



THE WILDLIFE SAMPLER

Newsletter of The New England Chapter
Of The Wildlife Society
Spring 2014

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**2014 New England Chapter TWS
Spring workshop 'Captive Breeding'
Thursday May 1, 2014
9:30 AM – 2:00 PM**

Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence RI

Please join the New England Chapter of the Wildlife Society for our annual chapter business meeting and workshop. The workshop will illustrate the benefits of coordinating species conservation and recovery between conservation organizations and government agencies, focusing on captive breeding programs. A complete agenda is included in this newsletter on page 7. Please join us!

70th Annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference

**Holiday Inn By the Bay - Portland, Maine
Sunday, April 13 – Tuesday, April 15, 2014**

Conference Theme: "Building on the Past to
Ensure the Future"

This annual event attracts over 500 natural resources professionals in the fields of wildlife biology, fisheries and fisheries management, information and education and law enforcement. The event provides opportunities for education, discussion, and exchanging of ideas. Highlights include: over 50 workshop sessions, keynote speakers, poster displays, and social networking events. For more information on the conference including the schedule and registration, please visit NEAFA's website: <http://www.neafwa.org/>.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Chapter Members,
As we thaw out from winter, I start to think of the spring ahead. Young beavers begin to disperse, salamanders migrate to vernal pools, and tom

turkeys proudly strut. Spring also ushers in the craziness of the field season. Before we all get too distracted by the woods of New England, I hope that you can attend our spring workshop on May 1st at Roger Williams Zoo in Rhode Island. The theme of this workshop is captive breeding. The workshop will illustrate the benefits of coordinating species conservation and recovery between conservation organizations and government agencies. This workshop will focus on the captive breeding efforts that the zoo is currently conducting on rattlesnakes, New England cottontails, Karner blue butterflies, American burying beetles, and red-bellied cooters. This is a unique opportunity to explore the zoo and their research facilities. This will be an exciting workshop that you do not want to miss, and who doesn't like a day at the zoo? See you in May!

*David Paulson, President
New England Chapter of TWS*

STATE REPORTS

Connecticut

*Tracy Rittenhouse, CT Representative to the
Executive Committee*

NEC GRANTS

Connecticut, along with New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine and New York, was recently awarded a Competitive State Wildlife Grant to continue the landscape-scale initiative begun in 2008 to reverse the decline of the New England cottontail (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*). It is hoped that targeted conservation actions on federal, state and private lands will eliminate the need for this high-priority candidate to be designated for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. Population modeling has been used to identify critical parcels to target for habitat enhancement and conservation. The partners will create 25 new habitat patches across the species' range, and monitor and supplement New England cottontail populations within an additional 50 habitat patches. Sites in New Hampshire will

receive captive-bred animals provided through a partnership with the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, Rhode Island.

SNAKE CONSERVATION

Connecticut is also taking part in a Competitive State Wildlife Grant that will focus on fungal dermatitis, a newly emerging threat to snakes, including Species of Greatest Conservation Need such as Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*). This suspected new fungal skin disease has been identified in multiple eastern and Midwestern states. Using data obtained from this regional snake species assessment, the many state partners will utilize an adaptive management framework for development of long-term conservation strategies for up to 40 snake species potentially impacted by the disease. Other conservation actions include evaluation of treatment options, experimental treatment with antifungal agents, captive rearing, and monitoring. This broader project builds on pilot efforts undertaken through a Regional Conservation Needs Grant that focused primarily on fungal dermatitis in timber rattlesnakes.

UCONN WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER

University of Connecticut reinstated and renamed the Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Center. The Center uses scientific research techniques to better understand wildlife and fish populations, the habitats they require, and interactions with human society in our shared landscape. Its scientists promote sustainable management solutions for wildlife issues. Current projects include estimation of Black Bear population size in CT, distribution and genetics of Bridle shiner, and dispersal of American kestrel fledglings. Check out the new website and logo, and learn more about these and other projects at <http://wfcc.uconn.edu/>.

UCONN GRAD STUDENTS INVOLVED IN WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN REVISIONS

Connecticut, like many other states, has begun revisions to the State Wildlife Action Plan. In the true spirit of engaged scholarship, UConn students enrolled in graduate courses in wildlife management are learning about wildlife planning, funding and the steps needed to keep common species common, through active contributions to the revision process. Students are charged with creating strategies or content for outreach tools to enhance broad public participation in revision process. UConn graduate students also joined employees from the Wildlife Division of DEEP and many other wildlife professionals at the Teaming with

Wildlife Coalition's 2014 FLY-IN event in Washington DC.



