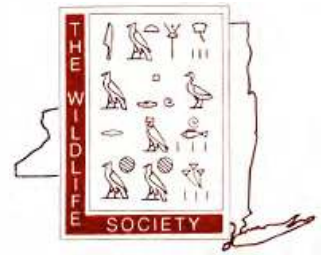


# Newsletter

New York State Chapter- The Wildlife Society



## A Quarterly Newsletter Winter 2013

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## President's Podium

It seems the Fall Field Meeting at Highland Forest was just last week, yet here we are in a new year, with our annual meeting rapidly approaching! Thanks to all the volunteer instructors that came out for the fall field meeting, and to all the attendees, too. Despite the overnight rain (and late coffee delivery), we all learned a lot, and had a great time. I hope that the New Year finds you all well, warm and enthusiastic about the prospects of the coming field season.

The Executive Committee has been very busy over the late fall and winter, planning for the upcoming annual meeting. At the suggestion of several members and agency folks, we have planned to piggy-back the annual meeting on the Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference (sponsored by NEAFWA) in Saratoga Springs, which will be held April 7-9, 2013 ([www.neafwa.org](http://www.neafwa.org)). This is a great opportunity for our members to network with wildlife professionals from

the entire Northeast region – from Maine to Virginia. Student and professional members will have great access to agency personnel from a wide variety of federal and state wildlife and natural resource management agencies. The NYS Chapter is hosting a special session on the morning of Tuesday, April 9 called, Conservation Quandaries: Landscape Scale Decision Making. This will be a series of presentations and a panel discussion about managing wildlife resources on large land holdings such as parks, wildlife refuges, game lands, military bases, and large private or publicly owned land tracts. We are also co-sponsoring a workshop on Wildlife Health. These promise to be informative, thought-provoking sessions, and we look forward to your participation.

We will also have our annual business meeting at which we will elect our next Chapter President. If you are interested in getting more involved in the Chapter, or know someone that is, please submit your nominations for President-elect to our Chapter Past President, Rich LeClerc, at [rleclerc@danc.org](mailto:rleclerc@danc.org). As a reminder, the President position is a 4 year commitment: 1 year as President-Elect, 2 years as President, and 1 year as Past-President. I am at the half way mark, and can say with confidence that our outstanding Executive Committee makes the job easy, and it is a pleasure to serve the members and the Society.

We are also in need of nominations for the Chapter awards and NE Section awards (see related article on Pages 4-5). Many of our members deserve recognition for their contributions to the wildlife field, but rarely get the thanks they deserve. If you know

one of these people, please submit a nomination.

We will once again be raffling off a very well-equipped NuCanoe (<http://www.nucanoe.com>) at the annual meeting. Tickets are being sold by student chapters and the NYS Chapter Executive Committee for \$5 each or 5 for \$20, and tickets will be sold at the meeting. Some lucky ticket-holder will be taking home a nicely equipped canoe/kayak hybrid, but they will have to pry my hands off it first. Proceeds from tickets sold by student chapters will go to support student chapter activities and attendance at TWS meetings or events.

Finally, this newsletter represents the final handiwork of our departing newsletter editor, Chair of the Publicity and Communications Committee, past Vice President, and all around cheerfully helpful person, Valorie Titus. Val has moved out west to the wild frontier, where she will be too busy exploring wide open spaces to remind me that this column has to get done. The reins of the Publicity and Communications Committee are passing to Jenny Mastantuono, of USDA APHIS – Wildlife Services. Many thanks to Val for all her hard work for the Chapter over the years, and best of luck out west! Welcome, Jenny, and thanks for stepping up to help! For those that have articles or information for the next newsletter, you can reach Jenny at [nytws2013@gmail.com](mailto:nytws2013@gmail.com).

Hope to see you all at the annual meeting!

Mike Fishman  
-President

## Nominations Sought for President-Elect

The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for President-elect. If you are interested in serving the chapter please submit your name to Chapter Past President, Rich LeClerc, at [rleclerc@danc.org](mailto:rleclerc@danc.org). Submission by e-mail attachment (WordPerfect, MS Word, or Rich-Text Format) is preferred.

