



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

Spring 2017

### President's Message



*Katy Reeder  
2017 NCS President*

It's an exciting time to be part of The Wildlife Society and part of the North Central Section. The Society has some new initiatives to serve members:

- Membership in the parent society now includes FREE online access to the Journal of Wildlife Management,

Wildlife Monographs, and the Wildlife Society Bulletin, as well as a FREE subscription to The Wildlife Professional.

- The TWS Network Online Directory has been launched. This tool allows members who opt in to search for other members based on a variety of criteria. Users could find potential mentors, or other retired members to connect with. Log in to the member portal and check it out!

- The North Central Section has also been working hard to serve our members. In partnership with the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA), we've put on a Leadership Workshop prior to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in 2016 and 2017. We plan to hold another pre-conference Workshop in 2018. We're interested in member's ideas for other professional development and education needs within the profession that we could support or facilitate.

The Section is always interested in finding ways to provide service to members and to contribute to the mission of TWS. NCS officers are here to serve you. Please feel free to give me a call or send me a note anytime to talk about any ideas or issues you'd like to discuss. Thank you for being a member, for engaging in the profession, and for your commitment to the excellence and endurance of the profession.

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## 2016 NCS Awards

77th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference,  
Lincoln, NE

North Central Section of The Wildlife Society  
Awards Session: Monday, February 6, 2017

### Professional Award of Merit

The North Central Section's 2016 Professional Award of Merit was awarded to Gary Potts.



*Gary Potts, Past President of TWS receives the Professional Award of Merit from Chris Newbold, NCS President. All award images courtesy of Mark Porath.*

Gary Potts has served in the wildlife profession for 37 years. He has worked as a technician, researcher, private lands biologist, district wildlife biologist, and project manager. He has worked for the Southern IL University Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, IL Natural History Survey, and the IL Dept. of Conservation/Dept. of Natural Resources. He holds a Master's in Zoology degree from Eastern Illinois University and a Bachelor's in Zoology degree from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. He recently retired from the IL Dept. of Natural Resources.

Gary has always been a strong advocate for student participation and involvement in natural resources management and The Wildlife Society. He routinely has gone above and beyond to give presentations on

professionalism in natural resources management and other wildlife related issues to numerous student chapters and professional staff.

During his career, Gary has served at all levels of The Wildlife Society. He got started with TWS by serving as a student board member-at-large for the SIU-C Student Chapter of TWS. For the Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society, he became a member in 1980 and served on several committees including nominations and the Professional Award of Merit. He also served the ICTWS as secretary-treasurer and president.

For the North Central Section (NCS) he served as president, on numerous committees, organized several symposia and workshops, and served two terms (three years each) as section representative to TWS Council. He helped develop the NCS outstanding student awards program and has been involved with the NCS Leadership Training workshops. He co-authored the proposal on the *Timing of the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference* which resulted in the conference being changed from early December to late January/early February.

At the parent society or international level, he is the Immediate Past President of TWS. He has previously served on the Executive Committee as Vice President, President-Elect and as President in 2015-16. He was the Council subcommittee liaison on four technical reviews, and served on the position statements committee where he co-chaired the position statement on Feral Swine. He has served on the Leadership Institute Committee since it started in 2006 and was co-editor of the Leadership Institute workbook. He is a Certified Wildlife Biologist® and TWS Fellow. His phrase "We are The Wildlife Society" has been widely used and echoes his view that all members are important.

Gary's accomplishments have been impressive, highly respected by his peers and others. They value his biological skills and personal integrity. He has been a role model for students, younger biologists and others in the field of resource management.

## Student Chapter of the Year

For its exemplary contributions to The Wildlife Society's mission and goals, The North Central Section's Student Chapter of the Year for 2016 was awarded to University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.



*University of Wisconsin Stevens Point receives the Student Chapter of the Year Award from Chris Newbold, NCS President. They also won the Student Chapter of the Year Award at the parent society level last October at the 2016 Annual Conference of TWS in Raleigh, NC.*

In the past year, UWSP hosted the North Central Section Student Conclave for over 100 students in Tomahawk, WI, and had over 20 student-led research projects equaling over 6,000 volunteer hours. Opportunities exist each week for students to volunteer on these research projects, plus education events and more. Eleven wildlife professionals spoke at weekly meetings, and they participated in the national TWS, Midwest Fish & Wildlife, Wisconsin TWS, NCS Student Conclave, Wolf Stewardship, and Prairie Enthusiast conferences. With over 200 members, UWSP has many leadership opportunities, ranging from serving as a project co-leader or officer, to planning an event.

## Outstanding Graduate Student

The North Central Section's 2016 Graduate Student of the Year was awarded to Kristi Confortin of Ball State University.



*Kristi Confortin receives the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from Chris Newbold, NCS President. Kristi serves as Chair of the Student Development Working Group and as Student Liaison to Council.*

Kristi is a Master's degree candidate at Ball State University. Her thesis is "The Roosting Ecology of the Eastern small-footed bat in Southern Illinois." Kristi holds a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management from the State University of New York (SUNY) – Cobleskill. Kristi has been involved in organizing our campus Ducks Unlimited chapter and served as Treasurer.

