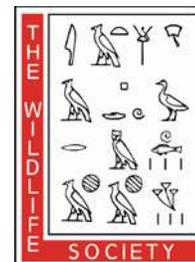




INTELLIGENT TINKERING

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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Mark Your Calendars!

78th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference *January 28-31, 2018 Milwaukee, WI*

The 78th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference is coming to Wisconsin in 2018! The theme is “Strengthening Natural Resources through Collaboration.”

The Steering Committee is already meeting and will soon be making committee assignments. Volunteers will be needed so be on the lookout for a call for volunteers in future newsletters or email blasts.



Members – We Need Your Help

The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters has promoted sound natural resources and conservation measures to protect and conserve those resources. To continue to support them and to promote the values of the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society, we are planning to work with the WLCV to add a new section of information to their website titled “Your Wildlife.” This is similar to other topics that they advocate for. To help see this effort through, we are asking for volunteers from the WCTWS membership to help detail out the content structure and the content itself. If you are interested in helping with this important project, please contact Derek Johnson at 715-223-5310 to get on the list. Thank you for your help supporting those who help advocate for us.

INTELLIGENT TINKERING

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General Mail: WI Chapter TWS,
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*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*



President's Soapbox

By Derek Johnson

Dear Wildlifers,

It seems like the summer of 2017 is coming on fast. The winter conference has adjourned, most of the snow has melted and the ratio of green and brown is shift more and more to the prior.

This also means that field work season is upon many of our horizons. Whether it is prescribed burning, research projects or breeding surveys, I hope your field seasons go smoothly. Since we call this column a soapbox, I'd like to plug a program from my soapbox. The Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas is now in the third data collection season for the second edition. The Atlas is an important tool for researchers, managers, birding enthusiasts and many others who are interested in Wisconsin's avian fauna. I'd like to challenge each WCTWS member to contribute in some way to the Atlas. This can be as easy as reporting any breeding behavior in the Atlas eBird portal or, better yet, sign up to survey a priority block in an area near you. Without the help of volunteers the Atlas would not be as great of a resource as it is. Keep up the great work!

I'll give a more thorough recap of the winter conference later on in this newsletter, but I'd like to put the 2018 meeting on everyone's radar. Please join us as the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society helps others to host the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, between January 28 and 31, in Milwaukee, WI.

Until next time I hope you have a budding spring!

All Hands on Deck, Lest Ye Be Sailing the Flying Dutchman

Submitted by Jason Riddle, Past President

I'd like to thank all of the folks who put their names up for nomination for board positions. Many of you may have noticed that we did not have a candidate for President-elect on the initial ballot. Thankfully, Jeremy Holtz came forward and saved us from a by-laws crisis.

I'm so thankful for these volunteers and I understand that many might be hesitant to volunteer. I would be lying if I said that being on the state chapter board isn't work. It is. Sometimes, it is a lot of work. However, it has never been work that any single board member has to bear alone. This sense of community and teamwork has been one of the most satisfying aspects of being a board member. In addition, the potential to have a positive impact on our membership is another wonderful outcome of being on the board that will probably lead to putting my name in the hat again one day.



Our winter meeting was wonderful. We pulled off the first joint meeting with AFS in a while, honored our award-winning colleagues and students, made important accomplishments in many issues committees, took critical first steps towards the 2018 Midwest, processed the initial findings of our Strategic Planning Committee, and made decisions on specific financial options from the Investments Committee at the business meeting.

Our chapter is a wonderful vessel and it can take us wherever we decide to go. The Strategic Planning Committee is helping with the navigation efforts. The distance we can travel and the luxuries enjoyed along the way hopefully will be increased from the collective efforts of the Investments Committee, board, and general membership input. Our issues committees can inform us on how to

successfully engage the biological and cultural battles ahead. That said, a ship with maps, fuel, battle plans, and passengers will never make port without a crew in the bridge. We are very fortunate that new crew members have volunteered to serve in the bridge for the next leg of our journey.

Please take some time now to start considering your willingness to serve in this capacity next year.

Truisms - Contributed by Tom Bahti

Shamelessly borrowed, stolen and plagiarized from other sources

I'm pretty busy today, so if you could just go ahead and offend yourself for me that would be great. Thanks.

I cannot be held responsible for what my face does when politicians speak.

I'm bettering myself by lowering your expectations.

Here's to Pennsylvania and a groundhog on attempting to predict our level of future misery.

Duct tape: lip gloss for whiners.

If you see your glass as half empty, pour it into a smaller glass and stop complaining.

Parenting is not a democracy.

Success and performance should not be a choice...it should be an expectation.

My New Years resolution is simply to remember to write 2017 instead of 2016.

