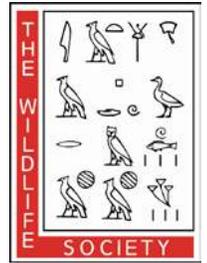




# INTELLIGENT TINKERING

*Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society Newsletter*

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



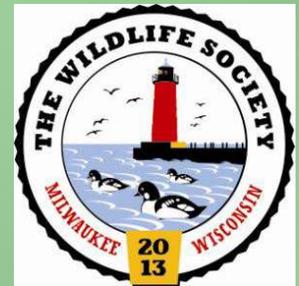
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## Call For Help Food & Beverage Donations Needed

We need your help in soliciting donations of food and beverage for the upcoming national TWS conference in Milwaukee. The caterer has agreed to use any donated products for the farewell party at the Milwaukee Public Museum. That could be very good for the TWS and Chapter's "bottomline" The main meal will be fully catered, but several Wisconsin products were very popular at previous (several Midwest conference events) wildlife gatherings at the museum. These included cheese, cider and apples, cranberry juice and dried cranberries, and of course beer! There could be other possibilities. Donated beer must be in bottles or cans, not kegs. I plan to reach out to the major state trade groups, but often a local contact with a producer is more likely to be productive.

If you know someone to talk to, go for it! You can also just send me the contact information and I'll take it from there. We are thinking 5-700 people so huge quantities are not needed. Thanks for your help. If you have questions or want to report donations, contact Scott Craven at [srcraven@wisc.edu](mailto:srcraven@wisc.edu) or 608-835-6477



## INTELLIGENT TINKERING

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 Winter Issue: January 28, 2013  
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 Summer Issue: August 1, 2013  
 Fall Issue: November 1, 2013

*A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community.  
 It is wrong when it tends to do otherwise. – Aldo Leopold*

## Presidents Soapbox

By Tami Ryan



Hello Wisconsin Wildlifers! That reference is near and dear to my heart & is a word that can't be found in the dictionary or Wikipedia, yet it should be. For over 20 years this has been common to my vocabulary. I find it endearing as it is familial as we often refer to our wildlife professional collective as family. It is also a unique identifier that we can all relate to, as well as, a distinction that connects to the heart and soul of who we are and what we do. Personally, to serve as your president of our state chapter fills me with a great sense of pride. I never imagined that someday I'd be here and I thank you for the opportunity.

So, let me further introduce myself. On the personal side, I am a pointer and own a pointer, have been married to my high school sweetheart for almost 19 years, live in a lakeside neighborhood in the Town of Delafield, and own a cabin in the woods in Taylor County. On the professional side, I am the Chief of the Wildlife Health Section in the Bureau of Wildlife Management with the Wisconsin DNR in Madison. In this position I work with all matters health related for Wisconsin's wildlife that you can imagine. It is a rewarding yet challenging role as it includes matters such as diseases in wildlife like CWD, EHD, and white-nose syndrome, as well as, impacts of toxins and contaminants on wildlife including lead and PCBs and also regulatory matters such as wildlife rehabilitation and illegal possession of wildlife. Prior to this I worked in many other positions over a 16 year timespan within the state's Wildlife Management program none of which were specifically in the field of wildlife health (e.g. Wildlife biologist, Regional wildlife biologist, Area wildlife manager, and Regional wildlife supervisor). Or were they?

At our winter business meeting in March I asked those in attendance "Who here is a wildlife health professional?" and one person raised their hand. Then Alan Crossley, bless his heart, declared "we all do Tami!" That was the answer I was looking for! Think about it.

Wildlife health typically includes wildlife health professionals, such as veterinarians and veterinary technicians who possess unique skill sets and knowledge bases, and the ultimate goal these professionals are working towards each and every day is healthy wildlife. Isn't that the same goal wildlife managers, researchers, technicians, biologists, ecologists, educators, conservation biologists, etc., ultimately strive for as well? And, while wildlife management and wildlife health are generally considered as two separate and distinct disciplines they are intrinsically connected. Wildlife management is wildlife health.

Some of you may already be well along the way on this track of thinking. I know I was not during my 16 years in various wildlife management positions. While I've always had a propensity toward wildlife health issues it wasn't until I came into my current position and reflected back on my career path that this interconnectivity became most evident. It is this recognition of interconnectivity at a national level that has contributed to the establishment of MOUs between our national organization and the Wildlife Disease Association and the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians. And, the fact that starting in 2012, we are now partnering up with AAWV in the planning of our national conferences. So when the conference comes to Milwaukee in October of this year you will have a diversity of presentations to choose from many of which will have a wildlife health emphasis yet a core connection to health of wildlife will likely be found in most if not all.

Wildlife Health is an interdisciplinary continuum. It is this recognition that lead to global strategies such as the One Health Initiative, project Predict, and the establishment of national organizations like EcoHealth Alliance. During my term I will seek to place an emphasis on the interconnectivity of wildlife management and wildlife health, as well as, spotlighting some of these broader initiatives. Then perhaps next time when someone asks all the wildlife health professionals in the room to raise their hands, more of you will raise yours.

## *WCTWS Business Meeting Minutes*

### *Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, March 13, 2013*

*Submitted by Travis Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer*

Call to order: 4:36 Scott Hull

- 1) Treasurers Report: Travis Anderson
    - a. Chuck Pils motion, David Drake second Report accepted
  - 2) Thank outgoing officers - Rachel Samerdyke and David Drake
  - 3) Hand over to Tami
    - a. Elections results:  
Scott Craven – President Elect  
Board Member – Mandi Cyr
    - b. Tami is very thankful for the opportunity to be President
      - a. Everything we do is for the health of wildlife
      - b. Wants to help bring wildlife health issue to the state level from national
  - 4) National Conference updates (Jamie Nack, Scott Walter)
    - a. Jamie: Oct 5-10 1700 attendees goal
      - a. Call for volunteering!!!! (contact Lesa Kardash)
      - b. Website should be updated soon and regularly
  - 5) Committee Reports
    - a. Climate Change
    - b. Deer issues (Keith)
      - a. Implementation of DTR
      - b. Not sure how to respond as DNR has been cryptic
      - c. Robert Rolley (DNR is looking for public input into DTR implementation)
        1. Important for people to respond, even if you're not a hunter
        2. WCTWS should play a role to members to get involved
3. Robert moves to notify membership
    - a. Keith 2nds
    - b. Motion carries
  - d. Tim Van Deelen (attended initial DTR meeting)
    1. This is a big deal, and we need to argue for science
  - c. Farm Wildlife Issues
    - a. Calling for someone to chair this committee...no commitments
  - d. Government Affairs (Chuck Pils)
    - a. Donated \$100 in the past to League of Conservation Voters and should do more
      1. Concern about the impact to the Public Trust Doctrine (Mining)
  - e. Wildlife Damage (Jason Suckow)
    - a. Wildlife Damage website is up and running through WS, DNR,
    - b. FWS is updating their blackbird depredation order
      1. People must report any blackbirds they shoot, and use non-toxic shot
    - c. Cormorant EIS is due to expire next year
      1. It will be revisited and changed....but sequestration has caused them to keep it "same as" for now
  - f. Wolves (Adrian for Randy Jurewicz)
    - a. WI had its 1<sup>st</sup> wolf season in 2012
    - b. Report will be made available
    - c. WCTWS has not been invited to the round table discussion on where DNR should go from here
    - d. DNR is re-working their internal species committees and now including outside groups as key members
      1. DNR staff numbers will decline on these committees

