



The Biennial Newsletter of the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society

Fall 2017

## President's Message



Katy Reeder  
2017 NCS President

Recently I spent time browsing the various sections of The Wildlife Society's website, and learned a variety of things about the organization and resources we work to conserve. I also re-learned many things I once knew but forgot which has become an increasingly common occurrence as I age.

Finding myself (at least temporarily) full of TWS-related facts, I offer you a chance to test your TWS knowledge. It's a departure from a more traditional Section President message, but I hope you'll find it enjoyable and maybe learn (or re-learn) a few things of interest to you. (Answers on page 24.)

### In this issue...

President's Message	Page 1
Awards	Page 2
Section Representative Report	Page 3
Treasurer's Report	Page 4
State Chapter Reports	Page 4
Student Chapter Reports	Page 7
Announcements	Page 18
Officer Elections	Page 22
Upcoming Events	Page 27
Officer Contact Information	Page 29

1. In what year did The Wildlife Society hold its first Annual Conference?
2. Name the 4 publications currently produced by TWS on a regular basis.
3. In what year was the North Central Section formally approved by TWS Council?
4. In what city will the 2018 Annual Conference be held?
5. What did TWS launch in 2014 as a way to improve communication and cooperation on wildlife conservation policy issues across local, regional, and national levels of the organization?
6. True or False: Only state-affiliated universities are eligible to host TWS Student Chapters.
7. True or False: Certification as an Associate Wildlife Biologist or Certified Wildlife Biologist requires annual renewal.
8. List three of the Society's ten current Policy Priorities.
9. Wildlife conservation professionals from which region of the U.S. first proposed the formation of a national professional society?
10. Which TWS Award recognizes members who have distinguished themselves by making significant contributions to wildlife resources, maintained TWS membership for at least 10 years, and been active at the Section, Chapter, Working Group, or Parent Society level?

## Awards

### 2017 TWS Annual Awards Received by NCS Members



*Missouri Western State University Student Chapter was presented the TWS Student Chapter of the Year Award.*



*David Andersen, past NCS representative to TWS Council, became a TWS Fellow.*



*David Andersen, David Buehler and Henry Streby (above with his family) received the Wildlife Publication Award for Edited Book on Golden-winged Warbler Ecology.*

## Seeking Award Nominations

### TWS North Central Section Awards

The North Central Section recognizes the achievements and commitment of regional wildlife professionals and students through several annual awards. Nomination forms are available at [wildlife.org/ncs/about/awards](http://wildlife.org/ncs/about/awards) and due by November 30.

#### Professional Award of Merit

The Professional Award of Merit is bestowed by the North Central Section to Society members living in the North Central Section for outstanding professional accomplishments in wildlife conservation. The award is restricted to living conservationists who are or have recently been active within the geographic boundaries of the Section. The award is given only in those years in which a truly deserving candidate is available. No more than one such award is made annually. Criteria for judging the professional accomplishments of nominees include:

- (1) contribution to knowledge
- (2) single outstanding acts, and/or
- (3) leadership over a period of several years in any area of wildlife work — for example, research, wildlife law enforcement, management, administration or education — as evidenced by publications, skillful development and/or application of effective management or educational programs or methods.

#### Outstanding Graduate and Undergraduate Wildlife Student Awards

The North Central Section of the Wildlife Society has a long history of working on student activities. We have developed an award recognizing outstanding students and potential future wildlife professionals. Two awards recognize one Graduate and one Undergraduate student.

## Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award for Outstanding Students

Applications are being accepted for the Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award from fisheries and wildlife undergraduate and graduate students who are planning to attend the 2018 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Up to 25 students will be selected and formally recognized for their achievements after the Monday morning plenary session. Two students, one focusing on fisheries management and one focusing on wildlife management, will be presented with a Fenske Memorial Award that includes a scholarship of \$500.

The winners of the Fenske Memorial Award will be selected based on the characteristics that made Jan Fenske a remarkable fisheries biologist. [Learn more about the award.](#)

Applications are due by December 8.

## Section Representative Report



*John Moriarty  
Section Representative to  
TWS Council*

October 13, 2017

The Wildlife Society recently held its annual conference in Albuquerque, NM on September 23-27. This was preceded by a two-day council meeting. The conference was attended by over 1750 wildlifera with good

representation from the North Central Section. A number of Minnesota Chapter members put on a non-toxic ammunition workshop and demo. Missouri Western State University Student Chapter was presented with the Student Chapter of the Year award. David Anderson, past NC representative became a TWS Fellow and his publication on

Golden-winged Warblers with David Buehler and Henry Streby won the Wildlife Publication Award for Edited Book.

Some of the highlights from the council meeting included a report from the new Executive Director, Ed Thompson. Ed became the Executive Director/CEO in June when Ken Williams retired. Ed had been the Chief Operating Officer of TWS for the previous four years. His report included good financial news of a balanced budget and growth of our reserves. Membership is above 10,000 members and has steady growth over the last 4 years. One of the tools TWS has been using to increase its membership is the "Give Back Program" where you can nominate a wildlifer who is not a member of TWS for a free 6-month membership when you renew. This has been going well with over 75% of nominated people signing up. The Give Back Program is being expanded to include students, since that is an area with high turnover rates.

TWS is working with the Canadian Section on a "Canada Initiative" to reach out to national and provincial natural resource agencies to get their wildlife managers more involved. TWS has budgeted funds to help support a staff member to be located in Canada.

The Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB) program is being updated and the application has been put online. The Associate Wildlife Biologist level can now be renewed for members who do not have enough experience after 5 years to become a CWB. There was additional discussion about the need to continue discussions with Agencies and Universities about adopting CWB standards for curriculum and hiring.

TWS journals and publications are continuing to expand. The Wildlife Professional has increased to 6 issues a year. The online versions of the Journal, Bulletin, and Monographs are now part of all memberships. TWS conducted an extensive survey of authors who have published in our journals. Their results will be used by the editors to improve acceptance time, the review process, and content.

Our partnership with John Hopkins Press (JHP) continues to grow. A new book on Becoming a Wildlife Professional was just published last month. There are several new titles in the works. The Wildlife Techniques Manual have been updated and the 8<sup>th</sup> edition will come out next year. All the JHP books are available through the TWS website and TWS members get a 30% discount.

If any member has a question about the TWS board or operations feel free to contact me at:

[John.moriarty@threeiversparks.org](mailto:John.moriarty@threeiversparks.org)

## Treasurer's Report

October 1, 2017

### GENERAL FUND (Checking & Savings)

General Fund Balance as of March 26, 2017....**\$2,176.68**

Checking Starting Balance	\$ 583.85
<b>Checking Income</b>	
1st & 2nd Qtr 2017 Wildlife Society Dues	\$2,530.00
Subtotal	\$2,530.00
<b>Checking Expenses</b>	
Wisconsin TWS – annual meeting grant	\$ 100.00
TWS – Annual Conference Sponsorship	\$ 250.00
Subtotal	\$ 350.00
<b>CHECKING TOTAL as of October 1, 2017</b>	<b>\$2,763.85</b>

Savings Starting Balance	\$1,592.83
<b>Savings Income</b>	
Interest (March 2017 – Sept 2017)	\$ 0.95
Subtotal	\$ 0.95
<b>Savings Expenses</b>	
None	\$ 0.00
Subtotal	\$ 0.00
<b>SAVINGS TOTAL as of October 1, 2017</b>	<b>\$1,593.78</b>

General Fund Balance as of Oct.1, 2017.....**\$4,357.63**

## PROFESIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Balance as of March 26, 2017..... **\$42,690.52**

<b>CE-PD Income</b>	
Interest (March 2017 – Sept 2017)	\$ 44.12
2017 Midwest FWC Leadership Workshop reimbursement	\$ 319.42
MAFWA reimbursement for 2017 Leadership Workshop	\$ 665.20
Subtotal	\$ 1,028.64
<b>CE-PD Expenses</b>	
None	\$ 0.00
Subtotal	\$ 0.00

Balance as of October 1, 2017..... **\$43,719.16**

**TOTAL FUNDS as of October 1, 2017.....**  
 .....**\$48,076.79**

Respectfully submitted by the Treasurer of the North Central Section:



Jim Schneider  
 Department of Fisheries and Wildlife  
 Michigan State University

## State Chapter Reports

### **Indiana Chapter**

*Sam Whiteleather*

#### **Wildlife Disease Workshop**

The Indiana Chapter hosted a continuing education workshop October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The workshop was designed to give members practical and hands on experience with the latest trends and techniques in wildlife disease management. Topics covered included Chronic Wasting Disease, Avian Influenza, amphibian diseases and proper necropsy technique. The workshop was planned and conducted by the Chapters Continuing Education Committee. 55 wildlife professionals attended.



