Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Volume 41, Issue II June 2014

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President's Message

Fellow Wildlifers! Summer finally arrived, though I think it immediately saw its shadow and went back underground. Never fear, I am sure it will resurface sometime before December. Regardless of the weather, summer is bringing exciting opportunities for MNTWS members and the conservation community. Our summer workshop, hosted by Tom Copper (Region 6), Dawn Plattner (Region 2), and Tony Hewitt (Region 3), has shaped up wonderfully. The workshop is titled "Minnesota's Forest Habitats: Managing Across the Forest Continuum" and will be held on Monday, August 18 at Long Lake Conservation Center. There will be an optional field component on the morning of August 19, followed by the summer MNTWS board meeting after that. Hope to see you there!

We also have another exciting event planned for Sunday, August 17, our first Copper Bullet demonstration to be held at Wealthwood Rod and Gun Club near Aitkin. This event is geared towards MNTWS members and the general public to come see demonstrations of the performance of lead and copper bullets in various calibers. Hunters will also have a chance to shoot lead bullets from their own rifles into water traps to see firsthand the fragmentation that occurs. They can also shoot copper bullets that we will provide in several calibers from their own rifles. MNTWS is also partnering with the Raptor Center, MNDNR, MDHA, and others on a project to host alternative ammunition workshops throughout the state. The Raptor Center is the lead organization on the current proposal before the LCCMR review panel. We also have plans to sponsor a second workshop this fall at Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge in advance of their shotgun-only deer hunt. We are actively working to translate the energy and interest from our February plenary session into action!

Lastly, I want to update you on our progress in our strategic planning and board reorganization efforts. The ad-hoc strategic planning team, comprised of myself, past-presidents Jodie Provost and Wayne Brining-

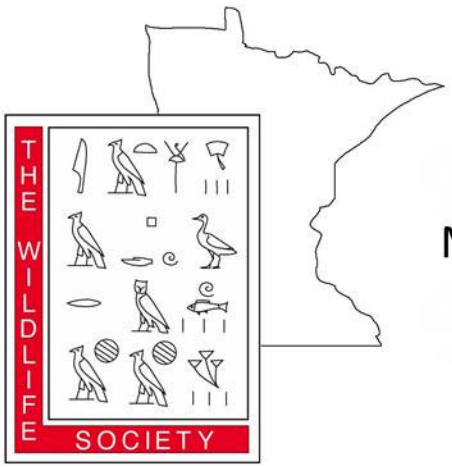
President's Message (continued)

er, Thom Soule, and Laurie Fairchild, had our first conference call in April. We had a very productive discussion about the past and present state of MNTWS and where we think the organization should be heading. Our goal is to have a draft version of the strategic plan (which includes the proposed reorganization) before the August board meeting.

All the best to you all this summer season. Enjoy the outdoors while you can and see you in August!

Sincerely,

Steve Windels
President, MNTWS
Ph: 218-324-3400



NEW WEBSITE!

Bookmark the new website for the Minnesota Chapter to keep up to date on all the latest news and information.

http://wildlife.org/minnesota

Minnesota's Forest Habitats: Managing across the forest continuum

August 18, 2014

(optional field day on the morning of August 19, 2014)

Long Lake Conservation Center , Palisade, MN

This Workshop is being hosted by the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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Audience: Resource managers, biologists, and other conservation partners.

Objective: The focus of the workshop will be on managing Minnesota's forest habitats from a landscape perspective where the full continuum of forest types and age classes are considered. The latest research and management options will be discussed.

Anticipated topics include (final agenda will be sent prior to workshop):

- The state of Minnesota's forests based on the latest forest inventory data
- The effects of stressors (e.g., invasive species and climate change) on future forest conditions
- Management strategies for integrating habitat needs of young and old forest wildlife from a landscape perspective
- The latest research on forest-dependent wildlife

Timeframe (*tentative*): 9:00am – 5:00 pm
Registration: $10 (students), $15 (MNTWS members), $20 (non-members) – see attached registration sheet

For more information or other questions, contact: **Tom Cooper, MNTWS Region 6 Rep:** 612-713-5338; tom_cooper@fws.gov

Registration Form

Minnesota's Forest Habitats: Managing across the forest continuum

Workshop hosted by: The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Long Lake Conservation Center, Palisade, MN
(see http://www.llcc.org/ for directions to LLCC)

August 18, 2014
(Optional field day on the morning of August 19, 2014)

Name(s): _____

Affiliation: _____

Primary contact address: _____

Primary contact email and phone (for registration confirmation):

_____

Number of students attending ____ x $10/person = $_____

Number of MN TWS members attending _____ x $15/person = $_____

Number of non-MN TWS members attending _____ x $20/person = $_____

Total amount enclosed: = $_____

Special accommodations (vegetarian, mobility, etc.):

_____

I plan on attending the optional field day on August 19th (please check) Yes___ No___

Registration is limited to **100 participants** and includes catered lunch and breaks. Registration deadline is **August 4th**.

Make checks payable to MN TWS and send registration form and payment to:
Dawn Plattner, Region 2 Rep: PO Box 292, Soudan, MN 55782
Questions about registration can be directed to Tom Cooper, Region 6 Rep:
612-713-5338; tom_cooper@fws.gov

Lodging is available at the Long Lake Conservation Center; call LLCC at 218-768-4653
Double occupancy (linens, towels & toiletries not included): $25.00 per person
Lodging reservations must be made **no later than August 13th**. Pre-payment is required either by check or credit card (Visa or MasterCard). No refunds on lodging reservations. Thank you!

2015 Annual Meeting Announcement

Greetings MN TWS Members

Save the Date on your calendar for February 17-19, 2015 and be ready to head up to Duluth, MN as planning is underway. This exciting event will be held jointly with our WI TWS neighbors. The venue will be the Duluth Holiday Inn and the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center, as we are expecting 400+ gathering.

Our theme this year will focus on Global Warming - Solutions for a Warming World; but not the doom and gloom that we hear nearly daily on the news. There is hope yet for all, and our plenary speakers (tentatively confirmed) will share their experiences and stories of people who are taking action to reduce their carbon footprint, and in many cases actually be sequestering carbon itself. From travels in a yellow school bus across our continent to cows saving the planet, these stories of success and inspiration will be shared. The goal will be to confront our current paradigms and consider how everything is interconnected and complimentary.

If you are interested in volunteering or contributing with this conference or our Wildlife Society chapter, don't hesitate to contact me (Richard.olsen@state.mn.us).

The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Regional Reports - News from the Field

Region 1— Rebecca Esser

Detroit Lakes WMD/Hamden Slough NWR-Spring 2014

Upland Restoration
During the month of March and into April, District staff seeded 226 acres of uplands, including ~30 acres of wetland edge, to a diverse mix of native grasses, sedges and forbs on Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) and Hamden Slough NWR. The acres seeded at the Refuge included two of five food plots that had been in existence for many years. The final three food plots will be converted in 2015.

Prescribed Burning
Despite the unsettled and unpredictable weather, it has been quite the spring for prescribed burning. The DLWMD fire staff continues to utilize grant funding via the MN Prairie Chicken Society to attain prescribed fire accomplishments. Thus far, we have completed 28 prescribed burns for nearly 4020 acres on Detroit Lakes WMD and Hamden Slough NWR.

Water Management

With engineering and monetary assistance from Ducks Unlimited, water management capability is now a reality on Anderson WPA, Becker County. Water control structures were placed in each of the four large basins to better attain wetland habitat objectives for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife. In addition, two velocity tube fish barriers were positioned to inhibit fish access into the basins. Water management will now be coordinated on the Refuge and Anderson WPA to provide a variety of wetland states desirable by a diversity of waterbirds and other wetland life, in addition to managing water levels for more natural water regimes. The basins are in full drawdown while construction work is completed. We hope to start collecting water on at least one Anderson basin this fall.