2. WCTWS will try to make these meetings dates known to the membership
- 6) UW-Madison – no update
- 7) UW-Stevens Point
  - a. Katherine Moratz
    - a. 18 projects – 35 students
    - b. Posters at Nat'l and MWF&W Conference
    - c. Would to send volunteers to Milwaukee in Oct.
    - d. Senior symposium on April 5<sup>th</sup>
    - e. Mentorship program has been successful
    - f. Prepping for National Quiz Bowl
    - g. Game feed in April
    - h. CNR Art show is coming back (same day as Symposium)
    - i. Web page is up to date
- 8) North Central Section (Karl)
  - a. Council meeting in Portland
  - b. NC is running a deficit
    - a. Will not fill vacant positions
    - b. Wed/Thurs. prior to conference
  - c. Potential cancel leadership institute
    - a. Looking to Chapters to donate
  - d. New Executive Director for TWS
    - a. Ken Williams (was USGS)
  - e. Hiring new editors to WS Bulletin and JWM
    - a. Chris Ribic for WSB
  - f. Portland Conference
    - a. 1800 attended
    - b. Decided that use of TWS logo for private business will be reviewed on a case by case basis
  - g. Milwaukee Conference
    - a. Would like to exceed Portland (go for 2000)
    - b. Working with DNR to get approval for staff to attend
- c. Plenary
  1. Communicate Science to the public
  2. Wolf management (NC Section is sponsoring)
    - a. Int'l Wolf Conf. in Duluth (post TWS Nat'l) may bring in other people to contribute this (or pull people away)
  3. Pilot a community outreach event (Alan Crossley)
    - a. Community partners in Milwaukee to do community service
    - b. Students and professionals working side by side
    - c. There is interest from partners, but how many people will be interested in attending?
- h. Leadership at the sectional level for students/young professionals
  - a. What can NC Section do to create an identity?
  - b. Create a leadership institute (2 members from each state)
  - c. Start in KC this year, possibly
  - d. Would like to get MAFWA to support this as well
- i. Elections - There will be a new rep
- 9) Committees
  - a. Wildlife Professional revamp (Karl is on this cmt)
  - b. Deer Farming Committee (Karl and Scott sit on this cte)
- 10) WWF (Pat Kaiser)
  - a. 6 meetings, attended 5
  - b. Attends Wildlife Committee meetings
  - c. WWF represents 184 groups across WI

- d. About ½ of the 28 Statewide orgs w/representatives attend their meetings
  - e. Wolf hunting, mining bill, crossbows, DTR, asian carp, & BAAP clean up were hot topics
  - f. WCTWS recently sent \$500 to WFF Outdoors Youth Expo 2013
11. Working groups at Nat'l level (Alan)
- a. New group: Early Career Professional Working Group
    - i. To support young people in their careers
    - ii. Increase early career professionals in TWS
    - iii. Alan wants to form something similar within the WCTWS and is looking for feedback from WCTWS members
      - 1. Comments: Tami: WCTWS should consider reimbursement of young prof. to get Associate WB certification
      - 2. Target members and/or non-members of WCTWS?
      - 3. Should we ask student chapters?
      - 4. Should add this a new committee to WCTWS
      - 5. We need to target the MS grads and how do we target them?
      - 6. Mandi Cyr and Kent Vanhorn will work with Alan on this committee
      - 7. The committee should bring a justification to the Ex Board for an official vote
- b. Can WCTWS be politically active?
  - iii. Invite the Director to the WCTWS Winter Meeting
  - i. Many WCTWS members are DNR staff, and does that affect our political abilities?
  - ii. What does the membership want the EX Board to do on these issues?
  - iii. Use the League of Conservation Voters as a route
  - iv. We should toot our own horn to show that WCTWS is more than DNR and gov't agencies.
  - v. Meet with other board members foresters, fisheries, etc.
  - vi. A Current Affairs Committee of non-gov't employees was formed to help
  - vii. Scott: move Ex Board to create a strategy to be more effective, and take to the membership Keith 2nds Carries
13. Membership activity on committees (Tami, David)
14. Thanks to Scott Hull
15. Adjourn (Tami) 6:29
- 
12. WCTWS Advocacy Role (Tami)
- a. Does WWF speak for WCTWS politically?
    - i. We need to stay with WWF, but need to have it recorded when WCTWS does not agree with WWF
    - ii. WCTWS Ex Board should meet with WWF Director yearly

# *WCTWS Business Meeting Minutes*

## *Conference Call May 15, 2013*

*Submitted by Travis Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer*

Attending: Tami Ryan, Scott Hull, Scott Craven, Mandy Cyr, Sharon Fandel, Travis Anderson, Lesa Kardash

Meeting Begin: 9:02am

- I. Treasurers Report
  - a. Financial Report submitted motion Craven, second Hull
  - b. Motion carries
- II. Business Meeting Minutes
  - a. Minutes submitted Motion Craven, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hull
  - b. Minutes approved
  - c. Action Items Check-in
    - i. DTR Survey
      1. Has Chapter membership taken the DTR survey? Members were made aware of the survey and encouraged to take.
      2. Over 9,000 people have taken the survey, so some are probably WCTWS members
    - ii. Other
      1. Farm Wildlife Issues Committee chair: Scott Walter still interested?
        - a. Unsure if Scott is willing. Scott Hull will check in to see if they should co-chair the Committee
      2. League of Conservation Voters: Should join them as a member. Chuck Pils serve as a WCTWS member. ACTION: join the League and contact Chuck Pils regarding his willingness to represent the Chapter (**Travis will contact**).
      3. DNR Species Committees meetings notifications to Chapter membership. Some

- membership has expressed interest in attending these meetings. Link meeting notifications on DNR web to the TWS Chapter web page. (**Tami will look into this**)
4. Karl Martin and Leadership Institute asking for involvement and contributions. Check in with Karl to see if there is a monetary amount they are looking for? (**Tami will look into this**)
    - a. Has Karl asked other Chapters within the Section? He has attended other State Chapter meetings
  5. TWS National Conference: WI DNR staff have approval to attend this meeting
  6. Early Career Professional Working Group, by Alan Crossley. Suggested we add a new committee to work on this. Alan, Mandy, Kent Van Horn agreed to work on this. No new update in this area. (**Mandy will check in with Alan for any news**)
  7. Advocacy discussion: Suggestion to meet with WWF Director yearly.
    - a. Chapter President and/or President Elect could meet informally w/WWF Director (**Craven** will attempt to set up a meeting with George)
    - b. Need to be wary of possible friction from recent MacKenzie Center issues between WWF and DNR.
  8. Should WCWTS Board meet with other Board members of other groups (Foresters, Fisheries, Conservation Biologists, etc.)
    - a. We've had joint meetings with groups in the past. It seems there is difficulty in find members willing to act as WCTWS representatives with

these other groups. We may have members who are also members of these other groups) Action item?

