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

Successful Winter Meeting

We had a great winter meeting this year, with 172 attendees! The meeting was held March 1-3, 2016 with the Theme: The Sustainability Of Sustainable Use.

There are several summaries of winter meeting events throughout this issue, including business meeting minutes (page 6), an overall summary (page 8), award and scholarship recipients (page 9-10), best student papers (page 11), and the student leaders breakfast (page 12).
Dear Wildlifers,

Our year is off to a good start. Membership is strong. Our Winter Meeting was profitable financially, for networking, and for learning from one another.

As I mentioned in my closing remarks at the Winter Meeting, our Plenary Theme (Sustaining Sustainability) played out before us. In particular, we had a very large number of talks focused on improving our knowledge and/or management of the resources the public has entrusted to us. Half of all presentations were from students. Indeed, half of the student presentations were from undergraduates. I was so impressed by the quality and delivery of each talk I saw. One of the greatest strengths of our chapter is the hospitable space that each of you creates to hear the work of others, and especially students. Our speakers don’t expect a free pass if they make a mistake or arrive at an incorrect conclusion. However, our chapter members are skilled at pointing out improvements in a way that causes growth for the presenter and better outcomes for the resource. I can’t think of a better way to sustain sustainability than by cultivating each other’s work and especially that of our youngest professionals.

All 3 student chapters made their presence known. Both Leopold scholarships and the best graduate student presentation went to students from UW Madison. The best undergraduate student presentation went to a student from UW Stevens Point. The Northland chapter, after only one full year of having TWS recognition, delivered nearly half of all the undergraduate talks!

Student attendance (along with that of everyone else) was very large at the business meeting (>100). Our chapter is making progress towards the wise use of our financial resources. Indeed, we are very blessed to have this level of financial resources about which to make decisions.

The future looks to be very exciting. The Midwest Student Conclave will be back in Wisconsin again this April. Our engagement with our colleagues in fisheries will ramp up in scale and intensity over the next few years. Specifically, we have a joint winter meeting with the American Fisheries Society (AFS) state chapter in 2017. The Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference is in Wisconsin in 2018. Then, the national TWS and AFS conferences will be held jointly in Reno in 2019. Looks like it is about time to patch my waders…

---

**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

March 1, 2016, Stoney Creek Inn, Rothschild, WI

By Carey Strobel, Secretary/Treasurer

Present: Lesa, Mark, Scott C., Jason, Scott H., Brian, Carey, Steve Gilbert

1) Steve Gilbert to discuss 2018 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference
   i) This is a joint effort between Chapter Am. Fisheries Society (Steve Gilbert), WCTWS (need someone from us) and DNR –Justine Haas? DNR - wildlife has yet to step forward and support this effort
   ii) Hoping attendance reaches 1200. Meeting is usually late January 13-18, 20-25, or 27-Feb 1 2018. Hire a contractor (Delaney) for $1500 to handle site bids.
   iii) Received bids from Milwaukee and Madison, both sites have hosted before. Madison does not have a hotel associated with it that can host everyone. Flights into Madison are more expensive. Milwaukee has hotels associated so people don’t have to travel outside in Jan.
iv) What they want from WCTWS currently:
   (a) Ask membership where they would like to see this hosted.
   (b) Next step need to start getting people for committee chairs. Ask membership who would step up.
   (c) Determine artwork and theme so it can be displayed at the Feb 8 2017 meeting is in Lincoln, Nebraska.

v) Would we be interested in having a joint meeting with AFS (250-275 people) and WCTWS in 2017? This would provide us an opportunity to do a dry run at the 2018 conference location.

vi) Possible dates for a joint meeting in 2017 are Feb 14-16, 21-23 or 28-March 2. WI Wetlands is having their next meeting Feb 28-March 2 2017.

vii) AFS has saved the revenue from 2007 meeting approximately $10,000 to pay for the contractor and get things going for the 2018 Conference.

2) *Missed this as I had to get Registration going for the Winter meeting*

3) Discussion of our investments, potentially with Vanguard

   i) John Bogle: Vanguard will handle our smaller amount of investments.
   ii) We would be looking into an Index fund or Balanced index fund.
   iii) Allow social choice funds, or environmentally responsible funds.

---

**Executive Board Meeting Conference Call Minutes**

March 16, 2016, 9am

By Carey Strobel, Secretary/Treasurer

---

1. Technical Training Options for the Fall
   a. Goose Academy mentioned by Scott H.
   b. Trapping Matters mentioned by John Olson
      i. Intro into trapping, the value, and economics, why it’s important
      ii. Does this fit the qualifications for technical training or continuing education? Scott H. says it may not, since it is a basic introduction.

   Jason - Technical training has waned over the years. We seem to be targeting the same individuals. Maybe that’s from the political situation. Lesa states that her DNR district will not support the goose training, because it conflicts with goose training/banding held by the DNR. People need to be in the field.

   Mark – The goose academy is a high costs for people especially if employers are not willing to pay for registration.

   Scott states that if WCTWS donates $500, and only 2 members registered then we could reduce their fee by $250.

   The Furbearer Ecology is $80 but we don’t know what the Trapping Matters programs costs.

   Jason will get in touch with John Olson to get a better idea of dates and costs associated with trapping matters. Should we put a doodle poll to membership or should the board come to a decision? As for timeline trapping matters might be in the fall, vs. Goose Academy in the summer.

   Goose Academy will occur whether the Chapter promotes it or not, maybe just promote it to members through Facebook. Carey and Lesa will promote it to membership.

