



Winter 2015

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CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education
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Message from the President

CMPS Colleagues,

I want to start by thanking the Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society and Kansas State University for hosting the 2015 CMPS annual meeting August 10-13. There were 99 registrants that enjoyed two days of paper and poster sessions, a day of workshops, three evening socials, and field trips to notable, local tallgrass prairie landscapes. The meeting was a success and a great time was had by all!

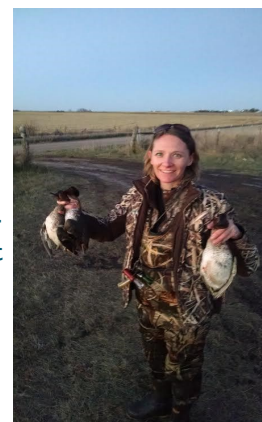
It seems like August was just yesterday. Yet, the new year is literally around the corner. Where did the time go? Fall seemed to linger here in Nebraska, giving us ample

opportunity for upland bird and duck hunting. Even had some time on the lake in late Oct. The leaves turned slowly giving us a spectacular nature show. With our first real snow on the ground, winter has finally found us. I am reminded of my favorite mornings; so crisp and cold you can barely breathe, and the sun so bright you cannot see. I find myself itching for ice and preparing for the next cross-country ski trek. How can you not love winter? With the new year, generally comes resolutions. Each year, a group of my friends challenge each other to see who can accumulate the most 'days afield.' These can be

birding, hunting, fishing, etc. Anything that is time spent outdoors that is not work, counts. Fingers are crossed

for the cold weather to hold—on Jan 1, you should be able to find me on the ice. This year's resolution? Break 100 days afield. What will be your resolve? Here's to a healthy, safe, alfresco-styled year!

~Karie



2016 CMPS Annual Meeting in Colorado!

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2016 CMPS Annual meeting is set for August 8-11, 2016. We are all looking forward to a wonderful trip to Steamboat Springs Colorado!

It's a great time of year to be in Steamboat Springs and we are going to be on the mountain so easy access to hiking, mountain biking, wildlife, and a great scientific program. Put it on your calendar now!

We are currently looking for suggestions for workshops, please contact Mindy Rice with ideas at mindy.rice@state.co.us.

Watch for updates and registration info at: <http://wildlife.org/CMP/>

Check out our new website!

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

Section Business

New CMPS Board Members

CMPS filled 3 positions during the August CMPS meeting in Manhattan, Kansas. Andrea Orabona will serve as President Elect until August 2016 when she takes over as President. Justin Hamilton and Lindsey Messinger filled the two At-Large board positions for the next two years. Thanks to all those who threw their name in the hat and to our outgoing board members!

President Elect

Andrea Orabona



I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Biology with a minor in Outdoor Recreation from Colorado State University, and a Master of Science degree in Zoology with a Wildlife Conservation and Management concentration from the University of Wyoming. My thesis research was on behavior and dispersal of white-tailed prairie dogs in Shirley Basin, Wyoming to determine, in part, if the population was sufficient to support black-footed ferret reintroduction. I was fortunate to have several diverse experiences with seasonal work, including black-footed ferret telemetry in Meeteetse, Wyoming; deer mice mark/recapture along the South Platte River in Colorado; Yuma Clapper Rail population

research near Yuma, Arizona; and Kokanee salmon dispersal in the Green River of Wyoming and Utah. Since 1992, I have worked for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department as the Nongame Bird Biologist, specializing in monitoring and management of avian Species of Greatest Conservation Need across the entire State.

My participation in The Wildlife Society began as an undergraduate at CSU, where I served as President, Treasurer, and Legislative Affairs Committee chairperson of the Student Chapter. My commitment to The Wildlife Society has continued for over 3 decades through the Wyoming State Chapter and the Central Mountains and Plains Section. At the state level, I have participated in the Legislative Affairs Committee; served as Newsletter Editor; chaired the Information and Education Committee, Nominations Committee, and Resolutions and Position Statements Committee; and served as Secretary, President-elect, and President. I recently volunteered to chair the Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH) Committee for the Chapter, and look forward to logging more interviews with the pioneers and pillars of our profession. At the section level, I am serving a term as a Board Member At-Large (expires August 2015), and helped organize the joint meeting of CMPS (60-year anniversary) and WYTWS (40-year anniversary) held in Sheridan, Wyoming in 2014.

