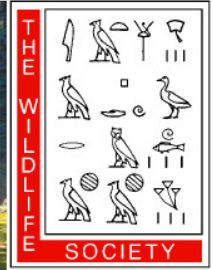


North Central Section TWS



Illinois - Indiana - Iowa - Michigan - Minnesota - Missouri - Ohio - Wisconsin

The Biennial Newsletter of the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society

Fall 2014

President's Message

How do we know we are doing the right thing?



Pat Lederle, NCS President

I get this question, or similar forms of the question, frequently from colleagues. As it turns out, there isn't an easy answer. One might think as scientists (or at least many of us), the work we do is cut and dry, pretty black and

white. My experience is that nothing is further from the truth. Often the issue at hand is variable in terms of scale and may have both temporal and spatial attributes. As an example, here in Michigan, the Wildlife Division manages thousands of acres of wetlands for a variety of important species and their habitats. Depending on who you are and the position you have in the "conservation community" your perspective on the management of these wetlands may be quite variable. For the wildlife assistant planting corn in the spring to attract waterfowl for the fall hunting seasons, that effort represents the right thing to do in order to draw in ducks and provide hunting opportunities on that particular area. For a regional manager who oversees the management of many of these areas, the right thing to do is to develop annual budgets and staffing plans to help ensure the required wetlands management plans are carried out. For the

director of a land conservancy, collaboration with the state agency is the right thing to do because, in the long term, these managed wetlands add to the portfolio of protected areas and contribute to the overall biodiversity of the state. For the municipal manager it is the right thing to do to promote these areas because in some cases they are important for flood control, and they provide local jobs and economic benefits. It seems to me all of these folks described above are "doing the right thing." And still another way to look at the issue comes from the words of Aldo Leopold, who wrote "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

As managers of the public trust, there are many competing beliefs, values, and interests (some that are very powerful from a political standpoint!) that need to be taken into account as we go about our business of managing wildlife resources. Each of the descriptions above involves examples of balancing competing interests. Often our organizational missions or strategic

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President, continued

plans help us prioritize our efforts because they contain enjoyment of current and future generations. It seems clear to me the right thing to do is work toward clear language guiding our work on the conservation of wildlife species and wildlife habitat for the use and ensuring all of these interests (sometimes competing) are pulling in the same direction to the extent we can influence the process. This is often difficult for many wildlife managers because as trained biologists, we often don't have training or the depth of experience to navigate the complex demands that beneficiaries place on the public trust. As Aldo Leopold frequently emphasized, it's really all about people, and the choices they make in terms of interacting with wildlife. This concept is manifested in the focus of our organization when we state "The Wildlife Society is committed to a world where humans and wildlife co-exist." As much as many of us prefer to be in the field working on wildlife, working directly with people (our stakeholders) may have a much greater long-term impact on the conservation of wildlife resources, and is absolutely the right thing to do.

I am extremely grateful for your passion and commitment on behalf of wildlife, and I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Indianapolis, February 8-11, 2015.

New NCS email listserv...

Reach out to all 300+ members of TWS's North Central Section at once!

Email NCSTWS@list.msu.edu with:

- Job postings
- Requests for help or information
- Announcements of news & events

Thanks to [Jim Schneider](#) for setting it up and hosting!

Section Rep. Report



David Andersen

Much of the business attended to by The Wildlife Society Council occurs at the annual meeting (this year in Pittsburgh in late-October) and at a Council meeting in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference (generally held in March, and last year convened in Denver). However, lots happens between Council meetings, and I thought it would be informative to provide updates on some of the things that have happened in The Wildlife Society in advance of the annual meeting later this month.