2. Official Charge for the Strategic Planning Committee & Discussion of our
involvement with the Strategic Planning Committee

- Scott recommends board members also being on the SPC.
- SPC should have a long term view versus short term.
- Kelly VanBeek new DNR employee would be an excellent early career person.
- Verbiage – A charge to work with membership and work with executive board to assess current objectives and implementation and how to best meet these objectives and implementations in the future.
- Perhaps it could be entered as a standing committee in the Bylaws further down the road.
- How many members should this committee have? Agreed that at least 2 board members to provide liaison between Executive Board and SPC.

4.) Scott Craven’s Letter (attached). Scott is proposing to have this as a guest column or editorial in the next IT. Jason read it over and thought it is great. It could help to prime future events, actions, or conclusions from the Strategic Planning Committee and/or Finance Committee.

Yes we should place this in the IT.

Discussion of letter topics.

Our investment strategy may only generate $4000 a year. We usually have $6000 in expenditures.

Scott would like to see a presentation of our projected budget and membership can make comments on what they would like to see from committees and we can try to make our expenditures.

How many dollars have we already committed and money set-aside for travel grants and awards/scholarships. Make an estimate on what are our annual expenditures.

Place a note in the Financial report in spring IT: In light of Scott C’s editorial our next financial report will include a budget for the next year.

5.) Our vision for our involvement with the 2018 Midwest.

There will be some support from the Wildlife side of DNR but waiting for their supervisors to give the go ahead, since Fisheries has already committed.

Agency folks have always been chairs of the planning committees, and typically members at the State chapters. Mostly DNR staff would seek out volunteers for various parts of the meeting, registration, fundraising or other events.

Mark - How do we draw in other non DNR agencies and have a commitment from them to offer support. In this way when a need for support or volunteers presents itself we have some people to draw from.

Scott – The Conference is primarily set by WDNR, secondly the Societies (WCTWS and AFS) to draw on memberships and reach out to other agencies/entities. WDNR staff will fill many of those committees, but the societies will offer additional people. AFS seems to already plan it to be in Milwaukee, and already having a consultant lined up. Scott would like to see us pursue more information from Ollie Torgenson, Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MFWA).

Lesa - Midwest last year voted for Milwaukee, AFS chapter voted for Madison. They wanted to give more weight for those that were coming from out of state, at the Midwest meeting. Make sure that one person from Chapter is staying in contact with Steve. We can’t expect a poll from the DNR as to where the meeting should be held. Doesn’t want to poll the membership if it’s already a done deal, we don’t want to waste people’s time.

Scott will talk with Ollie.

Jason will talk with Steve.

We are willing to be a collaborator in the effort with the DNR taking the lead.
6.) Deer Committee

Keith would like to offer up his position as chair. Scott would be willing to serve on the committee, but not as chair. He does not feel that he is familiar enough with deer management in the state. This committee might just be limited and this is the way it is right now.

Jason will talk to Keith, maybe add some people to the committee, and see if he is comfortable just holding on to the chair position for the time being.

---

**Guest Column...on Chapter Finances**

*By Scott Craven, Two-time Past President*

At the recent Annual Conference at Stoney Creek, we enjoyed record attendance at the Chapter business meeting. The agenda was addressed smoothly, completely, and without a contentious issue. As always, chapter finances were discussed, as were an investment strategy and a “strategic plan” to guide investments. All good….BUT….. we did not take a critical look at chapter activities supported by our financial resources.

First, let’s consider what the chapter does for us as members and therefore, we hope, for the resource base. On an annual basis, the chapter offers a high quality conference like the one we just enjoyed. In most years the conference is budget neutral, but some conferences make money and some are partially subsidized. A tech training session has become an annual event at a cost of perhaps $500; money well-spent for professional development. The chapter also sends a board member to the TWS Annual Conference. With airfare, registration, room and board, and incidentals, that attendance probably costs +/- $1500. We award 2 Leopold Scholarships every year at a total cost of $2000. The chapter makes annual contributions to support the League of Conservation Voters, Student Conclave, other conferences and meetings for an expenditure of perhaps $1000 or more. We produce an excellent newsletter and manage a website and have routine expenses for postage, supplies, board expenses, and incidentals, perhaps totaling $500 each year. We make several respected awards at a cost of $2-300 each. We also support the activity of 6-7 issue committees, interactions with the North-Central TWS Section and the parent Society. We could resurrect the summer meeting, if interest warranted it. That was largely a social event, but there was a business meeting and some cost was incurred. Finally, we periodically support joint meetings with other societies and put forth major efforts to host the Midwest or national TWS Conferences. Some of these efforts generate significant revenue.

I’m sure I’ve forgotten something but the bottom line represents a lot of return and opportunity on a $10 annual membership fee!!! Every business meeting features calls to do more, but let’s take a look at the balance sheet.

If you add up the cost of the activities listed above, it comes to some $6000/year, at a minimum. Note that at 200 members, dues income totals only $2000 per year. Again, a lot of “bang for the buck”. However, it’s quite clear that if we want to do more, we need annual revenue from hosting conferences, “selling beer glasses”, and most importantly, making our principal balance of over 100K work harder for us. If an investment strategy could produce an annual return of 5%, that money could support more scholarships, reduced costs to members for training and conferences, and many other things…. But remember from the previous assessment, some $4000 is needed on top of membership revenue just to meet operating expenses.

The Board is working on an investment strategy. Consultation with other non-profits has turned up some attractive options. The board is also working on a strategic plan which is essential to guidance of the financial plan. We need to know what we need and WHY in order to direct the financial planning. We also need to enter each year with an annual budget to be approved at the business meeting. Doing so would inform us as to where we stand financially and allow us to plan for the next year. It would help avoid motions made and passed at the very end of most recent business meetings to spend substantial sums on worthy causes, offered up with good intentions but little idea of how they will be funded.

