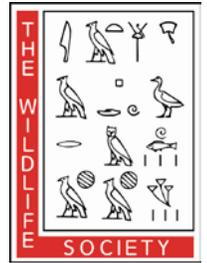




INTELLIGENT TINKERING

Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society Newsletter

To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of Intelligent Tinkering. – Aldo Leopold



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1st Announcement & Call for Abstracts

Winter 2014 Meeting

The Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society will hold their winter meeting at the Stoney Creek Inn, Wausau, March 11-13, 2014, with a welcome reception the evening of March 11th. The plenary theme will be – **One Health: The Wildlife-Human Connection**. The meeting will include the plenary session, general paper sessions, a special afternoon symposia co-hosted by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, special student sessions, chapter business meeting, Wednesday dinner, and more.

We invite the submission of abstracts for oral presentations on any topic related to wildlife management, research, conservation, education, or policy. We specifically encourage submissions that highlight wildlife health- human health connections. It is not, however, necessary to adhere to the plenary theme for inclusion in the program. We also encourage presentations from undergraduate and graduate students. We will not have a poster session this year. Please indicate if your submission is a student presentation. E-mail your abstract to Scott Hull (Scott.Hull@Wisconsin.gov), program co-chair, by December 31, 2013.

Please see page 7 for more details.

INTELLIGENT TINKERING

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Submission Deadlines:
 Winter Issue: February 1, 2014
 Spring Issue: May 1, 2013
 Summer Issue: August 1, 2013

The Leopold Outlook

The WCTWS Executive Board sponsored \$500 to help the Aldo Leopold Foundation with their production of a magazine called "The Leopold Outlook". Per this sponsorship, the Chapter requested to receive a link to access an electronic copy of the final version of this magazine for posting on our chapter website to make it available to our membership.

A link for the inaugural issue of this magazine is be posted on our chapter website: <http://wildlife.org/wisconsin/>

A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends to do otherwise. – Aldo Leopold

Presidents Soapbox

By Tami Ryan



Greetings Wildlifers! While all of Wisconsin's seasons are wonderful in their own right there is something special about fall. On a recent blue sky, sunny and crisp Sunday afternoon in November my husband and I were out raking leaves in our yard and our timing couldn't have been any better. Upon hearing that unique sound of migrating sandhill cranes, we both looked up to the skies and were greeted with one flock after another. We set up a couple of chairs and just sat back and watched this phenomenon continue for

at least an hour. This awe-inspiring annual occurrence of migrating flocks of cranes, geese, swans, etc., is one of the key reasons why fall is a special season for me. And, I couldn't help but wonder as each flock flew over, are they getting what they need at their migratory stops along the way? Are the ecosystems they are visiting healthy?

This soapbox spotlight, to continue the discussion on the interconnectivity of wildlife management and wildlife health, is the EcoHealth Alliance - an international organization dedicated to the conservation of biodiversity with two interrelated goals of protecting global health and safeguarding ecosystems by promoting conservation which each one of us does every day in one way or another.

EcoHealth Alliance work spans the US and many international countries and supports research, by providing programs to support conservationists working to protect habitat and ecosystems for the benefit of wildlife and humans. The alliance is known for their innovative research on the intricate relationships between wildlife, ecosystems and human health. They also have a core focus of translating ecosystem health science into actionable information for policy makers to build capacity to more efficiently and effectively promote wildlife and domestic animal health, public health, and natural resource management.

Health and policy initiatives, Pet Watch, Bat Health and Conservation, and Stopping Illegal Wildlife Trade, are just a few of the programs that the EcoHealth Alliance is dedicated to.

Wildlife and ecosystem health are not typically considered in synchrony with human health, agriculture, or conservation policies and practices and as such a major piece of the health puzzle gets missed. I was not familiar with EcoHealth Alliance until I started exploring my interests in the One Health concept. My hope is that you explore further on your own time, as well as, with all of my soapboxes to date that you've been contemplating this entire spectrum and you will have further opportunity to do so at our winter meeting in March 2014. Until then, enjoy the rest of what's left of fall, the holiday season, and we'll see you in the New Year!

<http://www.ecohealthalliance.org/>

Issues Committee Updates

DEER ISSUES COMMITTEE

The Deer Issues Committee continues to intensively monitor implementation of the Deer Trustee Report. Following an invitation from the Natural Resources Board for responses from scientists, we prepared draft testimony for the Chapter Executive Committee. This testimony expressed concern for what appeared to be a plan to move away from quantitative and objective deer management toward subjective and opinion-based management. Wisconsin's deer management program has been a model program in North America because it has been highly quantitative, objective, and transparent and has employed the best available science. The entire statement to the NRB can be found on page 16.

Keith McCaffery, Chair Dr. Jon Gilbert, GLFWC

Dr. Tim Van Deelen, UW Tom Bahti, Retired DNR

Call For Committee Volunteers

Submitted by Tami Ryan, President

On behalf of the executive board, and our chapter membership, I'd like to extend sincere thanks to two outstanding members for their many years of dedication in serving as chairs for two of our very important committees. Ken Jonas has done an excellent job during his extended tenure as the chair of the Awards Committee. This committee shepherds the selection process for our distinguished chapter awards, the Wisconsin Award, the Don Rusch Memorial Award, and the Outstanding Student Award, and many top notch individuals in our midst have been honored during Ken's term. And, Bruce Bacon has also provided us with great service during his extensive tenure as the chair of the Scholarship Committee. During his term Bruce has done a terrific job of getting out the notices to schools announcing the scholarship availability and facilitating the committee's Leopold scholarships awards selection process for undergraduate and graduate students. As a fellow scholarship committee member recently expressed "fostering first rate students is an important thing that we do at TWS". Thank you Ken and Bruce!!!

After their long-term commitment and extended terms, they are stepping down and new committee chairs are needed for both committees. This creates two opportunities for you to become involved with chapter activities. Please consider volunteering for one of these opportunities. Your chapter needs two new committee leaders starting with the selection of our 2014 awardees and scholars to be identified at our winter meeting in March.

Volunteers please contact me directly at steveandtami@wi.rr.com and we will work with the Ken and Bruce on the passing the torch transition.

Many thanks for considering!

WCTWS Financial Report: 10/29/13

Submitted by Travis Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer

Credits	Amount	Year
Winter Meeting		\$16,452.00
Silent Auction/Garage Sale		\$ 335.00
Membership	\$ 190.00	\$ 1,950.00
Debits	Amount	Year
Winter Meeting		\$ 8,971.60
Awards – Winter Meeting	\$ 30.00	\$ 952.85
WWF Membership		\$ 180.00
League Cons. Voters membership		\$ 100.00
Leopold Scholarships		\$ 2,000.00
Outstanding Student Award		\$ 116.00
National Travel Grants (3 * \$500)		\$ 1,500.00
Mileage & Meetings	\$ 60.00	\$ 524.32
Postage/clerical/etc.		\$ 100.04
Guy Baldassare Scholarship		\$ 100.00
WI Outdoor Youth Expo		\$ 500.00
TWS Conference (incl. donation & beer glasses)		\$ 1,934.32

ACCOUNT	DATE	AMOUNT	DIFFERENCE
CHECKING	8/5/13	\$7,246.15	
	10/29/13	\$3,621.83	-\$3,624.32
SAVINGS 1	8/5/13	\$3,148.52	
	10/29/13	\$3,149.05	\$0.53
SAVINGS 2	8/5/13	\$1,067.63	
	10/29/13	\$1,067.82	\$0.19
CD #1	8/5/13	\$1,948.23	
	10/29/13	\$1,949.05	\$0.82
CD #2 (Bjerke)	8/5/13	\$83,335.01	
	10/29/13	\$83,335.01	\$104.94
CUNA Brokerage	12/31/12	\$13,027.46	
	3/31/13	\$13,911.94	\$884.48
TOTAL	8/5/13	\$110,854.01	
	10/29/13	\$107,101.16	-\$3,752.85