*Workshop participants listen to Chris Anchor, Cook County Illinois Wildlife Biologist discuss proper necropsy technique.*

**Wildlife Student Hunting Fund**

Through its Wildlife Student Hunting Fund, the Indiana Chapter continues to support professional growth amongst future wildlife professionals. The Chapter will sponsor a put-take pheasant hunt to be held November 26. Students from four Indiana universities will be invited to attend the event which is hosted by the Indiana DNR. Student hunting workshops are designed to educate students on the important role hunting plays as a wildlife management tool and conservation funding source.



*A student participating in a hunting workshop discusses bird hunting technique with her hunt guide.*

**Iowa Chapter**

*Pete Eyheralde*

**Fall Workshop**

The Fall Workshop of the Iowa chapter of The Wildlife Society was held in September at Port

Louisa National Wildlife Refuge in Louisa County. This year’s workshop included the identification, natural history, and management of Iowa’s reptiles and amphibians. Port Louisa NWR is located in southeast Iowa, the area of greatest herpetofauna diversity in the state. Presentations were given by Paul Frese of the Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Program and Don Becker with the "iowaherps.com" citizen science herp mapping project. The afternoon session included a tour of the wildlife refuge with USFWS staff to learn about their management practices for reptiles and amphibians. In addition to providing useful information for professionals in the field these hands-on workshops allow students the opportunity to network with potential future employers with the Iowa DNR, County Conservation Boards, and USFWS, as well as with other biology students from universities around the state.



*Iowa DNR Wildlife Technician Paul Frese demonstrates frog catching techniques.*



*Jessica Bolser, USFWS Wildlife Biologist, explains herpetofauna management at Port Louisa NWR.*

**Minnesota Chapter**

*Laurie Fairchild*

Habitat committees within the Minnesota Chapter have been increasingly active in 2017. The wetland

committee recently co-authored and co-signed a letter with the TWS wetlands working group regarding proposed rules that could affect implementation of the Clean Water Act.

The Minnesota Chapter was also involved in the nontoxic workshop at the recent national TWS conference. The Chapter provided \$500.00 to support "The Technical and Wildlife Management Implications of Hunting Ammunition with a Focus on Non-Lead Options for Big Game Hunting in North America."

## Ohio Chapter

*Gabriel Karns*

The Ohio chapter is already engaged with TWS National to help make the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference a memorable success in early October 2018 in Cleveland, Ohio. Several Ohio chapter officers attended the Albuquerque conference in September to start addressing various responsibilities in earnest. Beyond the logistical meetings, the conference was enjoyed by all as a great time of re-connecting with colleagues, deepening new peer-to-peer relationships, and learning about the latest wildlife management and research updates from across the country. The Ohio chapter was again honored to sponsor one "wildlifer" college student to attend the national conference in New Mexico.

2017 was a busy year for hosting workshops. First up was an April Saturday workshop for our university student chapters. The topic was firearms safety and familiarization. Attendees handled a variety of profession-related weapons and put numerous rounds down-range at a local shooting club that partnered with the Ohio TWS chapter. Employees of APHIS (USDA) Wildlife Services provided much of the technical training, and the workshop was a huge highlight for all attendees regardless of prior firearms handling experience.

A month later, forty wildlife professionals attended The Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society (OCTWS) spring workshop—Grasslands Management. Experts from eight different federal, state, and local organizations provided classroom presentations and practical hands-on instruction at

the Gwynne Conservation Area 30 minutes west of Columbus. From prairie restoration on strip-mine lands to pollinator conservation to precision agriculture to the nuance of mid-contract management within Farm Bill enrolled CRP practices, the workshop delivered an extensive curriculum for grasslands management.

Less than a week ago in early October, the fall professionals' workshop highlighted the US-Forest Service's SILVAH platform for oak silviculture. Research scientists from the Northern Research Station gave informative lectures and demonstrated data collection afield. Ohio Division of Wildlife employees weighed in with their personal experiences of utilizing the SILVAH system, and overall, the utility of the SILVAH approach to informing oak silviculture was well represented. A graduate student from The Ohio State University also lectured on timber rattlesnake conservation and led over 40 attendees on an afternoon hike that successfully tracked and observed a female timber rattlesnake which was staged just upslope of her probable overwintering den site.



*The Ohio Chapter hosted a spring workshop for students regarding firearms and safety.*



*A fall workshop was also held by the Ohio Chapter regarding use of the SILVAH system for oak silviculture.*

## Wisconsin Chapter

*Derek Johnson*

The Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society has been busy, along with our colleagues in The American Fisheries Society and Wisconsin DNR, planning the 2018 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference held in Milwaukee. The conference is being held from January 28 – 31 and is expected to draw over 1,000 professionals, students and retirees from across the U.S. A highlight we'd like to make is for a pair of workshops that are sponsored by the Wisconsin TWS chapter. The first is "Conflict Resolution in Fish and Wildlife Management," which is being hosted by award-winning author and mediator Harry-Webne Behrman. Also we are sponsoring a workshop on "Wildlife Data Analysis Using Program R," hosted by UW-Stevens Point Assistant Professor, Dr. Robert Lonsinger. More information about these workshops and the rest of the conference can be found here: <http://www.midwestfw.org/>. There is a lot more in store for attendees, so we hope to see you there!

Aside from conference planning the Wisconsin Chapter and the Student Chapters at UW-Stevens Point and UW-Madison had many attendees at the National TWS conference in Albuquerque, NM. They were able to gain lots of knowledge they can bring back to their education, profession and to the Wisconsin TWS chapter. This year was also the first year our state chapter has awarded a Student Travel Grant to those student chapters attending the conference. We hope to continue this effort into future years along with our professional travel grants awarded annually.

Finally, our chapter continues to fight hard for conservation and sound ecological management of resources. This includes attending hearing on current proposed legislation on industrial acid mining, shoreline dredging and cuts and changes during our state's biennial budget process.



*UW-Stevens Point attendees at the TWS Conference.*

## Student Chapter Reports

### Ball State University

*Savannah M. Lundgren*

This year, our officers focused on recruitment of incoming wildlife/zoology/botany majors. The Wildlife Society had a strong presence at our Fall Activity Fair where we tabled alongside of another animal-advocate organization, the Pre-Veterinary Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), and gained 76 new emails! At our first call-out meeting, 43 members attended the bonfire social at the Cooper Farm – one of Ball State's Field Station and Environmental Education Centers. The second meeting was designed specifically for freshmen with interests in wildlife, zoology, and botany. This meeting offered support and advice to 33 new students through a course curriculum briefing and a Q&A panel of experienced upperclassmen. All of our new members really enjoyed our first speaker Dr. Kloepper, who is Assistant Professor of the Dept. of Biology at Saint Mary's College. She discussed her research of how bats sense in swarms using hawks, ziplines, and drones!

TWS of Ball State has another focus this academic year, which is to coordinate and collaborate many opportunities for our members to earn meaningful wildlife research and volunteer experience. In September, 13 members of our chapter partnered with Muncie-Delaware Clean & Beautiful for the Annual White River Cleanup. Our volunteers stressed "the reason we give is to help wildlife live better and healthier lives." Our chapter also assisted the DNR at Mounds State Park with the maintenance of their terrestrial and aquatic habitat enclosures, woodland edges, and stream-trail

recovery sites. We are proud to say that we even caught a new green frog ambassador for conservation education! Our Chapter's Annual Camping Trip also was at Mounds. While herping, campers even got a response from a Barred Owl in the night!

This year, our chapter has been more involved with the Robert-Cooper Audubon Society (RCAS)! We have attended bird walks and meetings, and even have been given the opportunity to have a TWS representative on their board! Along with RCAS, TWS is working with Master Gardeners and INPAWS (Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society) on a plan to install a pollinator garden at a local school. As a chapter, we have an ongoing project with a campus organization called Indiana Outdoors to create an educational video series called "Conservation & Wildlife Issues." These videos are released to all BSU students and the topics have ranged from hurricanes and their effects on birds to plant adaptations with change in seasons!

