



# The Student Chronicles

Newsletter from the SDWG

December 2014

**Matt Gould**, Chair and Student Liaison to Council; International Wildlife Management Working Group Liaison.



## Letter from the Chair

Hi Everyone! My name is Matt Gould, and I'm thrilled to be your new Chair of the Student Development Working Group (SDWG). First off, I'd like to give a big thank you to our 2012 Chair,

Kent Fricke, and our 2013 Chair, Andy Little, for all the hard work, advice, and guidance they have given to the SDWG. Our working group wouldn't be what

it is today without their efforts. As is customary, I'd like to present a few tidbits about myself in hopes of presenting you with a better understanding of who I am and how I will help you, the members, of the SDWG. In 2011, I obtained a B.S in wildlife biology from the University of Montana. I then worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Grizzly Bear Recovery Program in northwest Montana where I helped collar bears to identify crossing routes along Interstate 90. I am now at New Mexico State University pursuing my Ph.D. in biology. My research is focused on utilizing genetic based methods to estimate density and investigate the landscape genetics of the American black bear in New Mexico and the Southwest. The Wildlife Society has always been a prominent fixture in my career, and I believe I owe my success to the opportunities and experiences that only TWS could provide. I was an officer for three years at the University of Montana, serving two years as president. After graduation, I still sought

involvement with TWS and after attending the 2010 17<sup>th</sup> TWS Annual Conference in Snowbird, Utah I knew I wanted to become more involved at the national level. That's where I heard about the Student Development Working Group and their mission to:

- Promote increased student awareness of TWS membership benefits.
- Expand knowledge and technical capabilities of student members.
- Prepare student members for professional wildlife careers.

What better way to continue my involvement with TWS than to help provide student members with the same opportunities that I had in order to pursue a wildlife career.

The 2014 21<sup>st</sup> TWS Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was a resounding success for the SDWG. Out of about 1,400 pre-registrants, 46% of them were students! The dedication of student chapters to attend the conference was mind blowing. The SDWG officers hope to support continued student involvement and advancement at future annual conferences. We have provided multiple workshops, symposia, discussion panels, and travel grants at the last four conferences and we plan to continue to do so at the 2015 22<sup>nd</sup> TWS Annual Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba. If you are interested in helping plan future events or have an idea for an event, I encourage you to contact a SDWG officer. Helping plan and develop conference events is a great way to become involved with the national chapter.

Outside the annual conference, the

SDWG is working hard to increase communication between the SDWG officers and members and among the student chapters. We have created a Twitter account ([@TWS\\_SDWG](#); please follow!), and we have created a [Facebook forum](#) to aggregate our student chapters and provide a page to post events, exchange fundraising opportunities, or make plans to meet at local and national conferences. Please take a moment to like and follow these pages. We believe that these social media outlets will help the officers incorporate your ideas and suggestions into future events.

Throughout this newsletter you will find highlights of SDWG national conference events and our new officers and committee members. The SDWG officers and I look forward to serving you and helping you progress in your wildlife careers. We have all started out where you are in our careers, and we are more than happy to help with any questions or issues you may have about your journey through college and the workplace. If you have any questions or a need for advice please feel free to email me anytime. Once again I'm excited to serve as your Chair and provide a student voice to the TWS Council. Take care and good luck!

Matt Gould, *Chair*

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Bryce Canyon, UT. (Photo credit Tayler LaSharr).

## New Officers and Committee Members

**Matt Gould**, Chair and Student Liaison to Council; International Wildlife Management Working Group Liaison (See page 1 for Letter from the Chair)