### III. Winter Meeting General Review

#### a. General Comments:

- i. Scott Hull: food complaints
- ii. Travis: not impressed with Chula Vista, but felt the meeting was very good. Heard many good comments from members about the program
- iii. Sharon: confusing venue, maybe we shouldn't limit ourselves to lining up with DNR Statewide, heard good comments on student sessions
- iv. Mandy: same comments. Some members expressed desire for desserts.
- v. Scott Craven: Chula Vista may be too big (has too many other conferences at the same time)

#### b. Joint meeting with MN TWS

- i. MN TWS has reached out to us for a joint meeting around Feb, 2014.
- ii. We surveyed our members: 97 said "yes" to a joint meeting, 13 "no". There were 47 for Duluth and 37 for Minneapolis.
- iii. Is this too soon after the National meeting in Milwaukee? Maybe we should think to push this off until 2015? **Tami will follow up with MN Chapter President**

#### c. Themes

### IV. 2014 Winter Meeting

- a. MN Joint meeting discussion (see above)
- b. Other ideas: Can we survey the membership for ideas and themes?
- c. Start planning in late summer

### V. 2013 Fall Training

- a. Timing: should we have a Fall training when we are hosting the TWS National in Oct?
- b. If "yes", when?
- c. Where and what?
  - i. Early Career Professionals?

- ii. TWS National Conference can act as a training
- iii. Motion to use the National Conference in place of Fall Training (Travis); 2<sup>nd</sup> (Hull) (motion carries)
  1. We could pay the registration to these working groups. Would we cap the number that can attend?
  2. Do you need registration to Conference to attend any of the working groups/training?
    - a. Contact Jamie Nack ACTION  
Item: Tami contacting Jamie?

### VI. TWS National Conference

- a. Food: local WI foods: cranberry juice, beer (bottles and cans, not kegs), cheese. Do members have contacts with WI businesses for food items donations? Scott Craven sent Lesa a letter for the Newsletter inquiring the members for contacts.

### VII. WCTWS Membership Roster

- a. Many on the distribution list are not current members. Should this be addressed?
- b. This may not be a big issue....keep it as is.

### VIII. Silviculture

- a. Ron Eckstein has been invited by DNR to apply to Silviculture Committee.
  - i. Ron would do so as WCTWS member representative
  - ii. Motion to approve his participation (Craven); 2<sup>nd</sup> (Hull). Motion carries
- b. Re-enact WCTWS committee
  - i. With Ron's participation on the DNR committee, he has requested to re-instate this Chapter committee. He would chair.
  - ii. Motion to re-instate this committee: Craven; 2<sup>nd</sup> (Travis) Motion carries

### IX. IPAW Membership

- a. \$100 annual membership
- b. Should we join? No motion to join.
- c. Related: Should we create a membership category for "groups" to join WCTWS?
  - i. Decision to Table for Winter Business meeting to discuss.

## X. Big Picture

### a. Social Media

- i. National is encouraging State Chapters to have a Facebook page to tap into the younger generation and to help develop young professionals in their careers.
- ii. Also encouragement to form a Social Media Committee within the Chapter.
  1. Could they maintain the site?
- iii. Andy Paulios runs WBCI page and may be a good contact for workload and management with Facebook.  
Tabled for future discussion

Need to push Items below to next meeting

- a. Strategic Planning
- b. Committee Review
  - iv. Charges
  - v. Performance
  - vi. Additions/Deletions
- c. Early professional development
- d. DNR executive council membership challenges cont.

## XI. Other

Next meeting date: August

Meeting Adjourn: 11:08pm

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## *North Central Section Update*

*Submitted by Karl Martin, Section Representative*

The Wildlife Society Council met on Sunday March 24 and Monday March 25 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia. The meeting was in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resource Conference.

Before I discuss Council activities I want to make sure everyone is aware that our very own Gary Potts will be running for TWS President this year. Many of you know Gary, who has been a dedicated TWS member and officer at all levels from Student Chapter, State Chapter, Section, and as a Wildlife Society Council member for six years. Gary's passion and dedication for the profession, the resources we aim to protect and manage and The Wildlife Society make **him a great candidate for President**. Gary does an excellent job of promoting the society, advocating for members on issues of importance and supporting professional development at all levels. **Please be sure to take time this Spring to get your vote in for TWS President** and maybe we'll have another TWS President from the North Central Section

To start out the council meeting the new TWS Executive Director, Ken Williams, was welcomed and introduced to Council and members attending the meeting. Executive Director Williams briefed Council on his activities for the last three weeks and gave his impressions of the issues confronting TWS. The most pressing issue is our current financial situation that has received a lot of attention from Council over the past year and appears to be improving.

The Council agreed to change from a calendar-based fiscal year to a July 1 – June 30<sup>th</sup> fiscal year. The reasoning for this is many debits and credits currently straddle the calendar year, and the period surrounding the end of June is a relatively quiet fiscal time of year. The transition will take place over the next couple of years. I'm sure many of you can relate as many state fiscal years are on the June-July calendar – which unfortunately straddles our busiest time of year.

Council approved the purchase of new computer infrastructure and membership portal software to replace the antiquated system that was in place and at risk of crashing. The new portal will enhance member services and allow for great flexibility and collaboration between the Parent Society and Subunits. Proceeds from the 2013 Investors Campaign will be dedicated to partially funding the new TWS computer infrastructure and membership portal.

### **Working Group Updates**

The Renewable Energy Working Group request for official status was approved; The Range Working Group request for interim status was approved; and The Wetlands Working Group request for a six-month extension of interim status was approved.

### **General updates**

- Council approved the appointment of Thomas A. Roberts for a seat on the Certification Review Board.
- Communications to encourage more active collaboration with colleagues in Mexico will be initiated.
- TWS staff will be developing a plan for generating more frequent press releases on journal papers that may have broad interest.
- COWCH videos will be given a presence on the new Retirees Center, and the Center's content will be enhanced with content that's relevant to TWS retirees.

### **The Policy Priorities for 2013 were approved. They are:**

- Climate Change and Adaptation
- Endangered Species Recovery
- Energy Development and Wildlife
- Federal employee participation in professional societies
- Funding for Wildlife Conservation and Management
- Invasive Species Prevention and Management
- North American Model / Public Trust Doctrine
- Strategic Conservation Planning
- Wetlands Conservation
- Wildlife Health

### **Congratulations TWS Fellows**

Each year the Society honors 10 of its members who have been dedicated to the mission of the Society, active at multiple levels, and who are serving as TWS ambassadors. This year I'm thrilled to announce that two long time North Central Section Members have been awarded TWS Fellow Status. Please join me in congratulating John Schulz and Charles Pils who will be inducted as TWS Fellows at the Milwaukee Conference this fall. CONGRATULATIONS Chuck and John – well deserved!!

### **Celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> TWS Annual Conference – Milwaukee**

Please be sure to put the dates of October 5-9<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for the TWS Annual meeting. This will be a great meeting to attend and if you've never attended an Annual TWS Conference I would highly recommend you consider attending this year. We'll have two plenary sessions focusing on sharing our message and communicating with the public (Sunday October 6) and wolf ecology and management (October 8<sup>th</sup>). We're also increasing the number of concurrent sessions to seven to meet increased submission rates and attendance. We will also have both a welcoming dinner and an exciting farewell reception celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Annual Conference (seems like just yesterday I was in Albuquerque at the first conference). Another new wrinkle this year will be the opportunity to partake in community service on Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> – Alan Crossley and Scott Craven are leading this effort so it's guaranteed to be fun and rewarding! If there is anything TWS or I can do to help convince your agency or employer to support attendance and travel to the meeting please let me know.

