



MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Newsletter

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2014 MOTWS Committees

Audit — Kevin Hedgpeth

Chambers Scholarship — Dan Zekor

Education/MU Fellowship — Josh Millsbaugh

Farmer/Conservationist — Jeff Powelson

MNRC Steering — Alan Leary

Membership — Chris McLeland

Nominating/Elections — Andrew White

Professional Development — Jason Sykes

Resolutions/Public Statements — Tom Kulowiec

Runge Award — Chris Newbold

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 (listserv)

Historical Committee — Margie Mitchell



Values of Conservation...Fostering Natural Resources Appreciation through Research, Management, and Outreach

2015 Missouri Natural Resources Conference

February 4 - 6, 2015

Tan-Tar-A Resort and Golf Club

Lake of the Ozarks

Visit MNRC website www.mnrc.org for updates, agenda and registration.

President's Corner

by Ted Seiler

I have always felt humbled to work here in Missouri where we have amazing natural resource professionals. Some of the brightest minds in wildlife management are right here in Missouri. If you question that, simply attend the MOTWS annual business meeting and look around the room and you will see what I mean. If you really want to experience the quality of wildlife professionals in this state, take on a term as president of MOTWS. It has been a whirlwind year but it seemed like every week another person was stepping up and tackling a new challenge – typically resulting in a win for conservation in Missouri.



We experienced the normal opportunities to achieve our mission through a successful student workshop which you can read more about in the June 2014 newsletter. The professional development workshop on the Gasconade River in August (you can read more in this newsletter) was full of great information that can help any wildlife professional in their daily decision making.

We also got to witness and be a part of Missourians defeating some serious threats to the way conservation works in this state. While I cannot say I am glad these legislative threats ever came up, it was great to see the response Missouri citizens provided to make sure conservation remains a high priority in Missouri. Without professionals, like our membership, making people aware of these threats, the legislators could have fast-tracked it through the process before Missouri citizens ever even knew it was being considered. The legislative threats also helped to spur the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) to hold their first ever affiliate summit. The CFM affiliate summit brought together many diverse groups of conservation-minded people to talk about common issues. The groups represented roughly 10,000 Missouri citizens. When you get that kind of membership together, the collective voice will be hard for anyone to ignore. See the article about the affiliate summit in this newsletter for more information.

At our annual business meeting in February, we approved a position statement encouraging sportsmen to use alternatives to lead in fishing tackle and hunting ammo. We are exploring some ways to act on that position statement (thanks to the ideas brought forward by some of our membership) to demonstrate the effectiveness of non-lead ammo and how lead breaks apart and gets into the meat. We plan to hold our first of these demonstrations as part of the spring student workshop.

Speaking of the student workshop, plans are underway for the 2015 spring student workshop. The workshop will likely take place at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. The student workshop is always a rewarding experience and the students greatly appreciate the time you give to help them advance their careers. If you would like to help with the workshop, please let me know. If I call you and ask for help, please say yes.

I would like to thank each of you for allowing me the privilege of serving as president of your Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society. It has been a great honor and I have enjoyed the opportunities it provided. Like many other things I spend time on, I wish I could have devoted more time to MOTWS but with the MANY people who are so willing to help the chapter out, a little time is sometimes all it takes to make great things happen. I look forward to continuing to serve MOTWS as past president. As always, if I can ever assist you, do not hesitate to holler.

Treasurers Report 1/1/14 – 12/1/14

Scott Sudkamp - Treasurer

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance 1/1/14: \$3145.42

Credits

Memberships \$1815.00

Midwest F&W Conference Income \$1822.00

2014 MNRC \$2493.00

Miscellaneous Income \$109.18

Total 2014 Income \$6239.18

Total Credits Including Beginning Balance \$9384.60

Debits

Awards \$1172.31

Midwest F&W Conference Expenses \$899.99

Miscellaneous Expenses \$405.48

MNRC Expenses \$1019.00

Supplies \$43.68

Workshop Expenses \$1594.26

Total 2014 Debits \$5134.72

Ending Balance 12/1/14 \$4249.88

1/1/14 — 12/1/14 Net Income \$1104.46



2014 Professional Development Workshop

The Missouri State Chapter of The Wildlife Society (MOTWS) hosted the 2014 MOTWS Professional Development Workshop on August 20 and 21 in Osage County. The topic of the workshop was Rivers/Riparian Management, which is a topic vital to any type of wildlife management. Presentations included both in-stream management as well as management of the stream corridor. We had a diverse group of attendees from 8 different agencies, including a visitor from Kansas. The first day featured excellent presentations, an evening fieldtrip to view riparian plantings and bank stabilization techniques, and an enjoyable cookout hosted by Prairie Star Restoration Farm. The second day consisted of additional presentations in the classroom setting, a field session, and was punctuated with a fairly warm 5-mile canoe trip down the Gasconade River. All attendees indicated that the workshop was highly informative and enjoyable despite the warm weather.



The MOTWS website is currently out of date; we are in the process of migrating to a new web location hosted by The National Chapter. Please be patient during this process and feel free to contact any of the Executive Board members with questions during this time. We will notify membership as soon as our new site is functional.