We are very lucky to be the beneficiaries of the generosity of Mr Bjerke and the hard work of chapter members hosting big conferences…like the upcoming
Midwest. That money can work for us and allow us to do more….or at least to comfortably continue what we are doing. Let’s do it. But please realize that in the bigger scheme of non-profits and investing, 100K is not a huge sum. Some of the investment vehicles we have explored will not even “let us in” for 100K. Also remember that a downturn in the economy (witness the past 8 months as I write this in March) can really hurt our annual bottom line.

One idea that has surfaced repeatedly is the notion of hiring a staff person to guide the chapter’s activities and perhaps offer more in the way of advocacy. I believe this idea was born largely out of frustration with the current political climate and frustration over finding willing and enthusiastic volunteer leaders for the chapter. Given the likely costs of a salary, benefits and expenses for such a person (probably exceeding 10K per year) I don’t see that kind of money available, even with a winning investment strategy. What we do have available is a pool of several hundred professionals who should see the value of what the Wisconsin State Chapter of TWS provides now, and could provide, and therefore step up and be willing to serve the Chapter, their colleagues, and our wildlife resource as an officer or board member.

**Chapter Business Meeting Minutes**

March 2, 2016, Stoney Creek Inn, Rothschild, WI

By Carey Strobel, Secretary/Treasurer

**Call to Order 1pm – Mark Pfost**

**Financial Report**
- Discussion on moving and consolidating CDs and Savings accounts to proceed with investments
- Chapter will support student conclave by donating $350

**By laws change**
- Student rep is on the board
- Furbearers issue committee was created.

**Language for both was submitted to National and has been approved by National**

**Association with the League of Conservation Voters**
- We’ve made 2 donations to them this year. This is probably our best option for advocacy

**National has made website changes from Drupla to Word Press.**
- Archived items are still available just not on the website
- Contact Lesa or Jamie for archived items

**North Central Update**
- Increase dues, and trying to determine their financial management plan.
- UM-Crookston was Chapter of the Year.
- We can’t delist wolves due to the law itself. The Section is still trying to determine how they are going to approach this

**Election Results**
- Discussion on getting involved with the Board, diversify with more agencies
  - President – Jason Riddle
  - President Elect – Derek Johnson
  - Board Member – Scott Hygnstrom
  - Student Rep – Lisa Zoromski

**Financial Planning – direction for upcoming year**
- Consolidating accounts and moving into savings account, getting ready for investment
- Financial Committee is secretary/treasurer, President, and Karl Martin
- Meeting with investors and discussing investing in an Index Fund.
- Diversify and minimize risk to start growing our funds to meet our goal
- Need to search for environmentally responsible funds.
- Suggestion (Tim VanDeelen) to put together a sub-committee to determine what we do with that money. This is something that had been considered in the past.
- We currently don’t have an investment policy. We use the bylaws and restrictions to the Bjerke, but do we want to carry that to the next level?
2018 Midwest F&W Conference
To be held in Milwaukee or Madison. Would WCTWS be interested in holding a joint meeting with the Chapter AFS to do a dry run?
Agree that it should be done. Results in good collaboration and opens communication.
Jeremy H. – Agreed with the joint meeting for 2017
Motion is made to have a joint meeting
Jeremy H. seconds motion. All in favor

Aldo Leopold Scholarship Committee Position
Description of what the volunteer position would entail
Gary Zimmer will fill position

Technical Training
Canada Goose Control Workshop – Scot H.
Hosting Goose Academy – June 28-29 2016 at Stevens Point, WI
Handling urban/resident geese. Biological aspects and control
Would WCTWS donate $500 and this would provide a reduced rate to WCTWS members? Is this something that membership would want to follow up on? One option for the chapter technical training.
Doesn’t this fall within the timeframe of goose round up? Yes it does and this would be performed during the workshop.
Other Technical Trainings:
Inv Spp.
Advocacy
DMAP
Landscape planning
Grassland management
Cultural?

Student Rep
Lisa Zoromski from UWSP
Amber Acker former Student Rep
Northland College
Coordinating student silent auction

Rotating the Student Rep through each Student Chapter. Usually the Student Rep is the Student Chapter President

UWSP Chapter Report
Leadership workshop went very well last spring
Started a new bat project
Student conclave will be at Treehaven
The guest speaker will be Gary Potts

UW-Madison
Working on the Student Chapter main fundraiser
Clinics on finding jobs and resume writing

Northland College
Amber Acker
This is the second year for this Student Chapter
50 students of which 20 are very active
Started a camera trap study on campus
Planning for a second project
Assisting with wildlife habitat restoration

Issues Committees
Deer Management Keith McCaffery
Recent deer management is driven by outside forces. Deer management in the state is very political at the moment.
Farm Wildlife Mark Witecha
First action item is to try to add some committee members. Farm bill biologists, and grazing biologists. If anyone is interested please contact Mark.
Forestry Ron Eckstein
They want to reduce the influence of DNR foresters, reduce certification on forest management decisions. Removing protection on forest county habitat. Industry is guiding what goes into the silviculture handbook, instead of DNR foresters. Adding an economic guidance chapter in the silviculture, which was pushed by industry. Continue to work on hardwood water bottoms chapter for 2016. Also working on the northern hardwoods chapter. The big concern is oak
and industry is pushing for shorter rotation on oak. The concern with these changes is the influence this will have on wildlife communities.

Government Affairs  Chuck Pils
Pretty grim outlook right now. The current legislature is announcing bills at the last minute or changing bill numbers at the last minute, this makes keeping abreast of things. Attended 2 legislative hearings. WCTWS thru Chuck opposed the loosening of restrictions on high wells. LCV is creating a calendar to provide information on hearings.

