



# CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

Winter 2018 Volume 68

## CMPS Officers

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**Vice-President:**

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**Past-President**

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**Secretary/Treasurer:**

Ty Werdel

**TWS Council Representative:**

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## Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
CMPS Business	3
TWS Business	12
TWS Council Update	14
Upcoming Events	18
Executive Board Meeting Minutes	19
CMPS Directory	20



CMPS website:

<http://wildlife.org/cmp>

## Message from the President

Hello! My name is Adam Ahlers and I am honored to lead the Central Mountains and Plains Section of TWS for the next 2 years.

First off, I want to give a sincere thanks to our outgoing President (Andrea Orabona), Vice-President (Jim Hays), Secretary/Treasurer (Laurel Badura), and Members At-large (Shelley Deisch and Stephanie Ferrero) for their outstanding service to CMPS over the last few years. Their focused leadership and commitment to the wildlife profession has helped ensure that our Society is moving in the right direction. Andrea and Stephanie will remain with us as Past-President and Vice-President, respectively, and will continue to provide exemplary leadership in these new roles. I also want to welcome new officers, Ty Werdel (Secretary/Treasurer), Kyle McLean (Member At-large), and Tara Wertz (Member At-large), to CMPS. I am sure they will quickly learn the ropes and become valuable assets to our Society.

Since many of you do not know me, I thought I would give you an abbreviated introduction. I was born and raised in the Elkhorn River Valley in northeast Nebraska (in Clearwater if any of you know where that is). Much of my free time growing up was spent hunting, fishing, and trapping in the marshes, prairies, and woods that covered Antelope County. All of these activities helped pull me towards my current career in the wildlife profession. I worked a number of jobs and moved all over the world for a few years before settling down in Kansas. I am currently a wildlife biologist in the Flint Hills, but I have projects across the Great Plains and Upper Midwest. I have 2 young daughters that are super-excited about nature and we spend almost every weekend slipping into creeks and prairies in the Flint Hills searching for all kinds of wildlife and fossils.

For CMPS to be viable in the future, we need to recruit people into our professional society. Fostering strong relationships with early career professionals will likely have the most impact on this endeavor. I have 2 quantifiable goals that I would like to achieve during my tenure as President in regards to bringing early career professionals into CMPS. *My first goal is to add at least 1 new Student Chapter of TWS in each state.* We currently have 18 Student Chapters in CMPS and this will increase our Student Chapters by almost 40%. My second goal is broadly related to increasing diversity within our profession. I believe that inclusion of wildlifera from diverse backgrounds can strengthen our professional society and enhance our ability to manage wildlife into the future. *Of the 7 Student Chapters I propose adding to CMPS, my goal is for at least 2 of these Student Chapters to be from Tribal Colleges and Universities.* I will be reaching out to many of you in the next couple of months to talk about reaching these goals.

## President's Message (continued)

My next 2 years as President will likely see many challenges to wildlife populations and also to the wildlife professionals that manage them. I encourage all members to reach out to me with their concerns regarding any potential issues so we can work together as a team to solve them. Additionally, if you think there are specific areas where CMPS should have a greater presence, I welcome any suggestions or input you may have. The impact of our Society will be determined by the support and collaborations of our many members.

I look forward to meeting with many of you throughout the year and at our next annual meeting in North Dakota! Again, feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or suggestions to make our wildlife group a stronger Society.



U.S. Forest Service pack mule team hauls rock for restoration structures in the Gunnison Basin, Colorado.

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**Meet our new CMPS Executive Board Members  
on the following pages! Welcome to CMPS!**

## Section Business

### **CMPS Executive Board Vice-President Stephanie Ferraro**

Thank you for this opportunity to be a Vice-President candidate in the Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society. This role includes presiding over the Awards Committee and assisting the Section President. Through learning from the expertise of our past Vice-President, Jim Hays, who has served two terms in the position, I understand the responsibilities involved and am prepared for them. This spring I had the privilege of serving on an awards committee with The Wildlife Society and gained useful knowledge from the experience. My two-year term as a Member At-large Executive Board member for CMPS, which finished in August, has given me insight into how CMPS functions. In this role, I have enjoyed working with our President, Andrea Orabona, and the Executive Board Committee to strengthen CMPS, connect with members from across our Section, and encourage relationships between subsections.

From 2012-2015, I served as a Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society (CCTWS) At-large Board Member while working as a wildlife biologist for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. My CCTWS responsibilities included historical liaison and travel grant chair liaison. I had the honor of working with the Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH) program by documenting the history of TWS through the eyes of recognized leaders. To develop the skills I observed in COWCH leaders, I completed The Wildlife Society Leadership Institute (LI) in 2013. I have been helping recruit new LI applicants, as well as supporting alumni connections, since then to pay it forward and give back.

My background includes diverse, solid training in natural resources. I obtained my Bachelors degree in Biology from Azusa Pacific University, California. Afterwards, I helped conduct wildlife research with Colorado State University. I also took independent field courses through Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies in Washington State and Michigan. I earned my Masters degree in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I became certified as an Associate Wildlife Biologist® and now am a Certified Wildlife Biologist® through The Wildlife Society. Professionally, I recently completed a research project for the USFWS on furbearer species at Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge in Kansas, and teach Environmental Science at Johnson County Community College.

