

**Winter Business Meeting - Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society
February 13, 2013, 8:30 – 10:30 AM**

I. Welcome

President Galon Hall called the meeting to order at 8:34.

II. Election Balloting

Ballots were distributed to the masses for voting for officer positions.

III. Reports

a. Treasurer's Report – Jennifer Cromwell

A treasurer's spreadsheet was submitted to the chapter. Balance prior to this meeting was \$13,719.39. There were no major changes to the Paypal account this past year. Report attached.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

b. Secretary's Report – Karen Francl

Karen announced a roster of 101 members as of this morning, down from 113 this time last year. VATWS employed VT Scholar site to organize registration info for this meeting – using it for a second year in a row. It seems a successful venture.

Motion to accept Secretary's Report. Motion passed.

*Secretary's addendum – by the close of the conference, the roster was 112 members.

c. Committee Reports

- Membership - Chris Latimer

No report submitted.

- Conservation Review – Nelson Lafon

Nelson reported committee activity in detail– committee report is attached.

Galon reported additional activities:

Lobbying - Mike Anderson (retired, national biologist, NRCS) is willing to lobby for us in future endeavors.

Two potential bills being followed – Sunday hunting, fox pen issue – will partner with VDGIF. Impeding hunting with drones is also on the radar.

Trap-Neuter-Release is still an issue in the Commonwealth.

- Program – Andy Rosenberger

No report – approx. 89 pre-registered. Good attendance despite federal and state budget constraints.

- Education and Information - Amy Carrozzino

Amy and Holly Morris promoted AWB program by creating an informational letter.

They spoke in October 2012 to VTTWS about the program.

Report and flyer attached.

- Audit – Matt Knox (Jennifer Cromwell)

Matt has not completed the audit yet. ADDENDUM: Audit completed 2/26/13 (attached)

- Awards (Ad Hoc) - Scott Klopfer
Winners of awards from the previous night's banquet were:
Henry S. Mosby Professional Award – Barry Truitt
A. Willis Robertson Citizen Conservation Award – Hudson Reese
Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education Scholarship – John Huth
Additionally, Scott announced that Mike Pelton won the Caesar Kleberg Award from the National TWS.
Report attached.

- History and Archives (Ad Hoc) - Bruce Lemmert
Bruce Lemmert is stepping down as chair, and a new committee chair is needed.

Karen submitted an informal report in January, announcing that the VDGIF holdings of A. Willis Robertson (AWR) correspondence were completely scanned. Approximately 3100 files (over 5000 pages) from 1928-1933 are now available as .pdfs. Discussion ensued about establishing a framework so we can move forward with AWR papers. The group talked about backing up 8GB of files onto multiple external hard drives.

Mike Fies announced that he found files stating that VATWS actually formed in 1940s, then disappeared. It was long believed that our chapter began in 1981.
Report attached.

- Communications (Ad Hoc) - David Bishop
The renewed newsletter continues to be a success. Scott Klopfer is working with the website.
Report attached.

Motion to accept all committee reports. Motion passed.

- d. Student Chapters
Radford University and Virginia Tech student chapters provided a summary of their activities in the past year – reports attached.
- e. President's Report
Galon summarized Agency advisory group meetings – report attached.
No major actions needed this year. Most events associated with advisory group were informational, rather than voting or in need of action.

IV. Old Business

- a. Funding Protocol approved and put into use
Electronic voting was begun last spring 2012 – first successful e-vote
The first successful e-vote was from the Atlantic Flyway. A Flyway meeting sponsorship was supported with 35 votes.
- b. Student memberships - as in the last few years, the national dues for the new student representative will be paid for by the state chapter.

- c. Committee Assignments – a reminder that vacancies exist on the committees and members should find a way to be active in them.
- d. Robertson papers – Based on the current status of the AWR papers, suggestions for next steps varied. Perhaps the RU and VT chapters could work together on keywords? Discussion ensued.