WCTWS Board Meeting Minutes

8/15/13

Attendance: Tami Ryan, Mandy Cyr, Sharon Fandel, Travis Anderson, Scott Hull, Lesa Kardash. Start: 1:03

Treasurers Report: Accepted

- 1) Business meeting minutes: No minutes to include in the Newsletter
 - a. Lesa is okay with not having minutes
 - b. However, We should mention something that we did have a meeting
- 2) June Board meeting
 - a. Check in on action items
 - b. LofCV (we have joined)
 - c. Species Committees (pending) Tami will follow up on this
 - d. Leadership institute...(pending) Tami will follow up
 - e. Mandy working with Alan on getting students experience committee
 - i. Outreach to UWSP
 - f. Meeting with WWF
 - i. Scott C met with George Meyer
 - ii. Recommend continue our membership with WWF
 - iii. We can meet with their leadership to discuss where we agree and/or disagree
 - iv. **ACTION ITEM: set up a meeting with WWF**
 - v. **ACTION ITEM: meet with Pat Kaiser to discuss his role (Tami can contact Pat)**
 - g. Joint meeting with MN TWS
 - i. Tami has communicated with their Pres. That we will put this off until next year
 - h. Fall Technical Training
 - i. Opportunity has been sent out to members
- 3) Deer committee has asked to nominate Dan Storm to join the committee
 - ii. Only 1 member has signed up
 - a. Tami motions to add Dan to the committee
 - b. Scott Hull 2nds the motion
 - c. Lesa will add him to the committee
- 4) WCTWS gmail should go to the President as their contact (Tami)
- 5) Leopold Outlook publication
 - a. We would like a electronic version for our web page
 - b. Tami revised her motion to give \$500 for printing to distribute to universities, but we don't require any hard copies
 - c. Scott 2nd.
- 6) TWS National Conference
 - a. We have the chance to have a conference booth for \$150 (deadline of Sept 6)
 - b. Would need to be staffed during all coffee breaks
 - c. Could the fee be waved? Probably not....
 - d. WCTWS has a table-top display? Treasurer does not have it
 - e. What are we expecting to have this booth accomplish for us?
 - f. Tami moves to not take the offer for a booth (Scott H 2nds)
 - g. 1 person has sent in a travel grant to the conference
- 7) Request from Nat'l for Chapters to sign a letter to Congress (Senate and House Environmental Committees) to support State Wildlife Grants
 - a. Nat'l needs permission to use our signature
 - b. Permission granted
- 8) Misc items
 - a. Professional award of merit

- i. NC Section has not had a nominee in years
 - ii. Should the State Chapter nominate anyone? No discussion
 - b. State Chapters are encouraged to lean on the National Chapter for “mis-spending” membership money
 - i. Was sent to State Chapter Presidents
 - c. 2014 Winter Meeting
 - i. Request from WI Waterfowl Assoc to avoid the week before, during, and after they hold their meeting (March 1-2)
 - ii. We will try for March 11-13
 - iii. Locations: Wausau? Eau Claire?
 - 1. Contact Kari Lee Zimmerman to see what venues are good in Eau Claire (Sharon will contact)
 - iv. Plenary
 - 1. Tami’s “One Health” idea
 - 2. Contact some speakers to attend...should we offer to reimburse their travel?
 - 3. Timing for call for abstracts?
 - a. Send out in early Dec (or late Nov) with an end of Dec deadline
- 9) Face to Face meeting in the Fall and things to discuss
- a. Winter meeting discussion
 - b. Nat’l money “miss-management”
 - c. Plan for late Oct/early Nov....Portage? Poynette?

Ends: 2:14

WCTWS Board Meeting Minutes *Poynette Game Farm, 10/30/13*

Submitted by Travis Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer

In attendance: Tami Ryan, Scott Craven, Scott Hull, Sharon Fandel, Mandy, Travis Anderson, Lesa Kardash
Also attending: David Drake

Meeting begin: 10:21

- Fall newsletter deadline is approaching

TWS National: Next Steps

- Tami: Darryl Walter said we can receive 10% of net or \$4500, whichever is greater.
- Travis: we have put in \$1900 in to the Conference from the State Chapter
- Made \$1000 on the beer glasses, with remaining glasses available for sale at the Winter meeting
- Attendees seemed pleased with the conference overall, based on survey results

Winter Meeting

Save the date (March 11-13th)

Location: Stoney Creek, Rothschild

Plenary: One Health: The wildlife-human-environment connection

Draft Agenda

- o Board reviewed the working agenda

WSO Partnership – David Drake

- o Would WI Society of Ornithology be willing to run/handle a special session at the Winter Meeting? A special Symposia (6-8 papers)
 - David Drake will work with WSO to make this happen.
- o WSO wants to expose their membership to more research
- o Birds and Citizen Science as a topic?

Arrangements Committee Reception

- Wants a more formal reception and will handle that

Call for papers: Deadline December 31

- President elect handles this (Craven)

Student registration waiver request – John Pauley, UW

- Reduced student rate for all students who attend?
- Scott Hull moves to reject the request, Scott Craven 2nds.
 - We feel we need to check what the costs will be to the Chapter before we make our decision
 - Should student representatives be involved with the Executive Board so they can get a better feel for the work needed to set up a Winter Meeting (see meeting point below: Alan Crossley)
- We will decide what registration costs will be once we decide what food to have.

Other

- Contract needs to be signed by Nov 11. Scott H will work with Tami to figure out the food options.
- Stoney Creek will only hold the rooms until early Feb...can they extend that to a few weeks before the conference?

Student Chapter representation at WCTWS board meetings – Alan Crossley/UW

- UWSP liaison to WWF requested a similar role with the executive board of WCTWS.
- National Chapter has a student involved with their board.
- Can we hold a “council” meeting between Executive Board and student chapter reps at the upcoming Winter meeting to discuss this topic.
 - Possibly a Wed morning breakfast?
 - Tami will respond to Jacob (UWSP student) to discuss the breakfast option to start the discussion of student involvement with the Ex Board. We will also make contact with other student chapters (UW, Northland College?).

Advocacy

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation – maintain or withdraw

- If maintain, based on our membership numbers, we can have 3 reps with voting rights.

- Keep Pat Kaiser
- Discussion on other possible members

Chapter effectiveness

- What does our membership want? Do they want us to “make a stand” or go beyond that?

Other

- We are members of the League of Conservation Voters
- We should meet with reps from Fisheries Society, Society of Foresters, Ecological Society, to get their views/attempts on advocacy.
 - 25 1-3 2001 Conservation Biology on Advocacy (Scott Craven will forward to the board)

WCTWS website – new and improved; review and comment

- We can remove the “Telemetry” database on the web site
 - It is outdated
- Issues Committee should be “Committees” on the web page
- “Deer Issues” should be “Deer Management Committee”
- “Wolves” should be “Wolf Management Committee”

Committees

Bruce Bacon request

- Bruce would like to step down as Scholarship Committee Chair
 - Would a committee member be willing to step up and fill the role?

Review and discuss bylaws referencing

- Active vs. nonactive
 - Awards Committee
 - Needs to be diversified
 - Should our committees have goals, should they be more active with the Executive Board?
 - We need to get the inactive committees re-engaged and they should also all have goals
 - We should contact the chair of each to develop a list of potential members and what they view the goals of their committees

should be. Executive Board will approve the goals of each committee.

