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

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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INTELLIGENT TINKERING
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Submission Deadlines: Fall Issue: 11/1/17

General Mail: WI Chapter of TWS,
P.O. Box 4696, Stoughton, WI 53589

78th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference
Milwaukee, Wisconsin | January 28-31, 2018

Now Accepting Presentation Proposals for the 78th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

The Program Committee is now accepting presentation proposals. The deadline to submit proposals is September 25, 2017.

The scientific program will consist of three types of sessions:
- Symposia (oral presentation organized by topic of interest)
- Contributed Oral Presentation (grouped into topic sessions)
- Poster Presentation

There will also be a Lightning Session showcasing 10-minute presentations in a fast-paced format, to be scheduled in a one-hour session on Wednesday, January 31.

Sixteen special symposia will be included as part of the technical program with some accepting proposals through the regular call for abstracts and others by invitation only.

For more details on submitting proposals and other conference information, please visit the conference website at http://midwestfw.org/
Hello WCTWS members! I hope your summer has been enjoyable thus far. I also hope that any of you in the storm-affected areas of the state were spared from the worst of the damage. On a lighter note, planning for the 2018 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference is well under way. The conference is being hosted and coordinated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Chapters of the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society. Committees are meeting, symposia are being established, technical training workshops are being planned, donations are coming through the door and participants are getting excited. Keep an eye on the MFWC website to stay up to date on registration notices, deadlines and other key information. As a host of the conference I’d like to extend the offer to our members to become involved before and during the conference. Planning committees are established, but some may need more help. We may also need help from members during the conference. If any of these opportunities are calling your name, please contact me at derekj.johnson@wisconsin.gov or call 715-762-1340 and we’ll find a place for you to help out. Thank you and I can’t wait to see you all there!

On another note I’d like to give a shout out to some of our members that have been advocating on behalf of the WCTWS during Joint Finance Committee and bill hearings. There has been a slew of legislative movements in the past months that would directly affect the ability of various people to help protect and manage our wildlife resources. The presence of the WCTWS in these hearings is exactly what you felt was a priority and I’m glad that we’re following through on that.

Finally, I told myself to keep one thing on everyone’s radar. Please consider running for an Executive Board office when the time arrives. As you hear often from us, we have to plead sometimes for someone to run. Being an involved member is how you can give back to the chapter. If you have any questions on what a certain Board Member’s duties are, let me know.

Have a great rest of your summer everyone and best wishes to our academic staff and students as they gear up for another fall semester!

**Truisms - Contributed by Tom Bahti**

*Shamelessly borrowed, stolen and plagiarized from other sources*

- Just because you're offended doesn't mean you're right.
- Nothing will bring you greater peace than minding your own business.
- Coffee doesn't change my opinion of mornings, it just lessens the likelihood I'll go to jail because of it.
- Sometimes I question my sanity. Occasionally, it replies.
- A person who feels appreciated will always do more than is expected.
- I never make the same mistake twice. I make it five or six times, just to be sure.
- Drinking rum before 10AM makes you a pirate, not an alcoholic.
- When your computer asks "Are you sure?", it's because it still remembers all of the other bad decisions you've made.
- Some things are better left unsaid. That's usually the stuff I blurt out right away.
**Financial Report for 8/26/17**

Submitted by Kelly VanBeek, Secretary/Treasurer

### Income

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<td>(matures 9/24/16)</td>
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**WCTWS Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

April 4, 2017

Submitted by Kelly VanBeek, Secretary/Treasurer

Present: Derek Johnson, Jason Riddle, Bob Holsman, Lisa Kennedy, Jeremy Holtz, Lesa Kardash, Scott Hyngstrom

