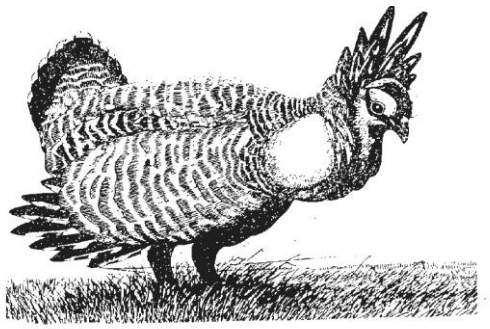

"The Prairie Boomer"

Newsletter of - The Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Vol. 42	January 2015	No. 2

Presidents Page

As I write my last column for the Boomer Kansas is experiencing a January thaw, making it exceedingly difficult to sit inside on a warm winter day but, duty calls. I'm much honored to have served as President the past two years and look forward to helping the next group of Chapter leaders advance our mission. We have a great slate of candidates and I encourage all members to show their support of these individuals who have stepped up to run for office by casting your vote.

A highlight for me the last two years was the 40th anniversary of our Chapter held this past summer near Junction City. Several charter members attended as well as many former presidents and current members. We heard several stories about conservation battles fought and won and humorous tales of missteps and hardships. The evening reminded me once again what is possible when professional passionate folks come together to take on our conservation challenges, and yet still have a good time doing it! We should all strive to be "happy warriors" in the future.

During our 40 year anniversary event the Chapter held its first fundraiser for the Dr. Robel Memorial Award. Many thanks to Brad Simpson for proposing the establishment of this award as a way to honor the contributions of a true giant in the conservation field. Sadly, we have witnessed the recent loss of another friend and colleague in our community, Lance Hedges. Lance worked for Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and most recently The Nature Conservancy. He was a champion of conservation in Kansas and a friend to many. His loss will be felt by all, but if each of us could bring a heightened level of optimism and professionalism to our daily work, we would be offering an appropriate tribute to Lance's legacy.

The Chapter has several opportunities for member involvement in the near future. We will be hosting the CMPS meeting in August this year. I'm sure all the members will help make this event a great success. The Chapter will also be joining other states in the central plains as part of TWS's Conservation Affairs Network. This effort will help chapters increase their level of engagement in conservation issues and tackle larger challenges in common with other states. I challenge all members to become involved in Chapter activities this year, after all, duty calls!

I'll end by including a favorite quote from a speech by fellow conservationist Theodore Roosevelt "The man in the arena"

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Matt Smith

Kansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Spring Meeting 2015

KCTWS 2015 Spring Meeting
January 29th, 2015
Wichita, KS

The KCTWS 2015 annual meeting will be in conjunction with the eighth annual Kansas Natural Resources Conference (KNRC) in Wichita at the Airport Hilton. The meeting will be held Thursday January 29th, 2015 from 4:30-6:00pm.

Registration is NOT required to attend the KCTWS meeting, but those wishing to attend the KNRC meeting or events need to register. The early registration deadline is January 15th. KNRC meeting and registration information can be found at: http://kansasnrc.org.

All attendees must make their own room arrangements with the DoubleTree by Hilton at the $102.00 per night conference rate. The block of rooms will be held until January 15th, 2015. Contact the DoubleTree Hilton by phone: (316) 945-5272 or 1-800-247-4458 or www.wichitaairport.hilton.com.

The KNRC is hosted by six professional conservation societies from Kansas, including KCTWS. The meeting has had over 250 attendees annually, and includes a broad range of conservation-related presentations. This year's plenary session theme is:

"Partnerships in Conservation: Bridging the Gap between Science and Politics".

Speakers for the plenary session will include:

- Becky Humphries – National Wild Turkey Federation
- John Organ – U.S. Geological Service
- Rob Manes – The Nature Conservancy-Kansas

For more information about this year's plenary speakers check out the Kansas Natural Resource Conference website at http://kansasnrc.org

KCTWS to offer wildlife awards

KCTWS will offer a $150 Best Student Paper award and a $100 Best Student Poster award again this year at the KNRC. Student presenters addressing wildlife related subjects were asked to state their intent to compete for the awards along with their abstract submission. For additional information about student travel grants or wildlife awards contact Matt Peek at matt.peek@ksoutdoors.com.