I am interested in continuing my service to TWS by running for President-Elect of the Central Mountains and Plains Section. With escalating human-caused pressures on wildlife populations and habitats and declining involvement in and understanding of the natural world by the general public, I feel it is more important than ever to provide a strong, steadfast voice for wildlife conservation. If elected, one of my goals as President-Elect of CMPS is to continue to strengthen participation in our Section by engaging students, early career biologists, and seasoned professionals in topics and issues that are relevant to wildlife management and conservation in today's world

New At-Large Board Members

Justin Hamilton



I am a Public Lands Manager for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism and manage nine properties in northeast Kansas. Prior to my current position, I worked in southwest Kansas as a Public Lands Manager and for a short time as a Wildlife Biologist Technician. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Management from Northwest Missouri State University, and a Master's degree in Biology with an emphasis in wildlife management from Fort Hays State University. My thesis research observed the effects of prescribed fire on vegetation, insects, and grassland nesting birds in western Kansas. As a

student I held several temporary positions with entities such as the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, Missouri Department of Conservation, University of Missouri-Columbia, The Sternberg Museum of Natural History, and the Kansas Wetland Education Center.

My involvement with The Wildlife Society started as an undergraduate student at Northwest Missouri State University. As president and public relations officer for Northwest's wildlife club, I enjoyed getting members involved in the annual workshops provided by the Missouri chapter. I later became involved with the Kansas Chapter as a graduate Student at Fort Hays State University. Currently, I am the newsletter editor, web master, and a board member for the Kansas Chapter of TWS. Over the past couple years, I have become an Associate Certified Wildlife Biologist through TWS and I have also pursued acceptance into The Wildlife Society's Leadership Program. I am enjoying being more involved with the Kansas Chapter of TWS and I am excited about the possibility of being more involved at the sectional level with CMPS.

Lindsey Messinger



I currently work for the Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as the Hunter Survey Specialist and coordinate a multi-year, state-wide effort to assess hunter use of public access lands across Nebraska. Earlier this year, I received my Master of Science degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where my research focused on assessing immediate behavioral responses of ring-necked pheasants to non-consumptive predation risk in the form of recreational hunting. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology and Environmental Studies from Ohio Wesleyan University in 2006 and a Master of Science degree in Geographic Information Science from the University of Denver in 2012. I have worked for state and federal

agencies in Idaho and Colorado prior to my graduate and professional work in Nebraska including the Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State University, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Colorado Division of Wildlife. My involvement with The Wildlife Society is varied. I currently serve at the Central Mountains and Plains section representative on the editorial advisory board for *The Wildlife Professional*, as secretary for the Early Career Professional working group, and as co-chair on the Information and Education committee with the Nebraska Chapter. I will have the opportunity to be a part of the 2015 Leadership Institute this summer and fall and look forward to

serving our society in additional capacities. As a recent graduate student and an early career professional, I am particularly interested in increasing involvement and opportunities for the newest cohort of wildlife professionals. Outside of work, I enjoy hunting, hiking, traveling, and spending time with my dog.

CMPS seeks Newsletter Editor

Interested in becoming more involved? CMPS is looking for a newsletter editor. The editor is responsible for compiling stories, news, and updates for the State and Student Chapters within CMPS (ND, SD, NE, KS, WY, CO, and UT). We develop three newsletters a year; spring, summer, and fall/winter (see <http://wildlife.org/cmp/newsletters/>). The CMPS President and Board Members will assist in soliciting information from the Chapters or with development, if needed.

If interested, please send your name, contact information, and Chapter name to Karie Decker (karie.decker@nebraska.gov) by January 31, 2016.

CMPS Members Reflect on Winnipeg Conference and Leadership Institute Experience

By Jerod Merkle (WY), Ashley Gramza (CO) and Lindsey Messinger (NE)



Leadership Institute class of 2015. Back left: Jerod Merkle, Tyler Harms, Sarah Fritts, Shawn Crimmons, Andrew Tri. Front left: Ashley Gramza, Gray Potts (President), Kelly VanBeek, Bridget Sousa, Emily Thomas, Lindsey Messinger

The annual conference in Winnipeg was one for the record books with attendance surpassing that of Pittsburgh in 2014. There were over 1500 conference registrants! The main plenary session, focusing on “Why Wildlife Matter,” shed new perspectives on the value of wildlife to both wildlife professionals and society and energized the membership for the week

ahead. Gary Potts also transitioned into his role as President of TWS. During his term, President Potts will

focus on increasing the strength of partnerships with TWS with specific focus on working with AFWA and state agencies. Other conference highlights included a standing room only Women of Wildlife (WOW) panel discussion, and a genuine focus on increasing awareness and opportunities for gender and ethnic diversity.