Annual Financial Report for 2016

Submitted by Carey Strobel, Past Secretary/Treasurer

Income

Membership, Registration, Sponsorships	\$18,301.00
Technical Training	\$255.00
Fundraiser	\$752.00
Total	\$19,308.00

Expenses

Awards and Grants	\$1,755.73
Administrative	\$ 80.26
Scholarships	\$1,015.26
WI League of Conservation Voters	\$ 500.00
Winter Meeting 2016	\$12,568.32
Student Conclave Donation	\$ 350.00
Programs for Joint Meeting	\$ 654.25
Total	\$16,923.82

<u>Account</u>	<u>1/1/16 Amount</u>	<u>1/1/17 Amount</u>
CHECKING	\$3,931.65	\$5,339.83
SAVINGS 1	\$15,957.90	\$15,973.97
SAVINGS 2	20,974.02	\$22,955.69
CD1 (closed 2/28/16)	\$1,958.08	\$0
CD2 (Bjerke) (matures 9/24/16)	\$64,070.36	\$64,327.87
CUNA Brokerage	\$18,031.77	\$19,442.23
Saving/Investment Total	\$120,992.13	\$122,699.76
Total Balance	\$124,923.78	\$128,039.59

Membership: 158 as of February 27, 2017

WCTWS Executive Board Conference Call

February 3, 2017 10:30am-12:15pm

By Carey Strobel, Past Secretary/Treasurer

Present: Mark Pfost, Jason Riddle, Derek Johnson, Mandy Kamps, Lisa Zoromski, Lesa Kardash, Scott Hyngstrom, Carey Strobel

1. Plenary speaker (Riddle is lead)
 - a. Both speakers have agreed to present, just need a bio and photo for the program
 - b. Registration waiver
 - a. Agree to place the plenary speakers in the free rooms and waive registration
2. Abstracts (Derek is lead)
 - a. How many now?
 - a. Total of 45 abstracts.
Discussion on length of presentations. At 20 minutes we could only have 36 presentations or we could do 15 minutes, and fit 48 abstracts. Agree to do a mix of 15 and 20 minute presentations. All students get 15 minutes, some mix of 15-20 for professional talks. Need to ensure that breakout sessions mirror each other. 10 minutes for Derek to talk and wrap things up at the end.
 - b. How are they looking?
13 Grad Student, 8 Undergrads, and 1 high school group = 23 Student talks and 23 Professional
Just to organize them into time slots for the program. Discussion on how to save space on the program, we are looking at a 100-page program. 10 pages needed for just the timetable.
 - c. Posters? 5 poster abstracts. Not enough to justify having a poster session.
3. Program development and printing (Derek and I are taking this on)
4. Registration: status, numbers (hotel vs. attendees)? (Carey is lead)

238 total

109 WCTWS - \$9550 in registration fees

3 sponsorships received - \$850

Allow late registration fee through mail. AFS is increasing the amount of registration \$20 after February 15th

5. Fundraising (Mandy is lead, Scott has had input, and Lisa can address part c

Required to pay for 8 tables, only 2 in use. Discussion on sponsor tables and use. Haven't signed the contract for exhibitor tables so we might be able to renegotiate those table numbers to 4.

Sponsors/vendors.

Two exhibitors with the possibility of Whitetails Unlimited and Midwest Fish & Wildlife 2018. WDNR would have to provide funds for that, as Midwest Fish & Wildlife Association will not. A little over \$1200 not including St. Croix rods.

1. WI Audubon Council – sponsor
2. WI Trappers Association
3. WSO – yes exhibitor
4. Wisconsin Audubon Council - yes
5. Tomohawk Livetrapping - sponsor
6. Whitetails Unlimited?
7. Pheasents Forever?
8. DU?
9. Midwest Fish and Wildlife 2018?

Student efforts. How many chapters are bringing items?

Unsure of how many chapters will be bringing items

6. Banquet (Jason will coordinate)
Order of events?
AFS and TWS giving out one award each toward the end of the meal.
7. Other considerations (various leaders – see below)