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 J.R. Glenn (see application at back of newsletter). Members will also be able to renew at the KCTWS business meeting at KNRC, or TWS members can renew through National at: http://www.wildlife.org/.

Other News

The 75th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference will be held February 8-11th at the Hyatt Regency in Indianapolis, Indiana. This year's title is Natural Resource Management in an Increasingly Connected World. Early registration deadline ends January 25, 2015. Check the website for future information and updates on the meeting www.midwestfw.org.

KCTWS 2014 Meeting Minutes

Matt Smith opened the meeting by introducing the board members

Minutes: J.R. Glenn reported that the minutes had been published in the latest newsletter for membership review. Minutes approved

Treasurer Report: (J.R. Glenn) 2013 financial report was provided to the membership on the meeting agenda, The current checking account balance at the time of the meeting was $3,745.91.

		Balance 1/1/14	**$3,995.91**
Expenses			
	Kansas Wildlife Federation-Sponsor	1/7/14	250.00
	KNRC Travel Grant (2)	**1/30/14**	200.00
	Mike McFadden-Expenses for Robel raffle	**1/31/14**	10.86
	KNRC Student Paper Award (2)	**2/19/14**	200.00
	KNRC Student Poster Award	**2/19/14**	100.00
	KAWS-Screen rental for KCTWS mtg.	**3/4/14**	40.00
	KDWPT-Legislative Luncheon	**3/4/14**	250.00
	Kansas Envirothon	**3/4/14**	500.00
	CMPS Dues	**5/9/14**	27.00
	Robel Memorial Award	**7/1/14**	500.00
	Kansas Envirothon-Heartland Regional	**7/1/14**	250.00
		Total Expenses	**$2,327.86**
Deposits	Dues		494.00
	KNRC split		600.00
	Robert J. Robel Memorial Award Fund		646.00
		Total Deposits	**$1,740.00**
		Balance 12/31/14	**$3,408.05**

Committee Reports

A) Newsletter/Website: Justin Hamilton will be taking over the duties for maintaining the KCTWS website and newsletter. Thanks to Amy Zavala for all of her work in the past. Any changes to website or suggestions for improvement should be forwarded to Justin for consideration and inclusion.

B) Student Awards: (Brad Simpson) KCTWS was awarding scholarships for the best student paper ($150) and poster ($100) at the 2014 KNRC. Travel grants to KNRC were awarded to Leah Dale and Reid Plumb in the amount of $100 each.

C) Snipe Award: Brad Simpson discussed the history of the Snipe Award and past recipients and encouraged members to make nominations to deserving members in the future.

D) KNRC: (Matt Smith) Attendance by members and as a whole still strong for KNRC. There are discussions about moving the conference to other venues in the state in the future. KCTWS supports the student chapters participation in the raffle during KNRC.

E) Resolutions and Public Comments: Matt Smith indicated that the KCTWS signed on to an appropriations letter supporting state wildlife grant funding, provided comments on the lesser prairie chicken listing and support for the 5 state conservation plan. KCTWS also provided comment on HB 2362 which sought to weaken the KS non-game and ESA in KS.

CMPS

Karl Grover attended the CMPS annual meeting in 2013 and gave a report concerning activities at the meeting.

TWS Council

Gary White gave a short history of TWS and reviewed the administrative structure of TWS including changes in leadership. This will be Gary's last year serving as the CMPS representative. Bob

Lanka from Wyoming will take over these duties.

- Annual conference will be held in Pittsburg, PA on October 25-30, 2014

KSU Student Chapter
Chapter was actively involved in several programs throughout the year
ESU Student Chapter
Chapter president Cale Hedges provided a report of activities that the chapter had participated in for 2013 and plans for 2014.

Old Business
John Silovsky discussed the 40th KCTWS celebration/meeting that was held at Camp Tonashinga near Junction City. Approximately 40 people attended including several of the founding KCTWS members. After a cookout, past and current members shared numerous stories of past accomplishments and adventures that KCTWS members have participated in over the years. A raffle was held to begin establishing revenue for the Robert Robel Memorial Scholarship and approximately $500 was raised through the raffle at the meeting.

