



WINTER 2015

MISSOURI CHAPTER OF
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
Newsletter

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2015

Executive Board

Anthony Elliott, President
3500 S. Baltimore
Kirksville, MO 63501
Day phone: 660-785-2424 ext. 6528
Fax: 660-785-2553
E-mail: Anthony.Elliott@mdc.mo.gov

Ryan Diener, President-Elect
1004 Vondera Ave.
Union, MO 63084
Day phone: 636-399-8733
Fax: 855-835-5203
E-mail: RDiener@quailforever.org

Ted Seiler, Past President
2108 US Hwy. 63
Macon, MO 63552
Day phone: 660-385-2616 ext. 118
Fax: 660-385-4920
E-mail: Ted.Seiler@mdc.mo.gov

Mary Crowell, Secretary
711 Pointe Baase Dr.
St. Genevieve, MO 63670
Day phone: 573-415-7330
Fax: 855-830-7530
E-mail: MCrowell@quailforever.org

Scott Sudkamp, Treasurer
26300 S. 2325 Rd.
Sheldon, MO 64784
Day phone: 417-884-2033
E-mail: Scott.Sudkamp@mdc.mo.gov

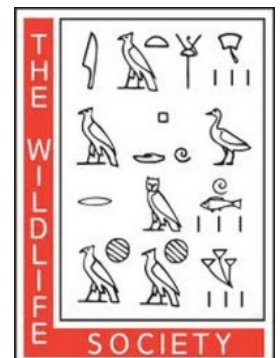
Charles Anderson, Board Member
2901 West Truman Blvd
Jefferson City, MO 65109
Day phone: 573-522-4115 ext. 3191
Fax: 573-526-5582
E-mail: Charles.Anderson@mdc.mo.gov

President's Corner	2
Treasurer's Report	3
MNRC Info	3
Travel Grants	4
Student Chapter Updates	4-5
Section Update	6
Trip Report	7-8
Nominee Biographies	10-11
Ballot	12

2015 MOTWS Committees

Audit-----Kevin Hedgpeth
Chambers Scholarship-----Luke Miller and Ryan Diener
Education/MU Fellowship-----Josh Millspaugh
Farmer/Conservationist-----Jeff Powelson
MNRC Steering-----Shane Kampeter
Membership----- *Vacant*
Nominating/Elections-----Andrew White
Professional Development-----Jason Sykes and Andrea Schuhmann
Resolutions/Public Statements-----Tom Kulowiec
Runge Award-----Charles Anderson
Raffle/Auction----- Eric Merritt and Nate Mechlin
Operations Manual-----Margie Mitchell
Stephens Award-----Anonymous
Cons. Heritage Scholarship-----Tom Kulowiec
Technology -----Tom Kulowiec (web) & Jennifer Mittlehauser (listserve)
Historical Committee --- Margie Mitchell

***If you are interested in any of the vacant Committee positions,
please let Tony Elliott know!
We are always looking for new member involvement!***



President's Corner

by Anthony Elliott

Happy Holidays everyone, I hope you all had an opportunity to relax and spend time with family and friends during the past few weeks. I know many of us are working on fun things like budgets this time of year, but it is also time to reflect on past experiences and plan for new ones. As my term as chapter President comes to a close, I am proud of the year that we had, but also look toward continued chapter growth in the future.

Earlier this year MOTWS submitted comments on conservation related bills that were being considered in the Missouri legislature. We also participated in the Conservation Federation of Missouri's (CFM) Conservation Day at the Capital and held the student workshop at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area.

This summer the Executive Board approved two travel grants to support professional development trips by chapter members. The Board also voted to provide funds to the Chambers Scholarship fund and establish a dedicated raffle for continuing support of the scholarship. This raffle will be held at the CFM convention.

Several Board members attended the second annual CFM Affiliate Summit in September. This summit emphasizes the breadth of support for conservation in Missouri. It also emphasizes potential challenges that stem from such a diverse membership, resulting in a need for open communication and for members to focus on shared values of conservation. The diversity of

members and affiliate organizations is the strength of CFM and an important role of organizations such as MOTWS is to provide science based information to support the advocacy of CFM and affiliates.