The research opportunities are endless with our Ball State University's Chapter! Students can assist undergraduate researchers from finding Eastern Red-Backed Salamanders to determine forest health to checking small mammal traps laid in Cooper Farm. Our TWS members also have a large avian interest and are heavily involved in the weekly bird banding located in our outdoor teaching laboratory – Christy Woods. In October, the banding station caught its very first Brown Creeper! Our chapter also began volunteering for another bird banding project to determine the migration habits of the Northern Saw-Whet Owl in Indiana.

Our Chapter's workshops included an entomology workshop where students learned about insects, how to identify them to order, and how to properly collect insects. The wetland construction workshop also was offered to our members, in which they learned how to design and build wetlands for mid-west amphibians! Our Chapter also participated in the DNR Dove Hunting session and learned about safe hunting and dove management. We also have had a professional series where our members attended an internship night to learn about how to

get a future job and a second night to create and polish their CVs. We will be volunteering with the DNR deer check stations later in the season where members learn how to interact with the public, age white-tail deer, and other tasks. Every year, we also assist the Red-Tail Land Conservancy with honeysuckle eradication. Our chapter also has been given a special opportunity to go behind the scenes at the Louisville Zoo with PAWS!



*Ball State University student chapter members birding after a Robert-Cooper Audubon Society Bird Education Hike at Mounds State Park.*



*Eradicating Honey Suckle at White River Woods for the Red-Tail Land Conservancy.*



*Learning at a wetland construction workshop.*

## Central Michigan University

*Jacqueline Micheaux*

The Central Michigan Chapter of the Wildlife Society currently has 20 active members. Many of our junior and senior members are active in various biology labs at CMU. We have gained freshman and sophomore members that are extremely interested and enthusiastic about participating in the club. We have been working hard to expand our presence on CMU campus, mainly by holding events open to the public. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, we held our first Graduate Student Panel that brought in about 20 undergraduate students to learn more about graduate school. We had 10 graduate students speak about their experiences with applying, attending and graduating. They also talked about different paths they took before attending. For our first panel, I would say it was a complete success in getting information out. Our hope is that a Graduate Student Panel can be hosted every year in the fall.

We have spent this semester planning for upcoming conferences and conclaves in the spring. We plan to send at least five upper classmen to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference at the end of January in Milwaukee, WI. We also plan to attend the Michigan Chapter Meeting for The Wildlife Society at the end of March in Gaylord, MI. Both of these events are excellent opportunities for our members to network with wildlife professionals in our field and understand of what kind of work is being done. Once we hear where this year's North Central Conclave will be hosted, we plan to send as many members as possible. The CMU Chapter also took a trip to Solider Lake Campground in the Hiawatha National forest in early October. We have had a successful semester and are looking forward what to what awaits us.



*CMU students at Whitefish Bay in the Upper Peninsula.*

## Iowa State University

*Haley Carr*

The fall semester has been a great and an especially busy time for Iowa State University's Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Although most club activities end for the duration of the summer, many of our members held summer internships or jobs in research, conservation, and zoo studies ranging around the world (some went to Thailand!). As classes started back up, we each shared our experiences in hopes to inspire and gain information from our fellow peers.

This semester we started to meet weekly, rather than bi-weekly, so that we could bring in more speakers while still spending needed time outdoors. Every other meeting we bring in a speaker to share information about working in the field. We have heard from graduate students, professors, and wildlife professionals thus far about field work and research. On the "off weeks", we try to get outside. Those activities include hiking, birding, herping, capture-the-animal (flag) and a wildlife techniques based scavenger hunt!

Every fall we also host our annual club camping trip. This year we set out in late October to White Rock Conservancy, braved the cold and a thunderstorm, and had a great time. These weekends help form bonds within the club and allows for students to step away from the hustle of a college town for a few days.

Our chapter has and will continue to participate in service days throughout the semester. Many members helped clean up the Des Moines River during the Dragoon River Romp. That was a day spent on banks and in canoes in the water gathering trash. Others helped with invasive species removal, seed harvest, and water quality assessments during a service day at Story County Conservation's McFarland Park. Future plans include working alongside Polk County Conservation, DSM Parks & Rec, and Conservation Districts to participate in a woodland restoration day.

As the semester comes to an end, we are actively planning for the 2018 TWS North Central Section

Student Conclave. We hope to see you all in Iowa in the spring!



*Iowa State University students enjoy many activities including hiking, birding and herping.*



*Volunteering at Story County Conservation's McFarland Park.*

## Michigan State University

*Kaitlyn Thrush*

The Michigan State University Student Chapter of TWS has had a great fall semester!

Earlier this semester, members learned about edible plant identification from Corey Higley, a doctoral student at MSU. Members were taught defining characteristics and uses of edible and poisonous plants and were able to make their own tea from plants found on campus.

Members were able to partake in a crayfish hunt in the Red Cedar River that runs through campus. With the guidance of Kelley Smith M.S., who currently researches red swamp crayfish at MSU,

members learned how to use dip nets, seine nets and small traps to catch crayfish. Members learned how to differentiate between native and invasive species of crayfish and about ecology of the invasive rusty crayfish that has found its home on campus.

The Michigan State Chapter also took a trip to Burke Lake Banding Station this semester. Members were able to observe how birds are banded for wildlife management, mist net operation and why this research is important. Some students were even able to release the birds!

Next week, one of our e-board members will be leading a radio telemetry workshop. The workshop will teach the history, equipment, and science behind one of the most widely used tools of the trade. Through this workshop, members will be able to use radio telemetry equipment in a hands-on manner.

This November, the Michigan State Student Chapter will be participating in an outreach event at a local elementary school. Members will use mammal pelts from common local mammals to educate young students about Michigan's common wildlife. We are also currently planning our fall camping trip, student-professional mixer, and a resume building workshop for this semester among other events.



*Michigan State University Student Chapter learn about native and invasive species of crayfish.*



*Learning about bird banding at  
Burke Lake Banding Station.*

## Missouri Western State University

*Kait Atkins & Steph Malone*

We have had a great start to the fall semester for our Student Chapter. Our semester started with receiving the TWS International Student Chapter of the Year 2017 award and going to Albuquerque, New Mexico to be recognized. Furthermore, we met many people, did some awesome networking, attended many wonderful presentations and posters, and had lots of fun.

Once we came back to our home state, we kept busy helping out and volunteering with various conservation organizations such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge System (Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge) and Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC).

At Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), we helped with their disabled managed deer hunts. There were many successful hunters during this event. We helped them drag deer to the refuge truck if needed. In addition, we checked in deer with the refuge to help estimate the deer population and did a deer spotlight survey around the refuge. To do the latter, we drove along roads to find deer, and used range finders to measure the distance to the deer from the truck. Then we counted the deer and classified them as antlerless, fawn, buck or unknown. We also recorded their location in UTM coordinates in a GPS unit. This information shows where deer are on the refuge so hunts can be set up and a more accurate count of deer occur.

At Loess Bluffs NWR, we helped with a variety of projects. We helped with the annual Monarch Butterfly tagging. We gathered wild flower seeds to be planted and grown in their appropriate habitat. In addition, we also did the annual deer spotlight surveys in the same manner as we did for Swan Lake NWR, and helped staff Loess Bluffs NWR disabled managed deer hunts.

Our members also conducted Bobwhite Quail surveys for MDC on Pony Express Conservation Area, as done since this project began several years ago. Each year we have new members get to hear Bobwhite Quail in fall for the first time. We listen for bobwhites in early morning when they are calling and mark on a map our estimated location of coveys. This count helps the Pony Express Conservation area managers effectively manage for Bobwhite Quail and provides an estimate of population size and number of coveys.

Our Chapter also works for MDC on opening weekend of firearms deer season by going to assigned meat processors to gather age data and lower incisors from deer brought in by hunters. We estimated the age of deer by cheek teeth eruption into three categories, 6-month, 1.5 years, and 2.5+ years. We also extracted the two lower front incisors to send them to a tooth-aging lab for counts of cementum annuli to determine the actual age of the deer. We also educate the hunters because sometimes they are interested to know how old their deer are. We also helped the Missouri Department of Conservation at Pony Express Conservation Area by collecting dove wings to learn the average age of harvested doves. We collected 120+ dove wings. We also helped with Prairie Days at Dunn Ranch in northern Missouri. We set traps and cover boards to identify animals and insects. This was a great opportunity to learn fun facts about the prairie while also ensuring that we educated the public on why what they learn at Dunn Ranch is so important. We have had a busy fall semester, many educational experiences and learned fun facts to share with people.



