

The Wildlife Society Pennsylvania Chapter

Newsletter—Winter 2014

President's Message

Greetings PA Wildlifers!

It is an honor and privilege to be writing to you as your new President of the PA Chapter of the Wildlife Society. I have spent the last few years serving on the Board and look forward to my new role in the organization. It has been a wonderful experience thus far and I would encourage all of you to consider running for Board positions in future elections. Our chapter is comprised of some of the best wildlife professionals in the state and we need your continued involvement and support to effectively advocate for the natural resources of Pennsylvania.

After a seemingly unending winter, spring has finally arrived! Many of us are grateful to see signs of new life and are looking forward to the summer field season. Although this time of year often brings a renewed passion for the outdoors, this past winter was certainly not lacking in wildlife "excitement" around the state. Pennsylvania House Bill 1576 was the focus of many discussions as it sat poised to fundamentally change the current process for listing endangered and threatened species in PA. Through effective lobbying efforts, countless letters to legislators, and a united campaign among wildlife professionals, the bill was removed from the table in the Pennsylvania State House on Feb 10, 2014. As we celebrate this success, we must recognize that it is only temporary. Supporters of the bill have promised that a new "revised" version will be proposed in the future. No one knows what the

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new version will look like or how much of our input will be considered. So for now, we simply wait.

This past winter also brought with it one of the largest irruptions of Snowy owls observed in the Northeast and Great Lakes regions in the last four decades. Social media, newspapers,



One of Project SNOWstorm's tagged snowy owls—Womelsdorf. This owl was caught in Berks County and sponsored by PA DCNR. Photo credit: Scott Weidensaul.

President's Message continued....

and television stations were quick to jump at the chance to broadcast information and create an avenue for reporting Snowy owl observations. The irruption also served as a unique opportunity for numerous agencies and organizations to coordinate and launch Project SNOWstorm as a tool for gathering data and mapping Snowy owls during the event. For those involved, it was an exhilarating experience and one they will not soon forget. For more information about Project SNOWstorm, please visit their website at www.projectsnowstorm.org.

Spring and summer are busy seasons for everyone in the wildlife profession. While I do not want to rush us through this enjoyable time, it is important for our membership to be looking forward to the fall when we host the national TWS Conference in Pittsburgh from October 25-30. The Arrange-

ments Committee is busy with fundraising, logistics, and planning a variety of exciting receptions and fieldtrips.

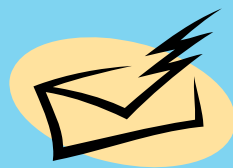
We are anticipating a strong turnout from the Northeast and I encourage each of you to take advantage of having a national conference right in your backyard. We will make additional information about the conference available to membership over the next several months so keep your eyes open for important updates.

In closing, I wish you all a productive field season and safe travels as you continue to make a positive contribution to the conservation of Pennsylvania's natural resources.

Christina Voorhees
PA TWS President

We are on Facebook—LIKE US!

The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society now has a Facebook page. Connect with us. Share with us. To find us on Facebook search:
"PA Chapter -The Wildlife Society"



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.

Subject— "newsletter"

2014 National Conference In Pittsburgh!



Down to the River . . .

If I had to pick one song that represented Pittsburgh, it would be the Clarks' version of Springsteen's "The River." (Not every Springsteen song is about New Jersey, you know.) For those of us who grew up in Western Pennsylvania, it seems that every aspect of life is somehow tied to our abundant flowing water. And so, it's logical that The Wildlife Society 2014 Conference has taken on a river theme. By now, you have probably noticed that Pittsburgh's Three Rivers are prominently featured in the logo.

Planning is well under way, and we have some exciting events that "flow" right with the river theme. The closing night reception will be held on the Gateway Clipper Fleet. We'll board boats right in front of the David L. Lawrence Convention Center and spend the evening on the rivers, enjoying some fabulous food and drinks. Check out the field trip to Fallingwater and Ohiopyle, to see Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural masterpiece that incorporates natural flowing

water and explore Youghiogheny River as it twists and turns through the Allegheny Mountains.