### **Andy Little**, Past Chair

Andy received his B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from the Pennsylvania State University in 2006. After graduation, Andy worked for the Smithsonian Conservation and Research Center as a Wildlife Ecology Technician before beginning his M.S. degree in Wildlife Ecology at Mississippi State University (MSU). At MSU, Andy evaluated the impacts of human predation risk on adult, male white-tailed deer in south-central Oklahoma. After receiving his M.S. in December 2011, Andy began his Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Georgia, where he is linking predation risk and fitness measurements to sustainability of Eastern wild turkeys in a longleaf pine ecosystem. As Past Chair, Andy's vision for the future of the Student Development Working Group (SDWG) is to continue to support current opportunities offered (e.g., Student Research-in-Progress poster session) to students of The Wildlife Society while working to develop new and creative ways for students to be fully engaged with the society. Students are the gateway to the future of The Wildlife Society; therefore, I strongly believe that the SDWG can not only promote student professional development (e.g., workshops, panel discussions, poster sessions, symposiums) but also work with Council to expand the value proposition of being a member post-graduation.

### **Krysten Zummo**, Chair-Elect

Krysten Zummo is a Master's student at New Mexico State University studying the effects of desert grassland restoration and climate change on habitat use and survivability of scaled quail in Southwestern New Mexico. My involvement with TWS began as an undergrad where I served as President of my university's student chapter. Upon graduation SUNY Cobleskill hired me as the Wildlife Technician and I became the co-advisor to the student chapter that I was once a part of. Soon after, I was elected Secretary of the Student Development Working Group where I developed the working group's first newsletter. For the past two years I have been serving as the Awards Committee Chair and Newsletter editor. In 2013, I was elected Treasurer for the SDWG, Board Member to the NM Chapter of TWS, and was selected to participate in The Wildlife Society's Leadership Institute.



Andy Little, Ph.D. candidate. Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia

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Krysten Zummo, MS candidate. College of Agriculture, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences, New Mexico State University.

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## New Officers and Committee Members

### **Auriel Fournier**, Treasurer

Auriel received her B.S in Wildlife Ecology and Management from Michigan Technological University in 2011. She's been involved in avian field research for the past ten years, working on projects ranging from Golden-winged Warblers to endemic Hawaii birds on Mauna Loa. She started as a PhD student at the University of Arkansas with the Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit diving more in depth with her first passion, rails and wetland management. Her dissertation is documenting the fall migration ecology of rails and examining trade offs between different wetland management schemes and their outcomes for both rails and waterfowl. As Treasurer Auriel hopes to be able to help the Student Development Working Group serve all of its members, especially students at schools which don't provide all the essential pieces of a wildlife education.

### **Erin Saunders**, Secretary

Erin graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Northern Arizona University (NAU) in 2009. While there, she was an active member of numerous student groups, but her main commitment was serving as an officer for the student chapter of the Society of American Foresters (SAF). While president of SAF, she worked with the student chapter president of The Wildlife Society to bring the two student groups together and participate in various forest and wildlife restoration projects. As an undergraduate, she had the opportunity to work for a number of agencies including the Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Forestry, Ecological Restoration Institute as well as the NAU Centennial Forest. These positions sparked her desire to pursue a career in wildlife-habitat relationships. After graduation, she worked for the NAU School of Forestry for 3 years and then accepted a Graduate Research Assistant position at NAU studying the effects of wildfire on bat maternity roosts. She is using both telemetry and acoustics to describe bat activity in a post-wildfire landscape.

### **Amanda Veals**, Newsletter Committee Chair

Amanda received her Bachelor's in Science in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology with a minor in Wildlife Management in 2014. During her time as an undergrad, she worked as a college intern for the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona and also worked in Namibia, Africa for a conservation group studying wild cats. She accepted a Master's position back at her alma mater under TWS Fellow, Dr. Koprowski, studying the predator-prey relationship for a potential ecosystem engineer in a larder-hoarding system. Amanda has been an active member of The Wildlife Society at multiple levels for many years. As an undergraduate she participated in the University of Arizona student chapter and continues to remain active as a graduate student. She became a member of the Arizona state chapter and has contributed to several past newsletters for the chapter since 2013. Amanda also joined the national chapter in 2013 before recently joining the Student Development Working Group. She volunteered to become the chair of this newsletter and is looking forward to remaining an active member of this working group.



