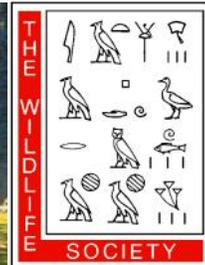


North Central Section TWS



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

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

Spring, 2013

Message from the President

It made my day!

My husband, Mike, and I were giving Missouri Department of Conservation nature center staff a hand during their Haunted Habitats Halloween celebration. Dressed as duck hunters, Mike and I were manning the trail station where we blew on duck calls and repeated scripted lines on how wetlands were important to Missouri's wildlife. We had just finished performing for another group of children and their parents, and the group was moving on to the next station with the last parents just leaving our station. One father stopped and simply said to Mike and me, "Thank you for your service."

I was a little stunned. After all, I had spent a mere 5 minutes performing a little skit about conservation for this group of parents and children, and this gentleman had said just five words that truly made me feel honored. I did not know the man, but this stranger had paid me one of the nicest compliments I had ever received. He thanked me for my work and effort. And I greatly appreciated the use of his word, "service," because he recognized that we were not out there to just entertain, but to serve the public and our natural resources by educating people.

As I started my term as section president this year, I have tried to keep this concept, "service," in mind. North Central Section of The Wildlife Society executive board members are simply in place to serve section members. Our job is to create situations for you to network and learn, and to provide opportunities for you to expand your skills and grow as professionals.



To provide better service, our section chapter is pursuing development of a leadership training program similar to the parent society's "Leadership Institute." As you probably already know, the "Leadership Institute" provides early-career wildlife professionals with a year-long opportunity to learn leadership skills from seasoned professionals and grow a network of supporting future conservation leaders.

Why is the Section beginning to

develop a leadership training program? There are several reasons. We would like to expand the number of members who could take advantage of such an opportunity. The parent society's "Leadership Institute" provides this experience for only 15 TWS members per year and perhaps only one to a few of the 15 slots are filled by Section members. The number of young professionals with leadership training within our region would significantly increase if we provided the training and experience for section members.

The proposed training has another advantage for all Section members. Seasoned and mid-career professionals can be instructors or help develop the program. In fact, we want your help in developing, administering, or teaching. If you want to assist in developing this new service for Section members, please contact our Section Representative, Karl Martin, as he is serving as the spearhead for this effort.

It is my hope that by the end of this year you will think that the executive board will have "served" you and other members. I can think of no greater compliment than to hear that our Section provided a member with information, a network for communicating, or a chance to broaden their knowledge of wildlife ecology and management in the Midwest or the nation. We, the executive board, hope to earn the words, "Thank you for your service."

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Student Chapter Reports

Ball State University Student Chapter

The spring semester has arrived and the Ball State Chapter of The Wildlife Society is busier than ever recruiting new members and spreading the excitement of this semester's activities. Last semester was an exciting time for our chapter as we participated in several great events, attended professional meetings, hosted new speakers, and gained many new members. Our introductory meeting set a new record with 75 in attendance with 40-60 people consistently attending the remainder of our meetings during the semester. These bi-weekly meetings hosted a wide range of speakers presenting topics such as Little Brown and Indiana Bat ecology, Mute Swan management issues, modeling predator/prey relationships, urban ecology, and wildlife videography. In December, all of our officers attended the 73rd Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Wichita, Kansas, giving them the opportunity to network and mingle with various professionals in the wildlife field. We also stayed busy with many other events throughout the semester. In September we participated in the Center for Snake Conservation Snake Count at Yellowwood State Forest. In October we held our fall camping trip at Clifty Falls State Park where we were able to volunteer at nearby Red Wolf Sanctuary. In November, we were contracted by Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to assist with their deer check stations, and in December the IDNR also provided us with an opportunity to participate in a duck hunt at Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area aimed to recruit new hunters.

The spring semester is now in full swing and we have already had several great meetings with fantastic speakers and at-

University of Central Missouri Student Chapter

The University of Central Missouri's Chapter of the Wildlife Society kicked off this fall's 2012 semester with new officers of the executive board and many new members. Just as we have in the past, we collected dove wings during the opening day of dove season for the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) in early September. After attending a workshop led by MDC Resource Scientist, Lonnie Anderson, several society members aged deer during the opening weekend of deer hunting season at the local Alewel's Meat Market. We attended a trapping workshop at the Nature Central Environmental Education Center taught by MDC Wildlife Resource Assistant Micah Glover. Micah will host trapping ride-alongs in late November and early December to expose interested members to trapping in the field. UCM alum-

ni Aaron Bossert hosted a field trip to the wetland he oversees in the Blue Springs lake area. He will allow interested members the chance to conduct research and surveys, which will enable them to gain hands-on experience in the field and opportunities to enhance their research skills. Preparations for our 10th annual BioBlitz are currently in the works. This year marks a decade of education and outreach provided to our community over the years though this event! Bird banding, mammal trapping, radio telemetry, beaver management, electrofishing, tree ring analysis, and insect and herp identification are all offered, Children's crafts, fly tying and bat mist round out the event.