V. New Business

- a. Per the Funding Decision protocol, VATWS will be making contributions of :
 - i. \$100 to Virginia Conservation Network
 - ii. \$100 to League of Conservation Voters
 - iii. \$41 for student rep national membership sponsorship
 - iv. National TWS for Milwaukee meeting sponsorship (donation amount not reported)
 - v. \$500 Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District for Envirothon
- b. Virginia Tech chapter requesting money, executive committee requested materials per the funding protocol. Not all necessary paperwork was submitted to VATWS by the VT chapter at this time. Discussion followed concerning VT's low level of participation at the state level.
Motion: match VT funds up to \$750 – amended specifically tied to resources tied to conclave. Motion passed.
- c. Chapter Insurance
Galon announced that the national chapter was asking for ca. \$500-600/year for directors and officers to get liability insurance. Coverage would include being sued for mismanagement, libel, slander, discrimination, breach of contract claims and more. Discussion followed. VATWS members agreed that this was not necessary at this time.

VI. Other Announcements and Updates

Discussion about the resurrection of a summer meeting – budget constraints have limited this in the past, and continue to limit this option.

VII. Election Results

Dave Kocka announced the following winners of the officer elections:
Karen Francl is President-Elect
Todd Frederickson is the Treasurer
Mark Ford is the Member-at-Large
Brenna Hyzy from Radford University is the Student Representative

VIII. Changing of the Presidents and Adjourn

Andy Rosenberg stepped up as President.
Andy called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn. Motion passed at 10:05.

Additional secretary's note: immediately after the meeting, the executive committee met. Because Karen Francl is vacating the secretary's position to become President-elect, the committee chose Joe Ferdinandsen to finish out the final year of this position.

VATWS Treasurer's Report for CY 2012			
Balance on January 1, 2012 (Checking and Savings and Paypal)			\$12,374.26
	Deposits	Expenses	
Membership from TWS (3rd qtr 2011)	\$150.50		
Membership from TWS (4th qtr 2011)	\$817.50		
Membership from TWS (1st qtr 2012)	\$420.00		
Membership from TWS (2nd qtr 2012)	\$120.00		
Member dues	\$367.50		
Interest from Savings Acct	\$3.60		
Donation for TWS Annual Meeting		(\$200.00)	
VA Conservation Network Fee		(\$100.00)	
Student Sponsorship to TWS		(\$36.00)	
VA League of Conservation Voters		(\$100.00)	
VASWCD - Education Foundation donation		(\$500.00)	
Atlantic Flyway Council donation		(\$250.00)	
supplies for Robertson papers		(\$66.96)	
2013 Meeting			
Deposit to WE Skelton 4H Center		(\$600.00)	
Paypal Fees		(\$14.62)	
Meeting Registrations (paid before end of 2012)	\$597.00		
2012 Meeting			
Meeting Registration Income (received after 1/1/2012)	\$9,559.75		
Paypal Fees for Meeting Registrations (after 1/1/12)		(\$134.16)	
Airfield 4H Center Fees		(\$7,500.58)	
Income from Raffle and Bar tips	\$43.00		
Refreshments (\$42.93 credited back for ck #234 not cashed)	\$42.93	(\$412.31)	
Award plaques, supplies for meeting		(\$212.02)	
Awards & Scholarships		(\$650.00)	
TOTALS	\$12,121.78	(\$10,776.65)	
Balance (checking, savings, and PayPal) on 12/31/12			\$13,719.39
WINTER MEETING 2012 (Wakefield, VA)			
Registration Income	\$10,126.00		
Paypal Fees for Meeting Registrations		(\$148.86)	
Airfield 4H Center Fees		(\$7,500.58)	
Airfield 4H Center Deposit paid in 2011		(\$500.00)	
Income from Raffle and Bar tips	\$43.00		
Refreshments		(\$412.31)	
Award plaques, supplies for meeting		(\$212.02)	
Awards & Scholarships		(\$650.00)	
TOTALS	\$10,169.00	(\$9,423.77)	
Balance			\$745.23