For us, the conference also served as the culmination of activities associated with The Leadership Institute (LI). Since 2006, The Wildlife Society (TWS) annually selects early career professionals who show strong leadership potential both in their professional careers and within TWS to be a part of the LI. Over a four-month period, we completed various exercises focused on learning the theories

behind leadership, utilizing these theories to develop leadership skills, and developing strong professional relationships with other LI participants (past and present)

At the conference, we attended council meetings, networking events, and discussion groups. One of the most valuable parts of our experience was connecting with other LI participants and our council mentors; we are confident that many of these friendships will last a lifetime and will be invaluable in our careers.

In one discussion with Executive Director Ken Williams, he encouraged us (and all wildlife professionals) to focus on developing social science skills that many of us lacked in our wildlife education. These skills are key to successful communication and collaboration which will play a crucial role in moving our profession forward. We ended the week with an invigorating conversation about our leadership visions for TWS and how we plan to stay involved. Our visions included reviving and rethinking the COWCH program, initiating more social science symposia and workshops at the national conference and transforming disconnect into synergy between research and management.

TWS COUNCIL REPORT

Bob Lanka, Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative



TWS Council met October 16-17 and October 21 in Winnipeg Manitoba Canada in conjunction with TWS's 22nd Annual Conference. This was the last Council meeting for SW Section Rep Carol Chambers, SE Section Rep Darren Miller and Immediate Past-president Jon Haufler. Thanks to all three for their service to our Society. It was an honor for me to serve with these great TWS ambassadors. Fidel Hernandez of Texas A&M University Kingsville is the new SW Section Rep and Mike Conner of the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center in Georgia is the new SE Section

Rep. John McDonald, Jr. from Westfield State University in Massachusetts is TWS Vice President. I look forward to serving with them on Council in the coming year.

TWS Budget

Executive Director Ken Williams took Council through the TWS budget in great detail. Believe me when I tell you, after 3-4 hours of looking at balance sheets, discussing assets, liabilities, equity, investment returns, projected versus actual income and expenses, accrual accounting, fiduciary responsibility, deferred income, etc., etc., this old biologist's head was about to explode. Bottom line, for the FY14/15 fiscal year TWS made more than projected, spent less than projected and ended up with a budget surplus of \$237,888. In addition, our liabilities were reduced and our assets increased resulting in a 21% increase in net equity. Real bottom line, from a financial perspective, TWS had a very good year.

TWS Membership

Membership continues to be a different story – 2012 ~ 11,000 members, September 2013, 10,325 members, September 2014, 9,487 members, September 2015, 9,403 members. Chief Operating Officer Ed Thompson has a two part goal regarding membership. First, stop the bleeding. Second, increase membership by 3.2% by the end of June 2016. As part of this effort, Ed and TWS staff have

developed and rolled out added member benefits such as the Conservation Affairs Network, going from 4 to 6 issues of The Wildlife Professional annually starting in 2016, increasing outreach to members through things like the e-Wildlifer, TWS Talks as well as specific lines in the budget that once again allow staff and Council to personally engage more with chapters and sections by attending their meetings. These additional services for your membership dues are what Ed calls increasing the Value Proposition of TWS membership. In lay terms, TWS is giving members substantial value for their membership dollar. Check out our website at <http://wildlife.org/join/> to see a complete list of member benefits.

But at the end of the day, increasing membership in The Wildlife Society isn't something that can be completely accomplished from Bethesda, MD. It can't be accomplished solely by adding to the long list of member benefits. Accomplishing this task comes down to each one of us and how we value our professional society and what we are willing to do to make it a stronger, more diverse and a more powerful voice for science in wildlife policy. For those of you who, like me, see the value of TWS membership as something beyond a list of things you get for your membership dollar and view it more as an opportunity to continue to work with others to move our profession forward, to develop lifelong friendships with other wildlife professionals, as a mechanism to stay current in the ever changing body of wildlife science, and as an obligation to give something back, to mentor the next generation of wildlife professionals, I am asking for your help.

