



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

Spring 2016

## President's Message



*Chris Newbold*  
2016 NCS President

I'm not an orator. I'm not a creative writer. I was not endowed with the "gift of gab." My folksy style of communication and interaction is a product of growing up in the sloughs and hills of extreme Southern Illinois and spending my career in the grasslands and woodlands of Missouri. So when it came

time for me to draft an inspirational message for the North Central Section's (NCS) newsletter, I procrastinated as long as possible. Finally, in

preparation of writing this message, I decided to peruse past newsletters to get an idea on how past presidents have imparted their wisdom and vision to the Section membership. I found a common theme in most of those past President's Messages...one of service. Whether exploring how the Section can better provide services to our members or requesting expanded support from the members, previous NCS presidents have spent much of their time working to make the Section as relevant to its members as possible. Service to its members is the primary function of any lasting organization and during this coming year, as the Section president, I hope to increase the Section's service to its members.

In the past few years the Executive Board has been working to increase the services provided to our members. The Section continues to support and recognize the outstanding work that our members accomplish. You will see examples of this recognition in this newsletter with the recently awarded Outstanding Wildlife Graduate and Undergraduate Student Awards, the Student Chapter of the Year Award, and the Professional Award of Merit. In the past year the Section has also been active in developing nominations of Section members for TWS Fellows Awards. The Section is also taking an active role in TWS's Conservation Affairs Network by increasing communication, soliciting input and coordinating with national, section and state chapter representatives on wildlife policy issues that impact many of our members. I want to thank Colleen Hartel, Ohio, for her leadership on this Network. Colleen's service –and the service of all those who serve on our Executive Board and committees - is

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an example of how members define and strengthen the Section.

The Section has also working to provide continuing education and leadership training services to our members, most notably through the Leadership Series training hosted by the Section at this winter's Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This inaugural workshop was sponsored by both the Section and the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) and focused on providing leadership training to natural resource professionals ranging from students to seasoned professionals. Plans are being made to continue this training opportunity at the 2017 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska. The Leadership Series workshops are an effort by the NCS Executive Board to provide continuing education and professional development opportunities to our members.

Providing quality professional development and continuing education opportunities to our members is a chief priority of the current Executive Board. Because of this, the Executive Board is examining the structure of our current funds. The NCS has three funds: a general operating fund that is financed by membership dues and pays our annual awards, support to student chapters (conclaves), annual conference travel and other yearly expenses; a symposia fund which in the past was used to fund sponsored NCS symposium and was supported by the sale of published symposium proceedings; and a continuing education fund that was set aside to fund continuing education opportunities for our members. The continuing education funds originally set aside were envisioned to serve as a corpus that would generate enough interest to fund workshops and trainings. However, under today's rates, the interest being generated from that fund is not enough to cover workshop/training costs. Additionally, no symposium proceedings have been produced since 1999. Currently, the Executive Board does not believe the symposium and continuing education funds are being effectively used for the purposes for which they were originally created. We are trying to take a fresh look at these funds to see how they can best be

used to serve the purposes for which they were set aside and help meet our goals of providing better services to our members. Discussions regarding these funds have included different investment options (in order to generate more interest income), using the principal (in contrast to just interest) to fund continuing education opportunities, and combining the symposium and continuing education funds to fund professional development activities. As the Executive Board discusses how best to move forward with these funds and how to best meet our desire to provide valuable services to our members, I would welcome any comments and input members may wish to provide. My hope is to have a position and proposed direction with these funds that can be discussed and finalized at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska.

I am proud to serve you as president of the North Central Section and welcome your input, support, (and even criticism.) Have a great summer!

## 2015 NCS Awards

### Professional Award of Merit

The North Central Section's 2015 Professional Award of Merit was awarded to Dr. Josh Millspaugh.



*Mike Larson, 2015 NCS President, presents the Professional Award of Merit to Josh Millspaugh*

Dr. Millspaugh is the William J. Rucker Professor of Wildlife Conservation at the University of Missouri. Dr. Millspaugh's research focus is

wildlife population ecology, which he applies to a diversity of taxa, conservation challenges, and scientific questions. He has published over 180 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters and 5 books. Current and recent projects include analysis of Greater Sage-grouse ecology as it relates to wind energy development, management of Missouri's reintroduced elk population, impacts of commercial turtle harvest on riverine turtle populations, and mule deer response to energy development in North Dakota.

A Certified Wildlife Biologist and a TWS Fellow, Dr. Millspaugh has been active in TWS since joining the organization in 1993. He has served as an Associate Editor for the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* and the *Journal of Wildlife Management*. He has served as the Advisor for the University of Missouri Student Chapter, as well as serving on numerous TWS working groups. Dr. Millspaugh has trained and mentored many developing wildlife biologists. The impact of his research and of his efforts to educate the next generation of wildlife biologists provide a lasting benefit to the Section and the profession as a whole.

## Student Chapter of the Year

For its exemplary contributions to The Wildlife Society's mission and goals, The North Central Section's Student Chapter of the Year for 2015 was awarded to the University of Minnesota-Crookston.



*Mike Larson, 2015 NCS President, with University of Minnesota-Crookston Student Chapter Advisor John Loegering*

The Student Chapter at the University of Minnesota Crookston organizes and hosts a variety of events

and activities to benefit its members, the campus community, and the public. In 2015, the UMC chapter co-hosted the North Central Section Student Conclave with students from Bemidji State University. The chapter enhances the knowledge of members by supporting attendance at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Chapter of TWS.

Other examples of the types of activities this Chapter organizes include: bud capping at Itasca State Park, walleye netting and handicap deer hunt at Rydell National Wildlife Refuge, tree planting at Chippewa National Forest, duck banding at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, and organizing an "International Ice Fishing" event. This is the second time in the chapter's 15-year history that they have won the Student Chapter of the Year award.

Congratulations to the University of Minnesota-Crookston Chapter!

## Outstanding Graduate Student

The North Central Section's 2015 Graduate Student of the Year was awarded to Sonja Christensen of Michigan State University.



*Mike Larson, 2015 NCS President, presents the Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year Award to Sonja Christensen*

Sonja earned her Bachelor's degree in Biology at Minnesota State University in Mankato and a Master's degree in Wildlife Science at Penn State University where she studied the "Movement and Habitat Use of Sika and White-Tailed Deer on Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland."



After that she worked for 3 ½ years as the Deer and Moose Project Leader for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Sonja is now in her 3rd year as a Ph.D. candidate in Wildlife Disease Ecology and Conservation Medicine at Michigan State University. Her thesis project is on “Population dynamics and disease patterns in white-tailed deer: understanding the role of a newly emergent virus.”

She is on the Board of the Michigan Chapter of The Wildlife Society, is also a member of TWS’s parent society and TWS’s Wildlife Disease working group, and she is a co-founder and the Vice-President of MSU’s chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association. Furthermore, Sonja is the coordinator of the Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative Steering Committee of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Congratulations, Sonja!

## Outstanding Undergraduate Student

The North Central Section’s 2015 Undergraduate Student of the Year was awarded to Sarah Fischer of Ball State University.



*Mike Larson, 2015 NCS President, presents the Outstanding Undergraduate Student of the Year Award to Sarah Fischer*

Sarah wants to conduct research on songbirds and create public-accessible artwork based on her research. She’s actually doing exactly that as part of her undergraduate studies. She’s leading a study of “Bird-Window Collisions on the Ball State

University Campus,” which has required coordinating a small army of volunteers.

Sarah has received numerous scholarships and awards, most notably Ball State Presidential Scholarships in both Academics and Arts, a US-UK Fulbright Summer Institute Scholarship, and she was 1 of only 50 honorable mentions in the nation for the Udall Environmental Scholarship.

She is a member at all levels in The Wildlife Society, is the Vice President of the Ball State Student Chapter of TWS, and is on the board of her local chapter of the Audubon Society.

Congratulations, Sarah!