2015 MNRC PLANNING UPDATE

A little less than a month until the 2015 Missouri Natural Resources Conference and as you all know, MOTWS has the lead for planning the Conference this year. The Conference will be held February 4 – 6, 2015 at Tan-Tar-A Resort and the Theme will be: “Values of Conservation...Fostering Natural Resources Appreciation Through Research, Management, and Outreach.” Registration for the conference is currently open. We have a great Program lined up that covers a wide range of conservation topics and we have two excellent Plenary Speakers confirmed, one is Dr. Doug Tallamy who is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. The other Plenary Speaker is Mr. Dave White who is the former Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and was a member of the White House Task Force for Livable Communities. Mr. White also served on the Senate Agriculture Committee. We are hoping to get 1,000 people to register for the Conference this year so please plan to attend and please talk with coworkers and colleagues and encourage them to attend as well. It has been a number of years since 1,000 people registered for the Conference but if everyone in the Chapter helps promote it I think we can get there this year. See you all at the Conference.

Alan Leary - 2015 MNRC Steering Committee Chair

Please Don't Forget to Pay Your Dues!

State Chapter dues (\$15.00 annually) are important to maintain our funds towards projects, 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

Winter Travel Grant Deadline is February 15!

Get your requests in today!



The MOTWS Travel Grant is available to all MOTWS members for travel to conferences. Contact any member of the Executive Board for more details.

Conservation Federation of Missouri's Affiliate Summit – a big win for conservation

by Ted Seiler

The Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) held their inaugural affiliate summit on August 11 and 12 at the Inn at Grand Glaize at the Lake of the Ozarks. Many of you may not be aware that as a member of MOTWS, you are an affiliate member of CFM. With over 80 affiliate member organizations including over 10,000 affiliate members, there is tremendous potential to have a much stronger voice than if we are alone. These diverse groups including Anglers of Missouri, Missouri Bowhunters Association, The Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, and the Missouri Association of Meat Processors, all have common ground (passion for conservation in Missouri), and with a central organization like CFM, can be brought together for one unified voice.

The affiliate summit drew representatives from nearly 50 affiliate organizations (including several MOTWS Executive Board members). Featured speakers included Governor Jay Nixon, MDC director Bob Ziehmer, MO DNR director Sarah Parker Pauley, and former CEO of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Rob Keck. Additionally, there were workshops about communication, resolution writing, etc. There was also an opportunity for each organization to have a representative stand and very briefly introduce their organization to the crowd.

This is a huge step in the right direction. I remember years ago hearing a legislator talking to a group of wildlife biologists stating "You conservation groups need to get your act together." What he meant is that legislators see all "conservation" groups as the same group of constituents. When one organization is approaching them about increasing CRP acres and another well intentioned group says we need to stop creating habitat for hunters to shoot more birds, that legislator decides they can not make the conservation groups happy either way so they listen to a different special interest. That lesson has stuck with me and I have often thought how great it would be if we could all be unified on issues where we have common ground with different organizations. There is still a long way to go to reach this utopia of unity but it is a good start.

For those who are not familiar with the CFM, they are the grassroots organization in Missouri that was formed in 1935 by a group of sportsmen determined to take conservation out of politics in Missouri, and were successful in creating the Missouri Department of Conservation that we know today. CFM was instrumental in getting the Design for Conservation sales tax in 1976, and is still a huge advocate for conservation in Jefferson City today. Since becoming a member of CFM, I have been impressed by how well they have communicated with me, especially when conservation in Missouri has been threatened, and how they have brought the issues to light.

I ask each of you to consider taking your affiliate CFM membership a step further and look at becoming a regular member if you are not already. We saw several threats to conservation arise in Jefferson City this year and CFM helped to beat most of them back; however we expect several of these threats to rise again in the next legislative session. If CFM can show a rising membership in the light of increasing threats to conservation, perhaps that could be a message strong enough to make lawmakers understand that Missourians feel strongly about conservation issues.



Luke Miller - MOTWS Secretary, Brandon Butler - CFM Executive Director, Tony Elliott - MOTWS President-elect, and Ted Seiler - MOTWS President at the inaugural CFM affiliate summit.

Connecting Students and Wildlife Professionals in Missouri

by Jason L. Isabelle

Last year, the MOTWS Executive Board expanded the role of the Board Member to serve as a liaison between the Board and Missouri's TWS student chapters. The idea was to better connect student chapter members with natural resources professionals. Although the Board discussed ways the liaison could potentially assist the student chapters, the liaison would ultimately depend on the chapters themselves to shape the role into what they would find most beneficial.

Earlier this fall, Molly Jo Leach, Vice President of the University of Missouri's TWS Student Chapter, contacted me about the student chapter liaison role. Molly Jo was interested in learning how I, as the current liaison, might help her and the rest of the student chapter become more involved with local natural resource-related opportunities. Whether helping the MDC trap turtles at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area or aging deer during the firearms deer season, Molly Jo indicated that chapter members were eager to be involved. Molly Jo also indicated that chapter members were interested in hearing from natural resource professionals.

Molly Jo and I have since kept in contact. Periodically, she inquires about volunteer opportunities that might be available. I recently attended one of her chapter's weekly meetings and gave a wildlife research-related presentation. I also plan on connecting Molly Jo with other local professionals that would be willing to help. Given the chapter's desire for hands-on experience, plans are underway to organize a student chapter field day next spring where members would get experience with radio-telemetry, trapping, electrofishing, and other techniques commonly used by natural resource professionals. Molly Jo and I also discussed holding a career panel session in which chapter members could receive advice about how to make themselves competitive for the positions they will be seeking following graduation.