This position requires a four year commitment, and attendance at Executive Committee meetings which typically coincide with the Annual Business meeting, Fall Field meeting, and three other meetings generally held in May, August and December. The job description from the bylaws: President-Elect shall be elected in odd years for a term of approximately 1 year. Following the 1-year term, the President-Elect shall assume the office of the President and shall hold that office for a term of approximately 2 years. In addition, the Past-President shall serve on the Executive Committee for a 1-year period after the 2-year Presidential term is completed. The President-Elect shall assume the duties of the President upon the inability of the President to serve, and shall perform any duties assigned by the President. Gaining familiarity with the officers, committees and overall administration of the Chapter shall be a major function of this office. The President-Elect shall also serve as chairperson of the Nominating and Awards Committee.

## 2012 TWS Fellows Congratulations, Tim Green!



Dr. Timothy Green has been active in TWS since 1995. Tim currently works as the Natural Resource manager at Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island, managing the wildlife and other resources at the 5,265 acre facility. Tim received his Certified Wildlife Biologist credentials in May 2008. He has held numerous positions with TWS, including NY Chapter Secretary, President-elect, President,

and Past President of the Chapter. He routinely represented New York on the Northeast Section's Executive Committee, as well. This involvement led to his eventual election as President for the Northeast Section.

One of his most recent efforts has been establishing the national Renewable Energy Working Group. Tim is very passionate about renewable energy and the effects of energy consumption on wildlife and was an integral part in bringing this group to life. In the past few years, this group has grown and will continue to work to educate TWS members and the general public.

Tim has always been dedicated to student involvement in TWS. During his tenure as an officer for the New York Chapter, he assisted the New York student chapters in raising funds for travel to the TWS Annual Meeting, as well as working with students and faculty advisors to reestablish the Northeast Student Conclave. He also is active as a mentor at the Annual Meeting and always volunteers to work with students, encouraging students and young professionals to become involved with TWS.

Dr. Green's dedication to the mission of TWS is commendable. There are few that volunteer the amount of time he does to this organization. Please join us in sending Tim our congratulations!

## What I Did Last Summer: The Benefits of The Wildlife Society's Leadership Institute



Over the last 8 years, I have had the pleasure of serving as Chair of the Publicity and Communications Committee, as well as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President, and Annual Meeting Host for the New York Chapter. Thanks to the support of NY Chapter members and the NE Section, I was selected to participate in The Wildlife Society's Leadership Institute, Class of 2012. The Leadership Institute is a career opportunity of a lifetime. I had the opportunity to meet and work with early career pro-

fessionals from all over the country and all aspects of the wildlife profession that I may not have met otherwise. We exchanged ideas, discussed the future of wildlife and the evolution of the profession, learned the workings of council, and heard stories and advice from some of the most prominent leaders in TWS. We even discussed possibilities of our own collaborations for both TWS efforts and research efforts, and became a close-knit group of colleagues and friends that want to ensure the future of TWS and the wildlife profession.

Along with discussing what it takes to be a leader in the wildlife profession, we did a lot of inward reflection on how we can capitalize on our leadership strengths and strengthen our weaknesses. There were many readings, discussions, and activities that focused on what it takes to be a leader and we tackled some of the issues, including diversity and education, facing the wildlife profession.

We were assigned mentors from both council and past Leadership Institute participants. It was a great opportunity to meet with and discuss wildlife issues and discussion topics with colleagues that have the experience and knowledge to be wildlife leaders. We also had the privilege to conduct Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH) interviews. These interviews gave us the opportunity to interview seasoned wildlife professionals about their lives, careers, and the advice they have for students and young professionals. It was a very humbling experience and it was great to get the chance to work with such prominent figures in the wildlife community.