- New committees –
 - Forestry/Silviculture: Ron Ecstein is chair
 - Ron will need to pick 3 other members to serve on the committee. Lesa can get him the membership list
 - The Ex Board and/or President can appoint new committees if there is a need
 - Gov Affairs (Chuck Pils) and Farm Wildlife (Scott Walter) need more members on each
- Others

National Matters

- Conservation Affairs Network
 - Terra Rentz would like comments from chapter board members on the idea
- North Central Section website
 - They would like comments on the website
- Strategic Planning
 - Should we hire a strategic planner to help facilitate directing these committees?
 - Follow up with Alan's wife to explore having a facilitator speak to us and what the timing would be and possible costs.

Social Media

Potential Board candidates for 2014

- Meeting end 2:16

2014 Winter Meeting: 1st Call For Abstracts

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We invite the submission of abstracts for oral presentations on any topic related to wildlife management, research, conservation, education, or policy. We specifically encourage submissions that highlight wildlife health- human health connections. It is not, however, necessary to adhere to the plenary theme for inclusion in the program. We also encourage presentations from undergraduate and graduate students. We will not have a poster session.

Abstracts should include title, author names (indicate presenting author), agency/affiliation, contact information, and a brief paragraph (≤250 words) describing your work and the wildlife management/conservation implications. Please indicate if it's a student presentation. E-mail your abstract to Scott Hull (Scott.Hull@Wisconsin.gov), program co-chair, by **December 31, 2013**.

Winter Meeting Tentative Schedule:

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Evening: Registration - Welcome Reception

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Morning: Plenary session

Afternoon: General sessions and symposium co-hosted by WSO, followed by business meeting

Evening: Social, dinner, awards, and silent auction

Thursday, March 13, 2014

Morning: Student session and/or general sessions

Plenary speaker details and registration information will be available soon. Stay tuned to the WCTWS website. <http://wildlife.org/wisconsin/home>

Call for 2013 WCTWS Award Nominations

Submitted by Ken Jonas

The WCTWS Awards Committee is seeking nominations for chapter recognition. Thus far we have received no new nominations for the awards that we hope to present at the Winter Meeting. Please think of the deserving people that you know and nominate them today.

The Wisconsin Award is our chapter's highest recognition of a person or group that exemplifies the wildlife profession in our state. The award is intended to be given out annually and nominees are rated on the basis of their overall achievement or service to the wildlife profession in the fields of management, research, teaching, public relations, or legislative direction. Nominees may be any member of the wildlife profession and its supporting disciplines including members of governing bodies. Adrian Wydeven was the 2012 recipient of this award.

The Don Rusch Memorial Award is presented annually to a nominee who has made an outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation and meets the following requirements:

- 1) A wildlife professional actively working in the field of management, research, or education in the State of Wisconsin.
- 2) A member in good standing of the Wisconsin Chapter of TWS.
- 3) An active participant in or a strong supporter of the role of hunting in wildlife conservation. Nominees are judged on the significance of their contribution to wildlife conservation in the state of Wisconsin for either the short /or long term. The person selected for this award will be the type of individual who is recognized by their peers as an excellent representative of a working wildlife professional. Jim Holzwart was the 2012 recipient of the Don Rusch Award.

The nomination for the **WCTWS Student Award** is open to any person that is in their junior or senior year enrolled in a Wisconsin university or college during the 2013-2014 school year. Nominees will be judged on the basis of grade point average, leadership qualities, participation in wildlife conservation organizations,

and the potential for future contributions to the wildlife profession. Josh Seibel UW-Madison was the 2012 student award winner.

To submit nominations for these prestigious awards please supply any member of the Awards Committee with a statement of nomination and any relevant supporting information that you have available. If you know of other persons or organizations having additional information on the nominee's accomplishments, please furnish us with those leads. Your Awards Committee is currently composed of: Jim Ruwaldt, USFWS (Retired) – Madison, Scott Lutz, UW - Madison, Jim Evrard, DNR (Retired) Grantsburg and Ken Jonas, DNR – Hayward: kenneth.jonas@wisconsin.gov

We all know deserving, dedicated people who put their hearts and souls into this wildlife calling, whether at the student or professional level. Please nominate them today!

Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarship Nominations

The purpose of the WCTWS Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarship is to provide support and recognition for wildlife researchers/managers who are continuing their professional training, and in so doing, honor the memory of Aldo Leopold. A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to both a **graduate student and an undergraduate student** who have made a commitment to the wildlife profession, have successfully completed initial stages of their formal education, and who have shown exceptional commitment to developing themselves professionally. **Graduate and undergraduate students** at any of Wisconsin's accredited colleges or universities are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

The criteria for awarding the scholarship are as follows:

Applicant should ---

- a) be currently enrolled at a college or university within Wisconsin;

- b) be majoring in wildlife management or ecology, zoology, biology or related area with the goal of pursuing a career in wildlife ecology (research, management, etc.)
- c) have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (4.0 maximum).

To apply, students must submit the following information, postmarked no later than **February 1, 2013** to:

Lesa Kardash
 473 Griffith Avenue
 Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
 Lesa.Kardash@wisconsin.gov

Application Materials:

Electronic submission of all documents is highly preferred (documents may be scanned)

- 1) A letter of application including a statement of professional goals and philosophy, and a summary of experiences or activities that relate to and show a commitment to wildlife conservation.
- 2) An official copy of college or university transcripts.
- 3) Two letters of recommendation from people familiar with your academic ability, and commitment to the wildlife profession.

Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- a) A demonstrated desire to pursue a career in wildlife ecology;
- b) Demonstrated academic ability;
- c) Evidence from student’s application letters of support that demonstrates a serious commitment to the wildlife profession (types of extracurricular activities, volunteer activities, jobs, etc.)

NOTE: This scholarship award will be presented to the successful recipient at The Wildlife Society - Wisconsin Chapter annual meeting to be held in Mosinee, WI., March 12, 2014.

TWS Council Activities Update

Submitted by David D. Andersen, N.E. Section Representative

As the new North Central Section Representative, I first want to say thank you for the opportunity to serve the North Central Section of TWS and to represent the Section on Council. It’s quite an honor to serve such a respected group of professionals, and at the same time, a daunting challenge. Second, I want to express my thanks to Karl Martin, both for his service as North Central Section Representative, and for his assistance as he transitions out of that position and I fill in behind him. Karl has been a strong representative for the Section and a leader on Council—I know that he will be missed, and that I will be leaning on him as I learn the ropes.

My first Council activities were rather intensive, in that prior to and at the Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, Council engaged in a 2-day strategic planning workshop, 2 days of business meetings, and a final business meeting on the last day of the Annual Conference. Between meetings and listening sessions and conversations in the halls and after hours, it was a busy week.

The following are some of the highlights of Council activities in Milwaukee. **Financial Situation** – As Karl reported in the spring Section newsletter, TWS has been working to address financial difficulties. Past-President Wini Kessler described TWS’s financial situation in the July 2013 edition of *The Wildlifer*, and TWS’s new Executive Director, Ken Williams, TWS staff, and Council have been working to develop a strategy to address our current financial situation. As a new Council member, I am working to understand our current financial position and practices, and to help implement strategies to move TWS toward a stronger and more sustainable financial future. I can report that Executive Director Williams and Council are focused on TWS’s financial situation, and are working to address past practices that resulted in deficit spending. The budget that Council approved after 2 days of deliberations is both fiscally conservative, and, I believe, gives Executive Director Williams and TWS staff the resources and support they need to be able to function effectively until our financial situation improves. This means that TWS will be able to continue to provide services important to membership (e.g., *The Wildlife Professional*, our scientific journals, TWS’s activities in Government Affairs), but with fewer staff and a smaller budget, with the goal of moving toward a more sustainable and favorable financial

position that will allow additional investment into TWS's programs in the future.