New Publishing Contract – The Wildlife Society entered into a new agreement with our publisher, John Wiley & Sons (hereafter, Wiley). As many of you know, the publishing landscape has changed dramatically in the last 10-15 years and continues to change, with online publishing, open access publishing, printed publications, etc., all competing for content and readership. TWS's contract with Wiley was scheduled to expire next year, and it was necessary to either negotiate a new contract with Wiley, or go through the process of soliciting proposals for a new contract with other potential publishers. Given the complexity of issues surrounding publishing professional journals, TWS Council and staff decided that it would inform our decision to hire a consultant to evaluate our current contract, the proposed new contract from Wiley, and what could be expected were TWS to solicit proposals from prospective new publishers. TWS Council was very engaged in this discussion and decision, as our journals are one of our most important contributions, and our publishing contract provides significant revenue. Based on the evaluation of the publishing consultant we hired, TWS renegotiated a more favorable contract with Wiley, which gives TWS additional options for online publishing, continues our current print journals, and provides an increased signing bonus, which affords

See **Section Rep.**, next page

Section Rep., continued

predictable revenue for the next several years. However, it is likely that as the publishing world continues to change, TWS will also need to continue to evaluate how best to continue to provide high-quality science related to wildlife and wildlife management, and also how publishing affects TWS's finances. Like many similar societies, we face both challenges and opportunities when it comes to publishing scientific journals, and this will continue to be an important issue.

Pittsburgh Annual Conference – The Wildlife Society Annual Conference this year is scheduled to convene in less than two weeks (25–30 October 2014) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Registration numbers are slightly ahead of last year's registration for the meeting hosted in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The North Central Section is a sponsor of the Annual Conference, and has contributed financial support to help make the meeting a success. At the meeting, several North Central Section members will be recognized for their contributions to wildlife conservation and The Wildlife Society—look for a list of award winners in conference materials (<http://wildlifesociety.org/>) or future North Central Section newsletters.

Winnipeg Annual Conference – The 2015 TWS Annual Conference will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada from 17–22 October. Winnipeg is an 8-hour drive from Minneapolis, but remember that you need a passport to cross the border, so make sure your travel documents are up to date. Mid-October is a beautiful time of year in southern Manitoba, with large numbers of migratory birds staging in and around Winnipeg. There are many opportunities to explore southern Manitoba in conjunction with this meeting, and the meeting is also an opportunity to develop relationships with colleagues in Canada.

TWS Staff – Several staffing changes have occurred at The Wildlife Society headquarters in Maryland recently. Lisa Moore, Publications Director, left for a position as Editor-in-Chief of *National Wildlife*. Lisa contributed mightily to TWS publications, and was the driving force in production of *The Wildlife Professional*. TWS will miss Lisa's dedication and contributions. As I

write this update (4 October 2014), TWS has just announced that Nancy Sasavage has accepted an offer as our new Publications Director, so look to hear from Nancy about TWS publications in the future.

Katie Edwards, Professional Development Coordinator, accepted the position of Wildlife Management Specialist with the Fairfax County Police Department, where she will be “working hands-on with the state agencies and local natural resource partners to improve wildlife and habitat management within the county, coordinate the county's managed hunt and archery programs, and participate in public outreach to better inform and educate residents on wildlife issues.” Katie did a great job streamlining much of the process related to certification and furthered TWS's mission in many other ways. Mariah Simmons has been hired to cover many of the duties formerly attended to by Katie, and has jumped in “feet first” in her new position.

Finally, thanks again for the opportunity to serve as the North Central Section Representative. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me (dea@umn.edu). I hope to see you at the upcoming Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana in February 2015, and I also hope to be able to attend several of the Chapter meetings over the next couple of years.



Photo by John Major

Treasurer's Report

GENERAL FUND

Balance as of July 31, 2014..... **\$15,996.84**

<u>Checking</u>	
Starting Balance	\$ 4,604.73
Credit: 2 nd Quarter dues reimbursement from TWS	\$ 190.00
Ending Balance (8/31/2014)	\$ 4,794.73
<u>Savings</u>	
Starting Balance	\$11,392.11
Credit: August 2014 Interest	\$ 0.97
Ending Balance (8/31/2014)	\$11,393.08

Balance as of August 31, 2014..... **\$16,187.81**

Encumbered Savings: 2014 Student Chapter Award	\$ 1,000.00
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Unencumbered Balance as of August 31, 2014..... **\$15,187.81**