Kristi has held numerous officers positions within her Student Chapter of TWS, including serving as Treasurer, Vice President, and President of her chapter. She has also overseen SUNY-Cobleskill's Annual Fish and Wildlife Festival and was awarded the Outstanding Graduate of a Four-Year-School in the New York State's Wildlife Society. Kristi has remained heavily involved at the national level, where she chairs the Student Development Working Group.

She has also represented The Wildlife Society at the New York Power Authority Wildlife Festival several years, Schoharie County Conservation Association meetings, campus High School Days, community Halloween events for children, campus Club Fairs, and other events. Finally, Kristi has



been involved in organizing a SUNY campus Ducks Unlimited chapter and served as its Treasurer.

## Outstanding Undergraduate Student

The North Central Section's 2016 Undergraduate Student of the Year was awarded to Lisa Zoromski of University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.



*Lisa Zoromski receives the Undergraduate Student Award from Chris Newbold, NCS President. Lisa is President of the UWSP Student Chapter. She led the chapter in hosting the NCS TWS Student Conclave last year as Vice President.*

Lisa is a senior pursuing a Wildlife Ecology - Research and Management Major. She has been involved in TWS since arriving at UWSP, serving as a treasurer, vice president, and now president of the student chapter. In the past year, she served as the Wisconsin TWS student representative and NCS student representative. In her freshman year, she started a lagomorph research project examining Eastern cottontail parasites. The past few years have found her participating in several TWS conferences and symposiums, including presenting a bison parasite prevalence poster at the National TWS conference this past year in Raleigh. Each summer, she stays busy with wildlife internships and volunteering to assist with research projects.

## Section Representative Report



*John Moriarty  
NCS Representative*

March 2017

The TWS Council met on 6-7 March 2017 in conjunction with the North American Conference in Spokane, WA. During those two days, Council considered contents and recommendations in

nearly 40 reports from administrative, award, and oversight committees that engage in the day-to-day business of the Society. Much of that discussion led to Council actions to move our interests forward. Immediately preceding the Council Meeting, the Search Committee conducted interviews of candidates for the TWS Executive Director, a position that will be vacated when Ken Williams retires in summer 2017. The new Executive Director will be named by early April.

Some of the major items approved and discussed including:

1. Setting a FY2018 Operating Budget (begins 1 July 2017) that includes an operating surplus for replenishing the Permanent Reserve Fund.
2. Setting Policy Priorities for use during the 115th Congress to focus actions on (1) incorporating wildlife science into decision making, (2) enabling wildlife professionals by providing sufficient funding for management, conservation, and research, and (3) assisting wildlife professionals by bringing science to on-the-ground conservation
3. Acknowledging that the online TWS Member Directory was recently activated for member use and that there are still a number of members that need to update their information

4. Allowing additional mathematics courses for use in meeting Certification requirements and clarified that remedial math does not meet Certification requirements and providing an option for Associate Wildlife Biologists to apply for a three-year extension to meet professional experience requirements as long as they can demonstrate continued dedication to the wildlife profession and intention to advance to CWB status

5. Approved further consolidation of position statements to enhance flexibility and responsiveness in use of TWS policy position documents

6. Reviewed current status of the "Canada Initiative" started in October 2017 to enhance strategic services for TWS members in Canada

7. Preparation of Guidelines for Professional Conduct (initiated by Ethnic and Gender Diversity Working Group) to be finalized by Council by 15 May for implementation at the 2017 Annual Conference

8. Reviewed the concerns of chapters on the noncompliance letters that were sent out in December and laid out options on how to improve communication on compliance issues in the future.

9. Discussed the work of the Organization Integration Ad Hoc Committee regarding options for chapter members that aren't TWS members to be embraced within a distinct TWS affiliation

One sad note during the Council meeting was being informed on sudden passing of Jane Jorgensen, a stalwart TWS employee of 30 years. Jane was the force behind keeping our financial accounts in order for decades; her work touched many within the organization.

If any NC Section TWS member has any questions or concerns about TWS activities, please feel free to contact me (john.moriarty@threeriversparks.org).

## Treasurer's Report

March 26, 2017

### GENERAL FUND (Checking & Savings)

General Fund Balance as of October 1, 2016  
..... **\$5,487.50**

Checking Starting Balance	\$2,395.79
<b>Checking Income</b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4th Qtr 2016 WS Dues	\$2,720.00
Transfer from Savings	\$ 500.00
Subtotal	\$3,220.00
<b>Checking Expenses</b>	
Postage Stamps	\$ 18.80
MWSU – Student Chapter of the Year (2015)	\$ 1000.00
SE Deer Study Group sponsorship	\$ 250.00
Midwest FWC Award plaques	\$ 235.40
Outstanding Graduate Student	\$ 500.00
Outstanding Undergraduate Student	\$ 500.00
Certified check fee	\$ 2.00
UWSP – Student Chapter of the Year (2017)	\$1,000.00
Chris Newbold – NCS Membership meeting supplies	\$ 25.74
UM Crookston – Student Chapter of the Year (2016)	\$1,000.00
State of Iowa, DNR (travel support for Katie Reeder)	\$ 500.00
Subtotal	\$5,031.94
<b>CHECKING TOTAL as of March 26, 2017</b>	<b>\$ 583.85</b>
Savings Starting Balance	\$3,091.71
<b>Savings Income</b>	
Interest ( Oct 2016 – Feb 2017)	\$ 1.12
Subtotal	\$ 1.12
<b>Savings Expenses</b>	
Conclave Grant – Purdue TWS	\$1,000.00
Transfer to Checking	\$ 500.00
Subtotal	\$1500.00
<b>SAVINGS TOTAL as of March 26, 2017</b>	<b>\$1,592.83</b>