Melissa Schindler
Chapter Reporter

tendance. Our student chapter will soon hold elections for next years officers, and we have many excellent candidates. We also have numerous speakers and events planned for this semester. In March, our officers and student members will attend a joint state The Wildlife Society/American Fisheries Society/ and Society of American Foresters spring meeting focusing on "Threatened, Endangered, and Declining Species". This will once again give our students an opportunity to meet and establish relationships with wildlife professionals as well as fellow students. Overall, we are looking forward to completing another successful year in our efforts at education, conservation, and giving back to our local wildlife!



Chad Williamson
Chapter President

University of Minnesota Crookston Student Chapter

In November some chapter members assisted in removing exotic conifers at Rydell NWR that were then sold as Christmas trees for a local fundraiser. DNR Wildlife Research Manager Lou Cornicelli addressed the chapter in December on the topic of deer management. The public was invited and over 150 people attended; it was standing room only! Also in December, the chapter participated in UMC's Winter Wonderland on campus and made pine cone bird feeders with many little kids, there were smiles all around! Some members also assisted with the Christmas Bird Count

in the Crookston area. This winter the chapter has helped staff the visitor center at Rydell National Wildlife Refuge as well as aided in some of their programming. Following spring break we will conduct owl and goshawk surveys in the Beltrami Island State Forest, do some habitat management / burn preparation at Agassiz Audubon, and attend the annual tree-planting weekend sponsored by the Natural Resources Club on campus. We have ~25 active members.

Krista Kenyon
Chapter President

University of Wisconsin Madison Student Chapter

What a busy school year for UW-TWS! The University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology's Student Chapter involves students in natural resource conservation-related activities and exposes them to professional opportunities. First off, a couple of exciting announcements! Our president, Josh Seibel, was awarded the Outstanding Student Award at the state chapter meeting in early March. This award is given to students possessing "scholarship, leadership, and prospect for accomplishment in the wildlife profession". Josh has done a stellar job serving our Chapter this year, and we are very appreciative of all his hard work. Congratulations, Josh! Secondly, our Game Dinner Fundraiser held last December was a huge success. We had a lively raffle and silent auction of locally donated items. The menu included venison meatballs and stews, Pronghorn antelope, turkey tetrazzini, pheasant, goose, elk, wild-caught Alaskan salmon, and many homemade side dishes. Well over 100 people enjoyed the meal. We sincerely thank all who donated meat, time, and energy to make the event so enjoyable and beneficial for our future!

Our general meetings are held every other week and we have enjoyed presentations from Jeff Lorch (National Wildlife Health Center) about wildlife disease, grad student Andrew Norton regarding his WDNR deer monitoring project, and grad student Camille Warbington about her neonatal fawn surveys. We hosted a graduate school advising panel with Jon Pauli, Jamie Nack, Ryan Sword, and Jen Stenglein serving as the panel members. We look forward to learning about plant pathology and Wisconsin avian biology at future meetings from Professor Glen Stanosz and Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative coordinator Andy Paulios.

Last October, five members from the Student Chapter traveled to Portland, OR for the Wildlife Society's National Confer-

ence. They were great representatives of UW while networking, meeting peers, gathering information on how to further improve the Chapter, and entertaining conference goers with our Wisconsin accents. Our team contended in the annual Quiz Bowl tournament, reaching the second round of competition. We thank Scott Craven for serving as our coach! Most importantly, we gathered valuable experience from the competition and will be ready to storm the stage in Milwaukee this October. We look forward to seeing many other student chapter members at the conference, and we encourage anyone interested in suggesting student activities or events to contact us with their ideas!

We have also been busy in the field this year. We assisted with WDNR's Deer Monitoring project in Shiocton, WI twice this semester, and love the exhilarating trapping and tackling experience. We hope to participate at least once more this spring. Other events we have planned are assisting with prairie burns in the Madison area, helping with science education nights at local schools, cleaning up our section of Adopted Highway, helping salamanders cross busy roads during the breeding season, and a herping trip to nearby Kettle Moraine State Forest.

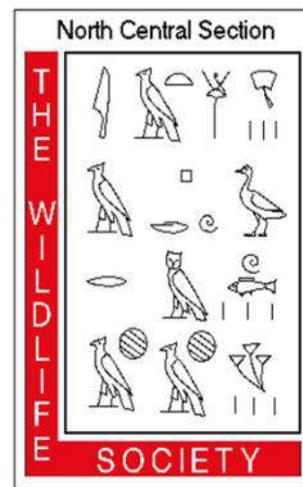
The Student Chapter is participating in the Great Wisconsin Birdathon fundraiser this May. Our team, the "Badger Birders", is currently seeking pledges for the event. During an intense 24 hour day of birding around Madison in early May, we will strive to see as many species as possible. Pledges can be made on a per-species-recorded basis, or in

a sum regardless of the number of species counted. Half of the proceeds will benefit the Bird Protection Fund of Wisconsin, and the other half will go to our Student Chapter. If you would like to support the Badger Birders or would like more information about the Great Wisconsin Birdathon, please contact Josh Seibel (president, jseibel@wisc.edu), or Holly Hovanec (vice president, hovanec@wisc.edu).

To reflect upon our experiences and accomplishments we will have our Year-End cookout at Picnic Point, UW-Madison's famous peninsula, in May. Good food, fun people, and beautiful scenery sound like a great way to wrap up another successful year



at UW! If you would like to become involved with our chapter or have questions, please contact us at wildlifesociety.uw@gmail.com, or check out our website: <http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/tws/>.