Wildlife Damage Management  Dan Hirchert
Have been inactive this last year. We will be putting together a newsletter dealing with urban turkeys and geese.

Wolf Management  Randy Jurewicz
Randy will be given the opportunity to submit a report to IT

Furbearer issues  John Olson
Thanks for the positive support, 6-7 committee members. Trying to keep it to 12 or less. Have a new additional training, Trapping Matters. One-day workshop where we can target students, members, agency. Purpose is to inform people about modern furbearer management. Will work with board on that to possibly hold it has a technical training. There had been legislation to ban trapping, a number of states filed opposition. John believes it is past. Wild Fur certification, started to certify fur ranches overseas (care, vet checks…). Should we certify wild fur in the US? This could impact how we manage wild fur populations.

Other items from the floor

Karl M. - Following up with Tim VanDeelen’s statement. What do we want to do with our finances when moving forward?

Jason - It would be beneficial to see what we make on our investments. But can see both sides. The desire to get a plan. Where would we like to spend more money or what would membership like to see?

Member – Believe to Chapter would want to choose environmentally responsible funds. What are we going to do with these funds? Could we possibly provide some scholarship for Wildlife Biologist Certification to our membership?

Member-The average financial advisor says don’t expect to make more than 4% a year. We are not going to making huge amounts on our investments maybe $4000. Not be able to hire someone.

Brad Strobel – What is the status of putting together a committee that was mentioned last year? Do we want a group to create goals or what do we want to provide our members?
Motion made to create a Strategic Planning Committee to work in tandem with Financial Committee
Motion is seconded
Motion passed

Ollie Torgensen discussed volunteering for WCTWS Chapter. Chair of Midwest F&W Association. Volunteer and get involved because it opens many doors for you.

Tim Van Deelen made a motion to support LCV by donating $500
Seconded
Motion passed

Minimum meeting attendance 105

Winter Meeting Summary
By Mark Pfost, Past President

One hundred seventy two members attended this year’s Winter Meeting which began with a bang. The meeting’s theme, Sustainability of Sustainable Use, was addressed by Dr. Paul Robbins (Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies), Jon Greendeer (Ho-Chunk nation), and Keith Warnke (WI DNR). Robbins made the point that sustainable use is not sustainable without hunters, but hunters alone are not enough. The manner in which other segments of society pursue outdoor interests must also be recognized and expanded for sustainability to occur. Greendeer intertwined humor and his own experiences as a hunter as he related how wildlife fits into the Ho-Chunk’s world view. Most in the audience probably identified with his description of opening-
morning eve anticipation. Warnke works to recruit and retain new hunters. He has found that Millennials tend to be attracted more to quality self-harvested food for their families than to trophies. Bringing more of this demographic into the “fold” is doable, but it will take mentors and instructors to help these want-to-be-hunters learn. The message of each talk seemed to complement and strengthen the other two. Several members remarked to me that it was it was the best plenary that they had attended in some time. Thanks to our speakers.

During the banquet, two old codgers, “Ollie Anderson” and “Fred Felix” told tales about two other old codgers—DNR wildlife biologist John Olson and University of Wisconsin Stevens Point professor, Eric Anderson. Ollie and Fred swilled coffee served by waitress Mandy Kamps as they discussed “baked goods” and gossiped about Olson and Anderson. Funny thing that—I had never seen coffee with a foam head before.

After the old codgers left, Olson returned to present Anderson with this year’s Wisconsin Award, the highest award given by our organization, for Anderson’s contributions to our profession. Gary Zimmer, who retired last year from his position as the Ruffed Grouse Society’s regional biologist was presented the Don Rusch Memorial Award for his career devoted to wildlife management and support of hunting. Lucas Olson and Phillip Manlick were, respectively, the undergraduate and graduate recipients of the Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarship. Both are UW-Madison students with the Forest and Wildlife Ecology Department.

Thought provoking plenary speakers, professional and student presentations, hoot-and-holler entertainment, and deserving award recipients—I thought the 2016 Winter Meeting a rousing success.

**WCTWS Annual Winter Meeting Award Recipients**

**Wisconsin Award Recipient – Eric Anderson**

Eric Anderson, Professor of Wildlife at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, is the recipient of the Wisconsin Award for 2016. The Wisconsin Award is the chapter’s highest recognition of a person who exemplifies the wildlife profession in this state. Recipients are chosen on the basis of achievement or services to the wildlife profession.

In 25 years at UW-Stevens Point, Dr. Anderson has taught over 15,000 undergraduate and graduate students in more than twenty different courses; he
was academic advisor to 18 graduate students and served as a graduate committee member for another 35 students. He will retire in May 2016.

Colleagues who nominated Anderson noted that his contributions to the field include participation in state-wide wildlife advisory committees, research, and publication of numerous journal articles and book chapters. But, they wrote, “Eric’s true calling is as an educator of undergraduates. His enthusiasm is infectious.” He received UWSP’s Excellence in Teaching Award in 2002, the UW System Regents’ Teaching Excellence Award in 2004, and UWSP’s University Scholar Award in 2015.

**Don Rusch Memorial Award – Gary Zimmer**

Gary Zimmer is the recipient of the 2016 Don Rusch Memorial Award. This award recognizes significant contributions to wildlife conservation in the state of Wisconsin.

From 2000 until his retirement in 2015, Zimmer worked for the Ruffed Grouse Society, most recently as Coordinating Biologist responsible for supervising the society’s wildlife biologists nationwide. In the Western Great Lakes Region, he worked with landowners and formed partnerships with natural resource organizations, groups, and agencies to improve habitat for ruffed grouse, woodcock, and other species.