There are many challenges facing us as wildlife professionals in Missouri. The amount of bush honeysuckle and teasel visible while driving many roads this fall has struck me recently. We recently learned of a new chronic wasting disease location in deer and white-nose syndrome is affecting bat populations across the state. We have also seen many attempts in the legislature to modify how conservation is funded and implemented. Several similar bills have already been pre-filed for the next legislative session. There are also continued successes; our membership is hard at work every day putting effective management on the ground, protecting natural communities and resources throughout the state and conducting research

that will guide future management. In October, I got the chance to present our 2014 Farmer

"There are many challenges facing us as wildlife professionals in Missouri."

Conservationist Award to Kevin Strange at the Quail Forever banquet in Edina. We officially announced this award at the February business meeting, but Kevin was unable to attend. It was

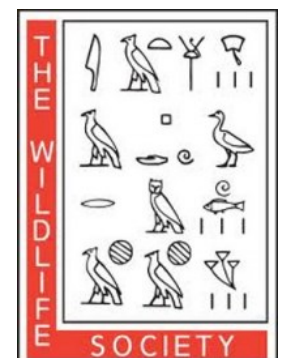


Tony Elliott checks for signs of white-nose syndrome.

a real thrill to recognize Kevin in his hometown along with his friends and family. As wildlife professionals we need to collaborate among ourselves and with conservation partners to lead the way into the future.

An important chance for MOTWS membership to have influence on the chapter's path forward includes electing new officers. Please take a few minutes to read the biographies of the candidates for Treasurer and President-Elect later in the newsletter and cast your ballots. I truly appreciate the candidates agreeing to be nominated and look forward to working with those who get elected. Serving on the MOTWS Executive Board is a great opportunity to serve our profession. There are almost always committee positions available, contact any Executive Board member to express your interest in committee membership.

I hope to see most of you at the annual business meeting at the MNRC on February 4. Let's continue to work together exploring ways for MOTWS to effectively represent Missouri's wildlife professionals. Feel free to contact me any time.



Treasurer's Report

1/1/2015 – 12/10/2015

Scott Sudkamp, Treasurer

DEBITS	
MNRC Expenses	-\$1,286.98
Supplies	-\$49.00
Workshop Expenses	-\$473.01
Awards	-\$41.25
Miscellaneous	-\$240.00
TOTAL 2015 DEBITS	-\$2,090.24

CREDITS	
Beginning Balance	\$4,355.62
Memberships	\$1,881.09
MNRC Income	\$1,786.83
Misc. Income	\$8.58
Workshop Income	\$60.00
TOTAL 2015 CREDITS	\$3,736.50

TOTAL CREDITS INCLUDING BEGINNING BALANCE	\$8,092.12
---	------------

BANK BALANCE	\$6,001.88
--------------	------------

2015 INCOME OVER EXPENSES	\$1,646.26
---------------------------	------------

SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$54.84
-------------------------	---------



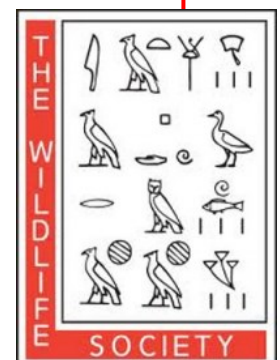
Scott likes to chase birds when he isn't balancing the MOTWS Checkbook.

2016 MNRC



***"Balancing Economics, Conservation and Adaptive Management
in a Changing World"***

February 3rd, 4th, & 5th, 2016 at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage
Beach Missouri



Winter Travel Grant Deadline is February 15!

Get your requests in today!

The MOTWS Travel Grant is available to all paid MOTWS members for travel to conferences. The Grant was developed to assist members in travel costs to conferences and workshops.



"additional funds such as the MOTWS travel grant could be just what you need to convince your boss to let you make that trip!"

The travel grant funds can be used toward travel not only to Wildlife Society events (such as the National Conference), but also other professional workshops and conferences throughout the country. In these days of tight budgets for all agencies, additional funds such as the

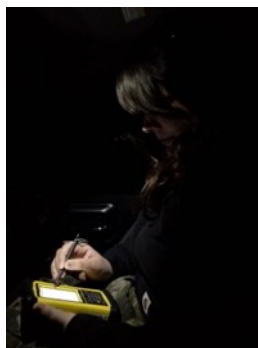
MOTWS travel grant could be just what you need to convince your boss to let you make that trip! **There are two application periods for the Travel Grant. The 2016 Winter application deadline for travel grant funds will be February 15. The 2016 summer deadline will be August 15.** Go to the website at www.wildlife.org/missouri-chapter/about/ for more details.

