

# THE NORTHEAST SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

*Photo courtesy of Zach Adams*

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## A Letter from the President – Emily Just



I am so excited and honored to be serving as the Northeast Section President this year. After completing the TWS Leadership Institute in 2010 I was highly motivated to get more involved with the Northeast Section. I hadn't planned on jumping right in to President-elect and then President, but sometimes when opportunities present themselves you have to take them! I am really glad I did because I have learned so much about TWS, discovered benefits of being a NE member that I wasn't taking advantage of (like online access to the Journal of Wildlife Management) and I have become friends with amazing people.

I know I have huge shoes to fill, as Terra was an incredible President over the last 3 years and worked hard to improve the way we operate and the services we deliver. During her tenure, Terra filled our Executive Committee with a competitive election and built-up our committees, including starting a new ad hoc Workshop Committee which hosted several workshops at this year's Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies-

*A Letter from the President continued...*

Annual Meeting. We also hired Sydney Spicer, our Newsletter Editor and Facebook Manager to increase communication to our members. One of the biggest accomplishments was the creation of a new membership unification initiative. Through this initiative between the NE and National, all TWS members from the NE Section will automatically become NE Section members. This will increase the NE Section membership from approximately 350 to about 1,200 members!

I certainly hope to continue building on those initiatives and adding more to keep the momentum of the NE Section going strong. Some of what I hope to accomplish this year include: working with the Executive Committee to update the operations manual and create position descriptions, develop a NE section logo and offer merchandise, increase workshop/webinar opportunities, continue to increase communications with members, and more. I'll be looking for more input and communication with members as well, so watch for those emails and FB posts. I also want you all to feel comfortable emailing me your thoughts or ideas at any time. So, please feel free to email me (even if it's to say hi!) at [emilyjust@gmail.com](mailto:emilyjust@gmail.com)!

## Featured Photographer!

The Northeast TWS Newsletter is in need of a Featured Photographer for the September issue! If you are interested or know anyone who may be interested, email Sydney at [spicesa15@juniata.edu](mailto:spicesa15@juniata.edu)



## Twitter Alert!

Are you a Pennsylvania wildlife professional? Do you want to stay updated on news, events, and wildlife information in the state? Follow the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society

[@PA\\_TWS](https://twitter.com/PA_TWS)

## Northeast Updates:



Northeast TWS Featured Member:

**John McDonald**

*Northeast Section Member*

*What is your current position and specialization?*

I am Associate Professor in the Environmental Science Department at Westfield State University. We focus on teaching undergraduates here. My previous jobs allowed me to do research and management of game species.

*What made you decide to get into the wildlife profession?*

I was into hunting, fishing, and trapping as a teenage in rural Pennsylvania, which is how I became aware of the profession. My undergraduate education was in Forestry, and my intent was always to continue to graduate school in wildlife biology. I was interested in forest wildlife, so thought that getting a forestry degree would be a good way to combine my interests.

*What is the most interesting aspect of your job?*

Helping students try to figure out their career paths, introducing them to concepts that help them organize facts they may already know, getting them in the field to do hands-on activities and see that spark an interest. I've been able to work for state agencies, a federal agency, and universities, and hope I have a decent perspective on our profession and can introduce students to lots of options and people in the field.

*How would you describe your experience with the Northeast Section?*

I've been affiliated with the Section for quite a while, having been Vice-President, President, and then serving 2 terms as NE Section Representative to TWS Council. It has been great for me to interact with members all over the Section and to have gained their confidence such that they were willing to put me in those leadership positions. The Section also allowed me to start the Field Course that we do each year in Vermont. 2017 was our 9th annual course. This has also given me the chance to meet people I wouldn't normally meet during my regular work life and to connect students and wildlife professionals in a friendly, informal setting.

*What advice can you give to new members who are just beginning their wildlife career?*

Several things.

**1. Be persistent** in your job searches and don't despair if you don't get a job that you know you would be a great fit for you. There is a lot of competition for jobs, especially entry level jobs and graduate schools. Keep applying and something will work out.

**2. Network!** Our field is small and personal connections count for a lot; people are willing to help you if you are open to it.