## Section Representative Report

*March 2016*



*David E. Andersen  
NCS Section  
Representative*

The Wildlife Society (TWS) Council met in conjunction with the 2016 North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 14-15 March 2016. There were a number of items considered at this meeting that are of interest to North Central Section members, and I would like to provide a few highlights. First, TWS’ financial position continues to improve, with a net operating surplus the last three fiscal years and a projected surplus for the current fiscal year. Without doubt, TWS’ finances are moving in the right direction, and we are rebuilding a critical reserve fund that had dwindled. Second, the recent decline in membership at the national level appears to have ended, no doubt in part due to a more attractive value proposition for members and more effective engagement throughout all levels of TWS. Third, the 2015

Annual Conference in Winnipeg, Canada turned out to be a resounding success, and plans are underway to continue that success at upcoming meetings in Raleigh, North Carolina (2016) and Albuquerque, New Mexico (2017). Preliminary discussions are also in the works for a joint annual conference with the American Fisheries Society and an International Wildlife Management Congress in Chile.

TWS continues to make progress toward current TWS President, Gary Potts' (Illinois) goal of expanding the wildlife partnership, and at the parent-society level, TWS continues to build on its partnerships with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and TWS sections, state chapters, and student chapters, among others. Our scientific journals continue to provide current and relevant science, and 2 (the *Journal of Wildlife Management* and the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*) of the 3 TWS journals recently transitioned to new Editors-in-Chief; that transition and associated revisions to procedures for managing manuscripts has proceeded smoothly. At the parent-society level, TWS has streamlined its electronic communication with members via a recently redesigned website, the eWildlifer, and conservation action alerts. Many subunit websites, including those of the North Central Section (<http://wildlife.org/ncs/>) and several state chapters (Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin) therein, have transitioned to being hosted through wildlife.org. Some additional details about activities at the parent-society level of TWS include:

*TWS publications:*--The scientific publication landscape has changed dramatically over the past few years, and continues to change at a rapid pace. The Wildlife Society currently supports 1 online journal (the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*) and 2 print and online journals (the *Journal of Wildlife Management* and *Wildlife Monographs*). TWS Council is working with our publisher, Wiley, to make our content more available to TWS members and the science and management community more broadly—stay tuned for more information on that front. The Publications subcommittee of TWS Council is also working with Wiley and others to help authors comply with open access and open data

requirements, some of which have recently been mandated by the U.S. Government. How this will all be managed is not yet entirely clear, but these mandates are another component of the changing publication landscape. Finally, *The Wildlife Professional* will be produced 6 times a year starting this year, up from the previous 4. *The Wildlife Professional* has been highly valued by TWS members—take a look if you haven't seen an issue recently.

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

Overall, the discussions and information conveyed at the Council meeting in Pittsburgh this March were quite positive. TWS continues on a positive financial track and has made progress toward rebuilding our Permanent Reserve Fund to provide a cushion of a half year's operating budget as a hedge against unforeseen financial demands. Through the Conservation Affairs Network, TWS is working to more fully integrate across all levels of our organization and more effectively advocate for science-based management and support wildlife professionals. Overall, TWS is making progress on a variety of important fronts, and I hope that you will continue to be engaged in our professional society. As a mild winter in the North Central Section turns to spring, and with all that means for wildlife (calling amphibians, gobbling wild turkeys and dancing sharp-tailed grouse, migrating birds,

unfrozen lakes, spring burns, and all of the other seasonal changes upon us), I hope that you will take a moment to reflect on the professional society you are a part of and reach out to a colleague or other acquaintance who would also appreciate The Wildlife Society, and encourage them to become involved and invested.

## Treasurer's Report

**March 24, 2016**

### GENERAL FUND (Checking & Savings)

General Fund Balance as of January 22, 2016.....**\$ 9,755.63**

Checking Starting Balance	\$ 2,168.60
<b>Checking Income</b>	
4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr TWS Dues	\$1,500.00
Transfer from Cont Ed Acct for Workshop Travel Expenses	\$1,351.22
Subtotal	\$2,851.22
<b>Checking Expenses</b>	
John Schulz – Leadership workshop travel expenses	\$ 908.96
Karl Malcolm – Leadership workshop travel expenses	\$ 442.26
Katy Reeder – Executive Board conference travel support	\$ 500.00
Subtotal	\$1,851.22
<b>CHECKING TOTAL as of January 22, 2016</b>	<b>\$3,168.60</b>

Savings Starting Balance	\$7,597.03
<b>Savings Income</b>	
January 2016 Interest	\$ 0.70
February 2016 Interest	\$ 0.60
Subtotal	\$ 1.30
<b>Savings Expenses</b>	
None	\$ 0.00
Subtotal	\$0.00
<b>SAVINGS TOTAL as of January 22, 2016</b>	<b>\$7,588.33</b>

General Fund Balance as of March 24, 2016..... **\$10,756.93**

<b>Encumbered Savings Expenses</b>	
2015 Student Chapter of the Year	\$1,000.00

Travel Award	
2016 Student Chapter of the Year	\$1,000.00
Travel Award	
2016 Student Conclave Grant	\$1,000.00
Subtotal	\$3,000.00

General Fund Balance (minus encumbrances) as of March 24, 2016 ..... **\$7,756.93**

### CONTINUING EDUCATION FUND

Balance as of January 22, 2016..... **\$28,674.74**

<b>Continuing Education Income</b>	
January 2016 Interest	\$ 2.44
February 2015 Interest	\$ 2.28
Subtotal	\$ 4.72
<b>Continuing Education Expenses</b>	
Transfer to GF Checking for Leadership Workshop Expenses	\$1,351.22
Subtotal	\$1,351.22

Balance as of January 22, 2016 ..... **\$27,328.24**

### SYMPOSIA FUND

Balance as of January 22, 2016..... **\$10,202.04**

<b>Symposia Income</b>	
January 2016 Interest	\$ 0.87
February 2016 Interest	\$ 0.81
Subtotal	\$ 1.68
<b>Symposia Expenses</b>	
None	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$0.00

Balance as of January 22, 2016..... **\$10,203.72**

**TOTAL FUNDS as of March 24, 2016..... \$48,288.89**

**TOTAL FUNDS (minus encumbrances) as of March 24, 2016..... \$45,288.89**

Respectfully submitted by the Treasurer of the North Central Section:



Jim Schneider  
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife  
Michigan State University

## Finances

### TWS North Central Section Finances for Today and the Future

*An update from the North Central Section Board, with information and perspective provided by former NCS Board members John Schulz and Gary Potts*

The North Central Section of The Wildlife Society (NCS-TWS) Executive Board is proposing the consolidation of financial accounts to reflect a more modern business model. We currently have three accounts; a general operating account, a continuing education fund, and symposia fund. The general operating account would continue to fund operational needs related to awards, booth rental, and miscellaneous expenses. This account operates directly from membership dues. The other two accounts, continuing education and symposia funds, currently have no consistent source of income. In the past, these accounts have incurred some minor expenses (e.g., travel costs for a keynote symposium speaker), but have remained relatively stagnant over the last 10 years. We propose that the current symposia and continuing education funds be merged into one account that is used to support the continuing education needs of section members. The board is actively considering ways to use these funds for future professional development and continuing education services to our members. For example, these funds could be used to further the development and expansion of the Leadership Workshop Series sponsored by the Section. Another potential use of these funds may be to leverage them for the benefit of members in partnership with organizations such as the American Fisheries Society (AFS), the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) or the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA).

We hope a decision on this new business model for the Section's accounts will be finalized at the

upcoming annual membership meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska. According to our bylaws (Article VII, Section 1, Clause A; <http://wildlife.org/ncs/about/>), the elected Executive Board has the authority to make this decision, but the current Executive Board would like your feedback. Note: An Executive Board decision can be reversed with a two-thirds vote of the Voting Members in attendance at the meeting. Please forward any comments or suggestions to your board members if you cannot attend the next meeting (see contact information on newsletter page 26).

