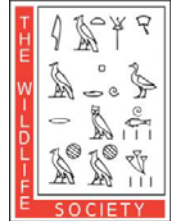




# The Wildlife Society Pennsylvania Chapter



## Newsletter—Fall 2014

### President's Message

Dear Fellow PA TWS Members,

The past few months have been busy and productive for our board and membership. Many of us were involved with planning, volunteering, and managing logistics at the national conference in Pittsburgh. The conference was well-attended by members across the nation with a large contingency from the Northeast due to the strategic location. A record high number of students attended the conference which allowed for one of the most successful student/professional mixers ever hosted by TWS. Many thanks to Emily Thomas, Keely Roen, and their committee members for pulling off this memorable event!

PA TWS also hosted resume review sessions throughout the conference where students could have their resumes critiqued and seek advice on pursuing careers or graduate school. Wildlife professionals from a variety of backgrounds volunteered their time to assist with this event and it was so well-received that additional sessions and extra volunteers were added in order to accommodate the number of students seeking help. I spent a fair amount of time helping with this event, and after speaking with other volunteers, it is safe to say that this was a very rewarding experience for both the students and the reviewers alike. Thank you to all of our members who helped to make this conference a success!

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With the national conference behind us, our board has shifted gears and is actively planning our 2015 state chapter meeting that will take place March 20 -21. Based on feedback from our membership, this year's theme will focus on wildlife diseases. We have lined up some phenomenal speakers who are leading experts on topics that include white-nose syndrome, rabies, chronic wasting disease, and more. The Call for Papers has gone out and registration information will be coming very soon so please watch your email, check our website, and mark your calendars. You won't want to miss it!

I would like to take a few minutes to end my message with a challenge to our membership. Our organization relies on the diverse interests of our members and the leadership provided by the Board. Please take some time to consider how you can contribute to PA TWS. We are currently accepting nominations for 2015 Board member positions and we recently established a Conservation Affairs Committee that will be addressing wildlife policy issues. Both of these are opportunities for our mem-





## 2014 Pennsylvania TWS Conference

The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be holding its annual meeting March 20-21 at the Ramada Inn, South Atherton St., State College. The conference theme is Wildlife Diseases: Examining Impacts for Pennsylvania and Beyond

We are in the planning stages still but events will include technical and plenary sessions, a poster session, and a banquet. Also, a mixer will be held to reconnect with friends and meet new ones. Our annual meeting is a great opportunity for education, discussion, and exchanging ideas.

Plenary session to include speakers on:

1. White-nose Syndrome
2. Rabies
3. Chronic Wasting Disease
4. Disease of Amphibians/Reptiles

Our banquet speaker for Saturday night will be Dr. Val Beasley, Professor and Head of the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences at Penn State University.

New this year will be a photo contest similar to the version held at the National level. See page 7 and our website for details.

Check the PA TWS website ([http://drupal.wildlife.org/pa/pa\\_meeting](http://drupal.wildlife.org/pa/pa_meeting)) for updates on the Call for Abstracts, Registration, Program, and Plenary Speakers!

## Save the Date

### **PA Chapter of TWS Annual Conference**

*March 20-21, 2015*  
Ramada Inn  
State College, PA

### **71st Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference**

*April 19-21, 2015*  
Newport Marriott  
Newport, RI



### **Northeast Student Field Course**

*May 17-May 30, 2015*  
Kehoe Conservation Camp  
Castleton, VT

### **Wildlife Disease Association 63rd Annual International Conference**

*July 26-30, 2015*  
Novotel Twin Waters Resort  
Queensland, Australia



## Call for Papers

2015 Meeting  
Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
March 20-21, 2015  
Ramada Inn, State College, PA



Credit: Robert Savannan, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### Wildlife Diseases: Examining Impacts for Pennsylvania & Beyond