**3. Get involved.** Being part of The Wildlife Society has allowed me to gain so many experiences and friendships that I otherwise never would have had. You don't have to be an officer to get involved, you can

## Northeast Updates:

*Northeast Featured Member continued...*

join a committee, help organize meetings, etc. But, getting involved in some way will broaden your professional network and your perspective on our field.

**4. Appreciate the experiences you have.** We get to do some really interesting stuff in beautiful settings. People would pay money (and do) to do some of the stuff I've been fortunate to do in the line of work. Sometimes it is hard to appreciate your circumstances when you are starting out, working long and often odd hours in the field, not making a lot of money, and juggling life and work. I know I didn't appreciate the freedom I had when I was in graduate school while I was there, but looking back I certainly do think about how fortunate I was to do the things I did, and to basically have years of my life when I set my own schedule and was working outside, trapping and tracking interesting critters, and learning about their habitats and how they used the landscape. Those years go by fast.

*What is your favorite story to tell regarding your work?*

I have had a lot of interesting stories involving both wildlife and people (usually both). One of my favorites is the first time I had to chemically immobilize a moose in the suburbs of Boston about 3 weeks after I started my first real job with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife as the Deer (and Moose) Project Leader. It was Memorial Day weekend. I had never been to that part of the state, so was fortunate to get my first police escort (at rather high speed) to get to the site where the moose was. It was in a yard adjacent to a parking lot for the commuter rail station. The moose story was all over local radio so by the time I got to the scene there were probably 700-800 people there watching the moose, many with video cameras. I had never darted a moose before and the young cow that was there was only the 2nd one I'd ever seen. But, now I was the moose "expert". As soon as I started getting the dart ready a reporter for the local paper came up to ask me how many moose I'd darted before and I explained it was zero, but that I had handled many deer and scores of bears and explained what "should" happen over the next 20 minutes. Lo and behold, everything went just as I described. I actually hit the moose with the dart, she ran a bit but not very far, and I was able to approach her within about 8 minutes, blindfold and hobble her, and we got a bunch of people to help lift her into the back of my truck with a cargo net. Not all future such events went so smoothly, but it was a good lesson for me in being prepared, dealing with the media, law enforcement agencies, and a large crowd, and staying calm. This is one of those experiences I really appreciate more now than perhaps when it was happening.



## Northeast Updates:

### Maryland/Delaware Chapter - The Wildlife Society Spring Meeting April 20-21, 2017



The Maryland-Delaware Chapter had a very successful Spring 2017 meeting with over 50 attendees and 3 excellent guest speakers. This meeting's theme was natural resource communications, which included topics ranging from tactical communication, to verbal conflict resolution, and learning how to communicate about wildlife to school children. The

meeting was held at the Discovery Nature Center at Deep Creek Lake State Park in Swanton, Maryland. Attendees also participated in two field sessions, using mist nets and banding songbirds, presented by Dr. Frank Ammer, Frostburg State University, and chemical immobilization of wildlife, presented by Dr. Jennifer Murrow, University of Maryland-College Park.

Awards were presented to both graduate and undergraduate research poster participants, Erica Duda (Frostburg State University) and Patrick Roden-Reynolds (University of Maryland) and Grace Hummel (University of Maryland), respectively. The Chapter also held a wildlife photography contest, with Bobby Branham winning for his photo of a red-spotted newt.



Harry Spiker, MD Black Bear Biology and Management was one of the presentations that occurred at the meeting

## Northeast Updates:

*MD/DE Spring Meeting continued...*



*Top left:* Student research was on display during the meeting's poster session.

*Top right:* Attendees participated in communication exercises intended to hone their skills

*Bottom:* Kerry Wixted gave a presentation on communicating to the public about wildlife



## Wildlife News:



USDA

### NECIS Send Letter to EPA on Kaput Feral Hog Bait

By Jamila Blake

*Some modifications have been made to this article. For full story, [click here](#)*

On Jun. 2, the National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species (NECIS) sent a letter to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt urging the agency to immediately suspend or cancel the registration of Kaput® Feral Hog Bait.