Several decades ago, the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference was the place to present the latest research information. Elected officers in NCS-TWS and with North Central Division of American Fisheries Society (NCD-AFS) were directly involved with organizing and hosting the annual meeting and special symposia. Through time, individual state agency staff became more directly involved in planning and hosting the conference because many of the people involved were also NCS-TWS or NCD-AFS members. As time passed, NCS-TWS stayed functionally engaged with its members by hosting special biennial symposia, and published and sold hard-copy proceedings. Funds generated from the sale of the proceedings covered the costs of invited speakers and printing. This process operated using a special revolving symposium account (i.e., up-front funds necessary to cover printing costs). During that time the general operating account was used for the printing and distribution of the NCS-TWS biannual newsletter; at the time, those costs were considerable and nearly zeroed the account until membership dues were deposited. Several years later the idea of Certified Wildlife Biologists began to grow and develop. During the 1980s – 1990s, some NCS-TWS leaders saw the future need for a special continuing education fund to cover expenses related to the anticipated training needs of the Section to support certification. The original idea was to build enough capital that only the interest would be used to cover the Section's training needs.

Again, things have changed. Our Section has had two dues increases in the past 10 years. The Section has continued to host continuing education



workshops (e.g., a special feral hog management workshop in Kansas City, and the inaugural leadership workshop series in Grand Rapids, Michigan). The Section has also established two new awards in the past four years for outstanding undergraduate and graduate students. We have experimented with reviving the tradition of having a booth at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference as a means of increasing Section exposure and potentially recruiting new members (keep in mind the booth used to be needed to help sell books from the previous special symposia). We contend that there is a legitimate need to adjust how the Section manages its finances and banking accounts. We know things change. So it's no surprise we have to change to remain relevant.

## Contributed Essays

### Professional Advocacy and Problem Solving – What Should I Do?

By John H. Schulz

- **The Honest Broker: Making Sense of Science in Policy and Politics** by Roger A. Pielke, Jr (2007)
- **Adaptive Governance: Integrating Science, Policy, and Decision Making** by Brunner et al. (2005)
- **Bringing Society Back In: Grassroots Ecosystem Management, Accountability, and Sustainable Communities** by Edward P. Weber (2003)

Biologists and scientists today are faced with many complex environmental management and policy issues. If you want to make a difference in the world and play a role in improving environmental sustainability, eventually you'll have to deal with difficult and complex problems. The texts listed above provide examples and some insights, each a particularly different slant. Each text should be required reading for any professional wildlife biologist interested in making a difference in today's complex problem solving landscape. Following are some additional thoughts to consider

as you deal with the never ending stream of complex environmental problems.

Complex problems and issues are characterized as being (1) constantly evolving, (2) possessing unpredictable outcomes, (3) players or stakeholders moving in and out of the problem-system, (4) fundamentally unknowable system characteristics, (5) cause-and-effect relationships separated by space and time, (6) possible solutions are not judged right or wrong but better or worse with no single/simple optimal solution, (7) there appears to be no final resolution or termination point, and (8) the science surrounding the problem is dominated by considerable uncertainty. Given these problem characteristics, some professionals have called these wicked problems because of their difficulty of managing and solving. We don't have to think very hard to find examples facing us every day; e.g., captive deer farms, chronic wasting disease (CWD), lead (Pb) poisoning in wildlife, wildlife conflicts with some renewable energy sources, and climate change. How do we deal with these types of problems and what roles can we, as professionals, play address them?

Often the best approach is to first think clearly about the scope and scale of the problem. A repeated temptation for many biologists and policy makers is to develop solutions before the problem is fully described and understood. Once we have a clearer idea of the problem we need to look for ways to attack it – similar to finding a crack in a wall to exploit. Are there “backdoors” we can use rather than a full-scale frontal attack? The real challenge, however, always comes down the individual or professional role you are willing play and the risks you are willing to accept. Will you play the role of the objective scientist and only provide scientific facts to policy makers? Or, would you provide some commentary about the uncertainties related to the facts? Or, would you provide the facts and related uncertainties along with several suggested policy options? The answer in each case is, “It depends”.

Science, policy, and politics; understanding these basic system elements provides some guidance for dealing with difficult complex problems. Science is



a process for generating new information and testing its veracity. Policy is a set of processes to make repeated decisions; e.g., annual budgets, hunting/fishing regulations, or drafting environmental planning documents. Politics is simply the art of influence and compromise. Within the context of solving complex problems, how do we as biologists, scientists, and policy-makers play the differing roles of scientist, policy maker, and/or politician? Every situation is different, but we can rest assured we'll play different roles at different times, and we may simultaneously play the roles of scientist, policy maker, and politician.

The Wildlife Society (TWS) and other professional societies provide the opportunities and framework allowing you to function as a successful problem solver within the context of these different roles. A good example is the relatively new TWS Conservation Affairs Network integrating state chapters, sections, and national scale organizational levels. First and foremost, you have to be an active member. Everyone has different skills and interests, but everyone has something to contribute. Look around you, is someone complaining about an important management problem or issue? Are they TWS members? If not, invite them to join TWS and get active a working group, a chapter committee, the Conservation Affairs Network. Our problems will only continue as long as good people standby and do nothing.

## Our Cognitive Dissonance of Climate Change and Professional Meetings

By John H. Schulz

In the 2016 spring issue of *Yes!* magazine Peter Kalmus, a climatologist, recounts his personal struggles dealing with climate change in our modern world. Kalmus did a quick analysis of his energy expenditures and found air travel for professional meetings and personal trips accounted for roughly 2/3 of his personal annual carbon output. This doesn't begin to take into account the

total impact of air travel being 2-3 times greater from CO<sub>2</sub> because planes emit mono-nitrogen oxides into the upper atmosphere further accelerating climate change. Hour for hour, there's no better way to warm the planet than fly a plane to a wildlife conference (or a climate conference). We've developed a professional culture, however, where we must travel by commercial airliner to accomplish the necessary work related to national and international wildlife issues. So, how do we justify flying to the numerous professional meetings and annual vacations?

Professionally speaking, meetings and conferences are where the elements of science, policy, and politics converge; often, that's where the real work of large-scale conservation occurs. At these venues we develop professional relationships and networks, accomplish committee tasks, and work toward numerous shared management objectives benefiting wildlife resources – but at what cost? I'm not innocent because I previously fought long and hard to obtain the necessary permission and funding to attend as many meetings as possible advance my research agenda as a state scientist. At some point, however, we must recognize our current approach may be in need of some reconsideration and change. At some point, we must ask how we need to change our lifestyle to meet a more sustainable energy usage, compared to using renewable energy to maintain our current lifestyle.



*John H. Schulz (MO-TWS Chapter member, NCS-TWS member, and TWS Fellow*

I've continued to attend regional and national wildlife meetings as my budget allows. However, I've come to realize that much of the work occurring at these meetings is unnecessary or could be accomplished in more efficient fashion (in terms of both energy and staff time) using modern technology such as video conferencing or conference calls. At some point we must quietly consider our personal cognitive dissonance and our collective professional credibility; e.g., convening wildlife committee meetings developing climate change adaptation

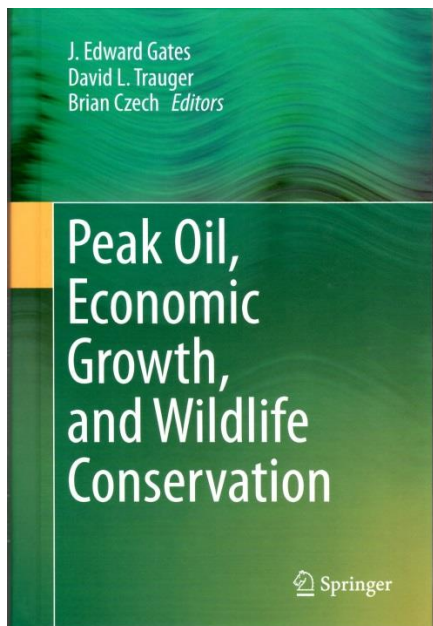
strategies where everyone flies to the meeting burning fossil fuels.

Go to <http://becycling.life/> by Peter Kalmus to read a copy of his draft book titled *Be-Cycling: Better Living Without Fossil Fuel*. How will you consider being more conscious of your fossil fuel usage and your contribution to climate change? Look for a bike rack at your next meeting, you might see me locking up my bike – if it's not too far away.