Committee Reports

Conservation Review Committee

Following are key activities and accomplishments of this committee since the Feb 2012 meeting:

- We renewed our memberships to both the Virginia Conservation Network (VCN) and Virginia League of Conservation Voters (VLCV).
- We discussed, but did not comment on, a defeated VA Senate bill which would have eliminated the power of Virginia conservation police officers to check bag and creel limits without evidence for arrest. Fortunately, no like bills have arisen during the 2013 session.
- Terra Rentz, of the TWS National office, solicited our input on the formation of a regional network for conservation issues, to function through the sections.
- Nelson Lafon and Galon Hall attended the 2012 Environment Virginia Symposium at VA Military Institute April 10-12, where they had several discussions with VA Conservation Network staff about improving influence on wildlife-related issues at the state level.
- The Committee drafted 5 letters, sent by the Chapter President or Past-President, to:
 - Norfolk City Council opposing proposals to operate trap, neuter, release (TNR) programs for feral cats.
 - All US congressmen in Virginia asking them to co-sponsor the Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act of 2012 (HR 5864).
 - Both US senators from Virginia urging them to restore proposed cuts to wildlife management funding in the House's Interior and Environment Appropriations bill.
 - All 11 US congressmen in Virginia urging them and to support passage of the 2012 Farm Bill. The Senate had previously passed a farm bill, but the House has yet to act, and will probably not do so until spring of 2013.
 - All 11 US congressmen in Virginia urging them to support exemption of the Wildlife Trust Fund (P-R and D-J monies) from sequestration during "fiscal cliff" negotiations.

Submitted by Nelson Lafon

Education and Information Committee Report

February 13, 2013

Last year, the Education and Information Committee put together a brochure highlighting the Virginia Chapter and requested feedback from the Chapter in February 2012. The brochure was designed for public consumption and briefly explains the mission of TWS and our activities. We modeled this brochure after the existing National version, but made it directly relevant to the Virginia Chapter. The brochure is available for distribution at events or meetings (and possibly posted on the website) to promote awareness of VTWS.

In the summer of 2012, we started work on a project to reach out to current students and recent graduates about TWS certification, particularly Associate Wildlife Biologist® upon graduation from an undergraduate program. We worked with Shannon Pederson (Program Manager, Subunits and Certification at TWS) to develop a brochure highlighting the advantages of TWS certification and links to the TWS certification website for more information. Holly Morris and Amy Carrozzino-Lyon visited a VT Student Chapter of TWS meeting on October 24, 2012 and gave a 10-minute presentation describing their experiences with Associate Wildlife Biologist® certification and to encouraging students to think about certification when selecting undergraduate courses and upon graduation. We developed an informational letter and sent both the letter and brochure out on both the VT and Radford Student Chapter listservs also in October. Response was generally positive but minimal, so we are brainstorming other ways to improve effectiveness: reaching students with alternate methods, contact at other times of year (post-May graduation?), and broader reach across colleges and universities in Virginia.

We also welcome suggestions for outreach and education projects from the Chapter, as well as new committee members!

October 16, 2012

Dear Wildlife Student:

We are writing on behalf of The Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society (VTWS) to encourage you to consider membership in The Wildlife Society (TWS), the national professional association for wildlife professionals, and Associate Wildlife Biologist® certification. Many employers (especially state and federal agencies) look favorably upon membership in TWS when hiring and encourage employees to maintain active membership in TWS during their careers. However, many students are not aware of the course requirements for and subsequent benefits of Associate Wildlife Biologist® certification. Associate Wildlife Biologist certification is an intermediate step for recent graduates that meet the educational requirements put forth by TWS for wildlife professionals, but have not achieved the 5 years professional experience necessary to become a Certified Wildlife Biologist. Once work experience is obtained, Associate Wildlife Biologists can then apply within 10 years for Certified Wildlife Biologist status. You can find more information about certification on The Wildlife Society's website:

<http://www.wildlife.org/certification/program>

If you have not met the educational requirements for Associate Wildlife Biologist certification, *now* is the time to think about filling in any gaps in your education as you schedule courses for next semester and plan for your remaining time in your Bachelor program. Most federal and state agency positions (particularly those advertised at usajobs.gov) require the *same* educational requirements as TWS certification for consideration. In other words, you will not make it through the initial screening for a natural resource job unless you meet the course requirements in core areas such as zoology, statistics, ecology, and botany. Now is the time to meet educational requirements so you can achieve your career goals!