#### Instructions:

Abstracts are required for all paper and poster submissions. We invite abstracts on any natural resource topic in Pennsylvania and the surrounding northeast region including flora, fauna, water, soils, techniques, human dimensions, outreach, education, policy, and legal issues. **For 2015, we are specifically interested in projects focused on wildlife diseases, toxicology, and related wildlife health issues. We would also like to have a students-only paper session.**

All contributed papers (oral presentations) will be allotted 20 minutes; 15 minutes for formal presentation and 5 minutes for question/answer time. Poster authors are required to accompany their poster during the scheduled poster session. Posters will be **no larger than 36" in height by 48" in width (3' X 4')**. You will be given an easel for poster display—**YOU WILL NEED TO BRING YOUR OWN BACKING OR HAVE YOUR POSTER PRINTED ON FOAM BOARD.** NOTE: a tri-fold poster board is acceptable.

Abstracts should be submitted by email attachment in MS Word or rich text (.rtf) format. Abstracts should be typed in 12-pt font with full justification and **no indents, bold, or other special formatting**. Use italics, not underline, for scientific names. Please follow punctuation and formatting guidelines below, exactly.

**Submit abstracts to:** Samara Trusso [satrusso@pa.gov](mailto:satrusso@pa.gov); email subject —“2015 PA TWS abstract”

**\*\*\*\*Deadline for abstract submissions is February 15, 2015\*\*\*\***

Each abstract submission must contain the following information, in exactly the format below. Also see Example Submission.

Title of presentation

Author(s), affiliation(s), address(es); include zip code(s)

Name of presenter, telephone number, email address; indicate professional or student and whether it's a presentation or poster

Abstract (no more than 250 words) should state what or who you studied; very briefly describe your methods; provide results; and state your conclusion(s). Include scientific names for all species.

*Call for Papers cont...*

**Example Submission, Paper:**

White-tailed deer fawn survival in north central Pennsylvania

Justin K. Vreeland and Duane R. Diefenbach, Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit, 113 Merkle Laboratory, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802; and Bret D. Wallingford, Pennsylvania Game Commission, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110

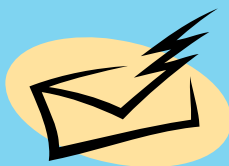
Justin K. Vreeland, (814) 865-4511, jkv104@psu.edu; graduate student presentation

Survival rates are unknown for white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) fawns in Pennsylvania. Coyote, bears, bobcats, foxes, and domestic dogs are known sources of predation mortality. Other sources of mortality include starvation, malnutrition, disease, parasites, organ failure, legal harvest, poaching, collisions with vehicles and farm machinery, and accidents. However, in what proportions fawns die from these causes is unknown. We present preliminary results from the 8 months of a two-year study of survival of white-tailed deer fawns. In May-June, we capture 46 neonatal fawns in a forested landscape and 52 neonatal fawns in an agricultural landscape in north central Pennsylvania. Fawns were released with radio transmitters on expandable collars and monitored approximately 1 time per day. Survival rates were greater in the agricultural site (60%) than in the forested site (48%). Leading mortality sources were predation (75% of deaths) in the forested site and natural causes excluding predation (58%) in the agricultural site. Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) and black bears (*Ursus americanus*) killed approximately equal numbers of fawns in the forested site. We will continue to monitor remaining fawns until collar or battery failure or fawn death. We will capture and monitor another 80-100 fawns in 2001. Using a geographic information system, we will assess how landscape features (e.g., habitat type and arrangement, road density) and home-range characteristics (e.g., size, proximity to roads and farms) are related to fawn survival.

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**\*\*Awards\*\***

Recognition awards for the best student paper and best student poster will be presented during the banquet dinner. To be eligible for this award the student must be enrolled in school or have completed the presented research within the past year, be the lead author, and be the presenter of the paper or poster. Be sure to indicate in the abstract submission that it is a student entry.