*Missouri Western State University students receive the TWS Student Chapter of the Year 2017 Award.*



*Collecting dove wings at Pony Express Conservation Area*

## Northern Michigan University

*Abigail Blanchard*

The Northern Michigan University Fisheries and Wildlife Association had a very busy but exciting fall semester. We have great membership this semester with around 30 - 40 active members. During September, members completed a small mammal trapping and skinning workshop with Dr. Galbreath and his lab. The focus of this workshop was to learn proper field techniques and investigate the ecto and endoparasites of small mammals. Also during September, members traveled with Dr. Leonard and her lab to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore where we electroshocked several reaches of Lowney Creek and placed minnow traps and fyke nets in Little Beaver Lake. The group learned several sampling techniques and proper handling of

fish. This was our second annual trip and we look forward to it each year.

October was busy with several guest speakers, workshops, and volunteer opportunities. Two workshops, chemical immobilization and deer aging, were hosted by Brian Roell and Caleb Eckloff of the Marquette DNR Customer Service Center. The radio telemetry workshop was hosted by Dr. Bruggink and he taught proper radio telemetry techniques using hands-on practice. Numerous members volunteered at the Marquette County Haunted Hayride. This is our biggest fundraising event of the year and the funds are being used to help cover the registration costs of the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference for over 20 members.

Since the start of November, our semester has begun to slow down but we still have events planned. Last week, Dr. Lafferty gave a presentation on how and where to find internships, jobs, and REU positions. This coming week, Dr. Leonard is presenting a CV/resume workshop on how to craft the perfect CV. Starting this Wednesday, members will be volunteering at the Marquette DNR Office for deer checks. Members will assist in aging deer, entering data, and interacting with the public. All of these opportunities have provided our members with such great professional experiences and we look forward to many more.

Although we have accomplished so much this semester, we are already beginning to plan for the next. For conferences, we are attending both the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and the North Central Section Student Conclave. Several guest speakers and workshops are planned. Additionally, our annual Birds of Prey program is in the works. We have some raptor centers bring in live birds and give public presentations. This gives our members opportunities to assist in event planning and providing an educational activity for both our organization and the Marquette community. These are just some of the experiences we have planned and we cannot wait for them to happen.



*Northern Michigan University students on their electrofishing adventure at Lowney Creek.*

## **Northland College, Wisconsin**

*Jordyn O'Gara*

Northland College's TWS Chapter has worked this fall to increase recruitment of incoming freshman, and to get students involved in wildlife-related activities. We have worked to make each meeting an educational experience with workshops on subjects such as telemetry, GPS and compass navigation, resume formatting, and camera trap techniques. This fall students have had many opportunities to get outside and enjoy the warm weather while it lasted! Many of our members are heading up research projects on a wide variety of topics. These research projects provide a great opportunity to involve our TWS student chapter members – benefiting the projects and helping new students gain new experiences. This winter we are providing our members with opportunities to learn about the data entry and analysis side of wildlife research, as well as, managing camera traps for Snapshot Wisconsin (a state-wide, citizen-science camera trap network run by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources).

## **Purdue University, Indiana**

*Morgan Sussman*

The Purdue Wildlife Society just started for the fall and we have many exciting events planned for this semester! Last spring we hosted the North Central Section Conclave, which was a major success and a great team-building experience for our members. We are certainly a tight-knit group this year and our club has become even more active as a result.

Over the summer, our chapter participated in a Purdue Athletes Life Success Summer Field Day which gave underprivileged youth the opportunity to explore natural resources fields. Purdue TWS hosted a table which featured animal skins and skulls, as well as a tiger salamander larvae.

As a chapter, we visited the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary in southeastern Indiana Aug. 25-26 to participate in songbird and hummingbird banding. Our members extracted birds from mist-nets, banded songbirds under master bander Amy Wilms' supervision, and had the opportunity to release hummingbirds by hand. Amy Wilms is the only licensed hummingbird bander in the state, so it was an amazing opportunity getting to work with her!

We have four active working groups within our chapter: Herps, Birds, Mammals and Hunting. Herps Working Group led our first official meeting out at a Purdue property, where we caught four species of snakes and several species of frogs. They also helped the state herpetologist survey for plains leopard frogs; one of which was found for the first time ever in Tippecanoe County by one of our members a few months prior. Birds Working Group offers opportunities for bird banding throughout the semester. Additionally, during October and November, members are invited to help out with a Saw-whet Owl banding research station near Purdue. Mammals Working Group has many events planned for later in the semester and next spring. Currently, they're planning a trip to Wolf Park, a nearby gray wolf research facility, and a guided tour of the Kankakee Sands bison viewing area. Hunting Working Group has been our most active working group this semester. So far, members have had the opportunity to attend a squirrel hunt, DNR-led dove hunt, and currently a pheasant hunt is being offered.

Five members of our chapter attended the Annual TWS Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Our Quiz Bowl team placed second in the national competition! One of our members also presented a talk on her research over amphibian diseases.

At our last student chapter meeting, members learned how to use radio-telemetry equipment by playing telemetry tag. We are currently planning a

bonfire for our next chapter meeting. Everyone is looking forward to a fun and busy semester!



*A Purdue student bands a Kentucky Warbler at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary.*



*The Purdue student chapter's herp working group investigates snakes at a restored prairie.*



*Purdue's Quiz Bowl team wins 2nd place at the Annual TWS Conference Quiz Bowl Tournament.*

## University of Central Missouri

*Savannah Penney*

The UCM Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society has had a busy start to the new school year. Our first meeting was August 23. We've totaled 60+ members so far. This year's executive board is comprised of Secretary M. Fletcher, Treasurer Ivonne Kessler, Vice President Savannah Penney, Reporter Chris Edmondson, and President Daniel Akin. So far our members have worked with numerous organizations both on campus and in our community to better the environment around us, gain experience in public outreach and numerous wildlife areas.

### Get the Red Out

Get the Red Out is an annual tradition at the University of Central Missouri that involves student organizations setting up booths along Holden Street to interact with the community and celebrate the beginning of a new academic year. TWS members set up a booth with animal pelts, skulls, and baked goods to encourage visitors to learn more about wildlife, and get sweet treats while at it! New members got experience with public outreach by teaching others about local Missouri wildlife.

### Dove Opener

Chapter members assisted the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) in collecting dove wings for research data collection on age at James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area.

### Turkey Foot Prairie Burn

Members assisted the Citizens for Environmental Action (CEA) in a fall prescribed burn on a local restored prairie, Turkey Foot Prairie. Before the burn, members were given a brief introduction to the prairie entrance and areas to be burned. They were also taught how to conduct and control the fire as it burned through portions of the prairie. The Daily Star Journal wrote an article about the event, featuring TWS:

[http://www.dailystarjournal.com/news/local/replenishing-prairie/article\\_8a8a6097-989c-5c88-80a6-fd0d536701f4.html#tncms-source=article-nav-next](http://www.dailystarjournal.com/news/local/replenishing-prairie/article_8a8a6097-989c-5c88-80a6-fd0d536701f4.html#tncms-source=article-nav-next)

### Lifelong Learning at Turkey Foot Prairie

Members returned to the prairie to assist CEA with their Lifelong Learning event. This involved taking members on a tour before the event to learn about the prairie and key species within it. During the event the trained members gave guests tours around the prairie to teach them about everything that goes into restoring and maintaining it, along with showcasing a few prominent plant species.

