



"The Prairie Boomer"

Newsletter of - The Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Vol. 45

March 2017

President's Page

Fellow Conservationists,

As I set in my office working on this newsletter, I can't help but gaze out the window longing to be outdoors enjoying the abnormally warm conditions Mother Nature has graced us with this February and first week of March. The warm weather and sunny skies have brought thoughts of spring turkey hunting and white bass fishing. With the warm conditions an increasing work load seems ever present for many of us as spring field work looms ever closer. An early spring is very much appreciated even though it also brings less desirables like mosquitos and ticks. But, as we well know, everything in nature has its place and purpose.

As I begin my tenure as president of the chapter, I am somewhat overwhelmed with the additional duties required of me. As most are aware, taking on such a position requires extra time and commitment. However, I am looking forward to my tenure in this role and hope I can live up to the standards and professionalism past presidents have set. Writing and communication have never been my stronger points, just ask my wife. However, I believe that my time as an officer the past several years has helped me grow professionally. Working with other officers of the chapter from various backgrounds has allowed me to network and learn from many of my colleagues. I see this as a real asset to being a member of the society. I hope others see this networking as a real value no matter where they are in their career as a natural resources professional.

With the warm winds blowing across Kansas come matters in the wind the officers of the KCTWS will be keeping an eye on. With the legislature being in session, there have been several bills introduced which have the potential to negatively impact our state's natural resources. HB2199 was introduced last session, but was never taken up. Unfortunately, it has reared its ugly head again in the 2017 Legislative Session. This bill would authorize the board of county commissioners of any county to regulate conservation easements on property located within the county. Thus far, HB2199 has been referred to the House Federal & State Affairs Committee with no action being taken. Time will tell if this bill will be moved forward or die in committee as it did last year.

As spring flowers bloom, I ask that you remain ever vigilant regarding what is taking place at the state and national levels regarding our natural resources. The 2018 Farm Bill is one looming piece of legislation we should all keep an eye on and fight for increased conservation funding. If you have any suggestions or comments for the board to consider, please feel free to contact any of the officers listed at the end of this newsletter. Thank You for all your conservation efforts!

Brad Rueschhoff
President, Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Note: KCTWS 2018 Annual Spring Meeting will be held at the January 2018 Kansas Natural Resources Conference in Manhattan, KS.

KCTWS Awards

KCTWS offered a \$150 Best Student Paper award and a \$100 Best Student Poster award at the 2017 KNRC meeting this past January. Student presenters addressing wildlife related subjects were asked to state their intent to compete for the awards along with their abstract submission. Seven students competed for best paper and 10 students for best poster. Thank You for your participation.

Winners this year were Holly Wilson for her paper titled Relationship Between Temporal Partitioning and Diet of Five Bat Species in Kansas and Sean Rogers for his poster titled Utilization of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) for Surveying Herpetofaunal Habitat. Congratulations!

KCTWS presents the annual Robert J. Robel Memorial Scholarship for \$500 to a Kansas undergraduate student studying wildlife biology/management or equivalent degree. Selection is based on the students enthusiasm and dedication to wildlife resources, professional involvement, and their leadership to promote management activities through science based information. **The 2017 Winner of the Robert J. Robel Memorial Scholarship is Caroline Skidmore, KSU Student Chapter President. Congratulations Caroline!**

Student Travel Grants Available

KCTWS is offering two Student Travel Grants for \$450.00 each to students from a Kansas University. These two travel grants are available to attend the TWS Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM, September 23-27, 2017. A KCTWS Grant Application can be downloaded at the KCTWS homepage located under Grant Opportunities. www.wildlife.org/kansas-chapter/Applications are due by August 25, 2017. Applications may be sent to brad.rueschhoff@ks.gov, or wiensen1@emporia.edu

Dues Notice

Dues expire December 31. If you haven't renewed your membership recently, it's likely past due. Dues are \$10 for regular members and \$2 for students. Dues should be sent to KCTWS Secretary Kent Fricke at the address listed on the application on the last page of this newsletter. Members are also able to renew at the KCTWS business meeting at KNRC, or TWS members can renew through National at: www.wildlife.org.

Other News

KSU Student Chapter News

Since August 2016, the Kansas State University Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society has accomplished many goals to uphold our mission of educating the public, broadening students' skills, and networking in wildlife conservation. With a strong group of outgoing, dedicated officers our chapter has doubled our numbers during our meetings, allowing us to influence and educate a greater crowd of students during the school year. At the beginning of fall, students were able to participate in a hunting workshop and gain their hunter's safety with Charlie Lee from KSU Research and Extension. Following this, Rachel McNemee of KSU Wildlife Society was able to attend the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow workshop. The fall semester also held a manual transmission workshop, float trip, and president attendance to The Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. During the winter break, four of the chapter's officers cooperatively volunteered with the Emporia State University Student Chapter in Baggs, Wyoming for mule deer trapping under Tony Mong of Wyoming Fish and Game. The start of the New Year brought officer attendance to the Kansas Natural Resource Conference in Wichita, KS as well as an elementary student outreach STEM event hosted by the Flint Hills Discovery Center. In addition to this, the spring semester has brought a large variety of opportunities for our student chapter to volunteer under K-State graduate students including lesser prairie chicken trapping,

ring-necked pheasant surveys, and grasshopper sparrow observations. To celebrate the semester and to commemorate the incoming officers, our annual banquet will be held on April 1st at Konza Prairie. The following month of May will hold a bison farm trip with rancher Ed Dillinger and the annual herpetofaunal count with Fort Riley Military Reservation.

