

The Wildlife Society Pennsylvania Chapter



Newsletter—Winter 2016

President's Message

Spring has come early to Pennsylvania and wildlife are stirring as they prepare for the breeding season. At PATWS, we are preparing for our annual spring conference. This year we are happy to be teamed up with the Society of American Foresters to present "Penn's Woods: The Science Behind Pennsylvania's Wildlife Habitat". We have three field trips lined up for Friday and a great panel of speakers for Saturday. Thanks to our Treasurer, Virginia Tilden, we have online registration available this year. Please register if you have not already. We are looking forward to seeing everyone!

Thanks to all members who submitted for our awards and scholarships. The winners will be announced at the banquet on Saturday, April 16th. Also, thanks to those members who stepped up and ran for the board of PATWS and to those who voted. If you have not already, please consider being more involved in the organization by running for office or becoming a member of the Conservation Affairs Committee. The experience is very rewarding.

In the summer newsletter I mentioned that I had been accepted into the Leadership Institute of The Wildlife Society. I had the opportunity to participate in multiple leadership activities throughout the summer and I attended the annual conference in Winnipeg in October. I learned a lot through my experiences, especially at the conference. Please see my article later in this newsletter about my experience at the conference. One of my assignments for the Leadership Institute was to develop a vision for a subunit of TWS. Of course, the subunit I chose was the Pennsylvania Chapter. I have many ideas for the Chapter, but the one I am most looking forward to pursuing is the establishment of a Fall Field Gathering in addition to

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the annual spring conference. A Friday evening reception at the Keystone Elk Country Visitor center during the rut figures to be a highlight of the gathering. I will have a survey at the conference for members to help determine field workshops that would most interest the Chapter as a whole. Please take the time to fill out this survey at the conference. Also, if you would like to participate in the planning or have any ideas please let me know.

For now, we will all be busy with the final few details of the spring conference. Enjoy the first days of spring as we transition into this exciting time of year. We looking forward to seeing everyone April 15-16!

Emily H. Thomas
President, PA TWS

Treasury Report

PA Chapter of The Wildlife Society 31 December 2015

Treasury Report

As of 31 December 2015 we have a balance of \$14,057.76* in our operating fund and \$15,547.94 in our Vanguard portfolio. Our assets total \$29,605.70*

Balances as of 31 December, 2015:

Fund	Account	Annual Interest	Balance
Operating	Checking*	0.0%	14,057.76
Prime Money Mkt		4.65% - 4.75%	3,158.72
Scholarship	STAR and Wellesley Funds	Variable	12,389.22
Total:			29,605.70

Income since 11/1/2015

\$0.00

Expenses since 11/1/2015

USPS	49.00
Conference call	19.91

\$68.91

*Handling funds for the Northeast Deer Technical Committee meeting, \$813.99 still in Checking Account, to be reimbursed shortly

*Virginia Tilden
Treasurer, PA TWS*

Annual Meeting



The 2016 Chapter Meeting:

“Penn’s Woods: The Science Behind Pennsylvania’s Wildlife Habitat”

Dates: April 15-16, 2016

Where: Ramada Inn, State College, PA

Joint venture with: The Society of American Foresters

This year’s theme is based around habitat management. Three workshop field trips are planned for Friday April 15th, a plenary session on the morning of Saturday April 16th, and technical sessions before the banquet.

Very Important notice: If you require a hotel room at the Ramada during the conference, the weekend of April 15-16th is also the “Blue White Weekend” for Penn State football, hence the Ramada usually sells out. Please book as early as possible.

Check it out: <http://www.wildlife.org/pennsylvania-chapter/>

Registration

New in 2016!! ONLINE REGISTRATION!! Follow the link below to register online.

<https://form.jotform.com/patws/saf-2016-joint-conference>

PA Chapter of The Wildlife Society



December 2015

This Newsletter is produced on a roughly quarterly basis for members of the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Editor: Lillie A. Langlois

Send items of interest, comments, announcements, questions, or corrections to Lillie at: lal276@psu.edu.