Did you know that as a member of a Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, you are automatically a member of the Virginia Chapter? Consider sending in your membership form to VTWS (*free* membership with paid membership to a Student Chapter in Virginia), attending our annual meeting in February, and staying connected with local wildlife professionals. Meetings are a great place to meet local professionals from state agencies, universities, and non-governmental organizations right here in Virginia. Please visit the VTWS website for more information at: <http://joomla.wildlife.org/virginia/>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We hope to see you soon!

Best wishes,

Holly Morris, Associate Wildlife Biologist®
VTWS Education & Information Committee
Masters Candidate, Virginia Tech
hnmorris@vt.edu

Amy Carrozzino-Lyon, AWB®
VTWS Education & Information Chair
Research Associate, Virginia Tech
acarroz@vt.edu

Why Apply for Certification?

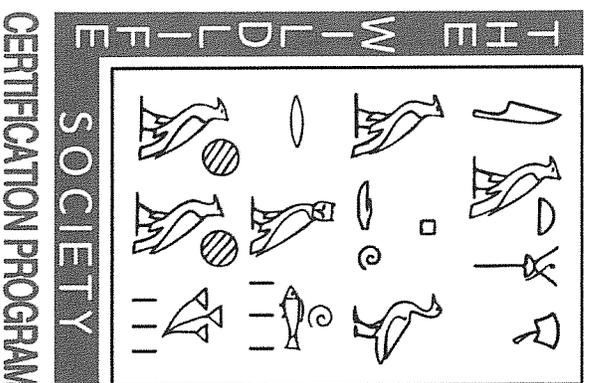
The Wildlife Society is *your* professional organization, and works to represent and serve professionals just like you. One professional service they provide is certification.

With today's job market, new professionals are seeking opportunities to set themselves apart from the competition. Professional certification will do just that. Being recognized as an Associate Wildlife Biologist shows you have completed the rigorous educational requirements for professional wildlife biologists, and are anxious to continue your professional development in putting your knowledge to work.

"...this certification really goes a long way when it comes to finding a job."
Kenneth D., Illinois

The Wildlife Society
5410 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814

[CUSTOMER NAME]
[STREET ADDRESS]
[ADDRESS 2]
[CITY, ST ZIP CODE]



The Wildlife Society

Professional Certification

Levels

Associate Wildlife Biologist (AWB)

- Available to individuals who have completed the educational requirements, but do not have the professional experience to meet CWB requirements.
- Have the opportunity to apply for CWB status within 10 years of AWB certification.

Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB)

- Available to individuals who have completed the educational requirements AND have at least 5 years of professional experience in the wildlife field during the previous 10 years.

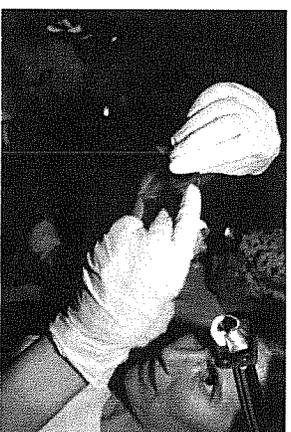
For more information:

wildlife.org/certification/program

Benefits

- Recognition among professionals
- Credibility with the public
- Placement in TWS' online directory of AWBs and CWBs
- Use of the registered trademark certification title on business cards, e-mail signatures, and PowerPoint presentations (e.g., Associate Wildlife Biologist®)
- Eligibility for state and federal jobs, as some agencies require TWS certification or similar educational requirements
- Eligibility to apply for USDA NRCS' Technical Service Provider certificate and Qualified Airport Wildlife Biologist with the FAA

"When I see an applicant is certified, I know there is a reputation for competency with certification." Clara W., New Hampshire



Credit: Garry Peebles/USFWS

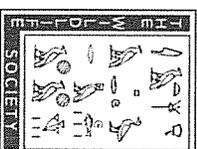


Credit: USFWS

TWS Membership

Holding certification requires you to be a member of The Wildlife Society. Join TWS today and receive the discounted certification application price!