Submitted by Caroline Skidmore, President

Emporia Student Chapter News

From 2-6 January 2017 the Emporia State and Kansas State University Student Chapters took a joint field trip to Wyoming where we assisted the Wyoming Game and Fish Department with trapping mule deer for a research project. We learned a trapping technique for large ungulates and had a chance to meet wildlife professionals in Wyoming. Tony Mong (Wyoming Game and Fish) was our local host and coordinator of the trapping effort. He was very helpful and informative. Several members of the ESU Student Chapter also attended the Kansas Natural Resources Conference from 26-27 January 2017. We attended a stream workshop, attended the Kansas Chapter of TWS business meeting, saw research presentations, met with wildlife professionals, and ran a silent auction fundraiser for the ESU chapter. On 2 March 2017, members from our chapter had the opportunity to observe the mating display of the American Woodcock at Lyon County State Fishing Lake. Dr. Bill Jensen and his graduate students led the trip. On 4 March 2017, members from our chapter assisted with the Quail Forever (Lyon County Chapter) banquet. During this event our members had the chance to witness a fundraising banquet by an NGO. Our members also got the chance to establish professional relationships with individuals in the Quail Forever chapter, which may lead to future job opportunities. We plan to assist with prescribed burning of ESU's Natural Areas this spring. Our annual banquet and officer elections will be held in conjunction with the ESU Department of Biological Sciences' Earth Day Picnic on 22 April 2017 at ESU's Ross Natural History Reservation.

Submitted by Tyler Thomsen, President

Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Spring Meeting Minutes January 26, 2017

Bill Jensen called the meeting to order and introduced the officers and board members present.

Minutes: Bill Jensen reported in J.R. Glenn's absence. Minutes from the 2016 spring meeting were distributed prior to meeting. There were no comments. Minutes were accepted unanimously.

Treasurer Report: There were no comments on the budget.

Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2016 Financial Report Annual Spring Meeting January 26, 2017

		Balance 1/1/16	\$8,042.37
Expenses			
	Matt Smith-Snipe Award Engraving	3/3/16	\$11.64
	KNRC Student Paper Award	3/3/16	\$150.00
	Robel Award	3/29/16	\$500.00
	Bill Jensen-Printing expenses	3/29/16	\$21.28
		Total Expenses	\$682.92
Deposits	Dues		\$484.00
	KNRC share		\$666.00
		Total Deposits	\$1,150.00
	Robert J. Robel Memorial Award Fund Balance		\$42.00^
		Balance 12/31/16	\$8,509.45

*See separate CMPS Financial Report for details

[^]Included in balance

Committee Reports

- a) Newsletter/Website: (Justin Hamilton) sent out newsletter in October. We are always looking for articles. Justin would like help with the Facebook page so please let him know if interested.
- b) Resolutions and Public Comments: (Bill Jensen) opposition was submitted to the legislature pertaining to USFWS water right impairment bill at Quivira NWR. Bill died in committee and was then tied to "Bison Bill"
- c) Robert J. Robel Memorial Scholarship: (Bill Jensen) application process was reviewed, several students applied. Winner for 2017: Caroline Skidmore. KSU Student Chapter President
- d) Snipe Award: (Bill Jensen) not re-awarded this year. Considering nominations for next year's meeting.

Other Reports

- Report from TWS Council – Bob Lanka (CMPS rep. to TWS Council)
- Black-footed ferret release project: July 26, 2016. 35 ferrets released.
- Annual conference: Albuquerque, New Mexico.
Wildlife Conservation: Crossroad of Cultures (Sept. 23-27, 2017)—closer to end of fiscal year, rather than October as traditional. 2018 in Cleveland Ohio—2019 in Reno, Nevada (joint meeting with AFS).
- TWS membership: 9,133 members, not much change in demographics, female membership increasing.
- New membership benefits: all journal electronic access available to each member.
- Membership challenge; Kansas is challenged to gain 15 members in the next year, in order to help meet parent society membership goals.
- Native American memberships would be beneficial to TWS as an organization.
- Current members can nominate a person to TWS, and gets a 6-month membership. Person can choose to decline.

