

The Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society

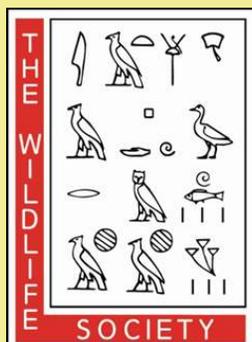
Newsletter

"The mission of the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society is to foster excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education among wildlife professionals within the northeastern United States."

A Look Inside...



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Stacy Carpenter



Greetings! There is something about this summer that seems to make it one of the best in recent memory. That being said, spending time in the field tends to make every summer the best in memory.

First, thank you all for electing me to work with you. Second, I would like to provide a brief background and what I'd like to accomplish, with your help, over the next year.

Like most, it was in college when I first learned of TWS when I became student chapter president. At that time, it was in a rough place and the only actual members were the officers. There were no meetings, events or guest lectures. Over the next year we grew membership to over 40 individuals and when the reigns were handed to the next leader, she kept it growing from there. It was almost 5 years later that the UMass Amherst student chapter held its first Conclave. I could not have been more proud.

From graduation for the next decade, I worked up from the position of staff scientist to project manager in a multi-disciplinary engineering firm. In a leap of faith, and after volunteering field skills instruction for non-profits for 10 years, Blue Lion Training was created to be a field school and offer the career based field skills that weren't offered in a traditional academic setting. Many Society members have been at the core of its success. It is this sort of long term, deep support and strength that makes the Society incredible.

But this isn't about any of that. It's about what I hope we can accomplish together. Over the next year, I plan to focus on creating deeper connections with student chapters and greater support to new professionals. This field is impossibly small and those all around will be colleagues for the next 20 plus years. Need a job, recommendation, citation, expertise? The Wildlife Society is there. It's like a secret handshake that opens door for decades. The Society takes care of its own.

How will the work be accomplished? It will be accomplished through a mixture of old fashioned personal conversations and the use of technology. I will be reaching out to many of the hard working student chapters to ask if we can meet and have a cup of coffee. Perhaps attend an event? I'd like to learn how you run your organizations and what we as officers can provide to take you to the next level.

Summer 2014

Over the next six months, we will also be working to make it easier to connect with other chapters and individuals in other states.

As for the seasoned professionals (and you know who you are), I would like to connect with you as well. Many of you are dedicated Society members, but probably don't get as much in return for paying annual dues as you'd like. That needs to change and it is hoped you will help me change it this year.

This coming year holds great promise for connecting, collaborating and becoming an even more stellar resource for wildlife professionals.

Thank you for working with me and it is hoped that we will have a cup of coffee soon.

SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

John McDonald

Between the Spring and Fall Council meetings, much of TWS' business is accomplished by our dedicated staff in the Bethesda HQ. Council members however, do each sit on a number of committees, some made up only of Council members and others which are also comprised of regular members and TWS staff to share the work. Summer can often be a time of get caught up with the work of these committees in preparation for discussions and decisions at the Fall Council meeting. This summer however, Council had to make a couple of significant decisions on future TWS business that required a bit of discussion, thought, and debate before we voted.

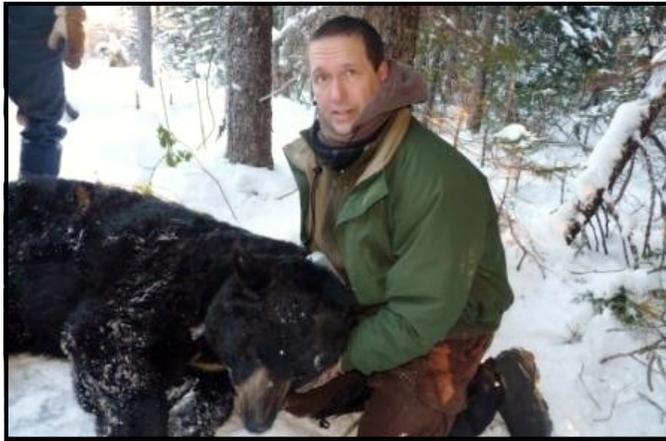
The first decision, which I think was the most important to our society in the long term, was whether to remain with our current journal publisher, John Wiley and Sons, or to distribute a request for proposals and seek offers from other publishers for the Journal of Wildlife Management, Wildlife Society Bulletin, and Wildlife Monographs (The Wildlife Professional is published by another ven-

dor). Our contract with Wiley was set to expire after next year and the terms stated that we needed to give them 12 months notice if we wanted to renew. After several meetings with the Publications Committee (on which I sit) and HQ staff, Wiley submitted a proposal for a new contract to include the years 2016-2022, a 7 year term, compared to the 5 year term of the present contract. Council approved hiring a publishing consultant on a short contract to review the offer in the context of the larger scientific publishing industry and to provide us with insight into what we might expect from other publishers if we passed on this offer and went the RFP route. Council ended up approving entering into this new, longer term contract with Wiley which changed several of our revenue provisions from the previous contract, which our consultant suggested should improve our realized annual income, and included a \$535,000 up front incentive. I will admit that I had some reservations about some of the terms but overall think we will be better served by staying with Wiley for this next period than to start a new relationship with a new publisher. I will be happy to discuss this further if anyone wishes to contact me directly with questions.