**Farewell** – I want to thank everyone for your support as I represented you as North Central Section Representative – it has been a great honor representing you! I've decided to not run for reelection this fall, but fortunately we have two excellent candidates running for section representative – Drs. John Schulz and David Andersen. Thanks again for your support and I look forward to working with you to protect, enhance, and manage our precious natural resources.

*Truisms - Contributed by Tom Bahti*  
*Shamelessly borrowed, stolen and plagiarized from other sources*

Real greatness is measured by the greatness you inspire in others.

If you can't be a good example, then you'll just have to be a terrible warning.

Follow the rules until you make them.

If you help someone who is in trouble, they will remember you when they're in trouble again.

Alcohol does not solve any problems, but then neither does milk.

Money can't buy happiness, but it's more comfortable to cry in a BMW than on a bicycle.

Not everything that pops into your head needs to end up on social media.

All great changes are preceded by chaos.

You find things offensive, while I find them funny. That's why I'm happier than you are.

*WCTWS Financial Report: 5/15/13*

*Submitted by Travis Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer*

<b>Credits</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Year</b>
Winter Meeting		\$16,452.00
Silent Auction/Garage Sale		\$ 335.00
Membership	\$ 420.00	\$ 1,760.00

<b>Debits</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Year</b>
Winter Meeting		\$ 8,971.60
Awards – Winter Meeting	\$ 50.00	\$ 872.85
Leopold Scholarships	\$2,000.00	
Outstanding Student Award	\$ 116.00	
Mileage & Meetings	\$ 132.32	\$ 242.32
Guy Baldassare Scholarship		\$ 100.00
WI Outdoor Youth Expo		\$ 500.00

<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>DIFFERENCE</b>
<b>CHECKING</b>	02/13/13	\$7,363.96	
	5/15/13	\$7,550.19	\$186.23
<b>SAVINGS 1</b>	02/13/13	\$3,146.95	
	5/15/13	\$3,147.72	\$0.77
<b>SAVINGS 2</b>	02/13/13	\$1,067.09	
	5/15/13	\$1,067.35	\$0.26
<b>CD #1</b>	02/13/13	\$1,945.24	
	5/15/13	\$1,946.74	\$1.50
<b>CD #2 (Bjerke)</b>	02/13/13	\$83,128.69	
	5/15/13	\$83,230.07	\$101.38
<b>CUNA Brokerage</b>	12/31/12	\$13,027.46	
	5/15/13	\$13,911.94	\$884.48
<b>TOTAL</b>	02/13/13	\$109,679.39	
	5/15/13	\$110,854.01	\$1,174.62

Notes: Tami requested reimbursement of \$50 for gift cards (Chapter Members with 50+ yrs). 1<sup>st</sup> quarter dues from National (\$420). Taxes submitted to National/IRS. Miles/meals for Pat Kaiser attending WWF meetings.

## *Student Chapter Corner*

### *University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point*



By Katherine Moratz, President

This spring semester has been a busy one for the UWSP Student Chapter! A majority of our student led research projects were run this semester, so students got many opportunities to get out in the field. Woodpecker and Gray Squirrel Projects were down at Sandhill Wildlife Area most weekends from January to March. Wolf and Felid projects had weekly outings to teach students about using telemetry equipment and wildlife tracking. Prairie Chicken Project was open the entire month of April, and every morning, a number of students drove down to Buena Vista Grasslands to watch the birds on the lek. The Coyote Project was able to start up in Schmeekle in late April, so students were able to go look at tracks and camera trap sites close to campus. Many of the project leaders presented their findings as posters or oral presentations at the CNR Undergraduate Research Symposium that took place on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

This spring, the Student Chapter organized a number of events. On April 5<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with the CNR Undergraduate Research Symposium, The Student Chapter once again held the CNR Art Show. CNR and Biology students, faculty, and staff were able to display some of their artwork. Student artwork was voted on by people attending Symposium, and student category winners were given an award at the end of the day. The event was a great success after its two year hiatus.

The Student Chapter also held its annual fundraiser, The Wild Game Feed, in mid-April at the Iverson Park All-Purpose Lodge. Officers, board members, and project leaders brought dishes to pass. There was a raffle of prizes from local businesses, and most members won a prize. The social was well attended, and many great game dishes were shared.

Elections were held on April 16, and the new officer team took over starting at the April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. The weather was great for the spring picnic in Iverson Park on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Over 50 students came out to enjoy the sunshine, burgers and

brats, and chat with friends. Many students went for walks through the park to practice their bird and plant ID skills in preparation for upcoming final exams.

### *University of Wisconsin – Madison*



By Josh Seibel, President

What a busy school year for UW-TWS! The University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology's very own Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society involves students in natural resource conservation-related activities and exposes them to professional opportunities. First off, we have a couple of exciting announcements. Our president, Josh Seibel, was awarded the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society Outstanding Student Award at the state chapter meeting in early March. This award is given to students possessing "scholarship, leadership, and prospect for accomplishment in the wildlife profession". Josh has done a stellar job serving our Chapter this year, and we are very appreciative of all his hard work. Congratulations, Josh! Secondly, our Game Dinner Fundraiser held last December was a huge success. We had a lively raffle and silent auction of locally donated items. The menu included venison meatballs and stews, Pronghorn antelope, turkey tetrazzini, pheasant, goose, elk, wild-caught Alaskan salmon, and many homemade side dishes. Well over 100 people enjoyed the meal. We sincerely thank all who donated meat, time, and energy to make the event so enjoyable and beneficial for our future! Lastly, for our spring fundraiser UW TWS formed a Great Wisconsin Birdathon team, the "Badger Birders". During an intense 24 hour day of birding around Madison in early May, our experienced team saw well over 100 species. We collected pledges "per species seen" in the months prior to the event, with half of the proceeds benefitting the Bird Protection Fund of Wisconsin, and the other half going to our Student Chapter. We are honored to have made a contribution to bird conservation!

Our general meetings are held every other Monday at 5:45pm. This semester we heard from Jeff Lorch (National Wildlife Health Center) about wildlife disease, grad student Andrew Norton regarding his WDNR deer monitoring project, and grad student Camille Warbington about her neonatal fawn surveys. We had a graduate school advising panel with Jon Pauli, Jamie Nack, Ryan Sword, and Jen Stenglein serving as the panel members. We also learned about

plant pathology and Wisconsin avian biology from Professor Glen Stanosz and Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative coordinator Andy Paulios. The Society elected a new leadership board for next semester, and the board is already working on planning out a great year. We are especially excited to be heavily involved with TWS' National Conference in Milwaukee this fall!

Last October, five members from the Student Chapter traveled to Portland, OR for the Wildlife Society's National Conference. They were great representatives of UW while networking, meeting peers, gathering information on how to further improve the Chapter, and entertaining conference goers with our Wisconsin accents. Our team contended in the annual Quiz Bowl tournament, reaching the second round of competition. We thank Scott Craven for serving as our coach, and for renewing his contract with us for this fall! Most importantly, we gathered valuable experience from the competition and will be ready to storm the stage in Milwaukee this October. We look forward to seeing many other student chapter members at the conference, and we encourage anyone interested in suggesting student activities or events to contact us with their ideas!

We were busy in the field this year. We assisted with WDNR's Deer Monitoring project in Shiocton, WI twice this semester, and love the exhilarating trapping and tackling experience. We also assisted with local prairie burns, helped lead science education nights at local schools, beautified our section of Adopted Highway outside of Madison, and helped salamanders cross busy roads during breeding movements.

