

Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society



Excellence in Wildlife Conservation through Science and Education

Edited by Paul Brewer, President-Elect

President's Corner

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The coming of fall often brings thoughts of changing colors of leaves, holiday gatherings, and cooler temperatures. For Illinois sportsmen and sportswomen, fall also brings with it long-anticipated hunting seasons. As temperatures begin dropping and day length shortens, migratory birds begin winging their way south and white-tailed deer reach their peak breeding season. While August, September, and October offer season openers for dove, rail, woodcock, waterfowl, and other species, November brings with it the chance to pursue pheasant, quail, rabbit, and other species. For many, fall is the culmination of months and even years of hard work preparing their gear, managing habitats, and undertaking a host of other activities needed to maximize opportunities to pursue wildlife. However, I thought it worthwhile to take this opportunity to remind us of the contributions that hunters, fishers, and wildlife-watchers make to wildlife conservation across Illinois and North America.

According to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, more than 90 million U.S. residents over the age of 15 participated in wildlife-related recreation activities. More than 33 million people fished, 13 million people hunted, and 71 million participated in at least one type of wildlife observation, feeding, or

photographing in the United States.

Sportsmen and sportswomen spent \$144.7 billion in wildlife or fish related activities in 2011, which equated to approximately 1% of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product. More than \$49.5 billion was spent on gas, lodging and other trip-related expenses, \$70 billion on equipment, and \$25 billion on licenses and land. Hunters and fishers account for the bulk of the expenditures, but wildlife watchers also spent more than \$54 billion dollars which supported rural communities, natural resource agencies, and nongovernmental organizations. In Illinois, more than \$3 billion was spent on wildlife-related activities in 2011 by more than 3 million participants.

In addition to direct expenditures (e.g., trips, licenses, equipment), taxes leveed on guns and ammunition (Pittman-Robertson tax) and fishing gear (Dingell-Johnson tax) support wildlife conservation, research, and education. In 2016, more than \$1.1 billion in P-R and D-J funding was awarded to states for education programs, restoration grants, and other uses. In 2016, Illinois' share of P-R/D-J funding was \$21 million which will be spent on a variety of programs that directly benefit wildlife and fish.

I was recently asked, "If I could convey a single message to the general public about my profession, what would that be?" This was a hard question to answer because there are many important messages related to wildlife conservation today. However, my response included the hope that the general public would appreciate that hunters, fishers, and other outdoor enthusiasts largely foot the bill for wildlife conservation in the United States and without sportsmen and -women, the outlook for many of our game and non-game species would be grim. I hope all ICTWS members take a few minutes this fall to enjoy the outdoors and join with 90 million peers from across the U.S. in a wildlife or fish related activity.

Heath Hagy - - President, ICTWS

2016 Illinois Wildlife Action Plan Update

The required 10-year update to the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan was submitted this past spring, and campaign leads recently received comments back from USFWS. Campaign leads and IWAP coordinators are working to address all comments from USFWS and anticipate resubmission and acceptance before the end of the year. Briefly, the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) program is administered by the USFWS to target Species in Greatest Conservation Need in each state, and the habitats they rely on for conservation. The USFWS also requires a SWAP to be accepted for each state for the state to qualify for State Wildlife Grants to be used for species or habitat conservation work.

<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/IWAP/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://teaming.com/swap-overview>

Randy Smith
Illinois DNR Wetland Wildlife Program Manager

It's All Good News at the TWS Members Meeting



It's been a successful year for TWS and this year's TWS Annual Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, was off to a great start.

At the Sunday morning TWS Membership Meeting, President Gary Potts, Executive Director Ken Williams and Chief Operating Officer Ed Thompson described the current state of TWS and the success that the Society has achieved in regards to finances, partnerships, publications and more.

Potts, whose presidential theme focused on expanding partnerships in wildlife conservation and management, told members that the Society has expanded its outreach to nearly 30 organizations in recent years. These partnerships are helping expand the Society's influence as well as helping TWS become "the go-to Society."