Secondly, we had to reverse a vote we took at the March meeting to hold a joint conference in Tampa with the American Fisheries Society in 2017. This opportunity was presented to us at the meeting as a chance to increase participation in the annual conference and to host some joint sessions with AFS. However, over the past few months, it became clear to TWS staff that the venue might not meet all of our needs so we were asked to reverse that vote and to restart negotiations to hold the 2017 conference in Albuquerque, where it was previously scheduled. The dates are not confirmed for that meeting yet, but we are about where we would normally be in the planning for that meeting, so we have not lost much time.

This will be my last column as your Section Representative as my second term comes to a close at the annual conference in Pittsburgh. Congratulations to Paul Johansen of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources who will take over and I know will do a fantastic job on Council.





Special thanks to John McDonald for his exceptional service!

I can honestly say it has been the highlight of my career to serve on Council these past 6 years. I have gotten to meet and become friends with TWS members all over the map who I probably never would have met otherwise and certainly look forward to maintaining those relationships. I think have also learned some leadership lessons through the various issues we have dealt with on Council over these years.

I want to thank everyone that has helped me carry out this role. Many of you volunteered for committees, sent me ideas or suggestions, or were willing to listen to me talk about whatever Council was wrestling with when I cornered you at a meeting. I also want to thank all of you who voted for me for Vice-President in the recent election. Even though I was not elected, I really appreciated those of you who took the time to drop me a notes of encouragement, they really meant a lot to me. Perhaps I will be fortunate enough to be nominated again someday to lead our Society and serve you again.

As always, please feel free to be in touch with me if you have questions, concerns, or ideas about the business of our Society and how we might better serve you and the profession. Hope to see many of you in Pittsburgh at the conference.

2014 NE SECTION CONCLAVE Hosted by Penn State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

The 2014 Northeast Student Conclave took place at Steven Mountains Scout Camp from March 28th through 30th. The event was located near Milroy, PA and hosted by the Penn State University Student Chapter. Ten student chapters attended this event. Friday night began with a dinner and key note address by Dr. Gary Alt, retired wildlife biologist with the PA Game Commission and freelance wildlife photographer. Saturday consisted of a host of new workshops ranging from RANGE.

The 2014 NE Quiz Bowl began on Saturday night with students competing for the coveted albino rooster and the title of Quiz Bowl Champions! Ten schools entered in the competition, SUNY – College of Environmental Science and Forestry came in first. Photography, archery, game calling, and mammal, bird, and tree identification were all competitions that occurred on Sunday. Conclave provides students with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience, engage with peers, and develop lasting relationships that will follow them throughout their careers.



2014 NE Conclave Quiz Bowl Champions—SUNY ESF (Thea Cooper, Sarah McIntire, Peter Iacono, and Rob Meyer)

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FIELD COURSE

John McDonald

The Northeast Section sponsored its 6th annual field course from May 18-31 at the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife's Kehoe Conservation Camp in Castleton. This year's 20 students came from 8 different schools across the Northeast and were a mix of undergraduate and graduate students. We had 3 new schools represented, University of Maryland, Pace University, and SUNY Brockport. This year 18 wildlife professionals (OK, I was a fisheries biologist) volunteered their personal time and came to lead different segments of the course (and several brought equipment with them). Bill Healy and I deeply appreciate the example that all of these people set, we truly would not be able to offer the course without all of them. We had a few new volunteers this year that allowed us to add some new sessions on reading wildlife sign and tracking as well as using acoustic monitoring devices for detecting bats (and we detected bats!). We even set off a rocket net (OK, 2 rocket nets) during a demo on wildlife capture. As usual, we had pretty long days and nights but enjoyed



Emily Underwood, sets a trail camera during the NE Field Course



Participants of the 2014 Northeast Section Field Course

good weather most of the 2 weeks, which is not always the usual case. According to the course reviews, the students found all parts of the course useful and interesting, but some high points were the mist-netting and handling of songbirds and the small mammal trapping and tagging, especially the ongoing drama of Bill Healy and the Chipmunks. Oh yeah, the trap shooting is also a perennial favorite activity as is the natural community hike to the summit of Bird Mountain.

I want to especially thank the site manager, Jason Morin, for everything he does for us while we are at the camp. Jason makes us feel at home and tolerates all of the requests we make for help with such good humor. And he is an excellent Hunter Education and shooting instructor and is especially patient and helpful with first time shooters.

You can join our [Facebook group](#) (or search for Northeast Section TWS Field Course) to see lots of photos of the action. Plans are underway for the 2015 course, likely May 17-30. Email me (John McDonald at twsmcdonald@gmail.com) with any questions if you are interested in taking the course, promoting it with students, or volunteering to instruct a session or help with a session.