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

<b>Encumbered Expenses</b>	
Wisconsin TWS meeting sponsorship	\$ 100.00
Subtotal	\$ 100.00

General Fund Balance (minus encumbrances) as of  
March 26, 2017 .....**\$2,076.68**

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND**

Balance as of October 1,  
2016..... **\$44,312.74**

<b>CE-PD Income</b>	
Interest (Oct 2106 – Feb 2017)	\$ 27.50
Subtotal	\$ 27.50
<b>CE-PD Expenses</b>	
Ann B Forstchen (Leadership workshop speaker)	\$1,649.72
Subtotal	\$1,649.72

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

**TOTAL FUNDS as of March 26, 2017..... \$44,867.20**

**TOTAL FUNDS (minus encumbrances) as of March 26, 2017..... \$44,767.20**

Respectfully submitted by the Treasurer of the North Central Section:



Jim Schneider  
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife  
Michigan State University

## **Student Conclave**

*By Rebekah Lumkes, President, Purdue University Student Chapter of TWS and Gary E. Potts, Immediate Past President of TWS*



*Participants at this year's NCS TWS Student Conclave. Photo by Rebekah Lumkes.*

### **Students Learn About the Wildlife Profession**

From bird watching to quiz bowl, the student chapter of TWS at Purdue University had a lot to offer at the North Central Section TWS Student Conclave held March 24-26, 2017 at Camp Tecumseh, Brookston, IN.

Ninety-two aspiring wildlifers from nine student chapters across seven states of the Midwest attended the event — specifically geared toward students. Participants had the opportunity to network with the various speakers as well as peers from other student chapters.

The conclave provided many opportunities for students to hear from wildlife professionals. Allen Pursell, Director of Forest Conservation for The Nature Conservancy in Indiana gave the opening Plenary Session talk entitled “A Window on the Natural Features of Indiana.” On Saturday, students could sign up for presentations from Columbian Park Zoo, IN DNR, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, Purdue University staff and graduate students, Wildcat Creek Wildlife Center, and TWS. For the closing session on Sunday, Gary Potts, past president of TWS, gave a presentation on “Is Student Membership in The Wildlife Society Beneficial?”

Other conclave activities included bird banding and watching, herping, chapter poster and photo contests, and the wildlife Olympics where student's skills were tested at a variety of stations. Saturday evening was action packed with the student quiz bowl which was very competitive and exciting for attendees! Bonfire socials culminated both Friday and Saturday evenings and allowed for much networking with students and presenters.

“This event couldn't have been as successful as it was without the help of the 15 dedicated Purdue University student chapter and conclave planning committee members, wildlife professionals and several sponsors including TWS,” said Rebekah Lumkes, current president of Purdue University's TWS student chapter and this year's conclave planning chair. The student chapter enjoyed hosting



the event, Lumkes says, and hopes other students will benefit from skills they gained at the conclave.

## State Chapter Reports

### Illinois Chapter

*No Report*

### Indiana Chapter

*Sam Whiteleather*

#### Oak Ecology Workshop Focusing on the Importance of Active Forest Disturbance

On March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, ITWS in conjunction with the Society of American Foresters and the Central Hardwoods Joint Venture, held a 2 day workshop focusing on Oak Ecology from a forestry and wildlife standpoint. The main topic of the conference was “Central Hardwoods Oak Ecology”, which highlighted the importance of Indiana’s oak forests. The plenary session included programs on oak ecology, disturbance ecology, white-tailed deer and oak forests and funding for forest restoration and management. The second day featured discussions on ruffed grouse decline, urban deer problems, bird response to forest management and many other topics. The 2nd day also featured an optional field tour showcasing the impact of fire on forest regeneration.

The meeting was attended by over 180 resource professionals from a wide range of backgrounds including wildlife managers, foresters, academics, consultants, researchers, students, landowners and many others.

Meetings like the Oak Ecology Workshop are great opportunities for chapter members to network and socialize with other wildlife professionals from various agencies and backgrounds, expand their wildlife knowledge base and meet with students from student chapters throughout the state. The Indiana chapter will continue to pursue educational and networking opportunities for its members.

### Iowa Chapter

*Pete Eyheralde*

#### Fall Workshop

On September 27 and 28, 2016, wildlife professionals and students from across Iowa gathered for a series of field trips at Big Marsh Wildlife Management Area, in Butler County, Upper Iowa University in Fayette County, and Capoli Ranch in Allamakee County, as part of the annual Iowa TWS Fall Workshop.

Our first day’s planned radio telemetry demonstration and search for tagged wood turtles was a wash—literally, due to flooding at Big Marsh from the Cedar River. However, we did catch several garter snakes and leopard frogs on an impromptu herping hike and tour of the wildlife management area.

Later that evening, the group gathered in a science lecture hall at Upper Iowa University to hear a talk given by Dr. Paul Skrade about his research on habitat selection by Cerulean Warblers in north east Iowa.