## Announcements

### New Book on Peak Oil, Economic Growth, and Wildlife Conservation

Submitted by Dr. David Trauger



Now you have a compelling synthesis of key emerging issues of our time --- the fundamental relationships of peak oil and economic growth to conflicts with wildlife conservation. There are numerous books available on the subject of Peak Oil; however, most, if not all, address the consequences of peaking on our industrialized society and how we might adapt. There also are several excellent books available dealing with economic growth. Books on wildlife conservation are also commonplace. However, no book currently

integrates the topics of Peak Oil, economic growth, and wildlife conservation into one narrative. This book attempts to do just that. The book is divided into four sections, respectively titled The Energy Dilemma, Economic Considerations, Fundamental Conflicts, and Wildlife Conservation and the Future. Each succeeding section builds on those that come before it. Readers of this book will gain a deeper understanding of the vital linkages between energy, economic growth, and the conservation of natural landscapes and native species. This book is written for a broad audience, including natural resources professionals, planners, and policy-makers in federal, state, and provincial governments. Leaders of conservation and environmental organizations will value its clarion call for action to stem further losses of biodiversity (including genetic diversity) and advance its conservation. Professors teaching university courses in wildlife ecology and management, conservation biology, and ecological economics will find this volume to be an indispensable course book for their students. Others will use it as a primary reference for seminars dealing with sustainability. Persons interested in Peak Oil and energy depletion will learn how these issues impinge on wildlife conservation. Those interested in alternatives to a growth economy will find the discussion of a steady state economy enlightening, given that lack of cheap, abundant energy may force us in that direction anyway. It is our hope that readers of this book will act on the information contained in it to effect positive change in how our global civilization interacts with the biosphere and humanity's co-inhabitants—the millions of species composing Earth's biodiversity. Everyone interested in making positive changes for a better future will discover the insightful discussions concerning alternatives to a growth economy and potentials of the steady state economy.

### Joint Fire Science Consortia - Time to Take a Look!

Paul A. Brewer, CWB®  
Toledo, Illinois



*"One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds. Much of the damage inflicted on land is quite invisible to laymen. An ecologist must either harden his shell and make believe that the consequences of science are none of his business, or he must be the doctor who sees the marks of death in a community that believes itself well and does not want to be told otherwise."*

— Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

When I started my career in wildlife back in 1979, it seemed like wildlife researchers and managers were faced with an overwhelming number of challenges. One wise mentor used a variation of an often used expression, and told me "I should be happy to live in interesting times!" In the 37 years that have passed, I think most wildlifers in the Midwest would agree that times have grown increasingly "more interesting". Administrative and budgetary challenges continue to grow, as do the challenges we all face with new and emerging concerns on the land we study and manage.

An often-heard phrase is "use the best available science". But managers often don't know what information is already available nor the quality and applicability of that research to their management plans and projects. Another problem is the research may not be integrated in a context meaningful to management. And while the research may be of the highest quality and peer-reviewed, demonstration of science findings in the field is often lacking.

Everett M. Rogers, author of *Diffusion of Innovations* states, "Getting a new idea adopted, even when it has obvious advantages, is difficult. Many innovations require a lengthy period of many years from the time when they become available to the time when they are widely adopted. Therefore, a common problem for many individuals and organizations is how to speed up the rate of diffusion of an innovation."

The Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) goal is to accelerate the awareness, understanding, and adoption of wildland fire science information by federal, tribal, state, local, and private stakeholders within ecologically similar regions. The vision of

the Joint Fire Science Program is a national collaborative science delivery network.

The framework for this delivery network is fire science consortia located around the United States, but certainly with applicability elsewhere. The consortia offer not only a wealth of online knowledge, but also frequently offer field tours, sponsor regional fire management and science meetings, and provide a number of video presentations about issues in wildland fire management and science. Also importantly, the consortia are not a one way street - all offer many opportunities for discussion and to submit your own findings and observations. Below is a link to the fire consortia, with a map that makes it easy to find your area of interest. Take a look and consider bookmarking this as a good reference point!

[http://www.firescience.gov/JFSP\\_exchanges.cfm](http://www.firescience.gov/JFSP_exchanges.cfm)

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## Minnesota DNR Publishes GIS Tool for Facilitating Aerial Surveys

Submitted by Bob Wright, MN DNR

DNRSurvey is an ESRI ArcMap AddIn (toolbar) developed by MnDNR Wildlife and MnIT Services to facilitate aerial surveys of wildlife. It employs "moving map" functionality and customized data entry forms to record point, line, polygon, or audio point features in real time. DNRSurvey is equally applicable to other aerial or non-aerial surveys requiring georeferenced observations (e.g., wild rice, cover type mapping, distance sampling).

Highlights of the functionality include:

- Current position is displayed over data layers (e.g., aerial photos) chosen by the user.
- Observation location and attributes are recorded in data entry forms developed by the user.
- Coordinates can be captured at the current GPS position or anywhere on the map display.



- Point observations can be recorded to audio files for later transcription to data entry forms.
- Attributes of a data layer (e.g., cover types) can be auto-appended to the output file.

The AddIn can be downloaded from the following webpage, which also includes instructions and information on system requirements:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mis/gis/DNRSurvey/DNRSurvey.html>

## MI-Mast: Wildlife Food Tracker Quantifying Mast Production with Citizen Scientists

Gary J. Roloff, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University



Mast collectively refers to the fruit or seed of trees, shrubs, or herbaceous plants. As biologists, we often categorize mast into two categories: hard and soft. As the names imply, hard mast has a hard exterior (e.g., acorns, beech nuts), whereas soft mast has a fleshy exterior (e.g., apples, blueberries). Generally, most soft mast ripens from late summer through early fall, and hard mast generally ripens mid- to late-fall. Wildlife use of mast is not restricted to the ripening seasons. In fact sources of soft mast (for example) are important late winter food sources for short-distant migrant birds like robins and cedar waxwings, and hard mast can be important over-wintering food for deer and turkey (among other wildlife). For some species like bears, the availability of hard and soft mast prior to winter dormancy can directly affect the likelihood of females successfully rearing cubs. Even though mast plays a critical role in wildlife ecology, wildlife professionals have struggled with ways to quantify mast occurrence and abundance at spatial

and temporal scales that are meaningful to managers. To help address this information gap, my laboratory at Michigan State University developed and tested a citizen science program called MI-Mast: Wildlife Food Tracker as a potential way to fill this information void.



Mast production from naturally occurring plants is highly variable in both space and time. Some species, for example oaks, exhibit cyclical tendencies in mast production. Masting in other species, for example cherries, may be more closely linked to environmental factors (e.g., timing of spring frosts). Additionally, the spatial scale of masting can range from highly localized areas to broad geographic regions. Thus, to reliably portray masting annually and across large areas data must be collected over large spatial extents for long periods of time. Collecting these types of data is often beyond the logistical constraints of typical state resource management agencies. However, millions of citizens spend time outdoors or in their yards annually and many pay attention to mast production. Seemed like the perfect opportunity for a citizen science program.

My laboratory at Michigan State University (MSU), particularly under the guidance of Alex Killion (former graduate student), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife Division, and partners from Applied Spatial Technology and Services (ASETS) at MSU, produced the MI-Mast: Wildlife Food Tracker cell phone application (available for iPhone and Android), web interface, and database structure that allows citizens to report on mast production throughout the year.



Instructional materials and field guides are provided. We emphasized ease of use and minimal time investment during development. Data collection is a simple 3 step process: 1) find a mast producing plant, 2) document if it has none, few, or many fruits, and 3) submit your data. The software relies on the GPS capabilities of the phone and hence will geo-reference the location and tag that location to a species and mast amount. When users submit their data, the records are entered into a database for archiving and analyses. Please visit the MI-Mast web site to learn more at <http://www.mimast.org/> and watch for are Facebook page that will be coming soon.