Subject — “PATWS newsletter”

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2016 Conference At-a-Glance

**2016 SPRING CONFERENCE
AND WORKSHOP**

**“Penn's Woods: The Science Behind
Pennsylvania's Wildlife Habitat”**

15 - 16 April 2016

Conference At-a-Glance
--DRAFT 3-10-2016--

Friday, 15 April 2016

8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Workshop Fieldtrips, Boxed Lunch provided with paid workshop registration, all trips are limited to 30 people.

Habitat Management for Wildlife – hosted by Clay Lutz (PGC) focusing on various projects performed on Penn State University's Stone Valley Experimental Forest.

Natural Gas Mitigation- hosted by Doug D'Amore (PA DCNR) focusing on reclamation using the Appalachian Region Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) method and managing for wildlife.

Use of Prescribed Fire on State Gamelands- hosted by Mike Pruss (PGC) on state gamelands 176 near State College.

2016 Conference At-a-Glance cont...

- 5 p.m. **Poster setup** (poster session starts 5 p.m. Saturday)
- 5 - 10 p.m. **Student - Professional Mixer, Conference Center Lobby**

Saturday, 16 April 2016

- Breakfast Coffee, pastries and fruit
- 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. **Plenary Session, Ballroom A:**
Mike Eckley (TNC) on working with private landowners/carbon sequestration/managing for wildlife and carbon

Cathy Haffner (PGC) about the habitat management part of the new Wildlife Action Plan.

Ellen Shultzabarger (PADCNr) on “Ecosystem Management on State Forest Lands: Managing for Sustainability and Biodiversity”

Lisa Williams (PGC) discussing “Baby Trees Need Hugs Too: The Art and Science of Managing Young Forests for Wildlife”
- 12 – 1 p.m. Lunch, **Ballroom B** (May be purchased until April 1st)
- 1 – 4:00 p.m. **Concurrent Paper Sessions: Ballroom A, Forum Room, Directors Room**
- 4:15 – 5:15 p.m. **Member & Business Meeting of State Wildlife Chapter, Forum Room** (Board Members required, Everyone else welcome)
- 5 – 6:30 p.m. **Poster Session, Conference Center Lobby**
Presenters should be present and prepared to answer questions.
- 6:30 p.m. – **Grand Banquet, Ballroom:**
Banquet Speaker: Cal DuBrock, Goddard Chair in Forestry and Environmental Resource Conservation, Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences
Topic: The many aspects of habitat management including people, hunting, etc.

(Banquet dinner purchased with registration until April 1st)

National TWS Related News

NORTHEAST SECTION MEMBER RECEIVED DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

At the recent TWS Annual Conference in Winnipeg, northeast member Justin Vreeland received the Distinguished Service Award. This award is given to individuals that have been parent Society members for at least 20 years, and have served TWS to further the organizations goals. This award is given to individuals who are always there and can be counted on to serve the Chapter, Section, or parent Society.

Justin is a certified wildlife biologist working for the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) as a Wildlife Management Supervisor. Justin has been working as a wildlife biologist for almost 25 years. His professional goal is to help ensure sound, scientific conservation and management of northeastern forests. Justin is very involved with the PA TWS chapter, Northeast Section field course, the TWS Forestry & Wildlife working group, and numerous other activities that further the mission of the Society.



Northeast section member, Justin Vreeland, won the Distinguished Service Award

*Excerpt from The Northeast Section of
The Wildlife Society, Fall 2015*

Save the Date!

THE 72nd ANNUAL NORTHEAST FISH &
WILDLIFE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD
APRIL 3-5, 2016 in ANNAPOLIS, MD

The Annual Conference attracts over 500 natural resources professionals in the fields of wildlife biology, fisheries and fisheries management, information and education and law enforcement. The event provides opportunities for education, discussion, and exchanging of ideas.