Williams described some exciting aspects of the conference: This year there will be four plenaries and keynote sessions as well as 900 education opportunities that will enhance the conference experience. About 1,850 eager wildlifers who are attending the conference are getting the opportunity to take advantage of these exciting opportunities, which make this conference one of the largest in the 23 years they have been taking place. "This is good," Williams said. "This is a good indication of where we are as a society."

Williams says the Society is showing a resurgence in finances resulting in stability and growth that has allowed TWS to expand member services such as website content, the weekly eWildlifer and an increase in *The Wildlife Professional* magazine from four to six issues a year. "I am pleased to report to you today that we have made and are making major strides in every one of our five strategic plan areas," Williams said. "The future looks very bright for the Society."

Because Williams is stepping down from his executive director position in July 2017, President Potts along with staff and Council members presented Williams with an award and thanked him for all of his help in bringing the society to a stable, successful place today. Williams asked members to spread the word about the opportunity to become the Society's next executive director. "It's a great job," he said.

TWS plans to build on its recent successes, and Chief Operating Officer Ed Thompson spoke at the meeting about some new programs designed to grow the membership.

One of The Wildlife Society's new benefits is making subscriptions to the Society's two scientific journals a free benefit of membership starting Jan. 1. This new benefit, worth \$75, is an added incentive to join TWS.

Thompson also announced a new program that will allow members to gift a six-month membership to a nonmember. "This is a chance for members to give back to the Society and help us grow our membership," Thompson said. "Just imagine if a thousand members invited a thousand nonmembers to join The Wildlife Society, and those people decided to join." This program will launch Dec. 1.

Also recognized at the Members Meeting were a group of award recipients. Congratulations to all!

Chapter of the Year:

San Francisco Bay Area

Student Chapter of the Year:

University of Wisconsin Steven's Point Student Chapter

W.L. McAtee and G.V. Burger Award for Outstanding Service as an Associate Editor:

Roger D. Applegate

Student Chapter Adviser of the Year:

Scott E. Henke

TWS Fellows:

Rick Baydack
Carol Chambers
Darren Miller
David Haukos
Karl Martin
Karla Guyn
Michael Gillingham
Michael Mengak
Rhys Evans
Valorie Titus
William Clark

Distinguished Service Award:

Northwest Section – Blake Murden
Southwest Section – Brian L. Hanson
Southeastern Section – Stephen V. Rockwood
Western Section – William G. Standley
Canadian Section – Elston H. Dzus

Honorary Members:

Terry Kreeger
Terry Blankenship

Gary Potts - Past-president The Wildlife Society

Gary Potts Hands Presidential Gavel to Bruce Thompson



Gary Potts' presidency came to a triumphant close as he handed the gavel to the incoming TWS President, Bruce Thompson. In an emotional reflection on his time as president, Potts emphasized the collaborative nature of recent accomplishments, from expanding membership to building partnerships to promoting science-based policy.

The positive changes that Potts oversaw as president rested on a legacy of strong leadership going back to the Society's founding. Potts described the inspiration he drew from the portraits of past presidents hanging on the wall in the TWS office.

"I reflect often on that wall in The Wildlife Society, and I'm proud of all of those individuals in the past," he said. "It's just humbling that my picture will be up there with those leaders."

Potts' words weren't just for current and past TWS leaders. He expressed his delight that many students had chosen to attend the conference, and praised the contributions of members at every level. Together, he said, we are part of something bigger. When members look in the mirror tonight, he told members that they should see a reflection of their shared passion for TWS.

"That's what you see in me. It's been in my heart for 37 years — a deep passion for our professional society. Because we are —" Potts finished, prompting the audience to the chorus: "The Wildlife Society!"

Bruce Thompson, the 2016-2017 TWS president, accepted the gavel and took the stage to explain his vision for the next year. He spoke directly to the students and young professionals in the audience, encouraging them to seize opportunities and take advantage of older members' support and mentorship. Opportunity is often missed, he said, because it comes dressed in overalls and it looks like work — a quote he borrowed from Thomas Edison. By accepting work and making their voices heard, TWS members have the power to shape the future.

Thompson also described the theme of his presidency: "Wildlife Conservation: Crossroads of Cultures." The next conference will be held in Albuquerque, N.M., a crossroads both geographically and historically, he says. But beyond that, wildlife conservation must involve a coming together of people from different backgrounds and points of view.