I am asking you, challenging you if that is what it takes, to help increase TWS membership in the Central Mountains Plains Section by 10%, just 101 new or returning members before September 30, 2016. The table below shows what a 10% increase in membership looks like state by state. I am sure many of you reading this are members of your state chapter and our section but are not a member of The Wildlife Society. Maybe you didn't even know that being a member of your state chapter does not automatically make you a member of The Wildlife Society. Whatever your reason for not joining has been, I ask that you reconsider and join me as a member and to bring along a friend.

STATE	TWS MEMBERSHIP	# OF TWS MEMBERS (X 9,403)	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP + TWS GOAL OF +3.2%	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP + CHALLENGE GOAL OF +10% (DIFFERENCE)
Colorado	3.8	357	368	393 (+36)
Kansas	1.0	94	97	103 (+9)
Nebraska	1.0	94	97	103 (+9)
North Dakota	1.2	113	117	124 (+11)
South Dakota	0.9	85	88	94 (+9)
Utah	1.1	103	106	113 (+10)
Wyoming	1.8	169	174	186 (+17)
CMPS	10.8	1,015	1,047	1,116 (+101)

Travels

As of this writing, I am planning on attending state chapter meetings in Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska this winter. Join me in congratulating the South Dakota and Nebraska State Chapters as they celebrate their 50th anniversaries this year. I look forward to catching up with many of you at your state meetings in the next couple of months.

Council will meet in conjunction with the 81st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, March 13 and 14 in Pittsburgh. If you are there for the North American, please stop to see what Council is up to, share your ideas or just to say hello. Conference website is: (http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=348&Itemid=61).

The 2016 CMPS meeting is scheduled for August 8-11 in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Mindy Rice, CMPS Board Member at Large, is looking for workshop suggestions. Contact her at mindy.rice@state.co.us with your ideas. I hope to see many of you in the mountains of Colorado. Thanks to the Colorado Chapter – TWS for helping plan and hosting our section's annual conference!

The 2016 TWS Annual Conference will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina October 15-19. My understanding is that the local committee is doing a tremendous job lining up field trips and preparing for a great conference. Check out our website for more details <http://wildlife.org/tws-23rd-annual-conference/>. If you need an additional incentive, check out the map below. We will be in the middle of town, close to several establishments. Just sayin.

The 2017 meeting will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 2019 we are planning a joint conference with the American Fisheries Society in Reno, NV. Negotiations are ongoing for the 2018 conference.

Closing Thoughts

My first year on Council has been a blast. Make no mistake there is work involved and travel. But what a great opportunity you have given me to meet new friends and serve with them on Council. The work of The Wildlife Society is important and I am glad to be a part of it. For those of you who strive to help achieve the membership challenge I can't promise you anything other than my appreciation for you as a person and for what you have done for our professional society, The Wildlife Society. If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to give me a ring or send an e-mail. I will do the best I can to help out. I will close by recalling the rally cry TWS President Gary Potts led us in at Winnipeg, WE ARE – THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY!!! Thanks for all you do.

CMPS Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grants

Congratulations to all those who received travel grant support to attend The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference in Winnipeg, MB! Professional development, networking and fun memories for all! More information about the travel grant here: <http://wildlife.org/cmp/student-travel-grant/>

From Savannah Allard, October Rose, and Gabrielle Greenfield; South Dakota State University Student Chapter



The National Wildlife Society conference in Winnipeg was a fantastic conference we attended. Throughout the week we had options to listen to many diverse presentations that sparked our interests. Because I attended this conference with the South Dakota State University Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation

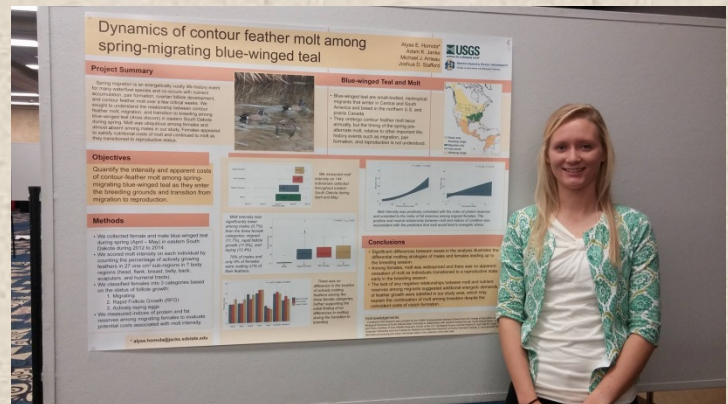
Club, we spent ample time together and attended SDSU graduate presentations. We were excited to see graduate students presenting from our school at the national level. While attending different presentations, we were exposed to a variety of unique studies. The presentations were rapid and packed with elaborate information.