CONGRATUALIONS TO OUR 2014 AWARD RECIPIENTS!

The Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society would like to proudly recognize this year's award recipients. Awardees were honored at the 2014 Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in Portland, Maine.

JOHN PEARCE MEMORIAL AWARD

John McDonald (*Massachusetts*)

The John Pearce Memorial Award is given to members of the Northeast for outstanding professional accomplishments in Wildlife Conservation in the Northeast. We congratulate John McDonald for joining the ranks of awardees since 1951 for his outstanding contributions of knowledge and leadership.

P. F. ENGLISH MEMORIAL AWARD

N. Scott Parker (*University of Maine*)

The P. F. English Memorial Award is presented to the outstanding undergraduate senior student of wildlife biology or wildlife management in the Northeast. First awarded in 1974, the P. F. English Memorial Award recognizes a student's achievements in scholarship, work experience and professional activities. We congratulate Scott Parker for achieving this honor on behalf of the Northeast Section.

TWS FELLOWS PROGRAM

Dr. Jacqueline Frair (*SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry*)

Dr. Thomas Serfass (*Frostburg State University*)

The Fellows program is a national award facilitated by The Wildlife Society and is designed to recognize members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to the wildlife profession. The Northeast Section is honored to forward Drs. Jacqueline Frair and Thomas Serfass for recognition by The Wildlife Society during the Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Pittsburg, PA.



Scott Parker accepting the P. F. English Memorial Award from then-President Mitch Hartley

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD:

Gerry Hassinger (*Pennsylvania*)

The Distinguished Service Award is recognized nationally by The Wildlife Society and is designed to honor those members who have made a long-term commitment to the Society based on membership longevity and service. The Northeast Section proudly awarded Gerry Hassinger this national honor. Gerry will be recognized at the October Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Pittsburg, PA.

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Check out the current [table of contents](#) on-line to find out!



WELCOME TO OUR NEW OFFICERS!

First off, special thanks to our outgoing officers, Mitch Hartley (President), Tim Green (Past President), Shawn Haskell (Vice-President), and John McDonald (NE Section Rep), for exceptional dedication and leadership. The NETWS is a better section because of your hard work!

We would like to introduce your new (and continuing) officers—Stacy Carpenter (President), Terra Rentz (Vice-President), Eric Shrading (Secretary), Scott Williams (Treasurer), and Paul Johansen (NE Section Rep).

STACY CARPENTER, PRESIDENT



Stacy founded and runs Blue Lion Training, an ecology and environmental skills field school located in Massachusetts. Prior to this, she spent ten years working with a private company in land management consulting, specializing in wildlife, wetlands, site design, permitting and site restoration. She started with the Society years ago as Student Chapter President and has

been involved ever since. Stacy enjoys off-trail hikes with her husband and three energetic dogs. She encourages any and all members to contact her with suggestions how to make the Society an even better resource for both professionals and students!

TERRA RENTZ, VICE-PRESIDENT

A recent transplant to upstate New York, Terra is completing her MS/MPA at SUNY ESF and Syracuse University evaluating the management effectiveness of state fish and wildlife agencies. Previously Terra served as the Deputy Director of Government Affairs at TWS and has been working to promote the use of science in policy and decision making for the past eight years. Terra is extremely excited to serve the Section in her new capacity! When



she's not focused on her research she loves working in her garden, drinking wine, and playing in the canoe with her family and her stinky yellow lab.

ERIC SCHRADING, SECRETARY

Eric returns for another term as NE Section Secretary. He has been with the US Fish and Wildlife Service at the New Jersey Field Office for 19 years serving in federal activities and private lands restoration and the Private Lands Coordinator for the past 16 years working on habitat res-



toration projects throughout the State. A Certified Wildlife Biologist, his expertise is in on-the-ground, low-cost habitat restoration projects and invasive species control. Among his many leadership accomplishments, Eric is the former President of the New Jersey Chapter. Eric enjoys the sport of triathlon in his free time and has competed and finished the Ironman World Championship in Hawaii four times!

SCOTT WILLIAMS, TREASURER



Scott has a BA from Connecticut College, MES from Yale University, and Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut in Natural Resources. He works as a research scientist at The Connecticut Agricultural

Experiment Station in New Haven and has been a member of the Wildlife Society since 2000 and a Certified Wildlife Biologist since 2010. He is excited to serve his second term as Treasurer of the Northeast Section to help to facilitate the youth movement, bringing with them new ideals on the new realities occurring in the field of modern wildlife management.

PAUL JOHANSEN, NE SECTION REP TO COUNCIL



Paul is a Certified Wildlife Biologist with more than 32 years of service to the citizens of West Virginia. Currently he serves as Assistant Chief in Charge of Game Management where he is responsible for administering the statewide game management program, including District wildlife management operations and statewide wildlife research projects. He holds a BS in Wildlife Biology from the University of Massachusetts and a MS in Fisheries and Wildlife from Virginia Tech. Paul will be replacing the current Section Representative, John McDonald, this October for a three year term on Council. Paul is happily married to his lovely wife Anne, and together they share the joy of raising their son William.