- a. Moderators? Need 6 Moderators, ask Lesa about sending out an email
 - b. Laptops and AV. Derek has 1 projector and a laptop. Lesa can bring 1 projector and a laptop. Scott has 1 projector (back up) and a screen. Mark has one screen, unsure of dimensions. Could use another backup laptop. Mark is bringing a laptop for just judging. Jason can bring his laptop as backup, has an older version of PP. Could maybe use one more screen. Have 2 podiums from the hotel. Could need microphones, especially for the business meeting. Discussion on a third screen. WDNR have any?
 - d. Judging for best undergrad and grad (Mark is lead)
Need assistance getting judges for student talks. Need to ensure that each speaker that has equal number of judges. Have judging sheets printed off ahead of time.
 - e. Event set-up (Scott is lead)
We might have \$22,000 total for the meeting registration. We need around \$32,000 for the venue, so about \$10,000 short. We need professionals there to make up for those costs. Any local professionals to encourage attendance.
9. Business meeting
- a. Agenda items (Jason did not follow up from before...oops.)
The report from committees should include plans for the upcoming year.
Ask everyone to provide a half page summary and place it on the website, and a handout at the meeting.
10. Other Chapter business
- a. Officer candidates—status and discussion
Three people running for 1 board position. 0 for President Elect and 1 for Treasurer. We don't want to enable people to not step up. Lesa's thought is send it out as is, without a President Elect. Discussion on what to do with President Elect position. Send out as is, hope someone steps up, and then send out a ballot with just Pres Elect. If no one does, then we discuss it at the Business meeting.
 - b. Finance/Investment

- c. Offer membership choices with fixed numbers, high risk option (more in stocks), medium risk, low risk option (more in CDS or bonds)
- i. Discussion on conducting an annual auditing meeting.
- ii. Vanguard offers having 2 people on the account, 1 should be the Secretary/treasurer and the other should be some stable person.

11. Winter IT New Letter (Lesa is Lead) Will be out of state will be done with it around February 13th.

Winter Business Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2017 - Milwaukee, WI

By Carey Strobel, Past Secretary/Treasurer

Call to Order 1300 – Jason Riddle

Financial Report –Carey Strobel

- CD #1 has been closed and deposited into savings
- CUNA brokerage account will be closed and deposited into savings
 - We hope to consolidate our 2 savings accounts and perhaps put into different investment vehicle

Old Business

Strategic Planning Survey

- Survey sent out to membership prior to the meeting
- Brad Strobel presented the results
 - Bulk of survey respondents were either DNR or retired professionals

- In question 3 of the survey respondents were asked to rank chapter objectives identified in the bylaws. Top objectives according to the survey: 1. Develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and environments upon which wildlife and humans depend; 2. Seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.
- Question 4 of the survey asked respondents how we are doing on each objective. According to survey results, we are doing ok on objective #1 above, and we are frequently meeting objective #2 above
- Discussion on survey results
 - Ron Eckstein was surprised at the results because despite indicating through the survey that we are meeting our objective of developing and promoting the profession, our partners in the forest and agriculture industry are largely unaware of what WCTWS is
 - Chuck Pils stated he was glad to see advocacy ranked so highly as a priority in the survey
 - John Kubisiak stated that it continues to be tough for current DNR employees to participate in advocacy due to complicated issues involving conflicts of interest and fast moving politics
 - Chuck Pils – Intelligent Tinkering (IT) is a very good newsletter, perhaps we could increase circulation to include partners in agriculture and forestry
 - Mark Pfof indicated that WCTWS is supporting League of Conservation Voters financially but we could also provide them updates by including them in IT distribution
 - John Kubisiak stated that forestry, fisheries, and wildlife should present a uniform front.
 - Comment that we need to be cautious so as not to appear political but science based
 - Adrian Wydeven reported on activities being conducted by a group of retired DNR employees and others, collectively referring to themselves as the “Green Fire Group.” This

group can keep up on political topics and is looking for more retired members to increase their political advocacy.

- Tim VanDeelen recommended that we work with League of Conservation Voters to create a page on their website called “Your Wildlife,” to include current wildlife issues that WCTWS collects and contributes
- John Olson commented that in a recent meeting with other retirees they agreed that a group needs a spokesperson/storyteller. WCTWS needs a more permanent spokesperson than a board member
- Comment to maintain our independence as WCTWS and not get lost by aligning with other groups
- Comment to maintain a strong nonpartisan organization

Fundraising and Finance Committee

- Little flexibility outside of the Bjerke fund
 - \$60,000 of CD#2 is the Bjerke corpus
 - Presented table with various investment options for Bjerke
 - Invest \$30,000 in one of 2 higher risk options (Vanguard 500 Index Fund or Vanguard Social Index Fund), invest the other \$30,000 in one of 2 lower risk options (Vanguard Long-term Bond Fund, GNMA)
- Discussion about investment options
 - David Drake asked what are our spending objectives? Why do we want to increase the fund? Suggested that with a new administration and uncertainty in the stock market, we should invest in the fund with the least risk and wait to see what happens – no need to take the risk when we don’t have a spending plan
 - Mark Pfof – at past meetings there was a push from membership to seek out investment options and leave commitment to long term investments even with high risks
 - Brad Strobel asked how are we protecting the corpus of Bjerke?
 - Jason Riddle – corpus can be invested but not spent outright according to bylaws interpretation