1. Winter meeting wrap-up
   a. Registration totals (Carey)
      -Have we heard anything from AFS on paying for the conference? (Dan Isermann and Greg Sass are contacts)
      -Jason was cc’d on an email indicating an invoice from the hotel would be sent to Ted Treska but it may have been delayed
      -daily bills were being received throughout the conference and final bill may not be ready
      -Jason was going to check in with Dan for status
      -may need to help recoup unexpected costs
   b. Financial report (Carey)
      -no questions
   c. Fundraising report (Derek)
      -Invoice from St. Croix for raffle needs to be paid ($116.05, 40% discount applied)
   d. Presentation judging (Derek)
      -Derek will be talking with Mark to work on a more sustainable framework to ensure we have enough judges
   e. General thoughts/rumblings/suggestions
2. Winter IT Newsletter (Lesa)
-Draft should be out by the end of the week to the board, end of next week for members

3. National TWS Conference support (Derek)
   a. Support from chapter as a whole
      -Parent chapter is soliciting contributions from state chapters
      -3 different contribution levels ($250, $500, $1000) and different levels of recognition at those levels
      -Our board had previously discussed putting together a form to use when discussing financial support requests
      -What is the previous precedent? Have supported the national conference when local (2013)
      -Jason suggested waiting until a future year, perhaps when we have the joint meeting with AFS
      -Scott suggested projecting a budget for 2017, and annually thereafter, including a line that would be used for financial requests (League of Conservation Voters, National TWS)
      -Easier than dealing with in a piecemeal fashion
      -Support from other board members for this idea
      -Ideal scenario would be to present the future year’s budget at the annual meeting so members have a chance to provide input
      -Can’t do that this year but the board could come up with an operating budget for 2017 and present in the IT
      -We do have a good history of particular budget items like the conference, meaning we could make good estimates for budget line items
      -Based on feedback, we will not be making a contribution for the New Mexico conference

4. Support for Aldo Leopold Foundation hunter recruitment efforts (Derek)
   -Planning to have speakers at UW Madison and UW Stevens Point to conduct hunter recruitment efforts; also create a “hunter handbook” for future events that target urban/suburban and middle-aged new hunters
   -ALF is interested in having WCTWS listed as a resource in their handbook – description to include what WCTWS does and typical expertise of professionals
   -Bob – potential opportunity to support the Foundation but would like the ask to be more specific/concrete – this request needs follow-up
   -Potential for confusion – are we offering up mentors? Hunting land access?
   -Derek indicated ALF will be putting together an outline for the handbook

5. Scam Alerts from NCS and National Organization (Derek)
   -Scams often involve paying a bill
   -Process should be to only pay for expenses in which we have a physical invoice or bill that we are aware of in advance

6. 2018 Midwest Updates (Derek)
   -Steve Gilbert has not sent out updates since the tour
   -Jeremy received an email indicating Tami Ryan would be sending out assignments shortly; WDNR recently got administrative support for staff to participate in planning
-Best route may be to contact Tami to see how other organizations including WCTWS may be able to get involved

7. Scott Hyngstrom – Student Government Association Fees at University
-Is WCTWS interested in engaging with the budgetary decision that impacts student fees at the University in the next WI budget?
  -Budget item would give students the option to pay for segregated fees, rather than making it mandatory as it is now
  -Providing an option may mean that funding support for student chapter activities may greatly decrease at UWSP and other universities
  -UW Madison chapter may be using those funds in travel grant programs as well
-Chuck Pils might be able to carry this issue forward through the Issues Committee – could write a letter of non-support
-Individual officers might be able to help write a letter but are not in a position to sign it given their work titles
-Letter should stress the need of this organization to help students gain employment and professional development
  -These fees allow the student chapter at UWSP to gain the accolades it has and draw students to the University
  -Significant evidence that involvement has led to employment after graduation
-Public hearing is April 7th in Berlin, WI
-Derek will be following up with us and Chuck with ideas to pursue
-Bob suggests getting folks in private industry to engage in this process, indicating how important these student organizations are in preparing employees for jobs
  -Scott indicated that the university does have a lot of internship providers (public/private partnerships) that rely on well prepared students to conduct their work