A really unique opportunity will be the sustainability volunteer field trip. Last year, the Wisconsin Chapter started a new trend to meet our sustainability goals for the conference—volunteer opportunities with an environmental focus. This year, we're teaming with the nonprofit, Paddle without Pollution, to offer a fun way to do a good thing. Participants will conduct a river clean-up in the heart of Pittsburgh, and they'll do it by kayak.

By the time you read this, the conference website should be up and running. There, you'll find details about these events and many more educational and networking opportunities. See you in October!

Tammy Colt
Arrangements Committee
Co-Chair



2014 National Conference In Pittsburgh...continued

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Deadline: September 5, 2014

The Conference Arrangements Committee is looking for eager volunteers willing to devote their time and talents to assist in hosting the 21st Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA. (Visit conference website at: www.wildlifesociety.org). It is an excellent opportunity to meet and interact with professionals and prospective, future employers in the natural resources field. The conference requires a small army of volunteers to make it happen. And like the army, volunteering requires commitment. Join our volunteer ranks and help make a difference!

What you're signing up for

If you join this dedicated and enthusiastic army, your assignments must take priority over any and all other commitments at the time of the Conference. Other stipulations include:

Volunteers must register to attend the conference.

Assignments are in 4-hour blocks (some exceptions may apply).

In return, you'll get a heartfelt thank you, the undying admiration of the Volunteer Coordinator, and a FREE conference volunteer t-shirt.

Are you a student?

While most volunteers will have to be satisfied knowing they are the backbone of the conference, student volunteers are eligible to receive reimbursement. The reimbursement rate is \$7 per hour. Payment is intended to offset expenses (i.e. registration, lodging, meals, parking) for volunteers not receiving

full support from their educational institution for attending the conference.

As a volunteer, you may decline payment. Volunteers with the means to pay for their own expenses are encouraged to decline payment. Checks for payment will be distributed during the conference or shortly thereafter. Payments to volunteers will be limited to a first come, first served basis until all required volunteer time slots are filled and/or the available budget is exhausted.

Enlisting in the Volunteer Army

Still interested? Then we want you! Complete the Volunteer Application. (Visit www.wildlifesociety.org/support/volunteer/ to find the form. The Volunteer Application can be filled out, saved, and submitted via email to the address below. Volunteers will be notified of their assignments via e-mail or phone.

Submit your volunteer application today and help keep the Volunteer Coordinator from having a nervous breakdown! Still have questions? Contact Jeannine Fleegle at (724) 238-1826 or jefleegle@pa.gov.

Note: It is strongly encouraged volunteers have unlimited text capabilities on their cell phones since this is a vital method of conference communication and logistics.

Executive Board News

****Congratulations PA TWS New Board Members****

PA TWS has new Executive Board members that were voted on and began official duties at our annual business meeting on 14 March 2014. Congratulations to the following new board members:

-Vice President— Emily Thomas

**-Northeast Section Rep.—
Emily Boyd**

**-Membership Coordinator—Wendy
Vreeland (new term)**

**-At-Large Members (2 positions)—
Andrea Evans and Samantha Pedder**

—Board member duties can also be found in the PA TWS by-laws available on our website at:

www.wildlife.org/pa/bylaws

Save the Date

Northeast Student Field Course

May 18-May 31, 2014
Kehoe Conservation Camp
Castleton, VT

Wildlife Disease Association 63rd Annual International Conference

July 27-August 1, 2014
Tamaya Hyatt
Albuquerque, NM



Applied Spatial Ecology Workshop

September, 2014
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA

The Wildlife Society 20th Annual Conference

October 25-30, 2014
David Lawrence Convention
Center
Pittsburgh, PA
Conference website:

<http://wildlifesociety.org/>

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.

Congratulations to our newest student chapter:

Penn State University-Dubois

The Penn State University-Dubois student chapter of The Wildlife Society was approved by the Northeast Section Executive Board on March 4, 2014 and is now the 5th student chapter in Pennsylvania. In addition, the chapter sent members to The Wildlife Society's Northeast Student Conclave hosted by the main campus.