Auriel Fournier, Ph.D. candidate. Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Arkansas



Erin Saunders, MSF candidate. School of Forestry, Northern Arizona University



Amanda Veals, MSC candidate. School of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of Arizona

## 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference Pittsburgh, PA: Student Events

### Behind the Scenes of Scientific Publication and Review Workshop 3.0

We hosted our, “Behind the Scenes of Scientific Publication and Review 3.0” for the third straight year, however, this year the event was a half-day event. The workshop was relevant for graduate students or other first-time publishers seeking to enhance their ability to participate in the peer-review process of scientific publication. The workshop provided useful approaches to writing and submitting your own papers, particularly explaining how to address reviewers’ comments, and which journal to pick in the first place. There were 8 participants including current graduate students and professionals. Our presenters were Dr. Lenny Brennan (Professor, Texas A&M – Kingsville; former Editor-in-Chief, JWM), Allison Cox (Content Editor, JWM), Dr. Anna Knipp (Editorial Assistant, JWM), and Dr. A.J. Kroll (Wildlife Research Biologist, Weyerhaeuser). We plan to host this workshop at the Winnipeg, Manitoba conference, and we are working hard to improve the workshop by working with the presenters and the participants’ comments.

### Student-Professional Mixer

This event was packed! The student/professional mixer has turned into one of the most well attended events of the annual conference. This year three large rooms hosted a contest among students. Their goal? To talk with as many professionals from various research interests, universities, agencies, and private companies. Professionals were given stickers representing their interest and where they worked. It was the students’ task to collect all 10. The first students to do so were then given a prize which included the TWS techniques manual. Overall, the event was great with lots of discussion among the attendees. It should be interesting to see what the Student Activities Committee comes up with for next year!

### Student Chapter Leaders Breakfast

Tuesday morning student leaders from chapters across the

country were invited to a breakfast hosted by the SDWG to promote idea sharing while at the annual conference. Over the next few issues of Student Chronicles we will release some of the student’s suggestions. See page 6 for the first set of suggestions on successful strategies shared at the breakfast!

### Student Discussion Panel

For the second year, the SDWG organized and moderated a discussion panel with 5 individuals employed in a variety of wildlife-related jobs. The panelists discussed their background, how they got to where they are and the best advice that they have learned over the years. There were over 50 students in attendance and many had really great questions! Over the next few issues of the Student Chronicles we plan to highlight some of the advice from the panelists as well as question and answers from the student participants. See page 7 for our first set!



The SW Section Women of Wildlife committee held a conference call on November 20, 2014. As promised during the call, the recording information is provided in case members of the SWS, AZ TWS, NMTWS, or TX TWS wish to listen in.

**Hear from the authors of “Glass Ceilings and Institutional Biases: A closer look at barriers facing women in science and technical fields”:** Jessica H. Homyack, Sara H. Schweitzer, and Tabitha Graves.

Playback Number: 605-562-0029

Meeting ID: 634-775-555

Reference Number: 1

Time: Overall, approximately 83 minutes

## Student Research-In-Progress Poster Session and Awards Presentation

### Presentations:

#### **PhD Candidates:**

**Andrea Long (tied for 1<sup>st</sup>):** "Population Level Effects of Invasive Fire Ants on Cotton Rats and Eastern Fence Lizards"

**Remington Moll (tied for 1<sup>st</sup>):** "Development and Evaluation of a Terrestrial Animal-borne Video System for Large Mammals"

**James Garabedian (honorable mention):** "Modeling Red-cockaded Woodpecker Reproductive Success Using Lidar-derived Estimates Of Forest Structure At The Savannah River Site, Sc."