2015 TWS Annual Conference—Winnipeg, MB

Through the Leadership Institute (LI) I had the opportunity to attend the 2015 annual conference of The Wildlife Society in Winnipeg. Leading up to the conference the LI participants completed a series of readings and assignments. The assignments included conducting a Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH) Project interview and writing a TWS Subunit vision. My COWCH interview was of our very own Dr. Rob Brooks from Penn State and my TWS Subunit vision was for the Pennsylvania Chapter. Although we had other assignments, I found these two assignments most valuable. I hope to start implementing parts of my vision throughout the next year.

Although the assignments before the conference were useful, the experience we had at the conference was invaluable. As LI participants, we were asked to sit in on council meetings and attend specific activities. The opportunity gave me a new perspective to the conference. Over the past three years I have attended the annual conference as a regular participant, co-organizer and LI participant. I have had the opportunity to meet many council members and form relationships with them. I hope to use those relationships and everything I learned to lessen the disconnect between the parent society and subunits in the future.

The Manitoba Chapter was thrilled to host the conference and put on quite a show. The opening reception was at the Manitoba Museum where we had the opportunity to mingle and learn about Manitoba's natural history. I was happy to see multiple student chapters from Pennsylvania at the opening reception and student-professional mixer. I was also able to attend one of the field trips. The trip was called Fort Whyte Alive and featured

three unique experiences: bison, birds and history of the Métis people of Manitoba. Even though I haven't seen bison in years and love birds, the most interesting part of the trip was learning about the Métis people. We had the opportunity to learn how to use an atlatl, make bannock bread over the fire and sample tea made from native plants.

Overall the trip was a great experience and I am thankful for the opportunity to participate in the Leadership Institute and attend the annual conference. I hope through my experiences I can contribute more to the Pennsylvania Chapter and I encourage anyone who wants to learn more about The Wildlife Society and how they can contribute to apply for the Leadership Institute.

Emily H. Thomas
President, PATWS



NE Field Course Scholarship Winner: Briana Jimenez

Editors Note: *Briana Jimenez, a student from Delaware Valley College was the recipient of the 2015 NE Field Course scholarship and contributed this write up and photos.*

In the field of Conservation and Wildlife Management it is universally known that in order to land a position and start your professional career there is an important qualification that you need to have and that's hands on experience. This is absolutely vital. Although there are many colleges and universities, mine included, that are implementing experiential learning programs and courses that are aimed to give you that hands on experience, there are still many others that simply don't have the resources to do so. Another key element to advancing your career is understanding the importance of networking. It's all about who you know right? Getting your face and name out there. The reason I bring these up is because the TWS Northeast Field course offered hands on experience, networking opportunities, and much more!

In my 21 years of life I unfortunately haven't had many chances to travel so the field course which was held in Castleton, Vermont was my first New England experience and it was truly a spectacular one at that. Students from all over the East Coast (and one from California), most being TWS members, came together to participate in this course in order to gain as much knowledge and skills as we possibly could. When you put so many people of all different backgrounds with common interests and passions in one room it's something special. We stayed at the Green Mountain Conservation Camp, which is a beautiful campground surrounded by nature with a fantastic view of Bird Mountain, a mountain we came to know fairly well over our two week adventure that ran from May 17th to May 30th.

Spending two weeks with seasoned wildlife professionals from all over not just the country, but the world can easily intimidate students or deter them from reaching out and asking questions, but



Briana holding a tufted titmouse.



Briana holding a northern water snake.