Before the Ruffed Grouse Society, he worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 18 years as a District Biologist on the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest. Prior to that he began his career working on waterfowl research for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Since retiring, Zimmer has remained active in the wildlife field, continuing to serve on the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board, to which he was appointed in 2013. He also serves as Assistant Executive Director of the Wisconsin County Forest Association, which represents management of 2.4 million acres of public forest in 29 counties.

**Aldo Leopold Scholarship Recipients**

**Graduate Scholarship Recipient – Philip Manlick**

The 2016 Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarship for a graduate student is Philip Manlick, who recently completed his Masters from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Wildlife Ecology, focusing on the mechanisms limiting the reintroduction of American martens to Wisconsin.
He is currently pursuing a PhD in the same program and has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout his graduate education. He is pioneering new research in the field of reintroduction biology. During his time as a graduate student, he has successfully led complex projects while forging essential collaborations between other universities, as well as state, federal, and tribal agencies.

He regularly interacts with graduate and undergraduate students and his passion is easily transmitted. He has extensive teaching experience, including teaching conservation biology and marine ecology to inner city students in urban south Florida, animal biology at Washington State and UW-Madison, and guest lectures on conservation genetics and carnivore conservation at UW-Madison.

Prior to his graduate research, he was a technician on studies of deer and elk behavior in Oregon, grizzly bear foraging at Washington State University, mountain lion spatial ecology in Washington, and grey wolf predation in Grand Teton National Park.

One of his graduate committee members wrote he “encompasses all the characteristics of a student poised to become a productive future scientist: independence, passion, fearlessness, and strong academic success.”

**Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient – Lucas Olson**

The 2016 Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarship for an undergraduate student is Lucas Olson, a senior in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The scholarship provides support and recognition for a student who is continuing their academic and professional training and, in so doing, honors the memory of Aldo Leopold.

In addition to maintaining a high grade-point average, Olson was recognized for extending his learning beyond the classroom. He conducted an undergraduate research project on the impact of snowmobiles on wildlife behavior, and is now leading another undergraduate project to quantify wildlife occupancy patterns in forest patches of Dane County.

He has been involved in a variety of other research projects, including his work as a Department of Wildlife Ecology lab technician. Olson is an active hunter, trapper, and angler, and is an involved member of several student organizations, including the UW-Madison student chapter of The Wildlife Society.

**Best Student Paper Awards**

Presentations recognizing the best student papers for undergraduate and graduate students were held on March 3 at the winter meeting. Please join us in congratulating the accomplishments of these students.

Best Graduate Student Paper - Emily Ielh – “Declining Lake Ice Predicted to Impact the Structure of Large Mammal Communities on Stockton Island In Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, USA.”

Student Leaders Breakfast – Winter Meeting

By Lisa Zoromski, Student Chapter Representative

During the Wisconsin Chapter TWS annual meeting, officers and advisors from the three Wisconsin student chapters (UW-Stevens Point, UW-Madison, & Northland College) as well as WCTWS board members gathered for a student leader’s breakfast.

Major topics at the breakfast included the WCTWS student representative position, the upcoming North Central Section student conclave, and suggestions to better enhance student chapters. Last year was the first year a student representative served on the WCTWS board. This position will rotate annually between the three Wisconsin student chapter presidents. Some benefits officers shared about this position were: easier communication between student chapters and the parent organization, better communication between student chapters, the feeling of more involvement and connection to WCTWS, and having a student rep. that can better address the student’s perspective on the board.

Another main topic was the upcoming North Central Section student conclave, which will be hosted by the UW-Stevens Point student chapter April 1st–3rd. There is a planned Wisconsin TWS student chapter leader’s meeting during conclave. This meeting was planned in the hope to better enhance communication between student chapters, discuss the student representative’s position, and discuss future collaboration activities. Last year, the UW-Stevens Point chapter hosted a leadership workshop inviting UW-Madison and Northland College. This event was very successful and helped the UWSP chapter better connect with Madison and Northland. During the breakfast, students addressed the benefits of this workshop and the desire to have more collaboration activities.

There were various other topics discussed between attendees. TWS research projects, contacting membership, membership involvement, and chapter activities, were a few topics. Overall, I believe the Leader’s breakfast went really
well and I enjoyed it. There were many suggestions brought up about the student representative's position that I plan on implementing to further enhance communication for this position.

---

**Issue Committee Updates**

**Farm Issues Committee**

Mark Witecha, the new Upland Wildlife Ecologist and Farm Bill Specialist with the Wisconsin DNR, has recently taken over as chair of the Farm Wildlife Committee. The committee has been relatively inactive in recent years, and has not included any members other than the chair. Witecha is looking to add new committee members with backgrounds in Farm Bill policy and programs, ag damage mitigation, private lands consulting, grazing, and other relevant fields. If you have relevant experience and would be interested in joining the Farm Wildlife Committee, please contact Mark Witecha at mark.witecha@wisconsin.gov. Members recently added at the winter meeting include:

- Erin Holmes, Pheasants Forever
- Mike Jones, APHIS Wildlife Services
- Greg Kidd, Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Julie Peterson, Pheasants Forever
- Ken Stromborg, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Retired

Submitted by Mark Witecha, Chair

**Forestry Issues Committee**

I represent the Wisconsin Chapter on DNR’s Silviculture Guidance Team. My goal is to make sure wildlife habitat is considered in all forest management decisions. In the last six months Silviculture Guidance Team work included various meetings and field tours. The Team spent a great deal of time reviewing and completing the new Economics Chapter for the Silviculture Handbook. The Team met at Lacrosse and toured bottomland hardwood management. The Team met at Green Bay where decisions were made to advance an ad hoc committee to review order of removal, crop tree, and maximum diameter management in northern hardwood stands. I attended the ad hoc Rotation Age Committee meeting at Stevens Point. This committee will review the rotation ages for red pine, aspen, and red oak. I attended the Wisconsin Council of Forestry meeting at Tomahawk where Senator Tiffany reviewed proposed forestry legislation and declared that “woods experience” is as good as professional forestry degrees in determining forest management decisions.