"This is my way of stepping off into the next year, not just for the conference, but for all that we do in The Wildlife Society," Thompson said. "Wildlife conservation is a crossroads of cultures."

Illinois Bat Conservation Program

Numbers of bats in Illinois have been declining due to white nose syndrome, and bat populations also may be impacted by habitat loss, wind energy development, and climate change. In the summer of 2016, a multi-year Illinois Bat Conservation Program, led by biologists from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Eastern Illinois University, and IDNR, was initiated, and we've already begun to collect data from acoustic monitoring stations and driving routes, as well as by mist-netting bats at select locations across the state. The acoustic data from this project will be added to the North American Bat Monitoring Program through the USGS, which utilizes a GRTS network to select survey sites. These locations will be monitored periodically to develop data useful in IDNR management decisions as well as in contributing to a better picture of bat populations at the national level.



The program is collecting several other types of data, including data from roost surveys conducted during the summer months, utilizing an approximately 2.5 hour, 2 person emergence count protocol.



We hope to develop ties with select colleges, universities and agencies around Illinois, and roost surveys

are the best way to achieve this goal. If you know of a summer bat roost and would like to complete an emergence count during summer 2017 to add to our dataset, or if you just want to share roost location information with us, contact the Illinois Bat Conservation Program at <info@IllinoisBats.org>.

For more information about the Illinois Bat Conservation Program, check out our website: www.IllinoisBats.org.

Tara Hohoff
Illinois Bat Conservation Program
Bat Survey & Monitoring Coordinator

New Study to Track Turtles and Habitat Use in Cook County

Future generations of turtles in the Chicago area have new hope thanks to USDA Wildlife Services, Forest Preserves of Cook County, and Friends of the Chicago River. For many aquatic turtles, the loss of suitable nesting habitat and high predator densities has limited their ability to reproduce. The increasing density of invasive plants has limited turtle nesting to confined areas and the activity is predictable to predators.

Lost habitat accompanied by abundant meso-predator populations has left turtle eggs and hatchlings vulnerable. To minimize these challenges, Friends of the Chicago River is restoring potential turtle nesting sites by removing invasive shrubs and trees, helping turtles find new nesting sites unknown to predators. Some of the turtle species benefitted include southern painted, common snapping, and spiny softshell turtles.

In order to monitor restoration efforts, biologists from Forest Preserves of Cook County and USDA Wildlife Services captured turtles near the restored habitats and attached transmitters to the their shells to track them after release. Blood samples were taken and data recorded on each turtle's size, weight, and sex. The nesting ecology, reproduction, and predation rates of turtle eggs and hatchlings at the restored sites will be monitored by staff. (*see photos on following pages*)



USDA APHIS Wildlife Services' Wildlife Biologist John Hartmann, Biologist Melina Frezados (Forest Preserves of Cook County), and Senior Wildlife Biologist Chris Anchor (background, Forest Preserves of Cook County) take measurements on a southern painted turtle as part of a new project being conducted by USDA Wildlife Services, Forest Preserves of Cook County, and Friends of the Chicago River.



USDA APHIS Wildlife Services' Wildlife Specialist Hannah O'Malley and Wildlife Biologist John Hartmann take measurements on a common snapping turtle as part of a new project being conducted by USDA Wildlife Services, Forest Preserves of Cook County, and Friends of the Chicago River.

Photo credits - both photos: Stacina Stagner (Communications Manager, Forest Preserves of Cook County)

John Hartmann - USDA Wildlife Services-Illinois, Wildlife Biologist

Member Publications

From Dr. Jeff Levensgood:

England, C., J. Levensgood, J. Osborn, A. Yetter, M. Kinsella, R. Cole, C. Suski, and H. Hagy. 2016. Spatiotemporal distributions of intestinal helminths in female lesser scaup *Aythya affinis* during spring migration from the upper Midwest, USA. *Journal of Helminthology* doi: 10.1017/S0022149X16000493

Conservation Affairs Network Update

The Conservation Affairs Network held its annual meeting in October during The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference in Raleigh, NC.