Unusual Wildlife Sightings

As a result of the drawdowns on Anderson WPA, an American Pipit (long known as the Water Pipit, *Anthus spinoletta*) was observed at the largest wetland during the Detroit Lakes Festival of Birds Hamden Slough tour on May 16. This is a rare sighting and the group was very excited to have experienced it. Since then, a variety of shorebirds and other species have responded to the newly-drawn down basins.

Region 2 – Dawn Plattner

MN DNR Personnel Updates
Nancy Hansen started her new position as the Area Wildlife Manager in Two Harbors on June 9th. Nancy started with the Section of Wildlife as a Technician in Thief River Falls in 2001. She served in this position through 2006. She then worked for a short time as the Private Lands Specialist in SW MN until 2007. In 2007 she came north to Two Harbors as the Assistant Area Wildlife Manager. Nancy graduated in 1994 from the U

Regional Reports (continued)

of M College of Natural Resources with a B.S. degree in Fish & Wildlife Management. Nancy enjoys many kinds of hunting & fishing and is looking forward to her first elk hunt this fall in Idaho.

Rob Rabasco started as the new Brainerd Assistant Wildlife Manager on June 18th. Rob graduated from the University of Minnesota (1995) with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Fisheries and Wildlife and received a Master's in Natural Resource Management from the Natural Resources Institute at the University of Manitoba in 2000. While at NRI, he worked with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to complete a thesis investigating the trophic effects of shoreline habitat removal on Northern Pike, Pumpkinseed Sunfish, and Yellow Perch populations in a small boreal lake on the Canadian Shield. He worked a stint for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks as an Animal Damage Control Agent, Assistant to the Area Wildlife Manager, Creel Clerk, and Assistant to the Area Fisheries Supervisor. Rob came to MNDNR in 2002 where he first worked as a Shallow Lakes Specialist in both Nicollet and Brainerd, from 2008-2013 he served as the Assistant Wildlife Manager in Park Rapids and most recently he has been working as the Aquatic Management Area Habitat Specialist for Regions 1 & 2.

Jessica VanDuyn started as the new Assistant Area Wildlife Manager at Tower-Eveleth on May 21st. Jessica comes to Tower from the Shallow Lakes program in Detroit Lakes where she has been the shallow lakes specialist since 2011. Jessica hales from the Iron Range community of Biwabik, where her family still resides on a nearby lake. She began her education with an A.S in Wildlife Management and a minor in Wildlife Ecology at Vermilion Community College. She continued on to the University of Minnesota-Crookston where she completed her B.S in Wildlife Management and Natural Resources Aviation. Jessica started her time with DNR as an intern with the section of wildlife in Eveleth and followed that with a summer of duck banding with the DNR wetland research team in Bemidji. Jessica and her husband, Kurtis, have traveled the entire US while he served 8 years in the United States Army. During this time, Jessica was able to advance her aviation career and complete her Certified Flight Instructor Certificate in Georgia. They also called Alaska home for three years and Jessica was a wildlife technician with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. She is very excited to return to northeast Minnesota!

USGS Superior National Forest Wolf Trapping - Shannon Barber-Meyer

USGS wolf-trapping in the agency's long-term study area of the Superior National Forest will commence in June and continue to approximately mid-November.

Adult Moose Mortality Project Update – Michelle Carstensen, Wildlife Health Program Supervisor, DNR

Moose survival is higher as second year of mortality study is under way.

In response to recent declines in moose numbers in northeast Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) launched a high-tech, mortality study in February 2013. Moose are fitted with satellite-link, GPS collars that provide real-time data and if the animal dies, it sends a text message to a team of biologists that are on-call to investigate the cause of death within 24 hours. In the first year of this study, 111 moose were captured in late-January and early-February, and 20% of those animals died. Causes of death were split nearly equally between predator (52%) and health-related (48%) causes, which included: 6 wolf-kills, 3 wolf-kill likely, 2 wolf injuries with secondary lethal infections, 2 brainworm infections, 3 winter tick deaths, 1 liver fluke infection with a secondary bacterial infection, 1 trauma with septicemia, and 3 unknown health-related causes. This past February, 37 additional moose were collared to rebuild the sample for the second year of the study. Thus far, survival is over 2x higher for moose in 2014 compared to the first year of the project. The mortality rate for year 2 is only at 6% thus far with 7 moose deaths, compared to 15 deaths by this time last year. These recent causes of death include 3 wolf-kills, 1 wolf injury with a secondary lethal infection, 1 brainworm infection, 1 accidental death (fell through the ice), and 1 unknown health-related cause. This study, which is funded largely by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota's Resources (LCCMR), is expected to continue at least 2 more years in hopes of understanding the drivers in the state's moose population decline.

Northern Long-eared Bat Summer Habitat Use in Minnesota – Timothy Catton, Biological Technician, Superior National Forest

This summer the Superior National Forest and Minnesota DNR are collaborating on a "Northern Long-eared Bat

Regional Reports (continued)

Summer Habitat Use in Minnesota" project. Netting will take place during the month of June on both the Camp Ripley Training Center near Little Falls and on the Superior National Forest near Isabella and Ely. Goals for the project are to put transmitters on 15 reproductive female northern long-eared bats (the Superior NF will also be targeting reproductive female little brown bats) and to track them daily to locate maternity roost trees/ structures. Habitat characterizations will be conducted at both the site and stand levels to gain a better understanding of summer habitats and their use by these species. Emergence surveys will be done to determine maternity colony size. We will also be collecting swabs of wing and muzzle membranes in support of an on-going white-nosed syndrome (WNS) study and wing punches for DNA analysis work that is being conducted by the Forest Service's Northern Research Station. Hair that is clipped for transmitter application will be collected and sent to UW-LaCrosse to look at potential mercury accumulation in insectivorous bats. The USFWS is also providing funding for this work.

Fond du Lac Resource Management Division – Mike Schrage, Wildlife Biologist

The Fond du Lac Band is exploring the feasibility of restoring elk (Omashkoozoog) to their Reservation and the 1837 and 1854 Ceded Territories in eastern Minnesota. This is likely to be a project of many years with numerous issues to be addressed along the way. At this time the primary area of interest includes southern St. Louis, Carlton and northern Pine Counties where there is abundant public land, active forest management and minimal agriculture. The Band feels restoration of a native species like elk is the right thing to do and would give the Band more options for the future.

The Band feels investigating elk restoration is the appropriate thing to do for a number of reasons. At the time of European settlement there were 5 large herbivores in Minnesota (elk, bison, caribou, moose and white-tailed deer) available to the local Ojibwe bands either directly through hunting or indirectly but in close proximity through trade. Fond du Lac hunters probably encountered elk in their 1837 Ceded Territory and the southern edge of their 1854 Ceded Territory. Elk, bison and caribou were rapidly hunted to extinction following European settlement. Today, moose populations and hunting opportunities have declined and habitat changes make it unlikely wild, free ranging bison and caribou can be restored to Minnesota. As a consequence, Fond du Lac members have to rely almost entirely on a single species, white-tailed deer, for their subsistence hunting needs. Elk restoration would help diversify the subsistence hunting opportunities for Fond du Lac members, and bring back a species their ancestors were familiar with. In addition, elk have proven themselves tough and adaptable, exactly the sort of native wildlife species needed to respond to an uncertain future of climate change. Fond du Lac's Resource Management Division staff look forward to exploring the feasibility of elk restoration in eastern Minnesota and working with other partners to get there.