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

**Editor: David Walter**

Send items of interest, comments, announcements, questions, or corrections to David at: [wdwalter@psu.edu](mailto:wdwalter@psu.edu).

Subject— "newsletter"

## Deer Necropsy Workshop at PA TWS

PATWS is sponsoring an *Deer Necropsy Workshop* during our annual state chapter conference on 20 March. The workshop will be at State Game Lands 176 (Scotia Range) and space is limited to 18 participants.

This workshop is intended for wildlife biology students as well as wildlife professionals, regardless of their discipline, who are interested in learning the process of how to safely, and thoroughly conduct a post-mortem examination of a deer. The workshop will emphasize basic anatomy, biosecurity/biosafety, sample collection, and the procedures for systematically dissecting and examining a deer during necropsy. After discussing these topics through a lecture format, participants will gain hands-on experience dissecting and examining a deer. Participants will be provided a hard copy of the lectures.

**Instructor:** Justin Brown, Pennsylvania Game Commission Veterinarian

### **Tentative course outline:**

10:00-12:00 **Didactic Lecture** (Ramada)

12:30-1:30 **LUNCH**—provided with registration

1:30-4:30 **Lab**—Hands-on practical period during which participants will have an opportunity to necropsy a white-tailed deer (Scotia Range)

Course provides hours towards the Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB®) and the Professional Development Certificate by The Wildlife Society.

More information will be posted to our website (<http://drupal.wildlife.org/pa/>) when it's available.

## 1st Annual Photo Contest at PA TWS

Bring your best wildlife pictures for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Photo Contest to be held at the PA TWS Spring Conference this year. We will award prizes for the best picture so bring your best 8x10 or 8x12 inch prints on backing board (no framed art). Photos should be entered at the registration desk by 10 a.m. on March 21 to be eligible for the contest. Contact Wendy Vreeland at [wvreeland@psu.edu](mailto:wvreeland@psu.edu) with questions.

Voting will evaluate entries based on image impact, clarity, color, contrast, composition, and lighting. Participant voting will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for all conference attendees. The winners will be announced at our banquet but you do not need to be present to win.





## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS FOR AWARDS AND GRANTS

### *Professional Development Grant*

The Pennsylvania State Chapter of The Wildlife Society will award one, \$1000 professional development grant annually to a non-student member of PATWS to attend a conference or professional development program.

The Professional Development Grant is intended to provide an opportunity for wildlife professionals to continue their education throughout their career. Those applicants gaining credits to maintain their TWS wildlife biologist certification will be given preference. The grant can be used for registration, travel, lodging, food, supplies, or fees associated with attending a conference or training program.

#### Minimum Eligibility

All applicants must be a non-student member of PATWS and must have maintained that level of membership for at least the most recent two years. Those applicants gaining credits to maintain their TWS wildlife biologist certification will be given preference. An individual can receive this grant once per five years.

Recipients of the grant must attend the indicated conference or program within 18 months of receiving the grant or forfeit the grant money. Recipients must write a summary of their experience for an edition of the PATWS chapter newsletter.

### Applicants must submit the following materials:

- Resume or CV
- Essay: Explain your grant request. The name, date, and location of the conference or professional development program must be provided, and an agenda included if available. Please note if you will receive TWS certification continuing education credits for attending. Essay should be no more than 500 words.

**Email all materials in one PDF by February 15, 2015 to: [PAChapterTWS@gmail.com](mailto:PAChapterTWS@gmail.com).**

You must include "Professional Development Grant" in the subject line of the email.

All submissions must include a phone number (with area code) for the winner to be notified. Finalists may be interviewed by telephone. The recipient will be notified by March 1.

See our website for additional information:  
<http://www.wildlife.org/pa/awards>





## Student Scholarship Opportunities

### The Frank Felbaum Scholarship

The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society established the Frank Felbaum Scholarship more than a decade ago thanks to the generosity of Frank Felbaum, long-time director of Pennsylvania's Wild Resource Conservation Program and tireless conservationist. The scholarship is a one-time \$500.00 award intended to assist outstanding students who are pursuing a career in the wildlife field.