Hocking College Student Chapter

This has been a very exciting, busy, and productive year for the Hocking College student chapter. Last fall, we teamed up with Americorps and our college's landscape management students to host a community tree planting day designed to promote native species planting. We also helped the Wayne National Forest and the Monday Creek Restoration Project by planting native species at Greendale Wetland. The Wayne National Forest has always been a terrific supporter of our club and our members participate in the frog and toad survey conducted by wildlife biologist Katrina Schultes.

In November, members traveled to West Virginia to help age harvested white-tailed deer and weigh yearling bucks. Jeff McCrady, district wildlife biologist, and West Virginia's Division of Natural Resources have been very gracious in offering our students valuable volunteer opportunities. For several years, our members have helped estimate abundance of the deer population on Blennerhassett Island for the state of West Virginia by participating in a good old fashioned deer drive. We participated in this event last fall and will be returning in the spring. The results are used to determine an appropriate number of

hunting permits to be issued to West Virginia residents.

Professional development has always been our top priority. Wildlife Club members were given the chance this year to take part in a radiotelemetry study on Ohio Copperheads. We participated in an edge feathering project last fall to manage rabbit and quail habitat. Also, we help maintain nest boxes for southern flying squirrels, American kestrels, and wood ducks, as well as building bluebird boxes for a local Metro Park and suet feeders to be placed around our college's campus. We have had the opportunity to participate in bird banding activities at Hocking's nature center and observed some of our members' favorite bird, the northern saw-whet owl. As part of a bobcat study being conducted by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, our members have been helping to gather small mammal population data using Sherman live traps. Al Lecount and Cheryl Mollohan will be speaking with our club about the great progress they have been making on this project.

We have been very fortunate to host some wonderful speakers this year. Doug Wynn, a snake ecologist working with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources,

delivered an informative presentation about venomous snakes. Joe Letsche, a professional tracker and naturalist gave a very educational and entertaining presentation on the finer points of tracking. Amy Mackey, Raccoon Creek Watershed Coordinator, shared with our club all of the efforts being made by the Raccoon Creek Partnership to clean up Ohio's waterways.

We recently worked with the Buckeye Big Buck Club, helping with their annual banquet and with the Ohio Deer and Turkey Expo and have a full schedule planned for the rest of the year. We will be volunteering at the Southeast Ohio Pheasants Forever Annual Youth Education Event, helping the children to build bird houses, paint duck decoys, and teaching them to cast a fishing pole. We will be planting 4,000 trees and are preparing for our annual fishing trip to Lake Erie. Also, we are planning to put in place a dove field at Hocking College's Lake Snowden and will be working in cooperation with the Ohio Division of Wildlife to host a youth dove hunt next year. We are confident that next year will be just as fruitful as this one.

Samuel Fogle
Chapter President

Missouri Western State University Student Chapter

The Missouri Western State University Student Chapter has been very active this semester. We have been working hard on what we call the triad of success which consists of Applied Learning, Skill Set Development, and Leadership Development. The chapter has volunteered many hours this semester with the Missouri Department

of Conservation assisting with chronic wasting disease sampling, deer aging, interpretive programs and many other projects. We also have been very active at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), participating in five habitat workdays and deer surveys. In addition, our chapter planned and staffed the refuge's

Family Day. Through mid-November of last year, our chapter contributed more than 780 volunteer hours at the refuge. For the first time in the history of our chapter we also conducted deer surveys at Swan Lake NWR. We have had a great start to the school year and are excited to continue to stay active in the coming semester.



Michigan Tech University Student Chapter

The Michigan Tech Chapter of The Wildlife Society has had a busy winter and spring. One highlight was our trip to Crystal Falls Michigan in February to help with the Michigan Predator Prey Project. This project is a collaborative project between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division and Mississippi State University. Our members helped trap and tag white-tailed deer and helped with black bear den monitoring. We also will be assisting the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community do some fin clipping for brook trout in their fish hatchery. Our membership has been increasing during the past year and we look forward to more experiences and memories in the fall. We currently stand at about 30 active members and hope to continue growing.

Anna Buckardt
Chapter Treasurer and President-elect



Purdue University Student Chapter

The Purdue chapter of the Wildlife Society had another busy, successful year!

We are grateful to our state chapter for financial aid for attendance at the 2012 annual meeting of the Wildlife Society. Attending were Jessica Rodkey, Dustin Brewer, Megan Winzeler, and Rachel Vanausdall (chapter officers), and Chrissy Bienz and Seth LaGrange (working group leaders). The Portland meeting was a great opportunity to network with professionals, compete in the quiz bowl contest, and present their undergraduate research in the poster symposia. A group of us also attended the Midwest Student Chapter Conclave in Twin Lake, Michigan on April 12-14.