NECIS is a partnership of environmental organizations and professional societies dedicated to strengthening the nation's response to invasive species, with a particular focus on preventing new invasions. The Center for Invasive Species Prevention, National Wildlife Federation, The Wildlife Society, and American Bird Conservancy – all member organizations of NECIS – signed on to the letter. The organizations recognize the negative impacts of feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*) as a nuisance invasive species throughout much of the U.S. and support collaborative and aggressive approaches to managing feral hogs. However, the groups caution against the use of Kaput®, a warfarin-based pesticide, for feral hog control until it is clear that all non-target wildlife and public health impacts have been fully evaluated by the federal government. EPA fast-tracked the approval of Kaput® for use on feral hogs in Jan. 2017.

As a result of EPA approval, state officials can now consider this product for use as a feral hog control agent. Scimetrics, the company that sells Kaput® products, recently withdrew a request for registration of the product within the state of Texas after pending lawsuits and legislation arose..

Both the letter sent by NECIS and an additional letter sent by AFWA (which calls for the suspension of the product) describe the pathways in which native wildlife species may be exposed to Kaput® resulting in lethal or sub-lethal impacts. Non-target species may be impacted by direct consumption of the bait or exposure to spilled bait as well as contact with feral hogs following death. Feral hogs harvested by hunters also could pose a health risk to human populations.

The four NECIS member organizations stress the need to gather more information in order to properly reevaluate Kaput® and, along with AFWA, request that the EPA “suspend or cancel the registration of this product until such a time that formal consultation can be completed with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Food and Drug Administration.”

*Original article published on The Wildlife Society website*

## Wildlife News

### Where are Connecticut Bears Hanging Out?

By Patrick Skahill

Connecticut's Senate recently killed a measure that would have allowed for limited hunting of black bears in the state. Now, newly published research suggests as black bear populations grow, the animals seem to prefer habitats that might put them in more backyards.

Here's a question: are black bear sightings rising in Connecticut because lots of people see a few bears many times, or are there actually more bears there?

"We always have this *Where's Waldo?* problem," said Tracy Rittenhouse, an assistant professor at the University of Connecticut who studies bear populations in the state.

To get around that existential question, Rittenhouse and her team set up and monitored 150 "hair corrals" in the northwest part of the state from 2012 to 2013. She recently demonstrated a model in a forest near her office on UConn's Storrs campus.

"All it is, is two stands of barbed wire wrapped around four to five trees," Rittenhouse said. "In the middle, we pile some logs and some sticks and we put a little bit of scent lure on it -- so something that's smelly that might attract a bear."

The bear comes in, burrows under the wires, and hopefully, leaves behind a piece of hair, which scientists can then analyze.

Rittenhouse said the hair's DNA helps identify individual bears, which provides better data for population density estimates.

So what did they find out?

"What we demonstrated is that bear density is best explained by human housing density," Rittenhouse said. "The cool result from our project is that bear density was higher in 'ex-urban'



*UConn*

neighborhoods -- so that's neighborhoods with six to 50 houses per kilometer squared," she said. "There [are] more bears in those types of neighborhoods than in rural places where there [are] no human houses."

Put another way, she said it's not that a lot of people call and report bears in those ex-urban neighborhoods, it's that there are actually more bears.

The research is published in the journal *Landscape and Urban Planning*.

She's also compiled a website, which chronicles her research and [allows residents to search for bear activity in their neighborhoods](#).

Rittenhouse said based on this research, she thinks there are about 400 to 450 black bears in Connecticut.

*Original article published on WNPR and can be found [here](#)*



## *The Wildlife Professional News*

### **A message from Editor-in-Chief, Nancy Sasavage**

Thank you to everyone who responded to the recent reader survey conducted by the editorial advisory board of *The Wildlife Professional*. We are still analyzing the results, but here are some of the preliminary findings.

Respondents want to see more content on professional development, wildlife law and policy matters, wildlife research and practice, human-wildlife conflicts/issues, and habitat management. Our student members want to see more content on finding a job, research conducted by students and diversity in the



### **Submit an article to *The Wildlife Professional*!**

Got a story to tell?

Share it with your fellow TWS members in *The Wildlife Professional*! We invite members to submit articles in any of the following categories: commentary, education, ethics in practice, health and disease, human-wildlife connection, law and policy, research and practice, professional development and tools and technology. Send a brief summary of your article topic to [editor@wildlife.org](mailto:editor@wildlife.org) to learn more about how you can publish in *The Wildlife Professional*.