This represents just one example of how the MOTWS Student Chapter Liaison could provide assistance to TWS student chapters. My hope is that the utility of this role will continue to gain momentum and become a tool used by each chapter. For natural resource professionals, this role offers a way to interact with and impact the next group of conservation leaders of our state. For student chapter members, it represents an opportunity to interact with wildlife professionals and learn skills and gain knowledge that will be important as you progress from students to professionals. I encourage you not to be shy; contact the student chapter liaison. Put them to work on how best to serve you. You will be glad you did.

STUDENT CHAPTER REPORTS

Fall 2013 Update: by [Molly Jo Leach](#), University of Missouri TWS Chapter Vice President

The Mizzou Chapter of The Wildlife Society has had an engaging year thus far! Our students have heard from several different speakers including: Rachel Munds, a doctoral candidate, spoke on her work with lorises and tarsiers in Borneo; Andrew Alba spoke about his work with elephants at Disney; Jason Isabelle spoke about grouse research in Missouri; and MDC's Kelly Straka came to talk about her still new position as the Department's wildlife veterinarian. We felt this was a very diverse group of speakers that helps blanket the different tracks students can follow with their future professions. The officer team is currently planning another exciting group of speakers for the coming semester!

Our President Kathryn has done a phenomenal job at keeping the officers connected and has gotten the funding for Midwest Wildlife Society Conference granted from the University of Missouri. That being said, the Mizzou Chapter's officer team will be attending the Midwest Wildlife Society Conference in the spring. Our team is ecstatic to have this opportunity and looks forward to the networking prospects it holds. We will also be sending students to the Missouri Natural Resources Conference in February and the Midwest Conclave in the spring. We did save room for social events; we had a wonderful time on the annual float trip down on the Niangua River earlier this fall before all this cold weather hit! The members got to know each

other and exchange experiences, making it an overall enriching experience for everyone.

Most recently, we have just finished helping MDC with their deer aging project for opening weekend of firearms season. Several students volunteered their weekend to get hands-on experience, which has encouraged our vice president, Molly Jo, to take the skill building further this spring. Molly Jo has been keeping in close contact with Jason Isabelle, Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society's student chapter liaison, to find out about local volunteering opportunities for the club and setting up workshops for the students in the spring. The workshops will include electrofishing, mist netting, bird banding, trapping, telemetry and resume building/interview preparation. We are excited to be taking on these new adventures to broaden our tactical skills. As students, we find it hard to gain hands-on experience with the techniques that we read and write about at a large research university.

A huge thank you to Jason Isabelle for being there to answer our questions and being an attentive contact! We would not have accomplished as much planning as we have if it were not for the guidance of our chapter liaison, Jason Isabelle and our club supervisor, Eric Kurzejeski! We also owe a big congrats to the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society for providing our students with a structured professional organization to be a part of and grow with throughout schooling and their future careers.

The Wildlife Society's 21st Annual Conference Trip Report
Pittsburgh, PA
Jordan Meyer, Missouri Western State University

Any chance to present at any professional conference as an undergraduate student is an outstanding opportunity. Then there is being accepted to present at a prestigious international event, like the 21st Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

I am Jordan Meyer, a senior at Missouri Western State University studying Wildlife Conservation and Management. Towards the end of my summer internship at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, it was suggested to me by my former student chapter president Ben Olsen and my internship supervisor Darrin Welchert, to consider submitting abstracts for the Student Research in Progress Poster Session of this year's conference. Understanding that this would be a highly competitive opportunity, I submitted two abstracts regarding work that I participated in during my time at Squaw Creek. These posters pertained to Habitat Selection of Blanding's Turtles, and the Spring Emergence Trends of Western Massasauga Rattlesnakes. Much to my surprise both posters were approved by the review committee, making me the only student at the conference to be presenting two separate posters in the same session. As an undergraduate, I am personally very proud of that.

Also, as the sole representative of my school attending the 21st Annual Conference, I was asked to contribute to the symposium, "Strategies of Successful Student Chapters: Recruiting, Engaging, Involving, and Promoting", specifically regarding developing relationships with local conservation organizations and agencies. This presentation's intention was to provide fellow student chapters insight from an attribute which has won our Missouri Western Student Chapter two international awards in the past five years. It was fantastic to not only teach with pride about my local student chapter's activities, but to also extend my contacts with fellow students across the nation. Students and professors sought me out following the symposium to share ideas on how we can all provide the best opportunity for developing professionals in undergraduate programs.

Prior to going into this event, I understood that the most important opportunity that the Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society provides was the chance for networking. However, what impacted me the most was not the opportunities and connections that I made, but the confidence that each interaction filled me with. Despite the prestige of being a highly active, yet comparatively inexperienced student at this conference; I am always impacted with self-doubt and uncertainty. Yet each professional I interacted with had nothing but support for my actions, and seemed as hopeful for my upcoming graduation as myself. This support that I received from experienced members of this profession is a source of pride for me, and is why I feel nothing but gratitude for the Missouri State Chapter for their providing me assistance.

As I stated previously, any chance to present to professionals as an undergraduate is outstanding. However, it is through funding like this state chapter's travel grant program that changes chances like this into attainable opportunities. I can say without any hesitation that being able to present at the 21st Annual Conference of the Wildlife Society has been the most influential moment of my professional development and it is with the greatest humility that I thank you as members of the Missouri State Chapter for allowing me to experience it.

ARE YOU ON THE LIST???

Make sure you're on the MOTWS listserv to get the most up to date information from your MOTWS! Contact Jennifer Mittelhauser by emailing mittelhauser@ucmo.edu and asking to be added to the listserv.