What motivates me is a profound appreciation and curiosity of wildlife. Born and raised in the mountains, I developed a love for the outdoors and wildlife because my family went hiking, biking, rafting, skiing, camping, fishing, and hunting. I love going on adventures in the woods and through the prairies with my husband, our daughter, and our 3 pup dogs.

We are fortunate to have such an energetic and dedicated Section of The Wildlife Society with a rich heritage of over 60 years. I want to see CMPS continue to grow toward reaching our mission and objectives. Our mission to represent and promote regional science across spatial scales requires everyone working together as a strong, vibrant network of active wildlife professionals who promote ethical wildlife-ecosystem management. It is an honor to serve on the CMPS Board as Vice-President for 2018-2020. I will really enjoy continuing on the team of CMPS Executive Board members, encouraging unity among the Chapters, collaborating with neighboring Sections, and helping promote CMPS membership to support wildlife conservation in our Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society.



## Section Business

### **CMPS Executive Board Member At-large Kyle McLean**

I am a student-trainee ecologist with the US Geological Survey's Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center in Jamestown, North Dakota. I have steadily increased my involvement with TWS since 2008. My journey into the wildlife world really took off in 2007 when I left my small apple orchard town in central Washington to attend college in North Dakota. Below I will give a brief description of this journey and my motivation for becoming more involved with the Central Mountains and Plains Section of TWS.

I completed my undergraduate degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Science at Valley City State University (VCSU, 2010) and a Masters in Environmental and Conservation Sciences at North Dakota State University (NDSU, 2015). Just one year into the Wildlife Science program at VCSU, I attended my first state TWS meeting. I have been a TWS member at the Parent, Section, and State level since 2009, and have served as a Student Chapter officer for both VCSU and NDSU. I worked for Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center for three years and am currently in the federal pathways program, which has allowed me to pursue a PhD at NDSU. Many of my research questions focus on biotic community response to climate and land-use in prairie-pothole wetlands. The goal of this research is to inform and aid in the development of proactive wildlife management strategies and policy.

I have a passion for wildlife research driven by a lifelong appreciation of nature. The effectiveness of research in conserving wildlife is minimal without the other members of the wildlife profession utilizing the information and prioritizing research areas. This understanding of the benefits of cohesion within the profession is the primary reason I choose to invest in The Wildlife Society.

Last year, I increased my involvement at the State level by serving as a Member At-large for the North Dakota Chapter of TWS. Recently, I was selected to participate in the 2018 TWS Leadership Institute. I will serve the Section to the best of my abilities in a way that reflects the priorities of the membership. As I alluded to earlier, my personal focus and motivation for being involved with TWS is communication and collaboration. In a time where information is everywhere and incredibly difficult to keep up with, the collective membership of the CMPS and TWS as a whole can utilize many eyes and voices to keep its membership abreast of the issues, and provide a vehicle for working horizontally within the profession.



## Section Business

### **CMPS Executive Board Secretary / Treasurer Ty Werdel**

I am currently a PhD student at Kansas State University conducting research on carnivores, specifically swift fox (*Vulpes velox*), and how they are affected by landscape change and intraguild competition in western Kansas. Previously, I received an M.S. degree at South Dakota State University, where I led research on the reintroduction of bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) to the Black Hills of South Dakota. My B.S. was earned at Chadron State College in northwestern Nebraska. When I'm not working on my research, I can usually be found outside hiking, fishing, camping, or hunting. My wife and I also recently gained a new family member, a puppy named Husker, so he is also a big part of our lives, and I spend a lot of time teaching him what things not to roll in or eat.



### **CMPS Board Member At-large Tara Wertz**

I am the refuge manager at Arapaho NWR in Walden, Colorado. I have worked for the USFWS since 2001 and worked in Alaska, Florida, and California. Prior to federal service, I worked as a regional habitat biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for 11 years, following a 2-year stint with the Iowa DNR as a forest game research technician. I received a B.S. degree in biology at Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky and an M.S. degree in Wildlife Science at South Dakota State University. I have served as a TWS board member with both the Oregon and Alaska State Chapters, and have been a member since 1980. I love to travel, am a self-proclaimed history geek, and can be bought with high-end craft dark beers.



## Section Business

### 2018 CMPS Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award Delivered

Ed Koger, co-recipient of the 2018 CMPS Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award, received his award plaque during the Red Hill Pollinator Field Day on June 26, 2018 at Sun City, Kansas. CMPS Vice-President Jim Hays, President-elect Adam Ahlers, and David Haukos (who nominated Ed Koger for the award) were all on-hand to present the award. The field day highlighted Hashknife Ranch, which Ed and his family run, for its mixed-grass prairie restoration and enhancement projects. The event was sponsored by the Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

For more information about Ed Koger's achievements, please see the 2018 Summer CMPS Newsletter.

**Please give some thought to potential candidates for the next CMPS Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award and the CMPS Professional Award.** Nominations should be e-mailed to the new CMPS Vice-President, Stephanie Ferrero (s.g.steinhoff@gmail.com), and must be received at least 45 days prior to the CMPS Annual Business Meeting to be considered. Visit the CMPS website for more information about this award and how to nominate a deserving individual.