Working groups were a new experiment for the year, allowing students to focus on areas of interest. The groups were 'birds,' a highlight of which was seeing saw-whet owls up close; 'herps' which enjoyed watching Life in Cold Blood and aiding fellow undergraduate Seth LaGrange extract blood samples from timber rattlesnakes for his research; 'mammals,' which also aided fellow undergraduates Cole Bleke, Jessica Rodkey, and Chrissy Bienz continue their now four-year study on prairie mammals at the Purdue Wildlife Area; 'museum specimen-prep' which will be visiting the archives of the field museum in April; 'photography,' and 'wild-area exploring.' Club-wide activities included an overnight camping trip at Shades State Park where Mike Mycroft spoke to us about the Department of Natural Resources. A group also went to Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife area to observe

nearly 30,000 sandhill cranes during their migration. During the opening weekend of firearm deer season, members helped collect data at a check station with wildlife biologist Dean Zimmerman. Dean later gave a presentation to the club, as did furbearer biologist Shawn Rossler and Dr. Jason Hovermana, new Purdue Department of Forestry and Natural Resources faculty member. A graduate student roundtable was held to discuss the graduate school application process. A favorite and highly attended meeting was visiting retired professor Dr. Weeks who told interesting stories during a bonfire over marshmallows and hotdogs.

Recently the club participated in an invasive species removal workshop which provided the opportunity to operate brush saws, mix and apply herbicides, and to identify woody invasive shrubs. In three full work days we helped clear 17 acres of Amur honeysuckle, multi-flora rose, Japanese barberry, and autumn olive. Most recently a couple of our members were even included in a workshop to give forestry students experience with handling a chainsaw and felling trees.

Over Purdue's spring break nine of our members and graduate student advisor Josh Shields, travelled to Louisiana to participate in the Louisiana Sea Grant Derelict Crab Trap Rodeo. Along with locals, Louisiana State University (LSU) faculty and students, members of the Louisiana Sea Grant, we helped remove 400 derelict crab traps. We then travelled to Baton Rouge to meet with LSU faculty members who have carried out

research on the effects of the Deep Horizon Oil Spill, the hypoxic zone, and land loss from coastal areas. We explored the natural areas and took tours of the Atchafalaya Swamp where we learned the history of the region, culture, and the development of wildlife refuges in the state. The rest of the week we spent at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium and spent time helping the Barrataria-Terrebonne National Estuaries Program pull smooth cord grass and plant it in an aqua garden where it could be propagated and later used to colonize the Barrier Islands following disasters like hurricanes, oil spills, or decimation by invasive nutria. On our final day in Louisiana we took a small boat tour to a large barrier island to learn about how the islands form and change, went trawling, and were lucky enough to see a small group of bottlenose dolphins (including a calf!) swimming near the boat searching for fish. That night we camped out at Grand Isle where we jumped in the Gulf and collected ourselves before heading home on a long drive back. It was a very busy week and a very worthy cause which we hope to make a tradition for our club in future years.

Our website offers pictures and contact information for Purdue TWS:

<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~pws/index.php>

Southern Illinois University Student Chapter

The Student Chapter and Zoology Club at Southern Illinois University Carbondale raised the bar this year with activities and membership at an all time high! The fall semester started off strong with over 100 attendees at the first meeting, the largest in the chapter's history. This continued with a 35 attending our hiking and herping trip to Giant City State Park. It was a fantastic trip that launched students directly into the learning and networking that comes along with this organization. Next was a trip to the big city of St. Louis to visit their beautiful zoological park. For many students it was their first time to the city and for even more, the first time to the zoo itself. Other activities included participating in a Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge cleanup day where the chapter donated a large chunk of time to clean both land and lakeside. The chapter also was lucky enough to hear a presentation on the herps of southern Illinois from state herpetologist, Scott Ballard. This proved useful when we visited the Shawnee National

Forest to view the snake migration on Snake Road at La Rue Pine Hills Research and Natural Area.

The chapter helped restore a nature trail for GreenEarth Inc. just outside of town and held a bonfire at Lake Murphysboro thanks to our speaker, Officer Chris Mohrman, a Conservation Police Officer. On a beautiful Sunday, the chapter assisted in running a "Haunted Hollow" program at the Touch of Nature Conservancy where the students taught young minds and displayed their knowledge of the flora and fauna of Southern Illinois. Lucky enough to get a tour, the student chapter visited the Crown Ridge Tiger Sanctuary in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. If a tiger sanctuary wasn't enough, the student chapter visited the Endangered Wolf Center to see gray wolves, maned

wolves, red wolves, and swift foxes. The 8th Annual Darwin Week Celebration at SIU was a huge success this year as the chapter paved the way for undergraduates to take a larger role in the week's activities. The chapter has plans for an aquarium trip, a camping weekend, a work day for wildlife rehabilitation, and the 12th annual SIU beast feast.



Treasurer's Report April 2013	
<u>General Fund</u>	
Starting Balance	\$13,503.95
Income (3rd quarter reimbursement)	\$400.00
Expenses (below)	\$1,115.90
Ending Balance	\$112788.05
Expenses included reimbursement for plaque (\$115.90) and Student Chapter of the Year Award (\$1000.00)	
<u>Continuing Education Fund (Savings & CDs)</u>	
Balance	\$28,319.15
<u>Symposia Fund (Savings & CDs)</u>	
Balance	\$10,736.70
TOTAL FUNDS as of April 16, 2013	\$51,915.39
Respectfully submitted by NCS 2012 Treasurer, Suzanne Prange, Ph.D. Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife	

University of Missouri Columbia Student Chapter

The University of Missouri Student Chapter Society has kept very busy! After ending our fundraising activities with the football concessions, we have focused fundraising within the school and community, holding our first annual Wildlife Weenie Roast which was a huge success. Due to the unpredictable weather these past few months, we only hosted one camping trip—where we spent the night in Three-Creeks Conservation Area. We are planning additional fundraisers, such as selling birdseed and hosting wildlife activities to further our development as well as involving ourselves with the school and community.