### Bio Blitz

This fall we held our 14th annual BioBlitz in Pertle Springs, Warrensburg MO. Bio Blitz is an event advertised, organized and set up by our members to reach out to our surrounding community and encourage interest in the wildlife around them. Numerous local organizations participated in this event by setting up booths and interacting with visitors. These included the CEA, Sierra Club, Missouri Bird Observatory, Missouri Stream Team, Missouri State Parks, MDC, and USDA, among others. Multiple booths were also set up by UCM's own biology faculty, graduate students, and student organizations. This family-friendly event also included nature and bird hikes, children's activities, demonstrations, and a visit from Smokey the Bear! About 150 visitors attended this year's event, and we received much positive feedback. Bio Blitz was featured in the Daily Star Journal and Central MO news where they reviewed the event and interviewed Chris Edmondson, event organizer. [http://www.dailystarjournal.com/news/local/bio-blitz/article\\_1a2e81a7-5261-58b3-ad58-e3921a4743d3.html](http://www.dailystarjournal.com/news/local/bio-blitz/article_1a2e81a7-5261-58b3-ad58-e3921a4743d3.html)  
<http://centralmonews.net/entertainment/bio-blitz-brings-environmental-education-to-the-public/>

### Future Events

For the remainder of fall, UCM TWS will be participating in; the Missouri Chapter of TWS Fall Student Workshop, deer aging with MDC to collect sample data for research on Missouri herds, a hunter's education course offered through MDC in which members will receive hunting certification, volunteering for the GLOW festival at Powell Gardens, volunteering for Hallowfest at Knob Noster State Park, small mammal trapping and others soon to be confirmed. Members are also looking forward to the Missouri Natural Resources Conference in the spring. They will be preparing for the job fair at this event by utilizing their experiences to build resumes and CVs, which we will work on prior to the conference.

### Website

Our chapter now has its own website: <https://sites.google.com/ucmo.edu/tws/> made by Chris Edmondson. This website contains information about our chapter, upcoming meeting dates, minutes from previous meetings, event summaries with photos, a calendar of the year's events, and a section dedicated to outside resources recommended for our members, such as job boards and internship opportunities.



*University of Central Missouri students assisted in collecting dove wings. Photo by M. Fletcher.*



*Learning to conduct a fall prescribed burn at Turkey Foot Prairie. Photo by M. Fletcher.*



*Helping at the family friendly 14<sup>th</sup> Annual BioBlitz. Photo by M. Fletcher.*

## University of Minnesota – Crookston

*Maddy Witt*

The University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC) Student Chapter along with the UMC Natural Resources Club welcomed 32 members with our annual cookout in the Red River Valley Natural History Area near campus. Grilled meats and Svedarky’s fresh sweet corn were highlights. In September, 23 members worked with US Fish and Wildlife Service banding ~450 waterfowl on Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge. Most recently, six of our members traveled to Albuquerque, NM for the TWS Annual Conference where five attended the “Animal Trapping Techniques for Researchers and Managers” workshop. The students enjoyed expanding their knowledge of the wildlife field, making connections with professionals,

competing in the Wildlife Quiz Bowl, as well as exploring a locale quite different from northern Minnesota. We are looking forward to a few more events and projects this semester, including a snowshoe sale fundraiser, joint campouts with UMC’s Natural Resources Club, and volunteering with the Agassiz Audubon Society to improve bird habitat in the area.



*University of Minnesota Crookston students Maddy Witt, Justin Kobberdahl, LaRyssa Nelson, Bailey Yliniemi, Forrest Brenske, and Noah Roseen pose in their Quiz Bowl attire at the TWS Annual Conference in Albuquerque. Photo by John Loegering.*

## University of Rio Grande, Ohio

*Donald P. Althoff*

The University of Rio Grande Chapter has participated in several service and research projects in the past year in addition to several fundraisers. During the past spring, trail markers and kiosks were installed on a campus nature/hiking trail system that was first started in 2014 (2 pictures attached). The network of trails has been helpful for conducting field labs as well as allowing students, staff, and faculty easy access to the campus forest. As part of long-term monitoring effort, chapter members assisted with the annual kestrel nesting box check in the spring and early summer (2 pictures attached). Over 250 kestrel chicks have been banded by students over the past 20 years in a joint venture with Hocking College. In October, for the third year in-a-row, the chapter produced sorghum syrup the old-fashioned way for the Bob Evans Farms Festival to raise funds to support attendance at upcoming professional scientific conferences. Additional funds are

currently being raised through 2018 calendar sales that feature photographs taken by chapter members and faculty.



*University of Rio Grande students improve the campus nature/hiking trail system.*



*Assisting with the annual kestrel nest box check.*

## University of Wisconsin – Madison

*Valerie Knurr*

The UW – Madison Student Chapter started this school year off great! We had nearly 100 people show up to our kick-off meeting and we have had lots of events. Our officer team was able to attend the annual TWS National Conference, where we had a great time and learned a lot. We hope to implement some of the things we learned at conference to make our club the best it can be.

Our club went hiking around Devil’s Lake State Park, where we saw the start of the fall colors. One of the highlights from our trip is that we found a Milksnake! We also took a trip to the Deer Park in the Wisconsin Dells. We have done multiple outreach events which have display tables and activities at a Saturday Science event and the Harvest Moon Festival. Our members had the opportunity to teach the public about how important and cool wildlife is. We also took members to

Goose Pond to help with prairie seed collection. We also went bird banding at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory and saw the Sandhill Crane Migration near Aldo Leopold’s Shack. We are very excited for our upcoming Annual Game Dinner which will be held December 8<sup>th</sup> and an upcoming wolf tracking class in Steven’s Point.



*UW-Madison students attend the 2017 TWS Conference.*



*Hiking and field trips were fall activities.*

## University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

*Katherine Rexroad & Natalie Erickson*

Officers and members of UW-Stevens Point’s student chapter of The Wildlife Society are looking forward to another busy but involved year, full of numerous opportunities. At the end of the 2016-2017 school year, officers met together to discuss how to get members more involved. A common idea was to hold more social events, especially at the beginning of the year to help underclassmen feel more welcome in what can be an intimidating environment. UWSP’s chapter often feels like a giant family, and we want everyone to consider themselves a part of it. We also had a booth at the vendor fair during the freshman welcome week and

will have booths at both the campus involvement fair and CNR Majors Night, events we have had success in during past years.

Our chapter is always looking for ways to get involved in the community. This year we are working with the Wisconsin department of natural resources to set up an “Adopt a Wildlife Area” program with our students. This is a three-year commitment that will require our chapter to provide a certain number of volunteer hours a year from our members. The participants will get hands on experience surveying prairie chickens, wolf tracks, deer herds, and a variety of habitat management skills. In addition to providing an opportunity for students to connect with DNR professionals, the course will provide free chainsaw certification classes to students.

Twenty students from the Stevens Point attended The Wildlife Society’s national conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Our chapter had 9 people present undergraduate research. After winning student chapter of the year in 2015, the chapter was invited to give an oral presentation at the conference detailing what we believe makes a successful student chapter.

Between meeting new members, Nationals, and the return of many opportunities to help with various student-led research projects, the members of the UWSP’s Wildlife Society couldn’t be more thrilled to see what the school year will hold.

## Announcements

### Student Development Working Group

Greeting Students,

Have you ever heard of the Student Development Working Group? We are a Working Group that promotes increased student awareness of TWS membership benefits, works to expand knowledge and technical capabilities of student

members, and helps prepare student members for professional wildlife careers. The working group facilitates networking between students and experienced TWS members by hosting meetings, workshops, poster sessions, a mentoring program, and a student chapter leaders’ breakfast. The working group also selects the recipient of The Wildlife Society’s Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award.

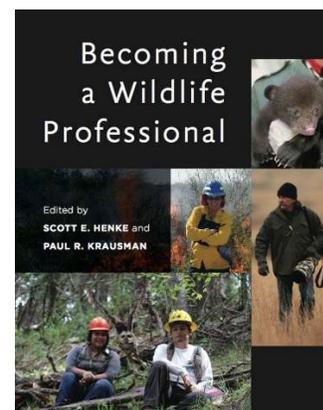
Our working group features the latest student’s news in The Student Chronicles. We actively post on our TWS Student Development Working Group Facebook page. We delivery new topics, current student research and professional skill building.

We look forward to being the voice for students to the Parent Society of The Wildlife Society. We are always here to welcome new student members. We look forward to helping and providing for the next generation of the wildlife profession!

If you have any questions about the Student Development Working Group please contact Chair Kristi Confortin at [kaconfortin@bsu.edu](mailto:kaconfortin@bsu.edu).

Please see attached link for the Student Development Working .Group Facebook Page, all you have to do is “like” the page to get daily updates! [https://www.facebook.com/TWS-Student-Development-Working-Group-252817268125541/?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel](https://www.facebook.com/TWS-Student-Development-Working-Group-252817268125541/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel).