#### **MS Candidates:**

**Paul Burr (first):** Impacts of Gas and Oil Development on Sharp-tailed Grouse Nest Success in Western North Dakota"

**Sarah Sells (honorable mention):** "Modeling Risk of Pneumonia Epizootics in Bighorn Sheep"

**Jacob Berl (honorable mention):** "Red-headed Woodpecker Scale-Dependent Nest-Habitat Thresholds at the Northern Periphery of Their Range"

#### **BS Candidates:**

**Toryn Schafer (first):** "Black Bear Den Characteristics and Site Selection Near Urban Aspen, Colorado"

**Kaya Klop-Toker (honorable mention):** "Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis Takes the Cake; Fungal Pathogen May Cause Behavioral Modifications and is a Dominant Factor Influencing Food Choice in Larval Amphibians"

**Brian Smith (honorable mention):** "Betrayal: Radio-tagged Burmese Pythons Give Away Locations of Conspecifics in Everglades National Park"

### Posters:

#### **PhD Candidates:**

**Abby Lawson (first):** "Optimizing alligator nightlight survey designs for complex habitat: evaluating seasonal variation in abundance and detectability in South Carolina"

**Michael Cove (honorable mention):** "Determining spatial and temporal overlaps of endangered small mammals and their invasive predators in the Florida Keys: inference from camera traps"

**Maggi Sliwinski (honorable mention):** "Grassland bird diversity and habitat heterogeneity on private land in the Nebraska Sandhills"

#### **MS Candidates:**

**Matt Dyson (first):** "Survival, habitat use, and movement patterns of female wood ducks and broods at Long Point, Ontario."

**Andrew Olsen (honorable mention):** "Helminth infections in Northern Bobwhites from Texas"

**Cory Goff (honorable mention):** "Effects of trails and roads on Plethodon salamander movement behavior."

#### **BS Candidates:**

**Leila Mohsenian (first):** "Nest defense and attendance patterns of piping plovers."

**Hailey Boone (honorable mention):** "Fifty, feral cats, and fossas: the occurrence of the black forest cat in Madagascar's NE rain forests."

**Austin Klais (honorable mention):** "Activity patterns and interspecific interactions of free-ranging domestic cats at urban feeding stations."



Black-backed Jackal in southern Namibia, Africa. (Photo credit Amanda Veals).



## Student Leaders Breakfast: Suggestions for a Successful Student Chapter

The SDWG hosted and organized a breakfast for student chapter officers on October 28, 2014 at the annual conference. The young leaders came together and formed a list of suggestions for successful events and strategies student chapters can employ. Over the next several issues of Student Chronicles we plan to highlight a few suggestions from multiple categories that were identified as important for student chapters.

### Suggestions for events and volunteer opportunities

#### *Wildlife*

1. Volunteering at local refuges
2. Fish stocking

#### *Outdoors*

1. Hiking events
2. Camping events
3. Trail maintenance

#### *Meetings and Education*

1. Be active at state & sectional level TWS
2. Involvement in your section's quiz bowl

#### *Community and Social*

1. Host wildlife festival
2. Bio blitz (have with wildlife event)
3. Be actively involved in political initiatives

### Suggestions on increasing involvement

- 1) Have student run projects to get students involved early and develop skill sets. These can also continue from year to year to retain members.
- 2) Have "co-leaders" instead of one chair. Helps disperse responsibility to multiple people.
  - a. Do not have officers sit together at meetings

### Suggestions on raising funds

1. Wild game supper
  - a. Invite other university departments or conduct with the public
2. Applying for travel grants through Working Groups

Lodgepole chipmunk foraging in Sequoia National Park.  
(Photo credit Allyssa Kilanowski).

Zion National Park, UT. (Photo credit Tayler LaSharr)



## Uncertainty of an Undergrad: Navigating the Maze of Employment and Career Opportunities Discussion Panel

During the Student Discussion Panel: Uncertainty of an Undergrad, 5 individuals employed in a variety of wildlife-related jobs engaged in a question and answer session with undergraduate students. Over the next few issues of the Student Chronicles we plan to highlight some of the advice from the panelists as well as question and answers from the student participants. Here are a few of our favorites to kick off this first issue post-conference:

- It's who you know! There are lots of students that have good grades, so you need to make connections while at the TWS annual meeting. TWS can be key in getting a job. Sometimes networking is after the formal conference events at a restaurant/pub; be sure to go and socialize then follow-up.
- Work your butt off! Once you have the job, don't hold back. Give 100%, even if the job is un-interesting. When you finish the job/internship, be sure to end strong so you have great references. These references will help you go further. Remember every opportunity could be a reference.