Summary of The Wildlife Society Council Meeting at Pittsburgh Conference

by David E. Anderson - University of Minnesota (edited by Anthony Elliott)

The Wildlife Society (TWS) Council met in conjunction with the 21st Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in late October 2014, and there are several updates of Council activities to pass along to North Central Section, state chapter, and student chapter members. First, as many of you know, TWS has experienced financial difficulties the last several years, and in October 2013, approved a budget and direction on a path toward financial sustainability. Overall, Executive Director Ken Williams reported a small surplus for the period January-June 2014 and a larger, projected surplus for the new fiscal year beginning July 2014. TWS still has a ways to go to reach the financial position we all desire, but the organization seems to have turned the corner and is back on the right track. TWS Executive Committee members (President Jon Haufler, Past-President Wini Kessler, President-Elect Rick Baydack, and Vice President Gary Potts) have worked diligently with TWS staff to track budgets, align spending with strategic goals, and otherwise work to get TWS back in the black.

TWS publications:--Our current publishing contract with Wiley expires in 2015. As the publishing landscape continues to change (think open-access and digital publication), TWS needs to consider how best to continue providing high-quality scientific information, and the finances of publication. To help inform a decision about a publishing contract, TWS hired a publishing consultant who reviewed the offer of a new contract from Wiley and the alternative of soliciting proposals for a new publisher. Our consultant indicated that the Wiley contract offer was very good in the context of the current publishing environment, but suggested several areas where it could be improved. With input from Council, TWS staff negotiated an even more favorable contract with Wiley that increases revenue while also providing flexibility for renewal and the possibility of venturing into open-access publishing. The good news is that our publishing arrangements are strong in the short term, but the publishing landscape is changing quickly, and TWS needs to be proactive going forward. How best to innovate and be successful in the future (both near- and long-term) is a major challenge for TWS, and one that is receiving much consideration.

TWS website:--TWS rolled out a new website in conjunction with the 21st Annual Conference in Pittsburgh. The website is designed to be more user friendly, and provide better access to resources for members. As with all websites, it is a work in progress. I encourage you to view the new website and provide feedback to TWS for upgrades and improvements.

TWS policy news and position statements:--Over the last year, a subcommittee of TWS Council worked on revising TWS position statements. Some existing position statement had expired or were near expiration, and several were no longer relevant or had been supplanted by more recent statements. The subcommittee recommended revising how position statements are currently structured into (1) a statement of principles and values that broadly identify topics core to TWS, (2) position statements that address an area of broad interest, (3) issue statements that relate to a specific proposal, and (4) fact sheets that provide summaries of science related to specific topics.

TWS Strategic Plan:--Prior to the 20th Annual Conference in Milwaukee in 2013, Council spent two days discussing and developing the outline of a new strategic plan. Unlike TWS' previous strategic plan, the format for this plan was to identify issues and topics core to TWS, and to provide guidance about how to address those goals. The plan was revised, provided to TWS membership for comment, and used to align TWS operations over the last year. Council voted to approve our new strategic plan, with the addition of language identifying international efforts as a priority. Look for the new plan on the TWS website.

TWS Conservation Affairs Network:--The Conservation Affairs Network has been developed by TWS Council and staff over the last several years, and was rolled out during 2014. The idea of the Conservation Affairs Network is to allow more efficient engagement in issues important to TWS membership across all levels of the organization (parent society, sections, state chapters) and the profession. The Conservation Affairs Network is a key component of the TWS Strategic Plan, in that it is a mechanism to more closely engage all levels of the society. If you are not familiar with the Conservation Affairs Network, please take a few minutes and find out more on the TWS website.

Although there was mostly good news to report from the recent TWS Council meetings, not everything is positive. TWS has a distressing downward trend in membership, and if this trend continues, the financial stability of TWS will again be at risk. Part of the issue is making clear what the value of TWS membership is to former and potential new members—something that current members can help accomplish.

Finally, a reminder that the 22nd Annual Conference (2015) will be in Winnipeg, Manitoba (make sure your passport is up to date!) next October, followed by an Annual Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina in 2016. TWS is also a co-sponsor (jointly with the Mammal Society of Japan) of the 2015 International Wildlife Management Conference in Sapporo, Japan in July 2015.

Biographies for Candidates for MOTWS Executive Board Positions

Candidate for President-Elect - Ryan Diener

Personal data:

I was born and raised in Eastern-central, Missouri in the small town of Marthasville. I grew up hunting and fishing from an early age and have always enjoyed being outdoors. I have been back in Missouri for almost two years now, after spending 1.5 years working in NW Kansas. I was lucky enough to be able to move back and work in my home area. When I am not working, I like to waterfowl hunt, deer hunt, train my dogs (a lab and a shorthair), and manage habitat areas on my family farm.

Education:

B.S., Fisheries and Wildlife, University of Missouri, 2010

Employment History:

During my undergraduate I worked as a research assistant with University of Missouri conducting research on the movement and den selection of raccoons in central MO. I spent one summer working as a waterfowl technician for Delta Waterfowl in Egeland, ND, and one more as the Upland Wildlife Habitat Intern with MDC at White River Trace Conservation Area. I spent a few months as an hourly working at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area. In 2010, I obtained a full time position with Pheasants Forever Inc. and Quail Forever as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist in Oberlin, KS (the far northwest corner of the state, out in shortgrass prairie country). In 2012, I had the opportunity to stay with PF/QF and move back to MO and was able to move back to my home area to work as the new Farm Bill Biologist in Franklin, Warren, and Washington counties.