Izaak Walton League of America – W. J. McCabe Chapter, Rich Staffon

The McCabe Chapter of the Ikes continues to be busy on a wide range of conservation issues. They spent a lot of time this winter reviewing and commenting on the PolyMet copper-nickel mine SDEIS eventually submitting over 50 pages of comments. Their focus is now shifting toward the Twin Metals mine proposal, which has the potential to seriously impact the Boundary Waters region.

They have also been trying to stay on top of the habitat impacts that may result from oil transport including the proposed Enbridge Sandpiper oil pipeline which would follow a new route across northern Minnesota, and the Calumet proposal to ship oil on tankers across Lake Superior via a new dock being proposed on the Superior side of the St. Louis harbor. The expansion of the oil industry in the Canadian tar sands and the Bakken oil-shale in North Dakota is creating a lot of pressure to increase oil transport capacity across Minnesota.

Trout streams have also been on their radar as they have been working with the City of Duluth on the restoration of Chester Creek and other streams in Duluth that were damaged by the 2012 floods. They received a grant from Freshwater Future that they are using to increase public awareness in Duluth via workshops and other means on the impacts of climate change and how to better manage watersheds and riparian lands in Duluth. The Ikes are also working with the Poplar River Management Board to help restore the Poplar River near Lutsen which the PCA has identified as an impaired water because of sediment loads coming off the ski hill and other developments in the watershed.

Regional Reports (continued)

Another big issue for them has been mercury and sulfate levels in the St. Louis River. These levels are already high and will only increase if mining expands in the watershed. Impacts on wild rice beds and human health due to methyl-mercury levels in fish are the main problem. They've been working with the Minnesota Environmental Partnership over concern about the PCA dropping their TMDL study of mercury levels in the St. Louis River. They are coordinating with them and PCA Commissioner Stine to hopefully hold a public information meeting on this issue in Duluth sometime this summer.

Finally, they have been involved in many meetings and comments letters to the city of Duluth over their mini-master plan for Hartley Park. This park of over 600 acres includes a trout stream, an impoundment and extensive forest areas. It is a jewel of a natural area in the midst of the city. The Hartley Nature Center which is used by thousands of school kids every year is located in the park. There has been a lot of pressure to increase the number of trails and to route a paved multi-use trail through the park. Their concern is that the Hartley Nature Center and having a nature-centered park should be the main focus of their plan, not a highly developed recreation area. They've made some progress on this issue, but more work is needed.

The Ikes hold a Spring Youth Outdoor Expo at the Hartley Nature Center in May every year and it was very successful this year with over 100 kids attending. Their Fall Youth Outdoor Expo, which has a similar attendance, is in the planning stages and will be held at the Duluth Retriever Club on August 23rd.

MN DNR, Scientific and Natural Areas – Kelly Randall, Outreach Coordinator

The following Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) events can be found on our events calendar (links below will take you to details about each event, and all events can be found at: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas/events.html

06/21/14	Buffalo River State Park	SNA Bird Hike
07/12/14	Mound Spring Prairie SNA	Guided Walk
07/13/14	Bonanza Prairie SNA	Guided Walk
07/30/14	Wolsfeld Woods SNA	Warbler Walk

Moose calf survival/cause-specific mortality study - Bill Severud, Graduate Research Assistant, University of Minnesota; Glenn DelGiudice, Research Scientist/Moose Project Leader, MN DNR

We have recently concluded capture operations and mortalities have already been accumulating. This year we attempted all calf captures from the ground (without the use of helicopters or fixed-wing aircraft). We began ground capture operations on 8 May (same as last year). After observing capture-related abandonment last year and early this spring, we dramatically modified our capture approach and collars to significantly reduce the risk of unexpected abandonment. Capture teams were limited to 2 people and the only field objective was to fit the GPS collar (required less than 10 seconds rather than the 4 minutes required for full handling and data collection at the start of this spring). The collars will provide the most important data, including frequent location fixes, movement data, and continuous proximity to their dams, as well as allowing us to monitor habitat use, estimate survival, and rapidly investigate specific mortality causes. We also modified the GPS collars to appear less obtrusive. The new, much scaled down approach is working very well and we may be able to fit GPS collars on a few more calves before the season is complete. Since modifying handling and collars, we have not observed any abandonment. Overall, 23 calves (9 females, 14 males) have been captured from 18 dams. These include 5 sets of twins (28% twinning rate) and 13 singletons. Of the 23, 4 slipped their collars off, 6 were abandoned by 4 dams at the start of this spring and brought to the MN Zoo, and 1 died from not being nursed by its dam though she was close-by. 11 of the 23 can be studied for natural survival rates and natural causes of mortality. As of 17 June 2014, 3 of the 11 have died of wolf predation, 1 died of bear predation, and 1 died after being abandoned by its dam and twin and was later found to have a serious umbilical infection. We are still monitoring a few cows that have not displayed calving behavior to look for any late-born calves. Some of those cows are known to be pregnant and some are of unknown pregnancy status.

We are doing everything possible to ensure that this important, cutting-edge study is able to proceed and progress in a safe, productive manner and provide the critical data needed, and with this new approach we've been very successful. Beginning next year's (2015) field season with this capture approach and 2 teams, a realistic goal for GPS-collaring is 50-60 calves. The information derived is es-

Regional Reports (continued)

sential to future management responses to improve the moose population's future in NE MN.

Region 3— No Report

Region 4—Kristin Fritz

These snowy owl photos were taken in Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge by Curt Vacek.

Many people reported an eruption for Snowy Owl sightings this winter for a great website to check out all the reported sightings and where the sightings took place they should check out the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union website at http://moumn.org/.

Pheasants Forever has selected Tanner Bruse from a pool of over 50 applicants for the position of Lyon County Farm Bill Biologist (FBB). Bruse's position through Pheasants Forever is in collaboration with the Lyon County Pheasants Forever Chapter, Lyon County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Lyon County NRCS.

"Our goal is to create and maintain wildlife habitat and promote water quality through native grass plantings" Bruse stated. His position helps landowners manage their lands by promoting and implementing conservation practices. Most of his work is based on the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) and working with different stakeholders in land acquisitions.

Regional Reports (continued)

Bruse was born and raised on an acreage surrounded by grasslands which were preserved by the Nobles County PF chapter, near Lake Bella, just outside of Worthington, Minn. He received a Bachelors of Science degree in Wildlife management from South Dakota State University in December 2012.
"We are excited to see what a goal-oriented and focused individual with local connections like Tanner can do for habitat in our area," said LCPF President, Nick Simonson, "he comes highly recommended by Minnesota PF and National PF's staff who interviewed him, as well as agents at his previous employer, Running's of Marshall," he concluded.

Bruse started in his new position at the Lyon County Soil and Water Conservation District office in Marshall, Minn. on Feb. 10, working with area landowners, agencies and state programs in the Lyon County area. Bruse is one of over a dozen FBBs throughout the state of Minnesota, and more than 80 nationwide assisting landowners on behalf of PF, in their respective areas, with conservation programs and options available to them.

"Lets all work together, no matter the personal goal, to reach a common goal and put more acres of grass on the landscape for the betterment of our environment and all species of wildlife" Bruse concludes.