We hosted a number of interesting guest speakers, including Kelly Straka, Jason Summers, and a panel of grad students. Kelly introduced us to some common diseases in wildlife and updated us on the current issues with chronic wasting disease. Jason taught us how to properly age deer, and we sent several of our members out into the field to assist in aging and processing deer for the hunting season. We ended our year with a round-table

discussion with a panel of local graduate students. They informed the club on the basics of applying and getting into graduate school and careers with a focus on wildlife.

At our last meeting, we discussed our major goals for the oncoming year, which focus on creating opportunities for our members to further themselves in wildlife studies. One major activity we are participating in is the planning and co-hosting of the 2013 Spring Student Workshop being hosted here in Columbia. We also donated money to the College's adopt-a-family and have elected to adopt an animal through the World Wildlife Fund to help protect endangered wildlife. Down the road we plan on sending our members to the Missouri Natural Resource Conference in April, the Midwest Conclave in Michigan, and hopefully the Canadian Conclave.

State Chapter Reports

Minnesota State Chapter

Since last fall, the Minnesota Chapter has kept quite busy and productive and activities at the state level were many and varied. We visited with a university class exploring career development as wildlife biologists and professional involvement in TWS. Members attended the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Annual Roundtable where stakeholder input for DNR programs was sought, we lobbied at the Teaming With Wildlife Fly-In at Washington, D.C. for State Wildlife Grant appropriations, and sent a letter to the DNR in support of listing of the red-headed woodpecker and chimney swift as special concern species. We represented the Chapter at Minnesota's Environmental Congress which provides guidance to Minnesota's Environmental Quality Board, and presented at a public forum organized at the State Capitol by the Minnesota Conservation Federation in honor of National Wildlife Week, as well as keeping up on the day-to-day, behind-the-

scenes work that our board conducts to keep the chapter running smoothly.

Our most significant event and success was our annual meeting held February 5-7 with a theme of "Ensuring Ecological Services from Our Changing Landscapes." What stood out was the wonderful attendance and participation by our students. We think a record attendance was reached for an annual meeting that was not held jointly with a sister society. All in all, 87 students and 130 professionals attended! One of the key factors in the success of the event was our Chapter's extra effort to reach out to students though support to attend with travel grants, free registration, a professional-student mixer (held "speed networking" style), a quiz bowl between college teams (with winners against Chapter board members!) and judging of student papers and posters (complete with certificates and monetary awards). Our students' involvement

brought a vibrant and hopeful feeling to the meeting. They are our future. Our goal is to continue to support and involve our students in all our Chapter activities and projects.

Our Chapter is also looking ahead to what we'd like accomplish in the coming months. A workshop in August that will focus on shallow lake management is under development. Also in progress are a position paper on wetland drainage and tiling and an on-line membership survey to learn what members want from our Chapter and how our operations and activities can be improved. We are especially excited about increasing participation from our committees, particularly our prairie/farmland, wetland, forest and statewide committees which are our Chapter "muscle". Stay tuned for the fall newsletter to hear how it's going!

Missouri State Chapter

The Missouri Chapter held our annual meeting January 31 in conjunction with the Missouri Natural Resource Conference (MNRC). The MNRC is an annual meeting sponsored by the Missouri Chapters of the Wildlife Society, American Fisheries Society, Society of American Foresters, and the Show-Me Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. This unique blend of disciplines helps promote sound management and use of Missouri's natural resources. Each year the conference hosts about 1,000 people to exchange information and encourage continued cooperation among resource professionals, agencies, and their stakeholders. This year's theme was *Conservation Pays: Exploring the Social and Economic Impact*. Our Plenary speaker was William A. Guillory, President of Innovations International. Dr. Guillory is a dynamic and transformational speaker who presented information on social and economic factors and how to use that information successfully when we communicate with stakeholders.

During the conference, the Farmer Conservationist Award was presented to Michael Quinn. Mr. Quinn has a 1,200 acre farm, is heavily involved with the local white-tailed deer habitat cooperative and is in-

involved with habitat enhancements through the Wetlands Reserve Program. The James D. Chambers Memorial Scholarships were awarded to Kimberly Pope-Cole for MS work related to human impacts on water quality, and Thomas Bonnet, a doctoral candidate studying regional landscape variability related to climate change. Mr. Bonnet also received the Missouri University Graduate Student Fellowship Award and the Conservation Federation of Missouri's Carl Morrow Award. Brian Bueker was awarded the Conservation Federation of Missouri's Ed Stegner Award.

Two additional outstanding achievement awards were presented, including the G. Andy Runge Award which went to Bruce and Jan Sassmann. This award is conferred by the Missouri Chapter to individuals, groups, or organizations whose original thinking, innovation, and creativity leads to significant impacts in wildlife conservation.

The final award, The E. Sydney Stephens Award, is the highest honor bestowed by the Missouri Chapter to one of its members. This year's award was presented to Lonnie Hansen for significant contributions in management, education, research, and

communication in support of Missouri wildlife resources.