Wildlife Society Activities:

I was a member of the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society every year I attended the University of Missouri. I served on the board there in multiple roles, including; representative to CAFNR StuCo, Treasurer, and President. I have been a member of the State Chapter of the Wildlife Society for 3 years, and was a member of the State Chapter in KS the two years I lived out there as well. I have not had much involvement in activities with the State Chapter since graduating college other than attending the annual business meetings and the Professional Development Trainings.

Professional Affiliations:

I am currently on the committee of my local Quail Forever chapter as well as the local Ducks Unlimited chapter. I am a life member of Pheasants Forever and the Conservation Federation of Missouri, where I sit on 3 committees.

Candidate for President—Elect - Andrew S. White

Personal data:

Missourian through and through. I was born in Washington and shortly after my family settled in Union Star, where I was raised in the world of conservation. At a young age, I took a liking to hunting, fishing and really anything that involved being outdoors. I still do! In 2004, we moved to the Jefferson City area where I finished high school and graduated college in December 2011. When I am not working you can either find me at home working on taxidermy or woodworking projects, or out in the wilderness with my Deutsch Drahthaar, Chief. In the little downtime that I do find, I enjoy hunting waterfowl and upland game including deer, turkey, pheasants and quail.

Education:

B.S., Biology and Wildlife Management, Lincoln University of Missouri, Jefferson City, 2011

Employment History:

As an undergraduate, I held several positions with the Missouri Department of Conservation. From 2007-2011 I starting as a Biodiversity Technician with Private Land Services Division spraying Purple Loosestrife across the central portions of the state during the summers. Then, in December of 2010, I accepted an hourly Administrative Assistant position with Protection Division where I wrote and authorized Hunting Method Exemptions. Next, I accepted an hourly Administrative Assistant position in 2011 with Private Land Services performing research for and assisted in the composition of the Mountain Lion Protocol for the MDC. Shortly after graduation, I started my professional career with Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Quail Forever as one of the first-ever Farm Bill Biologists in Missouri, serving Livingston, Linn and Carroll counties.

Wildlife Society Activities:

I was an active member of the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society and Lincoln University. I have been an active member of the Missouri Chapter for three years and served as the Nominations and Elections Committee Chair for the past 2. Other involvement with MOTWS includes attendance at annual business meetings at MNRC, Professional Development Trainings, and am currently under review at the TWS National Office to be certified as an Associate Wildlife Biologist.

Professional Affiliations:

I currently serve on the committee of my local QF Chapter in Chillicothe, the newly formed QF Chapter in Brookfield, as well the QF chapter in Carrollton. I am a Life Member of both Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever. I also hold memberships to the Conservation Federation of Missouri, Ducks Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Candidate for Secretary - Mary Crowell

Personal data:

I grew up in House Springs, Missouri. Our first house was actually next to House's spring where there were ample waterfowl, frogs, turtles, and cottonmouths to entertain us kids and worry the family dog. I currently live in Ste. Genevieve with my husband David. He is an Army brat having lived all over the country and in Germany during his father's service. We have one dog, Sally, a 7 year old Australian Kelpie who enjoys walking, hiking, and peanut butter as much as me. In my free time, if I'm not enjoying a State Park, I'm baking or working on never ending craft projects.

Education:

B.S., Wildlife Conservation & Management, Missouri State University, 2007

Employment History:

During my undergraduate I worked as a MO State Park Seasonal Naturalist at Babler State Park, Prairie State Park, and Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site. After graduating I spent two falls sampling CP33 Buffers doing covey counts, vegetation surveys, and collecting erosion data for the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). In 2009 I was a herp and small mammal field tech for the Missouri Ozark Forest Ecosystem Project (MOFEP). In 2010 and 2012, I was crew leader on this crew. During 2011, I had the pleasure of working for a PhD student at Iowa State University on the flooded Missouri river collecting amphibian data in restored Army Corp wetlands. I got my first permanent position in the fall of 2012 with Quail Forever as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist in Ste. Genevieve, Perry, and St. Francois counties.

Wildlife Society Activities:

With the help of Tim Russell and 3 other students, I helped start the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society at Missouri State University, where I was Secretary for 3 years. I have been a member of the State Chapter of the Wildlife Society for 2 years. Some of my recent Wildlife Society activities include attending the annual business meeting at MNRC.

Professional Affiliations:

I am a currently a member of Quail Forever.

Candidate for Secretary - Scott James

Personal data:

I was born and raised in Northwestern Illinois on the Mississippi River. My childhood was spent playing in local ravines and forests with friends or fishing, hunting, and camping with family. I served in the Army National Guard while attending late high school and college and served in the Middle East shortly after college graduation. I have lived in Southeast Missouri for three years and currently reside in the country north-northeast of Sikeston. In my free time, I enjoy hunting, traveling, general outdoor recreation, training my lab, volunteering in the area, and spending time with friends and family.

Education:

B.S., Zoology, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 2010

Employment History:

While an undergraduate, I worked as a research technician with the university's Cooperative Wildlife Research lab, sorting and IDing duck wings and compiling data for the Wing Bee. After graduation and an Army deployment, I worked as a research technician for SIUC, evaluating duck nest success in differing habitat types in North Dakota. Shortly thereafter in Oct. 2011, I worked as a research technician for the University of Missouri evaluating waterfowl and shorebird use of wetlands in SE Missouri and Eastern Arkansas. In Feb. 2012, I obtained a full time position as Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist with the Quail Forever in Scott and Stoddard Counties. I work with a variety of conservation partners, assisting private landowners with wildlife projects.