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## Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society Participates in Teaming with Wildlife Fly In

Jodie Provost, Conservation Affairs Network,  
Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society



**TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE**  
*a natural investment*

The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (MNTWS) recently participated in the Teaming with Wildlife (TWW) Fly In in Washington D.C. on March 1-2 on behalf of Minnesota's TWW Coalition ([www.teaming.com](http://www.teaming.com)). Partners supporting this advocacy adventure for Minnesota's TWW Coalition included the Minnesota Prairie Chicken

Society, Ruffed Grouse Society, The Nature Conservancy, Pheasants Forever, Izaak Walton League, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Minnesota Conservation Federation, and Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

Daren Carlson, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), and Jodie Provost, MNTWS Conservation Affairs Network, met with all ten of their Senator and Representatives' legislative aides, including visiting in person with Representative Rick Nolan and Representative Tom Emmer. Their purpose was to encourage the highest level of funding possible for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (SWG) program in FY 2017 and thus effective implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAP). \$60.6 million was appropriated in FY 2016. The President has requested \$67 million for FY 2017. Minnesota has averaged about \$1 million per year in SWG and received over \$18 million since its inception. The MNDNR SWAP brochure highlighting SWG in action in Minnesota's eight Congressional Districts was shared. Prairie to forest and mussels to monarchs are benefitting from SWG!

At last notification, 154 Representatives had signed on a Dear Colleague Letter to the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, to support SWG. Last year 102 Representatives signed on. From Minnesota, Representatives Ellison, Nolan, and Walz signed on, and McCollum was supportive. In addition, 39 Senators signed on the corresponding Dear Colleague Letter to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. Last year, 41 Senators signed on. Please thank our Minnesota Senators and Representatives that are supportive of SWG.

In addition to SWG, Daren and Jodie encouraged support for recommendations by the "Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources". This panel has recommended long term, dedicated funding of \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program, to complete our system of fish and

wildlife funding. A press release was held on March 2 unveiling their recommendation ([http://www.fishwildlife.org/index.php?section=blue\\_ribbonpanel](http://www.fishwildlife.org/index.php?section=blue_ribbonpanel)). Over the coming months, there is hope a bill will be sponsored and developed. A brochure on this topic was shared to encourage Minnesota's Senators and Representatives to support this 21st Century conservation funding model.

Finally, Jodie also shared a MNTWS letter with Minnesota's Senators and Representatives asking for their consideration of four wildlife resource issues and Chapter recommendations. They included: 1. Preservation of, access to, and sustainable management of our public lands, 2. Reversal of the continued loss and degradation of grassland and wetland habitats in Minnesota's prairie/farmland region, 3. Support for non-toxic alternatives to lead ammunition and fishing tackle, and 4. Protection of Minnesota's forests and strong support for their conservation and management.

Other TWS State Chapters and MNTWS members are encouraged to attend TWW in future years. The opportunity to support much needed SWG, advocate for our wildlife resources, the professional experience and growth, the relationships and network built among participants, and the pure enjoyment and adventure are well worth it!



*Representative Rick Nolan discussing State Wildlife Grants and the Blue Ribbon Panel's recommendations with Jodie Provost and Daren Carlson.*

## State Chapter Reports

### Illinois Chapter

*Scott Meister*

A student chapter has been re-established at Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL. Dr. Chris Jacques is serving as Chapter Advisor.

The Illinois Chapter held its annual meeting April 10-12 at Southern Illinois University's Touch of Nature Environmental Center. The membership welcomed the new Western Illinois Student Chapter. Graduate students Esmarie Boyles of Southern Illinois University and Brett Dorak of the University of Illinois were awarded for Best Student Presentations.

The Chapter continues to follow a bill making its way through the state's General Assembly that supports trap/neuter/return programs for feral cats. The Chapter submitted a letter to legislators in early April officially opposing the bill.

### Indiana Chapter

No Report.

### Iowa Chapter

No Report.

### Michigan Chapter

No Report.

### Minnesota Chapter

*Stephen Winter*

The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society held its 2016 annual meeting in Mankato, Minnesota, February 9th-10th. More than 240 conservationists attended and ample feedback has indicated attendees enjoyed it immensely and thought it was well worth their time. The meeting included a plenary session with four presentations focused on fire ecology, 40 oral presentations in multiple general sessions covering a broad range of

subjects, a poster session featuring more than 20 poster presentations, a non-toxic ammunition workshop, and an awards banquet honoring the accomplishments of numerous Minnesota conservationists. The Minnesota Chapter has a vibrant student component and student activities at the annual meeting included a student-professional meet-and-greet, a student quiz bowl, and awards for best student oral and poster presentations.

## Missouri Chapter

No Report.

## Ohio Chapter

*Gabriel Karns*

The Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society (OCTWS) held its fall workshop at Vinton Furnace State Experimental Forest where over 40 wildlife professionals learned more about forest management of invasive species from feral swine to tree-of-heaven. At the same event, we welcomed The Wildlife Society's Wildlife Programs Coordinator, Mariah Simmons, to offer national updates and perspectives at the concurrent Fall Business Meeting.



Our chapter sponsored the 56<sup>th</sup> Ohio Fish and Wildlife Management Conference held on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The conference theme, "Conservation for everyone: Working with unconventional partners," was exemplified in Tovar Cerulli's keynote address.

The author of *The Mindful Carnivore: A Vegetarian's Hunt for Sustenance*, Cerulli addressed the 271 conference attendees on the topic of adult-onset hunting." Specifically, he focused on who these new hunters are, what motivates them to take up hunting, and the obstacles and challenges they face. Finally, he presented actionable ways that wildlife professionals can foster long-term engagement with non-traditional sportsmen and sportswomen. Other speakers addressed topics ranging from the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative to recovering hellbender populations in the state.

At the same meeting, OCTWS president-elect Geoff Westerfield recognized Catherine Powell as the 1<sup>st</sup> place State Science Day Wildlife Awareness Award Winner. She is a 9<sup>th</sup> grader from Upper Arlington High School and was sponsored by the state chapter to attend the conference. Catherine's project titled "Genetic variation by distance in the genera *Apis* and *Bombus*," narrowly edged 2<sup>nd</sup> place Katie Petit's cleverly-titled project "Bird flocks and foraging behavior: Do birds of a feather eat more when together?"

Most recently, Ohio's state chapter partnered with Ohio State University's Student Chapter to host a wildlife student/professional cookout on April 8. Panelists from The Nature Conservancy, USDA APHIS, Ohio Division of Wildlife, and Metro Parks discussed specifics about how to penetrate the natural resources job market, what different agencies look for in candidates, and more. University of Rio Grande and Hocking College student chapter members also attended, and we are excited to see stronger relationships develop between the different student chapters and OCTWS moving forward.

## Wisconsin Chapter

*Jason Riddle*

The Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society recently held its annual Winter Meeting with the theme of "The Sustainability of Sustainable Use". Over 170 members attended and 105 participated in the business meeting. Twenty-seven professional presentations were delivered and half were from



students. Indeed, half of all student presentations were from undergraduates and all three student chapters in our state were represented at the meeting. New Executive Board members include President Elect, Derek Johnson (Wisconsin DNR), and Board Member, Scott Hygnstrom (University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point). Lisa Zoromski (University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point) was selected as the Student Representative, which is a new Executive Board position that became official in our by-laws this year. Each of the three student chapter presidents serves on a Student Committee and the chair of that committee serves as the Student Representative on the Executive Board. The chair rotates annually among Northland College, University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, and University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Several awards were presented at the Winter Meeting. Dr. Eric Anderson (University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point) received the chapter's highest recognition – The Wisconsin Award for exemplary commitment and service to wildlife and the people of Wisconsin. Gary Zimmer (retired-Ruffed Grouse Society) received the Don Rusch Memorial Award for his substantial contribution to the conservation of wildlife in Wisconsin and beyond. The Aldo Leopold Scholarships were awarded to Philip Manlick (Graduate Student Award) and Lucas Olson (Undergraduate Student Award), both from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. The Best Graduate Student Paper Award was presented to Emily Ielh from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, and The Best Undergraduate Paper Award was presented to Rachel Konkle from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point.

The Wisconsin Chapter recently added a Furbearer Issues Committee to the previously existing seven issue committees. We also voted to host a joint winter meeting with the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society in 2017.