Lastly, we had our Year-End cookout at Picnic Point, UW-Madison's famous peninsula, in early May. Good food, fun people, and beautiful scenery were a great way to wrap up another successful year at UW! Thank you to everyone who helped make this year one of our best yet. If you would like to become involved with our chapter or have questions, please contact us at [wildlifesociety.uw@gmail.com](mailto:wildlifesociety.uw@gmail.com), or check out our website: <http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/tws/>.

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## 2013 WCTWS Award & Scholarship Recipients

### Wisconsin Award – Adrian Wydeven



Adrian Wydeven is the 2012 recipient of the Wisconsin award, our chapter's highest honor. He has worked for the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources since 1982 when he was hired as a wildlife manager stationed in Oshkosh. From 1990 – 2012

Adrian served as a mammalian ecologist and director of the Wisconsin wolf recovery and management program leading conservation programs for rare and non-game mammals. As wolf Program leader he took the wolf from a state and federally listed species to one that is now considered recovered in Wisconsin and throughout the Great Lakes Region with a population level and distribution that has allowed managed harvest to become a reality. Adrian chaired the Wisconsin Wolf Science Advisory Committee thru 2012, is a member of the Timber Wolf Alliance advisory council, and served on the Federal Eastern Gray Wolf Recovery Team from 1997-2007.

Adrian has exceptional experience working on real-world conservation planning for issues related to wolves. His work has included intense monitoring of the state wolf population, educating people about wolves, working with numerous researchers on a variety of wolf related topics, assisting graduate students and serving on committees, chairing a state wolf science advisory committee, working closely with wolf depredation management, and interacting with wolf specialists across North America and Europe. Along the way he has also found time to work closely with other endangered, rare and nongame mammals in the state including bats, American marten, cougars, Canada lynx, moose, and small mammals.

Adrian has authored seminal papers on wolf ecology and ecosystem management. Most of his papers have centered on predators, prey, habitat and the people that also influence these relationships. He serves as an adjunct instructor for Northland College and Central Michigan University and is an Honorary Associate with UW-Stevens Point. He has been a guest lecturer for universities and colleges in Wisconsin, Michigan, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Sweden. He taught wolf ecology classes for the Timber Wolf Alliance Pigeon Lake station from 1992-2008 and has taught mammal tracking classes 2-4 times each fall since 1995.

Adrian has also been a stalwart presence with the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society. He joined TWS in 1976. He is a TWS certified wildlife biologist, and he has served in innumerable capacities with TWS, including president of the Wisconsin Chapter in 2004. Congratulations Adrian!

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### *Don Rusch Memorial Award – Jim Holzgart*

Like many Wisconsin wildlifers, Jim graduated from UWSP and went on to complete his master's degree, from the Department of Wildlife Ecology at UW-Madison, working on ruffed grouse in central Wisconsin under Dr. Don Rusch. Jim was hired by the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources as a wildlife biologist in 1990, accumulating over 22 years of professional experience in wildlife management to date. Living on the edge between regions or district lines, he has worked in the Lake Michigan District, Southern Region, Northeast Region, and now Northeast District over the years, but has changed jobs only once, going from Green Bay to Berlin. He now manages over 20,000 acres of state lands in Green Lake and Marquette Counties



Recent note-worthy developments for Jim have been advocating for the White River Marsh location to house the whooping crane “nursery” and their

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caretakers at a recently purchased farm. Pen and air strip preparations, real-time video of the whoopers on the website, providing a viewing blind for public observation, and ultra-light training have been some of the exciting developments this past summer. Other adventures that take up Jim's time include relocation to a new office on White River Marsh WA, rebuilding the Grand River dam carp barrier, obtaining funding from the Rhonda Krueger memorial fund to build heron nesting platforms for Grand River Marsh, improving access for duck hunters on Grand River, and continuing to involve local volunteers and youth in duck banding that has gone on over 15 years, with nearly 20,000 ducks banded during that time span.

Jim crafted the final agreement to transfer a DOT mitigation site to DNR, promoted grassland restoration in the Upper Fox River Basin on public and private lands which benefits Karner blue butterflies, and worked through sensitive management strategy discussions to restore savannas at Grand River and White River Marsh Wildlife Areas, while continuously battling against exotic invasive species.

Taking the initiative to promote birding on White River Marsh, he secured funding from several sources to publish a birding checklist and guide. Serving on the Waterfowl and Turkey species advisory committees, he is always involved in the process of making sure those stamp funds are spent wisely.

Whatever project Jim works on, he looks for partnerships and is a true team player. Whether it is Wings over Wisconsin, National Wild Turkey Federation, Berlin Conservation Club, Green Lake County, or Safari Club International, he includes people to help accomplish the goals. His sense of humor, enjoyable demeanor, and dedication are attributes that help make Jim the 2012 recipient of the Don Rusch Award.

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## *Student Award – Josh Siebel*



Josh Siebel is the recipient of the 2012 WCTWS Student Award, which recognizes undergraduate students possessing scholarship, leadership and the prospect for accomplishment in the wildlife profession.

Josh is a senior at UW – Madison majoring in Wildlife Ecology with a GPA of 3.6 in his field of study and is expecting to graduate with a B.S. degree in 2013. He has been the president of the UW – Madison, Student Chapter of TWS since 2010 and has been instrumental in organizing the chapter in a variety of activities including: creating and maintaining a student chapter website, organizing birding and herping trips, working on habitat

restoration projects, coordinating special events with guest speakers and providing public outreach. He is also the vice-president of Students for Bird Conservation at UW – Madison where he is involved with planning, coordinating and leading birding walks and trips, conducting a bird banding program and providing bird conservation outreach to the local community.

In addition to those extra-curricular activities, Josh finds time to provide volunteer service to the Biocore Prairie Bird Banding Station where he is involved with mist netting birds and maintaining banding activity records and at the Friends of Lakeshore Nature Preserve, where he is helping with prairie and forest restoration by removal of invasive exotic plants and establishment of native species.

Josh has gained valuable experience in the wildlife profession, working as a field technician during the summer months for the past two years. At Faville Grove Wildlife Sanctuary in Lake Mills (2011) he worked as an intern doing habitat restoration, invasive species removal, seed collecting and conducting plant and bird surveys. Working for the Illinois Natural History Survey (2012) he was involved with nest searching, nest monitoring using cameras, vegetation surveys and data collection related to those activities. Josh has gained research

experience during the school year as an undergraduate research assistant at Karasov Lab in the Dept. of Forest and Wildlife Ecology on the UW campus since 2010, working with Northern Leopard Frogs, water quality monitoring and data analysis.

With such a great start, we look forward to Josh's continuing contribution to the science of wildlife management in the future.

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## *Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarship Graduate Student Scholarship – Ona Alminas*



This year's graduate student attends UW-Milwaukee and has maintained a 3.95 grade point in Biological Sciences as a graduate student. She is working on Mexican mule deer subspecies for her masters. She is active in TWS and volunteers for every bird banding, vertebrate survey, nest box monitoring or vegetation survey she could find. Prior to coming to Wisconsin, as an undergrad she worked in the field with increased responsibilities leading to supervisory positions. From a supervisor, "she has a superior work ethic and her diligence and attention to detail are outstanding." Between undergrad and graduate school she worked in environmental consulting.