The scholarship is available to any undergraduate student currently enrolled in a wildlife ecology or related natural resources program at a Pennsylvania college or university, or a Pennsylvania resident currently enrolled in such a program at a college or university outside Pennsylvania. The recipient should have a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.2 and have demonstrated an interest and commitment to wildlife through volunteer and/or work experience and extracurricular activities, including membership in conservation/ecology clubs. The scholarship is awarded only once per recipient.

Applications must include the following items to be considered:

—**Letter of Recommendation:** from a professor, advisor, or someone who can attest to your ability and interest in wildlife/ecology.

—**Transcript:** your most recent transcript (it need not be official) to document program enrollment. Indicate cumulative GPA, if not included on transcript.

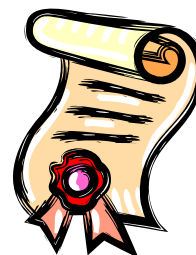
—**Essay:** addressing the subject/title: *"Why I Would Like to Pursue a Career in Wildlife Ecology."*

Applicants are strongly encouraged to have a professor or advisor review and edit their application for content and grammar before submitting it. Applications will be judged on the information provided **and** writing quality. **If no applications are judged to be of suitable quality, no scholarship will be awarded.** All submissions must include a phone number (with area code) and e-mail (if available) in order for the winner to be notified.

Finalists may be interviewed by telephone. The recipient will be notified by March 1, 2015.

All application materials must be sent as a PDF **by February 15, 2015** to: [PAChapterTWS@gmail.com](mailto:PAChapterTWS@gmail.com).

If someone you know (including a son or daughter) might qualify for the Felbaum Scholarship, encourage them to apply. Feel free to forward this information to colleagues at your school as well as other colleges or universities. This information can also be found on our website: <http://www.wildlife.org/pa/awards>



## Executive Board News

### **\*\*PA TWS Seeking Board Member Nominations\*\***

PA TWS is currently taking nominations for Executive Board positions. Position terms of office will begin at our annual business meeting in March 2015:

- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Newsletter Editor
- Website Manager
- Northeast Section Representative
- At-Large Members (2 positions)

If you would like to nominate someone, please be sure to discuss it with them first, also you may nominate yourself. Nominees shall submit a short biography for inclusion on the ballot to be distributed to the membership in early 2014. All Board members MUST be members in good standing of BOTH the PA TWS Chapter AND the National organization. Nominations should be submitted to Andrea Evans at: [andrevans@pa.gov](mailto:andrevans@pa.gov)

**Nomination Deadline: February 1, 2015**

Brief position descriptions are as follows:

- Vice-President (3-year term): serves one year in a supportive role to the President, with primary duties of overseeing facility arrangements for the annual meeting and handling the duties of the President in the President's absence. In year two, the VP becomes the President. The President's main duties are to supervise the officers, appoint committee chairs, represent the chapter, and oversee the planning of the annual meeting. Finally in year three, the position shifts to Past-President, and is primarily responsible for annual meet-

ing awards.

- Secretary(2-year term): Secretary (2-year term): records meeting minutes, chapter correspondence, meeting notices. Oversees balloting process for Executive Board elections.
- Treasurer (2-year term): submits summary financial reports at each annual meeting. Leads fundraising efforts for the annual meeting and oversees the registration process.
- Newsletter Editor (2-year term): receives, compiles, and edits chapter newsletter. Chairs annual meeting program committee.
- Website Manager (2-year term): maintains chapter website by reviewing, editing, and posting pertinent documents and content.
- Northeast Section Rep.(1-year term): represents and serves as liaison to the Northeast Section TWS for the chapter. Moderates a technical paper session at the annual meeting.
- At-Large Board Members (2-year term): provide leadership to the chapter and serve the chapter as directed by the President. Assist the Treasurer with fundraising for the annual meeting, and also assist at the annual meeting as needed.

