

Wildlife Toxicology Working Group Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE:

From the Chair	1
Candidate Bios	2
Member Publications	5
Assistant Professor Position	6
Newsletter Contributors	7
Officer Contact Info	7
Newsletter Notes	7



From the Chair

Louise Venne

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We are conducting elections for the WTWG Executive Board. Our Chair-Elect, Kristin Falcone struggled to find nominees, but I think you'll see that those who stepped up as nominees are a good set of candidates. Look for your ballot via an email. The ballot will be

available by a link to Survey Monkey within the next couple days.

The lead position statement has been submitted to TWS Council this fall for consideration and approval. Thanks to everyone who provided comments and/or has worked on the lead position statement. I encourage you to talk with your Council representatives and recommend to them that they approve the position statement. I am encouraged to see the efforts being made by Minnesota and other states to address the challenge of lead entering the environment and supporting programs to educate their citizens about lead exposure and effects and the alternative ammunition and fishing equipment available. View this video by "Just Outdoors" September 2014 demonstrating the use of copper instead of lead bullets to prevent non-target wildlife mortality due to lead poisoning.

The executive board is considering a co-sponsored symposium at next year's TWS conference in Raleigh, NC with the Military Lands WG, one of the newest WGs of TWS. If you have ideas for a specific theme or know of someone doing interesting work who would be a great speaker, please let me know. We will compile a list and contact anyone on that list.

A while back I opened up a survey to get to know the membership a little bit better. The response rate was quite low so it's hard to know exactly what our membership looks like, but I am encouraged by those who did respond. Of the respondents, most are either professionals or retirees who have been members of TWS and the WTWG for five years or more. The overwhelming majority are also SETAC members. It seems like most respondents do not publish frequently - "once every few years", but either consider their job to be primarily toxicology or have the opportunity to "dabble in wildlife toxicology". Items in the newsletter are things that the membership values most as part of their WTWG membership. Some respondents recommended staying active like we are while others suggested more outreach, staying active within TWS and SETAC, and efforts with TWS publications. The board and I will continue to make these efforts. I encourage all of you to continue sending me newsletter items so we can maintain this useful communication tool.

Candidate Position Statements for WTWG Executive Board Positions

Candidates were asked to answer a series of questions.

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order for each position.

Look for voting instructions in your inbox soon after you receive this newsletter. Follow the directions on the ballot to cast your vote for each of the 3 open positions: Chair-elect, Vice Chair, and Treasurer.

Candidates for Chair-Elect

Katrina Leigh

What I do for a living:
Senior Ecological Risk Assessor, providing ecological risk and toxicology support on a wide variety of Federal, state, and private projects.



Where I live/work: Cleveland, OH

Why am I interested in helping with the WTWG?

Over the past few years, I have enjoyed interacting with other members of the Toxicology Working Group. Group members are engaged and truly interested in encouraging interaction among other toxicologists, as well as increasing student involvement. I would appreciate the opportunity to become further involved with this working group and to continue to foster the relationships within the working group and The Wildlife Society.

As a WTWG officer, what goals do I have for the group?

The past leaders of the Wildlife Toxicology Working Group have done an outstanding job in laying a solid foundation for the group. My first goal would be simply to continue the tradition of promoting interaction and an exchange of ideas among colleagues (for example, at national meetings) and between members and students (workshops, scientific sessions). I would like to encourage active participation and interaction with other members of the working group by soliciting input to address the needs and concerns of the group as a whole. Other priorities would be to continue to build the position of the working group within The Wildlife Society itself and to cross-pollinate members of the working group with other toxicologists outside of The Wildlife Society in order to strengthen our perspective on

the current state of wildlife toxicology issues.

Some of my personal hobbies include:

Downhill skiing!!!, kayaking, baking

The most memorable vacation I've taken was:

My husband and I hiked the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in September 2012. It took four days to reach Machu Picchu, but seeing the ruins for the first time through the Sun Gate was worth the walk! The various archaeological features along the way were almost more mesmerizing than the final goal. Peru—the people, wildlife, and plant life—is amazing!!

If I could be any animal, I'd be a... seal, because they look like they are enjoying life!

Jeff Van Zant

What I do for a living:

I am an associate professor at Hillsdale College

Where I live/work: Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, MI

Why am I interested in helping with the WTWG?

I am not per say a toxicologist. However, I advise pre-vet students many of whom have an interest in wildlife.

As a WTWG officer, what goals do I have for the group?

To continue to uphold the high standards which have been set.

Some of my personal hobbies include:

Fishing, hunting, and brewing beer.

The most memorable vacation I've taken was:

Any of which were spent in the mountains.

If I could be any animal, I'd be a grizzly bear because what else?



Candidates for Vice Chair

Brian Hiller

What I do for a living:

I am an Assistant Professor in the Biology Department at Bemidji State University. I am tasked with increasing wildlife specific course offerings for the department's new Wildlife Biology major.



Where I live/work: Bemidji, MN

Why am I interested in helping with the WTWG?