As a graduate student, Ona was described as dedicated to wildlife research and having a strong commitment to the wildlife profession. She has a terrific ability to work independently and the initiative to learn the necessary techniques to make her project a success. Ona has the ability to apply her diverse background in ecology and conservation to problems in wildlife biology. This background

includes ecology, consulting, molecular genetics, museum curation and management of tribal lands. She is a talented teacher, too. Her presentations both for class and research are polished and professional.

Two quotes from her letters of recommendation: “Ona is truly an exceptional graduate student who shows tremendous potential as a scientist and as a wildlife professional.” “She is an indefatigable biologist and an eloquent spokesperson for conservation.”

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### *Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarship Undergraduate Student Scholarship – Katherine Moratz*



This year’s undergraduate student attends UW Stevens Point and has maintained a 3.74 grade point majoring in Wildlife Ecology, Research and Management with a minor in Conservation Biology. She is planning on pursuing graduate school after graduating in May. She is active in Point’s student chapter of TWS and currently serves as president. Katherine has volunteered for numerous chapter projects and is co-leader for their grey squirrel Project. Data from this project has been presented at several TWS conferences. She is co-coordinator of the CNR’s peer advising center, where she advises students and coordinates many of the center’s activities.

From her letters of recommendation: She is a talented student who is committed to a career in wildlife ecology and management.

She has taken every opportunity to broaden her skills and knowledge. She sets goals and is self-motivated to achieve them. She has excellent communication skills. She is a pleasure to have in class.

Two quotes from the letters of recommendation: “Katherine is one of the very few advisees that I’ve had during my 39 years of mentoring students who comes to every meeting completely prepared, including having a proposed course schedule, long-range plan and pertinent questions.” “I think she has the intellect, motivation, personality, leadership skills and passion for the natural world to excel in wildlife science.”

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### *Recognition of Chapter Members with 50+ Years of Membership*



State chapter members who have either met or exceeded 50 years of membership with our national organization were recognized during the awards banquet. These members include Milt Friend, Jon Bergquist, Frank Iwen and Don Publitz. Congratulations to each one of you and thank you for your dedication to the wildlife profession over the years. Here’s to many more!

## Winter Meeting Summary

Submitted by Tami Ryan, President

The 2013 Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society (WCTWS) winter meeting took place on March 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> at Chula Vista Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. As occurred last year, our winter meeting immediately followed the Wisconsin DNR Wildlife Management program's annual statewide which often boosts attendance, and old man winter was kind to us this time around which also likely contributed to a strong attendance of over 200 WCTWS members.

As per tradition the winter meeting began with an evening social and provided an opportunity to enjoy the companionship of fellow wildlifers and hone in those all-important limbo skills.

The Plenary session on Wednesday morning was centered around the conference theme “*Wisconsin Conservation: Achieving Success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century through Collaboration*”. After welcoming remarks by WCTWS President Scott Hull the plenary began with Mike Strigl, Executive Director of Gathering Waters Conservancy, who provided an overview of strategies to engage whole communities in conservation. Jeb Barzen, Director of the International Crane Foundation's Field Ecology Department, followed Mike and shared with us the evolution of the conservation initiative for whooping crane reintroduction and how the diversity of collaboration and partnerships have influenced the success. George Meyer, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, closed out the plenary with an overview of conservation success stories that featured a progression of collaborative efforts in Wisconsin's historical conservation timeline. It was our good fortune to have such an all-star line-up of speakers all of whom provided us with valuable information to reflect upon and contemplate as we each strive for success in our collaborative efforts toward wildlife conservation.

New this year, Wednesday's concurrent afternoon sessions included a special symposia “*Effectively Engaging the Agricultural Community: Finding the Right Message and Messenger*”; and the other was the general session which carried on the plenary theme. Special thanks to Alan Crossley and Andy Paulios for initiating

and organizing the symposia. I think they may have started a new tradition. Feedback for both of the afternoon sessions was very positive!

The WCTWS business meeting took place late Wednesday afternoon and early evening and the awards banquet was held in the evening. Both had very good attendance. Thank you chapter members!

We continued our emphasis and focus on students this year and both sessions on Thursday morning were dedicated to student presentations. Student submittals were high once again leading to this outcome. Way to go students! Presentations were all first-rate & kudos to Northland College for having such a strong presence this year! Thanks also to conference attendees for adjusting to the changes we made this year and for maintaining a strong attendance throughout these morning sessions and into the last event of the conference – the student presentation awards. Thanks to outgoing president David Drake for his role in organizing student presentation judges once again and to all of the student presentation judges.

Sincere gratitude goes out to all presenters and session moderators for an exceptional meeting. A round of applause for the WCTWS Executive Board/Planning Committee: David Drake, Scott Hull, Lesa Kardash, Travis Anderson, Rachel Samerdyke and Sharon Fandel. And, special thanks to Krista McGinley for once again putting together the program pamphlet and for organizing the inaugural art show/silent auction.

The WCTWS winter meeting continues to be a venue that is highly valued by chapter membership & provides great opportunity for professional development, continuing education, and social interaction. The executive board welcomes your feedback to inform our planning of the 2014 winter meeting. Please email your comments to [WICTWS@gmail.com](mailto:WICTWS@gmail.com).

Thanks to all members who ran for office this year, to David Drake and Rachel Samerdyke our outgoing officers and to the Awards and Scholarship Committees for reviewing and selecting the 2013 award winners.

And now, for this year's elections and awards results:

### Elections

- President-elect: **Scott Craven**
- Board member: **Mandy Cyr**

### **2013 Award Winners**

- Wisconsin Award: **Adrian Wydeven**
- Don Rusch Memorial Award: **Jim Holzwart**
- WCTWS Student Award: **Josh Siebel**
- 2012 Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarships: **Ona Alminas** (graduate student award), **Katherine Moratz** (undergraduate student award)
- Best Undergraduate Student Presentation: **Gabriella Jukkala** (Northland College)
- Best Graduate Student Presentation: **Camille Warbington** (UW Madison)

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## *Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Committee Meeting Summaries*

*Submitted by Pat Kaiser, WCTWS Liaison to WWF*

### **Bi-Monthly Meeting, February 8-9, 2013, Stevens Point, WI**

George Meyer, WWF Executive Director, discussed several topics.

#### 1) Legislative Issues:

- a) – Assembly Bill (AB 1) and Senate Bill (SB 1). Both of these bills included language that would ‘Change Habitat Protection Regulations for Iron Mining’. Motion was made that WWF oppose both of these bills because they lessen the protection of habitat as exists under current law. Motion approved!
- b) Assembly Bill (AB 8) Under current law no hunting is allowed within 1700 ft. of hospitals and school grounds. AB 8 would allow hunting with bow/arrow and crossbows up to 100 yards from hospitals and school grounds. However,

gun hunting would still be prohibited in the 1700 ft. distance. Motion was made that the WWF give support to this bill. Motion approved!

2) WI Wildlife Federation 5-Year Plan. The executive committee has developed a 5 -year plan (2013 – 2018). The plan provides guidance for WWF in its major activities of a) education, b)hunting, fishing, trapping, shooting sports heritage, c) resource stewardship, d)organizational funding, e) communications, and f) organizational governance.

3) MacKenzie Environmental Education Center (MEEC). George reported that the WDNR has expressed interest in terminating its 10 yr. contract agreement regarding the WWF operation of MEEC. He stated more information would be known after Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> meeting with WDNR.