Discussions at our annual meeting included continuation of the spring student workshop, designed to help students gain skills in wildlife management and research techniques, and to learn about Missouri ecosystems. The workshop also provides opportunities to meet, interact, and be mentored by natural resource professionals. This year's event is being hosted in partnership with the University of Missouri Student Chapter and the Missouri Department of Conservation. The workshop will be a full day event scheduled to start Saturday morning with mist netting and end with a deer spotlight survey that evening. Other activities include invasive species identification, trapping, woodland management, prescribed fire, and radiotelemetry.

The Chapter also is actively involved with an annual Professional Development Workshop. This year the Professional Development Committee has been making plans to host a Black Bear Management workshop in the summer. We continue to promote professional development and encourage recruitment of qualified new wildlife professionals.

Illinois State Chapter

Our annual meeting was held April 14-16 in East Peoria, Illinois, where about 50 participants met and listened to 22 oral presentations regarding research and outreach activities throughout the state. We awarded the Professional Award of Merit at the Monday banquet, along with cash awards to two top graduate student papers. The incoming president is Eric Schaubert of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory at Southern Illinois University Carbon-dale.

The biggest state news is that a Sustainability Funding bill for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources was passed in late fall. This bill includes levying a \$2 fee on car registration. Funds generated by this fee, and other small fees, will be directed to "help the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) fix aging infrastructure and other facilities at state parks, hire staff to continue important IDNR programs, and speed up the agency's vast regulatory functions."

We have a new Webmaster!

Michelle Horath has graciously agreed to serve as the North Central Section Webmaster! Thank you Michelle for your willingness to step up and serve the Section. She can be reached at mgeorgi@illinois.edu; 309/543-3950. Our plans are to host the site at the parent chapter at <http://wildlife.org/NCS/>.

Also, please join me in thanking John Loegering, past-President, and now past-Webmaster for all his efforts over the years.





**74TH MIDWEST
FISH AND
WILDLIFE
CONFERENCE**

SAVE THE DATE!

January 26 - 29, 2014
Sheraton Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri

The annual Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference attracts over 800 biologists and students from state and federal natural resource agencies across the 12 Midwestern states. Highlights include: over 400 technical talks, poster displays, plenary sessions, networking opportunities and social events.

North Central Section Representative Update

By Karl Martin

The Wildlife Society Council met on Sunday March 24 and Monday March 25 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia. The meeting was in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resource Conference.

Before I discuss Council activities I want to make sure everyone is aware that our very own Gary Potts will be running for TWS President this year. Many of you know Gary, who has been a dedicated TWS member and officer at all levels from Student Chapter, State Chapter, Section, and as a Wildlife Society Council member for six years. Gary's passion and dedication for the profession, the resources we aim to protect and manage and The Wildlife Society make **him a great candidate for President**. Gary does an excellent job of promoting the society, advocating for members on issues of importance and supporting professional development at all levels.



Please be sure to take time this Spring to get your vote in for TWS President and maybe we'll have another TWS President from the North Central Section

At the start of the meeting, the new TWS Executive Director, Ken Williams, was welcomed and introduced to Council and members attending the meeting. Executive Director Williams briefed Council on his activities for the last three weeks and gave his impressions of the issues confronting TWS. The most pressing issue is our current financial situation that has received a lot of attention from Council over the past year and the good news is that the situation appears to be improving.

The Council agreed to change from a calendar-based fiscal year to a July 1 – June 30th fiscal year. The reasoning for this is many debits and credits currently straddle the calendar year, and the period surrounding the end of June is a relatively quiet fiscal time of year. The transition will take place over the next couple of years. I'm sure many of you can relate as many state fiscal years are on the June-July calendar—which unfortunately straddles our busiest time of year.

Section Representative Update, continued...

Council approved the purchase of new computer infrastructure and membership portal software to replace the antiquated system that was in place and at risk of crashing. The new portal will enhance member services and allow for great flexibility and collaboration between the Parent Society and Subunits. Proceeds from the 2013 Investors Campaign will be dedicated to partially funding the new TWS computer infrastructure and membership portal.

Working Group Updates

The Renewable Energy Working Group request for official status was approved; The Range Working Group request for interim status was approved; and The Wetlands Working Group request for a six-month extension of interim status was approved.

General updates

- Council approved the appointment of Thomas A. Roberts for a seat on the Certification Review Board.
- Communications to encourage more active collaboration with colleagues in Mexico will be initiated.
- TWS staff will be developing a plan for generating more frequent press releases on journal papers that may have broad interest.
- COWCH videos will be given a presence on the new Retirees Center, and the Center's content will be enhanced with content that's relevant to TWS retirees.

The Policy Priorities for 2013 were approved. They are:

- Climate Change and Adaptation
- Endangered Species Recovery
- Energy Development and Wildlife
- Federal employee participation in professional societies
- Funding for Wildlife Conservation and Management
- Invasive Species Prevention and Management
- North American Model / Public Trust Doctrine
- Strategic Conservation Planning
- Wetlands Conservation
- Wildlife Health



Congratulations TWS Fellows

Each year the Society honors 10 of its members who have been dedicated to the mission of the Society, active at multiple levels, and who are serving as TWS ambassadors. This year I'm thrilled to announce that two long time North Central Section Members have been awarded TWS Fellow Status. Please join me in congratulating John Schulz and Charles Pils who will be inducted as TWS Fellows at the Milwaukee Conference this fall. CONGRATULATIONS Chuck and John – well deserved!!