I can also report on 2 financial items that I know many members are concerned about. First, previous deficit spending resulted in a significant reduction in the operating account of TWS. TWS still has sufficient operating funds, but the balance in this account is considerably lower than is desirable. TWS Council and staff are working on strategies to increase the balance in this budget over the next several years to a more healthy level. Second, no funds from accounts designated for specific purposes (e.g., the Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship) have been used to cover recent operating deficits. These funds are restricted and can only be used for the purpose for which they were donated. I think that there has been concern expressed about these accounts, but the fact is that these funds are held and used only for the purposes for which they were donated.

Bottom line is this—TWS has put itself in a difficult financial position. The current leadership is working to address TWS's current financial position and put it on a sustainable path. TWS has gotten leaner, but will continue to provide core membership services. It will take some time and lots of work to get where we want to be, but I believe that we are headed in the right direction. I would encourage North Central Section members to look for opportunities to strengthen TWS—renew your membership; encourage your colleagues to become members of the parent society, if they are not already; and pay attention to what is happening at the level of the parent organization as well as at the Section and Chapter levels.

Milwaukee Annual Conference – The recent Annual Conference held in Milwaukee was a great success. The Wisconsin Chapter, North Central Section, TWS staff (under the able direction of Darryl Walter), and the local Arrangements Committee and the Program Committee worked hard to put together a first-rate conference. Over 1300 people attended the meeting and participated in a variety of workshops, 2 plenary sessions, working group meetings, a variety of symposia, numerous contributed paper sessions, and a plethora of associated meetings and activities. Other than a few minor issues with visual aids in a couple of sessions, the only real major detraction was the difficulties federal employees experienced related to the partial federal government shutdown. Some workshops were cancelled, as were a number of presentations, although in many cases, presentations by federal authors were given by non-federal co-authors or collaborators. The government shutdown also limited attendance by federal employees, which may negatively impact

revenues from the conference and the economic impact of the conference on the host community.

Awards and Honors –Keith McCaffery (WI Department of Natural Resources, retired) received a Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to TWS, having formally served both the Wisconsin Chapter and the North Central Section. Adrian Wydeven (WI Department of Natural Resources) received the Jim McDonough Award, which recognizes Certified Wildlife Biologists who make significant contributions to the wildlife profession. Co-authors Dawn Redding, Anne Bronikowski, and William Clark of Iowa State University and Warren Johnson of the National Cancer Institute won a Wildlife Conservation Award for their 2012 article on genetic differentiation in bobcats. Chuck Pils (WI Department of Natural Resources, retired) and John Shultz (Missouri Department of Conservation, retired) were both recognized as TWS Fellows. The Missouri Western State University Chapter was awarded the honor of Student Chapter of the Year, and the chapter's advisor, Dr. Cary D. Chevalier (aka DRC) was recognized as Student Chapter Advisor of the Year—congratulations to both the chapter and to DRC. Finally, the University of Minnesota, Crookston team won this year's Quiz Bowl, in what was a hard fought and exciting competition. Way to go, Crookston! As you can tell, folks in the North Central Section were well-represented in TWS awards this year—congratulations to all.

TWS Strategic Vision – TWS Council spent 2 days prior to the Annual Conference in Milwaukee in a strategic planning retreat, with the goal of updating and revising TWS's strategic vision and plan. The planning document is still a work in progress, but unlike our previous strategic plan, this document will include less detail and more emphasis on what Council sees as TWS's future and what we can do to achieve that future. Stay tuned for more information as the plan comes together.

Government Affairs – TWS staff in the Government Affairs and Partnerships program (Laura Bies, Terra Rentz, and others) have worked with Chapter and Section representatives to build a foundation for a Conservation Affairs Network. Terra and Laura have spear-headed development of a draft document, which is currently being reviewed by Council, chapters, and sections, that outlines how a more effective network could benefit all levels of TWS and help make TWS more effective in advocating science in conservation policy. Council also views this effort as a mechanism to better integrate TWS across all levels from chapters to sections to the parent society. The North Central Section will discuss this proposal at our meeting in at the Midwest Fish

and Wildlife Conference in Kansas in January 2014, and I would encourage chapters to think about how a Conservation Affairs Network might integrate into existing efforts and structure at the chapter level.

Other News – Council acted on several other items of interest to the North Central Section at our recent meeting. TWS will implement a Premium Membership Tier that includes subscriptions to all journals and discounts on conference registration and certification fees. Albuquerque, New Mexico was approved as the location for the 2017 Annual Conference, and Council approved official status for the Wetlands Working Group. Council also approved changes to certification requirements for Associate Wildlife Biologists and Certified Wildlife Biologist, and these changes to the Certification Program will be provided to membership and posted on the TWS website in the near future. Also of interest, Council approved a membership marketing proposal to reach members of Chapters and Sections who aren't members of the parent society, and state agency biologists who may not be members of TWS. Expect to see more about these efforts in the future.

TWS Staff—Since the Annual Conference in Milwaukee, 2 staff in TWS Headquarters have announced that they are leaving TWS for other opportunities. Terra Rentz will be starting a graduate program at SUNY ESF/University of Syracuse—Maxwell School for Public Administration focusing on the Public Trust Doctrine and our effectiveness as a conservation community. Terra has brought great enthusiasm and commitment to TWS's Government Affairs Program, and she will be sorely missed. Darryl Walter also announced in late October that he is departing TWS to take advantage of a great career opportunity. Darryl has served as Chief of Staff for TWS for the past several years, and has been instrumental in TWS's transition between Executive Directors. One of Darryl's most visible contributions is organizing the Annual Conferences, which have been smashing successes. TWS is losing 2 great staff, but I think that I can speak for the entire North Central Section in wishing Terra and Darryl the best and thanking them for their service to our organization.

Finally, thanks again for the opportunity to serve as the North Central Section Representative. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me (dea@umn.edu). I hope to see you at the upcoming Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Kansas City, Kansas in January 2014, and I also hope to be able to attend several of the Chapter meetings over the next couple of years. And, don't forget to start planning to attend the 2014 TWS Annual Conference next October in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Student Chapter Corner

University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point



By Elise Worthel, President

The UWSP chapter of TWS has had a busy and fun year so far. We're in the midst of getting prepared for a fundraiser through the DNR. Volunteers from our organization were trained in lymph node removal from deer for testing for Chronic Wasting Disease. It's a new fundraiser for us, involving some of our members attending a training date last week and then staffing a registration station in the area on November 23 and 24.

We've also had numerous speakers so far this year, including some of our own alumni. A few of whom were Brad Strobel from Necedah Wildlife Refuge, who worked with one of our members this past summer, spoke to us about Whooping Cranes; Patrice Evers, who gave us some advice on preparing us for our future careers as well as spoke about her own work at Mead Wildlife Area; Mary Hennen who came from Chicago, IL to speak to us about the Chicago Peregrine program and brought her Peregrine Falcon, Molly. This week we are having Scott Walter come to speak to us, and he will be returning in December to participate in a mock quizbowl between students and professionals.

Our Vice-President and Education Coordinator held a mock Quizbowl in October, between student teams. Four teams of four competed using some of the same questions from the national conference to give our members who did not attend an idea of what it was like. We're also beginning a quizbowl project to help us prepare a team for the National Conference next year.

The rest of our chapter's projects are also still working hard. The Saw-Whet project out of Sandhill wildlife area is wrapping up and in the process of writing reports. The Small Mammal project recently ended trapping in Schmeekle Reserve earlier than usual due to cold and wet weather. Our Felid project is avidly tracking their collared bobcat in Mead Wildlife Area and the Coyote project is still seeing the beautiful sunrises and checking their scent traps for tracks in Buena Vista Grasslands at 6AM.

Truisms - Contributed by Tom Bahti

Shamelessly borrowed, stolen and plagiarized from other sources

Stop saying that I'm controlling. I don't recall giving you permission to speak.

I wake up every day planning to be productive and then a voice in my head says "Ha ha...good one!" and we laugh and laugh and take a nap.