CONTINUING EDUCATION FUND

Balance as of July 31, 2014..... **\$28,634.09**

Starting Balance	\$28,634.09
Credit: August 2014 Interest	\$ 2.43
Ending Balance (8/31/2014)	\$28,636.52

Balance as of August 31, 2014..... **\$28,636.52**

SYMPOSIA FUND

Balance as of July 31, 2014..... **\$10,187.52**

Starting Balance	\$10,187.52
Credit: August 2014 Interest	\$ 0.87
Ending Balance (8/31/2014)	\$10,188.39

Balance as of August 31, 2014..... **\$10,188.39**

TOTAL FUNDS as of August 31, 2014..... \$55,012.72

UNENCUMBERED TOTAL FUNDS as of August 31, 2014 \$54,012.72

NOTE: I have converted the entire hand-written NCS accounting ledger book (from 1989 to present) over to an Excel spreadsheet. Hopefully this will help eliminate some of the errors and gaps I discovered when entering the records. I will no longer use the ledger book and work entirely off the spreadsheet.

Respectfully submitted by



Jim Schneider, NCS Treasurer

Student Chapter Reports

Ball State University



The Ball State Chapter of The Wildlife Society concluded the spring semester with a camping trip to Clifty Falls and many informative guest speakers. Many members had internships this summer that provided them with essential experience needed for their wildlife careers. We are excited that our members had such great opportunities!

See **Students**, next page



NCS Elections

This fall we will hold our annual election of officers for the NCS Board. Terms for the Secretary, Treasurer, and President-Elect will begin at the Midwest F&W Conference in February 2015.

If you would like to nominate yourself or a colleague, please contact [Katy Reeder](#), the current Secretary and member of the Nominating and Elections Committee, **by October 31st**.

NCS members will receive information via email in the near future about the candidates and how to vote online.



Why membership in TWS matters...

Your support of The Wildlife Society is important at all levels (i.e., chapter, section, parent society). TWS is our professional home—where we network, learn, and serve. The North Central Section needs your membership support to continue focusing on wildlife and conservation professionals. Some of our specific activities include the following:

- Sponsoring the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference
- Sponsoring symposia & workshops of regional importance
- Sponsoring student chapter conclaves
- Presenting awards to recognize the achievements of students & professionals
- Advocating for wildlife, their habitats, and the use of science in conservation decision-making

Join the NCS of TWS today by going to the main [membership web page!](#)

< <http://www.wildlife.org/membership> >

Students, continued

We at Ball State are off to a great start for the 2014-2015 academic year! We have a lot of underclassman who have joined us at our first two introduction meetings and seem enthusiastic about being involved in our society. Members will have volunteer opportunities such as working with DNR at deer check stations on opening weekend and possibly working at an animal sanctuary. Members will also help inventory Craddock Wetlands for various species of mammals, birds, and herps. We have many guest speakers coming to present their research at our meetings this semester as well.

We are excited for what this year has in store for us!



Michigan Tech. University

The Wildlife Society here at Michigan Tech is as active as ever with more members and more events. Some highlights include our upcoming trip to the national conference and our volunteer efforts at a local rehab center. This fall we started a new research project on campus looking at bird-window collisions. The data collection has just wrapped up, and we will be looking at our results in the coming weeks. We continue to find hands-on experience with the wildlife in the Upper Peninsula and are trying our best to get involved with as much as possible.

Missouri Western State University



At the end of our spring 2014 Student Chapter Report we were eagerly awaiting The Wildlife Society (TWS) Spring Student Workshop and our end of year banquet where we would celebrate being awarded the 2013 TWS International Student Chapter of the Year. We also received an award for Excellence in Philanthropy from the Missouri Western State University Foundation on May 7, 2014, in recognition of our outstanding commitment to our community through leadership in philanthropy. As well as being awarded by MWSU Student Government Association as The Most Outstanding Special Interest Organization. Both of these events turned out to be a huge success. The Spring Workshop was held right in our backyard at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Because of this, many of our chapter members were able to attend and meet professionals and other students interested in our field. We learned techniques ranging from radio telemetry to rocket netting. We had a great turnout at



See **Students**, next page

Students, continued

our banquet including the President of our school and professionals from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and Squaw Creek NWR. A highlight was presenting our 2013 Student Chapter Partner of the Year award to Ron Bell, retired manager of Squaw Creek NWR. His support of our Chapter has meant so much to us over the years. During finals week at the end of the spring semester we had a unique opportunity. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been studying the Heartland Virus and its possible vectors. Since the Heartland Virus has been found in our region of the country the CDC set up a lab at the MDC building on our campus. We were fortunate to be able to lend our services to the CDC. These services included setting and checking live animal traps and carbon dioxide traps as well as flagging ticks throughout the woods.

