



The Prairie Boomer™

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Newsletter of - The Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

President's Page

Forty years ago a group of young students at Kansas State University made the decision to form the Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Looking back at the list of those charter members reveals a virtual who's who of future conservation leaders in Kansas. Many went on to have successful careers in state agencies, academia and non-governmental conservation organizations. Many are still working, some are retired but still active in conservation issues and a few are unfortunately no longer with us.

It is difficult to grasp the incredible range of contributions these individuals have made to the wildlife resources and people of Kansas over the last 40 years. Whether through their research efforts, developing far reaching policy or by being outspoken advocates of our state's wildlife heritage, these individuals have truly upheld the objectives of our Chapter to:

- Develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environments upon which wildlife and man depends.
- Undertake an active role in preventing man induced environmental degradation.
- Increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values.
- Seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.

Conservationists today are faced with many challenges those 40 years ago never imagined. But if we could go back in time and sit in the back of that room at K-State where the first Chapter meeting was held, knowing what was in store for those attending and the contributions they would make, it would allow us to be optimistic for the future when we see the young leaders of tomorrow at our Chapter meetings, believing great things are ahead for them and our natural resources in Kansas.

I hope every member and their family will be able to attend our fall meeting event planned for August near Junction City. Come and celebrate 40 years of stewardship of our wildlife resources and hear the stories from those who were there at the beginning of it all.

Matt Smith

Chapter News

New Officers

Congratulations to our new KCTWS President Elect, John Silovsky. John is a lifelong resident of Kansas who received his BS from Pittsburg State University in 1981 and has 31 years of professional experience with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWP). John is currently the Regional Public Lands supervisor in northeast Kansas and has been a member of TWS since 1992. He fully recognizes the role KCTWS plays to establish partnerships for conservation and provide professional development. John also sees a need for the Kansas Chapter to continue to be an advocate and leader for science as a basis for management and policy decisions. Chapter members are glad to have our new President Elect on board!

2013 Student Award Recipients

KCTWS sponsored two students for the best student paper and poster award at the 2013 KNRC meeting in January. Andrew Ricketts was awarded a \$200 prize for the best student paper award titled, "Patch-burn Grazing and Demographic Performance of Grassland Songbirds at Konza Prairie Biological Station." Shelly Wiggam-Ricketts was awarded a \$150 prize for the best student poster titled, "Pollinator Resource Use in Rangelands that Utilize Patch-burn Grazing".

A \$150 travel grant was also awarded by the Chapter to Leah Dale from Oklahoma State University who presented a paper titled, "Non-target Birds Attracted to Bait Stations for Deer".

The Chapter would like to thank all the participants in this year's competition, and we hope to see all those in their first year of research again next year!

Student travel grants available for KNRC

KCTWS will again be offering competitive travel grants to students planning to attend the Kansas Natural Resources Conference

(KNRC) in January 2014. The conference will be held in Wichita on January 30th and 31st, 2014. For additional questions regarding student grant applications please contact Brad Simpson.

brad.simpson@ksoutdoors.com

KCTWS Celebrates 40 Years

The Kansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society will be hosting a 40th year anniversary event on Friday August 23rd, 2013. The event will recognize all charter members and past presidents for their dedication and leadership in the Chapter's 40 year history. Family members are welcome and encouraged to attend!! A guided tour of Konza Prairie Biological Station will be held on Saturday the 24th for those interested.

Agenda for the event: **Friday August 23rd 6:00 pm – 9:30 pm @ Camp Tomahshinga.**
<http://tomahshinga.com/finding-us/>

The Chapter will hold a brief business meeting followed by a raffle and auction to raise funds for the newly established Dr. Robert Robel scholarship. Charter members and past presidents will be recognized for their contributions to the Chapter. Elk burgers will be on the grill and all other food and soft drinks will be provided. If it rains indoor facilities will be available.

Directions: Tomahshinga is just south of Junction City, From Interstate 70, Exit at the Marysville/Herington exit, exit 295. Head south on highway 77 for approximately 2.8 miles. Turn left (east) on Lyon Creek Rd. Proceed about 1.5 miles. The camp's drive will be on your right. From the South, Proceed to highway 77. Travel north on 77 until Lyon Creek Rd. (If you reach Interstate 70 you have gone too far.) Turn right (east) on Lyon Creek Rd. Travel approximately 1.5 miles. The camp's drive will be on the right. Follow the road into the camp until you get to Gobber Pavilion located just past the swimming pool.