8. Coordination with Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters (Derek)
-Chuck Pils suggested at the annual meeting that we propose to WLCV a page on their website talking about “Your Wisconsin Wildlife” that highlights current issues in our state
  -Could include specific issues (habitat, conservation funding, public lands, wildlife health, invasive species…)
  -Could redirect to existing pages or recreate with a wildlife twist
-Based on the support expressed at the meeting by members, put a request in the IT for volunteers to work on this project
-Any draw backs? What potential negative consequences are there?
  -Content would not necessarily include an association with WCTWS
  -Being overly cautious has not necessarily served us well in the past. Is this a way for us to break our historic pattern and be actively engaged? Would also be a nice way to support Chuck’s extensive efforts

WCTWS Executive Board Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2017
By Kelly VanBeek, Secretary/Treasurer

1. Finance Report (Kelly)
   a. General support from board for adding a small fee to online transactions to recuperate our costs
   b. Review of financial table (see page 3 for current status)

Total Members: 212
Old Business
1. Update: Support for Aldo Leopold Foundation hunter recruitment efforts (Derek)
   a. Haven’t heard anything back from ALF since last board meeting
2. Scam Alerts from NCS and National Organization (Derek)
   a. Phishing emails continue to occur, just be vigilant
3. Government affairs update (Derek)
   a. Chuck has been active and worked with the chapter to send letters to Joint Finance and other legislative committees on various issues including the segregated fees issue that would have affected student chapters

New Business

1. NCS Update (Derek)
   a. Call last Monday – Derek was not able to attend
      i. Derek will provide an update once NCS minutes are received
2. 2018 Midwest Updates
   a. Derek (Assigned to Raffle Subcommittee), Scott (Assigned to Program Subcommittee), Jason, and Jeremy contacted by Tami to serve on subcommittees
      i. Coordinating team is not planning on a broad call for volunteers – requests will be more targeted
      ii. Jason and Jeremy heard from Scott Hull – Jason asked to sit on poster session committee, Jeremy asked to sit on plenary session committee
   b. UWSP student chapter will also be doing a Saturday workshop geared towards students in their leadership series
c. Kelly suggested a wetland management workshop similar to a workshop previously coordinated by DU; Jason Fleener with WDNR may be able to support with special funding source
   i. Workshop could be held at UWSP the same weekend as the National Duck Stamp Contest (September 14th-16th)

iii. What is the extent of the work WCTWS needs to do for this meeting? Is it just the business meeting/awards and perhaps a dinner?
iv. Are we going to have a table set up with the vendors? Should we tell people they can only renew membership at the business meeting?
v. Derek will reach out to Tami to answer questions

3. Summer IT Newsletter (Lesa)
   a. July 1st deadline for submissions

4. Technical Training
   a. Need to think about potential topics and contacts in the next month
   b. UWSP is thinking about a Saturday Program R workshop
      i. What about Program Mark? Are members interested in an analytical workshop? Unlikely to get interest from DNR field staff
c. UWSP student chapter will also be doing a Saturday workshop geared towards students in their leadership series
d. Kelly suggested a wetland management workshop similar to a workshop previously coordinated by DU; Jason Fleener with WDNR may be able to support with special funding source
   i. Workshop could be held at UWSP the same weekend as the National Duck Stamp Contest (September 14th-16th)
c. Derek suggested something geared toward timber management and will pursue both the wetlands and timber management suggestions

5. Financial investment
   a. A stated in the previous IT, a suggestion to do a straw poll at the Winter Meeting was conducted to see how members feel about investment options
      i. 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
         1. 52 in favor, 6 opposed
   b. Derek and Kelly will set up a call with Scott to further discuss the options and coordinate next steps

6. Travel grant
   a. June 30th is early registration deadline
      i. June 18th deadline for WCTWS travel grant applications
         1. Change language in application information to require attendance any portion of the Council Meetings since the Leadership Lunch has not been held recently
   b. Do we have travel grants for students?
      i. Typically, no – other student travel grant opportunities outside of WCTWS
         1. Not to say we couldn’t – student rep could take the issue up with the board

2. UWSP student chapter covers 6-8 students annually, and other opportunities on campus are available as well
3. UW-Madison may not have similar opportunities
4. Try to arrange coordination of travel between student chapters as a responsibility of the student rep