The next morning we journeyed east to Capoli Ranch in Allamakee County, an amazing complex of goat prairies, oak savanna remnants, and forested bluffs along the Mississippi. Owner, Raleigh Buckmaster, a retired veterinarian, formerly raised fallow deer on the property, but in recent years has been working with the Iowa DNR to restore prairie and savanna, to improve habitat for the resident population of timber rattlesnakes (and big whitetail bucks). While touring the management projects at Capoli, Raleigh spoke of his decades of experience on the ranch and compared wildlife habitat management to airplane mechanics. Recalling the words of a former flight instructor, “If you find a problem, fix it now! You won’t like the results if you wait.”

Greg Schmitt, DNR Private Lands Biologist for northeast Iowa talked to the group about future research plans for the rattlesnake population at Capoli, deploying iButtons at den sites to monitor temperatures within and outside hibernaculams.

These data would allow for a more accurate assessment of when the snakes enter dens in the fall or leave in the spring, for planning management activities like controlled burns.

Many in the assembled group were impressed by the amount of acres Raleigh burns each year, often just by himself. When asked about his strategies he said “Well, anybody that’s been burning long enough will have their moments of terror... but mostly I use the slope of the land and firebreaks we’ve maintained over the years, watch the weather and the wind speed, and it all goes well.”

One of the highlights of the tour was the opportunity to stand toe to root with one of the oldest trees in Iowa, a 500 year old eastern red cedar clinging to the rocky edge of the Mississippi River bluff.



*Raleigh Buckmaster explains invasive tree removal to ITWS members while exploring a goat prairie at Capoli Ranch.*

### Annual Meeting

On February 15, 2017 the Iowa Chapter convened in Ames for its annual Winter Meeting. More than 100 wildlife professionals from across Iowa enjoyed ample networking opportunities, great camaraderie, and an informative program with topics that focused on wildlife management on working lands. Iowa has one of the smallest amounts of public land of any state in the nation and much of the work done by wildlife biologists takes place on, or is directly affected by land use practices on adjacent private lands. Graduate students from Iowa State University gave presentations on their research related to milkweed use by ovipositing monarch butterflies,

butterfly responses to herbicide treatments for invasive grass control, the effects of wind turbine presence on pheasant distribution, and white-tailed deer fawn space use in central Iowa.

Water quality and strategies to reduce nitrogen and other agricultural inputs in our rivers is a topic of increasing importance in Iowa. Jennifer Terry, with the Des Moines Waterworks spoke about protecting surface water in Iowa’s agricultural watersheds for wildlife habitat and humans. The keynote presentation, entitled “Working Grassland Landscapes Can Work for Conservation” was given by Dr. Marissa Ahlering of The Nature Conservancy. The day’s meeting wrapped up with a round table discussion of wildlife management practices on private lands led by Gregg Pattison of the USF&WS and Greg Schmitt with the Iowa DNR.

### Michigan Chapter

*Sonja A. Christensen*

This year we had another successful annual MI TWS meeting, held at Treetops Resort in Gaylord Michigan on March 16th and 17th. We had 60 registrants from across the state and representing private industry, agencies, NGO's and universities. Further, we had many students in attendance and were able to distribute 4 travel awards to students giving presentations. For the first time in recent chapter history, we had "best presentation" and "best poster" awards for one student in each category presenting their research at the conference.

Other highlights of this year’s conference included guest speakers:

Dr. Patrick Lederle discussed the importance of trust in collaborative wildlife planning and management during his talk titled, “Trust, the Public Trust, and the Public’s Trust in Conservation Agencies”.

Mr. Mark Romanski addressed the current status and ongoing challenges of managing wolves at Isle Royale National Park. His talk was titled,



“Addressing the Presence of Wolves at Isle Royale National Park”.

Michigan Deer Disease Panel- Invited representatives from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), USDA-Wildlife Services, and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) discussed deer diseases in Michigan with a focus on the recent emergence of Chronic Wasting Disease in free-ranging white-tailed deer. A question and answer style format followed individual presentations.

We provided a dinner and social hour for networking among students and professionals.