Celebrating the 20th TWS Annual Conference – Milwaukee

Please be sure to put the dates of October 5-9th on your calendar for the TWS Annual meeting. This will be a great meeting to attend and if you've never attended an Annual TWS Conference I would highly recommend you consider attending this year. We'll have two plenary sessions focusing on sharing our message and communicating with the public (Sunday October 6) and wolf ecology and management (October 8th). We're also increasing the number of concurrent sessions to seven to meet increased submission rates and attendance. We will also have both a welcoming dinner and an exciting farewell reception celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Annual Conference (seems like just yesterday I was in Albuquerque at the first conference). Another new wrinkle this year will be the opportunity to partake in community service on Saturday October 5th – Alan Crossley and Scott Craven are leading this effort so it's guaranteed to be fun and rewarding! If there is anything TWS or I can do to help convince your agency or employer to support attendance and travel to the meeting please let me know.

Farewell – I want to thank everyone for your support as I represented you as North Central Section Representative – it has been a great honor representing you! I've decided to not run for reelection this fall, but fortunately we have two excellent candidates running for section representative – Drs. John Schulz and David Andersen. Thanks again for your support and I look forward to working with you to protect, enhance, and manage our precious natural resources.

Midwest Conclave—2013

By Becca Blundell, Michigan State University

Student Chapters have a great opportunity to come together in a student conference called the Student Conclave. The Student Conclave meets in the spring, and is hosted by a different Student Chapter each year. Conclave provides college students with valuable hands-on training in wildlife management and conservation, and networking opportunities with wildlife professionals and colleagues.

The Michigan State University (MSU) Fisheries and Wildlife Club, which is a Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society, had the amazing opportunity to host the 2013 TWS Midwest Student Conclave. The event occurred at Camp Pinewood in Twin Lake, Michigan. Nearly 150 students from 13 different schools from around the Midwest found themselves together on the weekend of April 12th through the 14th.

With support from the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the MSU Fisheries and Wildlife Department, MSU faculty and graduate students, the Michigan State University's Student Chapter was able to successfully make it a great experience for all who attended. Many workshops were offered to the attending students to practice wildlife techniques while networking.



Electrofishing on Twin Lake



Winning Quiz Bowl Team: University of Minnesota-Crookston

The first evening of the Conclave started off with an intriguing presentation from the President-elect of the North Central Section of the Wildlife Society Dr. Patrick Lederle who is also with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. This keynote presentation on the policies surrounding wolf management highlighted policy challenges in Michigan and the challenges we encounter with wildlife management in today's changing society.



Iowa State on the shore of Lake Michigan

Some of the workshops offered during the weekend included mist-netting, electrofishing, radio telemetry, and small mammal trapping. Students also had the opportunity to attend a few different field trips, including a trip to view Lake Michigan dunes, a tour of a local Raptor Rehabilitation Center, and a special birding trip to a nearby waste management plant. There were additional opportunities to attend herping hikes, birding hikes, and the nightly owl prowl. Each chapter attending also had the opportunity to highlight their knowledge and skills in a game of quiz bowl, and a photography contest.

All in all, another successful Student Conclave!



Our hosts, the Fisheries and Wildlife Club from Michigan State University

Awards from the 73rd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, December 9-12, 2012



Student Chapter of the Year, Missouri Western State University. (l to r) Carly Compton, Chapter Vice-President Chris Herrod, Adam Meyer, and Chapter President Ben Olson, receiving the award from NCS President John Loegering



Jennifer Stenglein, shown with her adviser Tim Van Deelen, received the NCS Outstanding Wildlife Graduate Student Award



John Loegering presents Chad Williamson from Ball State University, with the NCS Outstanding Wildlife Undergraduate Student Award

Book Review and Comment: Affect Change Rather Than Become a Victim of It

By John H. Schulz

Break Through: Why We Can't Leave Saving the Planet to Environmentalists by Nordhaus and Shellenberger (2009); and **Nature Wars: The Incredible Story of How Wildlife Comebacks Turned Backyards into Battlegrounds** by Jim Sterba (2012)

There are many fundamental beliefs and concepts that provide the foundational ideas of our wildlife profession. Some ideas are based upon historical narratives we tell each other, and in turn these narratives lead to management actions related to invasive species, native species, historical conditions, reference streams, or nuisance wildlife. Two relatively new books provide valuable and unique depictions about the modern conservation and environmental movements dating back to European exploration and exploitation. Both books, however, provide unique perspectives on our current condition and future directions.

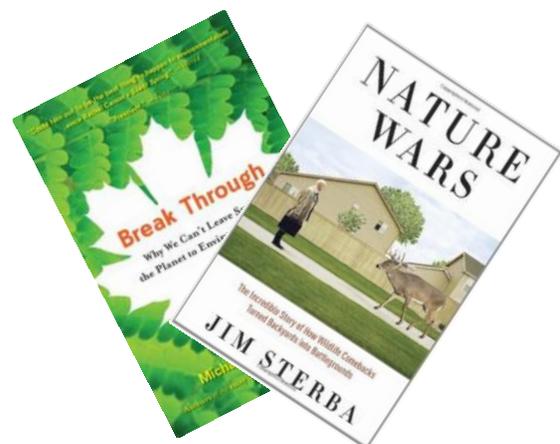
Sterba's **Nature Wars** provides a useful context for many of wildlife management success stories; e.g., abundant forests, white-tailed deer, beavers, giant Canada geese, wild turkeys, and black bears. Along with these conservation success stories are narratives describing deer vehicle collisions, nuisance geese around major airports, beavers flooding roadways, and unwanted suburban neighborhood bears. Sterba shows us people previously experienced the natural world every day in order to survive, and involved a daily sense of brutal reality (e.g., sometimes you have kill and butcher animals if you want to live). Today's synthetic world is different and isolated from these realities, and "denatured" adults often see wild animals similar as depicted in children's books. Americans have become so immersed in the virtual world on YouTube and nature television that the natural world is something akin to an imaginary world of lollipops and rainbows. In other words, many of our modern conveniences have made it easy to ignore the reality and struggle of a wild life. Sterba's advice for the future is uncertain and leaves the reader uncertain about the future.