Saturday August 24th, 8:30 am @ Konza Prairie Biological Station.

<http://kpbs.konza.ksu.edu/location.html>

Join researchers for a guided tour of Konza Prairie and learn about the latest research on patch burning and other aspects of prairie management. A bus will leave Konza headquarters at 9:00 am for the tour and will return around noon. Lunch is on your own after the tour.

In order to plan for meals and the tour, please RSVP to Matt Smith by **August 16th**: matt.smith@ksoutdoors.com (785-658-2465 ext. 204).

For those needing lodging on the 23th, a block of rooms has been reserved at the Hampton Inn (785-579-6950) in Junction City. Rooms will be held until August 14th at a rate of \$85 per night. The Hampton Inn is located off of exit 296, on I-70. From the roundabout exit onto Washington Street, travel one block to the hotel.

<http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/kansas/hampton-inn-junction-city-MHKJCHX/index.html>

2013 Robert J Robel Memorial Award



KCTWS is accepting applications for the first annual **Robert J Robel Memorial Award** for undergraduate students studying wildlife biology/management or an equivalent degree from a university in Kansas.

To apply, please submit a resume, transcripts, one letter of recommendation from academic advisors or professionals in wildlife management, and a one page cover letter on why you chose the wildlife profession and your future career goals. Application materials should be sent to Brad Simpson, Robel Memorial Award Committee Chair, brad.simpson@ksoutdoors.com.

The selected student will be presented with the Robel Memorial Award that includes a scholarship of \$500. The winner of the Robel Memorial Award will be selected based on

their enthusiasm and dedication of wildlife resources, professional involvement, and their leadership that promotes management activities through science based information.

One student will be selected and formally recognized for their achievements during the KCTWS Spring business meeting and 2014 KNRC conference in January.

Auction Fundraiser

Search through your stuff! The Chapter is conducting a fundraiser for the Bob Robel scholarship. Dr. Robel was an important wildlife personage in Kansas and this fundraiser will help fund a scholarship for undergraduate students studying wildlife biology/management from a Kansas University.

An auction and raffle will be held at the August meeting in Junction City. Popular items are often art or craft items, hunting and fishing items, old decoys, wildlife or plant books, gift certificates, and anything you don't need any more that you think someone will treasure. Cash donations will also be accepted to help support the scholarship. Contact Mike McFadden at (785) 393-9740 or miketmks@yahoo.com to arrange getting your item(s) to the meeting.

The chapter has also acquired a nice raffle item! Buy a chance to win the Remington model 597 semiauto .22 LR rifle. This rifle has a satin blue metal finish, a gray synthetic stock with a textured and non-glare matte finish, a ten shot metal detachable magazine, a last-shot hold-open bolt for added safety, and it is mounted with a 3-9x32mm scope.

For this raffle, chances will be \$5, 3/\$12, or 10/\$25 (half price!). Help us with raffle ticket sales. Entries will be assigned a number and a ticket with that ID number will be placed in a container to be drawn at the KNRC meeting in Wichita. Ticket sales will be accepted up to the date of the drawing. The winning ticket must be held by a legally acceptable firearms purchaser of a minimum age of 18. Send the purchaser's contact information, number of tickets, and funds to Mike McFadden. He will

issue a receipt to the purchaser and complete the firearms transfer paperwork and background checks **Thank you for your support !!**

CMPS News

CMPS 2013 Annual Meeting

The Central Mountains and Plains Section will be holding its 2013 annual meeting in Cedar City, Utah on August 13th-15th. This year's meeting will focus on Human-Wildlife Interactions, Energy Development and Wildlife Management, and Refuge and Riverine Ecosystems. The meeting agenda also includes a field trip to Bryce Canyon on August 15th. For more information about the meeting follow the CMPS link below.

<http://wildlife.org/CMP/meeting2013>

TWS News



The Wildlife Society's 2013 annual conference will be held in Milwaukee Wisconsin on October 5th-10th. The meeting will also commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Wildlife Society Conference. The plenary session is titled "Making Wildlife Science Matter" and will focus on helping to "motivate wildlife professionals to engage in public education and to become more effective in communicating science." A variety of workshops, symposia, panel discussions, field trips and other events will also be held over the course of the meeting. For more information visit the conference website at <http://wildlifesociety.org/>.

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

KCTWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

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**