Briana Jimenez cont...

that surely wasn't the case with group of professionals and students we had. You could tell that every single person that was there wanted to be. All of our instructors were extremely welcoming, down to earth, and eager to teach us everything they knew while sharing their life stories about how they got to where they currently were within their careers. I can only speak for myself, but the quality of the instructors made it all the more valuable of an experience. What I always tell my TWS members at Delaware Valley University is that everyone you meet is another person to network with whether it's a professional in the field or a



Briana on top of Bird Mountain, NH.

classmate you never know who you may run into in the future and who can help you get to that next level in your career or even who you may end up helping. This was the prime example of that. Everyone I met was outstanding, are people I hope stay in contact with, and wish each and every one of them the absolute best. This was a course where the networking opportunities were endless, and I will cherish that.



Radio telemetry group photo.

Briana Jimenez cont...

The course itself was intensive and definitely the perfect opportunity to see if a career in Conservation and Wildlife Management is for you. Each day from sunrise till well after sunset we were either in the classroom or out in the field getting true hands on experience. We learned how to do radio telemetry, utilize chemical immobilization, map and compass as well as GPS, conduct bird and reptile surveys, identify tree and plants species, form a habitat analysis, and trap small mammal (mainly *peromyscus*). Something rather humorous I found out during this course is that I'm a regular Steve Irwin and have a knack for catching snakes. We also took a hunter's education course and became certified to teach Project WILD, which I loved because of my having such a strong passion for environmental education. One day we even climbed to the very top of Bird Mountain and saw a magnificent view of the world that I will never forget. Another one of the many wonderful things about the course was that we were split into groups, built transects across Bird Mountain, and then were allowed to put what we learned to the test gathering and recording all the data we could about our sections of the mountain. Our final day consisted of us analyzing and presenting our data to our instructors and the rest of our peers.

This course had it all! I could probably go on and on about how much I enjoyed the TWS Northeast Field Course. I often find myself looking back at this experience and can't help but wish I was still there now. I wouldn't trade it for anything, am ever so grateful, and will take everything I have learned with me as I graduate in May and step into world that awaits. I can say with the up-most certainty that this course reinforced my passion and love for all things wild. I know for a fact is the field and career path for me. I would like to give out a tremendously thank you to the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society for giving me this incredible opportunity.



2015 TWS Northeast Section Field Course group photo.

Student Chapter News

Editor's note: The Student Chapter News section covers what's new with our five PA student chapters (California University of Pennsylvania, Clarion University, Delaware Valley College, Penn State University, and Penn State DuBois)

All student chapters are encouraged to submit news articles for the PATWS quarterly newsletter; please the Newsletter Editor

****California University of Pennsylvania****

California University of Pennsylvania's Student Chapter has had quite the fall semester. They traveled to Winnipeg, Manitoba for the National Conference where they placed fourth in the annual Quiz Bowl. While in Canada they travelled to Whiteshell Provincial park to take in the beauty of the Boreal forest.

Earlier in the semester they hosted their annual Family Field Day event, where parents and children were welcome to come learn how to identify tracks, scat, and furs, build bluebird boxes, shoot archery, and learn many other things outdoor related.

With the help of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, they hosted their annual Shooting Event at Roscoe Sportsman's Association. Here, students came to learn firearm safety and actively shoot firearms to hone their marksmanship.

They travelled to The Wilds in Cumberland, Ohio to participate in a restoration ecology workshop and toured the facilities where some of the rarest endangered animals in the world are kept in hopes of preserving the species. Students helped The Wilds with invasive species control by removing Autumn Olive and collected seeds for their prairie restoration project. A guest speaker, Dr. Walt Carson from the University of Pittsburgh, was invited to give a talk on his research on the effects of deer browsing, fire, and canopy gap dynamics on forest change in the Eastern Deciduous Woods.

A few of the chapter members volunteered at bear check stations run by the Pennsylvania Game Commission where they had the opportunity to process harvested black bears. Currently, they are forming a subcommittee to work on starting an Environmental Education workshop in hopes of inspiring younger generations to get outside and learn more about nature and wildlife.