Student Chapter Reports

Missouri Western State University Student Chapter

This has been another amazing semester for our Student Chapter. Our members have been very active in a variety of different projects and events since our last report in November. We have been able to assist several of our partners with numerous different events. Our work with Missouri Department of Conservation has been very extensive throughout November and December. We were also able to work with Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge to work towards several management goals. Over the course of the last month and a half, our biggest event has been Eagle Days. In addition to working extensively with our partners, we achieved several of our own projects.

Missouri Department of Conservation made the call again this year and we answered. They asked us to staff four different check stations across the state for opening week of firearms deer season. At these stations, we collected hunter harvest data including county of harvest, age of deer harvested, measurement of antlers on bucks, and head



measurement. These morphometric data were collection in addition to the lower incisors of

the deer for aging purposes. The data we collected during this weekend is used to help monitor deer populations and set future hunting regulations. Also, on opening weekend, two of our members, Carly Compton and Calvin Wakefield, assisted Missouri Department of Conservation with retropharyngeal lymph node to help monitor chronic wasting disease, or CWD, in whitetail deer. They also collected exact harvest location, age, and hunter information. We also helped the department to teach several more Hunter Education courses. With the Department of Conservation, we also assisted with the Share the Harvest program. So far we have transported 306 lbs venison to Second Harvest, thus enabling 1632 meals for the needy (based on USDA minimum requirements).

Student Chapter Reports cont.



With Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge we have been very active to do several events. We began with another habitat work day. At this event we collected wildflower seeds and began the drying process of the seeds. These seeds will be planted come spring to help reestablish high quality prairies across the refuge. We were able to assist the refuge staff with their annual managed wheelchair hunt. During this we helped to remove harvested deer from the field and process them. We also collected various measurements from the deer, including weight, age, and several other morphometric measurements. One of our members, Calvin Wakefield, guided a disabled hunter during the course of the weekend. Seven deer were harvested by six hunters. The data collected during this hunt combined with the data our chapter was able to help collect with spotlight point count surveys should help guide the management of whitetail deer at the refuge. The final event we were able to assist with at Squaw Creek is their new bird radar detection surveying. During this ongoing event, we help the biologist of the

refuge use a radar system to locate and identify bird species and numbers around the refuge and surrounding area to help establish diversity and relative abundance indexes.

The largest event we were able to assist with this past month was Eagle Days at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge. Eagle Days is squaw creeks largest visitor weekend. This massive cross agency outreach and education event allowed our members to work side by side with Fish and Wildlife Services, Missouri Department of Conservation, Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Master Naturalist, and



Friends of Squaw Creek members, to education the public about eagles and the environment. Our members helped staff view stations, shuttle busses, parking, eagle shows, refuge introductions,

bus loading at the headquarters, patrols around the auto tour route, provided assistance to visitors, worked with Puddles the refuge mascot, made buttons, put on tattoos, counted traffic, introduced the live eagle show, acted as a Refuge tour bus guide, and helped set up and clean up for the event.

In addition to these

events, we were also about to work on our own projects. Our tutor our own mentorship program was revamped and reestablished. This program helps struggling members by assigning them a mentor to help them with courses, time management, and with getting them involved. It has experienced immense success especially with getting new members active and involved. We also conducted our semester end Beast Feast, a banquet style meeting to celebrate the end of the semester. We had several professionals at this event and it was a massive success.

To sum it up, this has been a very active month and a half since our last report. We have done much work with Missouri Department of Conservation including staffing several stations for check station during opening weekend of firearms deer season. At Squaw creek we did several events to assist with the management of the habitat and the wildlife that inhabits it. We also helped to staff Eagle Days at Squaw Creek. Over all, we have been have a great time developing our professionalism and skill sets.



New North Central Section Website Now Up

The North Central Section of TWS now has a new website. The site has been moved and is now hosted by national. This will make navigation around the site easier and more familiar. Please visit

the site and see what the North Central Section has been up to. Also consider upgrading your membership to include membership in your sectional society! The NCS is hoping to build

stronger relationships with state chapters and to be of more support to state and individual members in the region.

www.wildlife.org/ncs

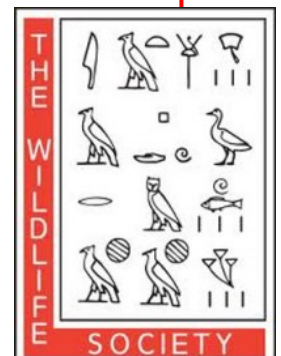


Please Don't Forget to Pay Your Dues!