Wildlife Society Activities:

I was a member of the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society every year I attended SIUC and served as treasurer one year. I have been a member of the Missouri Chapter of TWS for three years. Some of my recent Wildlife Society activities include assisting with the spring 2013 student workshop and attending the annual state chapter meetings. I am also seeking certification as an Associate Wildlife Biologist (should receive confirmation by time of election).

Professional Affiliations:

I am a currently a member of the Conservation Federation of Missouri, Ducks Unlimited, a lifetime member of Pheasants Forever, and a lifetime member of Quail Forever. I am an extremely active member of the local Quail Forever chapter, participating in the chapter's re-start in 2012 and serving as previous treasurer and current secretary.

Candidate for Board Member - Charles Anderson

Personal data:

I was born in Iowa but raised in north-western Illinois in a small town, Morrison, near the Quad Cities. I grew up hunting, fishing, trapping... well pretty much anything a young man could get done outdoors. I have lived in southern Illinois, eastern Texas, and northern Colorado. I currently call New Bloomfield my home. I have lived in Central Missouri for the past 2 years. My wife, April, and I are from the same hometown. We have a wonderful little boy, Gunnar, who will be three this February. We also have a little girl arriving in February too. I continue to get outdoors as much as possible and I'm counting the days until I can take my children hunting.

Education:

B.S., Biological Science, Northern Illinois University, 2002

M.S., Forest Wildlife Management, Stephen F. Austin State University, 2004

Ph.D., Zoology/Wildlife Ecology, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 2010

Employment History:

During my undergraduate I worked with The Nature Conservancy on grassland restoration, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service with CRP evaluations and management, and as a wildlife technician for Texas Parks and Wildlife on a white-tailed deer and mule deer project. During my masters I worked on a white-tailed deer research facility as a day-to-day manager, was a teaching assistant for a GIS in Natural Resources course, a forestry technician collecting timber volume data, and on an alligator growth and habitat-use project. During my doctorate work, I served as a lead researcher on a white-tailed deer project and taught a Wildlife Techniques course. I spent a year in Colorado working as a post-doctoral collaborator with the USDA and University of Nebraska; my primary focus was on investigating ungulate disease and damage management. I came to the Missouri Department of Conservation as a Resource Science Field Station Supervisor in West Plains. I supervised several great projects, including the Missouri Forest Ecosystem Project. I was promoted to Resource Science Supervisor in 2013 and currently supervise the Heritage Unit and serve as the Resource Science Division's Regulations Coordinator.

Wildlife Society Activities:

I was a member of the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society every year I attended Stephen F. Austin State University and Southern Illinois University Carbondale. I have been a member of the Texas and Illinois State Chapters, and I'm a current member of Missouri's State Chapter. I have also been a member of the Central Mountains and Plains Section and I'm a current member of the North Central Section. I have been a member of the parent organization since 2004. Some of my recent Wildlife Society activities include serving on the Missouri Wildlife Society's 2015 MNRC Steering Committee. I just concluded participating in The Wildlife Society's 2014 Leadership Institute.

Candidate for Board Member - Charlie Nilon

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

_____ Andrew White

_____ Ryan Diener

Secretary

_____ Mary Crowell

_____ Scott James

Board Member

_____ Charles Anderson

_____ Charlie Nilon

Ballots must be **received** by close of business on Friday January 30, 2015.

Send completed ballot to:

MOTWS-Nominations

PO Box 743

Columbia, MO 65205-0743

DRAFT MOTWS Annual Business Meeting (minutes)

Tan-Tar-A Resort – Salon A, Osage Beach, Missouri on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 3:30pm

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY MEMBERSHIP AT NEXT MEETING

President, Tim Kavan, called the annual business meeting to order at 3:40pm to allow ample time for those still collecting hard copies of information to be seated (copies included in MOTWS historical records). There were approximately 78 people in attendance and a slideshow of photographs from the last twelve months of activities was shown prior to the start of the meeting.

Luke Miller informed everyone that the previous meeting minutes were published in the most recent newsletter and had been reviewed by the Executive Board prior to the meeting. Tim Kavan asked for any discussion of the minutes and no changes were presented. Motion to approve the minutes came from Jeff Demand and this was seconded by Dan Zekor.

Treasurer's report was then presented by Landry Jones. Recent activity from the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference profited \$13. Overall the event was successful for the Chapter as a few new memberships were sold, funds were made from a firearm raffle, and outreach was provided to many representing a diverse group of state, federal and private wildlife related organizations. The Chapter purchased the necessary Square technology to run credit cards at events, as this appears to encourage individuals to provide payment and increases their willingness to bid. A motion to approve the enclosed Treasurer's report came from Tom Kulowiec with a second by Alan Leary and all attending were in agreement.

Award Presentations

Farmer Conservationist Award, John and Gary Dolan were recipients of the award presented by Jeff Powelson, committee chair. Jeff provided the group a background of the award and highlighted the fact that most of Missouri's rural landscape is of private ownership, thus containing most wildlife and/or impacts to wildlife. Scott Roy, local Private Land Conservationist working with the Dolan family informed MOTWS of the wildlife friendly activities occurring upon the farming operation. Mr. Dolan grew up with interest in quail while maintaining his agriculture livelihood. Soil health important to successful farming and CRP has been vital, so they converted less productive acreage into native prairie. They are aware of the importance fire brings to the health of ecosystems and in summary of their actions, "they do what they do because it is the right thing."