## Student Chapter Reports

### Ball State University

*Bridget A. Stancombe*

The Ball State Chapter of TWS has had an exciting spring semester this far! Our spring semester meetings have had many excellent guest speakers, and more to come! Adam Phelps, the Indiana DNR Waterfowl Biologist, gave a presentation about waterfowl management across the United States, as well as Indiana alone. Falyn Owens, Indiana DNR's South Urban Wildlife Biologist, spoke about her recently established position and what she does on a daily basis as an Urban Wildlife Biologist. Along with other guest speakers, we also hosted a pet night where members could bring in their pets for show-and-tell.

Our chapter has had the opportunity to do some exciting and unique events this spring! In March, we partnered with Ball State's Student Chapter of the American Fisheries Society to host a presentation with Dan Dunlap of the Newport Aquarium, in which he spoke about careers in zoos and aquariums. He even brought a live African penguin and two epaulette sharks for members to pet! We also partnered with the Robert Cooper Audubon Society and the Red-Tail Land Conservancy to host a campus wide film screening of *The Messenger* and hold a panel about songbird conservation!





Our chapter has also been very involved in community outreach, specifically with educating children. We participated this April in Ball State's Science Day, in which we set up a mist net and taught groups of elementary students about how to mist net and identify bats, as well as how to collect data. We also hosted talks for our university's College Mentors for Kids, in which we spoke about careers in biology, the importance of college, and what wildlife biologists do. These events gave our members the opportunity to gain public speaking experience and a chance to educate our community about wildlife and the importance of science.

In January, fourteen members, including our officers, attended the 76<sup>th</sup> Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This was a great opportunity for our members to network with professionals in our field. During the awards ceremony, our very own vice president, Sarah Fischer, was presented with the Award for Wildlife Undergraduate Student of the Year! Sarah Fischer was also selected as a finalist for the Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award!

## Michigan State University

*Emmaline Gates*

The Michigan State University TWS student chapter has been hard at work this year! Throughout the 2015-2016 academic year, our club planned and participated in many successful events. Several of these events were traditional for our club, such as the bi-annual Red Cedar River cleanup, the annual Harvester's Banquet, and Darwin Day. In addition to these were several new events, including a student-professional mixer, raffle ticket and book sales at the TWS Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (alongside Lake Superior State University), Wood duck box maintenance with the local DNR, and student-led resume workshops.

Most recently, our club had the chance to attend the TWS North Central Section Student Conclave in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. While at the conference, we learned new leadership skills, wildlife techniques, and networking strategies, all while having a great time. We would like to thank the MSU Fisheries

and Wildlife Department for helping to make this opportunity a reality!



Our club still has some exciting things planned for the remainder of the school year. In a few weeks we will be participating in the annual Earth Day Extravaganza event held at Fenner Nature Center in Lansing, Michigan. At this event, our club will be providing many educational opportunities for the public, such as a small-mammal trapping demonstration, an aquatic invertebrate sampling workshop, and a presentation on Michigan native mammal species. We will also be hosting the spring semester Red Cedar River cleanup on our school's campus this month.





This coming summer, many of our members will be interning for state and federal agencies, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations. These internships are a great opportunity for us to gain hands on wildlife experience and expand our professional horizons. To see what our members are doing this summer or to learn more about our club, visit our website at <http://msufwclub.weebly.com/>.

## Missouri Western State University

*Calvin Wakefield*

This has been another amazing month for our Student Chapter. Our members have been very active in a variety of different projects and events this semester. We have been able to assist several of our partners with numerous different events. Our work with Missouri Department of Conservation has been very extensive throughout the semester. We were also able to aid Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge to work towards several management goals. In addition to working extensively with our partners, we were able to work on several of our own projects.

Missouri Department of Conservation made the call again this year and we answered. They asked us to assist with Hunter Education courses teaching new and upcoming hunters safety, hunter ethics, and guidelines. Early on in the semester members helped collect teeth, lymph nodes, and tongue samples during the CWD culling period. The data we collected during this time was used to help

monitor CWD, deer populations and help set future hunting regulations. This past January members were able to assist the department with an informational booth at St. Joseph Sports Show. With MDC, several of our members have been able to give presentations to various age groups over topics ranging from habitat to specific organisms. We still have members actively participating in MDC's protection volunteer program where volunteers are able to ride along with and assist conservation agents with protection work. Over the winter we were able to assist MDC with a Fly Tying course. Our members have also aided MDC with Dutch-oven cooking presentation. We have also partnered with MDC to remove nonnative species from Otoe Creek Natural Area.



With Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge we have been very active and have done several events. We began with another habitat work day. At this event we worked to remove non-native and invasive species. This was followed by our Wood Duck nest box work day. At this workday, we checked existing Wood Duck boxes to monitor nesting success, rehabilitate damaged boxes, and prepare the boxes for the upcoming nesting season. We have also assisted the refuge with the installation of new pollinator plots. The final event we were able to assist with at Squaw Creek is their new bird radar detection surveying. During this ongoing event, we help the biologist of the refuge use a radar system to locate and identify bird species and numbers around the refuge and surrounding area to help establish



diversity and relative abundance indexes. We are currently helping to prepare for Squaw Creek's next large event, an Earth Day celebration focusing on education and interpretation of wildlife management and conservation.

This semester we received an exciting opportunity to go to Mingo National Wildlife Refuge for a portion of our spring break and assist with various activities around the refuge. We were also able to start an alternate spring break series for our student chapter. Through this event we were able to successfully form a new partnership. One large project that we were able to complete for the refuge was the construction of an interpretive hiking trail through a portion of the refuge. This trail was then immediately put to work three days later by the park ranger. While at the refuge we were able to assist with invasive species control using the practice of basal bark treatment to remove autumn olive and multiflora rose. One experience we had at the refuge covered green tree wetland management. We also learned a great deal about feral hog control from the biologist at the refuge. While working on many other aspects of the refuge we learned about the history, management, and ecosystems of Mingo National Wildlife Refuge.



In addition to these events, we were also able to work on our own projects. Our tutor our own mentorship program was re-vamped and re-established. This program helps new members by assigning them a mentor to help them with courses,

time management, and with getting involved. The program has experienced immense success especially with regards to getting new members active and involved.



Throughout the semester we have also had an extensive list of guest speakers. The talks and information given by speakers this semester ranged from banding birds to resume workshops. Many members also helped make Super Science Saturday possible, an education event for the public. This past spring we were fortunate enough to have several workshops including GPS, bird mist netting, chain saw safety and maintenance, S-130/190, and many others. We also conducted our semester-end Beast Feast, a banquet style meeting to celebrate the end of the semester. We had several professionals at this event and it was a massive success.



To sum it up, this has been a very active semester for our student chapter. We have done a lot of work with the Missouri Department of Conservation including teaching hunter education and working extensively with the outreach and education department. At Squaw Creek we helped with several events to assist with the management of the habitat and the wildlife that inhabits it. We also began an alternate spring break series through our trip to and work with Mingo National Wildlife Refuge. Overall, we have been greatly developing our professionalism and skill set development through this spring semester.

## Northern Michigan University

*Shaley Valentine*

It has been another busy year for the members of NMU's Wildlife Society chapter. We currently have the highest number of dues-paying and active members we have ever had. Student members are highly active in research, planning workshops and events, and attending conferences. This year we sent 21 members to the 2016 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Grand Rapids, MI, in which travel and conference expenses were fully funded by fundraising and grants received by the chapter.



We also had a high turnout with 11 students for Conclave this year, where the quiz bowl team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. In addition, a few of our members and advisors will be attending the Michigan Chapter Meeting.



The NMU Student Chapter is busy working within the community. We volunteered in Marquette's Haunted Hayride, Van Riper State Park's Harvest fest, and Moosewood Nature Center's Haunted Bog Walk in October, Relay for Life in March, deer checks with the Michigan DNR Marquette Station, Make A Difference Day, and presentations within the Marquette school district during Wolf Awareness Week. Members also continued work on an ongoing waterfowl research project, small mammal trapping, assisted in macroinvertebrate sampling, and attended a deer aging workshop with the DNR. Grant, cover letter, and resume writing were covered in another workshop series.