State Chapter dues (\$15.00 for regular member and \$8.00 for students) are important to maintain our funds towards projects, the website, scholarships, workshops, and travel reimbursements. Please remember to pay your dues by mailing your payment to:

**Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife
Society
PO Box 743
Columbia, MO 65205 – 0743**

Or you can pay annually at MNRC, or when you renew your parent Society membership.



3rd Biennial America's Grasslands Conference: Trip Report

Ryan Diener

The 3rd Biennial America's Grasslands Conference was held in Fort Collins, Colorado. The theme of the conference was "Partnerships for Grasslands Conservation." The three day conference included field trips to local working grasslands and two days of concurrent sessions and discussion panels. I also had the privilege of giving a presentation on the success stories of three landowners in MO that have restored working grasslands using federal, state, and local cost share programs. What really stands out about this conference is the varied backgrounds of the attendees. Unlike most professional conferences, there are many producers and private landowners that attend. These individuals add a lot to the discussions, and the change in perspective is sometimes very eye-opening.

On the first day of the conference, I went along on a field trip to the Pawnee National Grasslands. The shortgrass prairies of eastern Colorado were already browned out for the year. Leaving the landscape much bleaker looking than we experience at the end of September in Missouri.

The wet weather this past spring and summer had encouraged more grass and forb growth on the grasslands than most locals could remember for a very long



time. Several Forest Service rangelands biologists and local ranchers comment-

ed on never seeing the amount of forage on the ground as they did this year.



The National Grasslands had responded to the precipitation much better than some surrounding rangelands because the USFS has been working for years with ranchers that lease the grasslands to improve the grazing management. Rotational grazing, improved water



"These (producers and private landowners) add a lot to the discussions, and the change in perspective is sometimes very eye-opening."

access, and even some prescribed burning has improved the health of the grasslands, and allowed for even more production than traditional management

practices. The improved health of the grasslands was supporting a more diverse flora and fauna than the surrounding overgrazed private lands, as well.



During the opening plenary session, Dr. Chip Taylor, director of Monarch Watch, gave an impassioned talk about the plight of the Monarch. He laid out some steps that need to be taken to help reverse the decline. Here in the Mid-

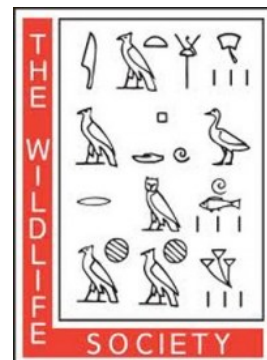
west, the key is to protect areas where milkweeds still naturally grow, and to also begin including milkweeds in all native plantings that go into the ground. The goal of Monarch Watch is to distribute and plant 2 million milkweed seedlings in the next year.

Carol Davit gave the keynote address to kick off the conference. She highlighted the fact that we were lucky to be in an area with so much native prairie left on the landscape, whereas Missouri has less than 1% of its original prairie left. These remnants are highly important and need to be protected. The remnants contain higher levels of biodiversity than we can mimic with a replanting. They still maintain species of plants and animals that can be found nowhere else, some of which we still know very little about.

There were several breakout sessions focused on conserving grasslands through carbon markets or habitat exchanges. These are systems that are still being developed, but may hold promise for the future of grassland conservation. They could help provide a monetary incentive for producers to keep native grasslands, or restore grassland habitat in perpetuity. Habitat exchanges are being developed in several states right now, but currently only California has a system set up to trade carbon credits on an open market.

A couple of breakout sessions featured ranchers that were attending the conference. One ran a sheep and cattle oper-

ation in the Central Valley of California. He spoke on how to better



America's Grasslands Conference: Trip Report continued...

work with ranchers as wildlife or range-land professionals. A key message was to become a trusted member of the community and begin to understand the land ethic that ranchers already have. Once you understand this, you can begin to foster more of a Leopoldian Land Ethic with them. Another session featured a husband and wife from South Dakota. They underscored the importance of acknowledging the land ethic of ranchers and working within that to foster a relationship. Progress in conservation will happen only when working with ranchers to improve their operations, not by coming in and making demands or forcing concessions for the sake of wildlife. They also spoke on the idea

that change is scary for most landowners, so ensuring that changes made will lead to an improvement in production will garner trust and allow for further progress in conservation on a ranch.