Q. When looking at a resume, what stands out?

- A. NO spelling mistakes; the job can come down to that. An employer spends about 90 seconds per resume. You need to be part of the "want to review again" pile. Be sure to keep resume clean and organized. Write an actual cover letter, not in an email body.
- A. Follow-up with the hiring official. If you contact the employer, there is opportunity for that conversation to go further. It also gives you an opportunity to highlight skills. However, be careful not to pester employers.
- A. For non-federal positions (aka: not on USAJobs): they can get 100's of resumes, so make them shorter. No longer than 2-3 pages. Try to highlight relevant jobs.
- A. If you want to view your resume more critically, help someone in your department who is hiring scan and score resumes. This will help you review yours and make stronger edits.



South Texas White-tailed Deer. Photo credit (Levi Heffelfinger).



## Student Perspectives on Pittsburgh 2014

### The University of Arizona

The University of Arizona was well represented this year at the national Wildlife Society meeting in Pittsburgh. Twelve graduate and undergraduate students, the director of the School of Natural Resources and the Environment (SNRE), and the school's liaison with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) attended the conference.

One of our professors, Dr. John Koprowski, was named a TWS Fellow for his exceptional service to the wildlife field through teaching, leadership, and outreach. A TWS Fellow must be an active member with a distinguished record as a professional that has made significant contributions to the wildlife profession. The student attendees worked with Koprowski lab alumni to design t-shirts with a squirrel logo and we formed a cheering section at the awards banquet. Dr. Koprowski as well as the SNRE director, Dr. Stuart Marsh, provided resources for the university to support these 12 students as well as host an alumni mixer.

Several graduate students presented talks and posters, demonstrating the variety of research topics being pursued by SNRE. Officers from our student chapter attended the Student Leaders Breakfast, where they were able to meet and share ideas with other student chapters from around the country. Both graduate and undergraduate students were afforded many great experiences and opportunities during this year's conference.

#### *Graduate Perspective: Allyssa L. Kilanowski*

From a graduate student perspective, the Pittsburgh conference was an exciting event. As a Master's student, I was eager to attend my first national Wildlife Society meeting and expand my professional network. I met with a potential PhD advisor and other students from universities that I am considering for PhD programs. At the UA alumni mixer, I met many professionals with ties to the university and we shared stories about our graduate experiences. These networking opportunities led to an interview and new connections with graduates from across the country.



The students of the Koprowski Conservation Lab supporting their professor, Dr. John L. Koprowski, after earning his TWS Fellowship. (Photo Credit: Tatsuki Shimamoto).

In addition to networking, I presented a poster on my thesis research. Despite my poster session occurring on the last day of the conference, turnout was excellent and I really enjoyed meeting people with similar interests from across the country. My favorite part of a poster session is having dialogues with small groups of people. In contrast to an oral presentation, poster sessions allow me to dig deeper into a discussion and connect more intimately with my audience.

Another new experience was attending the International Wildlife Management Working Group to discuss the International Wildlife Management Congress, which is scheduled for next summer. Dr. Tsuyoshi Yoshida from Rakuno Gakuen University, in Hokkaido, Japan, explained the current status of event planning and the Koprowski lab pitched an idea for a student focused symposium session. The Koprowski graduate students proposed symposium is titled "A World of Opportunities and Challenges: Graduate Students Seeking International Collaboration and Education in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation". We are collaborating with Japanese students for this symposium. Our focus will be on international opportunities for graduate students and we will present case studies of this theme, followed by a panel discussion. I have never planned a symposium and learning from senior graduate students has been a wonderful experience. I'm excited for our full proposal submission and all that I will learn throughout this process.