UConn Grad Students attend a Teaming with Wildlife Coalition event.

TWS STUDENT CONCLAVE

UConn Student Chapter of TWS hosted the Northeast Student Conclave back in April 2013. The event was wildly successful with 150 attendees from 13 different universities. The four officers, Samantha Kremidas, Taylor Ferguson, Gloria Medina, and Kelly O'Connor were instrumental in organizing this two day event, which included 12 workshops, the annual Quiz bowl, and keynote address by Robert Borowski.

Massachusetts

Todd Olanyk, MA Representative to the Executive Committee

2013 PRELIMINARY DEER HARVEST SUMMARY

The MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife reports that the preliminary deer harvest for 2013 is 11,413. Although preliminary, this figure is up 4% from last year's total harvest. The preliminary archery season harvest of 4,474 is up 15% from last year, the preliminary shotgun season harvest of 4,625 is down 7% from last year, and the preliminary primitive season harvest of 2,314 is up 11% from last year. Data for zones 1-5 shows a decrease in female harvest and a corresponding increase in adult male harvest, indicating that deer densities in these zones are increasing toward DFW's goals. Deer densities in Zones 6-9 appear to be within DFW's goals. Densities in Zones 10 and 11 are still above goal, but more towns are increasing access to lands for hunting, which is one of the most important parts of managing deer in a suburban setting. Deer densities on Martha's Vineyard (Zone 13) and Nantucket (Zone 14)

remain significantly above DFW's management goals, but preliminary results from this year's harvest show an increase in the female harvest that is critical to reduce deer densities.

Online reporting was available during deer season for the first time during the 2013 archery and primitive arms seasons (hunters must still report harvested deer at a check station during shotgun season to facilitate collection of biological data); over 70% of the deer taken during those seasons were reported by hunters through the online system.

Not only is the online reporting system convenient for hunters, it allows DFW to provide preliminary harvest totals much earlier than in previous years. It also allows DFW to break down the preliminary harvest information by Wildlife Management Zone (WMZ). While total harvest by zone can be informative, it doesn't provide the complete picture for monitoring trends in deer density because total harvest is influenced by antlerless deer permit allocations in each zone.

The DFW Deer Project Leader David Stainbrook analyzes harvest, biological, and hunter effort data, along with hunter success rates, female versus male harvest, and other factors to manage deer populations in each zone. An analysis of this information is now underway for the annual spring deer management review. A complete harvest summary will be posted on the DFW website shortly after the annual deer review.

2013 BEAR SEASON NUMBERS

One hundred forty-seven black bears were harvested during the 2013 September and November black bear seasons. Licensed hunters in western and central Massachusetts took 120 animals in the early season, and 27 in the late season. Successful hunters took advantage of the online harvest reporting system which was available for the first time during the 2013 season. Hunters checked 102 bears using the online system; 45 bears were checked in person at check stations.

EXOTIC ANIMAL REGULATION AMENDMENTS

The MA Fisheries and Wildlife Board recently implemented regulatory changes to affecting the types of wild animals that may legally be kept as pets in Massachusetts. These regulations, passed by in 2013, became official on January 3, 2014.

The changes allow new species of wildlife to be kept as pets, treated by veterinarians, or sold in licensed pet shops. Of particular interest to the pet owning public is the Sugar Glider (*Petaurus breviceps*) a small mammal that is now allowed

as a pet. Most of the wildlife newly legal to keep as pets are reptiles, including: green tree python (*Chondropython* spp.), the Emerald Tree Boa (*Corallus caninus*), all of the jungle runners (*Ameiva* spp.), true chameleons, frilled lizards (*Chlamydosaurus* spp.), spiny-tailed lizards (*Uromastyx* spp.), and one small species of monitor, the Spiny-tailed or Ridge-tailed Monitor (*Varanus acanthurus*). This monitor is a small reptile that can easily be distinguished from juveniles of all the larger species, none of which may be kept as pets. No permits are required by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife for possession of any of the above mentioned animals.