I get in this weird mood where I don't want to talk to anybody and just want to be left alone. I call this mood "awake".

How much fun can I have before I go to hell?

Dear sleep: I know we had problems when we were younger....but I love you now.

You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will probably be stupid.

Some call it bitching. I call it motivational speaking.

Common sense is a flower that doesn't grow in everyone's garden.

Laughter may be the best medicine, but Jack Daniels makes a pretty good Band-Aid.

20th Annual Conference Highlights

Darryl Walter, TWS

The Wildlife Society 20th Annual Conference took place October 5-10 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Despite the federal government shutdown that affected many of our attendees, speakers, and exhibitors, we were able to persevere by making last-minute adjustments to fill in cancellations in the program and workshops. Using the mobile conference app, we kept attendees up-to-date with the most current schedule changes.

Highlights of the program included workshops, symposia, panel discussions, the Sunday Plenary, and a second general session. The plenary session on

effectively communicating science was met with rave reviews as well as the general session of wolf management. The popular Women of Wildlife reception from previous conferences transformed this year into a symposium, workshop, and panel discussion with the goal of providing information to both men and women on enhancing the effectiveness of a diverse wildlife force.

An Annual Awards Dinner provided an excellent venue for highlighting the contributions of our members to wildlife science and management, and was attended by more than 500 attendees. The Closing Night Reception was a delightful adventure through two floors of the Milwaukee Public Museum with buffet tables featuring traditional Wisconsin food throughout the displays. As usual, numerous associated receptions kept attendees busy during the evenings.

Students represent 25 percent of conference participants so we had plenty of activities to keep them happy this year, including a first-ever student only reception, a Student-Professional Mixer featuring the Student Work-In-Progress Poster Session, and a Student Chapter Leaders Breakfast. We had an exciting Quiz Bowl that for the first time included what we are affectionately calling a "Geezer Bowl" with members of the Council and TWS Staff as contestants providing levity to the competition. The Quiz Bowl was won this year by University of Minnesota — Crookston

Many attendees enjoyed their lunch while attending the Brown Bag Film Festival held each day of the conference. We featured some wonderful films, including the 2013 winner of the TWS Conservation Education Award, *America's Darling: The Story of Jay N. "Ding" Darling*.

We would like to thank our sponsors and exhibitors for their support. We are especially grateful to Critter Control for hosting the Awards Banquet. A special thanks to the Milwaukee Arrangements Committee and the Program Committee and we look forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh, October 25-30, 2014.



INTELLIGENT TINKERING: Vol. 42, No. 4 (Fall 2013)

2013 Wildlife Society Conference Summaries from Chapter Travel Grant Recipients

Submitted by Chuck Pils, Grant Recipient #1

I attended The 2013 TWS 20th Annual Conference in Milwaukee, which resulted in an attendance of 1336 participants from around and outside the U.S. I applied for and received a \$500 grant from the Wisconsin Chapter-The Wildlife Society (WCTWS), which was much appreciated and helped me pay for the conference. About 300 (??) federal employees were not able to come because of the shutdown of the U.S. government due to the inability of our government to function properly. The conference was held in the Milwaukee Center, downtown and featured excellent spacious meeting rooms and top-flight audio-visual systems. This was the best conference facility that I have ever attended!

I volunteered for a morning's work helping to register attendees and spent an afternoon volunteering to work in the TWS store at the conference. The conference highlight for me was attending the TWS 76th Annual awards on October 6th, because I was the recipient of one of 10 TWS members receiving the TWS Fellows award, which recognizes members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to the wildlife profession. I was touched for receiving this honor. I was also fortunate to sit next to A.R.E. (Tony) Sinclair, who received the Leopold Award, which is given for distinguished service to wildlife conservation and is the highest award bestowed by TWS. Tony was a low-key person with a great sense of humor. Fellow WCTWS members were also honored: Keith McCaffrey received the North Central Section's Distinguished Service award and Adrian Wydeven received the Jim McDonough award, which recognizes a certified wildlife biologist who makes significant contributions to the wildlife profession as an active participant at the local level of TWS and through program implementation and development of new techniques or approaches. It was a good night for Wisconsin.

Because of the many concurrent sessions, it was impossible to attend all the sessions. Some of the outstanding ones that I attended were included:

- Brave New World: Conservation Landscapes of Recovered Wolves, which featured excellent talks by Curt Meine ((International Crane Foundation and Leopold biographer), John Vucetich (Michigan Tech Wolf researcher), and Luigi Boitani (Italian wolf researcher).
- Dick Thiel's wolf talk, which expertly summarized his career with wolves.
- "America's Darling: The Story of Jay N. "Ding" Darling" at a brown-bag lunch. This movie was an excellent summary of Darling's career.

Other Conference highlights included attending an evening mentor-student session, where I, along with other experienced wildlifers acted as mentors for students who moved around the room every 15 minutes to get advice and counsel.....it was fun. I also attended the Quiz Bowl, which pitted various student chapters against each other. Good thing I wasn't competing because I could only answer about 20% of the questions.

I acted as a chaperone for 9 attendees who attended the "Discover Lake Michigan" field trip on Thursday, October 10th, after the Conference ended. We had a beautiful sunny day to cruise aboard the UW-Milwaukee vessel "Neeskay", which was piloted by Greg Stamatelakys. We also had UW-Milwaukee professor Don Szmania give us a running narration of various points of interest as we cruised along the Milwaukee River and Lake Michigan. Wisconsin DNR fisheries biologist Will Wawrzyn gave us an overview of the Lakeshore development and fisheries management. It was an outstanding field trip.

Finally, the conference was like a wildlife family reunion for me. Shortly, I will be a 50 year TWS member and have accumulated many friends and colleagues over the years. Several of them showed up at the meeting and it was very enjoyable to reminisce about old times at the meeting. I have never had any regrets about being a wildlifer; this Conference was ample proof of a correct career decision.

Submitted by Shelby Hiestand, Grant Recipient #2

This year, The Wildlife Society hosted its 20th annual conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. As the second time Wisconsin has hosted the national meeting, this

Submitted by Alyssa DeRubeis, Grant Recipient #3

was a very special event to be a part of. As a new biologist for Wisconsin DNR, it was a great opportunity to make local as well as national connections. Many of the topics were also centered on current issues here in Wisconsin. The overarching theme was the importance of communication between scientists and the public, undeniably one of the most important tasks any researcher, manager, or naturalist faces. Without good communication, the information we gather and the decisions we make can easily be lost or misunderstood. The conference consisted of over 25 symposia, six panel discussions, and more than a dozen workshops on topics including invasive species, climate change, wildlife disease such as CWD, building tolerance for carnivores, and the increasing role of women in the wildlife profession.

For me, one of the most interesting sessions was “Brave New World: Conservation Landscapes of Recovered Wolves” which focused on wolf recovery including the great lakes population. As a new biologist in the Northwoods of Wisconsin, I wanted to gather as much knowledge on the topic from as many perspectives as possible. Speakers included John Vucetich and Luigi Boitani, biologists who have worked on some of the most well known wolf projects in the world. Their talks were more than data presentation, but rather insights into their unique experiences working with wolves, honest opinions on the controversies surrounding wolves, and an in depth look at the current trajectory and where we’re headed next. In the month that’s passed since attending that talk, I’ve found myself in multiple discussions with landowners, hunters, trappers, and fellow biologists about wolves and it looks as though they will remain an important topic of discussion here in Wisconsin.

The closing night event at the Milwaukee public museum was the perfect end to a great week. I had met up with past colleagues from my alma maters of Michigan State University and Southern Illinois University, fellow researchers who I had crossed paths with while working in Colorado, and I had now been introduced to a group of fellow Wisconsin DNR employees that were open and welcoming as I took my first few steps into my new position. As we wandered around recreated jungles and early settlement towns enjoying local cuisine (brats and cheese included of course!) I was proud to be a part of this group of outstanding scientists: sharing their stories, forging connections across university and state lines, and working together for our shared mission, wildlife conservation.