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NATIONAL TWS RELATED NEWS

FACES ARE CHANGING AT TWS!

2014 is a year of change for The Wildlife Society office in Bethesda, Maryland. New opportunities have drawn some staff away while other positive changes have opened the door for new boots on the ground to make our Society successful!

With the departure of former Chief of Operations, Darryl Walter in Fall 2013 we welcome our new Chief Operating Officer, Ed Thompson. Ed joins TWS with 17 years of experience in business leadership, writing, and website design.



Changes by Council in 2014 allowed TWS to expand its ranks with the hiring of Hedy Ross as Development Manager. Hedy has over 16 years of experience in marketing and communication and will help TWS build a strong fiscal foundation for growth!

Keith Norris joined the team in February as the new Assistant Director of Government Affairs following the departure of then Deputy-Director, Terra Rentz. Keith was a research technician with Hardwood Ecosystem Experiments in Ohio and brings vibrant new energy to TWS.



Finally, we wish farewell to Katie Edwards, our Professional Development Coordinator and welcome our *new* Wildlife Programs Coordinator, Mariah Simmons. Katie will be pursuing new opportunities as the Wildlife Management Specialist for Fairfax County, VA this fall. The Section thanks Katie for her work with TWS! Her energy and knowledge will be greatly missed at headquarters.



Mariah joins TWS on August 25th as the primary liaison with our Sections, Chapters, Student Chapters, and Working Groups. Mariah is a recent graduate of the University of Maryland with a concentration in Wildlife Ecology and Management. Mariah has most recently

worked as a Biological Services Aid at the Backwater National Wildlife Refuge and was the co-founder of the University of Maryland's Student Chapter of TWS in 2011.

The Northeast Section proudly welcomes all of the new staff at The Wildlife Society in Bethesda, Maryland! We look forward to seeing all of your faces as we welcome you to the Northeast and Pennsylvania at the Annual Meeting.

NATIONAL TWS RELATED NEWS CONTINUED...

COUNTDOWN TO THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE!!

Christina Voorhees, PA TWS President

It is hard to believe that another summer field season is quickly coming to a close. Since this will be our last newsletter prior to the annual TWS Conference, I wanted to take the time to highlight the event and let you know how our chapter has been involved in the planning process.

As you are aware, PA TWS is hosting the conference in Pittsburgh from October 25-30 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Since this is the first time the conference will be held in Pennsylvania, it offers a unique opportunity for our membership to reconnect with colleagues in PA while networking with students and resource professionals from across the nation.

The conference schedule boasts a wide variety of field trips, meetings, workshops, symposia, and contributed papers that truly offer something for everyone. Our chapter has played a critical role in ensuring that Pennsylvania's resources are highlighted throughout the conference by offering opportunities to visit local areas of significance and presenting research on PA wildlife management issues. The annual conference isn't just about education. It is an opportunity to relax and socialize too. You will definitely want to consider joining your colleagues at the Welcome Reception/Awards Dinner, the Leopold Reception, and the Closing Night celebration aboard the Gateway Clipper! Check out the full schedule on the conference website to sign up for conference add-ons and plan your visit around the events that interest you the most.



Engaging students has always been a central focus of the annual conference. In keeping with this tradition, students will be able to take advantage of numerous opportunities including a student reception, Quiz Bowl, student poster session, resume development sessions, and various other events designed with their best interests in mind. I would like to highlight this year's Student Professional Mixer as it promises to be quite memorable for all involved! It will be held at the Omni William Penn Hotel on Monday, October 27 and will feature food and drink, networking, and the best-of-the-best from the student poster session

will be on display. To facilitate networking, the committee has developed a "game" where students will be collecting threatened and endangered species cards from each of the professionals they speak with. I don't want to give away too many of the details, but prizes will be involved! Please plan to come out for the event whether you are a student or a professional. We need your support in order to ensure the mixer is a success!

Volunteers are critical for the day-to-day operations of the conference. Please be sure to check out our "Call for Volunteers" section in this newsletter and consider donating your time and talents.

The conference website has a wealth of information and is a great tool for planning your personal conference schedule. Visit <http://wildlifesociety.org/> to check out everything I have highlighted plus a whole lot more!

Just a reminder that early registration (a \$50 savings) ends August 31 and there are also discounted blocks of rooms available at select hotels. The conference will be here before you know it so sign up today!

NATIONAL TWS RELATED NEWS CONTINUED...

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS 2014 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Conference Arrangements Committee is looking for eager volunteers to assist in hosting the [21st Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society](#) in Pittsburgh, PA. 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!

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.

Volunteers must register to attend the conference. Assignments are in 4-hour blocks. 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? Student volunteers are eligible to receive reimbursement at \$7 per hour. Payment is intended to offset expenses for volunteers not receiving full support from their educational institution. As a volunteer, you may 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](#). 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! Contact Jeannine Fleegle at (724) 238 - 1826 or jfleegle@pa.gov.