- Scott Hynstrom indicated that half of our funds are safe, the remaining could be invested with different options to diversify portfolio; Scott also indicated that many other organizations project their next year's budget and we should consider doing the same
- Comment that we need to determine our goals in order to determine appropriate investment risk
- Comment that a non-profit can't exceed \$25,000 in income
- Comment that survey results indicated public outreach was important yet maintaining a social media presence was not – how do we educate the public? We will need funding
- Mark Pfost – we are repeating previous discussions and have entertained circular discussions
- Suggestion to do a straw poll to see how members feel about investment options
 - Proposal was to invest 50% of Bjerke in Vanguard Socially Responsible Index Fund, 50% in other low risk fund, and reevaluate in September when Bjerke matures in case something happens in the stock market
 - 52 in favor, 6 opposed

North Central Section Update

- Active in issues with insecticides – reached out to state chapters to request comments on banning some insecticides on state lands
- Section also received unsolicited advice about recent national level partnership with Bayer Bee
- Section financially supported our meeting with \$100
- Section discussed how they should handle financial asks – opportunities for WCTWS to tag team with the Section
- Discussion to change how student reps at the Sectional level are handled – ultimately the decision was made to keep the status quo
 - Graduate student position currently vacant

New Business

- Election Results
 - Secretary/Treasurer: Kelly VanBeek
 - Board Member: Bob Holsman
 - President-Elect: Jeremy Holtz
- Derek reminded attendees that presentations needed to be uploaded prior to the afternoon technical sessions
- Lisa Z provided current student rep report – student rep for WCTWS goes to UW Madison. Lisa also provided an update on the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and Gary Potts's, outgoing national president, award at the conference
- Student Chapter Reports
 - Northland
 - Received 2 trail cameras – looking for species present and abundance in relation to vegetation
 - Participated in safe capture workshop at UWSP
 - Field trip to Apostle Islands
 - University of Wisconsin –Stevens Point
 - Received North Central Section and National Student Chapter of the Year
 - University of Wisconsin – Madison
 - Attended trapper management workshop
 - Conducted socials with other departments including forestry
 - Participated in hands on telemetry with David Drake tracking urban canids
 - Volunteered at International Crane Foundation
 - Conducted frog and toad surveys with DNR
- Farm Wildlife Committee Report – Mark Witecha
 - Building members, now over 5
 - Hope to provide comments on neonicotinoid issues on state properties and the upcoming Farm Bill
- Trapping Committee Report – John Olson
 - European Union was entertaining a proposal that would have drastically changed the trapping market. USA and Canada reaction put a halt for now on the proposal.
 - Green fur certification being pursued in some states

- Will continue to work with Ron about trapping issues
- Public Comment Committee
 - Should contain 5 members but board doesn't have a roster: President Elect, President, Past President, and 2 members appointed by the board
 - Derek will be looking to appoint members
- Awards Committee
 - Kris Johansen (Chair)
 - James Evrard
 - Jim Ruwaldt
 - Robert Lonsinger
- Leopold Committee
 - Lesa Kardash/Chair
 - Tim VanDeelen
 - Randy Jurewicz
 - Gary Zimmer
 - Pat Kaiser
- Presentation of Aldo Leopold Scholarships
 - Undergraduate – Lisa Zoromski, UWSP
 - Graduate – Genelle Uhrig, UW Milwaukee
- For more committees updates, see page 13.

1500 Adjourn

Joint Winter Meeting Recap

By Derek Johnson, President

It seems like it was only a few days ago I was applauding presenters, reveling in spirited competition and listening to stories from afield. What does that sound like? You're right it was only a handful of weeks ago since the annual conference of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society (WCTWS). This year, as many of you know, was jointly held with the Wisconsin chapter of the American Fisheries Society (WIAFS) at the Hilton City Center in Milwaukee. I, along with the WCTWS Board and the WIAFS Board, felt that the conference was a success and we look forward to the scaled up version in January of 2018. With almost 400 total attendees there was no shortage of interdisciplinary comradery.

To begin the festivities, a social and a WIAFS poster session was enjoyed by many. This was also the night that WIAFS hosted the "Name that Roadkill" competition.

Unfortunately the WIAFS was able to 'weasel' their way to victory; I think we can give them a pass since I'm sure we would need one if we had to identify mangled members of the Cyprinidae (minnow) family.



Once Wednesday rolled around a plenary session in the morning gave both chapters a peek at the work each discipline is engaged in. Most of the remaining day was filled with many breakout session presentations from students and professionals on various topics. Lunch was an opportunity for

students to get to know a wildlife professional during the student-mentor luncheon. Over 25 students participated with more than a dozen mentors. The early afternoon was when the WCTWS held the annual business meeting. The various topics and discussion during the meeting will be covered in the meeting minutes in this newsletter. I would like to thank everyone who attended the business meeting. It is crucial that the membership be engaged in chapter operations. One major note is the election results, which I'd like to congratulate once again Jeremy Holtz, Kelly VanBeek, Bob Holsman and Kristina Kennedy on their new Executive Board positions. A final highlight of the business meeting was the presentation of the Graduate and Undergraduate Aldo Leopold student scholarships to Genelle Uhrig and Lisa Zoromski, respectively.