One turtle, the Red-eared Slider, will no longer be legal to keep as a pet in Massachusetts. This turtle has been prohibited because unwanted pets were released so often that they have now become established as a breeding non-native turtle in several areas of the state. Any existing pet slider (prior to January 3, 2014) will be grandfathered and may continue to be kept by its owner for the rest of its life, but the owner should keep a date-stamped clear, in-focus photo of its belly (plastron) as documentation. No permit is necessary to keep a "grandfathered" turtle.

WILDLIFE HABITAT PROTECTION PROGRAM ACHIEVES 200K "LAND" MARK

This past fiscal year, with the acquisition of 3,525 acres of land, over 200,000 acres of wildlife habitat are now jointly protected by MassWildlife and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). These lands are open to the public for hunting, fishing, watching wildlife, and other outdoor recreation. State wildlife and environmental officials, legislative aides, media, representatives from sportsmen's clubs, land trusts, statewide conservation organizations, federal agencies, and other conservation-minded citizens gathered at the Maple Hill Wildlife Management Area in West Stockbridge to celebrate this remarkable accomplishment.

New Hampshire

RETIREMENTS

2014 got off to a bittersweet start as two long-time biologists retired from NH Fish and Game's Wildlife Division. Ed Robinson, Waterfowl Biologist and Julie Robinson, Small-game Biologist both retired after serving 32 years and 22 years respectively, with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. While they are wished all the best in the coming years, their experience, knowledge, and dedication will be missed!

MOOSE RESEARCH

The New Year also brought new opportunities as new research efforts are getting underway. In January, amid freezing cold temperatures, the Aero Tech wildlife crew used net-guns and tranquilizer darts and successfully captured and collared a total of 43 moose including 21 adult cows and 22 calves. The collared moose will be tracked for 4 years and researchers will be looking at whether the increase in moose mortality and reduction in reproductive success in New Hampshire is because of winter tick, or if additional disease and parasite problems, or other causes of mortality, are in evidence.

NH MOOSE LOTTERY

The annual moose lottery drawing is currently open and taking applications until May 30, 2014 however fewer permits will be issued this year with only 139 statewide. This is down from 275 in 2013 and 395 in 2012.

UNH TERN STUDY

The Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program has entered into a contract with the University of New Hampshire's Cooperative Extension to study the movements and feeding patterns of terns. Common terns at the Isles of Shoals will be captured and equipped with nano tags and their movements will be tracked to identify where they go and what habitat/landscape features they are using when they are not on the island.



Common tern photo credit Dan Hayward, Terns LLC

ANNUAL TURKEY SURVEY

The annual Online Turkey Winter Flock Survey is underway and takes place from January 1st through March 31st. This year changes were made to the survey to allow participants to report observations of turkeys with signs of Avian Pox or LPDV. Last year's summer brood surveys showed a decrease in the number of poults per hen and there was also an increase in the number of cases of avian pox/LPDV reported. It is unclear what effect these 2

viruses may have on the population therefore, no changes are proposed for the 2014-15 turkey hunting seasons.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

The NH Fish and Game State Lands Habitat Program is working at Pisgah State Park in Chesterfield to maintain existing shrubland/young forest, to enhance an old apple orchard, and to create additional wildlife openings. Last year, NH Division of Forests and Lands and NHFG State Lands Habitat staff visited habitat projects that were initially completed in the late 90s – early 2000s to plan follow up work in these areas. Areas last mowed with a brontosaurus in the early 2000s are now a dense young forest with a mix of native shrubs. They will be following up with a bronto to mow regenerating hardwood trees while retaining soft mast producing native shrubs. Combined with selective herbicide applications on hardwood sprouts and invasive plants, this will help create a native shrub/grass/forb wildlife opening that will nicely compliment the commercial harvesting that is occurring nearby. Also, an abandoned apple orchard that was reclaimed in the late 90s will be reclaimed once again and maintained via brush hogging every couple of years. Additional wildlife openings will be created from a log landing that was recently used and a portion of an old pasture pine stand that was recently cleared during a timber harvest.



Bronto land clearing photo credit Brian Lemire, NHFG

Vermont

No report submitted.

Rhode Island

No report submitted.