Region 5 – Stephen Winter

MN DNR Owatonna Area Spring Season

As in 2013, winter was slower to give up its grip on south central Minnesota in 2014 than we have become accustomed. A cold, wet spring produced trying times for many of our resident wildlife. The cool condtions did have a few upsides. The snowy owl irruption treated bird watchers to an unusual concentration of white owls accompanied the first wave of waterfowl migrating north. Up to 20 individuals were seen in a small area between Blooming Prairie and Hayfield in southern Dodge County.
Ice out in area lakes waa late and many shallow lakes in the area had signs of extensive winter kill of rough fishes. Bad news for the fish, but fortuitous for waterfowl and waterbirds as many basins were building and abundance of undesirable fishes and showing signs of stress.
The weather was also a challege for meeting burn season objectives and planting. The sun finally showed at end of May allowing area farmers to make substantial progress. (In 2013 nearly 1/3 of the fields in our area were fallowed due to prevented planting.) Turkey hunters willing to brave rain and wind appeared to have had a reasonably good season.
Additional bald eagle, sandhill crane and trumpeter swan pairs have been taking up residence acting as signs of hope for bees and monarch butterflies.
In March the MN DNR opened a satellite wildlife office in Albert Lea at Myre Big Island State Park to be staffed by Area Wildlife Supervisor, Jeanine Vorland.

June 28, 2014 10 - Noon The Cannon River Watershed Partnership, Trust for Public Land and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will host a dedication of the Koester Prairie unit of the Prairie Creek Wildlife Management Area near Dennison, Minnesota. A birding outing will take place prior to the formal program. Hiking tours of the site will follow. For more information contact the MN DNR Area Wildlife Office:
phone: (507) 455-5841 or
e-mail: jeanine.vorland@state.mn.us.

Region 6— No Report

Student Chapter Reports

University of Minnesota—Crookston

Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Spring Semester for the UMC Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society was filled with a great diversity of projects. In early April some of the club members went to Beltrami Island State Forest to participate in Owl and Goshawk Surveys for the second consecutive year. For some participants it was their second go around, so they were able to share insights about the surveys. Everyone enjoyed the late night drives through the deep woods and it sounds like a project the club will continue for years to come! Shortly thereafter we had about a dozen members travel to Big Bay, Michigan and participate in the Midwest Student Conclave. They were able to participate in a variety of activities, with the favorite being the dart and blow gun demonstration. Our Chapter also volunteered to co-host next year's Midwest Student Conclave. The planning process already has begun, so stay tuned for more updates! We also elected Alisha Mosloff and Jake Nelson as President and Vice President for next year. In late April, we joined forces with the Natural Resources Club to plant a few thousand white pine seedlings in the Chippewa National Forest. It was a great day spent on dibbling! We capped off an exciting year with a cook out and s'mores at the Red River Valley Natural History Area adjacent to campus.

Photo Caption: Members of UMC's Chapter of TWS and the Natural Resources Club pose in front of the newly planted white pine stand in the Chippewa National Forest.

Board Minutes

MN TWS Board Meeting Minutes

November 25, 2013
Conference Call
Monday, 9:00 am to 12:13 pm

ATTENDANCE: Wayne Brininger, Bill Faber, Laurie Fairchild, Maria Fosado, Ann Geisen, Greg Hoch, Dawn Plattner, Bailey Petersen (first half), Jodie Provost, Thom Soule, Steve Windels, and Mike North and Charlotte Roy (both last half).

OFFICER REPORTS:

President: Jodie Provost

- The following were approved by voting at and/or since the Aug. 2013 board meeting
  - Aug. 21, 2013 Board Meeting Notes
  - Aug 2013 Treasurer Report
  - Formal adoption of parent TWS position statement on lead ammunition and tackle.
  - Sign on group letter by the AFWA to support State & Tribal Wildlife Grants Program, etc. and for John Loegering to write an individual letter from our Chapter. – Done and sent by Jodie.
  - Support of President or designated attendee to represent Chapter at NC Section Executive Board Meeting and Membership Meeting at Annual Midwest Meeting (Jan. 26-29 in Kansas City).
  - Letter to support to designate the Minnesota River as a National Blueway. – **Jodie** needs to do.
  - Passing on securement of TWS Directors and Officers Insurance.
  - Signing on group Farm Bill letter (re-linking conservation compliance to crop insurance and national sodsaver program). – Done.
- The following was supported through on-line input:
  - Participation in MCF's telepressor on climate change impacts to big game. – Bill Faber did on our behalf.
- The following still needed approval/input:
  - Nov. Treasurer Report – All present approved.
  - MTWS logo on Raptor Center education brochure regarding alternatives to lead ammunition – All present approved.
  - DNR Enforcement Strategic Plan – Input due Nov. 26. **Jodie** will see about more review time.

President Elect: Steve Windels
2014 Annual Meeting -

- Seeking sponsors - **Steve** will send out a letter to potential sponsors today asking for contributions to support the annual meeting. Included in the letter will be a disclaimer stating that any money raised above and beyond the cost of the conference will be used by MTWS to support movement away from use of lead ammunition and tackle.
- Plenary - On lead. Will consist of six speakers plus a USFWS employee. One or two presentations will focus on the biological impacts of lead and the remainder will cover where we go from here, what are our options, what are others doing, etc.
- Potential speakers include: Brian Hiller – Bemidji State University, Fredrik Widemo – Jagareforbundet, Sweden, Sean Strom - WI DNR Toxicologist, John Shultz - MO Dept of Conservation, Lou Cornicelli – MN DNR, Ryan Bronson – Federal cartridge (tentative), otherwise Mark Johnson, MDHA, Northland Tackle – contacting to see if they have any interest.

Board Minutes

- Other recommendations included the lab in Madison (Steve had already contacted them. Cannot participate), law enforcement perspective, industries perspective, invite (at least for the plenary session) to Cabela's, Gander Mountain, etc. because their support in the market place is needed.
- Meeting info - The official meeting announcement went out last week. Abstracts are due Dec. 18. Early bird registration will be due Jan. 2. Registration information will go out soon (went out Dec. 1). **Jodie** will send meeting info out to DNR Fish and Wildlife and Eco/Waters staff. **Tom Cooper** will send it out to FWS staff. Steve Windels already sent it to universities, AFS, SAF, and USFS.
- Alcohol and students - Presence of alcohol during the professional/student mixer was discussed. Concern was raised regarding liability to MTWS if an underage student drank alcohol. It was decided if alcoholic beverages are served by employees of the venue, and those employees are responsible for carding attendees, whether at the cash bar or keg provided by MTWS, MTWS should not be liable.
- Online registration/payment - Interest was expressed to save time. **Steve Windels** will look into it (cost, ease, etc.) for next year's conference. He thinks it's too late for this year. Ann suggested he talk to someone with AFS, as she believes they use it already.
- Fundraiser -Anne and Dawn will help with fundraising. **Dawn** will visit with Gregg Knutsen and **Ann** will visit with Norm Moody to see how they can assist. **Steve Windels** will check with the City of Bemidji to see if a gambling permit is needed for the silent auction and a raffle.
- Quiz Bowl – **Steve Windels** will contact student Club/Chapter advisors to re-assess interest in it. It is not worth it if only two groups are interested in participating. If there is sufficient interest, we will need to limit each school to one team for the sake of time.
- Workshop - ATS is interested in conducting a telemetry workshop Thursday afternoon.

Past President: Wayne Brininger
2014 Election Nominations –

- Wayne needs help finding President-Elect nominations. Also seeking nominees for Secretary, Treasurer, and Region 1, 3, and 5 Reps.
- Combining Regions 5 and 6 was discussed with no immediate decision. Only 3 or 4 members exist in Region 5.

Secretary: Maria Fosado

- Aug. 25 Board Meeting Minutes - Were approved and e-mailed out. Nothing else to report.

Treasurer: Charlotte Roy

- November Quarterly Treasurer Report - Approved by all present (Mike and Charlotte present, Bailey absent).
- Account Balance - Due to the move to an electronic newsletter, we no longer pay printing costs and postage, thus our account balance has have been growing the last couple years.
- Dues increase - Discussed but deemed not necessary at this time. No specific reason for an increase exists. We are currently not short on funds to meet Chapter needs. Our limiting factor to meeting Chapter needs is currently likely man power. If an annual work/financial plan is developed and specific financial needs identified, then an increase may be justified. Membership survey results will inform the Board and the plan.