CMPS Vice-President Jim Hays presented Ed Koger with the 2018 CMPS Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award for his life-long work toward prairie conservation. Photo credit: Tony Ifland.



Left to right: CMPS Vice President Jim Hays, Ed Koger (co-recipient of the 2018 CMPS Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award), David Haukos (who nominated Ed Koger for the award), and CMPS President-elect Adam Ahlers. Photo credit: Tony Ifland.

## Section Business

### In Memory of Harvey W. Miller

Harvey W. Miller, a life member of TWS, died July 10, 2018 in Delta, Colorado. He was 90.

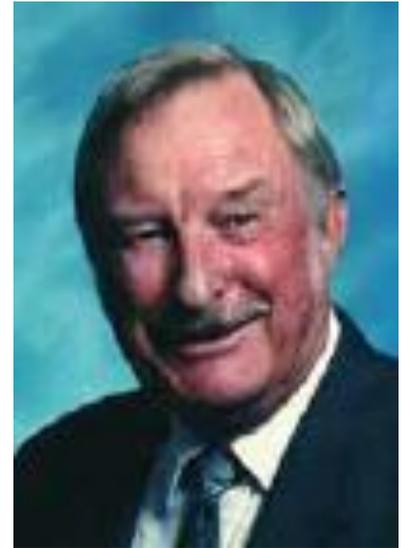
Miller joined the Society in 1951 and was the Central Mountains and Plains Section representative to Council from 1977 to 1983. He had a distinguished career as a wildlife biologist, and made modifications to cannon-netting equipment in 1957 that became known as the Miller cannon.

Miller started his career as a game warden and biologist with the Nebraska Game and Fish Commission and then moved to the Soil Conservation Service in Madison, Wisconsin. He served as a regional biologist at Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge in South Dakota before joining the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center in Jamestown, North Dakota. He served as the coordinator for the Central Flyway for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Lakewood, Colorado before retiring from the Playa Lakes Joint Venture Project in Lubbock, Texas.

Miller was an author on more than 20 scientific papers and a member of many wildlife and hunting organizations. He was a charter member of the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society and drew the logo it continues to use today, 55 years later. The Chapter recognized him with its award for outstanding contributions to the wildlife management profession.

He was also active in the Central Mountains and Plains Section, where he served as a Board member in 1956, as Secretary and Treasurer in 1957 and 1958, and as President in 1959. He served as Vice-President and Awards chairman in 1984, and in 2009 was honored as a Past-President. He also received the CMPS Professional Award in 1983.

Donations in Harvey Miller's name can be made to Colorado State University Mountain Campus, Pingree Park Student Scholarship Fund, in care of Roberta Brouwer, Warner College of Natural Resources, CSU, 1401 Campus Delivery, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-1401.



Harvey Miller. Photo courtesy of Carol Hillerson.



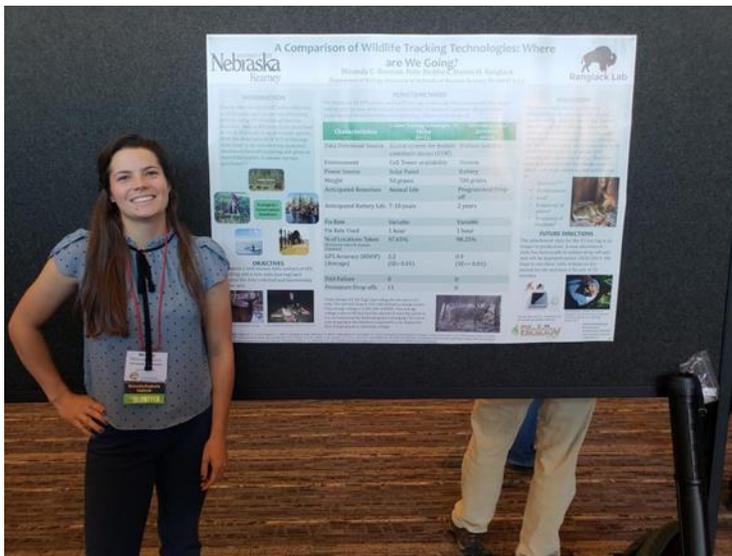
CMPS Past-Presidents at the 2008 Annual Meeting. Front row (left to right): Bob Lanka, Tom Ryder, Clait Braun, and Larry Bidlake. Back row: Len Carpenter, Gary White, Jerry Kobriger, Harvey Miller (5th CMPS President), Bob Wood, and Wayne Sandfort (1st CMPS President).

## Section Business

### Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant Awardee Reports

#### Miranda Reinson

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Cleveland, Ohio was a definite success. I have never visited Cleveland before, and visiting for the conference was a great first visit experience, from the opening networking night at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, to being a stone's throw away from Lake Erie. The conference center was awesome! The Huntington Convention Center over-looked Lake Erie and was laid out perfectly! I was given the opportunity to present a poster on wildlife tracking technologies, which allowed me to network and discuss work I am doing on white-tailed deer for my Master's project in the Central Mountains and Great Plains region. I met a lot of people from all different backgrounds and research fields, and gained a lot of connections as well as new research ideas and ways to improve myself as a researcher in the wildlife field. Thank you to the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society for helping support my attendance at this conference; overall it was an amazing experience. I am excited to hopefully attend the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Reno next year!