President-elect travel
   i. Typically provide support for President-elect to offset travel costs for the conference
      1. A different officer was provided support in the past if the President-elect could not attend
      2. Costs covered included travel, registration, and hotels (not meals)

WCTWS Executive Board Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2017

Finance Report (Kelly)

Old Business

1. Update: Support for Aldo Leopold Foundation hunter recruitment efforts (Derek)
a. Derek received email information from Alanna about ALF request
   i. Initial request included a physical presence at the workshop and/or financial backing
   ii. Have not seen additional indication that they would like our physical presence at the workshop. Letter asks for financial support for printing of materials
   iii. Various levels of financial sponsorship
b. Scott asked if WDNR is involved – Bob thought yes
c. Indicates 10,000 copies will be printed – of guide or brochure? (probably full guide)
d. Bob – not a lot of evidence that suggests another print publication will help improve hunter recruitment efforts
e. Scott – how do you get a logo on the poster? Logos are likely sponsors of the actual workshop
f. Bob – we need to have a better idea of what WCTWS funds overall before we can decide if supporting this project is worthwhile
g. Overall proposal doesn’t say how this will measurably reach goals of increasing hunter recruitment
h. Derek – what we fund should stem from the strategic plan
   i. #1 was advocating for the sound use of science information to inform wildlife policy
   ii. This request doesn’t meet our top 2 identified criteria from the strategic plan
iii. Scott – should use the strategic plan survey responses to help us identify what to fund, in addition to considering budget
i. Derek – North Central Section is working on a funding request application to help identify which projects meet their goals and objectives
j. Scott – let’s work on funding request selection criteria in between now and the next meeting. Bob agreed to help Scott
   i. Doesn’t have to be extremely long or detailed, could be modeled after NCS draft
k. Bob – motioned to deny funding at this time, Kelly seconds
   i. 3 approve, 1 abstain
   ii. Derek will draft a response to ALF
2. Financial investment
   a. CD matures in September
3. Technical Training
   a. Interest from steering committee members of the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference to hold the technical training at the meeting this January
   b. Scott discussed potential workshop ideas for Midwest
      i. Potential money making workshop is wildlife statistical analysis with R – have Rob Lonsinger run the workshop
      ii. Will location limit participation? Field staff likely won’t participate but they may not be present at this conference because of location anyway
c. Bob – suggested we decide whether or not Midwest conference should be where the training is held first before discussing workshop ideas
d. Scott – might be able to hold multiple workshops to target membership across the board
e. Jeremy – we (WCTWS) need some brand recognition at the meeting and workshops may provide opportunity
f. Bob – solicit feedback from membership about workshop ideas
   i. Have done this informally at previous winter meetings
g. Kelly – need to ask Delaney how they would handle payment and ultimately distribute earnings back to the Chapter
h. Scott motions to have the tech training at Midwest, Bob seconds
   i. Everyone in favor
i. Bob will contact Jaimie to work out logistics and will work with Scott on workshop ideas
j. Derek will put together survey in the next week to poll membership on workshop ideas
k. Submission date for workshops is August 1, July 17 for symposia, likely to have initial mid-August deadline for general papers and extend to October 1

New Business

1. NCS Update (Derek)
   a. $100 conference sponsorship

   i. Available every year, we just have to ask for it – has to be for an all chapter event or workshop
   ii. Should make this a recurring event every fall – Kelly will include in her Treasurer’s guide from Carey
   iii. Scott – this should go in an operating guide, if we have one
      1. Derek – will be working on it; Mandy put in a lot of previous effort; we can look at other states’ guides as well

2. Budget proposal
   a. Derek – have a draft that we present annually at the winter meeting and seek approval
      i. Typically done in January; should we pursue putting together one yet for this year? We can at least gather data
         1. Scott and Derek will work together for winter meeting typical expenses
         2. Kelly and Derek will work together for typical annual expenses