Thanks,  
Nancy

## Membership Application

# NORTHEAST SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY: Membership Application

Stay connected and engaged! Please use this form to apply for membership in the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society:

- ❖ Regular Membership [ ] (\$8 per year)
- ❖ Retired Membership [ ] (\$8 per year)
- ❖ Student Membership [ ] (\$5 per year)

Make checks payable to: “The Northeast Section, TWS.”

Mail to: Tammy Colt  
226 Hamill School Road  
Bolivar, PA 15923

Email: [tcolt@pa.gov](mailto:tcolt@pa.gov)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution/Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Country/Zip (Postal) Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime telephone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternatively—

Apply for or renew your Section membership when you apply for or renew your National membership online! Visit <http://wildlife.org/membership> to complete your application.

## Who's who in the Northeast?

### Executive Board:

<p><b>President :</b> Emily Just Email: <a href="mailto:emjust@pa.gov">emjust@pa.gov</a></p> <p><b>Secretary:</b> Michael Schiavone Email: <a href="mailto:Michael.schiavone@dec.ny.gov">Michael.schiavone@dec.ny.gov</a></p> <p><b>Representative:</b> Paul Johansen Email: <a href="mailto:Paul.R.Johansen@wv.gov">Paul.R.Johansen@wv.gov</a></p>	<p><b>President-elect:</b> Michael Fishman Email: <a href="mailto:Michael.s.fishman@gmail.com">Michael.s.fishman@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> Tammy Colt Email: <a href="mailto:tcolt@pa.gov">tcolt@pa.gov</a></p>
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### Audit Committee

Chair	Mitch Hartley	<a href="mailto:Mitch_hartley@fws.gov">Mitch_hartley@fws.gov</a>
Treasurer	Scott Williams	<a href="mailto:Scott.Williams@ct.gov">Scott.Williams@ct.gov</a>

### Awards Committee

Chair	Gordon Batcheller	<a href="mailto:gordon.batcheller@gmail.com">gordon.batcheller@gmail.com</a>
Co-chair	Jim Anderson	<a href="mailto:jim.anderson@mail.wvu.edu">jim.anderson@mail.wvu.edu</a>

### Communications Committee

Newsletter Editor	Sydney Spicer	<a href="mailto:spicesa15@juniata.edu">spicesa15@juniata.edu</a>
Webmaster	Ken MacKenzie	<a href="mailto:Ken.mackenzie@state.ma.us">Ken.mackenzie@state.ma.us</a>
NE Representative to TWP	Shawn Haskell	<a href="mailto:Shawn.haskell@maine.gov">Shawn.haskell@maine.gov</a>

### Conservation Affairs Committee

Chair (NJ)	Eric Schradling	<a href="mailto:Eric_schradling@fws.gov">Eric_schradling@fws.gov</a>
Member (DE)	Emily Boyd	<a href="mailto:emily.boyd@state.de.us">emily.boyd@state.de.us</a>
Member (PA)	Reg Hoyt	<a href="mailto:Reginald.hoyt@delval.edu">Reginald.hoyt@delval.edu</a>
Member (ME)	Rodney Kelshaw	<a href="mailto:Rodney.kelshaw@stantec.net">Rodney.kelshaw@stantec.net</a>
Student Member	Rene Tam	<a href="mailto:rctam@syr.edu">rctam@syr.edu</a>

### Operations Committee

Chair	Tim Green	<a href="mailto:tgreen@bnl.gov">tgreen@bnl.gov</a>
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### Student Affairs Committee

Chair	Shawn Cleveland	<a href="mailto:smclevel@esf.edu">smclevel@esf.edu</a>
Member (PA)	Kyle Van Why	<a href="mailto:Kyle.r.vanwhy@aphis.usda.gov">Kyle.r.vanwhy@aphis.usda.gov</a>
Member (CT)	Dr. Miranda Davis	<a href="mailto:mldavis13@gmail.com">mldavis13@gmail.com</a>
Member (PA)	Frederic Brenner	<a href="mailto:fjbrenner@gcc.edu">fjbrenner@gcc.edu</a>
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### Workshop (ad hoc) Committee

Chair	Allen Gosser	<a href="mailto:Allen.l.gosser@aphis.usda.gov">Allen.l.gosser@aphis.usda.gov</a>
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