Mark Humpert, from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), was present to provide an update to the "Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2016", a bill introduced to the U.S. House of Representatives. This bill would appropriate \$1.3 billion annually to support actions aligned with state Wildlife Action Plans. This bill will be re-introduced during the new Congressional session early in 2017. Local chapters and individual members will be encouraged to contact House delegates to co-sponsor and support this bill. More information can be found in the CAN's [October newsletter](#).

TWS Council approved two new Position Statements during the Annual Conference: [Invasive and Feral Species](#) and [Energy Development and Wildlife](#). These statements consolidated many existing position statements, including the previous statement on Feral and Free-Ranging Domestic Cats, which is now considered an Issue Statement. For more information on the differences between Position Statements and Issue Statements, please visit the Society's "Position Statements & other Policy Engagement Documents" [webpage](#).

The online Policy Library is scheduled for a February 2017 launch and will serve as a repository for policy statements, technical reports and policy briefs from the national organization and sub-units. The intent is to increase the value of the Society's policy work by making it more accessible to people in the conservation community who can use it in developing and assessing policy issues.

*Scott Meister - Past-president, Illinois Chapter TWS
Manager of Natural Resources
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County*

Managing Invasive Species in Oak-Hickory Woodlands: A Novel Approach in Illinois

Beginning in 2009, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDOC) began testing the efficacy of using aerial applications of glyphosate in the fall to manage the invasive species Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) in oak-hickory woodlands. Upon learning of this novel approach, biologists from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) began testing this technique in Illinois.

In 2014, a pilot study was conducted on 80 acres of private land in Macoupin County enrolled in the IDNR's Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP). In the pilot study 15, 40m² plots were established and the percent cover of bush honeysuckle and live stem density within each plot was recorded. On November 7th, 2014, 2.0 gallons/acre of total solution containing 3.0 quarts/acre of aquatic approved glyphosate (Rodeo), 0.64 fl. oz/acre of drift control agent (Volare DC), and 8.0 fl. oz/acre of non-ionic surfactant (Class Act NG) mixed with water were applied to the study area. The entire area was treated in approximately 15 minutes at a cost of \$38/acre with a fixed-wing aircraft. Across all study plots, the percent cover of bush honeysuckle was reduced by 74% and live stem density was reduced by 60%.

The results from the 2014 pilot study led to an increased effort in 2015. Through the IDNR's IRAP, nearly 1600 acres were treated using aerial applications. Study plots designed after the 2014 pilot study were established on a subset of properties treated. Results from the 2015 applications indicated a nearly 73% reduction in percent cover of bush honeysuckle and a 44% reduction in live stem density. In 2016, there is approximately 1500 acres that are slated to be treated with this technique.

Several questions still need to be answered regarding this application technique. Namely, what is the response of both the native herbaceous and hard mast species? Also, what is the response from bush honeysuckle in the seed bank and other invasive species that may be present (e.g., garlic mustard [*Alliaria petiolata*])? Further, are there other chemicals or rates that would increase the efficacy of this application technique? While there are many questions to be answered, this technique seems to be presenting itself as an alternative to land managers and private landowners tasked with managing the invasive bush honeysuckle on their properties.

As these efforts have been conducted, the authors of this article have been made aware of others using this technique in Illinois and elsewhere. The efforts are continuing in Missouri and have recently expanded to the state of Iowa on lands managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The purpose of this article is twofold. First, we want to share the initial results of our efforts through an informal medium while we continue to develop this technique. Secondly, we want to reach out to others in the conservation community who may be experimenting with this technique and/or know of others who may be doing the same. If anyone has information that may contribute to this effort, please feel free to contact either Andrew DiAllesandro (andrew_diallesandro@fws.gov) or Bob Caveny (bob.caveny@illinois.gov). (Please see before and after treatment photos on following page)



Before



After

Andrew DiAllesandro - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Phillip Cox, Jake Vancil, and Bob Caveny - Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow

Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLfT) is a professional development program designed for student and professional leaders within the natural resource sciences. CLfT focuses on hunting awareness and conservation education among academic programs and government agencies. CLfT consists of 4-day workshops that blend interactive classroom discussion with field experiences. Workshop participants engage with leading natural resource professionals and conservationists in a highly interactive educational setting.