After giving an oral presentation on prairie chicken and raptor research at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, my advisor, Dr. Jason Riddle, encouraged me to present it at the TWS Annual Conference. However, I was uncertain where seasonal work would take me in October 2013 (I just got my Bachelor’s Degree in May 2013), if my employer would let me attend, and if I could afford to go. Fortunately, I accepted a position in Iowa and when I asked my employer if I could go to the conference, he simply replied “Absolutely.” I was also fortunate to receive a travel grant offered by the WI State Chapter of TWS, which made the conference affordable for me.

I thoroughly enjoyed myself at the conference for several reasons. One of them includes my diverse wildlife research interests. At this conference, I was able to explore my curiosity within each of these interests. I went to oral presentations ranging from invertebrate abundance in disturbed grasslands to the public’s acceptance of wolves in WI. One of my favorite sessions was titled “Building Effective Partnerships for Landscape-Scale Grassland Conservation in Agricultural Ecosystems.” I knew several of the presenters and have worked in prairie settings for the past three summers, so the presentations felt relevant to me. It was really exciting to hear about all the progress that has been made and what still needs to be made. (No lie: I even got goose bumps just listening to these people speak!) I also visited numerous posters that included topics like hibernating ornate box turtles and wetland nutrients’ influence on whooping cranes.

I presented a poster on the relationship between greater prairie-chickens and raptors at Buena Vista Wildlife Area. I was pleased to receive positive feedback and good questions from several visitors. Additionally, I volunteered at the Quizbowl competition and submitted a couple of photos in the photo contest. It was fun to be more involved at this TWS conference compared to the last Annual TWS conference I attended (in Portland, OR 2012).

I have also been trying to determine what I want to study in graduate school, and this conference was very helpful in that regard. I talked with several presenters and got their contact information. I attended a couple of presentations on wildlife in urban settings, and since then I have been looking more into urban wildlife ecology for graduate school.

Furthermore, the social scene was great. I met up with UW-SP professors and students, previous employers, and friends and acquaintances from the 2012 conference. As mentioned before, I was able to make new friends and connections as well. The opening and closing events were fun ways to interact with professionals and students. And I always get a kick out of wildlife professionals dressed in suits, ties, skirts, and heels! (Needless to say, such outfits are not commonplace in the wildlife field.)

Overall, I learned about new wildlife research locally, nationally, and internationally, continued developing my communication skills, and strengthened old and new relationships. I feel very lucky to have been able to attend the 2013 conference and I hope to attend the 2014 conference in Pennsylvania.

Distinguished Service Award: Keith McCaffery

The Wildlife Society (TWS) awarded Keith McCaffery a Distinguished Service Award at The Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Keith has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1964, and has served as the President of the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society, as well as the Secretary/Treasurer of the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society. He is a Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB) with many publications and awards to his credit.



His work focused on forest and wildlife relationships and deer population measurements. He developed forest habitat composition guidelines for Wisconsin that were adapted and used by Minnesota and Michigan. He developed and evaluated deer population monitoring methods and served

as a principal consultant within the state and region on deer habitat and herd management. He is greatly respected by his colleagues and peers for his astonishing knowledge and experience, and remains committed to advancing

the deer program. Although he retired in 2000 from a 38-year career with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, he has been an invaluable and reliable volunteer for the state and TWS since his retirement.

TWS Fellow: Charles Pils

TWS awarded Charles Pils a TWS Fellow at the Annual Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. With experience in both research and management and a deep interest in all wildlife species, Charles Pils is responsible for a number of impressive accomplishments on behalf of natural resources in Wisconsin. Charles was one of the early pioneers in using radio-telemetry techniques in pheasant research in the state and his research on red fox is still considered the definitive work on the species in Wisconsin. He worked on controversial beaver management issues, a court challenge to the agency's authority to regulate bobcat harvest, expansion of the State Natural Areas program; recovery of trumpeter swans, peregrine falcons, bald eagles, and timber wolves; Today, Wisconsin has a model trapper education program, in no small part, because of Charles's initial vision in setting up the program. He also worked on a strong landowner contact program that achieved conservation of rare resources on private lands, and a pioneering effort to develop a habitat conservation plan for the Karner Blue Butterfly. Charles is not only a consummate professional, but always exhibits a genuine passion for life, the resources, and the people he works with.



Jim McDonough Award: Adrian Wydeven

Wildlife biologist Adrian Wydeven received the Jim McDonough award for excellence in wildlife management during the TWS annual conference held in Milwaukee. The award is given to a certified wildlife biologist who has made



outstanding contributions through program implementation and development of new techniques or approaches within their field.

Wydeven's conservation efforts focused on wolf recovery and management, as well as management of other endangered and rare mammals. Between 1990 through February 2013, he led conservation programs for rare and non-game mammals and served as Wolf Program leader for the Wisconsin Department of Natural resources. He was the chair of the Wisconsin Wolf Science Advisory Committee (1992-2013), member of the Timber Wolf Alliance advisory council, served on the Federal Eastern Gray Wolf Recovery Team from

1997-2007, and currently served on the new DNR Wolf Advisory Committee.

In August 2012 the wolf program shifted from the Bureau of Endangered Resources in to the Bureau of Wildlife Management after the successful recovery of the state wolf population and the species becoming designated as a game species. Wydeven accepted the position as DNR large carnivore specialist in Wildlife Management at the time as wolves were transitioned into Wildlife Management. In March of this year Wydeven stepped down from the large carnivore position, to accept a new job as forest wildlife habitat specialist with Wildlife Management. In this new position, Wydeven works to protect and enhance wildlife habitat through forest management practices.

Deer Trustee Report Implementation

Chapter Testimony provided at the October Natural Resources Board special session on the science of deer management

The Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society, founded in 1972, is a scientific and educational organization composed of over 200 wildlife professionals, students, and retirees who are interested in the conservation of Wisconsin's wildlife resource. Many of our chapter members participated in the citizen action teams for the DTR process during this past spring and summer.

Our parent organization, The Wildlife Society (TWS), with 10,000 members, is international with chapters in every state and many foreign countries. We stand with our colleagues within Wisconsin and around the world in asserting that objective scientific review of agency decision-making provides "critically important tools for policy makers. They allow experts from both inside and outside the state and federal government to provide technical advice and analysis, increasing public confidence in government science, and ensuring that the best-quality information is used in decision-making." (TWS position statement on scientific peer-review of agency decision-making¹).

In America, wildlife are held in Public Trust and managed by the states for the benefit of present and future generations of all citizens and science is the proper tool for the discharge of wildlife policy. These principles are understood to be 2 of the 7 pillars of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation (TWS position statement on the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation²).

The Wisconsin deer management program has been and is among the premier programs of its kind in North America. Deer management decision-making in Wisconsin has for decades been a process of balancing science with social, cultural, legal, economic, and institutional considerations. The DNR's draft scientific integrity policy states "it is the policy of the Natural Resources Board and the department to seek the best available and most current scientific information on which to base its policy, management, and regulatory decisions." Some of the proposed changes to NR 10 to implement the Deer Trustee recommendations raise the question of whether the balance is being fundamentally altered.

The new proposed rule change states that the department shall monitor progress towards each management unit's objective of increasing, maintaining, or decreasing the deer population and shall consider 1) deer population trends as indicated by commonly accepted models for estimating deer populations; 2) deer health; 3) deer impacts on natural resources; 4) deer impacts on society; 5) deer hunter success **and public perceptions of population trend**. The department is further directed to establish county deer management advisory committees for the purpose of annually seeking comment from members of the public on the status of the deer herd at the county level.