I have long believed that wildlife toxicology is an important, yet often overlooked, component of wildlife management. It is critical to build a strong group of toxicology oriented wildlife researchers and managers to maintain a robust toxicology peer review process within the field of wildlife; additionally it is vital to maintain a consistent, recognized roster of experts to consult on wildlife toxicology related issues.

As a WTWG officer, what goals do I have for the group?

I would like to see the membership in the WTWG grow with increased presence and participation from professionals, but also encourage the inclusion of more students who may be interested but unsure of how to get involved. I would also like to see greater exposure for contaminant related issues in the various publications of TWS as a means of increasing awareness of contaminant issues and the challenge they present to wildlife managers.

Some of my personal hobbies include:

I spend whatever free time I have playing baseball or going fishing, camping, and hunting with my three sons and my wife.

The most memorable vacation I've taken was:

While I was playing baseball and living in Sydney, Australia I spent five days fly-fishing in New Zealand (a vacation from my vacation if you will) and it was the most incredible place I have ever seen. The fish are huge, not that I landed any, and

the scenery is truly amazing; everywhere you turn it is another postcard scene of mountains, lakes, streams, and wildlife.

If I could be any animal, I'd be any large migratory bird, because they tend to be long-lived and their migratory nature allows them to really travel widely and see the world.

Don Sparling

What I do for a living:

Retired, Associate Professor Emeritus, Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale



Where I live/work: Murphysboro, IL

Why am I interested in helping with the WTWG?

Having retired last year, I now have ample time to assist in the responsibilities of the office of Vice Chair. Also, I am completing a textbook in Wildlife Ecotoxicology and intend on remaining active in wildlife tox for at least a few years more.

As a WTWG officer, what goals do I have for the group?

Continue developing cooperation with SETAC, promoting the working group to TWS, see what we can do for students who are interested in wildlife toxicology.

Some of my personal hobbies include:

Fishing, hunting, viticulture, writing

The most memorable vacation I've taken was:

in 1997 taking the family to Alaska where we rented an RV and toured southern Alaska. After our vacation my teenage son stayed with me for a week and we conducted research on white phosphorus poisoning of waterfowl. With my family we saw habitats and wildlife that we never could have otherwise.

If I could be any animal, I'd be a bullfrog, because I would always be hoppy.

Candidates for Treasurer

Stephanie Baker

What I do for a living:

I am a Water Quality Scientist and Wildlife Biologist in the Water Quality Control Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. My unit is in charge of Colorado's water quality standards for the protection of aquatic life, agriculture, water supply, and recreation.



Where I live/work: Denver, CO

Why am I interested in helping with the WTWG?

Member-run groups only succeed if everyone contributes to the operation in some way. I think it is important to give back somehow to those who have built the WTWG to what it is today. In addition, I have been the treasurer for the last two years and have enjoyed my role on the board. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue working for the WTWG and building relationships with its members.

As a WTWG officer, what goals do I have for the group?

I would like to see the group continue to grow and become more active. The WTWG is full of brilliant scientists, giving us the ability to continue to do really great things to increase connections between members and contribute to our science.

Some of my personal hobbies include:

When I have free time, you'll find me hiking, backpacking, traveling, training for half and full marathons, hanging out at home with my fiancé and two crazy kitties, snowboarding, and searching for delicious margaritas around Denver.

The most memorable vacation I've taken was:

A couple summers ago, I traveled around Italy for a few weeks with my mom and best friend of 25 years. It was a whirlwind trip with the goal of seeing as many places as possible. Between the

endless gelato, beautiful art and buildings, feeling overwhelmed by the depth of the country's history, and the stunning, colorful towns of Cinque Terre, I know the three of us will never forget this trip. I can't wait to go back!

If I could be any animal, I'd be a flying squirrel, because they are like little ninjas -- how awesome would it be to spend every night hopping around the forest canopy?

Member Publications

Lazarus, R.L., B.A. Rattner, P.C. McGowan, R.C. Hale, S.L. Schultz, K.K. Karouna-Renier, and M.A. Ottinger. Decadal re-evaluation of contaminant exposure and productivity of ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) nesting in Chesapeake Bay regions of concern. *Environmental Pollution*. 205:278-290, 2015.

Abstract: The last large-scale ecotoxicological study of ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) in Chesapeake Bay was conducted in 2000-2001 and focused on U.S. EPA-designated Regions of Concern (ROCs; Baltimore Harbor/Patapsco, Anacostia/middle Potomac, and Elizabeth Rivers). In 2011-2012, ROCs were re-evaluated to determine spatial and temporal trends in productivity and contaminants. Concentrations of p,p'-DDE were low in eggs and below the threshold associated with eggshell thinning. Eggs from the Anacostia/middle Potomac Rivers had lower total PCB concentrations in 2011 than in 2000; however, concentrations remained unchanged in Baltimore Harbor. Polybrominated diphenyl ether flame retardants declined by 40%, and five alternative brominated flame retardants were detected at low levels. Osprey productivity was adequate to sustain local populations, and there was no relation between productivity and halogenated contaminants. Our findings document continued recovery of the osprey population, declining levels of many persistent halogenated compounds, and modest evidence of genetic damage in nestlings from industrialized regions.