Overall, the Leadership Institute was one of the best experiences in my professional life. I learned so much about myself on a personal level and what my strengths are as a leader in the wildlife profession. I had the opportunity to get to know some amazing people and strengthen relationships with colleagues. I think it's critical to the future of The Wildlife Society and the wildlife profession to keep this program going and I encourage each section and chapter to support this program.

-Valorie Titus

*I want to send out a special THANK YOU to all of you who have made my experience serving the New York Chapter an unforgettable experience! Especially to Tim Green, who encouraged me to take on the Newsletter when I asked to get involved with NYTWS, and to all the Executive Committee Members, past and present, who have served as friends and mentors over the last 8 years: Charlie, Mike, Rich, Angie, Jacqui, Johanna, Jennifer, and so many others! Thank you!! Montana TWS, here I come!*



## NE Section of the Field Course Scholarship Recipient, John Vanek

In the spring of 2012, I had the pleasure of attending the NE Section of the TWS's Vermont Field Course by way of a scholarship from the NYS Chapter of TWS. I wish to thank the NYS Chapter with this essay describing the value of the course, what it meant to me, and how I will utilize this wonderful experience toward achieving my future career goals. To further give back and express my appreciation, I will be returning to the field course this year to help instruct the herpetological section of the class.



As I'm sure many of you reading this newsletter are aware, the NE Field Course is a spectacular opportunity offering students hands-on experience with a suite of techniques and personalities involved in the wildlife profession. The class is a highly intensive 2 weeks, featuring not only topical

lectures and readings, but more importantly, instruction and immersion in the outdoors coupled with the skills needed to be a competitive wildlife professional. The interdisciplinary nature of the course (traditional wildlife techniques, forestry, navigation, ecological monitoring, networking, etc) makes it applicable to a wide variety of students with different backgrounds: full-time graduate students, undergraduates, online students, and working professionals going back to school. Everyone who attends this course will learn something, and make wonderful connections that are increasingly important in today's workforce.

I came into the field course as newly matriculated graduate student at Hofstra University studying Eastern Hognose Snakes for an MS in Biology. After graduating in 2010 with a BS in Wildlife Science from SUNY-ESF, I took seasonal jobs with the USFWS, Archbold Biological Station, and Purdue University, complementing my undergraduate summer field experiences with the SUNY Research Foundation, Case Western Reserve University, and a fascinating ESF professor-student collaborative project consulting for an organic vineyard in Virginia.

However, despite what I consider a respectable amount of field experience (including radio-tracking black bears and timber rattlesnakes, flipping rocks for hellbenders, and trapping small mammals in the Adirondacks), I still learned an incredible amount at the field course. In addition to the plethora of new techniques I not only learned, but became familiar with, I gained competence with skills I had only been briefly exposed to. Considering my background, I think the value of the course becomes clear, as I can only imagine the amount of information less field-hardened students received from the class.

For me, this class was invaluable for another reason: networking. While I was extremely active in TWS as an undergraduate, Hofstra doesn't have a TWS chapter; it's just a general Biology school. One of the main reasons I enrolled was to continue to be engaged in the wildlife field, maintain and meet new contacts, and further entrench myself into the unique culture that surrounds the wildlife profession and TWS. After my MS, I have plans for a PhD (I have nerd genes), and the wonderful skills and contacts I made at the course have solidified my choice to apply to wildlife programs, and not just general biology departments. Whether I decide to work for an agency, consulting company, or head into academia, I know that this course has made a difference, and I will carry and share these experiences and skills with me throughout my wildlife journey.

## SUNY ESF Places Second in National TWS Quiz Bowl!



We are thrilled to have taken second place in the national wildlife quiz bowl in Portland, Oregon! Coming from a school that is often overshadowed by the Carrier Dome next door, we are incredibly proud that we were able to represent New York state and SUNY-ESF so well at the national conference of The Wildlife Society. We were able to defeat Purdue University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the University of Georgia before taking on Humboldt State University in the final round. We would like to acknowledge the faculty of

the Department of Environmental and Forest Biology for preparing us for the real world, and as a result wildlife quiz bowl competitions. We had an amazing time competing and have loved the experience of a national conference and seeing other schools from New York represented.