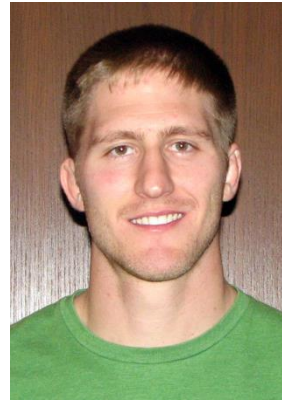
## Minnesota Chapter

Kyle Arola

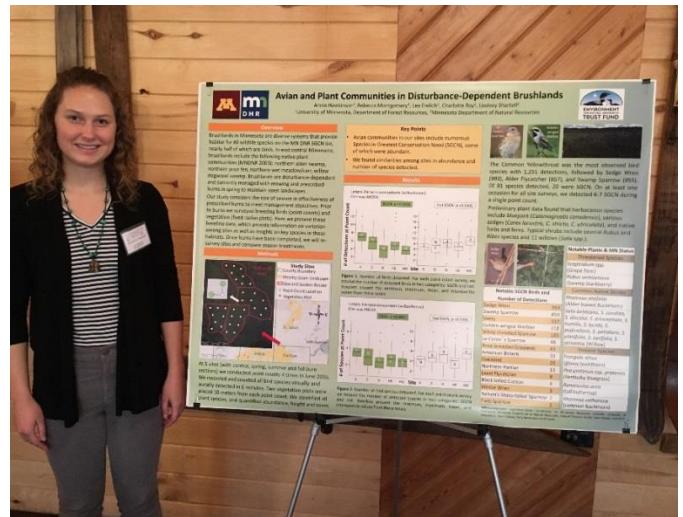
### A Focus on Students

The Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society has a number of ways to engage students in the Chapter. Examples include activities at the Chapter's Annual Meeting such as the student professional mixer, student quiz bowl, and student leader's breakfast. The Chapter places a high priority on acknowledging students for their achievements. It also assists students in attending events to network, learn, and develop professionally.

The student paper and poster competition occurs at the Chapter's Annual Meeting. This competition offers awards for the top graduate and undergraduate student in both the poster and paper categories. At this year's meeting in February, we had the largest-ever showing of student poster and paper presentations for a Minnesota-only meeting. There were 17 (all graduate) paper and 20 (6 graduate and 14 undergraduate) poster presentations. With this breakdown of students, we had awards for Best Graduate Student Poster, Best Undergraduate Student Poster, and Best Student Paper. Award recipients receive a \$75 check and a certificate signed by the Chapter President. Award recipients were:



***Best Student Paper: Michael Joyce- “Dispersal of American Martens in Minnesota”***



***Best Graduate Student Poster: Anna Hawkinson- “Seasonal burning of brushland habitat and the response of avian communities”***



***Best Undergraduate Student Poster: Benjamin Stubbs- “Comparison of bird communities on restored and remnant prairies in northwestern Minnesota”***

In early 2016 the Chapter's Student Relations Committee developed the Student Professional

Development Grant. It was established to encourage student participation in professional workshops, conferences, continuing education, and volunteer opportunities. Successful applicants can use the funds towards transportation, lodging, and registration for events. After the first year of this grant we helped nearly 50 students attend TWS meeting at the state, section and national levels. The grant is proving to be both popular and beneficial to students throughout the state. The Chapter is excited about this new program and looks forward to watching it grow.

## Missouri Chapter

*No Report*

## Ohio Chapter

*Gabriel Karns*

Forty wildlife professionals attended The Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society (OCTWS) fall workshop—Wetlands from A to Z. Experts from seven federal, state and local organizations provided classroom presentations and practical hands-on instruction at centrally-located Darby Creek Metro Park. From wetland design to water level manipulation to muskrat trapping to available cost-share programs, the workshop delivered an extensive curriculum for wetlands management. OCTWS-offered spring workshops are on the spring horizon for wildlife professionals and student chapters—grasslands management and firearms familiarization, respectively.



*Ohio Chapter hosts a fall workshop—Wetlands from A to Z.*

Our chapter helped to sponsor the 57<sup>th</sup> Ohio Wildlife Management Conference held January 27, 2017, at a new venue with an expanded meeting schedule featuring a Thursday evening business meeting and meal at the local Cabelas — turn-out was higher than expected and conversations were lively. The following morning, nearly 300 attendees listened to talks covering timber rattlesnake movement ecology relative to transportation infrastructure, pollinators along pipeline rights-of-way, forest management, and more. Highlights included a stirring charge from Chief of Ohio's Division of Wildlife Ray Petering as well as a great presentation on urban deer management by keynote speaker Dr. Paul Curtis from Cornell University.

## Wisconsin Chapter

*Derek Johnson*

The Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society recently held its annual conference in Milwaukee, WI. The three day event was hosted jointly with the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Almost 400 attended the event that highlighted academic research, resource management and chapter successes throughout the year. A major highlight of the meeting was the awarding of two major awards to members of the WCTWS. The first was a Special Service Recognition award to Lesa Kardash, who has been a long time, behind-the-scenes, help for the chapter. Lesa has spent over a decade helping new Executive Board members transition into their new roles. She has compiled our quarterly newsletter and been the voice to our members for even longer. Our chapter would not be where we are today without Lesa's contributions. The second award was given to a long time Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources leader and WCTWS member. Tom Hauge was awarded the "Wisconsin Award" for his 24+ years as the Wildlife Bureau Director for the WDNR and his many contributions before and after then.

The conference was also a great time for mentor and leadership development. This included a mentor-mentee luncheon, where students and



professionals gain insight into a career in wildlife management. Another was our student-leadership breakfast. The breakfast was a time for members of the state Executive Board and leaders from the student chapters to meet and discuss how each entity could cooperate and excel in the upcoming year.

The conference was also an opportunity for members to receive updates on strategic planning for our chapter and how we should best invest our financial resources to meet our objectives in the future. Finally, our chapter election results were announced including President-elect, Secretary/Treasurer and At-large Board Member. All in all the conference was a huge success and we look forward to hosting the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Milwaukee next year.

## Student Chapter Reports

### Ball State University

*Sarah Clark*

The Ball State University Chapter of TWS had a great fall semester! We had some exciting guest speakers come to our meetings including Stephanie Raiman, a Ball State alumnus who came to talk to us about her zookeeper position at the Cincinnati Children's Zoo and Dr. Esteban Fernandez-Juricic who discussed his research on foveal and binocular vision in birds.