Newsletter Editor: Bailey Petersen - Our new editor! Welcome!

- Next deadline - Get articles, photos etc. to Bailey by Dec. 1. **Bailey** will send a request out. Will contain officer nominees info and should be out by mid Dec. to meet the 45 day timeline for elections at the annual meeting. If people have pertinent articles that were submitted previously, but not printed, get them to Bailey. **Ann** will summarize DNR staff changes so they can be published in the newsletter.

Board Minutes (continued)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Statewide: Bill Faber

- Non-toxic ammunition – The Raptor Center has asked for MTWS support for their educational brochure regarding alternatives to lead ammunition. They would like to put our MTWS logo on it. They are not asking for funds. We will see a draft of the brochure before it is published. All present voted in favor of the use of our logo on the brochure. This vote was begun via e-mail.
- Big Game and Climate Change – Bill recently participated in a telepressor on this topic organized by MCF. An article was recently in the Outdoor News.

Prairie/Farmland: Greg Hoch

- Conservation grazing position statement - Stephen Winter has media release on it ready to go to Outdoor News soon.
- Pollinators – A hot topic. How can MTWS best advocate for pollinators and their habitat? A position statement? What does parent TWS have for a position? Collaborate with Society of Conservation Biologists? We need to distinguish between honeybees and the artificial ag system they support and native bees, and get to the heart of the issue – how we treat our landscape/ecosystems, such as with chemicals like neonicitinoids. **All** – Get our ideas on how to address this issue to Greg.

Forest: Mike North

- High Conservation Value Forests - Mike and this committee did a fine job drafting a letter to DNR regarding MTWS input to the process and list of HCVF. Jodie sent the letter off recently.
- Forest conversion to ag land – Legislation may stop or slow this conversion of jack pine forest in central MN to irrigated potato fields. Mike suggests focusing our efforts on the ground water issue with partners. **All** – Get our ideas on how to address this issue to Mike.

Wetland Issues: Laurie Fairchild

- Draft Drainage/Tiling position statement - Trying to get it finished up by annual meeting. Shawn Papon, Emily Hutchins, Vanessa Lane and Doug Norris have assisted. **Laurie** will send a draft to the committee in mid Dec. for their review. **Ann and Jodie** offered to also review the draft. Our Board will need to review and approve the final draft. The final product could be shared with the public via a telepressor.

Membership: Kristin Fritz

- Google Groups - Kristin drafted a message to send all new members to inform them of our board and membership google groups. Jodie reviewed it. Didn't want to send the message until discussion regarding possibility of a 3rd google group for those only wanting the newsletter had occurred. (See below.)

Student Relations: Jim Berdeen/Mark Hanson – Absent/no report

- Chairs - Jim and Mark have indicated that they would like to step down and getting others involved in this committee after this annual meeting. Brian Hiller at BSU would be great on this committee.
- Student paper and poster awards **- Emily and Jodie** still need to consult with the student relations the awards committees to ensure these awards are consistent with others.
- Student travel awards - **Bill and John** still need to draft a proposal for allocating these. They will be in place for the February meeting.
- Classical literature - Mike suggested support for encouraging students to be familiar with classical literature in our field. Others suggested especially literature from Minnesota and the Midwest. Mike offered to take the lead on such an effort.

Board Minutes (continued)

Awards: Thom Soule

- Awards Notice - **Thom** will send out a student travel award announcement and call for nominations for awards.
- Fedeler Award – **Thom** still need to visit with Bob's wife about intent of the award.
- Ceremony Length – Thom is addressing how to shorten the ceremony.

Ad Hoc Communications Committee: Kristin Fritz

- Facebook webpage - Kristin and this committee did a great job fleshing out the pros and cons of Facebook and making a recommendation. Interest exists in creating a Chapter Facebook page, however there is concern about security settings and amount of administrative time.
- **Steve Windels** will set up a Facebook page specifically for the annual conference. We will use it as a test drive to determine whether or not we want a permanent profile.
- Suggested that a student chapter create and administer a Chapter Facebook webpage since it is our youth that enjoy this form of communication. Student chapter could annually rotate its administration. **Kristin** will contact Brian Hiller to see if his student chapter would be interested in initiating it. If they are interested, our ad hoc communications committee would generate guidelines/sideboards for them.
- Google Groups - Decided there is no need for a third google group for members wanting only the Chapter newsletter. Members intolerant of google group messages unsubscribe from the group and simply get the newsletter off our MTWS website.
- Chapter website - To relieve John Loegering from his web master duties for our Chapter website (he has been trying to pass them on for 3-4 years), it was suggested that we hire a webmaster. **Steve Windels** will get estimates to hire a webmaster (and to move to an online payments system). **Jodie** will check with John about parent TWS Server space, as our website is currently housed at U of M Crookston and only John can access it.

MCF: Bill Faber

- Attendance at Annual Meeting - Gary Botzek had contacted Charlotte about attending. His presence and information from MCF would be appreciated at the membership meeting. Charlotte has let him know. He could attend the board meeting if the membership meeting doesn't work.

FWLA:

- Not re-joining - Confirmed that MTWS would have to pay a $1,000 annual membership fee regardless of having one or two reps on the FWLA board. Ray Norgaard is still interested in being a rep. A second rep would be desirable. Effectiveness of FWLA for the funds and our current benefits from MCF were considered. Jodie motioned that our Chapter not join FWLA and instead continue to focus its effort on a productive relationship with MCF. Wayne seconded. 11 ayes, 1 nay (Mike North) (Bailey absent).

2014 Teaming with Wildlife Fly-In:

- Greg Hoch attending - Wayne motioned to send Greg. MTWS will pay the cost of the trip in full if additional funds are not secured. **Greg** will solicit additional funds from outside groups such as MPCS, MSGS, MACP, WM, AFS, PF, DU, and MWA. Motion passed. All ayes.
- No students sent - Previous e-mail discussion considered sending a student. Concluded it would need to be an advanced, experienced student or joint with a member, and much extra expense. Decided not to send a student.

Conservation Affairs Network (CAN): Jodie Provost

- Jodie has been sharing information on this new model for conservation affairs communication and collaboration between the Chapter, Section and parent TWS. The board held a conf. call in Nov. and two conf. calls with the NC Section have occurred. **Jodie** will get our input to Tara Rentz, TWS Deputy Director, Government Affairs and Partnerships next week. Stay tuned for more info on the topic.

Board Minutes (continued)

NRCS State Technical Committee: Jodie Provost - Next Meeting Dec. 17.

NRCS Tile Outlet Initiative: Ray Norrgard – Absent. Has been no activity.

Webmaster: John Loegering - Absent/no report.

Historian/Archivist: John Moriarty - Absent/no report.

Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage Project COWCH: Nicholas Snavely - Absent/no report. Will hopefully have article in next newsletter!

Audit: Gretchen Mehmel - Absent/no report.

OTHER REPORTS:

Membership Recruitment, Retention, and Participation:

- Membership Survey – Jodie – Ready to launch. **Jodie** will send it out next week, give members a few weeks to complete it, and share results at the annual meeting.
- Draft Plan – Wayne – After the survey is completed, **Wayne** will work **Thom, Mike Larson and Kristin** to develop a draft membership recruitment, retention and participation plan.

By-laws review: Wayne Brininger and John Loegering

- **All** should send by-laws input to Wayne by Dec.13. **Wayne** plans to have them finalized by Jan. 3.
- Jodie noted that implementation of the CAN would affect our operations manual and by-laws.