A wonderful meal followed with the presentation of the Wisconsin Award to Tom Hauge (Wisconsin DNR) and a Special Service Recognition Award to Lesa Kardash. Both award recipients have shown great dedication to the wildlife profession and the WCTWS. Following the awards a raffle filled with many great prizes was held along with the completion of another successful silent auction.

Bright and early on Thursday was the Student Leadership Breakfast. This annual get-together for the leaders of the Student Chapters and the Executive Board is a great opportunity for each to get to know one another and share ideas for the upcoming year. The Executive Board is thankful for the active Student Chapters and look forward to working with them for many years to come. Later Thursday morning was a great opportunity to hear some more student and professional presentations. The general session right before noon was our chance to wrap up with the student presenter awards. The judges chose Rachel Konkle as the undergraduate presenter of the year for her presentation titled, "Determining the Temporal Ecology and Predation of Greater Prairie-Chicken Nests." The graduate presenter of the year was awarded to Emily Iehl for her talk on, "Modeling retention rates of Learn to Hunt participants in Wisconsin."

Overall the 2017 winter conference of the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society was a great success and we want to thank the almost 200 WCTWS attendees. We'd also like to thank the 11 graduate presenters, 10 undergraduate

presenters, the Class ACT High School presenters and the 27 professional presenters that made this conference an educational experience. Finally, we'd like to thank all of those who helped plan for and work during the conference. We'll see you at the same place in 2018!

2016 Wisconsin Award Recipient Tom Hauge

By Kris Johansen, Awards Committee Chair

Thomas Hauge was recognized as the 2016 Wisconsin Award recipient at the annual WCTWS awards banquet on March 1, 2017. Tom had a long and distinguished career in Wisconsin, working for the state of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for 37 years. Most notably, Tom served as the Bureau of Wildlife Management Program Director from 1992 until his retirement in 2016. Throughout his career he worked tirelessly for the citizens of WI, the wildlife management staff he worked with and the wildlife resources of Wisconsin.

Tom's long tenure is a testimony to his quiet and steady leadership, and is especially remarkable given that the position of modern DNR



wildlife bureau director may be the most complex and politically fraught of any wildlife professional in Wisconsin. During that tenure, Tom worked for 5 DNR administrations, serving 4 Wisconsin Governors, 12 two-year Legislatures and nearly 40 Natural Resource Board members.

In these efforts, Tom was very dedicated to working together with very diverse constituency groups and a plethora of agencies and NGO's, including the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, County Forest Association, NRCS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services....just to name a few. During Tom's tenure, there were many notable accomplishments, including:

- Development of our modern wildlife damage program and encouraging USDA Wildlife Services to locate offices in Wisconsin to assist with bear and goose damage.
- Adapted the North American Bird Conservation Initiative model to our state as the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI) and support for the Bird City initiative.
- Expanded DNR wildlife health program from a single veterinarian to a full section, including a section chief, veterinarian, vet tech, toxicologist, CWD lab manager and CWD biologist to meet growing wildlife disease challenges, including West Nile virus, avian influenza, chronic wasting disease, epizootic hemorrhagic disease, and bovine tuberculosis.
- Initiated 20 new state wildlife areas and acquired 70,000 acres for wildlife habitat and public recreation.
- Expanded the representation of women and minorities in the professional ranks of DNR wildlife administrators, biologists and technicians.
- Reintroduced elk to Clam Lake and Black River Falls in partnership with RMEF

2016 Aldo Leopold Scholarships

Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient – Lisa Zoromski

Lisa is a senior in Wildlife Ecology with a minor in Biology at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Within the student chapter, she has volunteered for 8 different annual student chapter projects, resurrecting and co-leading one of them. She has also climbed the ranks, serving three officer positions (Treasurer, Vice President, and currently as President). Within our state chapter, she served as the 2016 Student Representative on the Executive Board Committee. Additionally, she was elected to serve as one of two Student Representatives on the North Central Section Board of The Wildlife Society. Despite these involvements, Lisa still found time to Chair the Planning Committee for the 2016 NCS Student Conclave and co-host trapping matters and conflict resolution workshops on campus. She and 14 other students also attended the National TWS conference in Raleigh, NC in 2016 and were presented with the Student Chapter of the Year award. In March, she received the NCS Outstanding Student Award at the Midwest Fish & Wildlife conference.



Lisa Zoromski (left) accepting the scholarship.

