It shares similarities with game species like deer and turkey in that it has a harvest season and a devoted following of people that carry on a tradition of harvesting. The Ohio Division of Wildlife has regulated ginseng since 1999. Topics discussed in the presentation included ginseng biology, habitat, medicinal uses, Ohio law, CITES, harvest, certification, exportation and population monitoring (see it at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZP27pIF3_U&feature=youtu.be).

Announcements of future presentations and an archive of past webinars are available at the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative’s website, <http://obcinet.org/ofwps/>.

Indiana Chapter Announces new Student Hunting Education Fund

The Indiana Chapter is pleased to announce the establishment of a Wildlife Student Hunting Education Fund. This fund was created from a generous donation by a previous Quail Unlimited regional chapter to provide financial support for hunting workshops to be conducted in Indiana tailored to college level wildlife students. Workshops receiving funding will be designed to increase the awareness of and appreciation for hunting as an important funding source, wildlife management tool and recreational activity. The fund will create new opportunities and expand existing workshops in order to reach more students and ensure that future generations of wildlife professionals recognize the vital assets hunting provides to wildlife management efforts. For more information contact Sam Whiteleather (swhiteleather@dnr.in.gov) or Chad Stewart (cstewart@dnr.in.gov).

Treasurer’s Report

General Fund

Savings	\$ 11,142.74
Checking	\$ 5,000.00
Subtotal	\$ 16,142.74

Continuing Education Fund

Savings	\$ 5,034.66
CDs	\$ 23,341.07
Subtotal	\$ 28,375.73

Symposia Fund

Savings	\$ 3,512.59
CDs	\$ 7,243.40
Subtotal	\$ 10,755.99

Total Funds (10/4/2013) \$ 55,274.46

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Schneider, Michigan State University

Additional details are available on the Section website www.wildlife.org/ncs.

Creating a Conservation Affairs Network - A New Way of Doing Business at All Levels

Things are changing in the world of Conservation Affairs for The Wildlife Society. In an effort to support and strengthen our subunits, the Government Affairs and Partnerships staff is working with members to develop a Conservation Affairs Network focused on the Section level. Traditionally, each TWS subunit has functioned independently when dealing with conservation affairs related issues – only engaging headquarters or neighboring subunits when deemed necessary. For some, this process has worked well. For others, the lack of a communication structure or standard guidance has created difficulties. Depending on the scale and complexity, volatile nature, or comfort and understanding of a particular issue and the players involved, many subunits and members have shied away from engaging in the conservation affairs arena. Although it is up to any given subunit to engage in conservation affairs, the lack of a cohesive effort hurts the engagement and effectiveness of many wildlife professionals.

TWS staff recognizes this difficulty and looks forward to working with our subunits to create a system of support that works! At the TWS 2012 Annual Conference in Portland, staff met with representatives from each Section to discuss how a Conservation Affairs Network could function. Essentially, the network features coordination at the Section level through the creation of Conservation Affairs Committees (CACs) comprised of representatives from each Chapter within the Section. The Section CAC would be responsible for tracking and taking action as appropriate on regional issues of

concern, providing support to Chapters who need assistance addressing issues that are too volatile or difficult on a local level for direct Chapter involvement, and highlighting regional issues that may have national significance to headquarters to address. The Section CAC would also serve as the hub for subunit communication and collaboration for particular issues. Chapters would, of course, still function with autonomy and could tailor a system to address conservation affairs issues in a way that best meets the unique needs of the individual chapter.

The Conservation Affairs Network is still in the planning and assessment stage. If designed correctly, with the right member input and strong grassroots support, TWS' Conservation Affairs Network can help decrease workload for subunits currently engaged in conservation affairs, reduce duplicative efforts, increase resource sharing, increase communication and inter-subunit collaboration, and provide a mechanism to better engage all levels of our Society on critical issues that affect natural resource management and the wildlife profession.

If you are interested in learning more about conservation affairs or getting engaged with your Section or Chapter's CAC or the Conservation Affairs Network please contact your Section or Chapter President or TWS Government Affairs Staff (laura@wildlife.org) for more information.