Sign up for TWS and your Chapter memberships: <http://store.wildlife.org>



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2012-21013 Annual Report – Awards Committee

Submitted by Scott Klopfer, Chair

The awards committee is charged with accepting and reviewing chapter award nominations. Each year the committee selects the recipients of the Henry S. Mosby Award, the A. Willis Robertson Award, and the VATWS Scholarship Award from a slate of nominations provided by the membership. In addition, the committee reviews the student presentations at our annual meeting and selects winners for the Best Student Paper and Runner up Awards.

The 2013 awards committee was comprised of Mike Fies, Don West, Tim Stamps, and Andrew Rosenberger. The committee has chosen recipients for the Mosby Award , Robertson Aware, and Scholarship this year.

The total budget spent on plaques for the 2013 meeting was \$285.89. The total cash award total from the 2012 meeting was \$650 with \$500 going to our Scholarship recipient and \$150 for student presentation awards.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Klopfer

Chair

2012-1013 Status and Activities Related to the A.W. Robertson Papers Project
Submitted – Scott Klopfer

Radford University Efforts (synthesized from information provided by Karen Francl)

Karen Francl and her students have scanned all of the Robertson papers in their possession. The total count exceeds 3100 separate documents. This is a huge feat and they deserve our thanks and congratulations.

They are in the beginning stages of populating a simple database containing creating keywords for each document. We need to determine what to do with these documents now that they have been scanned. We should also make sure that copies of the digital files (~ 7.7 GB) are made and distributed for security sake.

The VATWS owes Karen and her students a tremendous debt of thanks for this work. Having this body of documents will allow us to move forward with additional prototypes should we choose to do that.

Update on Library of Virginia (LoV) Materials (synthesized from information provided by Jenna Shepherd)

In the fall of 2012, Jenna reopened discussions with LoVA regarding the possibility of digitizing the collection in their possession. The political climate has shifted within the library, and they are now open to collaborative efforts with other state agencies (i.e. DGIF).

Right now, the library estimates the microfilm to comprise some 23,000 documents. My IT contact at LoVA, Kathleen Jordan, is presently investigating the possibility of a collaborative project between LoVA, VA-TWS, and DGIF to host the collection on the open library (www.archive.org) website.

Jenna and Scott Klopfer revisited the project as designed from several years back. Essentially, the order of tasks included obtaining a digital version of the documents suitable for viewing and an accompanying database that would contain information about each document. We discussed the possibility of using a “crowd sourcing” model for getting the comprehensive database populated. Crowd sourcing relies on multiple volunteers to log in, review documents, and fill out the necessary fields in the database. This model might be useful if knowledgeable volunteers from the wildlife management community could be enticed to participate. It would certainly be more cost effective.

At a follow up meeting in January, Kathleen Jordan (LoV) seemed to be a “bit more circumspect” about the project. In her thinking, the digitization of the collection from microfilm is no big deal, but she's worried about how much staff time LoVA can commit to overseeing the "crowd-sourcing" aspect necessary to make the collection searchable. She would like to wait until a similar project involving their Civil War collection plays out. They'll be crowd-sourcing that project as well, and it sounds reasonable that it will be a good thing to work out the bugs and pitfalls on that project before they turn to the AWR collection.

In the meantime, she suggested that I start pulling together info about the other "bits" of the collection, like the W&M collection, the National Archives collection, and other info that might be scattered about the state. Jenna would also like to work with LoV to locate the historical photographs of AWR that may exist.