## Section Business

### Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant Awardee Reports (continued)

#### Utah State University

Returning from our time at the 25th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Cleveland, Ohio, our Student Chapter at Utah State University can only be grateful. Our group of seven went with a determination to get our names recognized, represent our school and the Quinney College of Natural Resources, and meet fellow researchers who could one day be our employers and advisors.

Four of us--Rylee Jensen, Eri Ethington, Kenen Goodwin, and Jaren Hutchinson--presented posters detailing our ongoing undergraduate research projects. Not only did we connect with a variety of professionals in this way, but this opportunity gave us a chance to learn from others about how to improve upon our projects even further. Another student, Erin Butikofer, gave an excellent oral presentation about her project with Dr. Michael Conover at USU; she was the only undergraduate speaker among the nine other presenters in that symposium! In addition to excelling individually, our group also worked together to compete against other Student Chapters in the Quiz Bowl! Our knowledge about mammalogy, botany, environmental policies, TWS history, and animal morphology was put to the test. Although we did not get the top spot, this was a great way for our team to collectively use our combined knowledge and have fun while doing it!

This conference was considerably beneficial for our understanding about this field. New studies about the latest technology and trends in wildlife research were discussed in daily symposia and workshops. For example, we learned about the behavior and movement patterns of various wildlife species, new ways to model statistical data, how to share ideas among stakeholders, and even how to write effective scientific papers. Along with several networking events (including one held at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame!), this was an advantageous opportunity to connect with experts across the country and further our own careers in wildlife ecology and management. The people we met here now know our names and can hopefully improve our chances of job



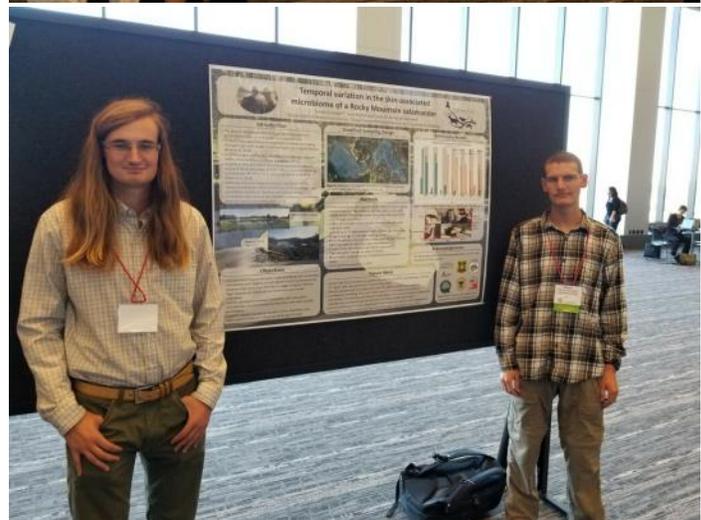
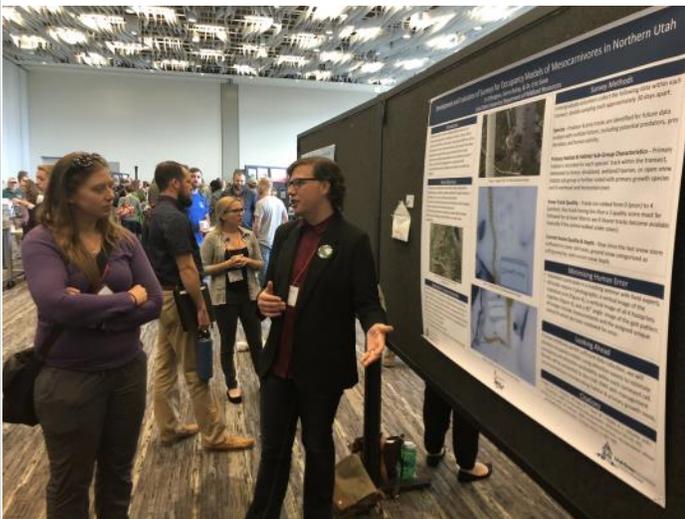
## Section Business

### Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant Awardee Reports (continued)

opportunities in the future.

All in all, the seven of us returned to Utah State University with renewed confidence, stimulated minds, and the urge to succeed as emerging wildlife professionals. Thank you to all of our supporters for making this experience possible.

*Rylee Jensen, Natalie D'Souza, Briana Henke, Kenen Goodwin, Jaren Hutchinson, Eri Ethington, and Erin Butkofer.*



## Section Business

### Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant Awardee Reports (continued)

#### Ashley Merkel

I attended The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. The four-day conference was filled with countless learning experiences, plenary speakers, and socials. I was overwhelmed by the number of daily seminars and presentations that were in my area of interest that take place all around the country. I was particularly excited to listen to a presentation about the potential existence of red wolves in Texas, my home state, as well as a seminar on efficient and effective science communication. I also attended the Ethnic and Gender Diversity Working Group meeting to learn how to help make the wildlife profession more diverse and inclusive. That was easily the most important talk I attended; as a minority female, making this field more inclusive is a personal goal of mine. Not only were the formal presentations highly educational, but the socials provided me with the opportunity to network with other wildlife professionals. There couldn't have been a better place for me to meet and get to know others who care as deeply about wildlife as I do. The Wildlife Society's conference was an amazing and extremely impactful experience. Attending the conference was a great way for me to continue stepping in the right direction towards a career in wildlife.