TWS Fellows Nominations due 1 February 2014

The Wildlife Society recognizes member contributions and achievements with a number of awards and honors. TWS Fellows are recognized for exceptional service to the wildlife profession, and the next opportunity for nominations for TWS Fellows closes on 1 February 2014. The Nominations subcommittee of Council reviews nominations and can award up to two Fellows per section per year. Nominees must be current TWS members (and must have been members for the last 10 years), active in TWS at the chapter, section, national, or international level, and have a distinguished professional record that includes significant contributions to wildlife resources and the profession (see <http://www.wildlife.org/who-we-are/awards/fellows> for additional information). If you would like to nominate a North Central Section member for recognition as a TWS Fellow, please contact David E. Andersen (dea@umn.edu) before 1 February 2014.

TWS Council Activities Update

David E. Andersen, North Central Section Representative

As the new North Central Section Representative, I first want to say thank you for the opportunity to serve the North Central Section of TWS and to represent the Section on Council. It's quite an honor to serve such a respected group of professionals, and at the same time, a daunting challenge. Second, I want to express my thanks to Karl Martin, both for his service as North Central Section Representative, and for his assistance as he transitions out of that position and I fill in behind him. Karl has been a strong representative for the Section and a leader on Council—I know that he will be missed, and that I will be leaning on him as I learn the ropes.

My first Council activities were rather intensive, in that prior to and at the Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, Council engaged in a 2-day

strategic planning workshop, 2 days of business meetings, and a final business meeting on the last day of the Annual Conference. Between meetings and listening sessions and conversations in the halls and after hours, it was a busy week. The following are some of the highlights of Council activities in Milwaukee.

Financial Situation – As Karl reported in the spring Section newsletter, TWS has been working to address financial difficulties. Past-President Wini Kessler described TWS's financial situation in the July 2013 edition of *The Wildlifer*, and TWS's new Executive Director, Ken Williams, TWS staff, and Council have been working to develop a strategy to address our current financial situation. As a

new Council member, I am working to understand our current financial position and practices, and to help implement strategies to move TWS toward a stronger and more sustainable financial future. I can report that Executive Director Williams and Council are focused on TWS's financial situation, and are working to address past practices that resulted in deficit spending. The budget that Council approved after 2 days of deliberations is both fiscally conservative, and, I believe, gives Executive Director Williams and TWS staff the resources and support they need to be able to function effectively until our financial situation improves. This means that TWS will be able to continue to provide services important to membership (e.g., *The Wildlife Professional*, our scientific journals, TWS's activities in Government Affairs), but with fewer staff and a smaller budget, with the goal of moving toward a more sustainable and favorable financial position that will allow additional investment into TWS's programs in the future.

I can also report on 2 financial items that I know many members are concerned about. First, previous deficit spending resulted in a significant reduction in the operating account of TWS. TWS still has sufficient operating funds, but the balance in this account is considerably lower than is desirable. TWS Council and staff are working on strategies to increase the balance in this budget over the next several years to a more healthy level. Second, no funds from accounts designated for specific purposes (e.g., the Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship) have been used to cover recent operating deficits. These funds are restricted and can only be used for the purpose for which they were donated. I think that there has been concern expressed about these accounts, but the fact is that these funds are held and used only for the purposes for which they were donated.

Bottom line is this—TWS has put itself in a difficult financial position. The current leadership is working to address TWS's current financial position and put it on a sustainable path. TWS has gotten leaner, but will continue to provide core membership services. It will take some time and lots of work to get where we want to be, but I believe that we are headed in the right direction. I would encourage North Central Section members to look for opportunities to strengthen TWS—renew your membership; encourage your colleagues to become members of the parent society, if they are not already; and pay attention to what is happening at the level of the parent organization as well as at the Section and Chapter levels.