Communications Committee Update (ad-hoc)

The communications committee was formed to improve information exchange among TWS members. It originally was tasked with resurrecting the newsletter as well as improving website. The newsletter was re-started in 2011 with Meghan Stump as the editor. David Bishop took over in 2012. Meghan was going to take over the website redesign and maintenance project but took another position before that was completed.

Currently, the website is used to store information on officers, the winter meeting, and newsletters. There does not seem to be a need or strong desire from deviating from the national website template. At this point, the website redesign plan has been put on hold.

My suggestion moving forward is to consider disbanding the communications committee. A newsletter editor is still needed each year. I will continue in this roll through 2013 unless another person is motivated to take it over. The Executive Committee can serve as the newsletter reviewers before sending out to the larger membership.

David Bishop

February 11, 2013

Student Chapter Reports

Radford University Student Chapter

The Radford University student chapter of the Wildlife Society (RUTWS) has had a very successful and exciting year so far. We have a roster of 31 members in our chapter, which is the largest number we've ever had. We did two cleanups this past fall (New River and Claytor Lake) and assisted with a Claytor Lake native mussel rescue. A number of our members took part in spotlighting surveys at the Radford Arsenal, and other Arsenal surveys, which were presented at this state chapter's meeting. We also participated in a behind the scenes tour of Mill Mountain Zoo. Our schedule this spring semester is full, and includes Bioblitz on April 13 (VATWS members, please join us), Radford Vulture day on March 23 at Bisset Park, new guest speakers, and much more to look forward to!

Virginia Tech Student Chapter

Elected President: Sara Reilly

Elected Vice President: Clark Dehart

In February 2012, 2 students from the VT Wildlife Society presented posters to the Virginia State TWS meeting. We held a society Resume Workshop for our members to create the perfect resume to submit to potential summer employers. Our Buffalo Wild Wings Fundraiser helped raise needed money for the society by a percent of the sales that night donated to the society through coupon tickets. We had education events at many middle and elementary school talking about a wide range of topics from oceans, to geology, and diseases. Dr. JD Davis spoke to the society about invasive python research in the Everglades and Operation Wallacea came to talk about internship opportunities. Society members participated in a bog turtle habitat restoration volunteer work as well as the campus wide Relay for Life and Big Event volunteer opportunities. At the Southeastern Conclave in TN, 17 students attended, and received awards in Radio telemetry, 22LR rifle shooting, and turkey calling and placed 3rd overall in each competition. In April, the new Exec board was elected at the end of the year banquet. With Clark Dehart elected as President and Pallavi Sirajuddin elected as Vice President.

August 2012

Our first of the year meeting was a nice cookout with an amazing attendance. In the fall, 5 students attended the 75th TWS National Convention and competed in the Quizbowl. Catherine Jachowski spoke to the members about hellbender research, Cordie Diggins told the society about flying squirrels in Virginia and Kieran Lindsey talked about urban wildlife and her spot on Car Talk radio. Activities included a hike to McAfee's Knob, and a trip to Hanging Rock Observatory to watch the raptor migration. Education committee went to several elementary schools to teach grade school kids about wildlife keeping with the SOL's of Virginia. Camera trapping chair took an average of 10 members on weekend trips to Mountain Lake, VA to continue the camera trapping research which is conducted each fall. After a social Game Dinner with a variety of game and non-game foods we closed out the year with a great event.

ADDENDUM: AUDIT REPORT, submitted 2/26/13

From: Knox, Matt (DGIF) [<mailto:Matt.Knox@dgif.virginia.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2013 1:55 PM
To: Cromwell, Jennifer S - APHIS
Cc: Lafon, Nelson (DGIF); Hall, Galon - NRCS, Richmond, VA
Subject: RE: VATWS Treasurer Audit

Jennifer,

I looked this over closely and everything appears to be in order.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

W. Matt Knox

Deer Project Coordinator

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

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