#### Clarinda Wilson

I'm excited to share my experience from the annual TWS conference in Cleveland, Ohio. This was my first TWS conference, and I tried to take in as many opportunities available as possible. The hardest part about the week was trying to decide which talks and events to attend; it seemed like at any given moment there were at least three events I wanted to watch!

I attended many research and poster presentations to help inform my graduate project on northern leopard frog populations. One of the highlights of the conference was the research presentation by Adam Duarte, a PhD student at OSU, who was using data I had collected as a seasonal field technician from 2013-2015 while working for the USGS in Oregon. The opportunity to see the analysis and results of field work I had performed was extremely gratifying and informative.

Another great experience was staffing the Western Colorado University booth to promote Western and the MEM program. It was fun to spend time at the booth to share my experiences and answer questions about life as a graduate student at Western, and to hear what other people are looking for in their continuing education. This opportunity to focus on wildlife research and management facilitated genuine connections with other students and professionals.

In addition to the research and poster presentations, the night with "another kind of wild life" at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame was a great experience that I would love to revisit. I also enjoyed the Student Chapter Leaders Lunch sponsored by the Boone and Crockett Club, the student-professional networking event, Wini Kessler's Aldo Leopold Keynote Address, and the Women of Wildlife Reception. The support of the Central Mountains and Plains Section of TWS through the Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant is greatly appreciated, and I look forward to continuing and expanding my membership with TWS into the future!





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 12

## TWS Business

### TWS News— Transforming Science Communication and Literacy

**A new report from Wiley sheds light on one of our profession's biggest challenges**

By Cameron Kovach  
TWS General Manager

We live in interesting times... I could stop there, link the report, and call it quits, but I'm not going to because I'm fascinated by the topic of science communication. In fact, nearly a decade ago I altered my career from studying wildlife to studying new frontiers in wildlife conservation. I say new frontiers because our profession is increasingly operating in uncharted territories. The world is changing, public attitudes are shifting, and skepticism towards science is increasing.

Gone are the days when we could produce a standalone scientific report, retreat to the field, and expect society to exhibit a heightened level of deference towards our research. Some may point to partisan politics or blame millennials because that seems to be a thing, but perhaps, we as a profession have failed to keep pace with the changing times. Our science may reach other scientists but is seemingly lost in the glut of information available to policy-makers and the public.

So, what's the solution? Unfortunately, there's no simple answer to that question, but Wiley's report—[\*To Know the World: Transforming Science Literacy and Communications to Improve Research Impact\*](#)—touches on several timely and thought-provoking concepts including:

- Recognizing the need for “translated” scientific information;
- Fostering curiosity and improving scientific literacy by inspiring others to ask questions and seek science-based answers;
- Making science relatable and the profession welcoming to all through providing diverse portrayals of scientists and by highlighting the personal stories of scientists;
- Contextualizing science and the scientific process; and
- Developing innovative ways to expand the audience and understanding of research.

This is not about becoming activists or about attacking the messaging of others. It's about improving our own messaging, becoming better storytellers, and figuring out ways to enhance our communication while still preserving the depth and integrity of our work. How can we as individual wildlife professionals shape our own personal networks, touch the lives of those around us, and inspire the next generation? Not every aspect of Wiley's report is relevant to wildlife professionals, but I hope the report sparks dialogue within your Section, Chapter, or Working Group while demonstrating that, while these are interesting times, we face boundless opportunity to forge new paths through the unknown.

What do you think? Is the increased skepticism towards science a good thing? What role should wildlife professionals play in communicating science? How do you share your science? Share your thoughts with us on social media @wildlifesociety or #wildlifesociety.

## TWS Business

### TWS News— Transforming Science Communication and Literacy (continued)

Wiley is the publisher of TWS' three premier wildlife journals—*The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Monographs*, and the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*.

#### November Issue of *The Journal of Wildlife Management* now available online

The next issue of *The Journal of Wildlife Management* is now available on early view through The Wildlife Society's new journal [hub](#).

With online access included as a membership benefit, TWS members are increasingly engaging with the latest research findings in wildlife science and management. Simply login to [Your Membership](#) directly through the hub to access the latest content or browse archive issues of *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Monographs*, and the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*.

Not a member of TWS? You can still access abstracts and some full studies through the hub. In fact, during the month of November everyone can access—[Survival and cause-specific mortality of desert bighorn sheep lambs](#)—a study with important management implications and difficult data to obtain.





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 14

## TWS Business

### TWS Council Report

By Bob Lanka, CMPS Representative to TWS Council

TWS Council met October 6, 7, and 11 in Cleveland, Ohio in association with the 25<sup>th</sup> TWS Annual Conference.