At the beginning of the fall semester, members assisted Dr. Tim Carter in Bat Blitz. Everyone got the opportunity to help set up mist nets as well as identify bats as they were caught, and learn more about their biology and impacts of White Nose Syndrome.

Our chapter volunteered with the Indiana DNR at the deer check stations for opening weekend. It was a great opportunity for members to network with DNR biologists while learning more about hunting and getting experience working with the public. Members did other community work with Mounds State Park where we went on a

camping/volunteering trip. Members also visited a Red Tail Land Conservancy property multiple times doing invasive plant eradication.



*BSU students assisting with DNR deer check stations.*

This past February, our chapter of TWS along with Ball State's Chapter of AFS attended the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska. Members from both groups won awards and gave presentations. Together, we had 30 Ball State students attend this year.

Earlier this month we held a 'Traps and Tracks' workshop where students learned how to identify tracks of common mammals around our area. Also, we discussed traps used to catch each one and how they work.

Recently, members have been assisting with herpetofaunal surveys of some Ball State properties. Members are getting the opportunity to learn about trapping techniques and research procedures involved with surveying amphibians and reptiles. We have also been taking members birding at Summit Lake State Park to help students learn to identify many different bird species by sight and call.

We look forward to other volunteering and other special events coming up this semester!



## Michigan State University

*No Report*

## University of Missouri Central

*Christina Edmondson*

The spring semester has been especially busy for members of University of Central Missouri's Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Before the semester began we were busy assisting a local citizen group, Citizens for Environmental Action, with a prescribed burn on their managed restoration prairie, Turkey Foot Prairie. Members learned valuable skills using leaf blowers and rakes to control spreading fire.

Shortly into the semester, members participated in Sterling Elementary School's first ever STEM Night where they shared information with students and families about mammals, spiders, microscopes, scat, tracks, and even worms. Members enjoyed sharing their knowledge with the children and are looking forward to going again next year.

We helped another club, the Show Me Green Environmental Society to clean up a useful resource, our Environmental Education Center (EEC). The Center went from drab to fab in a matter of hours. Our participation in this clean-up will help get events moving through the EEC for education and outreach with our local community and within the University. Several members attended the Missouri Natural Resources Conference where we enjoyed learning about soil conservation, networking and the popular job fair. Some of the attending members have even been able to secure seasonal summer jobs through the fair!



*Missouri Central students participate in an introductory water quality monitoring workshop with the Stream Team.*

Never to leave a dull moment, our fundraising kicked off with a bang in our Valentine's Day donation-only bake sale. Members created together, donated, or purchased baked goods to be given away for donations. It was a big hit and was our most productive fundraiser yet!

The warm weather has driven us outside for a roadside clean-up! We worked for 3 hours on a ½ mile stretch of road with a total of 16 garbage bags, 2 tires and various car parts. We are currently working on adopting a stretch of Missouri highway but are happy to volunteer wherever we can. Most recently, our University hosted the annual College for a Day event where Middle School children are invited to enjoy a day of college courses. TWS hosted It Came from Missouri: Mammal Edition and a Telemetry course. Guest students and their chaperones learned about mammal skulls, pelts, tracks, and general mammal information specific to Missouri. Students also learned about radio telemetry and participated in a fish tracker scavenger hunt where they homed in on candy goody bags. Upcoming events include introductory water quality monitoring workshop with Stream Team, a clean-up of the hiking trails in Pertle Springs, another roadside clean up, and participation in the March for Science Kansas City.

## Missouri Western State University

*Brad Thomas*

We have had another great spring semester for our Student Chapter. Our members have been very active in a variety of different projects and events since our last report during the fall semester. Recruiting numbers in the fall has led to many great things this spring. We have been able to assist several of our partners with numerous different events. Our work with Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has been very extensive throughout this spring. We were also able to aid Mingo National Wildlife Refuge during December to work towards several goals on the refuge. In addition, over the course of the last few months, we have helped at multiple workdays at Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge. In addition to working extensively with our partners, we have started on

several of our own projects here at Missouri Western State University.

Missouri Department of Conservation needed our help this spring and we answered. The Northwest Regional Office, located here on Missouri Western's campus, needed assistance with maintaining the nature trail that many students and people in the public use. We were able to mulch the entire trail in one day, pulling mulch from piles outside the trail and using wheel barrels to move the mulch along the trail. We also cleared many of the plants and branches that crossed the path. Our Student Chapter of TWS organized this workday and hosted several partners including Master Naturalists, faculty, MDC staff, and BBB here on campus.



*Missouri Western helps maintain nature trail.*

Along with helping MDC, we also were able to help with many opportunities at Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge. During our trail workday, we worked alongside of Boy Scouts to work with resurfacing and clearing the hiking trail through the bluffs of the refuge. Another workday at Loess Bluffs involved maintaining, cleaning, and collecting data on many of the Wood Duck boxes located throughout the refuge. Many students came to help and it turned out to be a great workday.