Wildlife habitat in forests is at risk because the legislature and the forest industry want to influence forest management decisions by reducing DNR influence; increasing forest industry influence; reducing professionalism and certification; and removing protections for wildlife habitat on state DNR lands and Managed Forest Lands.

Submitted by Ron Eckstein, Chair

**Furbearer Issues Committee**

Thanks for your support of including a Furbearer Committee into our state charter. In anticipation, have secured a number of interested chapter members to assist. A few key items of interest include:

**Technical Training Opportunity.** With the support of a National Conservation Need grant and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies we have the opportunity to host a Trapping Matters Workshop for Wisconsin. This training workshop provides participants with information on regulated trapping, humane trap research, key messages, communications skills and basic understanding of tools and techniques. This workshop could be a “stand alone” or connected to a compatible conference during the latter portion of 2016.

**Federal Legislation – National Wildlife Refuges.** Legislation introduced as an amendment to the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015 (S. 659 and S. 405 S. 1081), called the “Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act,” would essentially
eliminate regulated trapping on hundreds of federal wildlife refuges. In a letter from the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies president Robert Ziehmer of Kansas Fish and Game it was emphasized that: “State regulated trapping on refuges by recreational users is both compatible and sustainable with long-term conservation of wildlife species through science-based population management and monitoring.” With nationwide pressure directed at the Chairman and ranking members of the Committee on Environment and Public Works this amendment was withdrawn.

Wild Fur Certification. A recent effort in the certification of ranched fox in Scandinavian countries has directed similar attention toward wild fur in the United States. Our current efforts are to use several of today’s resource management practices, summarized in the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, as both an educational tool relative to how we manage sustainable populations, and as our resistance to additional layers of unnecessary regulations.

Submitted by John Olson, Chair
Presented during annual winter meeting, March 2-3, Stoney Creek Inn, Rothschild, WI

Government Affairs Issues Committee

AB 600/SB 459 and AB 582/SB 464
I attended two legislative hearings on February 3rd and 16th concerning (1) AB 600/SB 459 which would allow developers to build on lakebeds and get public land for free, and (2) AB 582/SB 464 which would ban counties from placing moratoriums on new development. This bill would also take away local government’s ability to create new zoning requirements to deal with new industries or projects if a company has simply “expressed interest” in locating there. It would provide financial incentives to develop land that is held in conservation easements or is deliberately underdeveloped. It would increase the tax burden on residential development. It would also allow developers to “shop” for the judge they want if there is a challenge to their development permit.

The hearings were extremely long. I filed a hearing slip opposing both (1) and (2) on behalf of WCTWS.

AB 874

ON Feb 16th I sent the following e-mail to Senator Fred Risser (District 26) and Assemblywoman Lesa Subeck (78th District), concerning AB 874, which would loosen restrictions on what can be done to a high-capacity well.

“The Wisconsin Chapter-The Wildlife Society (WCTWS) urges you both to vote no on Assembly Bill 874, which will be considered on Thursday, February 18th.

WCTWS is a group of 200 professional wildlife educators, managers, and researchers from the state, federal, private, and tribal sectors.

This bill would take the groundwater crisis in the Central Sands of Wisconsin – where over-pumping of groundwater is literally drying up lakes, trout streams, and drinking water wells – and makes it worse by locking the door on future fixes and throwing away the key.

Please vote NO on Thursday. Thank you for all your good work with the environment,

Sincerely,
Chuck Pils, The Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Updates on These Bills, from The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters:
Here’s how you affected change this session:
• VICTORY: Water privatization (a bill proposal that would allow out-of-state corporations to purchase public water utilities and make public water referendums on such purchases optional instead of mandatory) was taken off the Senate calendar, and Senate Majority Leader Fitzgerald has said the bill is dead for this session. Thanks to you, we were able to amplify the voices of Wisconsinites against this dangerous bill that would have sold off our water systems to the lowest bidder.
We’ll keep tabs on this, and make sure to let you know if he doesn’t hold to his word.

- **Polluter and Developer Grab Bags:** Although this so-called “property rights” package ((1) & (2) mentioned above) is still going to be signed into law, your hard work talking to legislators dramatically improved these bills. The biggest highlights from your work are that public lake beds will remain public and dredging lakes was completely removed.

- **Groundwater:** Although you sent countless messages to your decision makers, this Assembly voted with Big Ag and against the needs of their constituents. Not only did the legislature fail to pass a proactive bill, but Death by a Thousand Straws (AB 874) is still alive and will head to the Senate floor for a vote.

---

**Financial Status Report, 03/17/16**

Submitted by Carey Strobel, Secretary/Treasurer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership &amp; Winter Meeting</td>
<td>$16,401.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraiser (Silent auction &amp; calendars)</td>
<td>$902.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsors</td>
<td>$1,240.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>$49.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$18,592.10</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter Meeting</td>
<td>$12,568.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>$12.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraiser</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship</td>
<td>$2,015.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>$755.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Student conclave, winter meeting program)</td>
<td>$1,004.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,505.82</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Membership: 229
Winter Meeting Attendance: 172

---

**Student Chapter Corner**

**Northland College**  No report.

**University of Wisconsin-Madison**

By Lucas Olson, President

It has been an exciting and eventful year for our student chapter. In early December we hosted our annual game dinner fundraiser, which was a huge success. A few of the menu items included elk burgundy, venison stroganoff, bear chili, and smoked turkey. To all those who generously donated their time, auction items, and their precious game meat—we offer our sincerest thanks. The game dinner wouldn’t be possible without your support.