#### **TWS Budget and Finances**

For FY18, our budget goal was to be \$94,000 to the good. In actuality, end of year figures indicate that number was closer to \$265,000. Amazing! Council decided to take a good portion of those surplus funds and move them into the Permanent Reserve Fund. That fund functions as TWS's rainy day fund. The goal is to have at least 6 months operating cash based on the current fiscal year budget. For FY19 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019), the budget is \$2,724,350 with no surplus projected. Fifty percent of that number is \$1,362,175. With the transfer of funds from the FY18 surplus to the Permanent Reserve Fund, I am very happy to report we have reached that goal. The Executive Committee is now considering ways we can protect those funds by moving our investments to a more conservative strategy designed to protect the corpus.

#### **Independent Audit – FY18**

Every year, The Wildlife Society has an independent CPA firm conduct an audit of its accounting records and financial statements. The results of this examination are provided in a written statement known as an auditor's opinion. For the last fiscal year, ending June 30, 2018, The Wildlife Society again received an unqualified or clean opinion. A clean opinion is the highest mark an organization can receive and indicates that the organization's finances are fairly presented, accurate, and free of any material misstatements.

#### **Author Survey**

During June 2017, TWS sent surveys to 10,748 individuals who were either TWS members or were not members but had published a manuscript in a TWS journal. Those that had submitted a manuscript for peer review were asked to rate factors important to them when choosing a journal outlet. Of the 926 usable responses, 741 indicated they had published at least one peer-reviewed manuscript and 578 indicated they had submitted a manuscript for peer review in the last three years. Of these, 370 had submitted at least one manuscript to a TWS journal. Based on survey results, the Publications Subcommittee made five recommendations:

Increase quality of peer reviews. Only 26% indicated TWS peer review was inferior to other journals, but this was the top concern mentioned.

Strive to reduce time from submission to EIC decision. While turnaround time for JWM is better than other journals in natural sciences (TWS 57 days for JWM; average 77 days, WSB 92 days), that for WSB is slower. Nonetheless, survey results indicate time to EIC decision is of great importance to authors and a metric where TWS should continue to focus.

Clearly advertise time from submission to EIC decisions for all TWS journals.

Keep page charges competitive and transparent relative to other society journals. Among professional societies, TWS page charges are reasonable but something TWS should consider reviewing annually. Publish annually TWS page charges and the range charged by other societies.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 15

## **TWS Business**

### **TWS Council Report (continued)**

Evaluate tradeoffs associated with the addition of an open-access-(OA) only journal option. Survey results indicate 32% of survey participants consider an OA option important to very important. Interestingly and despite this result, an OA option was not among the most important factors considered by authors when choosing a place to publish. This is an incredibly complex issue and one that TWS will need to remain focused on.

#### **Associate-member Pilot Program**

Associate-member is a member category existing in the bylaws of TWS, as well as most Chapters and Sections. Associate-members are those that are members of their respective Chapter or Section but not a member of TWS. As might be expected, TWS is very interested in those who choose to engage as Associate-members since Associate-members have chosen to engage with TWS at some level and the number of Associate-members likely exceeds the number of members in TWS. The goal is to reach out to these individuals via e-mail and provide them with the *eWildlifer* approximately once per month so that they can see what their professional society is up to and so that they will consider membership. Associate-members will be given the chance to opt in and the option to opt out at any time if they choose.

#### **General Data Protection Regulation**

An important part of any member sharing personal data with TWS is how TWS protects and uses those data. Earlier this year, a new regulation under European Union law fundamentally changed how personal data are handled, not only in Europe but also across the globe. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) applies to any organization processing the personal data of an EU citizen, regardless of the company's location, and carries heavy fines for those organizations not in compliance. Key elements of GDPR include clear conditions for consent (i.e., not full of legalese), the right to access information about how personal information is being processed, the right to be forgotten/halt processing of personal data, privacy by design for all organizational measures, and designation of a data protection officer. Fortunately, The Wildlife Society has always taken the privacy of its members very seriously and has taken all necessary steps to comply with the new regulations. While not much has changed in how TWS processes personal information, they now have an updated [Privacy Policy](#) to make it easier for all members to understand what information is collected, why it's collected, how it's used and stored, and when and with whom it's shared.

#### **Privacy Policy**

Council has been discussing the need for a Volunteer and Staff Confidentiality Agreement for some time now. I think there are issues all of us could agree should be kept confidential. A partial list might include things such as: personnel actions, discussions related to new potential member benefits prior to those benefits being finalized, TWS member private information, election results, business relationships where the new partner asks TWS to keep the partnership confidential until their board is notified. No policy has been enacted on this topic, as it is still being discussed by Council. I am part of an ad-hoc committee looking into this issue and would appreciate hearing any thoughts you might have on this topic.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 16

## TWS Business

### TWS Council Report (continued)

#### Awards

I need your help on another item. TWS Fellows, Distinguished Service Award (DSA), and Group Achievement Award nominations are due May 1, 2019, as well as most other awards. See TWS's website at <http://wildlife.org/engage/awards/> for more information on each award and for details on how to nominate.

There has been some confusion regarding the differences between TWS's Fellows and Distinguished Service Award. In an attempt to further clarify and differentiate between the two, Council provided additional background. DSA winners will be selected by the Sections, and this award provides the Sections an opportunity to recognize dedicated individuals who have been TWS members for at least 20 years and provided exceptional service primarily at the Chapter and/or Section level. One DSA may be awarded per Section per year. TWS's Fellows Award is for those who have been a member of TWS for at least 10 years and have provided exceptional service to TWS. TWS Fellows are expected to serve as ambassadors for the Society and, as such, are expected to engage in outreach and other activities that will benefit and promote both TWS and the wildlife profession. Fellows can be nominated by anyone but are considered and selected by Council. No more than ten Fellows can be named each year and no more than two can come from a given Section.