Many of our students participated in internships across the state. Steven Brown, a freshman, was excited to be accepted as the Missouri Forest Ecosystem Project (MOFEP) intern in the Missouri Ozark Mountains. His duties included mapping the locations of breeding birds, finding and monitoring nests, mist-netting and bird banding. Carly Compton, our Chapter President, worked at Lake Wappapello State Park as the Interpretive Services Specialist intern. Her duties included presenting programs to campers, trail maintenance, and overseeing the nature center. Jordan Meyer worked with Squaw Creek NWR as their Interpretive Services Specialist intern, which led to the acceptance of two posters to be presented at the national TWS conference in Tucson, Arizona. We had members that participated in summer research on campus with faculty, including raccoon and opossum den site selection studies as well as population ecology and metapopulation dynamics of turtles. Our Chapter Vice President, Daniel Robertson, is very active in bird

banding. All summer and into the fall he has been working closely with adjunct faculty members Jack Hilsabeck, John Rushin, and student volunteers on campus and at Squaw Creek NWR. Jack Hilsabeck has an ongoing project studying the mass gain of Neotropical migrant birds at stopover sites on or near our campus as they migrate through Missouri in the fall. We are very lucky that we have the opportunity as undergraduates to participate in data collection for this project.



Our partnerships with Camp Geiger Shooting Range and Swan Lake NWR brought us two exciting volunteer events since our last report. At Camp Geiger we staffed the Savannah Pig Skin Shootout charity event and we sent two of our members to staff Swan Lake NWR's

annual First Friday outreach and education event in August. One of our chapter's favorite community outreach events to participate in is Wings Over Weston. This annual event takes place in May at Weston Bend State Park and centers around birds, butterflies, migration, and habitat. This year we sent a large group of volunteers, and everyone had a great experience.



Some of our most recent events include Insect-O-Rama, a community outreach event in its 7th year held by MDC where our members are able to interact with the public and educate them about insects. Habitat workdays have begun at Squaw Creek NWR. At these workdays we are able to volunteer to do whatever work needs to be done on the refuge, ranging from wildflower seed collection to clearing timber off of the Loess hills for prairie restoration. Right before the fall semester started we had the opportunity to participate in the Griffon Edge program, which acclimates incoming freshman to campus. For this program we worked with new students to improve the trails behind MDC. This was a great event to stimulate interest in our organization. On Labor Day we spent the morning at Pony Express Lake Conservation Area at their mourning

See **Students**, next page

Students, continued

dove check station. There we collected dove wings from the hunters to be used in dove population and migration research. This information helps to set bag limits and dates for hunting season.

We look forward to a great semester with lots of activity. We have upcoming certification workshops, meetings every week with guest speakers, habitat workdays nearly every Saturday, deer spotlighting at Squaw Creek and Swan Lake NWR and of course staffing check stations on opening weekend of deer season!

Purdue University

The fall semester has started for the Purdue Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and we are starting out strong. The new officer team is working diligently to provide great activities and opportunities for our members to take part in.



Our callout meeting on September 3rd took place at one of Purdue's properties where we gave general information, had a delicious dinner, and went out to search for wild things!

At our second meeting, we had a couple of guests show up and offer us a chance to take part in some fun, educational activities. Dean Zimmerman from the DNR showed up to offer our members a chance to practice trap shooting the following week, and Brian Beheler offered our chapter a chance to fundraise through the removal of invasive plant species in nearby properties.