(Note: Since Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, the WDNR has publicly stated it would terminate the 10 yr. contract agreement by giving a 6-month cancellation notice. WDNR has now stated they want use the MEEC facility to promote/teach ‘Outdoor Skills – Hunting, Fishing, Trapping type programs. They want to have private groups /organizations submit bids to operate the MEEC. WDNR has stated this would save the WDNR approx. \$200,000/year. The WDNR total operating budget is approx. \$50 million. The \$200,000 cost amounts to --- .004% of the total budget (i.e. less than ½ of 1%). WDNR has completed an analysis of its own Outdoor Educational Facilities at (i.e. Crex Meadow Wildlife Area, Mead Wildlife Area, Horicon Wildlife Area, and MEEC at Poynette). By WDNR own analysis, the MEEC was the most efficient operation of all these facilities and it provides education to 16,000 students per year, which is greater than any of the other facilities. )

4) Committee Reports were submitted and briefly discussed.

- a) Wildlife Committee: Ralph Fritsch and Jerry Knuth represented WWF at a WDNR meeting with Sec. Stepp. They identified several concerns; a) the need for improving population estimates of bobcats and wolves, b) interest of allowing WWF be represented on a committee for action on the Dr. Kroll report, c) the need to support hunting and trapping in proposed state parks, d) the need for upgrading public shooting ranges in WI.
- b) Calendar Committee: Lil Piping reported that 8135 WWF ‘2013 Calendars’ were sold. The goal was to sell 10,000 calendars. Planning for the 2014 calendar is underway and WWF is encouraging photographers to submit

photos for possible use. Effort is needed to increase calendar sales in northern WI.

c) Dog Committee: Andy Lewandowski explained there is interest in having a Class 1 dog training and trialing area at the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area (i.e. the former Badger Ammunition Plant property) near Sauk City, WI. Also, expressed interest to have Managed Forest Law (MFL) Open lands law changed so that dog training would be an allowed activity.

d) Youth Leadership Committee: Lil Piping reported that WWF is implementing a program that would develop youth interest in becoming Conservation Leaders for the future. This program is modeled from a Conservation Federation of Missouri “Youth Conservation Leadership Corp” that has been in process for approx. 10 yrs. Leah McSherry a UWSP student has been selected by WWF to be the Coordinator of the newly formed ‘WWF Conservation Leadership Corp’.

e) Endangered Resources Committee: Chuck Matyska stated that WDNR has proposed delisting (16) species from the state endangered list; and, adding (8) species to the list. Check the WDNR website for more information.

f) Education Committee: The Wisconsin Outdoor Youth Expo at Beaver Dam, WI on the Dodge Co. Fairgrounds is scheduled for May 16 and 17. This ‘Youth Expo’ is for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade school students. The Expo is arranged by “camps”, including archery, wildlife habitat and conservation, firearm safety, fishing, team building, birds of prey, sporting dog demonstrations, etc. Volunteers are needed to help with these educational activities.

### **2013 Annual Meeting, April 12 – 14, 2013, Wisconsin Rapids, WI**

The annual meeting has the purpose of submitting ‘Annual Resolutions’ for discussion and vote. The evening Awards Banquet identifies people and groups and recognizes them for accomplishments of conservation activity.

Seven (7) Resolutions were submitted.

#1. “End Misuse of the Endangered Species Act” – (submitted by Dousman Gun Club). This resolution explains that the Western Great Lakes Population of Timber Wolves had been delisted and then relisted again three times between April 2003 and July 2009. Each time the lawsuit challenged the US Fish and Wildlife Service decision on the failure to follow procedures for delisting. Now again lawsuits by special interest groups again want to have the

Great Lakes Population of wolves placed back onto the endangered species list. Thus, the WWF supports action to end the misuse of the End. Species Act by legal challenges, also to ask the US Congress to enact changes to the End. Species Act that seeks long term resolution to this issue, and seek US Congressional action that removes “ ALL “ wolves in the Great Lakes Region from Endangered Species protection. Resolution was Approved!

#2. “Request that the WDNR Reduce the Backlog on Pollution Control Permits” – (submitted by Russ Hitz, WWF Environmental Committee). This resolution recognizes that the WDNR has the legal responsibility under the Clean Water Act to issue permits to industries and municipalities to reduce pollution discharge into the state waters. Also, as result of reduced staffing, the WDNR now has a 32% backlog in reissuing pollution control permits thereby resulting in polluted discharge into Wisconsin waters. This resolution requests that WDNR take all necessary measures to attain compliance with the Federal and State Clean Water Acts by reducing the backlog of issuing pollution control permits. Resolution Approved!

#3. “Wisconsin Wolf Population Goal” – (submitted by Ralph Fritsch, WWF Wildlife Committee). In 1999 the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan was approved by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In that plan the Wisconsin wolf population goal was established at 350 based on joint ecological and social carrying capacity. WDNR population estimates in 2012 indicate a minimum population of 850 wolves, however the tolerance (social capacity for most northern residents, sportsmen and women for increasing the wolf population goal above 350 wolves does not exist. Thus, the WWF re-affirms its position of keeping the population goal at 350 wolves. Resolution Approved!

#4. “Request a Detailed Hydrological Analysis of the Proposed Penokee Mine on the Bad River Watershed, the Kakagon Sloughs, and Lake Superior” – (submitted by Russ Hitz, WWF Environmental Committee) . This resolution states the Wisconsin legislature by recent passing of a new Mining Bill has substantially reduced protection for streams, lakes, and wetlands that would be affected by iron mining in Wisconsin. Also, an iron mine has been proposed in the Penokee Hills of northern Wisconsin. The proposed mine has potential to have serious negative environmental impacts. This resolution asks that a detailed hydrologic study of the surface and groundwater resources of the Penokee Hills be completed by US Army Corp of Engineers, the US

Geological Survey and WDNR prior to any environmental analysis of the proposed mining project. Resolution Approved!

#5. “Commend the WDNR Division of Forestry for Increasing Timber Harvest on WDNR owned Lands” – (submitted by Jerry Knuth, WWF Forestry and Parks Committee). This resolution indicates that for many years timber harvest on state-owned lands had been insufficient according to sound and sustainable forestry practices. Wisconsin Act 166 (2005) required that WDNR review its forest management practices and assess the possibility for increased timber harvest. A comparison of timber harvest activity for 5 yr. periods (2003 – 2007) vs. (2008 – 2012) showed an increase of timber acreage sales by 48% and stumpage revenue increase by 85%. This resolution commends the WDNR Division of Forestry for its diligence in implementing the increased timber harvest where it was appropriate for the benefit of fish, wildlife, recreational and ecological purposes. Resolution Approved!

#6. “Recognize the Contributions of the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) and CFM Director Dave Murphy” – (submitted by Chuck Matyska, Executive Committee). Ten years ago the Conservation Federation of Missouri created a successful program called the Missouri Conservation Leadership Corp. This program was intended to increase the involvement of young men and women in conservation by becoming active with conservation organizations in that state. Dave Murphy, Executive Director was its inspirational leader and has guided the program to significant results. The Conservation Federation of Missouri has now partnered with the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation to help establish a ‘Wisconsin Conservation Leadership Corp’. Thus by this resolution the WWF expresses appreciation to CFM and Dave Murphy for their guidance in helping establish a similar Conservation Leadership Corp in Wisconsin. Resolution Approved!