Levengood, JM, Heske, EJ, Wilkins, PM and JW Scott. 2015. Polyaromatic hydrocarbons and elements in sediments associated with a suburban railway. *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment* doi: 10.1007/s10661-015-4757-2.

Secord, AL, KA Patnode, C Carter, E Redman, DJ Gefell, AR Major, and DW Sparks. Contaminants of emerging concern in bats from the northeastern United States. *Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*. DOI:10.1007/s00244-015-0196-x.

Sinka-Karimi MH, Pourkhabbaz AR, Hassanpour M, and JM Levengood. Study on metal concentrations in tissues of mallard and pochard from two major wintering sites in southeastern Caspian Sea, Iran. *Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*. Online First. DOI:10.1007/s00128-015-1591-8.

Wilkins, P., Y. Cao, E. Heske, and J. Levengood. 2015. Influence of a forest preserve on aquatic macroinvertebrates, habitat quality, and water quality in an urban stream. *Urban Ecosystems* 18:989-1006. DOI: 10.1007/s11252-015-0464-6

Greg Linder and Don Sparling are coauthoring a textbook tentatively titled 'Essentials of Ecotoxicology the Science of Chemicals in the Environment and Their Effects'. A little more than one-half the chapters have been submitted to Academic Press, the publisher with a target date for December to have them all submitted. Keep watching this newsletter for updates.

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## Publication of Interest

[Wildlife Toxicity Assessments for Chemicals of Military Concern](http://www.elsevier.com/books/wildlife-toxicity-assessments-for-chemicals-of-military-concern/williams/978-0-12-800020-5) is a compendium of chemical-specific toxicity information with discussions on the rationale and development of Wildlife Toxicity Reference Values (TRVs) intended for use on terrestrial wildlife for risk assessment applications. Substances covered include military-related chemicals including explosives, propellants, pesticides and metals. More here at: <http://www.elsevier.com/books/wildlife-toxicity-assessments-for-chemicals-of-military-concern/williams/978-0-12-800020-5>

## Assistant Professor in Wildlife or Aquatic Toxicology

The Department of Environmental Toxicology and The Institute of Environmental and Human Health (TIEHH) at Texas Tech University invite applications for a nine-month tenure-track Assistant Professor in Wildlife or Aquatic Toxicology beginning August 2016.

The successful candidate will enter a dynamic research and academic environment with many opportunities to collaborate with scientists across a diverse range of disciplines. The Department of Environmental Toxicology offers doctoral and masters. Additional information regarding the Department and our current research areas is available at <http://www.tiehh.ttu.edu/>. A PhD degree in Environmental Toxicology or Biological Sciences with an applied research focus on either reptilian, amphibian, or aquatic toxicology is required. Post-doctoral experience preferred. Candidate must also demonstrate strong records of scholarship supported by publications of peer-reviewed literature in their field, and proven capacity or clear potential to bring extramural competitive funding. The successful candidate will be required to teach one graduate level course in wildlife or aquatic toxicology; previous teaching experience would be advantageous. The Department of Environmental Toxicology serves graduate students only and overall teaching loads are consistent with a strong emphasis on faculty research. Service to the department, college, and university is expected.

Additionally, the candidate will demonstrate the ability to work independently and collaboratively on applied research that complement current faculty interests, demonstrate excellent written and verbal communication skills, and be willing to play a key role in an interdisciplinary team of investigators.

Please submit all application materials including curriculum vitae, a statement describing current and future research interests, teaching statement, and three references to this website: <http://www.texastech.edu/careers/faculty-positions.php>

Please search for Requisition 5431BR on the linked page above.

Please direct any questions related to this search to

Dr. Céline Godard-Codding, Search Committee Chair Department of Environmental Toxicology  
Texas Tech University  
Lubbock, TX 79409-1163  
E-mail: [celine.godard@ttu.edu](mailto:celine.godard@ttu.edu)

Application submission will be preferred by November 15, 2015. Review of applications will begin immediately.



Thank you to the following contributors to this newsletter.

- Stephanie Baker
- Brian Hiller
- Katrina Leigh
- Jeff Levensgood
- Drew Major
- Lynn Miller
- Barnett Rattner
- Don Sparling

**WTWG Executive Board**

|                             |                 |                                                                          |
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**WTWG NEWSLETTER NOTES**

The WTWG newsletter is a quarterly publication. Email contributions by December 30 to Louise at [lsvenne@gmail.com](mailto:lsvenne@gmail.com).

WTWG archived newsletters, meeting minutes, and more are online at <http://wildlife.org/toxicology/index.php>

The WTWG is on Facebook. Visit us (even without a Facebook account). [www.facebook.com/WildlifeToxicology](http://www.facebook.com/WildlifeToxicology)

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Louise Venne, *Editor*