### New Book for Aspiring Wildlifers



By Nancy Sasavage, Director of TWS Publications and Communications

“Becoming a Wildlife Professional” is the first comprehensive book to describe the entry-level jobs available for the next generation of wildlife biologists and conservationists. If you are a student preparing for a wildlife career or new professional looking for career advice, this new book published by The Wildlife Society in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University belongs in your library! Editors Scott E. Henke and Paul R. Krausman include detailed chapters on how students should prepare for a vocation in the wildlife profession while offering pragmatic advice about applying for and obtaining a job. The book presents over 100 diverse career options that are available to aspiring wildlife workers, including work in biological field research, forestry, rehabilitation, ranching, photography and refuge management. It also details each position’s educational and technical requirements, challenges, salaries and opportunities for advancement and offers advice from a range of seasoned experts who actually hold these jobs and have used these techniques to secure employment. “Becoming a Wildlife Professional” also conveys important philosophical messages about the responsibilities and challenges of a career in wildlife conservation and management. With all this information in one place, the book is an essential text for wildlife science students interested in making themselves marketable for employers across a wide spectrum of wildlife jobs. TWS members receive a 30 percent on all titles published by the Society in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University Press. Be sure to enter the discount code HTWS at checkout. [Order your copy today.](#) The TWS member price is \$59.50

### **The 2018 Leadership Workshop Series**

The 2018 Leadership Workshop Series will be held on the first day of the 2018 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Sunday, January 28, 2018). Based on feedback from previous workshops, we will conduct a full day workshop titled “*Adaptive Leadership: Concepts and Practical Examples.*” The presentations and exercises will be interactive,

giving workshop attendees the opportunity to participate directly with their peers and discuss the difficult challenges we face every day in the conservation community. This year we will have professionals from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies’ Management Assistance Team to help facilitate the workshop and several National Conservation Leadership Institute Alumni to share their practical leadership experiences and expertise.

We will limit the workshop to 40 participants and the cost is \$50 for Wildlife Society members and \$80 for non-members. The workshop is from 9 am through 4 pm, and lunch is included.

If you have any questions, please contact me. See you in Milwaukee!

Patrick E. Lederle, PhD, Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, 517-243-0700, [lederlep@michigan.gov](mailto:lederlep@michigan.gov)

### **New Degree in Wildlife Administration and Management at Southern Illinois University Carbondale**

In the 1930s, Aldo Leopold first recognized the need to actively manage wildlife, forming the first academic program emphasizing the management of wildlife populations. In the 1940s and 50s, universities across the country began developing curriculum for programs that trained applied ecologists in the science and art of managing wildlife habitat and populations. Over the following 60-70 years, universities developed graduate programs that emphasized applied research of wildlife population dynamics, habitat management, and habitat-wildlife interactions, dramatically increasing our understanding of the information required to properly manage and administer wildlife populations and habitat. Increased knowledge has led to a dramatic increase in the number of courses offered in wildlife programs, forcing students to choose among the many beneficial classes. The Wildlife Society’s Wildlife Biologist Certification program prioritizes

these offerings by identifying course requirements for Certified Wildlife Biologists, but this doesn't address the fact that, because a Bachelor of Science degree is limited to 120 credit hours at most universities, students are unable to enroll in a number of courses that would be beneficial to their careers. Furthermore, because of limitations imposed by the 120 credit-hour B.S. degree, even TWS' efforts has been less than successful in preparing graduates for the modern requirements of a conservation/wildlife lands manager in the eyes of many potential employers.

Some individual students have attempted to address this shortcoming by taking additional credit hours before completion of their B.S., but time to graduation has become an important metric for university program assessment, thus, this practice is discouraged by university administrators. An additional approach is for the student to acquire a more advanced degree such as a Master of Science (M.S.) in Wildlife Biology or a closely related field. While this more traditional M.S. certainly provides an opportunity for students to acquire a more in-depth understanding of basic ecological principles and greater writing and field experience, the number of these positions is limited and even these highly educated graduates often have not acquired the necessary skills required of practicing land managers. For example, modern land managers are expected to be experts at managing habitat for wildlife while simultaneously solving conflicts among and meeting the needs of multiple special interest groups, often with conflicting expectations.

Southern Illinois University Carbondale has developed a new program to address these needs by providing the opportunity to increase an individual's biological, ecological, and land management knowledge and skill base above and beyond that acquired with a typical B.S., while simultaneously providing training in human dimensions, conflict resolution, and consensus building, skills critically important for a modern land managers. This program, entitled "Professional Science Master's of Wildlife Administration and Management." is a collaborative effort between SIUC, state and federal agencies, and non-government organizations and is accredited

by the [National Professional Science Master's Association](#). This is the first PSM in the U.S. designed to provide employers with graduates that not only have adequate knowledge of biological and ecological principles to make appropriate land management decisions but also the social and practical skills to carry out those management actions. This is a non-thesis degree in which students are required to take courses that provide training in the more practical skills needed by the modern wildlife administrator and land manager in addition to providing the opportunity to complete requirements of The Wildlife Society's Certified Wildlife Biologists. This program addresses the lack of time and expertise provided with the 120 credit-hours of coursework required for a typical B.S. degree by requiring 24 credit hours of coursework and a 6 credit hour internship. The degree culminates in a capstone project consisting of the preparation and submission of a grant proposal supporting habitat restoration activities at the internship site.

More information regarding this new and exciting opportunity can be found at <http://zoology.siu.edu/graduate/research-emphasis/wildlife-admin.php> or by contacting:

Mike Eichholz Ph.D., Director – PSM Program in Wildlife Administration and Management, Avian Ecologist – Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab. and Center for Ecology, Associate Professor, Dept. of Zoology, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, [eichholz@siu.edu](mailto:eichholz@siu.edu), 618-453-6951

## The Wildlife Professional – Input Sought

This award-winning publication of The Wildlife Society provides wildlife professionals with articles and links to news and analysis that help to inform us about advances in wildlife science, conservation, management, policy, and education. It features in-depth articles, summaries of relevant scientific papers, profiles of wildlife professionals, new field techniques, and much more. The North Central Section's representative on the Editorial Advisory Board for *The Wildlife Professional* (TWP) is

Lowell Suring (lowell@northern-ecologic.com). He is your link to providing your thoughts and ideas about this publication to The Wildlife Society. As you read the publication, if you come across features or articles you particularly liked, disliked, or wanted to comment on, let Lowell know and he will take your thoughts to the Board and the Editor. Also, if you have ideas about subjects you would like to see covered in TWP, or would like to submit an article for publication, let Lowell know. This is your publication - help make it the best it can be.

## **Study Abroad Adventure to South Africa – July 28-Aug. 20, 2018 - Sustaining South African Wildlife: Cash, Crime, Conflicts and Conservation**

North Central Section members, Mr. Jim Schneider and Dr. David Williams, will be leading an amazing study abroad adventure to South Africa – July 28-Aug. 20, 2018.

Wildlife in Africa are under attack! Rhino and elephant populations are declining at a staggering rate, due to the illegal taking and trade in horns and ivory. Which species are next? What's being done to manage, protect and sustain these wildlife populations and the biodiversity of the region?

This program, offered by the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University, will be based at the Southern African Wildlife College within the Kruger ecosystem. We'll explore the economic impacts that the illegal wildlife trade, as well as ecotourism plays, in wildlife conservation; how South Africa is dealing with the onslaught of poaching and other wildlife crimes; how local communities are working for or against protecting wildlife; discuss human-wildlife conflicts; examine the role of hunting and the hunting industry, culling and diseases have on wildlife conservation and protection; as well as compare the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation to South Africa's model. Students will interact with government officials, land managers and game rangers. Students will spend 3

weeks in the great Kruger ecosystem, exploring these vital questions. A majority of the student's time during this program will involve hands-on learning activities, with significant time in field, on safari and observing wildlife first hand!

**\*\* ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS - Rhino capture and tagging; elephant capture & collaring; bushwalks; night game drives; wildlife viewing and camping throughout Kruger National Park.\*\***

The 2017 program fee was only \$3475!!! 2018 program fee should be finalized soon, but we're hoping to keep it at the 2017 rate. (Program fee does not include airfare or 6 credits of MSU tuition).

Feel free to contact Mr. Schneider (schne181@msu.edu) or Dr. Williams (dmwill@msu.edu) if you'd like to discuss the program in more detail.