5TH INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT CONGRESS

Sapporo, Japan—July 26-30, 2015



The 5th International Wildlife Management Congress (IWMC2015) will be held on July 26–30, 2015, in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan. The Congress is presented in partnership with the Mammal Society of Japan (MSJ)

and The Wildlife Society (TWS). This is the first time that this prestigious Congress will be held in Asia. The theme of the IWMC2015 is “International Models of Wildlife Biology and Management: Beyond Cultural Differences.”

Most modern wildlife management in North America and Europe has a science-based perspective, but wildlife in Asia has been managed as a natural resource based on traditional knowledge. However, other nations with diverse cultures are facing similar problems in wildlife conservation and management. Thus, we expect that IWMC2015 will contribute to the construction of progressive wildlife management systems, by enhancing the networking opportunities for colleagues from all over the world with diverse interests in the biology, conservation, and management of wildlife.

[Registration is now open](#) for the IWMC. Participants are encouraged to register early!

The **Call for Papers** will be open until **November 17, 2014**. More [information](#) regarding topical areas can be found online.

The **Call for Symposium** is still open and the IWMC will be accepting proposals for symposium until **January 9, 2015**. More [information](#) regarding desired symposium topical areas and process can be found on the website.

CHAPTER NEWS

MAINE

Lauren Gilpatrick, ME Chapter President

METWS is currently **voting on an official position statement** that opposes the upcoming referendum on the ban of using bait, hounds, and traps to harvest black bear. The executive board approved both documents in August. Upon member approval, the position statement and an information sheet will be released publicly and published in the black bear focused fall issue of *The Maine Wildlifer*.

There is an open call for submissions for this edition – please submit stories, articles, opinions, and photos of Maine’s black bears by **September 5th, 2014** to Lauren Gilpatrick (LGILPATRICK@hotmail.com)

Maine-based Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI), in collaboration with the Waterbird Society, announced the release of a **special issue of the *Waterbirds*** (www.bioone.org) dedicated to loon research and conservation in North America. The special issue contains 15 papers under several broad headings ranging from behavior to contaminants. Research highlights include the first data on sex ratios in Common Loon chicks, the first adult survival estimates for Red-throated Loons, and first reports of mercury exposure in Yellow-billed Loons from Alaska and Canada.

Unity College now has an official Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society! METWS is pleased to now have 2 student chapters and we look forward to supporting and connecting with future generations of professional wildlifers.

We are currently **seeking candidates for Secretary/Treasurer and President Elect**. Interested? For more information contact Sarah Boyden (sarah.boyden@maine.gov). Interested in **becoming a member** of METWS? Contact Membership Chair Sarah Spencer (sarahmargaretspencer@gmail.com)

METWS Annual Fall Meeting and Awards Dinner -

Friday November 7th, 2014 at the Penobscot County Conservation Association in Brewer, Maine.

We’re on [Facebook](#)! Like METWS and stay connected.

MARYLAND-DELAWARE

Brian Jennings, MD-DE TWS President

This year’s spring meeting occurred on May 1st and 2nd in Redden State Forest in Georgetown, Delaware with a special focus on furbearer trapping and management. Speakers presented talks on recreational trapping and commercial fur trade, trapping for wildlife research, trapping legislation, and nuisance wildlife trapping. The two day meeting consisted of talks on the afternoon/evening of the first day followed by a hands-on morning session learning about different kinds of traps and how to set them.

The **FALL MEETING** for the Maryland-Delaware Chapter is scheduled for **September 19th, 2014 at the Robinson Nature Center in Columbia, Maryland**. All are welcome to attend! A finalized agenda and schedule of daily events is still pending and current information can be found on the [Chapter’s website](#) when available.

In the realm of wildlife related news, feral cats continue to be a growing issue for our region. The Chapter recently sent a written opposition to a piece of legislation in Maryland that would have made it legal for Trap-Neuter-Release programs to release feral cats into the wild. In Maryland it is illegal to release a domesticated animal into the wild and the proposed law would have reversed this standing – luckily it was defeated. Similar legislation is rumored to be on the horizon in Delaware that may require Chapter comment, but as of yet the proposed legislation has not made it out of committee.

We’re looking forward to our fall meeting and hope to see Chapter and Section members in strong attendance!

[Visit MD-DE on Facebook!](#)

CHAPTER NEWS CONTINUED...

NEW ENGLAND

David Paulson, NE Chapter President

On May 1, 2014, the New England Chapter hosted their annual spring meeting entitled “Captive Breeding Conservation Programs” at Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, RI. We had five speakers present their work surrounding captive breeding and species conservation. All of the talks focused on the conservation of state and federally listed species in New England. In the afternoon, we were taken on a tour of the Zoo’s captive breeding facilities. There were nearly 100 members in attendance and by all accounts, everyone enjoyed the day.