As the academic year draws to a close, our student chapter remains active. We are currently planning radio telemetry, woodcock mist netting, and electrofishing workshops. We will host our annual Birds of Prey Program which invites local wildlife rehabilitators to present their raptors to the community to educate university students and the public. To learn about active conservation-education programs, 16 members will attend a trip to the Minnesota Aquarium and Wildlife Science Center. Several members will be presenting their research at NMU's Celebration of Student Research. Topics range from herpetofauna of the US Virgin Islands, Saw-whet owl sex ratios, and lake sturgeon rearing.

We aim to provide a relaxed environment to our members and give back to them through social outings. We hosted a Halloween social complete with wearing your best costume, snacks, and board games. We also held a potluck Holiday party with white elephant gifts. Our end of the year potluck social is currently being planned.

This past year we have focused on collaborating with other student groups, research labs, and universities. In attending the Midwest Conference we collaborated with NMU's Aquatic Biological Society and the Leonard Fish Lab, bringing a total of 28 students to the conference. We collaborated with Dr. Kurt Galbreath's research lab to assist with his small mammal and parasite research during a small mammal trapping weekend. We are currently working on collaborating with Lake Superior State University's chapter for social outings.

Outside of the school year, members have interned with Hiawatha National Forest, conducted research

on lake sturgeon with Michigan State University, worked with the Alger County Conservation District, and attending study abroad programs in the Virgin Islands and Australia. We expect to continue the great work in and out of the chapter in the next coming year and look forward to the opportunities available throughout 2016-17.

## Purdue University

*Morgan Sussman*

Our chapter has been extremely active this spring with a wide range of meetings, two main events, and a variety of working group trips. The Purdue Student Chapter includes four active working groups: Herps, Birds, Mammals, and Hunting. We gave each working group the opportunity to lead a meeting this semester and talk about some of the issues surrounding their taxa or focus, which gave them the opportunity to interest new members. A summary of the activities of the working groups' meetings includes a birdsong ID competition, an overview of reptile and amphibian related laws and conservation which featured live snakes, and identifying when to take the shot during hunting by studying vital areas and the surrounding terrain. Birds working group has additionally taken trips to see a Snowy Owl passing through northern Indiana and observing American Woodcock displays in Prophetstown. Hunting working group arranged multiple squirrel hunts throughout the winter for new and experienced hunters.

Our chapter's two big events were sampling for herps at Lake Maxinkuckee and visiting Cook County to radiocollar white-tailed deer and coyotes. We're working with the Lake Maxinkuckee Council to create a list of species diversity among herpetofauna in three wetlands surrounding the lake. Members of our chapter have sampled over multiple weekends in order to get an accurate list through using frog call ID, wading vernal pools and ponds, and checking logs and basking rocks on different properties. It has been a great opportunity for our younger members to learn species ID and sampling methods, and it is an excellent reviewing and teaching opportunity for our older members. For the Cook County event, members had the chance to assist a disease monitoring program in

taking fecal, blood, and hair samples from sedated coyotes, trap deer and help radio-collar the animals before release, and interact with an Eastern Screech-Owl.

Our chapter is now looking forward to participating in Purdue Ag Week (our program is under the College of Agriculture) where we hope to increase interest in our club and Forestry and Natural Resources and gain non-traditional members. We will also be at Spring Fest where we hope to increase outreach to the public about hunting and conservation issues.

## University of Minnesota – Crookston

*Michael McMahon*

University of Minnesota Crookston's (UMC) student chapter currently has 22 enthusiastic members enrolled. At the beginning of our semester, UMC had eight members representing the chapter at the MN TWS meeting in Mankato, MN. The students had an excellent experience, and all had the opportunity to learn and expand their social network.

Recently, chapter members participated in the 1st annual Minnesota Sharp-tail Grouse Society brush cut on Palmville WMA near Strathcona, MN. The 20 students took to the snowy bog with hand tools to cut the encroaching spruce and tamarack trees in an effort to improve breeding habitat. Coming up in April, chapter members are looking forward to the annual tradition of assisting with owl and goshawk surveys in Beltrami Island State Forest.



Other events planned for this spring include surveying prairie chicken leks at the peak of the breeding season for blind placement on Rydell NWR as well as an intensive survey to count

chickens on their leks throughout the refuge. The annual beast feast will be held the first weekend in May. We look forward to the remainder of a fantastic semester of involvement, learning, and fun.



## University of Rio Grande

*Dr. Don Althoff (Student Chapter Advisor)*

The Rio Chapter assisted with the production of sorghum syrup at the annual Bob Evans Festival this past fall to raise funds. This involved extracting sap from the stalks and cooking to a syrup consistency like the process was done 50-75 years ago—a process that takes a minimum of 2 hours to produce a single gallon of syrup. As part of the Rio EcoMonitoring Project another set of bat houses was erected on a local conservation group's property and students assisted with the annual winter southern flying squirrels box checks. In February, the chapter covered the registration cost for 14 members to attend the Ohio Fish and Wildlife Conference and 10 members to attend the Ohio Natural History Conference. At the latter conference, 5 members were also co-authors on poster session papers. This spring the chapter is making trail markers for a new set of hiking/nature trails in the Rio campus woods as part of a service project to expand outdoor experiences for students, staff, and faculty as well as campus visitors.

## University of Wisconsin – Madison

*Lucas Olson*

It has been an exciting and eventful year for our student chapter. In early December we hosted our



annual game dinner fundraiser, which was a huge success. A few of the menu items included elk burgundy, venison stroganoff, bear chili, and smoked turkey. To all those who generously donated their time, auction items, and their precious game meat-we offer our sincerest thanks. The game dinner wouldn't be possible without your support.



*The crew of UW-Madison students who went to the wolf ecology and tracking workshop in Crex Meadows, WI.*

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

April will be a very busy month. Ten of our members will be participating in North-Central Student Conclave April 1-3. Mid-April our chapter will be volunteering in Clam Lake to assist with the elk restoration project, including habitat improvement and acclimation pen construction. Prairie chicken viewing, highway cleanup, and tiger salamander nights are just a few events that will be dotted in the mix. Officer elections will be held in early April for the 2016-2017 school year. We have

some very strong leaders moving up the ranks. We look forward to what's in store!



*Students measuring a wolf track from our tracking block this winter.*

## University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

Anna Schneider

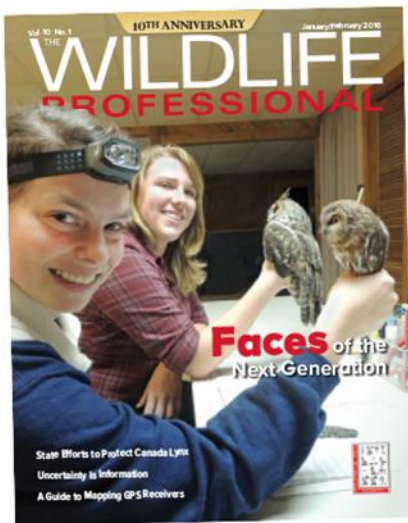
Busy busy busy! This has definitely been one of the most productive and involved years at the UWSP student chapter. Between conferences, ongoing student research projects, and planning for Conclave, our officers and members have dedicated more time and effort than usual in the name of TWS.

We were fortunate enough to send students to national, regional, AND state conferences this year. Over a dozen students attended the Midwest F&W Conference at the end of January and three poster presentations were given. In addition, James Hansen and Anna Schneider were selected as finalists for the Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Scholarship.



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

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



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



There will be plenty of hands-on experience for students including small mammal trapping, telemetry, and Wildlife Olympics, as well as plenty of other fun activities such as a quiz bowl competition, a photography contest, and tie-dying their Conclave T-shirts.

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



## Don't Forget to Visit

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## Why Membership 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 fulfill our mission of upholding and promoting wildlife and conservation professionals. For only \$20 your membership and support allows the North Central Section to:

- Sponsor symposia at the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference
- Sponsor workshops of regional importance
- Sponsor conclaves for student chapters in the North Central Section
- Recognize students and professionals with awards
- Advocate for wildlife, their habitats, and the use of science in conservation decision-making

Please support the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society today by going to <http://wildlife.org/join/> to join or renew

## Upcoming Events

North Central Section member Dr. David Trauger will be presenting two talks in the coming months:

**"Too Little, Too Late: Human Overpopulation and Climate Disruption"** at the Izaak Walton League Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter in Brookland Center, Minnesota on May 24, 2016.