MU Graduate Student Fellowship Award, a background of the award was presented by Tim Kavan. The award was then presented to Christine Rega, a PhD candidate for her work in urban avian ecology and management. Christine is currently serving as President to the Fisheries and Wildlife Graduate Student Organization at the University of Missouri and received her Master's degree from the University of Delaware studying forest dwelling birds.

Ed Stegner Award (to be awarded at CFM meeting), Zayne Aldrich, high school senior is the recipient.

Special Recognition was awarded to Margie Mitchell for her countless hours of volunteerism to the Chapter. This extra effort is truly appreciated by all of MOTWS and Margie Mitchell received gifts from the Executive Board which were handcrafted kitchen items: serving tray, salt and pepper shakers and a bottle opener.

Committee Reports

Audit Committee, update by Tom Bell, chair. Audit committee met and did not find anything major, so thanked Landry Jones for his detailed service. Motion to approve their findings came from Ted Seiler and seconded by Tom Kulowiec.

James D. Chambers Memorial Scholarship, Glenn Chambers informed the Chapter that there is currently \$1,091.64 in the account with the Conservation Credit Union. Earnings of \$57, so decided not to provide a scholarship this year after giving two awards last year and seems to be a need to rethink which direction we are headed. Glenn and Jeanine Chambers are comfortable with any decision made by MOTWS. Dan Zekor, chair, lead a discussion on what to do to increase student interest to get more applicants. A standard announcement is sent out to advisors of various Missouri schools; applications are accepted with two letters of recommendation. In looking for ways to improve, how might we better announce and open to suggestions by membership. It might be time to look at fundraising to increase the scholarship amount but foremost issue is a need for more applicants. Dr. Mark Ryan informed the group that the current announcement date is just prior to the holiday break in December and this is a very challenging time for students. It was also encouraged to ask the students what works for them and possibly a new task of our Board Member, as he/she acts as student liaison and the possibility of joining multiple student group email lists with MOTWS' listserv. Dan Zekor volunteered to continue to work on these issues over the next year.

MNRC Steering Committee, Alan Leary, chair, provided everyone an update with their group's activities. Next year MOTWS will host the MNRC and out of the 13 sub-committees, currently one vacant. Dates for the 2015 MNRC are scheduled to be February 4th-6th and continues to be located at Tan-Tar-A. The theme is "Value of Conservation... Fostering Natural Resources Appreciation through Research, Management, and Outreach." Two plenary speakers are locked in, Dr. Doug Tallamy, Department of Entomology chair with the University of Delaware and author of book "Bringing Nature Home" and Mr. Dave White, a University of Missouri graduate and former chief of the NRCS and he has served on White House task force. Goals of the committee are to keep motivation and everyone is tasked with sharing news of the MNRC with co-workers in office, students, and friends to boost attendance. Lastly, everyone is encouraged to act as a volunteer! Many will be needed to care for some of the smaller details of the conference, for example: moderators, lights, registration, etc.

Professional Development Committee, Jason Sykes introduced himself to everyone as a newly accepted chair. Overall, had great success with our Black Bear workshop and professionals from Arkansas and Oklahoma were able to participate. Initial planning for the summer might be a river systems & riparian restoration workshop and located within the central portion of the state. Tentative dates of June 4-5 or 11-12 and possibility of a float style theme to engage those attending, this might also limit attendance? Members are encouraged to register early to ensure a canoe. Jason Sykes also reminded everyone of the upcoming travel grant application deadline of February 15th. Also for those not receiving information via MOTWS listserv, email Jennifer Mittelhauser so that you can be added.

Membership committee, update provided by Jason Sykes. Created a new Chapter brochure and will be attending the Whitetail Classic in March in hopes of gaining memberships and informing others of MOTWS. Chris McLeland, chair, will be working with the new Treasurer to send out a Welcome Letter to all new members!

Resolution and Public Statements Committee, update on increased activities by Tom Kulowiec, chair. MOTWS Executive Board sent a CWD letter to the Missouri State Legislature expressing support of the MDC role in captive cervid regulation. The Chapter discussed adjusting the current Society's position statement on lead poisoning to include voluntary restraint among Chapter members. Jeff Demand made a motion to accept the changes and Kevin Hedgpeth seconded, with all attending in approval. Current activity within the Missouri Senate joint resolution 442 and House 57 is looking to establish a committee JCAR, administrative rules under review. This might come to a public vote creating a permanent committee to oversee actions of the many state agencies. MOTWS is in the process of creating a letter for submission, as this committee might limit the MDC input and lack oversight over science based management. More information is posted on the MOTWS website and will be provided to those on the listserv. Individual members were encouraged to submit their own personal letters and two templates are provided via MOTWS' website. Dave Murphy, executive director of CFM, updated MOTWS with their organization's involvement with the issue and encouraged MOTWS' support

to gain greater credibility and partnership, as it would be suitable for such challenges and threats upon our Missouri resources. The time to act was now, so comments were provided to the draft letter and Dave Murphy motioned to accept letter with changes and Glenn Chambers seconded, with approval of all attending.

Technology committee, another updated by Tom Kulowiec, chair. Listserv is being managed by Jennifer Mittelhauser and Tim Kavan started a MOTWS Facebook page with nearly 100 likes and both have proved to be a good resource. Website continues but plans are to have the Society update it to a new site, as many other states are moving towards this. Online voting is popular and more easily managed than hard copies. Recent voting over possible Bylaw changes showed about half the voters used the online format.