Much of the third day of the conference showcased examples of partnerships around the country that are leading to grassland conservation. Partnerships to put more resource professionals on the ground have been successful in many states. NRCS and state agencies have partnered with Pheasants Forever, Point Blue Conservation, and Bird Conservancies in several states. These NGO biologists have been able to broaden the reach of all parties involved within the grassland user base. I presented during

this breakout session on the success of several programs in MO at restoring native grasslands on working cattle operations. The presentation was well attended and garnered many questions about the details of some of the programs that made them so successful.

In short, grassland conservation will not be successful in this country without partnerships and cooperation between government agencies, NGO's, and ranchers/landowners that work the land. Working grasslands will save ranchers and ecosystems if we can all find a way to work mutually for everyone's benefit.

GET INVOLVED!

Sign Up
HERE!



LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER



Sign Up TODAY
www.confedmo.org/lac

The Legislative Action Center

It is now easier than ever to influence legislation affecting conservation in Missouri. With CFM's new Legislative Action Center, you can vote on legislation, comment on legislation and contact your legislators with the click of a button. Join the Legislative Action Center to have your voice heard like never before.

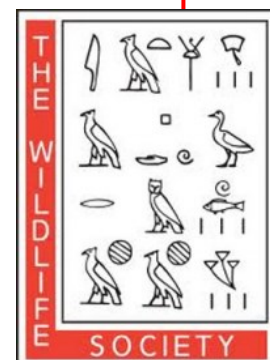
www.confedmo.org/lac



The Conservation Federation of Missouri exists and operates to ensure your passions of hunting, fishing, wildlife watching and overall outdoor enjoyment remain for today and tomorrow.

www.confedmo.org/join

Conservation Federation of Missouri
@confedmo



**MISSOURI Chapter of
The Wildlife Society**

Primary Business Address
PO Box 743
Columbia, MO 65205

President - Tony Elliott
Phone: 660-785-2424 ext. 6528
Fax: 660-785-2553
Email: Anthony.Elliott@mdc.mo.gov

*Focusing attention on the
professional wildlife needs,
problems and events of concern
within the State of Missouri.*



Please see the following pages for the biographies of the individuals up for election this year. The offices to be filled include President-Elect and Treasurer



Application Information

Missouri Chapter of
The Wildlife Society

The Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society cordially invites you to join us! If you haven't already done so, take a look at [what we are all about](#). You do **not** have to be a member of our parent society, [The Wildlife Society](#) to join our State Chapter. However, if you would like more information about our parent society, visit their site at www.wildlife.org/.

Annual Dues are just \$15.00 for regular members and \$8.00 for students.

As a member you will receive:

- The opportunity to interact with other wildlife professionals in Missouri.
- The opportunity to serve on committees and working groups which actively influence wildlife conservation and management in Missouri.
- **The opportunity to attend professional development workshops and symposia.**
- A semi-annual newsletter

To Join: Down-load a [membership](#)

form (in PDF format)
OR

Send us your:

name
mailing address
phone number (optional)
Fax number (optional)
e-mail address (optional)
along with your \$15.00
dues (make Checks payable
to Missouri Chapter TWS)
To:

Missouri Chapter of The
Wildlife Society

P.O. Box 743

Columbia, MO 65205 - 0743

If you just would like more information, you
can look us up at <http://wildlife.org/missouri-chapter/>.

We Hope Hear From You!!

Biographies for Candidates for MOTWS Executive Board Positions

Candidate for President-Elect - Brad Jump

Personal data:

I was born in Southwest Missouri, and currently live on the same farm where I was raised in Webster County. Over the course of my 30+ year career in Conservation I have lived in every corner of Missouri. I grew up hunting and fishing in the hills and hollows of the Ozarks and still enjoy those pursuits today. Some of my fondest memories growing up are trips with my grandfather to duck hunt at Schell Osage. I still have his old bakelite P.S. Olt duck call which I try to use every year. My wife of 31 years, Miriam, is from the province of Bocas Del Toro in Panama where we still enjoy visiting. We have one grown son, Stuart. I have been very active in the Boy Scouts of America, holding various positions of responsibility over the last 15 years including Scout Master, Assistant Scout Master, Chaplain, and Crew Advisor for Troop 88 in Marshfield, Mo. I also play drums and Latin percussion in a local classic rock and blues band the Red City Dogs.