Break Through (by Nordhaus and Shellenberger) builds upon Sterba's ideas by providing new direction and possibly a new professional paradigm. They suggest we need to consider the modern world humans have modified and created, and use the past as reference point – and not as an optimal desired future condition. This requires global thinking that considers the relationships among global energy use, rising middle-class markets in China and India, declining global ground water supplies, etc. This requires a "post-environmental" type of thinking.

Nordhaus and Shellenberger describe how the modern environmental movement was an outgrowth of several simultaneous cultural factors. The post-WWII era provided economic growth for a generation of people leaving the farm and moving to modern suburbs and working in factories and offices. With almost every need accommodated (i.e., running water, electric lights, modern time-saving appliances, etc.) people began to have the opportunity (resulting from extra income and free-time) to contemplate the value and importance natural systems, and *ecology*. The period of the mid-1960s to early-1980s provided the crucible of most of our current environmental legislation. Since that time the environmental movement has struggled as social, cultural, and economic forces have shaped a new dynamic landscape that is more pragmatic or practical. Although it is familiar and comfortable to find guidance in Aldo Leopold's *Sand County Almanac*, we have to call upon more explicit management objectives and use a greater clarity of logic. In other words, Nordhaus and Shellenberger encourage us to describe those environmental services and products that we need to sustain the system and our species. In their words:

"Ecological thinking at its best sees complex relationships and interactions among industrial plants, workers, health care, energy, pollution, and economic growth as no less a part of the planet's ecosystem, and no less natural, than a rain forest. A healthy, innovative American auto industry deeply invested in producing cutting edge, highly efficient automobiles is essential to America's clean-energy [and sustainable] future."

There are many ideas in **Break Through** some readers may find objectionable, but many are worth considering when contemplating our professional future. **Nature Wars**, on the other hand, provides a warm reminder of our past successes and nudges us to consider the future with an eye toward the past.



We need your help! In order to make this newsletter more useful to the collective community of the North Central Section, we need contributions from you! State or Student chapter reports are excellent and always welcome, yet the newsletter is an opportunity for you to share additional interesting information and updates. Notices for upcoming meetings or events, newsworthy items, and essays, are all good topics for the newsletter. A good example is John Schulz's book reviews. Thanks John! In addition, if you have comments or feedback on the Newsletter, particularly how we can make it better, please contact the President-elect and the Editor, Pat Lederle at lederlep@michigan.gov. He would love to hear from you.

Notes from the joint Executive Board and Members meeting at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Wichita, KS, December 11, 2012

A number of interesting topics were discussed during the meeting and a few are bulleted below. For a full set of minutes, please contact the 2012 Secretary, Scott Walter at scott.walter@wisconsin.gov.

- 2014 Midwest FWC, Kansas City, January 2014
- Milwaukee will host the 2013 annual conference, and the desire for NCS to be a strong participant and contributor
- Current membership of the North Central Section is 408
- Members were provided summaries of recommended changes to both the Operations Manual and Section Bylaws
- TWS National is eliminating the Leadership Institute (mostly due to fiscal constraints) and there has been interest within the NC Section in picking this up as an endeavor
- Maintaining membership dues at current levels



Save the dates! October 5-12, 2013 is the 20th Annual Conference of the Wildlife Society. The North Central Section is heavily involved and is sponsoring a special Plenary "Wolf Conservation at the Crossroads" and a symposium on wolves "Navigating New Landscapes in Wolf Management". Visit www.wildlifesociety.org for more details. This will be a great conference and since it is "local" for the Section, we are encouraging everyone to participate. We hope to see you there!

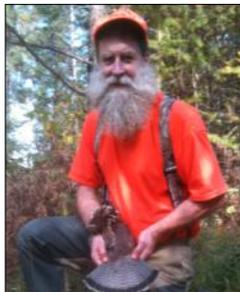
NCS Dues Reminder

As you pay your national dues, please remember to include your section dues as well! At \$10, it is still a bargain. Dues funds are used to support student scholarship programs and symposia as well as other section business.

Your 2013 North Central Section, TWS Officers



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NCS Standing Committees

- Audit
- Program
- Publicity
- Resolutions and Public Statements
- Symposia and Publications
- Professional Award of Merit
- Best Student Presentation and Best Student Poster
- Membership



Newsletter Deadlines

Deadlines for submission of articles and other information for the Spring and Fall newsletters are 15 March and 15 September. Please have your information electronically delivered to the president elect by these dates. Photos are ALWAYS appreciated.