Student Chapter Reports

Missouri Western State University located in Saint Joseph, Missouri was represented by their student president, Ben Olson. Ben is also the secretary for TWS NC Section's professional development working group. Recently they were honored for a second time as the National Student Chapter of the Year and their professional mentor, Dr. Cary Chevalier, was awarded Student Chapter Advisor of the Year. The students stay busy throughout the year organizing and attending over 20 events. These include workdays, outreach, and other activities to promote individual students to volunteer and develop professionally. Members have logged many hours of volunteer work hours with both the MDC and the USFWS at various locations in Northwest Missouri.

The University of Central Missouri at Warrensburg, Missouri Student Chapter's achievements were shared by Katie H, president. Their members are busy among 18 activities throughout the year. These events help students explore and gain experience within the wildlife profession through relevant conferences/workshops, field trips and guest speakers. What is most unique about this group is their annual events such as Project WILD and Bio Blitz, soon to be in its 11th year.

Activities of the University of Missouri's Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society at Columbia, Missouri were reported by their president, Jason High. They helped the MDC with deer aging work in November, hosted a meat sale fundraiser, and these funds help student members attend conclave and conferences. Their Student Chapter invited guest speakers from a diverse group of wildlife agencies present future job opportunities during meetings. Future plans of attending the MOTWS student workshop and TWS conclave, all in April.

Old Business

Tim Kavan informed everyone that historical archiving of Chapter documents is ongoing and that it was decided by Executive Board that there is no need to document everything, just major correspondence.

MOTWS submitted a letter to US Congress in support of multiple wildlife grants and sent to chairmen in September, a copy is provided to members during the meeting and a copy will be sent to MOTWS' historical records.

Student Chapter promotional video! Need help gaining interest from students, as this is a new idea from TWS and a few other Chapters are currently working with students to develop. Challenge created to promote each Student Chapter. Hopes of presenting during Spring Workshop and Executive Board to judge winner and provide the \$100 cash prize.

Spring student workshop planning in the final stages by Jeff Powelson, ad hoc committee chair, will be at Squaw Creek NWR on Friday, April 4th through Sunday, April 6th. MOTWS and Missouri Western State University Student Chapter are hosting the multi-day event with speakers, tours, and workshops.

Tim Kavan gave an annual meeting report after his attendance at the National TWS Conference. John Schulz was recognized as a Fellow for his dedicated career in research, scientific findings, and writings; in addition to, his involvement in developing a TWS position statement on lead toxicosis. Missouri Western State

University's Student Chapter received the 2013 TWS Student Chapter of the Year Award, first time for any of Missouri's Student chapter, and their advisor, Dr. Cary Chevalier, was awarded the 2013 TWS Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award.

Tim Kavan also provided insight with activities of the North Central Section, as he attended their annual meeting at Midwest F&W Conference. They too discussed the liability insurance issue and felt the same way the MOTWS Executive Board did by choosing not to pursue, as premiums do not outweigh small assets. Tim announced that the TWS Leadership Institute is currently accepting applications. Tim encouraged each of us to be more proactive with those young professionals to ignite interest and involvement at all levels of TWS.

President's Final Remarks Tim Kavan shared similar feelings of those by Rochelle Renken, past president of NC Section, of such an honor of getting to work with everyone. Tim gave praise to his fellow Executive Board members and thanked all the committee chairs. Over the year there were many instances of increased involvement among members and also with students during both MOTWS' workshops. MOTWS has increased their communication and outreach, which in turn increases memberships and awareness to Missouri resources.

Election Results: 70 members voted! President-elect is Anthony Elliott and Treasurer is Scott Sudkamp

Presidential Authority passed to New President

Ted Seiler provided a brief introduction and thanked Chris Newbold, Landry Jones, and Jennifer Mittelhauser for their involvement the last few years on the Executive Board/Committees. Ted does not have any large vision on direction the next twelve months, but wants to strive and continue our trend of being more involved and in communication with the rest of the wildlife field. Challenged everyone to be heard and spread the word!

New Business

Ted Seiler led a discussion over concerns of the Chapter's annual budget and possibility of increase membership dues. Normally, the account balance starts the year around \$7,000, now down to about \$3,000 with fluctuations but a continuing trend downward. This is probably due to the Chapter being more active and doing great things! But to continue these activities, the membership was asked to increase dues to \$15 each year. Chris Newbold mentioned that the last dues increase occurred in 2000 which was from \$5 to the current \$10. General thoughts gathered by those attending supported a raise of \$5 and to develop a budget to rethink priorities on Chapter spending and our activities as this is something to be cautious about. Dave Murphy motioned to increase dues to \$15 each year and Rochelle Renken seconded with a suggestion of a three prong approach:

1. Story by Dave Murphy, student chapter when Bill Crawford came to talk to students. How to be engaged as wildlife professionals. Important to him in his past/current career, although he did have much to offer but would bring someone with him, as well as, \$100 each meeting.
2. Bring a friend and talk up chapter!
3. Raise dues by \$5

Announcements

CFM giving out free student memberships to CFM (a \$15 dollar value) any student is encouraged to sign up downstairs. CFM conference will be March 21-23 at the Capital Plaza at Jefferson City, \$10 to attend.

Landry Jones encouraged those who have not yet picked up silent auction items to do so!

Next business meeting would be held at the 2015 MNRC, which will be hosted by the MOTWS. Everyone is encouraged to attend and support the Chapter.

Without any further discussions, Ted Seiler asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn by Dan Zekor and Glenn Chambers seconded. Ted Seiler then called the annual business meeting to a close at 5:53pm.