Education:

B.A., Biology; Minor, Chemistry and Art; College of the Ozarks, 1985

Employment History:

I began my career with the Missouri Department of Conservation managing the wetland areas of Fountain Grove, Grand Pass, Ten Mile Pond and Otter Slough before returning to the uplands of SW Missouri in 2001. I have trapped everything from ruffed grouse in Minnesota, to Eastern Wild Turkeys in Missouri. I was involved in the Missouri Black bear project from 2010-2014. I retired from MDC after 29 years of faithful service in June 2014. During my tenure at MDC I was nominated twice for Wildlife Division employee of the year, and received four Wildlife Division Achievement awards. I was honored by Private Lands Division in 2011 with a "Team" award and in 2010 by Habitat for Humanity with their "Golden Hammer" award. I am currently a Wildlife Biologist with the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services in the Missouri/Iowa Program and I serve as their Missouri Feral Swine Coordinator.

Wildlife Society Activities:

I have been a member of the State and National Chapters of the Wildlife Society for at least 15 years. Some of my recent Wildlife Society activities include assisting with the spring workshops, attending the annual business meetings, and serving as Donations Coordinator in 2010 when Kevin Hedgpeth was President. I teach MDC level 1 burn workshop to the MSU Chapter of TWS annually, and am very involved with their chapter activities and business meetings. I would love to be President of the MOTWS to grow membership, and promote interagency working relationships.

Professional Affiliations:

I am a currently a member of Ducks Unlimited, NRA, two NWTFF Chapters one in Marshfield and one in Seymour, and a member of the Conservation Federation of Missouri. I am also involved with the Missouri Black Bear Foundation.

Candidate for President—Elect - Alex Wolf

Personal data:

I grew up in New York's Hudson Valley region, just north of New York City. I spent much of youth roaming the woods and hills of New York; the time I wasn't in the woods I often spent visiting New York City's zoos and Natural History Museum. Following high school I made my first move to the Midwest to attend college in Wisconsin. Several years later I was ready to come back, moving first to southern Illinois and then to Missouri. I spend as much of my free time as possible enjoying Missouri's great outdoors, including hunting, fishing, hiking, and especially paddling the Current River in all seasons.

Education:

B.S., Evolution, Ecology, and Behavioral Biology; Beloit College, WI, 2006

M.S., Zoology; Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab, Southern Illinois University, IL, 2012

Employment History:

During my undergraduate education I held seasonal positions at: Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, GA; the Wildlife Conservation Society and American Museum of Natural History in NY; the University of Maine; and the National Park Service/Idaho State University in Yellowstone National Park. Following graduation (and a brief stint as a teaching assistant in Madagascar), I worked as a wildlife research assistant in Everglades National Park, working on invasive pythons as well as native crocodilians and mammals. For my master's project, I studied Texas horned lizards on an urban Air Force Base in OK. I joined MDC in 2012, and have been working on the Missouri Ozark Forest Ecosystem Project (MOFEP) since, first leading the herpetofauna and small mammal studies and now serving as Field Coordinator for MOFEP as well as working on other research and monitoring projects for forest and woodland wildlife in Missouri.

Wildlife Society Activities:

This past year I served as the Audio/Visual Chair for the 2015 MO Natural Resources Conference. I'm currently serving as the Secretary for the TWS Spatial Ecology and Telemetry Working Group. I also served on the TWS Caesar Kleberg Research Award Committee in 2015. In 2013 I had the opportunity to attend the MO TWS Bear Management Workshop. At the state level, I feel that MO TWS provides great professional development and service opportunities, so I'm very excited about the opportunity to serve the chapter.

Professional Affiliations:

The Wildlife Society (National, North Central Section, and Missouri Chapter); American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists; Herpetologists League; Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles; Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

Biographies for Candidates for MOTWS Executive Board Positions

Candidate for Treasurer - Jessi Tapp

Personal data:

I am privileged to have been raised in rural Western Kentucky with a playground that consisted of 140 acres of old pasture, forest, ponds, and creeks. I was holding a cane pole as soon as I was able and my childhood playmate was a chocolate lab--I was told I could wander as far as I wanted as long as he was at my side. I have worked in 11 different states and feel lucky to be able to forge my career in a state that has a long and successful history in conservation. When I'm not duck hunting or attempting to chase a new game species, I'm searching for new music, mountain biking, kayaking, or hiking a new trail.