What is of concern is how much weight the department will give to "public perceptions" vs. science in determining deer population status. The Deer Trustee Final Report, in its closing admonition, emphasizes the point that hunter perceptions can be unrealistic (p. 82). While we endorse wider public participation and full transparency in setting deer policy public input should complement science-informed professional judgment, not replace it.

Our concerns with the proposed rule can be summed in these two points:

1. The proposed rule opens the door to changes that could degrade the ability of DNR managers to scientifically monitor population trend in the deer herd and its relationship to habitat, harvest, and abiotic factors. Examples include eventual abandonment of data-gathering through in-person registration, abandonment of historic DMU boundaries, and abandonment of quantified population goals. The proposed rule refers to new metrics and new information-gathering methods that have yet to be developed. Moreover these are offered without any discussion of the cost-benefit comparisons in terms of economics or in terms of scientific accuracy or precision, or indeed of public support.
2. The proposed rule invites increased public input in ways that invite subjectivity and additional political influence. We give our endorsement to more public input and participation however the principles of scientific survey design should be used to gather that input to insure that it is representative of all Wisconsin stakeholders. Human Dimensions scientists would advise that input that depends on the self-motivation to attend a public meeting or participate in an advisory group is known to be biased – usually towards negative views of agency policy.

A major responsibility of the State is to balance ALL the interests in the deer herd. Recent experience with citizen advisory committees (CACs) to advise deer management in Pennsylvania found that key stakeholder groups are often absent and that CACs exhibited a strong hunter bias (Fleegle, et al. 2013) . These experiences caused the Pennsylvania Game Commission to discontinue CACs and move to a citizen survey to ensure that the values and attitudes of all stakeholders are considered in deer management decisions.

Wisconsin's deer management program is a model program in North America because it has been highly quantitative, objective, and transparent and has employed the best available science. The Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society cautions the Board that many of the recommendations in the proposed rule package would seem to risk changing the program to a qualitative, subjective, and an opinion-based model that would fall short of serving all constituencies with the best science.

WISCONSIN CHAPTER, TWS

1. The Wildlife Society. 2011. Scientific peer review of agency decision processes. Final Position Statement. Bethesda MD. 3pp.
2. The Wildlife Society. 2007. The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Final TWS Position Statement. Bethesda MD. 2pp.
Fleegle, J.T., C.S. Rosenberry, and B.D. Wallingford. 2013. Use of Citizen Advisory Committees to direct deer management in Pennsylvania. Wildl. Soc. Bull. 37(1):129-136.

**Prepared by the WCTWS Deer Issues Committee for the WCTWS Executive Committee. WCTWS President Tami Ryan sent membership an email late October informing everyone that state chapter testimony was given at the DNR's Natural Resources Board meeting on Tuesday, October 22nd. The meeting was a special session on the science of deer management which was scheduled at the September NRB meeting, and, was the result of testimony by George Meyer during which he asserted that science based recommendations were excluded in the proposed rules for implementing the Deer Trustee Report. As a result, NRB Chairman Cole declared that October 22 would be a dedicated session to present the science. Our state chapter Deer Issues Committee initiated taking action to participate in this deer science session and the Executive Board worked closely with the committee on fine-tuning this testimony. The Executive Board took proactive action as they believed was appropriate on behalf of our profession and for the resource.*

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Meeting Summaries

Submitted by Pat Kaiser, WCTWS Liaison to WWF

Bi-Monthly Meeting, August 9-11, 2013, Ashland, WI

Penokee Mine Workshop

This meeting included a trip to Ashland, WI, a tour of the Penokee Hills, and the Bad River Watershed. The Friday evening session included several presentations by: 1) a representative of the Bad River Watershed Association, 2) a Professor of Geology at Lawrence University, 3) a Hydrologist, and 4) a Photography business resident of Ashland Co. . Saturday involved a tour of the Penokee Hills including a visit with a local dairy/beef farm operator, views of Tyler Fork stream, the Bad River, the Bad River Watershed, and a boat tour of the Kakagon Sloughs into Lake Superior. Sunday included a presentation by three members of the Gogebic Taconite Mining Company.

Gogebic Taconite Mining (G-Tac) is a subsidiary company owned by 'Cline Corporation' based in Florida. It is a coal mining company operating extensively in West Virginia doing extensive ground surface mining. G-Tac has purchased an option to lease the mineral rights on 22,000 acres in the Penokee Range east of Mellen, WI that lies within parts of Ashland Co. and Iron Co. G-Tac is studying a four- mile segment of the Ironwood Iron Formation to assess its potential for developing an open-pit iron mine. The possible mine initial project area would entail an approximate area 4 miles long by 1 ½ miles wide. This pit would be the largest open pit mine in the United States. They would also lease land from the Iron County forest lands. Much of this land would be used to place and stockpile the overburden and waste rock that has to be removed before getting into the iron ore layer. The approximate depth of the open pit mine would be 800 – 1000 ft. deep. They estimate using approximately 700,000 gallons of water / day and are in negotiations to purchase that water supply from the Village of Ironwood. G-Tac representatives indicated the proposed 1st phase of the mining operation would take approximately 35 years. Once the site is operational, most likely work would be continuous 24 hours/day throughout the year.

The persons that addressed the WWF members on Friday evening identified many issues of concern possibly having detrimental effects on the surrounding environment. Some of those issues were;

- a) Possible contamination of ground water resources
- b) River and stream surface water changes as to (flow levels, water temperature, macro invertebrates, possible increased sedimentation). (Note, - within the leased land area there are Class I, II, III trout streams)
- c) Dissolving of metals (phosphorous and sulfides)
- d) Pumping of ground water from the mine pit to lower water levels for the mine to operate
- e) Ground water pumping effect on adjacent landowner private wells, effect on ground water recharge to adjacent streams and rivers
- f) Many of the streams in the surrounding watersheds have been previously designated as Outstanding or Exceptional Water Resources.
- g) Open pit mining would completely reshape the earth's surface in the proposed mine area of 4 miles by 1 ½ miles. The existing forest would be completely removed.
- h) Air and noise pollution due to continuous operations at the processing plant and moving of materials by vehicle operations. Airborne emissions from blasting and onsite ore processing could significantly affect air quality.

The Saturday land tour included views of the Penokee Range, the Tyler Forks River which traverses thru the east part of the G-Tac leased land, the Bad River Watershed. At the Bad River Indian Reservation, Joe Rose – a Bad River Tribal member directed a boat tour on the Bad River into the Bad River and Kakagon Sloughs where they enter into Lake Superior. He explained the importance of the wetland ecosystems. The sloughs and streams that feed this wetland ecosystem have their surface water resources coming primarily from the Penokee Range. The Bad River and Kakagon Sloughs account for approximately 55% of the coastal wetlands in the Lake Superior basin. The Bad River is the primary spawning area for sturgeon on Lake Superior. The Kakagon Sloughs support the largest area of native wild rice on the Great Lakes. On Sunday, Mike Wiggins – Chairman of the Bad River Indian Reservation talked briefly about the importance of the wetland ecosystem for

the Bad River Tribe members due to the wild game, fish, waterfowl, furbearing animal, and wild rice resources that exist under current conditions.

George Meyer, Executive Director of WWF discussed several legislative bills that pertain to natural resources. (Note, please refer back to my WWF—Wildlife Committee ‘July 27’ meeting report regarding legislative bills.)

At this August Bi-Monthly meeting, the same legislative bills were discussed and voted on by the WWF members. The voting results were the same as the action taken by the Wildlife Committee.

One additional bill was discussed, AB254. This bill would provide free admission to state parks and state trails for all honorably discharged military veterans. If such bill were to become law, cost analysis estimate indicated there would be a loss of approximately \$1 million revenue to the State Parks Program. Motion was made to oppose this bill, and the motion was approved.