Sean Wineland

Tagging Black Bears

By Josh Staquet
Wildlife Leadership Academy

Wildlife Leadership Academy is the perfect place to go for teens to take the first step into wildlife conservation. I have been into wildlife for as long as I could remember and Wildlife Leadership Academy gave me the help I needed to start my career in wildlife conservation. At WLA I went to two camps: Bucktails, which studies white tailed deer, and Ursids, which studies black bears. I made a lot of memories there, but what I remember the most was working with wildlife biologists to have hands on experience with handling black bears.

My most memorable experience in WLA was at camp Ursids, where we were able to capture two black bears which we used for tagging and bear research. The instructors taught us that there are many steps in bear tagging. First, the bear needs to be tranquilized in a certain muscle group, and taken out of the trap only when it is fully sedated. Once it is fully asleep, the biologists take the bear out and check its eyes and heart rate to see if it is in good health before the tagging can begin. Once the bear proves to be in good condition, the biologists blindfold it and have one of the students tag its ears. Each tag comes with a number which will be the bear's ID number. Since bears often fight with each other, it is best that both ears are tagged in case one of the tags is lost.

After the tagging, my part came when it was time to disinfect the ears by soaking disinfect-

ant medicine in the tagged parts of the ears. The next step was taking the premolar tooth to tell its age and then tattooing inside the upper lip. There is always a possibility that the bear could lose both of the tags so its ID number has to be tattooed on the inner upper lip. Those two steps had to be done by the professionals and the students got back in when it was time to measure the bear's size and weight. What needed to be measured was the bear's body length, height, paw size, head size, etc. Then came the weighing part, where 2-3 people lift the bear by the balance. Both of the bears that we handled were about a year old so they both weighed around 140-200 pounds and measured about 4 feet long. What was most important was checking the bear's heart rate and breathing every few minutes throughout the process so we know if the bear is still healthy and how much time is left before the sedation wears off.



Josh S. helps disinfect the ear tag site on an anesthetized black bear to prevent infection at the PA Ursids field school.

Black Bears cont...

Once the whole thing was finished, the whole class posed for a picture with the bear and the biologists put the bear back in its culvert trap and the sedative was reversed. We then started the whole thing over again with the second bear. How we finished handling the bears was unquestionably the most rewarding part because we took the bears back to where they were caught and watched them being released into the wild. What we all learned from that experience was how to handle black bears and what it is like to work in wildlife conservation. We learned through hands-on experience and by watching how biologists and conservationists keep track of the bear population since all the steps throughout the process were for bear identification.

All the students gained a lot from the experience and it personally made a huge impact on me because I have been up close with wild black bears before but never close enough to touch one. Also the first time I got to be that close to a bear was when I was helping wildlife conservationists and biologists with a conservation project. We would have been lucky enough to have one bear, and two bears were even better! That experience had a huge effect on me because it taught me what it means to work in wildlife conservation and currently has me working with wildlife as a conservation ambassador.



The students of the PA Ursids field school pose for a photo with one of the two black bears tagged during a field research class session. The bears were anesthetized, tagged, measured, weighed, and, once recovered from the anesthesia, safely released back into their habitat as part of an ongoing black bear research project in Pennsylvania.

Black Bears cont...

*The mission of the Wildlife Leadership Academy is to engage and empower high school age youth to become **Conservation Ambassadors** to ensure a sustained wildlife, fisheries and natural resource legacy for future generations. The Academy offers high-achieving youth, ages 14-17, a comprehensive study of specific wildlife species, including classroom and field-based, hands-on education. Led by experts, including biologists and educators from across the state and beyond, the program also engages participants in team work, friendly competition, and an awareness of their natural world. The Wildlife Leadership Academy has opened its exclusive Youth Conservation Ambassador nomination process to the public and is currently seeking referrals of motivated students to become Certified Conservation Ambassadors. Nominations are now being accepted online at <http://picweb.org/nominate/>. For more information, please contact Katie Cassidy at 570-939-5109 or kcassidy@picweb.org*