Milwaukee Annual Conference – The recent Annual Conference held in Milwaukee was a great success. The Wisconsin Chapter, North Central Section, TWS staff (under the able direction of Daryl Walter), and the local Arrangements Committee and the Pro-

gram Committee worked hard to put together a first-rate conference. Over 1300 people attended the meeting and participated in a variety of workshops, 2 plenary sessions, working group meetings, a variety of symposia, numerous contributed paper sessions, and a plethora of associated meetings and activities. Other than a few minor issues with visual aids in a couple of sessions, the only real major detraction was the difficulties federal employees experienced related to the partial federal government shutdown. Some workshops were cancelled, as were a number of presentations, although in many cases, presentations by federal authors were given by non-federal co-authors or collaborators. The government shutdown also limited attendance by federal employees, which may negatively impact revenues from the conference and the economic impact of the conference on the host community.

Awards and Honors –Keith McCaffery (WI Department of Natural Resources, retired) received a Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to TWS, having formally served both the Wisconsin Chapter and the North Central Section. Adrian Wydeven (WI Department of Natural Resources) received the Jim McDonough Award, which recognizes Certified Wildlife Biologists who make significant contributions to the wildlife profession. Co-authors Dawn Redding, Anne Bronikowski, and William Clark of Iowa State University and Warren Johnson of the National Cancer Institute won a Wildlife Conservation Award for their 2012 article on genetic differentiation in bobcats. Chuck Pils (WI Department of Natural Resources, retired) and John Shultz (Missouri Department of Conservation, retired) were both recognized as TWS Fellows. The Missouri Western State University Chapter was awarded the honor of Student Chapter of the Year, and the chapter's advisor, Dr. Cary D. Chevalier (aka DRC) was recognized as Student Chapter Advisor of the Year—congratulations to both the chapter and to DRC. Finally, the University of Minnesota, Crookston team won this year's Quiz Bowl, in what was a hard fought and exciting competition. Way to go, Crookston! As you can tell, folks in the North Central Section were well-represented in TWS awards this year—congratulations to all.

TWS Strategic Vision – TWS Council spent 2 days prior to the Annual Conference in Milwaukee in a strategic planning retreat, with the goal of updating and revising TWS's strategic vision and plan. The planning document is still a work in progress, but unlike our previous strategic plan, this document will include less detail and more emphasis on what Council sees as TWS's future and what we can do to achieve that future. Stay tuned for more information as the plan comes together.

Book Review and Comment:

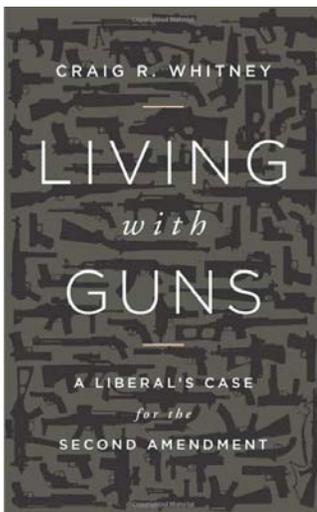
Searching for the Real Problem: A Book Review

By John H. Schulz

Living With Guns: A Liberal's Case for the Second Amendment (2012) by Craig R. Whitney, and **Gun Guys: A Road Trip** (2013) by Dan Baum.

Professional wildlife biologists have unique and challenging jobs. Primarily, as biologists we spend most of our efforts aimed at various aspects of problem solving; e.g., harvest management of game species, invasive species management/control, urban sprawl and destruction of farmland, and emerging issues of wildlife disease and possible human health impacts to name just a few. Regardless of the problems we face daily, the greatest challenge is correctly identifying and responding to the *real problem*, and avoid wasting time trying to affect symptoms and proximate details (otherwise spinning our wheels and staying busy doing things that don't really affect meaningful change). Identifying the real problem is difficult because it is often multifaceted, complex, and occupies multiples scales of time and space (i.e., if it was easy everyone would be doing it!).