If you would like to learn more about this workshop or any of our others, please [visit our website](#). We post all of the presentations and photos on the site and on [Facebook](#). Our executive board meeting occurred in July and we are currently planning our **fall workshop for October or November** of this year. Stay tuned!



Tom French, MA DFW, tackles two programs going on in MA: Rattlesnake Conservation & the Need for Captive Breeding and the Northern Red Bellied Cooter Head Starting & Restoration Effort. (Photo credit: NE Chapter)

NEW JERSEY

Evan Madlinger, NJ TWS President

The Chapter had an excellent spring meeting—combining forces with the New Jersey Chapter for the Society of American Foresters. Together, they hosted a joint seminar on early successional forest habitat. The following article was published in *Forestry Source* by the Vice Chair of NJ SAF recounting the workshop.

Ornithologist: “It’s Not Just about the Young Forest Anymore”

(June 2014 issue; by Steve Kalleser, CF) - Thanks in part to an SAF Foresters’ Fund grant, a group of wildlife biologists and foresters recently attended a workshop led by Professor Jeff Larkin of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, who discussed the cooperative management of young forests for imperiled species. Larkin, who has degrees in wildlife biology and forestry, has conducted research on the golden-winged warbler (GWWA) since 1993. GWWA populations in some areas of the Appalachians have declined by 70 percent to 80 percent over the last 40 years, and a petition has been submitted to list this species under the federal Endangered Species Act. Larkin’s work on various bird species has been assembled (along with the work of other ornithologists and foresters) into habitat management guidelines and best management practices (BMPs) to turn this important research into recommendations that can be implemented by private and public land managers.

Larkin is a coauthor of *Golden-winged Warbler Habitat: Best Management Practices for Forestlands in Maryland and Pennsylvania*, published in 2011 by the American Bird Conservancy (www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/domestic/pdf/gwwa_bmp_final.pdf). Larkin’s travel was covered by the Foresters’ Fund grant, which was obtained by the New Jersey Division of the Allegheny SAF. The workshop

CHAPTER NEWS CONTINUED...



was organized by the New Jersey Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

A substantial amount of Larkin's presentation focused on new results obtained since the publication of the GWWA BMPs. This latest research has been obtained by using radio telemetry to track GWWA movement. These data show that

the GWWA does not necessarily spend the entire nesting season within early-successional habitat, but may venture up to one mile from its territory into surrounding older forest. In fact, recent research in Minnesota revealed that, shortly after fledging, the male and female birds divide the offspring between them and separately venture up to one-quarter of a mile into the surrounding older forest. Recent research also has revealed that certain tree and shrub species appear to be indicators of GWWA territories, including white oak, pin cherry, black locust, and blackberry. However, certain species appear to be negatively correlated to GWWA territories, including black birch, sassafras, mountain laurel, various blueberries, autumn-olive, and honeysuckle. The mechanism for this appears to be the presence or abundance of the caterpillars, other insects, and spiders on which the GWWA prefers to feed.

Larkin recommended various hawthorns, silky dogwood, gray dogwood, and arrowwood viburnum as excellent shrub species for creating GWWA habitat, because of the relatively high caterpillar abundances these species typically host.

Based on this new research and past experience, Larkin suggested that foresters and wildlife biologists cease thinking of the GWWA as an early-successional species. He suggested describing the species as a "diverse forest obligate" or a "dynamic forest specialist." This reflects a new view of the GWWA's reliance on older forests within one

mile of the young forests needed for breeding and fledging. It would also help differentiate landscapes for the GWWA from that used by the blue-winged warbler, a bird he characterized as historically occupying prairie fringe and barrens habitat. (In addition to the loss of young forests, hybridization with the blue-winged warbler is a major factor in the decline of the GWWA.)

Larkin strongly recommended forestry practices that encourage both oak regeneration and habitat maintenance for the GWWA and other imperiled bird species, such as the cerulean warbler. Aggressive forest stand improvement or the first cut of a shelterwood harvest (along with competing understory vegetation control) could promote cerulean warbler habitat, improve post-fledging GWWA habitat, and provide quality advance regeneration for future harvests that could be used by the GWWA as older breeding areas mature. In short, Larkin's message is that responsible oak silviculture provides a continuum of habitats for imperiled species.

Additional resources include regional GWWA breeding habitat guidelines and other information from the Golden-winged Warbler Working Group (www.gwwa.org) and management guidelines for cerulean warblers from the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture (amjv.org).

[Learn more about the Chapter on Facebook!](#)

CALL FOR PAPERS & SAVE THE DATE

Fall Meeting of NJ TWS on October 15, 2014

Where: NJ Div of Fish & Wildlife Assunpink Conservation Center,

Deadline for Abstracts: August 30th to Ted Nichols (ted.nichold@comcast.net)

All Presentation topics welcome!

Watch for [more details](#) and agenda coming soon!

CHAPTER NEWS CONTINUED...

NEW YORK

Valorie Titus, NYTWS President

It's an honor to represent you all as the Chapter President, and I look forward to the next 2 years (though I will be living and working in Vermont, I can see NY from campus, so it's ok)!