We also had a few undergraduate students presenting posters. This was great experience for the students to network and display their hard work. In the evenings we attended the socials which were again great networking opportunities. We conversed with professionals, discussed future endeavors regarding graduate school and were offered tasty snacks! We also watched the intense quiz bowl competition. We did not participate as we did not have much practice prior to the event. After watching the event however, we do plan to participate at the conclave level when the opportunity arises!

Attending this large conference allowed us to meet potential future employers, potential graduate advisors and other people with similar interests as us. We also had some free time to explore and view northern lights! I am extremely grateful to have received a grant from the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society to help reduce the cost of this conference.

From Alyse Homola; South Dakota State Student Chapter

I recently attended The Wildlife Society's annual national meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba on a grant generously awarded to me by the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society. As a senior majoring in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, this opportunity was priceless; I met many potential graduate advisors and was able to network with countless professionals and students. At this meeting, I also presented a poster of my honors undergraduate research project, *Dynamics of contour feather molt among spring-migrating blue-winged teal*. Since I am an officer in the South Dakota State University student chapter of The Wildlife Society, I was able to attend the Student Leader Breakfast, during which I learned of the many leadership opportunities present in The Wildlife Society. Throughout the meeting, I attended countless presentations and was able to expand my knowledge of the wildlife field and learn about current cutting-edge wildlife research. On my few off moments, a few other students from South Dakota State University and I were able to explore Winnipeg and expand our historical and cultural knowledge. Overall, it was a very memorable and educational experience!



From Tanner Stechmann, Samuel Hervey and Kasen Christiansen; University of North Dakota Student Chapter



Sam, Kasen, and I were able to attend this year's national conference thanks to the Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant, from the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society. Because of this grant, we were able to present our undergraduate research, network with professionals and other students, and listen to leading experts in different fields of wildlife research. Opportunities like this are essential

for undergraduates to experience what is going on in our field all around the country.

The poster session at the conference was a success for undergraduates at the University of North Dakota. We had seven undergraduates present their research, two of which tied for second place for the outstanding undergraduate poster. Sam's poster on population genetics of muskrats in North Dakota was one of the two tying posters. The poster session was a wonderful opportunity for us to present our work to professionals.

There were many opportunities for undergraduates to network with professionals including three student professional mixers. We were able to speak with the incoming and outgoing TWS presidents. Both were very supportive and took the time to discuss many ways to get involved in TWS and increase participation in our student chapter. There were many other professionals we spoke with gave us helpful advice for our chapter and our future careers. Also, the student leader breakfast allowed us to meet other students within the national chapter and trade ideas for improving our chapter.

We would like to thank the Central Mountains and Plains Section once again for giving us all of these great opportunities.



From Savanna Smith, Colorado State University Student Chapter

TWS Annual Conference 2015- Winnipeg, Manitoba

I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the annual conference in Winnipeg a few weeks ago thanks to the generous support of the CMPS section. I flew out with two other CSU TWS members on October 16th. This was my first experience at the national conference and I came away so excited to go back next year! I attended a workshop on the scientific publication process that gave me many valuable insights into my writing. The array of talks to go to was incredible- I had such a hard time choosing where to spend my time but the ones I was able to go to were very insightful and thought-provoking. As the president of the CSU TWS chapter, I attended a student chapter leader's breakfast where I was able to exchange ideas with student chapter leaders from all over the country. This was extremely helpful and I look forward to more collaboration in the future. I particularly enjoyed the networking events, both at the museum and the conference center. At the second one, we played a wildlife version of bingo, and I actually won a beautiful handmade scarf. Overall, it was an incredible experience that made me very thankful to be working towards a degree in this field and especially thankful for the support of The Wildlife Society.