Welcome to the complex multifaceted problem of lead (Pb) poisoning in wildlife and the entire suite of confounding issues. Besides the technical biological issues of Pb poisoning, there are multiple related issues dealing with economics, social attitudes, core beliefs, and legal interpretations and/or relevance of the Second Amendment. Regardless your opinion(s) on Pb poisoning or the Second Amendment, both issues are intertwined in a Gordian knot affecting wildlife Pb poisoning; i.e., guns are major component of wildlife management whether you have one or not. Two authors have recently tried to provide some perspective on this divisive and complex problem, and both provide useful ideas for consideration.

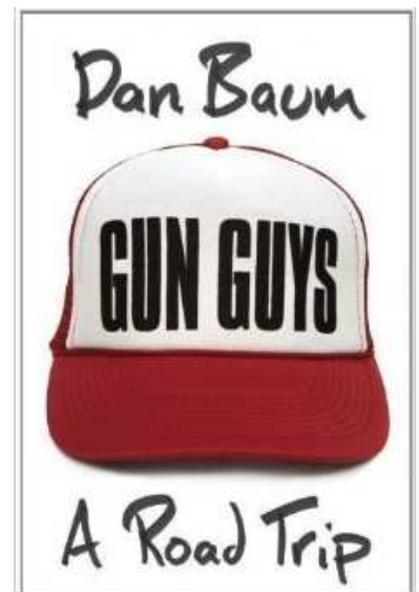


In **Living With Guns**, Craig Whitney goes into great detail describing history of the Second Amendment and its interpretation through time. If for no other reason, this book is worth reading because of the historical detail Whitney used to describe the Second Amendment and its changing application through time; e.g., using guns for protection, rebel against tyranny, personal defense, and our modern culture of hunting and shooting. The last half of the book deals with more modern and potentially polarizing topics, but Whitney does an adequate job of trying to provide both sides of the issue, and is fully footnoted for folks wanting more details. This is especially important given recent Supreme Court decisions and discussions about possible gun-control legislation. Bottom line, this is complex issue where polarized groups on both ends of the spectrum have found a successful business model by raising money through fear and anxiety.

Gun Guys, by Dan Baum, is a personal journey by someone interested in guns but was afraid to tell others of his passion. Unlike the detailed historical accounts of the previous book, Baum takes us through a journey of shooting a .22 rifle at summer camp, firing an AR-15 at a local shooting range for the first time, to eventually having a conceal-and-carry permit for his 9-mm Glock handgun; along the way he meets a wide range of characters with funny and sad stories. This book should be mandatory reading for any undergraduate studying wildlife management because it helps

unlock the mystery behind guns and helps illustrate their role in the lives of many people (whether you personally agree with them or not). Sadly, the author makes a serious mistake near the end of book when describing the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program; he calls it a "sin tax" similar to taxes on cigarettes or alcohol. Too bad he didn't take the time for a little homework and describe how the 11% excise tax sporting arms and ammunition has been used to fund critical conservation program across the country since 1937. But that can be a good teaching-moment for young undergraduate students; i.e., details matter.

Hunting is a critical resource management tool for agencies across the country, and hunting and shooting sports contribute millions toward conservation annually. The challenge we face as professional wildlife biologists is to ensure we recognize the real problem, and gain a deeper understanding of all the related issues. Both of these books are easy to read, and may help provide additional insights into the difficult of Pb poisoning in wildlife.



We need your help! In order to make this newsletter more useful to the collective community of the North Central Section, we need contributions from you! State or Student chapter reports are excellent and always welcome, yet the newsletter is an opportunity for you to share additional interesting information and updates. Notices for upcoming meetings or events, newsworthy items, and essays, are all good topics for the newsletter. A good example is Joanne Crawford's piece on public outreach efforts by a graduate student group at Southern Illinois University. Thanks Joanne! In addition, if you have comments or feedback on the Newsletter, particularly how we can make it better, please contact the President-elect or any Section leadership member. We would love to hear from you!