This is a once in a lifetime conservation adventure! **DON'T MISS THE CHANCE TO JOIN US IN SOUTH AFRICA!!!! APPLY NOW!!**

Program Info:

<https://osa.isp.msu.edu/Programs/program/index/108255>

Program Flyer:

<https://osa.isp.msu.edu/cache/profiles/100199.pdf>



*Jim Schneider, David Williams and Michigan State University students capture a rhino in South Africa.*

## Officer Elections

### Meet the Candidates

#### President Elect

#### Gary Roloff



As a long-time member and active participant in The Wildlife Society, I was honored to learn of my nomination for President of the North Central Section. I am currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University (MSU). I oversee the Applied Forest and Wildlife Ecology Lab, where we conduct research on a variety of applied topics, but generally focus on the relationships between forest management and wildlife (see <http://www.roloff.fw.msu.edu>). Prior to MSU, I worked as a wildlife biologist for Boise Cascade Corporation, an integrated forest products Company.

I received my BS from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, MS from Eastern Kentucky University (studied raccoon movements), and PhD from Michigan State University (studied forest planning and wildlife). I have been a member of The Wildlife Society since the early 1990s and have served the organization in a variety of capacities including President of the Michigan Chapter (twice), Secretary of the North Central Section (currently), Associate Editor for the Journal of

Wildlife Management (4 years), and Program Chair for the Pittsburgh annual meeting.

I look to continue my contributions to our professional society as President of the North Central Section. Our task as a Section is to stay relevant, demonstrate value to our members, and advocate for the use of science and education in wildlife management. I am excited about the momentum that our past Presidents have established, including more frequent contact among members of the Executive Board, taking a leadership role in the Leadership Workshop at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, and supporting multiple Section-level awards and student travel grants. If elected President, I would look to continue that momentum as President, and seek to expand our responsiveness to (and use of) the Conservation Affairs Network. Thank you for considering my nomination.

#### Travis L. DeVault



I am the Project Leader at the USDA Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center's Ohio Field Station in Sandusky. At the Ohio Field Station, I lead a team of scientists and support staff in a research program dedicated to developing methods to reduce wildlife strikes with vehicles, especially civil and military aircraft. Formerly, I was a Research Wildlife Biologist with NWRC in upstate New York, where I worked cooperatively with the Wildlife Services operational programs in New York, Vermont, and Michigan to study interactions between double-crested cormorants and sportfish populations in the Great Lakes region. I earned a B.S. and M.S. in biology from Indiana

State University and a Ph.D. in wildlife ecology from Purdue University.

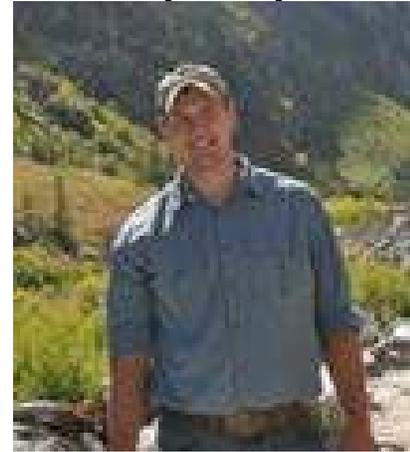
I've been an active member of TWS since 2001 and have a strong professional commitment to the organization. I became a Certified Wildlife Biologist in 2007 and have maintained certification since that time. I also have been an active member of the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group, serving as a Board Member, Chair-Elect, Chair, and currently as Past-Chair. As Chair, I led the effort to add a student Board Member, allowing the Working Group to benefit from a student voice, and encouraging more involvement from those new to the wildlife profession. I have authored numerous papers in the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, *Journal of Wildlife Management*, and *The Wildlife Professional*, and I was the lead editor for the book [Wildlife in Airport Environments: Preventing Animal-Aircraft Collisions through Science-Based Management](#), the first volume in the series *Wildlife Management and Conservation* published by Johns Hopkins University Press in association with TWS.

Over the years I have witnessed how important TWS is to wildlife management and conservation in the USA and abroad. I view active participation in the North Central Section as an excellent way to provide service to the wildlife profession. I hope to work with the membership to continue the Section's efforts in highlighting the importance of science-based wildlife management, both for human and wildlife interests.

On a personal note, I've lived in four states but I'm a native Hoosier and a Midwesterner at heart. I've been married for 22 years and we have two kids—one a sophomore at Ashland University and another a senior in high school. In my dwindling free time, I enjoy kayak fishing, archery hunting, playing guitar, reading, and sipping good bourbon (sometimes more than one activity at a time).

## Secretary

### **Kyle Daly**



I spent my childhood in Ohio exploring the woods and fields with Labrador retrievers, catching crawdads in the near-by crick, and fishing walleye on Lake Erie. I was most at home outdoors and planned a life around wildlife and wild places. I earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Capital University in Ohio, and a M.S. degree in wildlife ecology and management from the University of Minnesota. My vocation for wildlife conservation has taken me from Ohio to Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and finally, Minnesota; I consider myself a true Midwesterner.

I have been employed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service since 2010. I spent the first few years with Fish and Wildlife Service in the Refuge program. In 2013, I joined the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program. In my current position I review and administer Wildlife Restoration and State Wildlife Grants for Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri. This position provides me with a holistic view of wildlife conservation issues and successes throughout the Midwest as well as being tuned into the political battles we face in the wildlife conservation profession.

I have been a member of The Wildlife Society since 2008 and a member of the North Central Section and Minnesota Chapter since 2011. I am currently serving my second term on the Minnesota Chapter Board as Treasurer and recently graduated from The Wildlife Society's Leadership Institute. The

Wildlife Society has benefited me personally by providing networking, professional development, and continuing education experiences. More importantly, I value The Wildlife Society because it is the voice for our vocation as wildlife professionals. As we continue to face reemerging and new challenges in our careers, The Wildlife Society provides an objective science-based community to help us as individuals overcome these challenges, advocate for science-based policies, and perpetuate our profession.

I am currently living in the Twin Cities and despite my best efforts against it I have become a “weekend warrior;” hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and paddling around the U.S. as much as possible. Some highlights from this past year include a week-long fishing trip into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, an elk hunting trip to Colorado, and a hiking trip to the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan.

### Jon Cepek



I am the Wildlife Ecologist for the Cleveland Metroparks and President of the Ohio Fish and Wildlife Management Association (OFWMA). I am the Field Trip Committee Chair for the 2018 TWS conference in Cleveland and have served as president and secretary of the Ohio Chapter of TWS. Prior to my employment with Cleveland Metroparks I worked for 9 years as a District Supervisor for USDA Wildlife Services and 4 years as a Wildlife Biologist for the National Wildlife Research Center. During my time with USDA WS and NWRC I was involved in wildlife research and management focusing on wildlife on airports, wildlife disease, invasive species and white-tailed deer.

I have been in my current position for just over 3 years and provide professional expertise for the conservation and management of wildlife and wildlife habitat within a 23,000 acre urban park district. Among my many duties I lead research and monitoring efforts on deer, coyotes, human-wildlife interactions and wildlife diseases. I am currently involved in a large-scale, long-term, urban ecology project with Michigan State University’s RECaP lab using over 200 wildlife cameras paired with vegetation monitoring sites within the Cleveland Metroparks. This project seeks to understand mechanisms shaping the distribution and abundance of wildlife throughout the park system and also evaluate how traditional ecological theories of community ecology and predator-prey interactions translate to urban environments.

I am a native of Ohio and received my BS and MS from Cleveland State University. I am a retired Command Sergeant Major with 23+ years of service in the Army and National Guard including deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq. I have been married to my wife Nichole for 19 years and we have a 14 year old son, Ian, and twin 12 year old daughters, Karah and Kaleigh. I enjoy spending time camping, hiking and travelling with my family and hunting with my son when we can find the time in our busy lives. I am a Boy Scout Scoutmaster and part of an adult leader training team.

I am heavily involved in TWS and OFWMA in Ohio and am committed to improving communication, professional development and overall involvement of wildlife professionals and students in our professional organizations. I believe that in an ever urbanizing world, with a society more and more removed from the outdoors, it is critical that we maintain professional credibility and balance outreach and education with practical research and management. In 2007 I had to resign as Ohio Chapter TWS President because I was deploying to Iraq. As a result of this I promised colleagues that I would be more involved in TWS and professional organizations after I left the military. This opportunity to serve as secretary fits into that promise and would allow me to continue to support TWS, and provide my efforts and

experience at a higher level. Thank you for the opportunity and I am available for questions related to this nomination and my views at [jdc@clevelandmetroparks.com](mailto:jdc@clevelandmetroparks.com)

## **Graduate Student Representative**

### **Kali Rush**



As a kid, I always loved being outside but I was never experiencing nature. I found Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University as a freshman in 2012. I had never been exposed to natural resources careers before but after attending a Fisheries and Wildlife (a student chapter of TWS and a student subunit of AFS) club meeting, I was excited about switching into this field. I remained a member of Fisheries and Wildlife Club until I graduated in 2016. I founded a student chapter of Ducks Unlimited as a sophomore and developed a passion for waterfowl and wetlands. I earned my B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife with a wildlife biology and management concentration in May 2016. I am currently working on my M.S. at University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point working with waterfowl.