Throughout this winter our chapter has been training and participating in wolf snow-track surveying through the Wisconsin DNR. We also visited the Black River State Forest, helping the UW-Madison and the WDNR with some of their collaborative wolf research. Early in March our outreach coordinator and a few other members participated in Leopold Days at the Nelson Institute.
for Discovery. At this event children got to handle wildlife specimens and learn about some of the fascinating things wildlife has to offer.

April will be a very busy month. Ten of our members will be participating in North-Central Student Conclave April 1-3. The following weekend we will be hosting our first annual “Not-so-orthodox knowledge” workshop at the Swamplover’s Foundation in Cross Plains, WI. Tractors, manual transmissions, firearms, chainsaws, and backpacking are some of the skills we will be learning—skills imperative to a robust resume in the wildlife profession. Mid-April our chapter will be volunteering in Clam Lake to assist with the elk restoration project, including habitat improvement and acclimation pen construction. Prairie chicken viewing, highway cleanup, and tiger salamander nights are just a few events that will be dotted in the mix. Officer elections will be held in early April for the 2016-2017 school year. We have some very strong leaders moving up the ranks. We look forward to what’s in store!

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

By Anna Schneider, President

Busy busy busy! This has definitely been one of the most productive and involved years at the UWSP student chapter. Between conferences, ongoing student research projects, and planning for Conclave, our officers and members have dedicated more time and effort than usual in the name of TWS.

We were fortunate enough to send students to national, regional, AND state conferences this year. Over a dozen students attended the Midwest F&W Conference at the end of January and three poster presentations were given.

In addition, James Hansen and Anna Schneider were selected as finalists for the Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Scholarship.

At the WI State TWS meeting this year, 14 undergraduates attended and five oral presentations were given. Of those oral presentations, UWSP TWS member Rachel Konkle received the award for Best Undergraduate Presentation on Estimating the Time of Greater Prairie-Chicken Nest Failure. Seven students attended the Student Leader’s Breakfast on Thursday morning and there was plenty of quality discussion between bites of bacon.

Recently, two of our members, Sarah Johanson and Julia Watson, were featured on the cover of the 10th anniversary edition of The Wildlife Professional. The photo was tied with the article entitled “Faces of the Next Generation” and UWSP TWS advisor, Dr. Jason Riddle, and president, Anna Schneider, were interviewed and quoted for the piece.

Of course, the main event of the semester is the North Central Section Student Conclave 2016. This year, we will be hosting Conclave at Treehaven Education and Conference Center in Tomahawk, WI. Instead of hosting a separate Leadership Workshop like we did last year, we are incorporating the theme of “teamwork” into this year’s Conclave. Officers and members are working hard to put the finishing touches on the event. National TWS president Gary Potts will be our plenary speaker and a variety of other

**Intelligent Tinkering: Vol. 45, No. 1 (Winter-Spring 2016)**
wildlife professionals from around the state will be volunteering their time to speak, as well. There will be plenty of hands-on experience for students including small mammal trapping, telemetry, and Wildlife Olympics, as well as plenty of other fun activities such as a quiz bowl competition, a photography contest, and tie-dying their Conclave T-shirts.

The annual Game Feed is scheduled for May 10th and will be in collaboration with the UWSP student chapter of the American Fisheries Society. As can be expected with this combination, the theme will be Surf and Turf. What a great way to end the semester!

ON THE DOCKET
STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
By Scott Loomans

The legislative session ended following the Senate’s last day of voting in March. Bills that did not pass are now considered dead and the issues cannot be brought up again unless a legislator reintroduces it in the next session beginning in January, 2017. Some bills that did not pass include; hunting mentorship law revisions (AB 411), creating a trapping mentorship program (AB 448), allowing the use of pole traps (AB 631), consistent resident and non-resident raccoon season dates (AB 526), allowing unattended duck decoys on private waters (SB 147), prohibitions on possession of certain dangerous animals (SB 241). A proposal to relax permitting requirements for certain high capacity wells passed in each house but they are different versions so that idea is likely dead as well.

Some bills that were passed into law include; adding turkeys to the venison donation program (AB 107), wolf hunting/trapping start date of first Saturday in November (AB 700), allowing the sales of certain non-migratory game birds (SB 435), allowing use of various types of lights for hunting at night at-the-point-of-kill-only (SB 605), eliminate deer and bear back tags (SB 289), authorize a mentor to dispatch an animal wounded by a mentee (AB 527), allowing blaze pink during firearm deer seasons (AB 291), prohibition of group bagging using junior antlerless tags (AB 243, also a great caliber for young hunters which I kept forgetting to point out at cmte. hearings) and establishing the new statewide licensing system (AB 434).

Legislators will be focused mostly on elections for the rest of the year although Capitol offices will still be open for constituent work. State agencies will be preparing requests for the next executive budget this summer. It will all start over again in January, typically with budget work during the winter and spring seasons.