-Dave Keiter, Ernest Borchert, Vince Mangino, and Peter Iacono. Special thanks to Sara Hansen, Kyla Brick, and Neil Foley for their continuous support and further representation of our school.

## Guy's Marsh: A Memorial Wetland Restoration Project



In recognition of his many contributions, a special marsh restoration project is being planned as a lasting tribute to Guy Baldassarre's memory.

The project will protect and restore habitat for waterfowl and marsh birds, and provide excellent opportunities for public enjoyment of wildlife at a site located within the 50,000 acre Montezuma Wetlands Complex, 30 miles west of Syracuse, New York. Friends, colleagues, co-workers, students and others who knew Guy are encouraged to contribute by August 2013. All proceeds will be used as matching funds. [Click here](#) for information on how to donate to this memorial.

### TWS Websites:

[www.wildlife.org/chapters/ny/](http://www.wildlife.org/chapters/ny/)

[www.cobleskill.edu/nychapters](http://www.cobleskill.edu/nychapters)

[www.esf.edu/org/tws](http://www.esf.edu/org/tws)

[www.wildlife.org](http://www.wildlife.org)

Check us out on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)! Just click on each link to follow!

### Message From the Editor:

Please send any information you would like to see published in the Spring Newsletter in Microsoft Word format to Jenny Mastantuono ([nytws2013@gmail.com](mailto:nytws2013@gmail.com)) by March 1, 2013. Any photos are also welcome! Thanks!

## 2013 NOMINATIONS SOUGHT NEW YORK STATE CHAPTER

## THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

*The Chapter Awards continue an annual endeavor by our Chapter to recognize contributions to the wildlife profession by highly qualified individuals. Award recipients will be determined by a majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee, sitting as a Nominations and Awards Committee, and chaired by the Past-President. Nominations will be considered for the following awards:*

**Outstanding Professional:** This award will be made to a wildlife professional, or group of wildlife professionals working together, for outstanding, professional accomplishments in the wildlife field in New York State. Included in the criteria for judging the professional excellence of the nominees will be contributions to knowledge, innovation, importance, applicability, and leadership in any facet of wildlife work, including research, management, preservation, conservation, administration, education, and enforcement. Nominees for the award need not be members of NY-TWS. The person making the nomination must be a currently active member of NY-TWS, NE Section of TWS, national TWS, or a student TWS Chapter.

**Outstanding Conservationist:** This award will be made to an individual, or group of individuals working together, outside the wildlife profession, for significant contributions to the field of wildlife management; for furthering public understanding of the wildlife resource; or for developing, initiating, or coordinating programs in the wildlife management field which have notably enhanced the wildlife resource in New York State.

**Stuart Free Award:** This award acknowledges a legacy of diligent, focused, hard work. The award will recognize the effort of other individual(s) or groups who have exhibited tenacious effort and diligent professional service in a manner that is inspiring to their peers; and a cumulative contribution that has been overlooked or taken for granted. Like the Outstanding Professional Award, it is intended to encourage and reward the work, accomplishments and important contributions of an individual or group, as opposed to a specific accomplishment.

**Honorary Members:** This designation is conferred to persons who, by a majority vote of all Chapter members, have been thus recognized for their achievements; they do not pay dues but have all benefits of membership.

**Outstanding Student:** Awards will be considered for outstanding students in the following category:

*Outstanding Student Awards:* Two awards recognize outstanding professional service, scholarship, or outreach by students – one at the undergraduate level, and one at the graduate student level. Nominees need either be currently registered as a student or recently graduated (within the past academic year) from a two- or four-year institution in NY State, although students need not be NY State residents.

**Note:** At its 30 July 1993 meeting, the Executive Committee voted to drop the requirements that recipients of the Outstanding Student Awards be currently registered as students. This vote reflects a decision that these awards are intended to recognize past performance.