#7. “Opposition to Federal PUPS Legislation” – (submitted by Andy Lewandowski, Dog Committee). Federal legislation has been proposed that would define anyone who owns a no-neutered female dog of age 4 months or older as a “high volume retail breeder”. The WWF has supported a reasonable Puppy-Mill law for Wisconsin that is reasonable to maintain the integrity of small independent breeders that support hunting dog usage. This proposed federal legislation would supersede the Wisconsin legislation. This resolution

asks that the WWF reject and oppose the Federal PUPS Legislation. Resolution approved!

The keynote address for the annual meeting was given by DNR Executive Assistant Scott Gunderson. Mr. Gunderson briefly commented on the topics of;

- a) Wolf hunting and trapping season was a success,
- b) Future of MacKenzie Environmental Center at Poynette, said WDNR is now in process of trying to attain private business venture for continued operation and believes there is some support,
- c) Deer Report by Dr. Kroll is in process of implementation and needs involvement by the public,
- d) Deer Mgt. Assistance Program (DMAP) includes a complete mapping system for Wisconsin,
- e) Property Management of state-owned lands, says WDNR has increased efforts in identifying parking lot locations and boundary identification,
- f) Noted that Mining Legislation has been passed and stated that a mining company will very soon ask for a permit to do ‘exploratory drilling’,
- g) Trap Shooting at high schools, wants to increase the opportunities for High Schools in Wisconsin to establish competitive trapping shooting programs,
- h) Shooting Ranges - stated that \$700,000 of PR Funds have been allocated to improve and re-do the shooting range at Yellowstone Wildlife Area in southwest WI.

The 2013 Annual WWF Awards Banquet was held and the following awards were presented:

- a) Conservation Organization of the Year – Mosinee Sportsmen Alliance,
- b) Shooting Sport Organization of the Year – Sheboygan County High School Trap Shooting Program,
- c) Water Conservationist of the Year – Robert Haase of Fond du Lac County,
- d) Conservation Communicator of the Year – Jim Baumgart of Sheboygan County,
- e) 2012 Forest Conservationist of the Year – James and Diane Mroczenski of Marathon County,
- f) Life Achievement Award – Connie Pribnow of Bayfield County,
- g) Conservation Warden of the Year – Mike Dieckhoff in Rock County
- j) Legislator of the Year --- three people were recognized , 1) Representative Keith Ripp – Lodi, WI and represents the 42<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District for his

support of the MacKenzie Environmental Center, 2) Senator Tim Cullen – Janesville, WI. and represents the 15<sup>th</sup> Senate District for his efforts to enact a balanced mining regulation reform bill, however which did not pass, 3) Senator Luther Olsen – Ripon, WI and represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly District for his support of the MacKenzie Environmental Center.

The ‘Wildlife Conservationists of the Year ‘ award was given to Ron Bruch of WDNR for his direction and expertise of guiding and developing the sturgeon management plan in Wisconsin, especially in Lake Winnebago and its tributaries.

## ITALIA NATURALE

*Submitted by Chuck Pils*

My wife and I recently returned from a 2-week tour of Italy, which focused on the many cultural treasures of this Mediterranean country such as the Vatican (Sistine Chapel), The Coliseum, and Venice with its many canals and St. Mark’s square and cathedral. It would be impossible to attempt to describe all the spectacular paintings (Garden of Eden), sculpture (David), and architecture (Pantheon). Because I am an old wildlifer, I will give a brief glimpse of some of the wildlife that I viewed and some of the cultural ties Italy has with its wildlife.

The most famous association of Roman wildlife to its people was the fable of Romulus and Remus, who were nursed by a wolf and were the founders of the Roman Empire. There are between 500-1,000 wolves in Italy today, in such areas as the Parco National d’Abruzzo in southern Italy. "I reviewed a European book about red foxes in 1980, which included the funny fact about interactions between a cat, red fox and a wolf in Italy. "Social tolerance was observed when a wolf, fox, and cat fed together at a pile of spaghetti located at a garbage dump!"

Long ago, the Roman Coliseum, thousands watched battles between gladiators and wolves, bears, lions, tigers, hippos, and elephants! Forest and aquatic environments were created for battles between Can you imagine watching that? In a store in Siena, there was a mounted red fox with a Hungarian partridge in its mouth (at least not a pheasant). Wildlife such as geese, snails, and wolves adorned the provincial flags of many Italian states such as Tuscany. The winged lion is the symbol of the city of Venice. We viewed fish markets, with ample supplies of squids, shrimp, octopi, sharks, and sardines. I viewed fishermen using spinning rods to catch carp in the Tiber River in Rome. A giant obelisk in Rome displayed an elephant with Egyptian hieroglyphics, commemorating Roman battles with Carthage. The most spectacular painting of the entire trip was, “The Garden of Eden” by Wenzel Peter; a huge canvas displayed in the Vatican including scores of wildlife, from tigers to parrots. How many wildlife species can you pick out?



THE GARDEN OF EDEN

The most prominent birds viewed were the many swifts and swallows seen darting about the skies of Rome, Florence and Siena. Calls of the European blackbirds (sounded like orioles) were everywhere in Italy. I saw gallinules, egrets, mallards along the banks and vegetation flanking the Arno River in

Florence. When we toured the huge Pitti Palace garden of the Medici's in Florence, I observed a great blue heron perched about 30 feet above a large pond on a statue of Neptune and then dive-bombing for carp in the large pond like a kingfisher. Small green and gold lizards were seen in Rome and along the Cinque Terra in Northern Italy.

Perhaps the most disappointing sight (in Cinque Terra and Florence) of the trip were 2 separate instances of people setting up cat-feeding stations to aid feral cats, which I am sure make a large dent in the bird populations.

All in all, Italy was bellissimo!

### *WCTWS Issue Committees*

#### **Climate Change**

Mike Meyer, Chair  
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#### **Farm Wildlife**

Scott Walter, Chair  
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#### **Wildlife Damage**

Jason Suckow, Chair  
Jason.Suckow@aphis.usda.gov

#### **Deer**

Keith McCaffery, Chair  
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#### **Government Affairs**

Chuck Pils, Chair  
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#### **Wolves**

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## *Volunteers Needed for TWS National Conference, Milwaukee, October 5-10*

We are looking for eager volunteers willing to donate their time and talents to assist in hosting the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

#### **Volunteer Information:**

- Responsibilities assigned to each volunteer must take priority over any and all other commitments at the time of the Conference.
- Volunteers **must register** to attend the Conference
- Volunteers must be able to commit a **minimum of 4 hours** service.
- Volunteers will receive a FREE long-sleeved, cotton Conference t-shirt & 2014 Wisconsin Chapter TWS membership (includes quarterly newsletter).
- Volunteers who are **students** are eligible to receive reimbursement for hours worked. Payment is intended to offset expenses (i.e. registration, lodging, etc.) for volunteers **not** receiving full support from their educational institution to attend the Conference. Volunteers with the means to pay for their own expenses are encouraged to decline payment. Checks for payment will likely be distributed during the Conference. Payments will be limited to a first come, first served basis until all required time slots are filled and/or the available budget is obligated.
- Volunteers needed for AV, registration, photo contest, ticket takers (evening events), sales (conference store), runners, and field trips.
- If interested in volunteering, go to the conference website: <http://wildlifesociety.org/>, click on "Calls" and "Call for Volunteers" for an application and submission details. **Applications are due by August 1.**