Lifetime Membership: Thom Soule

- **Thom** needs to finish drafting a proposal for use of proceeds from this account.

Regional Representative Reports:

I. Gregg Knutsen – absent, nothing to report
II. Dawn Plattner – present, nothing to report
III. Ann Geisen – present, nothing to report
IV. Kristin Fritz – absent, nothing to report
V. Steve Winter – absent, nothing to report
Tom Cooper – absent, nothing to report

Student Chapter & Club Reports

Univ. of MN-Crookston
Univ. of MN-Twin Cities
MN State Univ.-Moorhead
Central Lakes College – will be report in next newsletter
Vermillion Community College
Bemidji State University

Board Minutes (continued)

MN TWS Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 1, 2014
1:00-4:00pm Conference Call

Meeting called to order at 1:04 pm

ATTENDANCE:

Kyle Arola, Tom Cooper, Maria Fosado, Tony Hewitt, Greg Hoch, Mike Larson, John Loegerring, Ray Norgaard, Rich Olsen, Dawn Plattner, Jodie Provost, Lori Schmidt, Lindsey Shartell, Thom Soule, Steve Windels, Steven Winter

OFFICER REPORTS:
President: Steve Windels

Accomplishments
- Brian Hiller was a guest on Outdoor News Radio and talked about the lead ammunition issue.
- A summary of the plenary session was submitted by Brian Hiller to The Wildlifer and can be found in the March 2014 Issue.
- Switched to Doodle Poll - seems to work great for calendars and voting.

Strategic Planning and Board reorganization
Committee consists of Steve Windels (chair), Jodie Provost, Wayne Brininger, Laurie Fairchild, and Thom Soule
- First call to discuss the reorganization was about 2 weeks ago.
- The committee will be addressing issues such as: what does our Chapter want to allocate its time and resources towards.
- Two things that were agreed on: Internal support of MNTWS as a way for professional development for biologist and managers around the state. And want the reorganization to facilitate the exchange of information to and from the state/board/members.
- Lori – can we find some method of tracking the conversion of going from student to a working professional? How many graduated students leave the state in search of work and how many stay in MN? How many of the students that stay convert from student members to regular members. How do we make those connections?
- Thom Soule – Suggested the notes from the first conference call re: Strategic Planning /Board reorganization should be posted so other members can read if interested.

Ad-hoc committee - Non-toxic Alternatives to Lead Ammunition and Tackle
Committee consists of Steve Windels, Tony Hewitt, Ray Norgaard, Brian Hiller, Tom Copper, and Bill Faber
- Planning to hold 1st workshop at a rifle range in the Aitkin area on Sunday, August 17, 2014
- Once we conducted the first hunter workshop we would like to submit a write up about it to Outdoor News.
- Ray Norgaard suggested we get a booth at other outdoor/sports shows (maybe Game Fair)
    - Game Fair (in Anoka, MN) could be a possibility. It will be held August 8 -10 and 15 – 17. There would be a cost to having a booth, but the cost is unknown.
    - The State Fair may be harder to get into BUT maybe could do it within the MN DNR building. We would need permission and according to Ray the audience varies anywhere between 5 to 20 people.

Board Minutes (continued)

- Cost is $700.00 for a 10' booth

- Workshop at Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge could also be a possibility. Opening day they get anywhere between 900 – 1,000 hunters at Sherburne. Could maybe host it in October.
  - Don't have any kind of mandatory stations or check in stations.
  - Would have to circulate info on kiosks and newspapers. Tony Hewitt thought Sherburne NWR would be willing to put on the workshop.
- First workshop may be the day before or the day after the summer workshop

North Cental Section Update – Mike Larson

- President Elect for the North Central Section is Mike Larson
- They meet the 4th Monday of the month – next meeting is the 23rd of June.
- David Anderson is now the North Central Section Representative.
- Pat Lederle (current president) is trying to connect the section level activity with state and other subunits. It's been a long time since there's been student representation – but fixed it this year. There is a student rep on the board now.
  - He would also like to visit MN if it works out. A good time for a visit could be during our summer workshop. Once we have determined a date and location of the workshop we should send him the information so he potentially put it on his calendar.
- Karl Martin in WI and John Shultz have been working on the possibility of having a NCS leadership institute academy. It would have limited capacity and would be a year long program to help develop future leaders. Just now forming an ad-hoc committee to work on this.
- NCS plans on participation in the Conservation Affairs Network
- Looking at strategic planning sorts of things to increase participation. NCS currently has about 330 members in the section; some state chapters have that, so NCS is attempting to increase its membership. They have some money to put towards new initiatives to try and increase membership.
- HQ is working on the database management as they receive membership info. There's new blood in HQ and hopefully we will be seeing some positive changes in terms of interactions between the section and other subunits.
  - Thom Soule – Issues or priorities that the parent chapter should become involved in. Was there any input from the chapter? David sent out an email requesting info for his report to council…He is always interested in input and feedback. Thom didn't think we'd had that opportunity before and he really didn't know how to respond…Helping coordinate among and bw states…

President Elect: Rich Olsen –
2015 Annual Meeting-

- Rich has been working with Scott Craven – WI president elect
- Looks like the annual meeting will be in Duluth - still looking for venues and dates.
  - Martha Minchak is doing the initial research on potential venues.
  - As soon as he gets a date and venue he will be soliciting for additional involvement from other members
- Possible dates include: Feb 24th – 26th, second option would be the last full week in March or late January.
  - The Midwest conference is in Indianapolis, IN Feb. 8 -11 and also need to keep the North American FW Conference in mind.
- Theme: Global Warming – but more about solutions, what positive actions can people take to mitigate
- Thinking about having some sort of workshop after the main conference. Two possible workshop themes were discussed:

Board Minutes (continued)

    - leadership development training
    - advocacy
- Logistics of the workshop are still unknown.
    - Workshop could be a day to a day and a half
    - Not sure if it will be before or after the meeting
- Plan is to have a setup similar to last year as far as speakers and time

Past President - Jodie –
- Still has the follow up letter regarding USFWS support for employee attendance to MTWS workshops/meetings/ conferences on her to-do-list

Secretary – Maria Fosado-
- Nothing to report

Treasurer – Lindsay Shartell-
- Emailed quarterly treasurer's report
- Steve Winter – Moves to approve treasurers report, Gregg Hoch seconds. All ayes. Motion passes

Committee Reports

NRCS State Technical Committee - Jodie Provost
- Nothing to report

Teaming with Wildlife Fly In – Greg Hoch
- Four people from MN went: Jane Norris, John Brinkman, Mark Martell and Greg Hoch
- Scheduled a meeting with 6 of 12 senators and representatives. If they weren't able to schedule a meeting ahead of time, they just dropped in and asked if they had time to meet. Nolan was the only one they met with, the rest were aides. They were unable to meet with Franken.
- Recommends having two people going each year, 1 "expert" and 1 trainee (1 overlaps for 2 years). This would help drastically, as many people are unfamiliar with DC, metro, etc.
    - It costs $800 for one person to go
- Thom Soule – supports the objective of sending 2 people. But is wondering if it has to be 2 TWS members? Can it be other MN representatives?
- DC people live and die by business card - bring cards! Do we need to consider getting MTWS business cards that we can handout? Or should members that are going hand out their work business cards?
- Wildlife Professionals did an article on the Fly In and we will be featured in the next MN Professional
- Greg thinks our attendance is beneficial. After the Fly In, he and the other 3 MN representatives had some direct email correspondence with aides regarding a signed letter to full house/senate saying they support the appropriation.