CLfT's goal is to identify future and current leaders of the natural resource profession who do not hunt and provide them with an understanding of the diverse values and important roles of hunting and its impact on conservation.

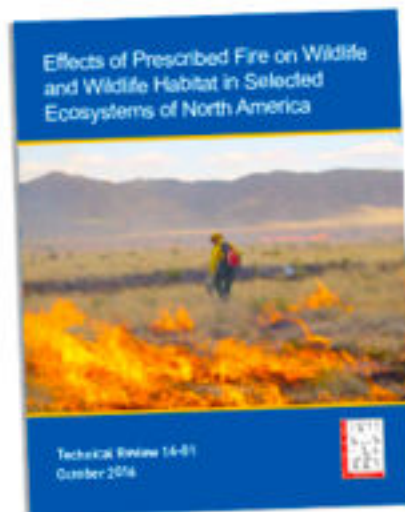
In Illinois, workshops are held multiple times during the fall and winter at Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation in East Dundee, Kane County. For more information visit: <http://clft.org/>.

*Scott Meister - Past-president, Illinois Chapter TWS
Manager of Natural Resources
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County*

Announcing New TWS Technical Review on Prescribed Fire

I am happy to let IL Chapter of TWS members know that the new Technical Review "Effects of Prescribed Fire on Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat in Selected Ecosystems of North America" is now available on the TWS website. Anyone may download and print a copy at no cost. Go to <http://wildlife.org/technical-reviews/> to print your own copy.

Paul Brewer from the Illinois Chapter-TWS is a co-author of the review.



Technical Reviews are scientific analyses related to prominent topics and issues in wildlife science, management, conservation and policy that are written by panels of experts and are often used in preparing TWS Position Statements. The new Technical Review, “Effects of Prescribed Fire on Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat in Selected Ecosystems of North America,” is now available on the TWS website. Anyone may download and print a copy at no cost.

The review describes how prescribed fire is widely applied as a management tool in North America to meet various objectives such as reducing fuel loads and fuel continuity, returning fire to an ecosystem, enhancing wildlife habitats, improving forage, preparing seedbeds, improving watershed conditions, enhancing nutrient cycling, controlling exotic weeds, and enhancing resilience from climate change. The authors use a regional approach, focusing on selected vegetation types, including southeastern pine and mixed pine-oak forests, eastern coastal marshes, midwestern jack pine forests, sagebrush ecosystems of the interior West, mixed-severity forests of the northern Rocky Mountains, subalpine and montane forests of the Canadian Rockies, southwestern ponderosa pine forests, desert grasslands, and shortgrass steppe ecosystems.

Gary Potts - Past-president The Wildlife Society

ICTWS Newsletter Submissions

Don't wait for solicitation to provide you contributions to the next ICTWS Newsletter! We accept news, awards notices, recent publications, upcoming conferences, or any item that could be valuable to members throughout the entire year.

Everyone have wonderful, safe, and joyous holidays!

Please email Paul Brewer, at fireboss@mchsi.com any contributions.

Student Chapter Information and Websites

Eastern Illinois University

Advisors: Jill Deppe, jldeppe@eiu.edu
Webpage: http://www.eiu.edu/slo/rso/rso_info.php?id=145

Southern Illinois University

Advisor: Eric Schaubert, schauber@siu.edu
Webpage: <http://wildlifezoology.rso.siu.edu>

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Advisors: Steve Buck, sbuck@illinois.edu
Bob Schooley, schooley@illinois.edu
Webpage: <https://illinois.collegiatelink.net/organization/thewildlifesociety>

Western Illinois University

Advisors: Chris Jacques, CN-Jacques@wiu.edu

Webpage: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1655573311367912/>

Resources

The Wildlife Society staff and Council actively encourage the success of student chapters and provide ongoing assistance to them. For more information on resources available to student chapters including annual conclaves, the TWS Leadership Institute, Career Development and Job Board visit: <http://wildlife.org/next-generation/>

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