Brad Simpson reported that no applications had been received for the Robel Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship will be re-advertised and awarded in the summer if a deserving candidate could be found.
Matt Smith reported that KCTWS was unsuccessful in obtaining a Commissioners big game permit which would have been used for Chapter fundraising.

Matt Smith lead discussion concerning officer insurance for KCTWS board members. General consensus amongst membership was that insurance was not necessary given the financial burden for carrying the coverage and the minimal risk involved.

Snipe Award: Brad Simpson presented the annual Snipe Award to Elmer Finck for his dedication and service to the wildlife profession over his career.

New Business

- Communication:

  Matt Smith lead discussion on how KCTWS could communicate better with membership and the public in general. Discussion revolved around improving the website to follow current activity and the use of social media (Facebook). General consensus was that Facebook could be a good tool however the time commitment to stay involved with upkeep did not justify its use as many current members did not utilize this media type. It was agreed to continue communicating via email and through the website.

- Conservation Affairs Network

  Gary White lead discussion on the Conservation Affairs Network which would streamline communication between sub-chapters and national. He recommended establishing a committee of KCTWS members to identify policy issues within KS that may affect wildlife conservation and communicate these issues to the next level (CMPS,National) as needed. Matt Smith suggested that those interested in serving on this Committee sign up or let him know after the meeting.

- Committee Assignments:

  Matt Smith discussed committees within the KCTWS and asked members to sign up for committees they are interested in serving on or discuss their interest with him at the conclusion of the meeting.

It was moved to adjourn several seconded. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by
J.R. Glenn – Secretary/Treasurer

Chapter News

Chapter Elections

Elections will be held this year for the positions of President, President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, two board members, and the deadline to vote is January 28, 2015. Please note that all voting will take place before the Chapter Meeting at the KNRC via the Surveymonkey website https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6ND5K5S. Paper ballots will not be available at the meeting this year.

Candidate Profiles:

President- Bill Jensen
William E. Jensen has been a resident and biologist in Kansas for 18 years. He earned his undergraduate degree in Fisheries and Wildlife from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1996, where he developed an interest in the effects of habitat fragmentation on birds while working with the MU Avian Ecology Lab. Bill moved to Emporia, Kansas in the same year to pursue an MS in Biological Sciences at Emporia State University. At ESU, Bill examined edge effects on grassland-nesting birds with his advisor, Dr. Elmer Finck. After a couple seasonal field jobs, including employment with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Bill began his doctorate program in Biology at Kansas State University where he explored density-dependent distribution in the brown-headed cowbird across the Flint Hills, and demographic sensitivity in the northern bobwhite. He stayed on at KSU as a post-doctoral research associate, where he coordinated a study on responses of grassland birds to grassland management in the Flint Hills. After a temporary position with the Important Birds Areas Program at the Missouri office of the National Audubon Society, Bill returned to the Department of Biological Sciences at ESU as wildlife biology faculty, where he also serves as Director of Natural Areas and Director of the Schmidt Museum of Natural History. He teaches Wildlife Management, Conservation Biology, Natural Resource Policies, Mammalogy, Ornithology, and Field Ecology at ESU, and has advised MS students in avian and mammalian ecology. Bill's research collaborations have resulted in 29 peer-reviewed publications, including articles in *The Journal of Wildlife Management* and *The Wildlife Society Bulletin*. Bill is a member of The Wildlife Society and he collaborated with ESU students to charter the ESU Student Chapter of TWS, only the second Student Chapter of TWS in Kansas. Bill has served on the Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council, on the Board of the Kansas Ornithological Society, and as President of the Central Plains Society of Mammalogists.

President elect- Brad Rueschhoff
Brad grew up in rural Northwest Kansas spending most of his free time hunting, fishing, and exploring the High Plains region surrounding his home. He received his B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology along with a secondary major in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from Kansas State University. Brad has been employed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism for the past 18 years. During that time he has worked as a Bio-technician, Wildlife Area Manager, and currently as District Wildlife Biologist based out of the Topeka Region 2 office. Brad has been a member of TWS since college where he served as President of the KSU Student Chapter. As a transplant to Northeast Kansas, Brad has had the opportunity to live and work in distinctly different regions of the state. In addition to being a strong advocate for sound wildlife conservation and land management issues, Brad believes KCTWS must actively engage in educating Kansans regarding the continual wildlife conservation and landscape changes the State faces. He believes these efforts will not only benefit the State's wildlife resources, but also the future landowners who control so much of the land base.