Save the Date

PA Chapter of TWS Annual Conference

April 15-16, 2016
Ramada Inn
State College, PA

72nd Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference

April 3-5, 2016
Westin
Annapolis, MD



Northeast Student Field Course

May 15-28, 2016
Kehoe Conservation Camp
Castleton, VT

The Wildlife Society 23rd Annual Conference

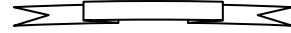
October 15-19, 2016
Raleigh Convention Center
Raleigh, NC

Pennsylvania TWS Objectives

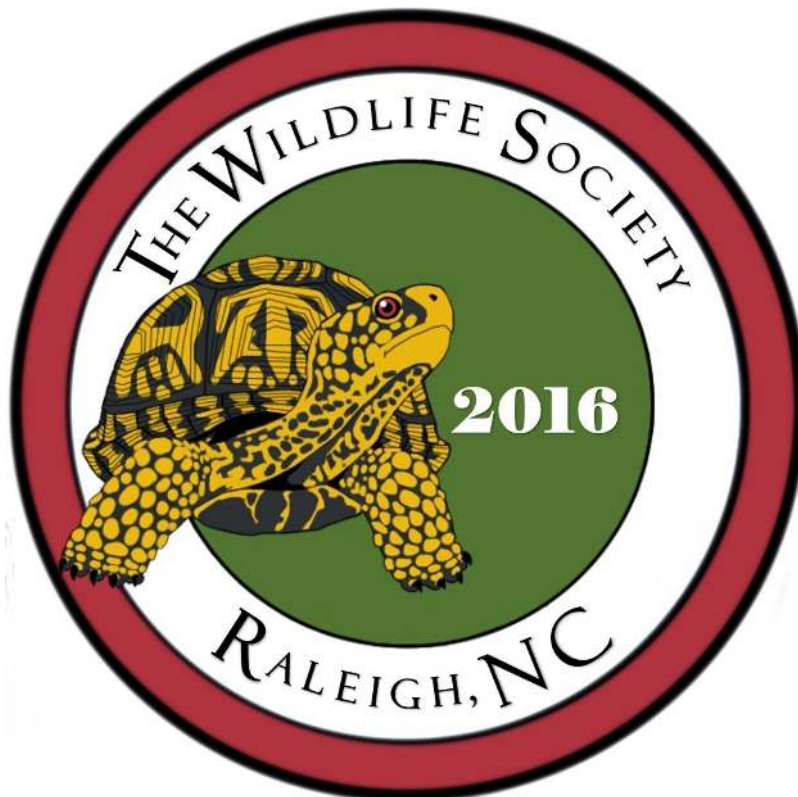
1. To develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environments upon which wildlife and humans depend.
2. To undertake an active role in preventing human-induced environmental degradation.
3. To increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values.
4. To seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.
5. To serve the specialized needs of Pennsylvania in wildlife resource management.

—Who's Who on the Board—

2016 Executive Board Members
Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society



President.....Emily Thomas
Vice-President.....Margaret Brittingham
Past President.....Christina Voorhees
Secretary.....Samara Trusso
Treasurer.....Virginia Tilden
Northeast Section
Representative.....Emily Boyd
Website Manager.....Jennifer Dzimiel Martin
Newsletter Editor.....Lillie Langlois
Membership
Coordinator.....Wendy Vreeland
At-Large Members.... Robert W. Blye
Andrea Evans
Thomas Keller
Samantha Pedder





THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

2016 Membership Application

Pennsylvania Chapter

Check One: ☐ Renewal

☐ New Member

☐ Student Member

☐ Lifetime Member

☐ Dues Paid through National Headquarters

Annual Dues: \$10.00

Student Dues: \$6.00

Life Membership: \$200.00

The following information is

☐ new, updated, or corrected

☐ unchanged

Name:

☐ Dr.

☐ Mrs.

☐ Miss

☐ Mr.

☐ Ms.

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(Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society)

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