During the winter break in December, we took student members down to Mingo National Wildlife Refuge for three days of working with the staff. During this time, we were able to clean out an area of 7 acres from Autumn Olive and Multiflora Rose. We cut the plants down to the base of the stems and

then used a chemical application to kill off the rest of the plant to prevent them from growing back. We also got a lot of background information of the refuge along with future plans of management practices that will be happening on the refuge.

In addition to these events, we also have begun to start up work on our own projects for the year. Missouri Western State University Biology Department had the annual Super Science Saturday in which many people from the public come out with their kids to learn about many different areas in the science world. Many students came out to help with the various areas including Tools of Wildlife, Ornithology, Invertebrates, and many others. Our annual spring "Gander Commander" team has started to form together to help collect data and manage the Canada Goose population here on campus. The past years have been very successful in reducing and keeping the population numbers of geese down to a desired level, whereas before they were getting very heavily populated and effecting the campus and the students. We also have sponsored a Chainsaw Field Day, which allowed students who have never used a chainsaw or little chainsaw experience to practice cutting downed logs. All students present had attended a chainsaw safety workshop before attending this field day as well. Many students got the hands on experience that will be very useful with future jobs in the wildlife field. Along with these, we have also had students attend various workshops including wildlife chemical capture and restraint (Safe Capture International) and mapping GPS certification (taught by Trimble Certified Trainer). These workshops have allowed many students to become even more qualified in the field to have a better opportunity in the work force. We have also put on many different seminars including guest speakers. We have covered topics of endangered species, fire ecology, jobs with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and much more.



*Missouri Western teaches kids on Super Science Saturday.*

To sum it up, we have been very active this semester and during the winter break. We have done much work with Missouri Department of Conservation including helping with cleaning and maintaining a trail that the public and students use very frequently. At Loess Bluffs, we did several events to assist with the management of the habitat and the wildlife that inhabits it, including resurfacing the hiking trail and helping with the maintenance and data collection of Wood Duck boxes around the refuge. The winter trip to Mingo Nation Wildlife Refuge was another great experience for the students that went down to help with invasive species control and learning a lot about the management techniques on the refuge. Over all, we have been having a great time developing our professionalism and skill sets.

## Northern Michigan University

*No Report*

## Purdue University

*Morgan Sussman*

Our chapter has been very busy this semester, especially since we just finished hosting the North Central Section Student Conclave! The event was held at Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, Indiana in March and was an overall major success. Our members did a great job planning and hosting the event. We got a lot of positive feedback from the

other student chapters that we plan to pass on to the next chapter hosting.



*Student Conclave helpers from Purdue.*

Our chapter has also been active outside of Conclave. Last fall, we visited Kankakee Sands and toured the prairie containing bison with The Nature Conservancy. This was a favorite experience for many of our members; we got to see the bison and go inside the enclosure with our guide. In addition to the bison trip, another big trip our chapter took was to Cook County, Illinois in February. There we tackled white-tailed deer after drop-netting them and assisted with data collection and release. We also had the chance to assist with collecting coyotes caught in snare traps around the property and assisted with their work-up in the lab. It was an invaluable experience for all our members that attended.

We have additionally gone herping for a couple of our meetings where we captured tiger salamanders, spring peepers, and a snapping turtle. Members have also had the opportunity to help with banding saw-whet owls, since two of our members are running a station for research just outside of Purdue.

Our chapter is currently preparing for Ag Week and Spring Fest, where we'll represent our club and explain its goals to university students and the general public. We will also be hosting Wildlife Olympics at the end of the semester. Altogether, we're finishing out a very successful year for our chapter!



## University of Minnesota – Crookston

*Bailey Yliniemi*



*Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society Brush Cut Event at Glacial Ridge NWR Refuge. Pictured are students from UMC, Bemidji State University, and Vermillion Community College. Photo by John Loegering.*

The University of Minnesota Crookston's (UMC) student chapter of The Wildlife Society currently has thirty-four members enrolled. At the beginning of our semester, UMC had seven members represent the chapter at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska. Students attended the Beginning Your Professional Journey Workshop and enjoyed the scientific and technical program. We also had two members attend the Minnesota meeting in Callaway, MN. Students had a wonderful experience learning and expanding their network at both events. Consequently, three students have submitted research proposals to the U's Undergraduate Research office and funding looks promising. In early March our chapter participated in the annual Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society brush cut at Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge, impacting many acres of habitat. We also visited a bear den with DNR biologists and attended to the cubs while biologists worked up the sow. Students are looking forward to upcoming events, including our annual trip to Beltrami Island State Forest for owl and goshawk surveys. Our annual beast feast gathering at the Natural History Area will take place at the beginning of May. Plans are also underway to attend The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference in Albuquerque NM this fall.

We look forward to a great rest of the semester of involvement, learning, and fun.



*Shane Boehne with bear cub. Photo by Bailey Yliniemi.*

## University of Rio Grande

*No Report*

## University of Wisconsin – Madison

*No Report*

## University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

*Lisa Zoromski*

Stevens Point Chapter has been so busy this winter. Fourteen students participated in the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Lincoln. At this conference, our chapter was presented with the NCS Student Chapter of the Year Award! Our president, Lisa Zoromski, received the Wildlife Undergraduate Student Award. Another student, Benjamin Tjepkes, received a Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award for outstanding students. Nine of the students also presented posters.