(Continued onto Page 9)



*Undergraduate Perspective: Levi J. Heffelfinger*

The 2013 national meeting was the first time undergraduates have represented the University of Arizona in nearly a decade. As student chapter president, I wanted to continue our involvement at the national level. The SNRE department donated travel funding for four of our most involved undergraduate members of the student chapter. Our chapter raised money to cover registration costs by organizing a nature photography contest. We collected entry fees for each photo and were able to secure donations as prizes for each category winner. The top three photos in each category were used to create a calendar that will be sold as an additional fundraiser.

While attending the conference, our members made connections that are important for their professional development. For example, three graduate and two undergraduate students went to a professional mixer with the AZGFD liaison Tuesday night, where they were introduced to several professionals from both Oregon State University and the University of

Montana. Working with the liaison gave our students the confidence to continue networking the rest of the night on their own. All of our attendees also participated in the student-professional mixer where they had one on one time with many professionals from across the country. These connections provide undergraduates with a better understanding of the many levels and paths they can take in pursuit of a career in wildlife.

Each of our undergraduate attendees has plans to attend graduate school. In addition to the connections we made with professionals, attending research presentations and posters was also a valuable experience. I made it a priority to attend every talk that is relevant to my recently secured graduate research project. After these presentations, I made a point to talk with each presenter. By doing this I have created a network of professionals and students that are interested in the outcome of my project and willing to share knowledge from their experiences in. These connections provided a solid foundation for my professional development.



University of Arizona students and the Arizona Game and Fish Department school liaison at the closing night banquet. (Photo credit: Amanda Veals).

Another highlight was the student leader breakfast. Three officers attended the breakfast where we had an opportunity to share ideas that will further develop of our student chapter. Student leaders were friendly and open to helping smaller, new chapters with their struggles in their beginning stages. It was refreshing to see fellow leaders reaching out a hand while having the ability to absorb new ideas. The knowledge gained from this experience is invaluable and will be passed on to future chapter officers. I hope TWS continues the student leaders breakfast, and all other professional development activities, so that our future wildlife professionals can strengthen our national chapter.

The University of Arizona had a high number of participants at this year's conference and each student took full advantage of the opportunities presented by TWS. Graduate students and undergraduates spent valuable time collaborating with colleagues, networking with professionals and peers, and presenting their own research, while learning about current wildlife research.

*New Mexico State University: Naomi Apodaca*

I attended The Wildlife Society's National Conference held in Pittsburgh, PA this year. I greatly enjoyed this conference particularly for the opportunities to learn from professors and my fellow students. Seminars were a further learning experience as well as a networking opportunity. I was able to think more about graduate school and where I could pursue a master's degree in the future. However, I found that social events were the most helpful for making connections in our field of study. The 2014 national conference was a unique and helpful experience as an undergraduate.

- [SDWG Website](#)
- [TWS Official Website](#)
- [Facebook](#)

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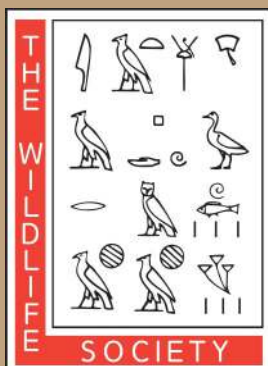
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If you have ideas for future newsletter articles or comments on this newsletter, please email Amanda Veals



## Conclave Updates

### Northeast Student Conclave

Paul Smith's College is hosting the Northeast Conclave from March 27-29 2015 in Paul Smiths, NY.

Please visit [here](#) for more information.

### Midwest Student Conclave

The University of Minnesota – Crookston and Bemidji State University will be hosting the Midwest Conclave from March 27-29, 2015 at the Audubon Center of the North Woods in Sandstone, MN.

### Southeastern Student Conclave

Virginia Tech will be hosting the Southeastern Conclave from March 12-15, 2015 in Smith Mountain Lake, VA.

Please visit [here](#) for more information.

### Western Student Conclave

Texas A&M University – Kingsville will be hosting the Western Conclave from March 14-20, 2015 in Kingsville, TX.

### Canadian Student Conclave

Information will be updated as it becomes available.



Greater Roadrunner drinking from a water catchment in south Texas. (Photo credit Levi Heffelfinger).