Secretary/Treasurer- James Glenn
J.R. Glenn has worked for KDWPT since 2004, most recently as the manager of the Melvern Wildlife Area after working as a private lands biologist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Beginning in February 2015, he will begin work as the Land Management Coordinator for Westar Energy. He received a B.S. from Kansas State University in Fisheries biology and Wildlife biology and a M.S. in Forestry from Stephen F. Austin State University where he researched the nocturnal habitat of American woodcock. He has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1997. His professional interests include habitat management, fire/habitat interactions, and agriculture/wildlife interactions. His hobbies include hunting and fishing, photography, and passing on his passion for the outdoors to his two young boys.

Board Member- Justin Hamilton
Justin Hamilton is a Public Lands Manager for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism and manages seven properties in northeast Kansas. Prior to his current position he worked in southwest Kansas as a Public Lands Manager and as a Wildlife Biologist Technician. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Management from Northwest Missouri State University, and a Masters degree in Biology with in emphasis in wildlife management from Fort Hays State University. As a student, Justin held several temporary positions with entities such as the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, Missouri Department of Conservation, University of Missouri-Columbia, The Sternburg Museum of Natural History, and the Kansas Wetland Education Center. Justin has been a member of the Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society since moving to Kansas in 2007. Prior to that he was a member of the Missouri Chapter starting in 2003. Over the past couple of years Justin has become more involved with the Kansas Chapter in taking on the responsibilities of newsletter editor and webmaster and would welcome the opportunity to serve as a board member. In his spare time Justin enjoys hunting, fishing, birding, and spending time in the outdoors with family and friends.

Board Member- Megan Smith
I'm a lifelong Kansan and growing up on a farm is where I learned how to hunt and fish at a young age, which turned into a lifelong passion. Knowing how much I loved being outdoors, I went to college to be a wildlife biologist. I graduated from Kansas State University in May 2006 with Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology and have been working in the wildlife field ever since. Since 2012 I've been working for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism (KDWPT) as a wildlife biologist technician. The majority of my days I work with private landowners to create habitat plans that restore habitat or create new habitat for wildlife on their land. Prior to working for KDWPT I was able to travel to a few different states and assist in many research projects. My first job out of college was working on the Big Island of Hawaii for the United States Geological Survey on a relocation study with the Palila, a bird which is an endangered species. My next job I worked for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries located at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I trapped and radio collared white-tail deer on a study to assess spatial use and movements of bucks and does. After that job, I moved back to Kansas and worked on another study trapping and radio-collaring white-tail deer at the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge for KDWPT. This study looked at the patterns of habitat selection and densities of white-tailed deer on and around Quivira. My last seasonal job I worked at the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge in the sand hills of Nebraska. I conducted many surveys, two in particular that were unique to the area were surveys on the Federally Endangered Blowout Penstemon (*Penstemon haydenii*), and the federally threatened Western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*). In 2008, I started working for Colorado State University within the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML) located at Fort Riley, Kansas. I served as a wildlife biological technician responsible for conducting an extensive bobwhite quail study. The findings of the study were published in the Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science. When I was not working on the bobwhite study, I assisted the Fort Riley Conservation staff with natural resource management practices such as, conducting surveys of game and non-game species, prescribed burning, and habitat management.

In my spare time I enjoy hunting, fishing and farming with my husband. We are both biologist and are committed to improving habitat on our own land for wildlife.

I began my membership with The Wildlife Society when I was in college where I not only was an active member but served on the board of the Kansas State University Student Chapter. With my background in research and management, I understand the importance of science based research in creating management plans for wildlife. The Kansas Chapter of TWS is a leader in supporting the science based research to ensure that wildlife and their habitats are conserved for future generations to enjoy. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve on the Kansas Chapter Board and thank you for your consideration in this position.