A few weeks after Midwest, over a dozen students participated in the Wisconsin Annual TWS and AFS Joint meeting in Milwaukee. Five students gave oral presentations. UWSP student, Rachel Konkle, received the Outstanding Undergraduate

Oral Presentation Award for the second year in a row! Lisa Zoromski received the Aldo Leopold Undergraduate Scholarship as well.



*UW-SP students spiff well up for the WI Annual Meeting.*

Then this past week, nine students participated in the NCS Student Conclave hosted by Purdue University. Students had fun with wildlife olympics, quiz bowl, herping, and other conclave activities.

Besides all of these conferences, several student led research projects (gray squirrel, lagomorph, woodpecker, fisher, waterfowl, wild bird, otter, canid, and felid) have been taking student volunteers out to help with a variety of field work. From bird banding to analyzing camera trap data, TWS is providing great opportunities for students to build their resumes.

Of course, we have also continued the long tradition of having a TWS and AFS vs Fire Crew and SAF broomball competition. This is a great event for students to have fun and meet other members. Our education coordinator had organized several public outreach events for local schools and on campus. At least once a month, members can gain public speaking skills through participating in these education events.



*UW-SP TWS and Fisheries broomball team.*

The last two months of the semester are jam packed with project volunteer events, symposiums, and elections. We are also collaborating with the Wisconsin Center for Wildlife in running a 'Working with the Media' workshop on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Students across UWSP and WI TWS chapters were invited to attend. Joe LaBarbera, professional trainer and media consultant for dozens of natural resources agencies, is flying from Florida to present this one day workshop. Participants will gain skills that will help them feel more prepared when contacted by reporters, and learn what to say to best get their message across. We will also be hosting our annual Game Feed in conjunction with a trap shooting event for new shooters this April. This is a great event to bring TWS, fisheries students, and professors together to celebrate a great year.

## Announcements

### Conservation Affairs Network Survey

TWS North Central Section's Conservation Affairs Committee is responsible for reviewing and responding to policy activities in support of wildlife professionals and science based conservation and management within the eight North Central Section states. The Committee is currently seeking information on which issues are important to our members to guide policy engagement efforts at the State and Section levels.

**Please provide feedback by June 1. Click on this link to our survey: <http://bit.ly/2nALv6s>**



Please contact Colleen Hartel with any questions about the survey ([cmhartel@gmail.com](mailto:cmhartel@gmail.com)).

## In Memoriam

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### Peter Jordan

Our dear friend, colleague, and mentor Dr. Peter A. Jordan passed away in St. Paul on Saturday, April 1 at the age of 87. His family is tentatively planning a memorial service in the Twin Cities in early May. Details will be forthcoming.

Peter Albion Jordan was born in Alameda, California on January 2, 1930. He spent his youth in Santa Cruz, chasing critters around in the Monterey Bay tidepools with his older sister, and graduated from Alameda High School. During his early teenage years, Peter spent several summers working at Yosemite National Park's Camp Curry. He talked often about those years, as they certainly solidified his love of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Peter went to nearby UC-Berkeley where he earned a BS degree in Zoology, then proceeded on to work on his PhD with the famed A. Starker Leopold at the same university. During this time, Peter was a part of collecting trips to Mexico for Starker Leopold's classic "Mammals of Mexico" book. His PhD dissertation focused on the ecology of mule deer in the Sierras, which included the technique of using bells to locate collared deer. From 1963-1966, he worked as a post-doc at Purdue for Durwood Allen's study of moose and wolves at Isle Royale, which continues to this day as the longest predator-prey study in the world. After completing his post-doc, he took a faculty position at the Yale School of Forestry before settling into his faculty position at the University of Minnesota's Department of Fisheries and Wildlife in 1974. Peter continued his work on moose foraging ecology at Isle Royale, and was perhaps most famous for his hypothesis about the role of sodium as a limiting nutrient for moose. Peter also began collaborating with other moose researchers from around the world but Sweden quickly became his home away from home, where he spent 3 different sabbaticals. Peter

received the Distinguished Moose Biologist Award in 1998 to recognize his international achievements in moose research. In addition to his moose research, Peter supervised students who studied mammals in India and Morocco. He was president of the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society in 1980 and was the faculty mentor for the student chapter of TWS several times during his tenure at UMN. Peter officially retired from the Department in 2004 but remained active in his research and student mentoring into his 80s, including making his last field data collection trip to Isle Royale at the age of 80. His keen ecological mind, his thirst for adventure, and his sense of humor will be missed by his many friends, former students, and colleagues in Minnesota and elsewhere.



*Peter Jordan on his last trip to Isle Royale at age 80.  
Photo by Lee Frelich.*

We are fortunate that MNTWS's COWCH project interviewed Peter in 2016. It can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kUpCw1aun4>

I also came across this gem that Peter wrote in 1968 about the role of humans in the ecological landscape - Jordan, P.A. 1968. Ecology, Conservation, and Human Behavior. BioScience 18 (11):1023-1029. His ideas are still relevant on this topic 50 years later.

Shared by Steve Windels

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## 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

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If you know of any NCS members that have trouble accessing the electronic newsletter, please contact Jodie Provost at [jodie.provost@yahoo.com](mailto:jodie.provost@yahoo.com). I'm happy to mail them a hard copy.

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