Prairie/Farmland Issues – Greg Hoch
- DNR is finishing up the pollinator BMPs – they are out for review. Will clearly affect everybody in DNR, NTC, FWS, etc.
    - Are there any built in assessments of whether or not they work? (Thom Soule)
        - ♦ No, they are designed as a straight management type paper (Greg Hoch).
- If you are using LCCMR Dollars

Board Minutes (continued)

- Guidance for the most part will say to keep doing what you're doing - add a couple extra species to seed mixes, don't burn entire units, etc.

- Coming out with a review of farming practices on DNR lands due to lawsuits regarding GMOs, neonicotinoid seeds, etc.
  - This will directly impact how DNR and USFWS farm/restore properties
- Prairie Reconstruction Advisory Team is putting together workshops (members include FWS, USGS, TNC, and Greg Hoch).
  - Are putting together workshops which will be held throughout the summer: three plant ID wokshops and a pollinator workshop in Morris (will be held in Morris)
    - ♦ Workshops will be open to all
    - ♦ If possible Greg Hoch will send out an email with upcoming workshop information.
- Conservation grazing statement
  - Was sent out to a number of different media and news outlets and haven't done anything since (Steve Windels); has been well distributed.

Forest Issues – Mike North

- No report

Wetland Issues – Laurie Fairchild- absent, but emailed

- No updates at this time.
- Draft Drainage/Tiling paper – still in the works
- Tile initiative- Ray Norgaard doesn't think that anything is going to happen. Initiative has gone by the wayside.
- Letter of Support for NWI

Operational Affairs -

By-Laws Review- John Loegering

- There has been no activity on this.
- We should wait until we complete the board reorganization. Otherwise, if we work on it now, we will have to redo everything again when we reorganize.

Membership –Kristin Fritz – Not present

- Steve Windels – Is it a good idea to send out the Welcome/Thank You, Google Group info, and membership renewal message only once a year? If we only email these out once per year some of our new members will go a long time without receiving any information from us!
  - The National Chapter sends them out quarterly so maybe we should do the same?
  - Suggest to Kristin Fritz that these emails go out quarterly
- Kristin plans to send out emails to those who have let their memberships lapse.
- Thom Soule – is the database mineable?
- Steve Windels – will follow up with Kristin to see what format the membership data is in/stored/whether it can be easily "queried"
- Steve Windels – will check with Kristin to see if the email list has been updated since receiving new emails at the annual meeting.

Board Minutes (continued)

Status of Lifetime Membership Plan – Thom Soule

- Endowment proposal 90% finished – still working on some things

Student Relations – Lori Schmidt

Committee reorganization – Lori Schmidt is Interim Chair.

- Is there a way for her to develop an archived list of where students are doing internships? Maybe a TWS student Facebook page would work for this?

Awards – Thom Soule

- Needs to do a follow up. Has to go to Brainerd to meet with Bob Fedeler's wife to determine intent of the award.

Communications:

- Newsletter
  - June 1 deadline for next newsletter.
  - Need to get updated April newsletter on website.
- Nov. 2013 meeting minutes have not been "archived" in newsletter yet, so they will go into the next one.
- Committee Upgrade
- Still need a Chair. Should include all communications and outreach efforts, such as the newsletter editor, webmaster, and Facebook administrator, as well as perhaps annual meeting and workshop promotion.
- Facebook page
- Kristin was going to reach out the Bemidji Chapter to see if they would be interested taking charge of this. Steve will follow up with Kristin.
- Website
- Currently hosted on UMN server at Crookston. John Loegering has been hopeful to retire from being webmaster, but we have not had luck getting someone to take over.
- We can stay at the current spot (UMN Crookston) for maybe another year, but after that we will have to figure something else out.
- An option would be to move it to the Parent Chapter server, where they would host our website at no charge.
- First challenge would be moving the data over. John Loegering estimates that it will take someone saavy in Drupal about 40 hours to create the new site (using content from the old site).
- DRUPAL – gives a lot of possibilities – could easily be done if we find someone to do it and/or pay someone to do it.
- Second challenge would be finding an individual to keep it updated. We can likely pay someone a nominal fee for site creation and annual maintenance. Steve got an estimate from the North Central webmaster, who charges about $30/hour for development and maintenance. He estimates it would cost about $1,000 (25 – 30 hours) to move the old website to the Parent Chapter server. Keith Norris, who did the NCS site and now works for TWS, gave a quote of:
- To update it monthly (3 – 4 hours/month) it would be about $1,500/year.
- Less frequent (2- 4 per year) updates: $750/year (4-6 hours per update)
- Steve Windels – Should we go ahead and pay to move it over and to do the updates until we find someone else to do it?
- Steve will send around proposal for moving and maintaining new site

Board Minutes (continued)

- Google Group – Steve Windels edited the TWSBoardMinnesota Google Group to reflect current officers, committee chairs, and student chapter advisers.

Fundraising - Dawn Plattner/Sheldon Myerchin

- Talked to MN Waterfowl Association
  - MTWS can sell MWA calendars ($40/each); for each calendar we sell MTWS would earn $10
    - There would be no cost/no investment
    - If we sell 100 calendars we get a bonus free gun that we could raffle off at our annual meeting (in past usually a .22)
    - We could start selling them in Oct.

Historian/Archivist - John Moriarty- absent

- No report

Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage Project COWCH - Nicholas Snavely - absent

- No report

Audit - Gretchen Mehmel - absent

- No report

Regional Representative Reports

Summer Workshop Planning Committee: Tom Cooper, Dawn Plattner, and Tony Hewitt

- 2013 summer workshop was held August 22nd
- This year's theme: Forest planning at landscape level
  - Tentative location – Deep Portage Learning Center in Hackensack, MN
  - Tentative dates – sometime August (maybe early August).
  - Pat Lederle (President NCS) – once we know location and dates send information to Pat.

I. Gregg Knutsen - Not present
II. Dawn Plattner – No report
III. Ann Geisen – Not present
IV. Kristin Fritz – No report
V. Stephen Winter – No report
VI. Tom Cooper – See summer workshop

Student Chapter & Club Reports

Bemidji State University – Andrew Seagren

MN State Univ.-Moorhead – Jamie Kallstrom

Univ. of MN-Crookston – Emily Trappe

Univ. of MN-Twin Cities – submitted by Roberta Ryan

- The Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology (FWCB) Club is part of the University of Minnesota (UMN) Twin Cities Campus and meets on the St. Paul Campus. Our club has a variety of members including the UMN Saint Paul Student Subunit of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) and the UMN-Twin Cities Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS). We meet as a group for meetings and activities, which

Board Minutes (continued)

allows for greater networking and learning opportunities, while fostering a better sense of community among students. From February 2014 to the present, the FWCB Club has participated in the following activities:

•Competed in Quiz Bowl at the Minnesota Chapter meeting of The Wildlife Society

•Visited the Reptile and Amphibian Discovery Zoo

•Assisted the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources with bear den research in Cloquet, MN

•Offered a workshop on applying for government jobs

Central Lakes College – submitted Tom Strack

- The NR Club at CLC has many events planned for this upcoming Spring Semester. So far this spring semester we light luminaries at Kathio State Park for their Candlelight Ski Event. And the following weekend we completed the same task for the Crane Meadows Candlelight Ski event down in Little Falls. In March the club also helped the MN Sharp Tailed Grouse Society with their annual brush cut. The Club will continue to stay busy throughout the year, for example, we plan to help the Morrison County Pheasants Forever Chapter with a youth hunt and Ducks Unlimited with a banquet. These are some of the many events that we currently have on our calendar for this coming spring.