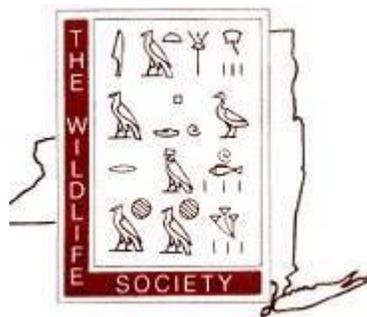
We have had a very busy spring, starting off with our Annual Meeting! I won't go into too much detail, as we have a nice write-up in our [newsletter](#). Many, many thanks to those who made it happen, especially the awesome speakers and the folks at the Oxford Rod and Gun Club, who graciously hosted the meeting and provided participants with wonderful meals. Our first (hopefully) annual Beast Feast was a booming success, as well! Thank you to all who brought your wild game dishes!

I would like to thank our outgoing officers and welcome our incoming officers. We will miss Lynn Braband (Vice President), Jennifer Higbie (Treasurer), and Johanna Duffy (Secretary) on the executive committee! Your service the last few years has been greatly appreciated and we look forward to your participation in other ways.

Welcome to our new officers, Martin Lowney (VP), Donald Lockwood (Treasurer) and Peter Iacono (Secretary)!

It's great to see the enthusiasm and they will be great additions to the executive committee.

And, finally, the **FALL FIELD MEETING!** Our awesome new VP, Martin, has been working hard at getting it planned for students and



professionals! We will again be hosted by our friends at the **Oxford Rod and Gun Club October 3-4, 2014**, so mark your calendars! We will have an official announcement and registration forms coming out really soon. Our theme will be *Challenges of managing wildlife to protect other wildlife* and we already have a great lineup!

[For pictures from the Chapter visit them on Facebook!](#)

WILDLIFE NEWS OF INTEREST

TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE STEERING COMMITTEE SUBMITS TESTIMONY TO SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

On 23 May 2014 testimony was submitted on behalf of the TWW Steering Committee Members to the Senate Interior/Environment Appropriations Subcommittee advocating for the restoration of funding to the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program for Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15).

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program is the only federal program with the singular purposes of preventing federal endangered species listings. It has been experiencing precipitous declines in funding over the past few years making conservation of nongame species a difficult task for many state fish and wildlife agencies. For full text of this testimony, visit the [TWW Blog](#).



WILDLIFE NEWS OF INTEREST CONTINUED...

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BY BALLOT INITIATIVE:

A current state of affairs for Maine's Black Bears

Maine voters will be faced with a decision this November that may have long term conservation implications for black bear management. The Maine Bear Hunting Ban Initiative (Question I), sponsored by Mainers for Fair Bear Hunting and the Humane Society of the United States, poses the decision to voters to determine if certain practices of bear hunting such as baiting, the use of dogs, and the use of traps should be prohibited. Although directed at bear management the purpose of the bill has little to do with conservation.

The black bear population in Maine is one of the most robust in the United States, well over 30,000 individuals, and is growing due to improved habitats. As most wildlife professionals agree, maintaining healthy wildlife populations requires continued and focused management with hunting as a primary means to curb overpopulation. The Bear Hunting Ban Initiative seeks to prohibit the three most effective means of controlling bear populations, which also account for 93% of the bears harvested annually in the state. Passage of this ballot initiative essentially removes the ability for Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) to effectively use hunting and harvest as a means to control growing black bear numbers and to reduce the increased potential for human-wildlife conflict.

Maine IFW has openly come out in opposition to the ballot initiative and is encouraging citizens to get informed about the science behind black bear management and the



negative consequences for conservation that will become reality should the initiative pass.

More information about bear biology, research and management, and insight from national bear experts can be found on IFW's website (www.maine.gov/ifw/). For more information about the initiative or to get engaged contact Save Maine's Bear Hunt through their website (savemainesbearhunt.com).

As wildlife professionals we must continually evaluate our role in lending a voice to our science. In the words of Theodore Roosevelt, *knowing what is right doesn't mean much unless you do what's right.*

COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Changes to Farm Bill Program Open for Public Comment

([WPN](#) by Mark Hofberg) - The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced this week that it is accepting comments on proposed changes to its conservation programs as required by the Farm Bill passed earlier this year.

Of note is the newly authorized Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program which provides incentives for landowners to conserve habitat and allow access for hunters, anglers, and other recreationalists. A brand new program is the Regional Conservation Partnership Program which coordinates conservation efforts across programs and agencies in high priority areas such as the Chesapeake Bay Watershed or Great Lakes Basin.

Comment Deadline: September 30, 2014

Submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> under Identification number NRCS_FRDOC_000I-0205.

WILDLIFE NEWS OF INTEREST CONTINUED...

By hard copy, submit to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. NRCS-2014-0006, Regulatory and Agency Policy Team, Strategic Planning and Accountability, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Building I-112D, Beltsville, MD 20705.