From Rebecca Burton, Kimberly Menke and Lindy Collamer; University of Wyoming Student Chapter

Conference: UW-TWS reflections All eight of us from the Wyoming Student Chapter of TWS who attended the Annual Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, felt it was a worthwhile trip. This was a first professional TWS conference (state or national) for us undergraduates (except Kim), although many of us attended the Western Region Conclaves before. It was



such a great experience that many of us have cleared our calendars to attend the WY State Chapter Meeting in December. We realized what great opportunities these meetings offer for forming relationships with professionals across the country as well as locally. At the conference, we all ran from presentation to presentation trying to take advantage of the knowledge we could obtain from many exciting research projects. So many incredible presentations were given that we felt sad we had to choose between them! Overall, we all learned so much from the research presentations as well as from talking one-on-one with the diverse array of professionals who attended. Many from our group commented on the great organization and clear explanations provided by the speakers and we look forward to incorporating those strategies in our own future presentations.

The many “meet and greet” activities were very helpful in connecting us with professionals with whom we share interests, informing us about career and graduate school opportunities, as well as simply making friends with other students and professionals from several areas of expertise. The bingo game at the student/professional mixer was great and really helped to break the ice. We truly appreciated those professionals who were involved and showed their enthusiasm during the activity. Another favorite activity at the conference was the social event at the Manitoba Museum. We all greatly enjoyed the interactive elements of the museum, had the opportunity to learn a bit about the region’s history and origin while also getting to meet other students and professionals. We also enjoyed visiting the zoo and observing the new polar bear exhibit. We wish we had time to go on other field trips.

In short, the 2015 TWS Annual Conference was an incredibly rewarding experience, and we hope many of the connections we established at the conference will lead us to many great opportunities in the future. Our chapter truly appreciates the travel grants that were awarded to us by the CMPS and WY State Chapter (through our advisor). We also appreciate Jim Roth’s hospitality (we hope he didn’t get into too much trouble because of us). We would not have been able to come, enjoy all of these experiences, relationships, and learn about future careers without your support – Thanks!

From Austin Wieseler; South Dakota State University Student Chapter

The Wildlife Society's 22nd Annual Conference was truly an experience that accentuates the basis for why the wildlife field is the right fit for me. As a senior in the undergraduate program at South Dakota State University and a first year attendee of the annual conference, I can say with confidence that this annual meeting is an awesome assembly of wildlife enthusiasts that every undergraduate should attend at least once in his or her college career.

The conference had a multitude of events that provided a great source of information. The social networking events were a particular highlight for me throughout the meeting. The wildlife professionals I met at these events provided awesome advice and support for a beginner in the wildlife field. Another great event put on for the conference was the panel discussion of the Uncertainty of an Undergrad: Navigating the Maze of Employment and Career Opportunities. The discussion panel was completely based around allowing students to ask various questions to an assortment of wildlife professionals to gather their thoughts and opinions. I found this talk very informative and it helped me answer a variety of questions I had about the wildlife field.

As a first time attendee, I thought the annual conference was really a great opportunity to broaden connections with wildlife professionals along with obtain valuable information that will really benefit me throughout hopefully my long career in wildlife. My only regret I took away from the 22nd annual conference was my realization of that I should have started attending the annual conferences sooner!

Chapter Updates

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Chapter



Our first meeting of the semester we did a GPS activity around east campus, to acclimate new students with the devices. We have participated in three; Lower Platte Natural Resource District, nature nights showing our skulls and furs throughout the semester. Our yearly canoe trip up to the Niobrara River took place on the weekend of September 18th. On September 29th, we had members volunteer at the School of Natural Resources Naturepalooza outreach event. We also did our annual stream clean-up of Deadman's Run behind East Campus on

October 14th. On October 28th, we had Casey McCoy, from the Nebraska Forest Service, come to our meeting and talk about the Red Card class he offers. In the upcoming weeks we will be participating in deer checks with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. We are also having our adviser; Dennis Ferraro, demonstrate field procedures on snakes. For our last meeting of the semester we will have a quiz-bowl night, a friendly competition about wildlife facts and knowledge.



Wyoming State Chapter – a successful trip to TWS annual conference – photos down memory lane.



Co-presenters Aly Courtemanch (far left) and Ben Wise (far right) explain the increase in elk use of following wildfire in the Gros Ventre River drainage during an extremely loud poster session.