The strength of our organization is the diverse interests of its members and the leadership provided by the Board. We hope you will consider running for office, or nominating a friend or colleague, so that we can continue to keep our chapter active and influential at the regional and national level.

—Board member duties can also be found in the PA TWS by-laws available on our website at: <http://www.wildlife.org/pa/bylaws>

## Student Chapter News

*Editor's note: The newsletter is reviving the Student Chapter News section with news from Pennsylvania's five student chapters: California University of Pennsylvania, Clarion University, Delaware Valley College, Penn State University, and Penn State University-Dubois.*

### **\*\*Delaware Valley College \*\***

The Student Chapter at Delaware Valley College is proud to bring in a co-advisor this semester, Dr. Alicia Shenko. Welcome Dr. Shenko.

Major events during the fall semester included an "elking" trip, a visit to the John James Audubon Center, and an exhibit and presentation for the anniversary of the extinction of the passenger pigeon. Several of the members attended the highly anticipated annual elking trip in late September to Benezette, PA. They spent three days searching for rutting elk throughout the early morning hours into the evening and camped at Parker Dam State Park. To say the least, this year was the most exciting experienced as a club. They were lucky to be there for the peak rut and were able to see several massive bulls and numerous sparring episodes.

A few of our members visited the John James Audubon Center. There, we visited John James Audubon's first home in America and got a behind the scenes program with their resident owls. In November, we invited both the public and campus community to join us in a presentation of the documentary "From Billions to None" which was produced by Project Passenger Pigeon. To accompany the showing, we created an exhibit commemorating the 100th anniversary of the extinction of the passenger pigeon.

The club also designed and sold t-shirts at the event to raise money for an outside organization.

Now, they are in full swing preparing for spring semester activities, most importantly our Game Dinner. They are also looking forward to guest speakers, various trips, and working on our developing nature trail.

*Avery Corondi  
Student Chapter President*

### **\*\*Penn State University-Dubois\*\***

The Penn State Dubois chapter of the Wildlife Society had eleven student members and two faculty members attend The Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Pittsburgh from October 26-29, 2014. Students attended many interesting oral presentations and very much enjoyed the professional-run Resume Critique sessions and the Student-Professional Mixer. Penn State DuBois fielded a Quiz Bowl team Tuesday evening, enjoyed the Closing Reception on the Gateway Clipper the final night and spent time at the National Aviary.

Throughout the fall the club has also been raising funds to support students on three trips in March. Over spring break, the club will be visiting Everglades National Park. The last two weekends in March include the PA Chapter of The Wildlife Society annual conference and the Northeast Section Student Conclave hosted by Paul Smith College in the Adirondacks. The club will finish off the semester by again hosting the annual Earth Day events on campus.

*Student Chapter News cont...*



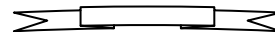
The Penn State Dubois Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society at the Annual Conference in Pittsburgh in October 2014..

**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—**

2014 Executive Board Members  
Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society



*President*.....Christina Voorhees  
*Vice-President*.....Emily Thomas  
*Past President*.....Merlin Benner  
*Secretary*.....Samara Trusso  
*Treasurer*.....Virginia Tilden  
*Northeast Section Representative*.....Emily Boyd  
*Website Manager*.....Jennifer Martin  
*Newsletter Editor*.....David Walter  
*Membership Coordinator*.....Wendy Vreeland  
*At-Large Members*... Mario Giazzon  
 Emily Just  
 Andrea Evans  
 Samantha Pedder



# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

## 2015 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. \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone: Home: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Office: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Ext. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **PA-TWS**  
(Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society)

Mail to: Virginia Tilden, Treasurer  
7755 Wertzville Road  
Carlisle, PA 17013

2014-12-08