3. Professional National Chapter travel grant selections
   a. Scott – motion to accept 2 applications for conference, contingent on that there are not any applications remaining in the PO Box
      i. Lost our quorum – Kelly will report tomorrow and then seek approval from the rest of the board
b. Considerations for the future – these meetings are getting very expensive, we may need to increase the amount/decrease number of recipients

4. UW-Madison Student Chapter National Conference grant request
   a. Travel request would have to be considered separately from professional travel grant process – this is a special request that needs to be brought to the board
   b. Tough to fund one chapter; we may want to have something in the future that would include all student chapters; we will encourage student chapters to bring this up at the annual meeting and request a competitive grant process for student chapters
   c. Given our financial situation, we probably shouldn’t provide support at this time but may in the future

5. Funding request for Natural Resources Foundation
   a. Great Lakes Campaign
   b. No designated amounts although they suggest $1000; 3-5 year payment plan
   c. Their activities better align with our strategic plan survey
   d. We have some time to think about this – campaign ends at the end of the year

6. 2018 Midwest Updates
   a. Planning meeting held in Stevens Point
      i. Went over committee roles, status of planning
      ii. DNR taking major lead role
   b. Scott – perhaps the steering committee or subcommittees should be more diverse in terms of employer

   i. Engagement at planning level drives engagement from employer
   c. Need to get students involved
   d. Investment from state chapter could come in form of bringing diversity to committee membership
      i. Derek – let’s make specific requests of members rather than a general email request
   e. Scott – we could sponsor a symposium or submit an abstract; we could provide refreshments at a technical section
   f. Do we want a booth? Kelly will ask Tami about previous presence and Sara K about tradeshow cost
   g. Scott – idea to get people to annual business meeting – have a short opening speaker
      i. Conducted with a few TWS working groups and it increased attendance
      ii. Perhaps invite one of the plenary speaker

7. Summer IT Newsletter (Lesa)
   a. Lesa is working on it, couldn’t make meeting
New Book “Becoming A Wildlife Professional” Now Available

By Nancy Savage, Director of TWS Publications & Communications

“Becoming a Wildlife Professional” is the first comprehensive book to describe the entry-level jobs available for the next generation of wildlife biologists and conservationists. If you are a student preparing for a wildlife career or new professional looking for career advice, this new book published by The Wildlife Society in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University belongs in your library!

Editors Scott E. Henke and Paul R. Krausman include detailed chapters on how students should prepare for a vocation in the wildlife profession while offering pragmatic advice about applying for and obtaining a job. The book presents over 100 diverse career options that are available to aspiring wildlife workers, including work in biological field research, forestry, rehabilitation, ranching, photography and refuge management. It also details each position’s educational and technical requirements, challenges, salaries and opportunities for advancement and offers advice from a range of seasoned experts who actually hold these jobs and have used these techniques to secure employment.

“Becoming a Wildlife Professional” also conveys important philosophical messages about the responsibilities and challenges of a career in wildlife conservation and management. With all this information in one place, the book is an essential text for wildlife science students interested in making themselves marketable for employers across a wide spectrum of wildlife jobs.

TWS members receive a 30 percent on all titles published by the Society in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University Press. Be sure to enter the discount code HTWS at checkout. Order your copy today: http://wildlife.org/books-2/ The TWS member price is $59.50.
**Issue Committee Updates**

**Climate Change (vacant)**

**Deer: Keith McCaffery**  No report.

**Farm Wildlife: Mark Witecha**  No report.

**Forestry Issues Committee: Ron Eckstein**

*January 1 through July 31, 2017 Summary of Activities:*

I attended nine meetings representing the Chapter on forestry issues:
- 3 Silviculture Guidance Team meetings (2 at Stevens Point and one at Hayward)
- 2 Northern hardwood management ad hoc team meetings at Tomahawk
- 1 Aspen and red pine rotation age team meeting at Stevens Point
- 1 Governor’s Council on Forestry meeting at Wausau
- Met with The Nature Conservancy on the Wisconsin Forest Practices Study

I gave a talk on wildlife habitat values in northern forests to the Lake States Forest Stewards Guild meeting at Kemp Station near Lake Tomahawk. I wrote the state legislature’s Joint Finance Committee and recommended retention of the Forestry Mill Tax. I represented the Wisconsin Chapter at two meetings deciding on Master Plan revisions (based on Act 358) to the northern State Forests. Act 358 remains a significant threat to habitat for wildlife on the DNR-managed northern State Forests.