The Group Achievement Award is designed to recognize an organization's (private or government) outstanding wildlife achievement that is consistent with and/or assists in advancing the objectives of TWS. Award winners are chosen by Council.

If you have someone you would like to nominate as TWS Fellows or a group you think is deserving of the Group Achievement Award, please get your nominations submitted by the deadline. If you are willing, please copy me with your nomination statement. Since the entire Council selects winners for these two awards, please copy me with your nomination statement so that I can speak for nominees from our Section. Since the DSA winner is chosen by the Section, please get your nominations to Adam Ahlers ([aahlers2@ksu.edu](mailto:aahlers2@ksu.edu)), CMPS President, before the deadline so that our Section Board can consider all nominees and vote.

#### 2019 Annual Meeting

The 2019 TWS Annual Conference will be held September 29 – October 3 in Reno, Nevada, a relatively easy destination for those in our Section. It will be a joint meeting between TWS and the American Fisheries Society. State agency directors through the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) have signed a letter of support for this conference. I hope that will help state agency folks get permission to attend. The meeting is in the full joint planning stage right now. Learn more at TWS's website <http://wildlife.org/2019-conference/>. I hope to see many of you there.

#### Closing Thoughts

On Tuesday November 6, I hope you took advantage of your rights as a citizen of the United States and went to the polls and voted for those you thought would best represent our country, your state, and all the rest. Contrary to many other countries, I also hope you noticed you were able to cast your ballot in an environment devoid of armed

## TWS Business

### **TWS Council Report (continued)**

individuals in military uniform. No matter your politics, we are all fortunate to live in the United States.

Besides living in our country, I personally feel fortunate to live in that country's least populated state – Wyoming. Outside influences and unlimited campaign spending by all sides try during every election cycle to turn our politics into the nasty affair it has become in so many other places, so far with limited success. Our new Governor-elect, who won with nearly 2/3rds of the vote, had this to say about his major party opponent:

“Throne is not an opponent. She is a colleague and a good friend, and somebody who cares deeply about Wyoming. I am very proud that she stepped forward to be in the race.”

I wonder if humility and dedication to service and not to self is a concept that can trickle up.

November 11, 2018—Veterans Day—was also the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War I. Armistice Day, as Veterans Day was originally known because it marked the day the armistice between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect, was first celebrated on November 11, 1919. On behalf of all veterans, I hope you flew the flag and thanked a veteran for their service. Service that brought freedom to many and service that has helped guarantee our rights as citizens of the United States for over 240 years.

Thanks for all you do.

*Feel free to contact Bob at [boblanka5839@gmail.com](mailto:boblanka5839@gmail.com) with any questions, comments, or concerns that he can address with TWS Council.*





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 18

## Upcoming Events

### **2019 Colorado Chapter TWS Annual Meeting**

Pueblo, Colorado

January 29—February 1, 2019

VENUE: Pueblo Convention Center

LODGING: Courtyard Pueblo Downtown Marriott

MORE INFORMATION: <http://wildlife.org/colorado/meetings/annual-meeting/>

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### **North Dakota Chapter TWS Annual Meeting**

Mandan, North Dakota

February 13—15, 2019

VENUE AND LODGING: Baymont Inn and Suites, Mandan, North Dakota

MORE INFORMATION: <https://ndctws.wordpress.com/category/annual-conference/>

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### **2019 Utah Chapter TWS Annual Meeting**

Springdale, Utah

March 20—22, 2019

VENUE: Canyon Community Center, Springdale, Utah

MORE INFORMATION: <http://wildlife.org/utah/annual-meeting/>

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### **CMPS Annual Meeting and Wildlife Federation National Grasslands Conference**

Bismarck, North Dakota

August 23—24, 2019

VENUE AND LODGING: Bismarck, North Dakota

MORE INFORMATION: <http://wildlife.org/cmp/annual-meeting/>

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### **American Fisheries Society and TWS Joint Annual Conference**

Reno, Nevada

September 29—October 3, 2019

VENUE AND LODGING: Reno, Nevada

MORE INFORMATION: [afstws2019.org](http://afstws2019.org) (launching May 1, 2019)



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 19

## Executive Board Meeting Minutes (August 31, 2018)

**Board Members Present:** Andrea Orabona, Laurel Badura, Adam Ahlers, Jim Hayes, Bob Lanka, Aleshia Fremgen, Krysten Zummo-Strong. **Other Members Present:** Bob Lanka.

**Andrea called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Our current balance is \$9,146.20. Adam moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Krysten seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Election Results:** Adam Ahlers was elected CMPS President (2018-2020). Stephanie Ferrero was elected Vice-President (2018-2020). Andrea Orabona became Past-President (2018-2019). Ty Werdel was appointed as Secretary/Treasurer (2018-2020). Tara Wertz and Kyle Mclean were elected as Members At-large (2018-2020).