PA TWS Board Member Emily Thomas is the student chapter advisor.



****Penn State University****

The PSU chapter of the Wildlife Society hosted the Northeast Student Conclave, a professional development weekend for undergraduates in the natural resources, from March 28-30, 2014 at the Seven Mountain Scout Camp in Spring Mills, PA.

There were 165 students from 15 universities represented at this event. We began our weekend with Gary Alt, a retired PA Game Commission biologist, as our keynote speaker. On Saturday, students were able to participate in a variety of hands on workshops ranging from GPS technologies, to searching for local reptiles and amphibians, learning to catch birds of prey with bal-chatri traps and gaining hands on experience with deer at Penn State's deer research facility.

Saturday night we hosted a Student-Professional mixer to promote networking opportunities followed by the annual quiz bowl won by SUNY-ESF. On Sunday, students had the opportunity to participate in competitions such as archery, mammal identification, bird identification, and tree identification before heading home. We are very proud to have had the opportunity to host conclave and look forward to helping Paul Smiths College as they prepare for next year's event.

*Sara Mueller
Student Chapter President*

Student Awards

PA TWS 2014 Felbaum Award Winner: Avery Corondi



Delaware Valley College student, Avery Corondi (right), was the recipient of this year's PA TWS Felbaum Award. Del Val Student Chapter Advisor, Reg Hoyt (left), presented Avery with the 2014 Felbaum plaque on April 28. Avery is majoring in biology, with an emphasis in zoology. She is an active and enthusiastic member of the Del Val student chapter, and she has conducted independent studies through the Bi-

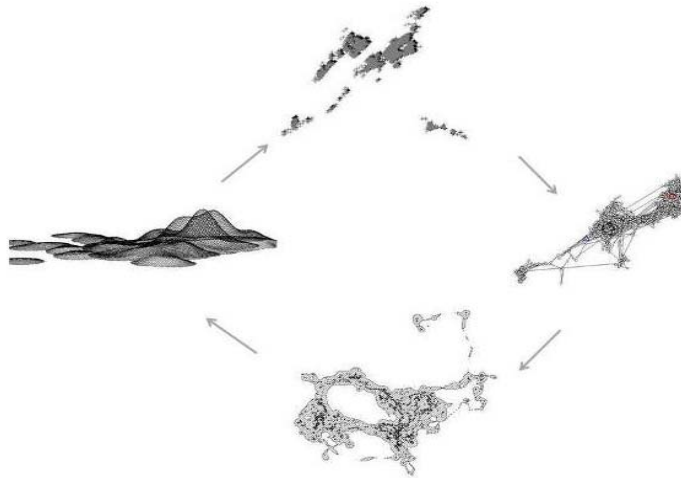
ology Department. Avery has participated in dolphin research in the Bahamas and has been accepted into a short-term study abroad to continue working with dolphins in Bimini.

Congratulations Avery!

APPLIED SPATIAL ECOLOGY IN R

An Online Manual and 2-day Workshop at Pennsylvania State University

September 2014



Workshop Objectives: Advances in technology have resulted in large spatial datasets for aquatic and terrestrial populations that require data compilation and analysis for making sound resource management and conservation decisions. From GIS and GPS dataset manipulation to traditional estimators of home range, this course will provide hands-on learning to handle a variety of datasets all within the free software R (R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria). You will develop skills in understanding and processing complex datasets without ever needing ArcMap or related costly programs.

Online Manual (Available July 2014): <http://ecosystems.psu.edu/research/labs/walter>

Fee: Professionals \$249, students \$100. Will include: manual, refreshments, lunch for both days

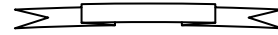
Contact: W. David Walter, Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, 403 Forest Resources Building, Pennsylvania State University
Phone: 814-867-4763; Email: wdwalter@psu.edu

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

2014 Membership Application

Pennsylvania Chapter

- Check One: Renewal Annual Dues: \$10.00
 New Member Student Dues: \$6.00
 Student Member Life Membership: \$200.00
 Lifetime Member
 Dues Paid through National Headquarters

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