BILL TO INCREASE DUCK STAMP PRICES PASSES COMMITTEE

([WPN](#) by *Mark Hofberg*) - A bill that would increase the price of duck stamps passed the House Natural Resources committee earlier this week by voice vote. Bill Sponsor, Chairman John Fleming (R-LA), touted the price increase as “common sense” at last week’s subcommittee hearing.

Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, or Duck Stamps, are permits required to hunt waterfowl in the United States. The money raised by the stamps goes to wetland conservation efforts that in turn lead to more waterfowl.

The proposed bill ([H.R. 5069](#)) would amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act of 1934 to increase the price of the stamps from \$15 to \$25 and also require that the extra \$10 go to conservation easement purchases. Read more online!

CARE RELEASES NEW REFUGE REPORT

([CARE NEWS](#)) - On 24 June 2014 the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) released a new report, *America’s National Wildlife Refuges: Home for Wildlife, Haven for Wildlife Enthusiasts.* According to the report, the steady decline in congressional funding is threatening the economic vitality of hundreds of local

communities that rely on the tourism and recreation dollars that refuges provide.

“More than \$2.4 billion generated in local economies is at stake,” said David Houghton, president of the National Wildlife Refuge Association, “National wildlife refuges are economic engines, but without sufficient funding from Congress, those engines are going to stall.”

The report notes the benefits wildlife refuges provide, and also what is at stake if funds were to be cut.

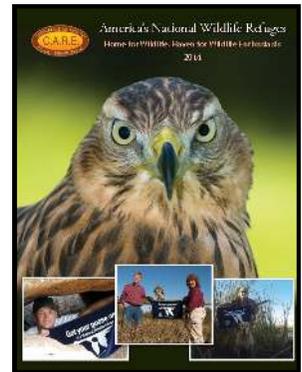
[Access the full report on-line.](#) Get engaged and contact your members of congress to let them know the importance of our refuges to wildlife conservation and management!

RECOGNIZING ONE OF OUR OWN! TWS Past President John Organ becomes new Director of the USGS Coop Research Units

(*TWS Weekly News* by *Cassie Martin*)

John Organ, former president of The Wildlife Society (TWS), has been appointed director of the U.S. Geological Survey’s (USGS) Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units.

In his new position, slated to begin August 25, Organ will oversee 40 research units at universities in 38 states from program headquarters in Reston, Virginia. As part of a collaborative effort between state agencies, USGS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the Wildlife Management Institute, cooperative units conduct cutting edge research for fish and wildlife conservation, provide



WILDLIFE NEWS OF INTEREST CONTINUED...

technical guidance to cooperative agencies on natural resource issues, train the next generation of wildlife and fisheries biologists as well as provide continuing education for established natural resource professionals.

Founded in 1935 by conservationist J.N. "Ding" Darling, the cooperative research unit program "has been one of the most productive science engines for fish and wildlife conservation in this country," Organ said. "My job will be to direct the program relative to other federal priorities, work with other cooperative agencies to ensure the viability of the program moving forward, maintaining the integrity of this historic mission, and making sure it is relevant for our current needs."

Organ began his career in the cooperative research program at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. "That's where I earned my Ph.D.," he said. "So it's coming full circle for me." But for the past 35 years, Organ served with FWS Northeast Region in a variety of roles including wetland ecologist for the National Wetlands Conservation program, research biologist, and finally chief of the Region 5 Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program. Notably, he led the development of national wildlife damage management policies and helped guide management of numerous species including black bears, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, and river otters.

Organ serves on numerous scientific and advisory committees and is currently an Adjunct Associate Professor of wildlife and fisheries conservation at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Organ served as TWS president from 2006 to 2007. Ken Williams, TWS Executive Director and previous Chief of CRU, applauded USGS leadership for selecting such a highly qualified individual. "Unit Cooperators and partners are fortunate indeed to have John as the new CRU

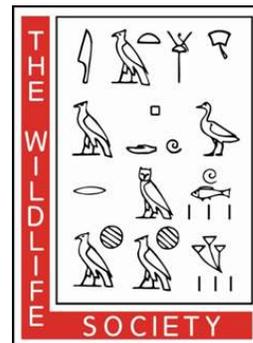
Chief," Williams said. "He is highly respected as a scientist, administrator, and strategist, with a long record of involvement and deep understanding of the program. There is no doubt that the Units and their Cooperators will benefit from his leadership."



John Organ, Past TWS President and former Chief of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program for USFWS Region 5 now to lead the USGS Cooperative Research Units

Interested in Contributing to the NEXT Edition of the Northeast Section Newsletter??

Contact Terra Rentz (terra.rentz@gmail.com) to contribute your ideas, articles, news updates, or photos. It's your Section! It's your news!



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)

Student Membership [] (\$5 per year)

Retired Membership [] (\$8 per year)

Make checks payable to: "The Northeast Section, TWS."

Mail to: Scott Williams
Dept. of Forestry and Horticulture
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
123 Huntington Street
New Haven, CT 06511

Name: _____ Date: _____

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.

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