Vermillion Community College – submitted by Lori Schmidt

- Remaining Wood Duck Box check on SNF Land (VCC surveys started with ~200 boxes in 1980's, down to 20 remaining).
- Conducted 7 Western Great Lakes Owl Surveys
- Fuels Reduction on campus woodlot and Snowshoe Hare habitat surveys
- 7 VCC students to Sharptail Grouse Cutting (and once again, Advisor in Ely for Wolf Center emergency)
- 9 Ruffed Grouse Routes for MN DNR - Grand Rapids
- SFEC Webinar on Forest Health issues in Northern Minnesota
- 13 Deer Mortality Transects for the MN DNR - Tower

Meeting Adjourned 2:28 pm

Treasurer's Report

Quarterly Treasurer's Report, MN TWS
14 March – 30 April 2014

		Credits	Debits	Balance
Checking				
14-Mar	Beginning Balance			$18,404.62
31-Mar	Membership Dues	$45.00		
31-Mar	Dividends	$1.89		
15-Apr	Membership Dues (Paid through National)	$610.00		
29-Apr	Membership Dues	$25.00		
30-Apr	Closing Balance			**$19,086.51**
Savings				
14-Mar	Beginning Balance			$1,998.23
31-Mar	Dividends	$0.17		
30-Apr	Closing Balance			**$1,998.40**
Investments				
60 Month Step-Up CD (Lifetime Membership Funds)				
14-Mar	Beginning Balance			$4,015.77
31-Mar	Dividends	$2.09		
30-Apr	Closing Balance			**$4,017.86**
60 Month CD (Midwest Steering Committee Funds)				
14-Mar	Beginning Balance			$20,908.82
31-Mar	Dividends	$39.55		
30-Apr	Closing Balance			**$20,948.37**
Total Chapter Assets				
14-Mar	Beginning Total			$45,327.44
30-Apr	Closing Total			**$46,051.14**
Allocated Funds (Unpaid to date)				
	Midwest PARC Sponsorship		$500.00	
	TWS Rep to TWW Fly-In		$828.70	
	Funding from Partners for TWW Fly-In	$300.00		

Investment History
The 60 Month Step-Up CD (7153652) was opened 24 August 2012 using lifetime membership funds. Annual percentage yield (APY) increases yearly: 0.125%, 0.625%, 1.125%, 2.625%, 3.625%. There is no penalty for withdraw after 3 years. Interest may be used for operating exspenses if needed. *Prior History:* 24 August 2011 - Invested in a Wahoo certificate (7142749, 1.982% APY) 24 August 2010 - Invested in 12 Month CD (7115999, 0.499% APY)
The 60 Month CD (7149290) was opened 2 March 2012 using Midwest Steering Committee funds at an APY of 2.227%. *Prior History:* 8 November 2011 - Added to the Wahoo certificate (7142749, 1.982% APY)

Report Submitted by Lindsey Shartell, Treasurer, MN TWS, 30 April 2014

Voices from the Swamp

Voices from the Swamp 3 By Ray Norrgard

Field Notes

Gordy Gust was the DNR Area Wildlife Manager for the southern portion of the Metro Region until the mid-1980s. His office was in the basement of his home. Gordy was a stocky, crew cut individual who had been known to physically drag a disabled snowmobile by himself more than a quarter mile back to the road. There were no cell phones and he didn't have any staff.

Gordy's work area was being rapidly urbanized with suburban sprawl. His files were a trove of information on the effects of urbanization on wildlife. Like many other wildlife managers of his generation, he was meticulous about recording and filing field notes. Every time he visited a WMA, shallow lake, or other area of interest he would record his observations. Just as important, he would type up the notes and file them in an approved organizational system. These notes were particularly valuable to me, and others, in reconstructing the historical wildlife use of shallow lakes being considered for formal designation for wildlife management.
Many of us in the next generation of wildlifers should have paid more heed to this very basic function of Gordy's job. I am embarrassed to admit that I too often relied on memory rather than taking the time to accurately record and file field notes. And I also know too well the difference in impact of those notes versus verbal recollections when faced with controversy.

Gordy's task was arduous by today's standards. Hand written notes were transcribed using a manual typewriter. If the importance of the observation warranted a copy to his supervisor, Gordy would add carbon paper between sheets so he would only have to type it once. Typing was done carefully since making a correction could mean starting all over again with new paper.

Today's wildlifer has an amazing array of tools to aid in recording field observations. Digital cameras are often capable of taking stills or video. Pocket sized smart phones can be used to record images and video, record verbal observations, or deliver images, video and text directly via texting or emailing. Conveniently sized electronic tablets allow observations or survey data to be recorded directly on pre-designed forms ready to be downloaded onto the manager's hard drive. The ease and speed of recording and storing information would flabbergast Gordy's generation.
What hasn't changed is the importance of taking the time to make and record observations. There are some, perhaps, who might snicker a bit at data collected without an experimental design or at least a systematic framework. I might suggest that some data, particularly if carefully recorded on site, is way ahead of no data, regardless of the elegance of the design. We sometimes forget during these times of robust statistical analysis that much of what our profession knows about wildlife and wildlife habitat is based on a mountain of observations. And repeated observations over time provides the critical monitoring information for feeding on-site adaptive habitat management.

The late Frank C. Bellrose, Illinois Natural History Survey, is a giant among those who developed and nurtured our fledgling profession.[1] He grew up and worked along his beloved Illinois River bottoms studying waterfowl, particularly wood ducks, migration and riverine wetlands. He passed away peacefully on February 19, 2005 after a long illness. On the morning of his passing, after 75 years of studying the habitat along the river (67 years as a professional with the Survey), he asked his son to drive him out along the river. Frank had with his notebook with him and dutifully recorded what they observed.
Enough said.

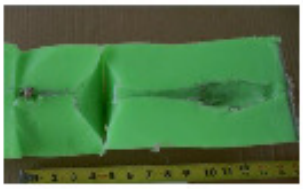
For more information on the life of Bellrose see *The Auk* 122(4):1209-1300, 2005; or the wonderful article by his friend Art Hawkins at http://www.tonydean.com/articlese927.html?sectionid=6535

Other Items

Copper Bullet Demonstration for Deer Hunters

Join us for a free demonstration of the performance of copper vs. lead bullets.

Hunters will also have a chance to test the performance of their own lead ammunition with their own rifles against the performance of copper bullets in popular calibers (30-06, 243 Win, 270 Win, 308 Win, 7mm Rem mag, 300 Win mag).



Sponsored by

The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

1-5pm, Sunday, August 17

Wealthwood Rod and Gun Club
2573 420th Place, Aitkin, MN 56431

For questions call:
Wealthwood RGC - 218-678-2281
Steve Windels (MNTWS) - 218-324-3400

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Committee Chairs
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Awards: Thom Soule souletp@bektel.com
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Dawn Plattner dawn.plattner@state.mn.us
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Historian/Archivist: John Moriarty john.moriarty@co.ramsey.mn.us
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2014 Student Chapters

School

Bemidji State University
Chapter Advisor: Brian Hiller BHiller@bemidjistate.edu
Chapter President: Andrew Seagren andrew.seagren@live.bemidjistate.edu

Minnesota State University—Moorhead
Chapter Advisor: Donna Stockram stockram@mnstate.edu
Chapter President: Jaime Kallstrom kallstroja@mnstate.edu

University of Minnesota—Crookston
Chapter Advisor: John Loegering jloegeri@umn.edu
Chapter President: Emily Trapp trapp026@umn.edu

University of Minnesota—Twin Cities
Chapter Advisor: Peter Jordan sbme@umn.edu
Chapter President: Roberta Ryan ryanx923@umn.edu

Central Lakes College
Chapter Advisor: William Faber wfaber@clcmn.edu
Chapter President: Tom Strack stracktom@yahoo.com

Vermillion Community College
Chapter Advisor: Lori Schmidt l.schmidt@vcc.edu
Chapter President: Joseph Ehlers ehle4701@smail.vcc.edu

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