**Newsletter Editor:** Aleshia updated the Board on the newsletter. Aleshia agreed to continue to be newsletter editor for the Section. Aleshia reported the next deadline for articles for the newsletter is November 1, 2018.

**Survey Monkey:** TWS sets up a free election page for you. This way we can avoid Survey Monkey and the fees associated with getting our full results. The Section must contact TWS at least one month prior to the opening of the election to get the information on the website.

**Student-Travel Grant:** Andrea has sent out the applications to the Board and is requesting the Board reviews the applicants. The Board discussed funding for current applications. The Board wishes to maintain flexibility in providing funding up to the \$500 amount per individual. The new Board will vote on the receivers of the grant once the Board is installed on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**CMPS Student Representative:** Krysten suggested we contact the advisors of the Student Chapter representatives to seek nominees for our next Student Chapter representative. Adam suggested we start seeking student representatives from our next Section Meeting hosts. North Dakota will host the meeting in 2019, Wyoming in 2020, and Utah in 2021.

**CSU-Pueblo Student Chapter:** CSU-Pueblo has submitted a petition to establish a new Student Chapter. The petition has met the requirements for formation. Andrea received information regarding the new Student Chapter that she shared with the Board.

**TWS Priorities:** Bob is serving on a committee to determine priorities regarding TWS Priorities. The committee has narrowed it down to six different priorities but will be seeking input from the Chapters and Sections before they make a final recommendation to Council. Bob has asked the Section to narrow our recommendations down to two priorities when we submit comments.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:39 pm.**



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

## CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS SECTION DIRECTORY

Position	Held By		
<b>STATE CHAPTERS</b>			
<b><u>COLORADO</u></b>			
President	Pat Magee		
President-Elect	Krysten Zummo-Strong		
<b><u>KANSAS</u></b>			
President	Brad Rueschhoff		
President-Elect	Justin Hamilton		
<b><u>NEBRASKA</u></b>			
President	Matt Steffl		
Past-President	Jennifer Prenosil		
<b><u>NORTH DAKOTA</u></b>			
President	Rick Warhurst		
Past-President	Rick Nelson		
<b><u>SOUTH DAKOTA</u></b>			
President	Alex Solem		
President-Elect	Eric Magedanz		
<b><u>UTAH</u></b>			
President	Stephanie Graham		
President-Elect	Daniel Olson		
<b><u>WYOMING</u></b>			
President	Ben Wise		
President-Elect	Embere Hall		
<b>STUDENT CHAPTERS</b>			
<b><u>CO STATE UNIVERSITY</u></b>			
President	Charlee Manguso		
President-Elect	James Kelleher		
Advisor	Stewart Breck		
Advisor	Larissa Bailey		
<b><u>CSU-PUEBLO</u></b>			
President			
Advisor	Claire Ramos		
<b><u>WESTERN STATE COLORADO UNIVERSITY</u></b>			
President	Marcel Such		
President-Elect	Erin Blair		
Advisor	Patrick Magee		
<b><u>EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY, KS</u></b>			
President	Curtis Defore		
President-Elect	Chase Beyer		
Advisor	William Jensen		
<b><u>KS STATE UNIVERSITY</u></b>			
President	Caroline Skidmore		
President-Elect	Rachel McNemee		
Advisor	David Haukos		
<b><u>CHADRON STATE COLLEGE, NE</u></b>			
President	Will McClintic		
President-Elect	Kaleb Puncochar		
Advisor	Teresa Frink		
<b><u>UNIVERSITY OF NE - KEARNEY</u></b>			
President	Carson Schultz		
President-Elect	Breana Dobesh		
Advisor	Dustin Ranglack		
<b><u>UNIVERSITY OF NE - LINCOLN</u></b>			
President	Samantha Lange		
President-Elect	Ashley Anderson		
Advisor	Dennis Ferraro		
Advisor	Elyse Watson		
<b><u>WAYNE STATE COLLEGE, NE</u></b>			
President	Kylie Comba		
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Advisor	Mark Hammer		
<b><u>ND STATE UNIVERSITY</u></b>			
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President-Elect	Shelby Lewis		
Advisor	Erin Gillam		
<b><u>UNIVERSITY OF ND</u></b>			
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President-Elect	Alyssa Espinoza		
Advisor	Jason Boulanger		
Advisor	Susan Ellis-Felege		
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President-Elect	Nicholas Kramer		
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<b><u>SD STATE UNIVERSITY</u></b>			
President	DJ Reker		
President-Elect	Desirae Hertling		
Advisor	Kent Jensen		
<b><u>BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY, UT</u></b>			
President	Sydney Lamb		
President-Elect	Ben Hoose		
Advisor	Tom Smith		
Advisor	Steve Petersen		
<b><u>UT STATE UNIVERSITY</u></b>			
President	Margaret Hallerud		
President-Elect	Daniel Johnson		
Advisor	Dave Dahlgren		
Advisor	Frank Howe		
<b><u>WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY, UT</u></b>			
President	Jennifer O'Leary		
President-Elect	Rachel Budge		
Advisor	John Cavitt		
<b><u>UNIVERSITY OF WY</u></b>			
President	Trevor Thorvaldson		
President-Elect	Colton Hoffer		
Advisor	Merav Ben-David		