Miscellaneous

- Leadership Institute applications due March 17, 2017 [Stephanie Steinhoff, Adam Ahlers, and Kent Fricke are alumni of the program, and can help with applications. TWS has a budget surplus of ~\$183k. Dr. Dave Haukos was elected as

a TWS Fellow and is Wildlife Society Bulletin Editor

- Officers of TWS organizational units must be a parent society TWS member—not just a state member.
- Ad-hoc committee of Council, chaired by Bob Lanka—goal is to prioritize government affairs and partnerships program under Keith Norris. Please share thoughts with Bob Lanka if you have any.
- CMPS meeting in Steamboat Springs, CO (Bill Jensen) interesting presentations on Mountain Pine Beetle.
- Students from ESU / KSU student chapters gave presentation on volunteer trip to Wyoming to assist with Mule Deer project including background of project using drop nets and an overview of the activities that the student chapters accomplished on the trip.
- KSU Student Chapter Report: (Caroline Skidmore, President) membership almost doubled from last year. Fall activities included Hunter Ed. Workshop, float trip on Kansas river, National TWS conference attendance, Wyoming deer trapping trip, Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow. Upcoming events include outreach at the Flint Hills Education Center, monthly ID workshops, and quiz bowl practice.
- ESU Student Chapter Report: (Tyler Thompson, President) Last year's activities included Red Hills bat capture, wild game dinner at Roth, banquet, Melvern bass rearing pond, Wyoming deer capture trip
- Student chapter fund-raisers at KNRC: (Bill Jensen) coordinating job and difficulty between KCTWS and KFS in coordinating raffle to benefit student chapters.

Old Business

- Commissioners Big Game Permit – Bill Jensen (for J.R. Glenn) No permit acquired this year.
- Comments from Stan Roth. Stan was awarded Conservationist of the Year last year. Over 60 years of interactions with wildlife professionals and teaching high school students. Encourages networking with your peers.

New Business

- Elections for 2017 Officers included President elect, Secretary/Treasurer, 2 board positions. New officers are Justin

- Hamilton, President Elect. Kent Fricke/Secretary/Treasurer. Megan Smith and Dave Haukos, Board Members. Bill Jensen turned over presidency to Brad Rueschhoff. Bill was presented with a plaque of appreciation for his service.
- CMPS annual meeting to be held February 28 – March 1 , 2017, in Oacoma, SD at the Cedar Shores Resort
 - BLM in MT hiring field techs and crew leaders
 - Clint Helms will be hiring technicians to work on sage grouse. Contact Justin Hamilton if you would like more information.
 - Reminder that full-membership in TWS is required of all state and student chapter officers. State board is open to helping out student chapter officers with national membership if there is a need.
 - ESU is conducting on-going fundraisers during KNRC
 - KSU student chapter is looking for research project opportunities in the Flint Hills area
 - Bob Lanka discussed the possibility that the parent society may create a non-voting membership category for nominal fee with limited benefits. Bob will seek further feedback from state officers.
 - Meeting was adjourned by Brad Rueschhoff

TWS News

The Wildlife Society 2017 Annual Conference

New Mexico is hosting The Wildlife Society's 24th Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, September 23-27, 2017. Full registration and program details will be available in May at www.twsconference.org.



CMPS News

The Central Mountain and Plains section of The Wildlife Society annual meeting was held in conjunction with the 51st meeting of South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society in Oacoma, South Dakota February 27th- March 1st. This year's focus was on "Precision Conservation: The Interface of Wildlife, Agriculture, and People." The meeting was well attended and evening events included a fund raising auction, a banquet, and an awards ceremony. The keynote speaker for the banquet was Dr. Barry Dunn, president of South Dakota State University. Dr. Dunn discussed "Agriculture and its Externalities: Irony and Paradox." The Central Mountain and Plains section of The Wildlife Society also recognized Dr. Regg D. Neiger for the Citizens' Conservation award and Chuck Berdan for the Professional achievement award. Dr. Neiger and Mr. Berdan are both from South Dakota. Congratulations to our award recipients!!

Submitted by Justin Hamilton



"Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions in his sphere."

Theodore Roosevelt

Objectives of the Kansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

- 1. To develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environments upon which wildlife and man depends.**
- 2. To undertake an active role in preventing man induced environmental degradation.**
- 3. To increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values.**
- 4. To seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.**

**Application for Membership
Kansas Chapter TWS**

Membership Dues (Payable April 1)

Regular Member.....\$10.00
Student Member.....\$2.00
(Applicant may pay multiple years)

Total Enclosed \$

Are you a member of THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY?

Yes _____ No _____

Are you willing to be called to help the board?

Yes _____ No _____

If so, what is your phone number?

Home _____

Office _____

Area of Expertise _____

Area of interest _____

Date _____ Signature _____

Make Check Payable to: KS Chapter TWS

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Present Position _____

Mail application with dues to:

Kansas Chapter TWS

Kent Fricke

1356 Road 20

Madison, KS 66860

KCTWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Please contact any of the KSTWS officers if you have Newsletter suggestions, additions, or related comments.