A big year for the Wyoming Chapter as members attending the conference stand with Immediate Past-President Baydak after being honored with Chapter of the Year.



Unselfish commitment to TWS pays off as Steve Belinda, Kevin Hurley, and Tom Ryder sport genuine smiles after being inducted as TWS Fellows.



Very few people have write a Monograph, enough to receive an WYTWS board member researcher Kevin receiving the Best Award from the



the talent and patience to and even fewer are lucky award for publishing one. at-large and big-game Monteith beams while Monograph of the Year President-Elect.

The Nebraska Chapter to Celebrate 50 years

2016 NETWS “50th” Anniversary; “50 Years of Wildlife Conservation and Management in Nebraska”

Mark Your Calendars!

The Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be celebrating its “50th” Anniversary as a chapter of the international organization in 2016 with their annual meeting to be held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Kearney, NE on March 8-10, 2016. Details concerning registration and lodging will be provided soon as we are currently setting up the registration packet.

AUCTION TIME! IT'S NOT TOO EARLY!!!!!!

The Chapter's 50th Anniversary meeting is just around the corner (March 2016) and we'd like to see the greatest fund raising auction of all time. Remember these funds provide operating expenses, travel grants for student members and special workshops. Please take time in the next few weeks to think about all those items you've got around that would bring in bucks at the auction. Books, outdoor gear, optics, photos or prints, and all those vintage items which you like to part with. We desire a listing of auction items prior to the meeting to incorporate into the Program and so you can budget accordingly.

Just for starters here are some early arrivals: A 17' vintage Grumman lightweight canoe in exceptional condition, a NIB Remington Express .177 air rifle with scope, a Don Gabelhouse piping plover gunning decoy, and an MK85 Knight 50 cal muzzleloader.

Start thinking what you can add to make this auction worthy of our 50th birthday celebration.

Contact Mark Lindvall (402-389-1843 or wgrebeaou1@gmail.com) or Carl Wolfe (402-525-5954 or cwolfe321@hotmail.com).

Western State Colorado University Student Chapter

In August The Western State Colorado University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society started the fall semester off with our second annual Colorado Fourteeners Initiative volunteer work. The purpose of the trail work was to improve the existing trail to eliminate “social trails” which greatly impact the fragile alpine environment of Uncompahgre Peak in Hinsdale County. There was a section of trail where our members worked to encourage hikers to keep off of a known colony of a federally endangered species of butterfly *Boloria acrocnema*. Four of our members volunteered, backpacked and spent the night under the impressive peak. They were rewarded with a full-moon summit of the 14,308' peak. In order to promote student-run organizations on campus there was a

Western State chapter of TWS Treasurer, Dan Schneider hard at work on the Uncompahgre Peak Trail in August



impressive out-flight of Brazilian Free-tailed Bats. The 250,000 or

chili cook-off in September attended by hundreds of students. Our student chapter cooked-up a chili for the event and helped to put on this successful afternoon. Our student chapter values being able to explore the natural classroom which surrounds our University.

Therefore in mid-September our chapter travelled to The Orient Land Trust, home of Valley View Hot Springs. Here twelve of our members witnessed an

Plenty of eager students trying to grab chili quick....before the rain comes!



so bats gave an awe-inspiring show for our members as the bats flew off into the sunset over the San Luis Valley in Saguache County.

The Western State student chapter of TWS also values being able to work closely with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy. One such opportunity occurred in October where our chapter participated in a “One Rock Dam” project. This volunteer work has been shown to effectively increase riparian habitat for juvenile Gunnison Sage-grouse by using natural materials to reduce the incision of drainages in damaged habitat. Riparian habitat, our chapter learned, is crucial for food for development and as habitat for concealment of Sage-grouse juveniles. Six of our members were able to contribute to the work and work with our Colorado Parks and Wildlife TWS liaison out in the field.

Working within the community of the Gunnison Valley is an important goal of our chapter. Therefore our chapter started a collaboration with the local Mentors program and we are organizing wildlife classes working with underprivileged youth in our valley. This helps kids get out and enjoy hands-on experience as well as helping to solidify our position as Western State ambassadors in the community.