**"Sustainability and the Global Biodiversity Crisis: Solutions and Prospects"** for the Critical

Thinking Club at the Family Means Center in Stillwater, Minnesota on June 13, 2016.

### *Abstract for the first talk*

**"Too Little, Too Late: Human Overpopulation and Climate Disruption"**

Humanity faces a "perfect storm" of ecological challenges that are converging and threatening societal collapse within the coming decade. Foremost among the driving factors are human overpopulation and climate disruption. With a global population of more than 7 billion and atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide exceeding 400 parts per million, humans have created an unprecedented planetary emergency on Earth. Every one of our current environmental problems is accelerating as population continues to grow toward an estimated 9 billion by 2050. Climate disruption caused by global warming due to greenhouse gas emissions generated by our industrial civilization is rapidly approaching an irreversible planetary tipping point. Despite early warnings by scientists over the past 50 years, we continue ecocidal behavior and perpetuate unsustainable economic growth. Now political stalemate and budgetary bankruptcy are becoming major barriers to the policy and structural changes necessary to avert disaster. Future prospects appear to be bleak for our grandchildren and the conservation of living resources.

Speaker: David L. Trauger is Professor Emeritus with the College of Natural Resources and Environment at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He developed and directed a natural resources graduate degree program for working professionals in the National Capital Region encompassing suburban Washington DC. He also served as Northern Virginia Center Director and Associate Dean for the Graduate School there before retiring in 2010. Prior to joining the faculty at Virginia Tech in 2001, Trauger worked for 32 years as a research scientist and science administrator for various natural resources agencies at several locations for the U. S. Department of the Interior. A native Iowan, Trauger received undergraduate and graduate degrees in wildlife biology and animal ecology from Iowa State

University. After a 42-year career in public service and academia, Trauger now resides near the villages of Scandia and Marine on Saint Croix, Minnesota. He continues research on a variety of issues related to natural resources management and sustainability.

## In Memoriam

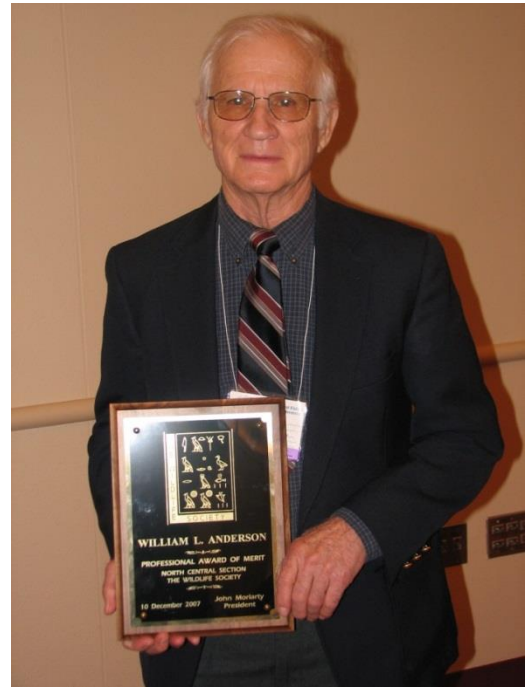
### William L. Anderson

William L. Anderson passed away on March 6, 2016 in Savoy, IL. Bill was born on March 13, 1935 in Carney, OK. He married Elizabeth Seter McConaha on October 15, 1981. They have 3 daughters, 7 grandchildren and a great grandson.

Bill Anderson provided professional service to the State of Illinois and our natural resources since he joined the Illinois Natural History Survey in 1958. Prior to his employment with the Survey, Bill acquired five years of experience from the U.S. Forest Service. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. Bill continued his prolific career with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in 1977 but retained an affiliate status with the Survey. Although Bill retired in 1997, he retained his affiliate appointment with the Survey.

During his career, Bill served as President and Councilman-at-large of the Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society. He was a Life Member of The Wildlife Society. He received the Professional Award of Merit from both ILTWS (1999) and the North Central Section (2007). Bill served on several committees of the Mississippi Flyway Technical Section and ably chaired the Research and Harvest Information Program committees. He was named in The Men of Science.

Bill's research studies covered a wide spectrum of species and topics but generally centered upon physiology and environmental contaminants of ring-necked pheasants and waterfowl. He demonstrated his ecological breadth by also studying loggerhead shrikes and woodcocks. Bill published 42 papers in 8 different scientific journals and publications, and wrote over 77 papers of proceedings and selected reports



Bill served as a Conservation Resource Manager, Conservation Resource Project Manager and Public Service Administrator during his 20 years with IDNR. His hunter survey questionnaires were cutting-edge, and the information generated from his surveys was in high demand and important for management. He was a guiding beacon for waterfowl surveys conducted in other states.

Bill was perhaps best known nationally and internationally for his work on the lead poisoning/nontoxic shot issue. Bill was in the forefront of and a principal player in this contentious, emotional, and unfortunate political issue during a highly controversial time. When it would have been easy to distance himself from the lead poisoning issue, Bill persevered and remained honest, forthright, and dedicated to the resource – a true professional.

Bill was highly respected for his many biological accomplishments, but also for his personal integrity and loyalty. He contributed remarkably to our natural resources, to our profession, to our goals, to his peers, and to many younger biologists that benefited from his tutelage. He was solid as a rock and his in-depth perspectives were honed with

experience, knowledge, keen insights, and common sense. He will be missed.

Contributed by Stephen P. Havera and Stanley Etter

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### Willie J. Suchy

Willie Suchy died unexpectedly at his home in Chariton, Iowa on November 11, 2015 at the age of 58. A TWS member since 1985, Suchy was a member and former President of the Iowa Chapter and member of the North Central Section.

Suchy grew up on a farm in Iowa where he learned about hard work and developed an interest in the outdoors and wildlife. From an early age he hunted squirrels, trapped and fished. He became interested in taxidermy when he was in grade school.

Suchy's wife of 31 years, Anna, recalls her husband telling her how he saved up his money for a subscription to Fur Fish and Game magazine, where an advertisement for a taxidermy kit caught his interest. He took his first project to school and told his third grade teacher he had something exciting to show her. When she asked to see it, he pulled out a pocket gopher he had done the taxidermy on.

Suchy worked his way through college doing road construction. He received a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Biology from Iowa State University in 1981 and earned a master's degree in wildlife science in 1984 from the University of Wyoming. He was currently working on a doctorate at Iowa State University in animal ecology where his thesis involved deer genetics and distribution.

Employed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for 31 years, Suchy was committed to always doing what was best for the resource. He began his career as a wildlife technician, trapping and monitoring deer and turkeys. Then, he became a wildlife biologist and was known for his work with deer. Suchy was most recently a wildlife research supervisor.

"When he became a research supervisor, his interest and philosophy was that it's not about us but rather

what could we do to make other people be as good as they can be?" said Dale Garner, DNR Wildlife Bureau Chief and colleague.



*Willie Suchy proudly displays a turkey he shot.  
Image Courtesy: Anna Suchy*


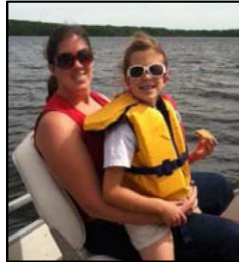



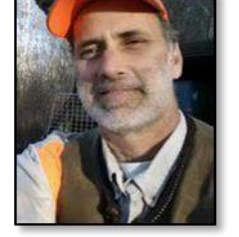
Suchy also taught statistics for Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa on evenings and weekends for 28 years. He was voted Adult Educator of the Year by the students three different times.

Suchy's passion for natural resources and respect for other people's opinions made him a great asset to the wildlife profession. "He based his decisions on scientific data, not personal opinion," Suchy's wife said. "He was also a man of vision and could see a whole big picture that most of us don't see."

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