The meeting ended with guest a speaker. Merav Ben-David, Professor of Zoology and Physiology from the University of Wyoming, gave a comical speech about the behind-the-scenes of wildlife research. She



focused on the difficult and sometimes most entertaining parts of the science we read in professional journals.

At our last meeting, a few of our members took up the opportunity offered by Dr. Zimmerman at the former meeting and they had a blast! The very friendly and helpful DNR personnel that were there offered the club yet another opportunity to our non-experienced hunters. Some of our members plan on participating in that event as well.

We are still in the midst of planning future meetings and events. One of the main events we are most excited about is the national conference. Fifteen of our members have registered and are currently in the process of planning it all out!

These past few weeks have been great and we only hope for the rest of the year to be the same, if not better!

Southern Illinois University

Since the Spring 2014 semester the SIUC Chapter of The Wildlife Society and Zoology Club has had several field trips and volunteer events and plans to take part in more in the 2014-2015 school year.

See **Students**, next page



Students, continued

In the spring, the club participated in the Green Earth Trash Clean-up Day where we helped rid a public park of trash and items people had left around the grounds and the forest near it. Bags upon bags of trash were collected along with old toys and furniture. Some of our members aided graduate students with their



research by helping them trap deer for tagging over a weekend. The club took trips to the Crown Ridge Tiger Sanctuary, where we saw some training sessions and learned about sanctuaries and the often heartbreaking stories of the animals rescued, and the Saint Louis Zoo, where we took a behind-the-scenes tour of the herpetarium. In the spring and in October 2014, The Wildlife Society and Zoology Club went to Snake Road in Southern Illinois to watch the biannual snake migration and to look at other reptiles and amphibians that call the La Rue Pine Hills home.



So far this semester, we went hiking and herping in Giant City and went to the Saint Louis Zoo. We plan to volunteer at Free Again Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, where we will do anything (such as cleaning or maintenance of the center) to help the animals feel at home while they wait to be released, and at Haunted Hollow, where we show children that "creepy crawlies" (i.e. reptiles and arthropods) aren't scary as well as aide in game/haunted hay ride set-up and facilitation. At the end of October, we will have a cookout and raffle called Beast Feast where we will serve meats that aren't your usual hamburgers and chicken to raise money for the club. At our meetings we usually have graduate students or people working in the field of wildlife management or zoology speak to us about their experiences and what tips they have to help us achieve our career goals.

University of Minnesota-Crookston



The University of Minnesota Crookston Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has been very busy since the start of the fall semester. We elected officers Alisha Mosloff (President), Jake Nelson (Vice-President), and

Renee Tomala (Secretary). This team is very driven and is expecting to lead the club in some great events this year. Members from the chapter have participated in several volunteer activities, including banding ducks at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, installing bud caps on young pines at Itasca State Park, assisting with the Handicap Hunt and walleye netting activities at Rydell National Wildlife Refuge. The chapter also is co-hosting the **Midwest Student Conclave** with Bemidji State University, and planning is in full swing.

See **Students**, next page

Students, continued



The Student Conclave will be held at the Audubon Center of the North Woods in Sandstone, MN on **27-29 March 2015**. Anyone interested in speaking or assisting with conclave should contact Alisha Mosloff (alisha.mosloff@gmail.com). The officers are planning several fun events for the club's future as well, including a radiotelemetry workshop, attending the Minnesota State Chapter meeting, and Owl and Goshawk surveys in the spring at Beltrami Island State Forest.



University of Missouri

The University of Missouri student Chapter of The Wildlife Society had a busy end of the year. We ended the spring 2014 semester by sending some students to the Missouri Natural Resources Conference and then to TWS Midwest student conclave in Michigan. We have



many speakers lined up this semester to promote discussion and to educate the club on all matters wildlife. We have an elephant researcher that worked at Disney's Animal Kingdom, a primatologist that studied Loris and Tarsier species on Borneo, and a Missouri Department of Conservation deer aging demonstration. We are also going on our first social event this weekend to the Meramec River for a float trip and to explore the diverse habitat.