Lisa has been a leader of the Lagomorph Project for 3 years and is directing a project studying parasites of free-ranging cottontail rabbits through fecal flotation. Additionally, she developed her own research project with TNC to evaluate parasite loads of free-ranging bison in South Dakota and presented her results at both an undergraduate symposium and the 2016 National TWS conference.

Graduate Scholarship Recipient – Genelle Uhrig

Genelle is currently working on her Masters in Biological Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee within the Molecular Ecology lab on snowshoe hare demographics.

Genelle obtained her B.S. degree in Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University. While at MSU, she was an active member of the Fisheries and Wildlife Club, serving as Chair of the Wildlife Research Committee for 3 years. As Chair, she led the small mammal trapping effort and coordinated mist-netting and small trapping workshops. She holds memberships with The Wildlife Society at the Michigan and National level. As an undergraduate, she was selected to attend the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow, a program focused on increasing hunting awareness.

During her senior year, she worked on a collaborative project with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and MSU to differentiate between individual snowshoe hare through the genetic analysis of DNA extracted from fecal pellets, for use in demographic studies. In the Molecular Ecology Lab, she developed an extraction protocol and genotypes samples using microsatellite markers. Her work cumulated in a poster at both the 2015 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and the 2015 Michigan Chapter of TWS annual meeting.

Upon graduating, she continued working in the Molecular Ecology lab, collecting DNA samples and conducting genetic analyses on several fish and vertebrate species. She also worked for the Michigan DNR as a summer

technician capturing ducks for banding and disease testing, as well as working at a deer check station to assist with CWD sampling.

Her findings as an undergraduate helped guide the development of her Masters project at UW-Milwaukee, where her research aims to use non-invasive genetic methods to estimate abundance and density of snowshoe hare populations in Michigan's UP. Her research will assist in understanding an important prey species that is being impacted by climate change across its southern range.



Genelle Uhrig (right) accepting the scholarship.

Special Service Recognition Award

Over the past decade, the ever changing Executive Board in the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society has had one constant, Lesa Kardash. Not only has Lesa been the Editor of the newsletter and the voice to the membership through emails, but she's been a bridge of knowledge between the revolving membership on the Board. The current Executive Board, along with members of past Boards, wanted to recognize Lesa's contributions with a Special Service Recognition Award at this year's annual conference. Here are the words shared with Lesa from the 2016-2017 Executive Board:

“Lesa's largest impacts on our field may be in the ways that she serves other wildlife professionals. Her commitment to our State Chapter is second to none. She works tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our members informed and up to date on State Chapter news. She single handedly calls for, collects, compiles, and completes the Intelligent Tinkering, the WCTWS quarterly newsletter. She is the backbone of the Executive Board, and been for many WCTWS administrations. She is invaluable as a source of institutional knowledge and guidance about the direction of our State Chapter. Our Executive Board couldn't function without her, and we wouldn't want to do so. Despite her essential role in the life of our Chapter, she never calls attention to herself and never attempts to quiet the voice of less experienced Board or Chapter members. She is a true servant-leader.”

Let's congratulate Lesa on her accomplishments and commitment to the WCTWS. Thank you for all you do Lesa!



Best Student Paper Awards

Presentations recognizing the best student papers awards were held on March 1 during the chapter business meeting at the Joint winter meeting. The judges selected Rachel Konkle (pictured below) as the undergraduate presenter for her presentation titled, “Determining the Temporal Ecology and Predation of Greater Prairie-Chicken Nests.”

The graduate presenter was awarded to Emily Iehl (not pictured) for her presentation titled, “Modeling retention rates of Learn to Hunt participants in Wisconsin.”

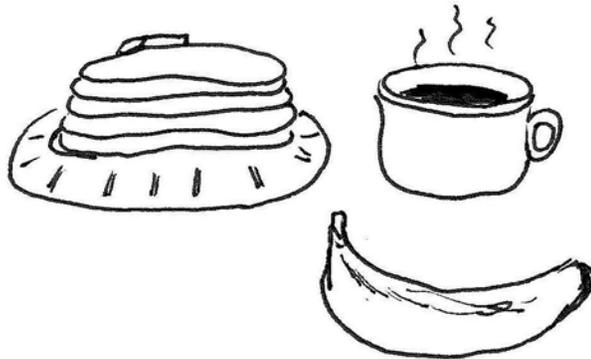


UWSP Student Rachel Konkle and UWSP Professor Dr. Jason Riddle

Student Leader's Breakfast

By Lisa Zoromski, Past Student Representative

During the state meeting, the Wisconsin Chapter TWS Executive Board held a student leader's breakfast held for each of the three student chapters (UW-Stevens Point, UW-Madison, and Northland College). This was a great opportunity for students to help build connections between other student chapters and the board. Some of the topics discussed between chapters included: membership recruitment and retention, new research opportunities, and possible collaboration events. It was expressed that students enjoyed previous collaboration events (technical training workshop, leadership series, conclaves, and research) and wished to continue them. The student representative position on the state board helps aid in the communication between the subunits. I enjoyed holding this position for the past year and am happy to pass on this position to a very involved student from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Kristina Kennedy, the 2017-2018 UW TWS elected Vice President, will serve as the new student representative.