Students and faculty in the MSU Conservation and Biodiversity study abroad program to South Africa, including program leader and NCS Treasurer – Jim Schneider, participated in a rhino capture at Pilanesberg Game Reserve. The group watched as the rhino was darted from a helicopter, and once immobilized the students were hands on with collecting DNA, implanting microchips, and assisting with ear notching the animal for future identification.

http://www.pilanesbergwildlifetrust.co.za/news/show_news.php?subaction=showfull&id=1375361330

NCS Dues Reminder

As you pay your national dues, please remember to include your section dues as well! At \$10, it is still a bargain. Dues funds are used to support student scholarship programs and symposia as well as other section business.

Elections, Website, Etc.

North Central Section Officer Elections Go Electronic!

This year, we will be conducting elections for the offices of President-Elect, and Secretary and with the help of the TWS office, voting will be electronic.

For President-Elect, Mike Larson from Minnesota and Stephanie Shepherd from Iowa are running, and for Secretary, Charles Anderson from Missouri and Katy Reeder from Iowa have thrown their hats into the ring.

I will be sending out under a separate email photos and biographies of the candidates, deadline for voting, and a link where you can go and cast your ballot.

Please exercise your right to vote! "Vote early and vote often!"

Interesting email addresses

One of the duties of the president elect is to develop and distribute the newsletter. As editor, I worked with the TWS office to gather email addresses so we can send the newsletter electronically. Not everyone uses a government or employers email that is given to them. They get to make up their own! Perusing the email addresses makes one wonder... Where did they come from? For example, I can imagine "Oxenrider" worked in the Peace Corps in Malaysia and had the opportunity to ride one of those beasts of burden. Others such as "Loghead," "Buckshotfan" and "Ivan.T.Terrible" are equally as interesting and cry out for additional explanation. "Otterscat" seems self-explanatory, yet one wonders... And then there is "Spicyhot" Hmmm...

New Section Website and Webmaster!

The Section has a new website! Check it out at www.wildlife.org/ncs. Included are pages for the Executive Board, Committees, Newsletters back to 2001, Awards, Membership, Publications, and an interesting page on the history of the North Central Section.

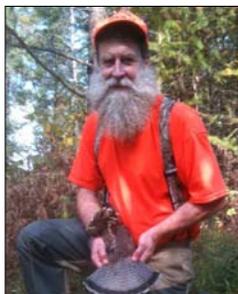
The development of the new website has been the effort of three Section members, Keith Norris (our webmaster), Michelle Horath, and John Loegering. Please remember to thank them for working on the website. Outstanding work Keith, Michelle, and John!

Please let our Section webmaster Keith Norris (norris.568@osu.edu, [217.855.6324](tel:217.855.6324)) know when your state chapter meeting(s) are scheduled along with dates of other significant events your chapter may be holding in the next 12 months or so. If you see something that is incorrect or think should be added to the website, please contact Keith.

Your 2013 North Central Section, TWS Officers



Rochelle Renken, President
Missouri Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180
2901 West Truman Blvd.
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 522-4115 ext. 3345
rochelle.renken@mdc.mo.gov



Pat Lederle, President-Elect
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division
P.O. Box 30444
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 243-0700
lederlep@michigan.gov



John Loegering, Past-President
University of Minnesota
2900 University Avenue
Crookston, MN 56716
(218) 281-8132
jloegeri@umn.edu



Katy Reeder, Secretary
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Bureau
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319
(515) 281-8396
katy.reeder@dnr.iowa.gov



Jim Schneider, Treasurer
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan 48824
(517) 353-2979
schnei81@msu.edu



David E. Andersen, Section Representative
MN Coop Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
200 Hodson Hall, 1980 Folwell Avenue
St. Paul, MN
(612) 626-1222
dea@umn.edu

NCS Standing Committees

- Audit
- Program
- Publicity
- Resolutions and Public Statements
- Symposia and Publications
- Professional Award of Merit
- Best Student Presentation and Best Student Poster
- Membership



Newsletter Deadlines

Deadlines for submission of articles and other information for the Spring and Fall newsletters are 15 March and 15 September. Please have your information electronically delivered to the president elect by these dates. Photos are ALWAYS appreciated.