See **Students**, next page

Students, continued

University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point

Though we are only three weeks into the semester, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point student chapter of The Wildlife Society has been busy. Many new members came to our first two meetings, swelling our ranks. The interest and enthusiasm is setting the stage for a great year. So far this semester our Field project has tracked down the remains of one of their collared bobcats, and our Otter project has been out searching for latrines. This weekend our Wild Bird Project will be



taking its first trip to Hawk Ridge near Duluth, MN, a highlight for many members. As the semester continues more projects will begin their work. The Saw-whet owl project will begin within the next week and the Small Mammal project will begin their month of trapping in October. Many more projects will start up once things cool down and a layer of snow appears. Highlights for this semester include attending and presenting at the National TWS Conference in Pittsburg and hearing from a wide range of professionals at our weekly meetings.



This past week DNR representatives joined us from Sandhill and Mead Wildlife Areas where much of our research is completed. This coming week, Jonathan Gilbert the Wildlife Section Leader with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission will be speaking to us. Based on these first few weeks, the 2014-15 UWSP TWS is going to be a blast.

Other Student Chapters in the NCS

Bemidji State University
 Central Michigan University
 Eastern Illinois University
 Hocking College
 Iowa State University
 Lake Superior State University
 Michigan State University
 Minnesota State University–Moorhead
 Missouri State University
 Northern Michigan University
 Ohio State University
 Southeast Missouri State University
 Truman State University
 University of Illinois–Urbana/Champaign
 University of Minnesota–Twin Cities
 University of Wisconsin–Madison

State Chapter Reports

Illinois

No report.

Indiana

The Indiana Chapter has hosted two meetings this past year. Our annual spring meeting was a joint effort with the Indiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and was focused on Invasive Species in Indiana. The two-day meeting, held at Ball State University, February 27-28, featured Dr. Joe Caudell of Murray State University, Mr. Steven Butler of the Illinois Natural History Survey, Dr. Kate Howe of the Midwest Invasive Plant Network, Dr. Andy Deines of Invasive.org, with special guest, Mr. John Goss of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Invasive Species and their management were again the focus of our fall continuing education workshop, held jointly with the Indiana Society of American Foresters at Purdue University, September 24-25.



In addition to our meeting and workshop, the chapter worked to re-organize its committee structure, including the addition of a Conservation Affairs Committee, and spent a great deal of time working on responses to legislative policy.

The biggest issue the Chapter faced in 2014 was advocating for the continued moratorium on high-fenced cervid hunting operations and a complete ban on cervid importation, including testifying at a summer study session of the Natural Resources and Agricultural Committee. This is an ongoing issue our Chapter will continue to monitor.

We are all looking forward to our spring meeting, which will be held at the [Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Indianapolis, February 8-11, 2015](#) (also see announcement on page 17). We have sponsored the Midwest FWC and will have a noted presence with a midway booth, annual business meeting, and student/professional social.

Iowa

In the midst of wrapping up summer field seasons and enjoying some fall outdoor activities, the Iowa Chapter of The Wildlife Society has had a very busy fall season!

On September 23, fifty Iowa Chapter members gathered in Spirit Lake in the heart of Iowa's Prairie Pothole Region for the annual Iowa TWS Fall Workshop. The focus of the workshop was shallow lakes habitat restoration and management. Greeted with beautiful fall weather, attendees enjoyed a field tour of nine different shallow lakes in various stages of restoration as part of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Shallow Lakes Program. Iowa DNR wildlife staff from the Great Lakes and Prairie Lakes Wildlife Units discussed the ecological, logistical, and social challenges of shallow lakes restoration. In addition, Iowa DNR fisheries biologist Mike Hawkins shared the goals of restoring sport fisheries to these systems, demonstrating a critical partnership between wildlife and fisheries staff in finding common objectives in the effort to restore these systems to near historic state while still offering excellent recreation opportunity. Iowa DNR biologist Jackie Gautsch presented another integral part of the success of this program—monitoring. Jackie discussed the Shallow Lakes Monitoring Program that collects data on water quality, vegetation, and invertebrate communities in an effort to quantify the success of these restorations. And lastly,

See **State Chapters**, next page

State Chapters, cont'd.