Issue Committee Updates

Climate Change (vacant)

Deer: Keith McCaffery

No report.

Farm Wildlife: Mark Witecha

No report.

Forestry Issues Committee: Ron Eckstein

I represent the Wisconsin Chapter on DNR's Silviculture Guidance Team. My interest is maintaining and developing high quality wildlife habitat in managed forests. Forest management guidelines for state and county public lands and on private Tax Law lands are summarized in DNR's Silviculture Handbook. The Silviculture Handbook has chapters on all the major timber types, as well as chapters on regeneration techniques, intermediate treatments, marking guidelines, and forest economics. Wildlife habitat considerations are addressed in in recently updated chapters on aspen, northern hardwood, white birch, oak, and red maple.

In 2016, I attended 19 meetings and made recommendations associated with updating the Silviculture Handbook, evaluating the state legislature's Forest Practices Study, and responding to Act 358. The Forest Practices Study is a \$650,000 analysis of the economic and ecological considerations that restrict investment in forest-products industries in Wisconsin. Act 358 mandated that 75% of northern State Forests be managed to "maximize timber production". All of these evaluations, studies, and laws will, in some way, impact wildlife habitat (as well as the 350 species of terrestrial vertebrates that find habitat in forests).

I will continue to represent the WCTWS on the following teams:

- Silviculture Guidance Team
- Aspen and red pine rotation age committee
- Northern hardwood marking evaluation committee

I will continue to attend meetings and represent the WCTWS concerning:

- Act 358 State Forest variance implementation
- Forest Practices Study implementation
- Council on Forestry meetings

Furbearer and Trapping Issues: John Olson

Activities in 2016: Proactive - Hosted the first Trapping Matters Workshops in WI at UW-Stevens Point. Small group (16), largest number of students attending our training opportunities (15). Reactive - Serious threat to two decades of nationwide humane trap research through an EU move to dismantle ISO support. Actions from Canada, the U.S., and U.S. national trapper associations caused a reconsideration and a withdrawal of the proposal.

Activities in 2017: In early February chair of this committee attended a strategy meeting hosted by AFWA, the Fur Resources Center (aka Fur Wraps the Hill) and MaxMcGraw Wildlife Foundation at their facility in Illinois. Recommendations developed focused on continued humane trap research with a strong emphasis on outreach efforts. Also used this opportunity to capture verbal history of the EU fur import ban from key folks involved over the past three decades.

This committee will continue to be available to monitor state, regional, national and international legislation that could impact the future of regulated trapping. Will also work with the WDNR as requested on trap incident issues. Will consider offering additional Trapping Matters workshops at Stevens Point, Madison and/or Northland College.

Government Affairs: Chuck Pils

My activities regarding Chapter donations and opposition to DNR policy changes for WCTWS during the past year

1. I wrote an e-mail to the WCTWS Board asking them to donate \$500 to the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters (WLCV). The WLCV does a very effective job of alerting the WCTWS about

harmful policy, administrative rule, and statutory changes that would harm the environment.

2. I wrote a Feb 14, 2017 letter, on behalf of the WCTWS, to the DNR office in Fitchburg, opposing a harmful DNR policy change involving wetlands that would harm the environment.

Wildlife Damage: Daniel Hirschert

No report.

Wolves: Randy Jurewicz

No report.

Student Chapter Corner

Northland College

By Michaela Fisher, President

No report.

University of Wisconsin-Madison



By Danny Erickson, President

The winter break has given our chapter leadership time to reflect on our previous semester and how we could improve so our members get the most they can from being involved with TWS. With that in mind our officer team is focusing on ways to develop professionalism and passion among our membership. This complements our spring lineup of meetings, speakers, and events. A few events planned for this spring include prairie chicken lek viewing in Buena Vista, our annual Frog and Toad Survey for the DNR, and a visit to the International Crane Foundation.