Wildlife Committee Meeting, July 27, Stevens Point, WI

The Wildlife Committee meeting ‘Agenda’ included the following topics and discussion.

1. Bill Vander Zouwen – WDNR wildlife staff gave update on the Deer Trustee report specifically the Study Committee’s deliberations and summary of recommendations via a video titled “Deer Report Summary”. Also, reported that Wolf Committee is now working on a new management plan update for 2014.. The WDNR is proposing a statewide wolf harvest quota of 275 for 2013. The WI elk management program is moving forward with the intent to bring an additional 150 elk from Kentucky into the State of WI hopefully in 2015. Pertaining to ‘disabled hunters’, the WDNR has been able to enroll 65,000 acres of private land for access use by disabled hunters in 2013. Regarding WDNR Wildlife Mgt. program, they are in the process of hiring 17 new wildlife biologist s.
2. Ralph Fritsch, WWF-Wildlife Committee Chairman discussed several items;
 - a) Sale of State-owned land - WDNR has been mandated to sell 10,000 ac. of land. WDNR believes such can be done without major impact on public users, because would include mainly state-owned lands that are outside of existing project boundary’s.

- b) Wildlife Policy Team of WDNR has issued ‘furbearer quota recommendations’ for 2013/2014. (Bobcat) - recommending a harvest quota of 240, which is an increase from 174 in 2012/2013, and a decrease from 380 in 2011/2012. WWF, wildlife committee suggested expanding the bobcat harvest area to statewide with a two zone concept with Hwy 64 being the dividing line for a north zone and south zone. (Fisher) – recommending a statewide harvest of 775. (Otter) - recommend a harvest quota of 1200 with a 1/3 split between the 3 zones.

3. George Meyer presented information on several legislative bills.
AB 194 – Crossbow use for deer hunting and run concurrent with the archery deer season (Wildlife Committee supports).
AB199 / SB178 – both bills lowers hunting, fishing, and trapping license fees for military Purple Heart recipients (Wildlife Committee supports).
SB17 – bill would reverse the current hunting and trapping allowance in State Parks (Wildlife Committee opposes).
AB94/ SB93 – both bills would prohibit the use of dogs for wolf hunting (Wildlife Committee opposes).
AB137 – bill would remove woodchucks from the protected animal status and would establish a hunting and trapping season (Wildlife Committee supports).

Wildlife Committee Meeting, September 28, 2013, Stevens Point, WI

The Wildlife Committee meeting ‘Agenda’ included the following topics and discussion.

4. Dave McFarland – WDNR Large Carnivore Specialist did a presentation regarding ‘Wolf Management’ issues in Wisconsin. 1) Two management objectives of the mgt. plan are to reduce livestock depredations and reduce the wolf population. 2) Wolf harvest quota goal in 2013 is expected to reduce the wolf population by approx. 32%. 3) Data from Wisconsin indicates that where wolf packs have been established for several years, there has been a decrease in the deer populations and coincidentally there has been an increase in plant diversity. 4) During the first three years of the ongoing deer predation study in northern WI (Winter area), fawn mortality was greatest by bear, bobcat, coyote, and starvation. 5) Wolf predation (2012) on

livestock occurred on approx. 40 WI farms out of approx. 17,000 farms statewide.

5. Eric Lobner – WDNR Wildlife Specialist summarized the WDNR Deer Trustee Final Report. This report summarized the recommendations made by four study committees. Essentially this report accepted most of the four study committee recommendations, except for several of the recommendations from the ‘Science and Research Committee’. This committee strongly recommended to a) continue the use of the Sex-Age-Kill model for estimating deer populations, b) to keep numeric deer population goals for deer mgt. units, and c) to continue use of requiring that hunters do in-person registration of harvested deer. All three of these recommendations were eliminated from the ‘final report’. Also, the WDNR has submitted a ‘Proposed Rule Change Package’ that will go out for public hearings in October 2013 and these three recommendations are not included in the Proposed Rule Change Package.
6. Tim Van Deelen, Associate Professor in the Dept. of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, UW-Madison expressed his ideas regarding wolf management and proposed deer mgt. changes in WI. Reference deer management, he expressed the need to keep the current Sex-Age-Kill model for deer population mgt. in WI. Past experience in Wisconsin has shown that it is a system which has produced high quality deer hunting experiences for Wisconsin hunters. Example, Wisconsin ranks #1 in the US for the number of trophy deer harvested and consistently ranks in the top 5 states for the total # of deer harvested. Reference wolf management, he explained that wolves are density –dependent animals. He suggests that the Wisconsin population goal of 350 wolves is probably an unstable population level, if a yearly ‘sustainable harvest’ is expected to occur.
7. George Meyer, Executive Director of WWF talked briefly about the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. He expressed that this model is anchored by a Supreme Court decision that decreed that wildlife belongs to the people and not the government, corporations, or individuals. He indicated that at the WDNR Board ‘September’ Meeting the WDNR was ‘proposing’ to make changes to captive wildlife laws that would allow an individual to keep an illegally captured wild animal if that individual paid a fine and agreed to meet enclosure, health and space conditions. To do this would take

‘legislative rule change’. George expressed that this is contrary to the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation. The WDNR Board expressed strong disapproval of this WDNR proposal, and at the September Board meeting the Board passed a ‘Board Resolution’ that it goes on record as “opposing any legislation that would allow a private citizen to retain an unlawfully taken live deer or cervid, as this constitutes privatization and commercialization of the State’s free roaming wild deer”

Namibia – Southwest African Wildlife Paradise

Submitted by Chuck Pils

My wife Linda and I spent nearly 3 weeks in September travelling 2900 miles in a bus across north-central Namibia, as part of a photographic safari. Linda snapped 4,000 digital images of the desert, people, and wildlife of this beautiful country (we also crossed into the NW corner of Botswana).

Namibia is one of the few remaining African countries where sport hunting is allowed. Tourist hunters pay big bucks to hunt lions, oryx, impalas, and several other species of big game, primarily in some of the communal conservancies described below.

Other species such as the black rhinoceros are protected. In 1980, these rhinos were almost extinct. Today, Namibia boasts the largest black rhino population in the world (we saw 6 black rhinos) — and even exports the species to other countries' national parks. Ditto for its cheetah population. Its lions, leopards, giraffes and elephants are increasing in numbers, too.

Indeed, this southwestern African country of just 2.3 million people took the visionary step of enshrining environmental protection into its constitution upon its independence from South Africa in 1990. It was the first African country to do so.

Today, 46% of the country — including its entire 976-mile coastline — is under conservation. Almost 20% is managed by 79 communal conservancies, self-governing entities that manage their wildlife for the benefit of their tribal

communities. One in five rural Namibians — about 300,000 people — now live in such conservancies, where tourists can view wildlife outside the traditional park setting and stay in community-run lodges.

The model has set a world standard, attracting about 20 countries to study its success, including Mongolia, Nepal, Cambodia, Tanzania and the USA. "Namibia is one of the few countries in the world where the whole country is involved in conservation," As a result, poaching has become socially unacceptable.

We observed 23 African porcupines one evening at a private conservancy....the owner put out grain bait to draw them in.....amazing (see photo below)

We spent 4 days in Etosha National Park, one of the largest national parks in the world, home to 114 mammal, 110 reptile and 340 bird species. A highlight was photographing a hunting leopard

Etosha — "great white place" — is named for its 75-mile-long salt pan, so large it can be seen from space. Elsewhere, the park's scrubby desert-like savannah, hard-baked in the sun, makes spotting animals easy. Among the many wildlife species we saw were 2 hunting leopards, 64 elephants at a waterhole, and 17 giraffes drinking (with legs spread, then they would pull them together to stand up!).

Namibia was truly an amazing country.



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