There is comradery within our chapter and students enjoy putting on socials for anybody to enjoy. Most recently, a crayfish boil (invasive crayfish were harvested from Blue Mesa Reservoir) was a good way for club members to get to know one another on a more personal level and talk about exciting events that our club will be facilitating. The chapter has also attended the local bingo at our community B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge, or potluck style dinners.

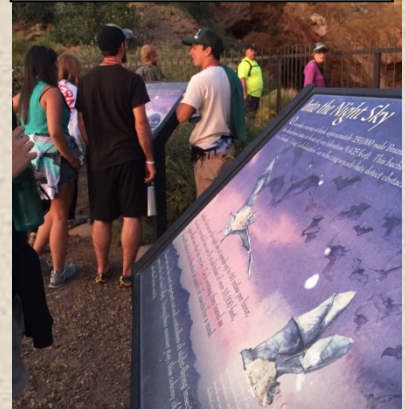
There are more exciting opportunities to come for this chapter in the near future. For instance 2 of

Volunteers building the rock dam under the guidance of The Nature Conservancy and Colorado Parks and Wildlife



French toast every Tuesday morning to sell in the Natural and Environmental Science building, a week-long house plant sale, and our second annual benefit bingo night hosted by our local B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge.

Students wait for the out-flight of ~ 250,000 Brazilian Free-Tailed Bats at The Orient Mine Land Trust



our members will have the opportunity to volunteer with The United States Forest Service to monitor mammal usage in potential Canada Lynx movement corridors in Saguache County throughout the winter. A representative from the Bureau of Land Management will be hosting a two-part workshop on USA jobs as well as résumé building. Our club will also be sending 10 students to The Colorado Plateau over Spring break in 2016 to do volunteer work with The Grand Canyon Trust. To add, our annual Biology Bonanza evening for elementary students to get hands-on with biology will be happening again in the spring.

Fundraising for the club this year includes: selling t-shirts designed by a Western State student, cooking up

Colorado State University Chapter of The Wildlife Society

A lot has been going on with the CSU TWS chapter this fall. We started out the semester with outreach events and a BBQ with other clubs in our department. We also went on a club camping trip near the Pingree Park campus at our advisor's (Barry Noon) cabin. This was a wonderful



opportunity to learn about his work and go on a beautiful hike to an alpine lake.

We have continued to operate our raptor monitoring program and our camera project. Volunteers go out twice a month to monitor the raptors at Boyd Lake State Park and then submit the data to Colorado Parks & Wildlife. Our camera project has been expanding its education outreach efforts and has made connections at several local schools. We are using the photos captured at a local natural area to teach children about life cycles, food webs, and more. We continue to provide opportunities for undergraduates to get hands-on experience through

the camera checks at both Pineridge and Soapstone Prairie Natural Area. On November 1st, members were able to attend the bison reintroduction ceremony at Soapstone Prairie. We are excited to continue monitoring this area and observe what changes the bison may bring.

We were able to send three members to the annual TWS conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This was a wonderful opportunity to network and learn about some of the most pressing issues in the field of wildlife biology.

On November 17th, we will be hosting our annual fall social/fundraiser. This will provide opportunities for undergraduates to network as well as funds to continue to travel to conferences and sponsor our other activities. On December 5th, we will be conducting bighorn sheep counts up the Poudre canyon for CPW. Lastly, we just elected a new officer team for 2016! We are very excited to welcome a new team and know that they will do great things for the club!

UPCOMING EVENTS

State Chapter Meetings:

Colorado: February 3-5, 2016; <http://drupal.wildlife.org/colorado/node/20>

Kansas: February 4-5; <http://www.kansasnrc.org/>

Nebraska: 50th Anniversary! March 8-10, 2016; <http://drupal.wildlife.org/nebraska/node/13>

North Dakota: February 10-12, 2016; <https://ndctws.wordpress.com/category/annual-conference/>

South Dakota: 50th Anniversary! February 29-March 3, 2016; <http://wildlife.org/south-dakota-chapter/south-dakota-chapter-annual-meeting/>

Utah: March 23-25, 2016; <http://www.uttws.org/annual-meeting/>

Wyoming: Fall/Winter 2016 TBD

2016 Annual Meeting of the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society



Hosted by
The Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society
August 8-11, 2016
Steamboat Springs, CO
<http://wildlife.org/CMP>



Photo credit Sheraton Steamboat Springs

Central Mountains and Plains Section Directory

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