SECTION UPDATE

*John E. McDonald, Jr., Ph.D.
Northeast Section Representative and Fellow, The
Wildlife Society*

The Wildlife Society Council met in Denver March 9 & 10 at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference and I want to pass along several items of note that were discussed. Three new HQ staff were welcomed; Ed Thompson is the new Chief of Operations and will oversee Membership, Marketing, Conferences and Subunit operations, Keith Norris is our new Assistant Director of Government Affairs, and Hedy Ross is our new Development Manager. Ed and Keith filled vacancies left by Darryl Walter and Terra Rentz. Development Manager is a new position that Council approved last fall and will be responsible for expanding our revenues beyond our three basic sources: member dues, publications, and the annual conference. Look to hear more about this effort over the next year. The three newcomers have provided brief bios to introduce themselves to the Chapter:

Ed Thompson, new Chief of Operations, joined The Wildlife Society in February, 2014 after acquiring more than 17 years of business leadership experience with the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, one of the largest membership organizations in the United States serving more than 375,000 members. During his tenure with AOPA, Ed held three different vice president positions that provided him with a wide range of executive-level experience in strategic planning and budgeting, member services and experience, business development, products and services marketing, and major corporate partnerships and sponsorships. In 2013 he was invited to be a panelist at IEG's annual conference for sponsorship professionals, sharing strategies and successes during an interactive session entitled "Creative and Successful Approaches to Association Partnerships".



Ed Thompson, TWS Chief of Operations

Earlier in his career, Ed gained additional leadership experience in a variety of business sectors with companies that included Snyder's of Hanover (snack food manufacturing), Pennsylvania Blue Shield (health insurance), and Hanover Direct (mail order catalogs). He also has a strong professional background in writing and website administration as a former NFL writer whose features appeared in both print and web channels through FoxSports.com and Scout.com. Ed holds a B.A. in Political Science from Gettysburg College. He's a member of the American Society of Association Executives and is a past president of the Gettysburg Jaycees.

Keith Norris is the new Assistant Director of Government Affairs & Partnerships. Prior to this position, he attended graduate school at Ohio State University pursuing master degrees in wildlife ecology and public policy. Keith is originally from central Illinois and completed his undergraduate degree in wildlife at Purdue University in Indiana. Keith has worked for the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow program, helping implement conservation education and hunting awareness professional development workshops across the country. His role at TWS will pull upon his background in wildlife science and public policy; he is responsible for monitoring federal legislative and regulatory wildlife issues related to the Policy Priorities identified by Council, advancing TWS policy positions and ensuring wildlife science is involved in the policy process, representing TWS on various coalition groups and partnerships, and overseeing the development of TWS Technical Reviews.

Keith is also looking forward to implementing the Conservation Affairs Network among TWS, Sections, Chapters and Working Groups to more effectively advance wildlife conservation policies! Please contact Keith, keith.norris@wildlife.org, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns related to TWS, wildlife conservation policy, or the Conservation Affairs Network.

Hedy Ross joined The Wildlife Society as Development Manager in February, 2014. She has over 16 years of association experience, working with The Association of American Railroads and The Obesity Society on marketing, membership, communications and scientific publishing. She was Managing Editor of the monthly journal Obesity, significantly raising the Impact Factor and successfully leveraging the journal to increase society membership.

Ms. Ross spent 5 years at the University of Maryland, working with professors and graduate students to enhance the writing and editing of journal submissions, dissertations and grant applications. Ms. Ross also ran a start-up software company that developed electronic commerce software for PC and Macintosh platforms. After developing a strategic plan and raising the seed money, she managed the marketing, administrative and customer support functions of the business.

Ms. Ross holds an M.B.A. in Marketing from the University of Maryland and an M.S. in Statistics from George Washington University.



Hedy Ross, TWS Development Manager

Last year Council had approved a switch to a July-June fiscal year from a FY which followed the calendar year, this switch will begin this July. This cycle better matches our revenue stream and will allow for all conference expenses and revenues to be closed well before the end of the FY, which was not always the case in the past. Our last year fiscal position improved and we ended 2013 in with a net budget surplus, though not a large one. Council approved a new budget that, using conservative revenue estimates, should also result in a surplus this coming year.

In the week before the Council meeting, TWS was approached by the American Fisheries Society with an offer to host a joint conference in

2017 in Tampa, FL. TWS had already selected Albuquerque as the site of our 2017 conference but the chapters in the Southwest Section were willing to let the conference go and host in 2018 if the joint conference made financial sense. Council tentatively approved this rearrangement pending support from the Florida chapter and SE Section. This would be our first joint annual conference.