Tim Stewart from Iowa State University presented more about the impacts of water quality and non-native fish on invertebrate populations in these systems. I think I can speak for all attendees when I say that I learned a tremendous amount about these unique habitats and the challenges faced throughout the restoration process.

As the renewable fuels focus turns to corn stover, we are seeing a drastic increase in the removal of corn stover and other plant biomass from fields after harvest. This, in addition to the increase in corn production and loss of habitat across Iowa, has prompted the Iowa Chapter to compose a public statement regarding the advantages and disadvantages of ethanol and other biofuels on wildlife. Our Public Statements Committee, as well as other Iowa Chapter members and subject matter experts, are in the final stages of creating this statement and we hope to submit it to the Iowa legislature and other appropriate organizations.

Lastly, at the Fall Workshop in September, Iowa Chapter President Terry Haindfield organized an afternoon discussion on the topic of lead and non-toxic ammunition. Approximately 25 members participated in an exciting, effective discussion regarding items such as things the Iowa Chapter can do to educate members and the general public, assess the understanding of members of the lead/non-toxic ammunition issue, information gathering and sharing, and many others. As a result, the Iowa Chapter has created a Lead/non-toxic Ammunition Issue Committee that is comprised of four subcommittees tasked with gathering information on non-toxic ammunition alternatives, developing a survey to assess understanding of Iowa Chapter members and the general public about the lead ammunition issue, and developing educational materials. The Iowa Chapter looks forward to moving to the forefront of education on this important issue.

Michigan

No report.

See **State Chapters**, next page



Chris LaRue (IA DNR) talks with Iowa Chapter members about shallow lakes habitat restoration and management.

Photo by AnnMarie Krmpotich

State Chapters, cont'd.

Minnesota

The Minnesota Chapter has had a busy summer. We hosted our Summer Workshop titled "Minnesota's Forest Habitats: Managing Across the Forest Continuum," which drew over 90 wildlife biologists and foresters together at Long Lake Conservation Center near McGregor, MN. This also included a ½-day field trip with local foresters to talk about forest management issues.

Planning is also well underway for the first joint meeting of the WI and MN chapters of TWS, to be held in Duluth, February 17-19, 2015. President-elect Rich Olsen and his WI counterparts are organizing a fantastic event. The plenary theme this year will focus on Global Warming: Solutions for a Warming World, and our confirmed plenary speakers Peter Donovan, Judith Schwartz, and Seth Itzkan will set the stage and challenge the way we look at and address the defining issue of today and tomorrow, as our choices will be a stark reminder to the world our children inherit.

Following a plenary session focused on lead ammunition at last winter's meeting MN TWS hosted two copper bullet demonstrations in August and September to educate hunters about the issues with lead ammunition and to give them a chance to see how alternatives like copper bullets perform. All hunters were amazed at the fragmentation of lead and how it disintegrated into tiny particles that you may never see, but may likely ingest. Both workshops went well, and we generated a lot of great press from the events. A third event is scheduled for October. As an additional follow-up, MN TWS helped sponsor the Raptor Center-lead consortium for Alternative Ammunition brochure.

We sent a letter to the Minnesota Sports Facility Authority to encourage them to incorporate bird-safe glass and other measures to minimize bird strikes at the new Minnesota Vikings stadium being built in Minneapolis.

Lastly, we provided financial support to the Midwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (MPARC) annual meeting held in the Twin Cities in August.

Missouri

The Missouri Chapter of TWS held our annual professional development workshop in late-August.



The topic of the workshop was Rivers/Riparian Management, which is a topic vital to any type of wildlife management. Presentations included both instream management as well as management of the stream corridor. We had a diverse group of attendees from 8 different agencies, and all enjoyed the workshop, which was punctuated with a fairly warm 5-mile canoe trip down the Gasconade River.



See **State Chapters**, next page

State Chapters, cont'd.

Ohio

No report.