**Letters of nomination should be as detailed and specific as possible and reflect the true quality of the candidates. Selection of the recipients of the awards will be based entirely on the information submitted about the nominee to the Nominations and Awards Committee. Each nomination must be received by 28 February and should include the following information:**

1. Nominee's full name, present position or institution, address, telephone number, and e-mail address.
2. A clear statement supporting the nomination, including specific information about the nature of the accomplishment (who, what, where, when, why). General statements are very difficult to evaluate.
3. Supporting information such as publications, newspaper articles about the candidate or his/her programs, photographs; letters of recommendation from peers, supervisors and teachers; listing of outside activities, community service, volunteer organizations, and related materials.

Please submit your nominations for Chapter awards, with supporting information, to Tim Green, [tgreen@bnl.gov](mailto:tgreen@bnl.gov), Brookhaven National Laboratory, 120 E. Fifth Ave. - Bldg. 860, PO Box 5000, Upton, NY 11973. Submission by e-mail attachment (WordPerfect, MS Word, or Rich-Text Format) is preferred.

## Call for Nominations

### Awards Presented by Northeast Section, The Wildlife Society

#### The John Pearce Memorial Award

The John Pearce Memorial Award shall be made by the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society to Society members in the Northeast for outstanding professional accomplishments in Wildlife Conservation in the Northeast. The basic criteria for judging professional accomplishment of nominees shall be (1) contribution of knowledge and (2) leadership over a period of several years in any areas of wildlife work, including research, management, administration, or education - as evidence by publications, skillful development, and/or application of effective management or educational programs or methods. Any member of The Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society may nominate persons to be considered by the Awards Committee. The award may be made to an individual, or jointly to individuals who have worked together for several years.

#### Certificates of Recognition

In contrast to the John Pearce Memorial Award, which is presented for outstanding professional accomplishment, Certificates of Recognition may be awarded to people in any area of work, professional or non-professional, who have made noteworthy contributions to knowledge about wildlife or wildlife management, furthered public understanding, or who have made available increased wildlife habitat through modification of land use practices (e.g., agriculture, highways, forestry). Any member of the Northeast Section may recommend recipients of the Certificate of Recognition.

#### The P.F. English Memorial Award

The P.F. English Memorial Award is presented annually by the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society to the outstanding undergraduate senior student of wildlife biology or wildlife management within the region. Its purpose is to acknowledge and to encourage students, and to perpetuate the name of the late P.F. English, an outstanding educator, sportsman, and inspiration to youth.

#### Distinguished Service Award

The award is given by the parent Wildlife Society to a member of each section for their long term dedication and service to the society. Nominees must have been members of the parent society for more than 20 years. Nominees should have also served the society to help further in goals at the chapter, section, or international level. More information can be found at: <http://www.wildlife.org/who-we-are/awards/distinguished-service>. A final nominee will be selected among the candidates by the Northeast Executive Committee and submitted to parent society. The recipient will be provided an award lapel pin and certificate, to be given during the Awards Ceremony at the TWS Annual Conference.

#### *Nomination Procedure*

A full description of the awards can be found on the sections website:

[http://joomla.wildlife.org/NE//index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=184&Itemid=297](http://joomla.wildlife.org/NE//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=184&Itemid=297)

Submit candidate's names, justifications, resumes, and letters of support to the Awards Committee Chairman by 22 February 2013 (preferably via email).

Awards Committee Chairman:

Email: [higbie@bnl.gov](mailto:higbie@bnl.gov)

Jennifer Higbie

Brookhaven National Laboratory

PO Box 5000 Bldg 860

Upton, NY 11973

# New York Wildlife Society

**New York Chapter  
The Wildlife Society  
Membership Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: January 1, 2013-December 2013, regular \$15.00  
January 1, 2013-December 2013, student, \$5.00

Please Check: \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Regular \_\_\_\_\_ Student

Make check(s) payable to: "New York Chapter, TWS"

Return to: Jennifer Higbie  
Brookhaven National Laboratory  
PO Box 5000 Bldg 860  
Upton, NY 11973