Education:

B.S., Fisheries and Wildlife, Murray State University, 2009

M.S., Fisheries and Wildlife, University of Missouri, 2013

Employment History:

I have held several temporary field positions and internships, including (but not limited to) oak-savanna restoration research, monitoring several different types of waterbirds, and trapping small mammals. These varied experiences helped me determine my career path and desired graduate research focus. I attained a graduate research assistantship with the U.S. Geological Survey Cooperative Research Unit/University of Missouri and evaluated Wetland Reserve Program easements that were managed due to incentives provided through the Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative. Days after graduation, I moved to northern Iowa to work for Iowa Department of Natural Resources/Americorps as a Private Lands Habitat Specialist where I assisted landowners with conservation program enrollment and collected data for a watershed improvement project. Currently, I am a Wildlife Biologist with Missouri Dept. of Conservation based out of Kirksville and am getting to experience a whole different perspective of wildlife conservation through public land management.

Wildlife Society Activities:

I was a member of student chapters of the Wildlife Society every year I attended college and served as secretary at Murray State. I have been a member of the Missouri State Chapter of the Wildlife Society for one year, and a national member since 2006. Recently, I presented to Truman State University's student chapter about the importance of gaining hands-on experience and the different wildlife career paths.

Professional Affiliations:

Currently, I serve on our local Ducks Unlimited chapter's technical committee

Candidate for Treasurer - Tom Thompson

Personal data:

I was born in Missouri and grew up in Salem and the surrounding Ozarks region. During my childhood my family had a little farm around Salem where my folks and grandparents raised cattle and had horses, and I really learned to love the land. This also included many fond memories of learning to fish and hunt with my family, cousins, and friends, and summers on Current River and Ashley Creek, or other nearby tributaries. After graduating from Salem High School and then from the University of Missouri in 1996, I spent the next 14 years either going to graduate school (MS and Ph.D.), 3 year tour in the Peace Corps (Ukraine 1997 – 2000), or numerous seasonal wildlife jobs in primarily western states (CA, TX, NM, KS, NV, CO). I now live in Clinton, Missouri, which is close to visiting my nephews up in Lee Summit, MO, and still relative close for visiting my folks and horses down in Salem. When I am not enjoying time with family and friends, I am out training my bird dog, Elsa, bird watching and exploring outside, horseback riding, or reading a good book.

Education:

B.S., Fisheries and Wildlife, University of Missouri- Columbia, 1996
M.S., Wildlife Science, Texas Tech University-Lubbock, 2003; thesis: "The effectiveness of the Conservation Reserve Program's native seedling requirement in providing breeding and wintering habitat for grassland birds"

Ph.D., Natural Resource Science and Management, University of Idaho-Moscow, 2012; dissertation: "Dispersal ecology of greater sage-grouse in northwestern Colorado: evidence from demographic and genetic methods"

Employment History:

I have been with MDC for 5 ½ years. I serve as the Grassland Ecologist-Resource Scientist for the Resource Science Division, as well as the State Mourning Dove Coordinator. I am currently actively involved in the Greater Prairie Chicken Recovery Projects at Wah-Kon-Tah Prairie and Dunn Ranch, the Patch Burn Grazing Streams Project at Osage Prairie, Wildlife Division's Bobwhite Quail and Grassland Management Project in the southwest part of the state, and the Long Term Patch Burn Grazing projects in the Osage Plains region of the state.

Wildlife Society Activities:

I was a member of the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society every year I attended the University of Missouri, Texas Tech, and University of Idaho. I have been a national member for the last 7 years, and a member of the Missouri State Chapter of the Wildlife Society for the last 4 years.

Arrangements are being made for online voting; members will receive an e-mail with instructions when they are finalized. You can also vote by hard copy at the MOTWS booth at MNRC, or by using the ballot below.

BALLOT

Vote for only one in each category:

President-Elect

_____ Brad Jump

_____ Alex Wolf

Treasurer

_____ Jessi Tapp

_____ Tom Thompson

Ballots must be **received** by close of business on Monday February 1, 2016.

Send completed ballot to:

MOTWS-Elections

PO Box 743

Columbia, MO 65205-0743