Board Member- Jacob Coulter
Jacob Coulter is an Assistant Public Lands Manager for Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism at Marais des Cygnes and La Cygne Wildlife Areas. He has been with the Department since 2013. After graduating from Oklahoma State University in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources, Ecology, and Management, he spent the next three years as a seasonal for multiple agencies including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Forest Service, Arkansas Game and Fish, and

Ducks Unlimited. His professional focus is wetland management but he is also interested in oak woodland restoration and prescribed fire management. The fall keeps him busy chasing whitetails with a recurve and hunting ducks on the wildlife area. Jacob enjoys being outdoors, working in his vegetable garden and spending time with family.

Rober J Robel Memorial Award

Congratulations to the first Robert J Robel memorial award winner Clay Mcintosh!

Clay grew up in western Kansas hunting and fishing and with a respect for natural resources. These early experiences led him to pursue a degree in ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Kansas. While at KU, Clay got involved with the entomology department where he co-authored two published, scientific papers, and participated in three scientific research trips spanning two continents. Clay also worked as a seasonal for the public lands section of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism where he was involved with invasive species control, grassland restoration, and prescribed burning.

After graduating from KU in May of 2014, Clay started working for Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT) as a production scientist. IDT creates customs oligonucleotide sequences. Oligonucleotides are short strands of DNA or RNA molecules that are used in wide array of applications across dozens of research fields including crop genetics, medical diagnostics, and even forensics. Clay is also looking into graduate programs that are more in line with his degree and will allow him to return to and become more directly involved with the natural resource field.

TWS News

The Wildlife Society 2015 Annual Conference

The 22nd Annual Conference is being held in Winnipeg, Manitoba on October 17-21, 2015. Don't miss out on this unusual opportunity as this year's event marks the first time in a decade that the conference has been held in Canada! The Calls for Contributed Papers and Posters is available at www.wildlife.org.

The Leadership Institute

Soon TWS will be opening the application process for The Leadership Institute. The Leadership Institute was developed in 2006 for "early career professionals." This means individuals who are 1-5 years out of school and working in the field of wildlife biology or conservation. The purpose of the institute is to provide leadership training, mentoring, and networking opportunities to new professionals who are underrepresented in the society due to low membership. The goal of the institute is to help prepare new biologists for leadership roles within their profession and within the National society. Each year the institute selects 10-15 participants, nationwide, through a competitive application process. Those selected spend several months engaged in a series of exercises (reading, writing, conference calls, collaborative projects, etc.) to improve a range of leadership skills. The
Institute culminates with a paid trip to attend the national meeting. Check the TWS website (www.wildlife.org) for updates on The Leadership Institute and the application process.

CMPS News

The 59th annual meeting of the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society was held August 26-28, 2014, in Sheridan, WY. Attendees enjoyed early morning birding tours, visiting nearby wildlife management areas, workshops on leadership, building VHF and GPS collars, chemical immobilization, and research presentations on Wyoming wildlife and wildlife within the central mounts and plains section. This year's CMPS meeting will be held in **Kansas!** If you have ideas for this year's meeting or would like to be involved in the planning process please contact one of the KCTWS board members.

The Wildlife Society
CENTRAL MOUNTAINS and PLAINS SECTION
Colorado · Kansas · Nebraska
North Dakota · South Dakota · Utah · Wyoming

The Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

"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
J. R. Glenn
1724 Thompson
Emporia, KS 66801

KCTWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Matt Smith
#3 State Park Road
Sylvan Grove, KS. 67481 785-658-2465
matt.smith@ksoutdoors.com

President Elect
Open

Past President
Brad Simpson
512 SE 25th Ave
Pratt, KS. 67124-8174
620-672-0757
brad.simpson@ksoutdoors.com

Secretary/Treasure
J.R. Glenn
1724 Thompson
Emporia, KS 66801
james.glenn@ksoutdoors.com

Board Members
Bill Jensen
Emporia State University
1200 Commercial Street
Emporia, KS. 66801
620-341-5339
wjensen1@emporia.edu

Brad Rueschhoff
300 SW Wanamaker
Topeka, KS. 66606
785-273-6740
brad.rueschhoff@ksoutdoors.com

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster
Justin Hamilton
24421 Parallel Road
Tonganoxie, KS 66086
913-845-2665
justin.hamilton@ksoutdoors.com

Please do not hesitate to contact the KCTWS or Newsletter Editor with Newsletter suggestions, additions, or related comments.