Wisconsin

Like many chapters, the Wisconsin Chapter has had a difficult time with advocacy issues, finding volunteers for leadership roles, and some state-specific issues. To address these challenges, we invited past chapter presidents to a day-long “summit” in July. The current board was thrilled when 18 past presidents attended the summit. Excellent progress was made on all of the issues facing the chapter, and we are moving forward with a clear vision on finances, leadership, relations with other state organizations, and planning. The specific issues are not likely of great interest to other chapters, but the concept of bringing together so many thoughtful former leaders for a brainstorming session was well worth doing and it was great to see everyone. If your chapter is looking for a way to move some discussions along and short business meetings at conferences or larger meetings do not seem to do it, the “summit” worked well for us.

The Wisconsin chapter is working with our colleagues in the Minnesota chapter to hold a joint annual conference in Duluth, Minnesota, February 17-19, 2015. Planning is well underway. The conference will include a dynamic plenary on climate change, paper and poster sessions, a quiz bowl, an awards banquet, and chapter business meetings. We look forward to a large turnout and a great conference.

Our chapter is working closely with student chapters at UW-Madison, UW-Stevens Point, and Northland College to increase student involvement and opportunities at the state level. A board member has taken the lead on working with students on increasing the use of social media for communication and on student participation in state chapter board activity. We are moving forward with a bylaws change to allow student representation on the board.

Wisconsin issues that we are watching and contribute to as the opportunity arises include sweeping changes in deer hunting regulations, wolf

population management and harvest guidelines, the recent confirmation of white-nose syndrome at a Wisconsin site, and the now passive response to the ongoing spread of chronic wasting disease. There is certainly no shortage of work to be done.

LCC Updates

Eastern Tallgrass Prairie & Big Rivers LCC

Message from LCC Coordinator Glen Salmon:

In a Fall 2014 update document available from [Gwen White](#), the Science Coordinator, we update you on our partnership's progress to build communities of science across the Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers LCC geography. Our work to support prairie planting activities continues to expand, and we are following up on a series of workshops focusing on urban conservation, floodplain science, agricultural conservation in the Mississippi Basin that benefits wildlife habitat and water quality (Gulf hypoxia) and professional development for our growing community of natural resource experts. Learn more about these projects and engage with us as we follow up on workshop outcomes and training opportunities. This spring, we also welcomed participation from all of our partners to tackle tough natural resources challenges and opportunities in our region. On behalf of our co-chairs Charlie Wooley and Marc Miller, please join us through your participation on any of the four Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) for Prairie Restoration, River Restoration, Agroecology, and Urban Conservation or the two professional networks for Communications and Human Dimensions. We want to hear from you!

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

Upper Midwest & Great Lakes LCC

<http://greatlakeslcc.org/>

Announcements

Student of the Year Award Applications

The North Central Section of The Wildlife Society is accepting [applications for the Graduate and Undergraduate Outstanding Wildlife Student Awards](#). The **deadline** for application is Friday, **October 31, 2014**, and these awards will be presented at the 75th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Indianapolis, IN, February 8-11, 2015. For more information on these awards, please feel free to contact Budd Veverka at 812-929-9970 or bveverka@dnr.in.gov.

Call for Nominations, NCS Officers

This fall we will hold elections for the Secretary, Treasurer, and President-Elect whose terms will begin at the Midwest F&W Conference in February 2015. If you would like to nominate yourself or a colleague, please contact [Katy Reeder](#) by **October 31st**.

New NCS Email Listserv

See the inset box on page 2. The address is... NCSTWS@list.msu.edu.

Africa Study Abroad 2015

Michigan State University is now accepting applications for its 2015 study abroad program – **CONSERVATION & BIODIVERSITY IN SOUTH AFRICAN PARKS & NATURE RESERVES!!!** (May 20–June 17, 2015)



Examine various parks, nature reserves, and ecosystems throughout South Africa; interact with government officials and land managers; and participate in hands-on learning during this once in a lifetime conservation adventure!

Application deadline is March 1, but applicants are admitted on a rolling admission basis and we hope to be full **by January**. Visit the [program website](#) and contact [Jim Schneider](#) for the brochure & informational slideshow.

NCS faculty, please share this with your students.



Homeward Bound by Atlee Hart (2010); acquired from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Announcements, cont'd.



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

Presentation abstract deadline extended to November 1, 2014 !!!

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