North Central Section Report, March 2016
Submitted by David E. Anderson, Northcentral Section Representative to TWS Council

The Wildlife Society (TWS) Council met in conjunction with the 2016 North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 14-15 March 2016. There were a number of items considered at this meeting that are of interest to North Central Section members, and I would like to provide a few highlights. First, TWS’ financial position continues to improve, with a net operating surplus the last three fiscal years and a projected surplus for the current fiscal year. Without doubt, TWS’ finances are moving in the right direction, and we are rebuilding a critical reserve fund that had dwindled. Second, the recent decline in membership at the national level appears to have ended, no doubt in part due to a more attractive value proposition for members and more effective engagement throughout all levels of TWS. Third, the 2015 Annual Conference in Winnipeg, Canada turned out to be a resounding success, and plans are underway to continue that success at upcoming meetings in Raleigh, North Carolina (2016) and Albuquerque, New Mexico (2017). Preliminary discussions are also in the works for a joint annual conference with the American Fisheries Society and an International Wildlife Management Congress in Chile.
TWS continues to make progress toward current TWS President, Gary Potts’ (Illinois) goal of expanding the wildlife partnership, and at the parent-society level, TWS continues to build on its partnerships with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and TWS sections, state chapters, and student chapters, among others. Our scientific journals continue to provide current and relevant science, and 2 (the *Journal of Wildlife Management* and the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*) of the 3 TWS journals recently transitioned to new Editors-in-Chief; that transition and associated revisions to procedures for managing manuscripts has proceeded smoothly. At the parent-society level, TWS has streamlined its electronic communication with members via a recently redesigned website, the eWildlifer, and conservation action alerts. Many subunit websites, including those of the North Central Section ([http://wildlife.org/ncs/](http://wildlife.org/ncs/)) and several state chapters (Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin) therein, have transitioned to being hosted through wildlife.org. Some additional details about activities at the parent-society level of TWS include:

*TWS publications:* The scientific publication landscape has changed dramatically over the past few years, and continues to change at a rapid pace. The Wildlife Society currently supports 1 online journal (*the Wildlife Society Bulletin*) and 2 print and online journals (*the Journal of Wildlife Management* and *Wildlife Monographs*). TWS Council is working with our publisher, Wiley, to make our content more available to TWS members and the science and management community more broadly—stay tuned for more information on that front. The Publications subcommittee of TWS Council is also working with Wiley and others to help authors comply with open access and open data requirements, some of which have recently been mandated by the U.S. Government. How this will all be managed is not yet entirely clear, but these mandates are another component of the changing publication landscape. Finally, *The Wildlife Professional* will be produced 6 times a year starting this year, up from the previous 4. *The Wildlife Professional* has been highly valued by TWS members—take a look if you haven’t seen an issue recently.

*TWS policy news and position statements:* Over the last several years, a subcommittee of TWS Council has made considerable progress on revising TWS position statements. The subcommittee recommended revising how position statements are currently structured into (1) standing position statements that broadly address topics core to TWS and that require little revision through time, (2) position statements that address specific, important areas of ongoing interest, and (3) fact sheets that provide summaries of science related to specific topics. In my last update, I optimistically opined that this effort would be completed by March 2016. However, this effort remains ongoing and until it is completed, position statements and other policy documents that haven’t been incorporated into the new structure have been reauthorized and remain in effect and available as resources for sections and chapters.

Overall, the discussions and information conveyed at the Council meeting in Pittsburgh this March were quite positive. TWS continues on a positive financial track and has made progress toward rebuilding our Permanent Reserve Fund to provide a cushion of a half year’s operating budget as a hedge against unforeseen financial demands. Through the Conservation Affairs Network, TWS is working to more fully integrate across all levels of our organization and more effectively advocate for science-based management and support wildlife professionals. Overall, TWS is making progress on a variety of important fronts, and I hope that you will continue to be engaged in our professional society. As a mild winter in the North Central Section turns to spring, and with all that means for wildlife (calling amphibians, gobbling wild turkeys and dancing sharp-tailed grouse, migrating birds, unfrozen lakes, spring burns, and all of the other seasonal changes upon us), I hope that you will take a moment to reflect on the professional society you are a part of and reach out to a colleague or other acquaintance who would also appreciate The Wildlife Society, and encourage them to become involved and invested.
Truisms - Contributed by Tom Bahti

Shamelessly borrowed, stolen and plagiarized from other sources

Sometimes life just sucks and all we can do is go to our happy place where we plot our revenge.

Some people say sarcasm isn't necessary. To me, that's like saying we really don't need oxygen.

If it walks like a duck and talks like a duck, you're drunk. Ducks don't talk.

The universe is made of protons, neutrons, electrons and morons.

I hate days when I have to go places and do things.

Sometimes there's not a better way. Sometimes there's only the hard way.

Talk is cheap...until you hire an attorney.

The difference between stupidity and intelligence is intelligence has it's limitations.

Memo to whoever has been sending in the clowns: You can stop now.

WCTWS Executive Board
Jason Riddle, President
Jason.Riddle@uwsp.edu
Derek Johnson, President-Elect
Derek.Johnson@wi.gov
Mark Pfost, Past President
Mark_pfost@fws.gov
Carey Strobel, Sec/Treasurer
WCTWS.secretary@gmail.com
Scott Hygnstrom, Board Member
Scott.Hygnstrom@uwsp.edu
Amanda Kamps, Board Member
Mandy_kamps@hotmail.com
Lesa Kardash, Newsletter Editor
skuldt@uwalumni.com
Lisa Zoromski, Student Rep.
Lzoro502@uwsp.edu

WCTWS Issue Committees
Climate Change
Vacant

Deer
Keith McCaffery
Keith.McCaffery@wisconsin.gov

Farm Wildlife
Mark Witecha
markjwitecha@yahoo.com
Forestry
Ron Eckstein
bentleydog@charter.net

Government Affairs
Chuck Pils, cmpils@sbcglobal.net

Wildlife Damage
Daniel Hirchert
Daniel.L.Hirchert@aphis.usda.gov
Wolves
Randy Jurewicz, jurewrb@yahoo.com

Webmaster
Jamie Nack
jlnack@wisc.edu

Facebook Administrators
Carey Strobel
Lesa Kardash

Website: http://wildlife.org/wisconsin

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wisconsin-Chapter-of-The-Wildlife-Society/963763133656811

INTELLIGENT TINKERING: Vol. 43, No. 1 (Winter-Spring 2016)