**Furbearer & Trapping Issues: John Olson**  No report.

**Government Affairs: Chuck Pils**  No report.

**Wildlife Damage: Daniel Hirchert**  No report.

**Wolves: Randy Jurewicz**  No report.

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**Student Chapter Corner**

**Northland College**

By Michaela Fisher, President

No report.

**University of Wisconsin-Madison**

By Valerie Knurr, President

I am Valerie Knurr, the newly elected President of the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society at UW Madison. I am excited to take on this leadership role and work with our new officer team. This past semester we elected five new officers including: Valerie Knurr, President; Kristina Kennedy, Vice President and Wisconsin TWS student representative; Megan Kruse, Secretary; Scout Kirby, Treasurer; and Siena Muehlfeld, Outreach Coordinator.

This is the 20th year the UW Madison Student Chapter has been in existence and we are hoping to make it one of the best.

This past semester was busy with events. We started with an ice skating social with the forestry club. It was a great time out on the ice getting to know our fellow Natural Resource minded colleagues. We had trips to Necedah Wildlife Refuge and The International Crane Foundation. Some of our members volunteered at Aldo Leopold Day and taught children about wildlife. We also organized a clothing order for the...
Forest and Wildlife Department at UW. It was a big success. Many current students and staff were interested and many alumni ordered clothing.

We had an officer retreat towards the end of the semester to reflect on our year with TWS and how we could improve our organization in the future. We had a blast at Kemp Natural Resource Station. The weekend was filled with hiking, birding, woodcock display viewing, and relaxing in the beautiful north woods.

We wrapped the semester up with the Great Wisconsin Bird-a-thon where our members spent the day finding as many bird species as possible. The final event of the school year was the annual Wildlife versus Forestry Kickball Game and cookout. The Wildlife Society lost but put up a good fight.

Over the summer, we have done three Frog and Toad Surveys for the DNR. Each survey involved ten different stops along Cherokee Marsh where we listened and identified which species were present at that site. We reported our data back to the DNR and it will be used to help determine the abundance and distribution of amphibians in the state.
We are also starting to prepare for this upcoming year by brainstorming events and activities for our members. Preparations for our annual game dinner are underway, we have started requesting donations for our silent auction and raffle and have been researching possible venues. We have also been planning to send our officers and possibly some additional members to the TWS National Conference in Albuquerque, NM in September. We have been reviewing our financial options and what it will take to get to the conference. We are hoping all our summer preparations will lead to a fun and successful year for our Student Chapter. We are looking forward to another eventful year in Madison!

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

By Katherine Rexroad, President

The officers and members of UW-Stevens Point’s student chapter of The Wildlife Society are looking forward to another busy but involved year, full of numerous opportunities. At the end of the 2016-2017 school year, officers met together to discuss how to get members more involved. A common idea was to hold more social events, especially at the beginning of the year to help underclassmen feel more welcome in what can be an intimidating environment. UWSP’s chapter often feels like a giant family, and we want everyone to consider themselves a part of it. We also had a booth at the vendor fair during the freshman welcome week and will have booths at both the campus involvement fair and CNR Majors Night, events we have had success in during past years.

Many students are excited to attend The Wildlife Society’s national conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Approximately 20 members from UWSP will be there, with at least 9 people presenting undergraduate research. After winning student chapter of the year in 2015, we will also be giving an oral presentation at the conference detailing what we believe makes a successful student chapter.

Between meeting new members, Nationals, and the return of many opportunities to help with various student-led research projects, the members of the UWSP’s Wildlife Society couldn’t be more thrilled to see what the school year will hold.
WCTWS Executive Board

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