We will be sending members to the WTWS Joint meeting in Milwaukee and this year our chapter is excited to have the Student Representative shift to Madison. It is a great opportunity for students to interact with the state chapter, building leadership and communication skills while keeping our student chapters in touch with each other. Our team is also looking forward to the Student Conclave hosted by Purdue later this March. It was a great experience last year and I am sure we will be blown away again at Camp Tecumseh! Looking forward to all the great events and meetings lined up and another productive semester.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point



By Lisa Zoromski, President

From the end of fall semester to this first week in spring semester, we have been so busy with planning activities. Ten different speakers have presented at our weekly general meetings this past fall. The past few meetings have been part of a Job Series. Members presented on their summer jobs and gave advice to others with job searching. Another activity would be the traditional TWS and AFS vs Fire Crew and SAF broomball competition. It was a great event to help reduce the final exam stress and have fun.



Fall 2016 TWS and AFS broomball team.

The waterfowl, gray squirrel, woodpecker, and lagomorph projects are just starting their field season. Checking wood duck boxes, trapping squirrels, handling woodpeckers, and conducting fecal floats for rabbit parasites are just a few activities members will help with.



Waterfowl project co-leaders

We plan on sending 14 members to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska. With several presenting posters and our chapter receiving NCS student chapter of the year, we are pretty excited. Several students will be attending the Joint meeting as well. Later this spring, we plan on attending the student conclave hosted by Purdue University. On April 1st, our chapter will be collaborating with the Wisconsin Center for Wildlife with hosting a “Working with the Media” workshop. Communicating with the media is an important skill to have and we are excited to have Mr. Joseph LaBarbera come speak at this workshop.

With all of these conferences, projects, and upcoming research symposiums, it will be a busy semester. I am eager to see what we will accomplish.

UWSP Wisconsin Center for Wildlife Supports WCTWS

By Scott Hygnstrom, Board Member

The Wisconsin Center for Wildlife is just a little over a year old and is moving forward rapidly in its mission to engage students, professionals, and landowners in sustainable wildlife management. The brainchild of the wildlife faculty at the College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point took several years to see the light of day. With the guidance of Dean Christine Thomas and a generous donation from Gerald and Helen Stephens, in honor of their son Douglas, the WCW was born along with the first Endowed Chair at UWSP. A good share of my first two years at UWSP were spent networking with students, agency professionals, and organizational leaders trying to find the right fit for the WCW. With the recent addition of the Kennedy-Grohne Chair in Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation (Dr. Jacob Straub) and the Stephens Endowed Professor of Wildlife (Dr. Jason Riddle), we now have the critical mass to make this bird fly. We recently launched a website <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/WCW/Pages/Wisconsin->

[Center-for-Wildlife.aspx](#) that illustrates many of the projects that currently are underway in the WCW. Two of our goals are to *improve networking and engagement within the natural resources community* and to *increase the knowledge and skills of wildlife students and professionals*. I can think of no better way to do this than through the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society and our annual meetings. The WCW provided travel awards to five UWSP students that participated in the Joint meeting in Milwaukee. The WCW also was a Gold Level Sponsor of the Joint meeting and hosted a booth that featured two touchscreen kiosks on the WCW and student recruiting.

UWSP still is a great place to get a degree in wildlife and the WCW now serves as a springboard for greater opportunities for networking between wildlife students and professionals.

Scott Hygnstrom,
Douglas R. Stephens Endowed Chair in Wildlife
Director, UWSP-CNR-Wisconsin Center for Wildlife



Travel Grant Thanks

By Kelly VanBeek

First I must extend my sincere thanks to the Wisconsin Chapter for providing me a travel grant to the 23rd Annual Meeting of TWS in Raleigh, North Carolina this past fall. I was very proud to see my alma mater once again take home the TWS Student Chapter of the Year Award – Go Point! Among the many familiar faces I got to see in Raleigh, there were many new ones as well, proof that TWS continues to grow in numbers and diversity.

In the past year, I believe TWS has taken significant strides in adding value to your membership at the national level, from making all TWS publications available online, to allowing renewing members to “gift” a 6 month membership to non-members. Efforts to increase reading opportunities of the weekly eWildlifer for partnering agencies have been implemented, distributing information about policies hitting the national scene in Congress and the recently implemented centralized hiring process for USFWS. The conference itself exhibited notably applied themes rather than traditional research topics, from presentations about the North American Model in the 21st century to panel discussions surrounding common workplace issues.

Attending such a large conference can be overwhelming, but I left once again appreciating the value of a vast professional network, especially during times when our professionalism is constantly challenged. While TWS certainly cannot address all of the challenges we face in wildlife management, the value of comradery and a unified voice for our profession remains critical to the success of TWS and its members. As a person born and raised in Wisconsin and firmly entrenched in the issues facing my fellow wildlife professionals, I took every opportunity to bend the ear of folks on Council with the hope that TWS continues to address the needs of ALL of us, from students to retirees, biologists to technicians, academics to administrators, universities to government agency land managers. I encourage all of you to attend a TWS conference, at any level, at some point in your career. Thanks again to the Chapter for providing this opportunity!

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