During my undergraduate career, I was heavily involved in extra-curricular activities, undergraduate research, and part-time employment. I served as chairman for MSU Ducks Unlimited for three years and as secretary of the Fisheries and Wildlife Club for two years. I have been a member of The Wildlife Society since 2014. I have also engaged with the student TWS chapter at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point providing graduate

school advice and student volunteer opportunities associated with my master's work. During the summer of 2013, I began volunteering for a Ph.D. student in the Boone and Crockett Quantitative Wildlife Center assisting with white-tailed deer counts. I completed an undergraduate research project following volunteering titled, "Assessing Habitat-Specific Detection Probabilities". I presented this research as a poster at The Wildlife Society annual meeting in Winnipeg 2015 and orally at The Michigan Chapter of TWS in 2016. In March 2015, I began work as a student assistant for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. I had an opportunity to work with many facets of natural resources including waterfowl, white-tailed deer, public lands, and ArcGIS. Following graduation in May 2016, I worked as a technician in southern Missouri with a reintroduced elk population. In February 2017, I began as a technician leading a wood duck demography pilot study, and I enrolled as a graduate student in June 2017 to continue work on this project.

I have continued to develop more interests and an understanding of our natural world since starting my undergraduate career. I have had the opportunity to attend multiple TWS annual meetings and regional conferences, present research, and continue to interact with professionals as often as possible. I have also developed new hobbies, such as hunting, camping, and hiking that help me better relate and understand the goals I am working towards every day.

Upon completing my thesis, I hope to continue working with waterfowl and wetlands and providing management recommendations to improve our nation's waterfowl populations.

I am excited about the opportunity to use my educational and work experiences to serve as the graduate student representative on the executive board of the NCS-TWS.

## Jim Hansen



The single most prominent and constant factor that has shaped my career, directed my goals in life, and guides my everyday decisions, has been my unrelenting passion for wildlife conservation and endearment for the awe-inspiring fauna with whom we share the land. I am currently in my second year pursuing a Master's of Science degree in Environment and Natural Resources at the Ohio State University and have a Bachelor's of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point (UWSP) and an Associate's degree in Applied Science from Vermilion Community College. Like many fellow wildlifers, my exposure and interest in wildlife started early in life. My passion for wildlife and natural resources began the first time that I dipped my foot into the cool waters of northern Minnesota at a young age, immersed in an abundance and diversity of wildlife, and is something that I've carried with me throughout my life.

My involvement in the Wildlife Society started early in my career as a freshman at Vermilion Community College in northern Minnesota, where having the opportunity to volunteer and contribute to wildlife conservation helped further my passion and enthusiasm for the wildlife profession. That early involvement encouraged me to continue my involvement in the Wildlife Society by serving as the president of Vermilion's student chapter, liaison and co-leader for numerous research projects with UWSP's student chapter of the Wildlife Society, and co-founding UWSP's student chapter of Ducks Unlimited. Attending the Midwest Fish & Wildlife

Conference numerous times where I've had the opportunity to learn from and network with many wildlife professionals has also provided a unique and inspiring experience. It's been a privilege and honor to be a part of an organization that is such an integral part of the wildlife profession, and I am proud to say that I've been a member of the Wildlife Society, either from the student, state, section, or national level, since the start of my education, and I look forward to being a part of the Wildlife Society for the remainder of my career and my lifetime.

Every step of the way, the Wildlife Society has played a monumental role in my life and my career, and this involvement has led to some of the most enriching parts of my career. I feel that it is my duty as a wildlife professional and a member of the Wildlife Society to serve in an active role as the graduate student representative for the North Central Section so that I may once again contribute to an organization that has had such a profound impact on my life, and to help improve the careers of my fellow wildlife professionals in the same way that the Wildlife Society has done for me. Having been involved in the Wildlife Society in three states that span from the far northwest to the far southeast of the North Central Section has provided me with ample insight into the components of the Wildlife Society and the crucial role it plays in wildlife conservation. I look forward to the opportunity of representing fellow wildlife graduate students for the North Central Section, where together with the many members of the Wildlife Society, we will conserve wildlife and wild places so that it shall enhance the lives of this generation, the next, and forever into the future. Thank you.

# Upcoming Events

## 2018 TWS NCS Student Conclave To be hosted by Iowa State University!

# SAVE THE DATE!

### 2018 Annual Meeting Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society



**April 22-24, 2018**

at the Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham Hotel

**Champaign, Illinois**

*More Information Including Agenda, Registration Information, and Call for Abstracts to Follow Soon!!*

**THE MINNESOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY  
2018 ANNUAL MEETING  
Kelly Inn | St. Cloud, MN | February 12-14, 2018**

# SAVE THE DATE!

Plenary Session:

*The Role of Technology in Current and Future Wildlife Management:  
Advancements and Challenges*

Workshops | Networking Session | Paper and Poster Presentations  
For more information please contact Kyle Arola at [kyle.arola32@gmail.com](mailto:kyle.arola32@gmail.com)



The 2018 annual meeting of the Michigan Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be held on **March 15th-16th 2018 at the Treetops Resort in Gaylord, Michigan.** Stay tuned for registration and conference details!



### Missouri Natural Resources Conference

**2018 MNRC  
Resource Managers ↔ Resource Users**

January 31, February 1st, & 2nd, 2018 at **Tan-Tar-A Resort** in Osage Beach Missouri.



### Strengthening Natural Resources through Collaboration

**78th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin | January 28-31, 2018



# Don't Forget to Visit

<http://wildlife.org/publications/>

For current articles and publications

## Why Membership Matters

Your support of The Wildlife Society is important at all levels (i.e., chapter, section, parent society). TWS is our professional home – where we network, learn, and serve. The North Central Section needs your membership support to fulfill our mission of upholding and promoting wildlife and conservation professionals. For only \$20 your membership and support allows the North Central Section to:

- Sponsor symposia at the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference
- Sponsor workshops of regional importance
- Sponsor conclaves for student chapters in the North Central Section
- Recognize students and professionals with awards
- Advocate for wildlife, their habitats, and the use of science in conservation decision-making

Please support the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society today by going to <http://wildlife.org/join/> to join or renew

Wildlife Conservation and Management, Invasive Species Prevention and Management, North American Model/Public Trust Doctrine, Strategic Conservation Planning, Wetlands Conservation, and Wildlife Health; 9 – the Midwest; 10 -TWS Fellows Program.

### How did you do?

0-3 correct answers – Egg. It's alright if you don't know everything already, you're learning and developing your identity as a TWS member!

4-7 correct answers – Nestling. You have a solid foundation of knowledge on which to build, and if you actually took this quiz, you clearly have a thirst for TWS knowledge. Have you considered running for an officer position in your State Chapter or the North Central Section?

8-10 correct answers – Congratulations, you've Fledged! If you know this much about the organization, it's likely that you've already spent time a service role of some kind, and have a broad interest in the mission of The Wildlife Society.

## President's Quiz Answers

### Answers:

1 – 1994; 2 – The Journal of Wildlife Management, Wildlife Monographs, Wildlife Society Bulletin, and the Wildlife Professional; 3 – 1962; 4 – Cleveland, OH; 5 – Conservation Affairs Network; 6 – False; 7 – False (AWB certification is granted for 10 years only, CWB certification is valid for 5 years and is renewable); 8 – the ten priorities include: Climate Change and Adaptation, Endangered Species Recovery, Energy Development and Wildlife, Federal Employee Participation in Professional Societies, Funding for

## Officer Contact Information

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Please send corrections to Jodie Provost ([Jodie.Provost@yahoo.com](mailto:Jodie.Provost@yahoo.com)) and Mariah Simmons ([MSimmons@wildlife.org](mailto:MSimmons@wildlife.org)). If you know of NCS members that have trouble accessing the electronic newsletter, please contact Jodie so they can be mailed a hard copy.

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