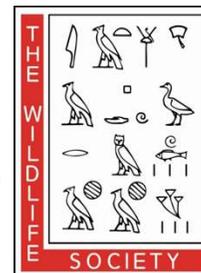
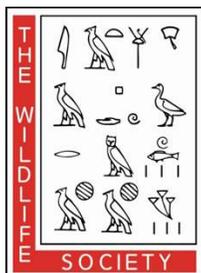


# Kentucky TWS Annual Meeting

February 16 & 17, 2017  
Barren River Lake State Resort Park



## “Communicating Wildlife Science”

### Invited Speakers:



**Matt Brown** is a correspondent for The Associated Press, the world’s largest newsgathering operation. He lives and works in Billings, Montana, covering national and regional stories, ranging from grizzly bears, sage grouse, and wolves, to exploding oil trains and pipeline spills, to whatever horrible things are happening within a 6-9 hour drive. He tries to steer clear of politics, but it always finds him. He began his career working for newspapers in Northern Virginia, and New Jersey (Daily Record, The Bergen Record), where he conducted an in-depth examination of the state’s proposal to revive hunting for black bears. He also worked for the Times-Picayune in New Orleans as part of a team that won Pulitzer Prizes for Public Service and Breaking News for coverage of Hurricane Katrina. His other awards include the John B. Oakes Award for Environmental Reporting, for stories on the human-caused erosion of Louisiana’s coastline, and the Society of the Silurians Award for Public Service for stories chronicling water contamination caused by leaking underground fuel storage tanks in New Jersey. He received a Bachelor’s degree in Philosophy from the University of Colorado. He and his family are avid about the outdoors, especially fishing and skiing.



**Joshua Learn** is a science reporter focusing on wildlife and the environment. He has contributed stories about using chili-filled condoms with firecrackers to conserve elephants, tracking Indochinese leopards through mine-filled jungles in Cambodia and the survival of Bactrian deer through decades of strife in Afghanistan for outlets such as *National Geographic*, *The Washington Post*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Hakai Magazine*, *VICE*, *Canadian Geographic* and *Audubon Magazine*. He recently worked for The Wildlife Society’s national chapter, during which time he wrote the cover features for *The Wildlife Professional* on issues like polar bears, sage grouse, snowy owls and the effect of renewable energy on wildlife as well as working with TWS’ web team to bring a constant stream of online content like the ongoing Wild Cam feature on camera trap studies, photo galleries, videos and online articles. His piece on fighting invasive yellow crazy ants in the Pacific won the silver medal for best online short feature from Digital Publishing Awards in 2015. Josh is originally from Alberta, Canada and has worked for publications like *Greenwire*, *ClimateWire*, *Canadian Geographic*, *The Canadian Press*, *National Post* and for expat newspapers in South



**Dr. David Steen** is an assistant research professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Auburn University and a researcher associated with the Alabama Natural Heritage Program. He studies wildlife ecology and conservation, focusing on the amphibians and reptiles of the southeastern United States. Although he went to school to learn how to do science, in recent years he has expanded his efforts to communicate it, particularly to the general public. For example, David uses social media to engage and interact with non-scientists about wildlife science and conservation. Slate magazine called him the “Best Biologist on Twitter” where he answers questions from the general public and has nearly 12,000 followers; an associated Facebook page has about 2,400 followers. He also writes about wildlife natural history on his blog, *Living Alongside Wildlife*, which receives over 3,000 views a day and approaching four million views overall. David frequently interacts with journalists and invites them into the field to learn about research and conservation, including to Alabama for Indigo Snake reintroductions and south Florida for the 2016 Python Challenge. Finally, David has developed collaborations with several artists to communicate wildlife biology to the general public in novel ways.

The meeting will include a panel discussion by the invited speakers, and a workshop for students. We also encourage submission of oral and poster presentations by professionals and students on any wildlife topic, but we especially encourage submissions related to the conference theme. Please submit an abstract and preference for oral or poster format to [david.brown@eku.edu](mailto:david.brown@eku.edu). A formal call for presentations/posters will be announced in November.

For more information, please contact [Leroy.harp@ky.gov](mailto:Leroy.harp@ky.gov) or [david.brown@eku.edu](mailto:david.brown@eku.edu)