TWS is in the next to last year of our publication contract with Wiley and Sons for the journals (exclusive of The Wildlife Professional) and is considering whether to solicit proposals for a new contract from other publishers and how our journals should be positioned going forward. Items under consideration are how to accommodate demand for open-access publishing, how to price open-access fees, whether to continue with print versions of the Journal of Wildlife Management, how to increase subscriptions in the age of open-access, and a number of other questions. Nothing has been decided and if anyone is interested in more details or wants to share ideas, please feel free to be in touch with me (twsmdonald@gmail.com).



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Facebook!**



**New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Annual Spring Workshop
Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence, RI
Thursday May 1, 2014
9:30am – 2:00pm**

Captive Breeding Workshop Agenda

9:30 – 10:00 am Refreshments and Registration

10:00 – 12:00pm Welcoming and Presentations

10:00 – 10:20 Roger Williams Zoo Captive Breeding and Partnerships with Government and Conservation organizations
Presenter: Lou Perrotti, Director of Conservation Programs, Roger Williams Zoo

10:25 – 10:45 - Karner Blue Butterfly Conservation and Recovery in NH
Presenter: Heidi Holman, Wildlife Biologist, NH Fish and Game

10:50 -11:10 New England Cottontail Captive Breeding and Recovery
Presenter: Tony Tur, US Fish and Wildlife Service

11:15 – 11:35 Rattlesnake conservation and the need for captive breeding -- and --
Northern red bellied cooter head starting and restoration
Presenter: Tom French, MA Fish and Wildlife

11:40 – 12:00 - American burying beetle
Presenter: Lou Perrotti, Director of Conservation Programs, Roger Williams Zoo

12:00 – 12:45 break for lunch

12:45 – 2:00 -Tour of the zoo facilities led by Lou Perotti/Zoo staff

2:00 – closing - Free to visit zoo exhibits.

The Wildlife Society Continuing Education – 3.0 Credits

Registration will occur at the door:

Members (Regular & Student) – Free

Student Nonmembers - \$5.00, which includes membership in the Chapter

Regular Nonmembers - \$10.00, which includes membership in the Chapter

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY CONTACT INFORMATION

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Awards- Laura Saucier (CT)
Bylaws- Vacant
Conservation Affairs- Kim Royar (VT)
Info & Education- Michelle Cozine (MA)
Membership- Trina Moruzzi (MA)
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CHAPTER MERCHANDISE

The New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society has many items available for purchase displaying our logo! To view merchandise available for sale, follow the link on The Chapter's webpage: <http://wildlife.org/newengland/>. Items will be available for purchase at the Chapter's spring workshop or can be purchased by mail order.

The Wildlife Sampler is a biannual newsletter of the New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society that provides up-to-date information on both state (CT, MA, NH, RI, VT) and regional wildlife management programs and conservation issues. The success of this newsletter depends on **your** contributions. Suggestions regarding the content and format of the newsletter are always welcome, as are contributions of news articles, job announcements and meeting notices. Letters and commentaries offered for publication also will be considered. Contributions from student members and members employed by consulting firms, educational institutions, or other environmental organizations are encouraged. Newsletter items should be forwarded to your state representative at least a week in advance of the established deadline dates, **August 1 and February 1**. Please email documents as attachments in Microsoft Word format. See email addresses above. State representatives must submit newsletter items to the Editor by the deadline to be considered for inclusion in the newsletter.

New England Chapter TWS logo created by Paul Rego, CT DEP Wildlife Division

New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society
c/o Michelle Cozine
106 Metacomet Street
Belchertown, MA 01007



The New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a non-profit scientific and educational organization serving professionals in all areas of wildlife conservation. For more information about The Wildlife Society, visit: www.wildlife.org or the Chapter: <http://wildlife.org/newengland/>

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER TWS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- \$ 10.00 Regular Membership Dues
 \$ 5.00 Student Membership Dues

- Renewal
 Renewal

- New Member
 New Member

I also would like to make a tax deductible donation to the Chapter in the amount of \$ _____.

Your contribution will be used to hire speakers for meetings and provide training/professional development opportunities for wildlife professionals.

Please make checks payable to "New England Chapter, TWS", and mail to: New England Chapter TWS,
c/o Jason Zimmer, MDFW, 195 Bournedale Road, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532