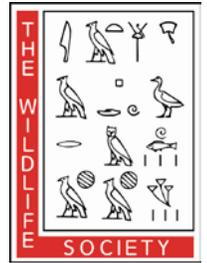




INTELLIGENT TINKERING

Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society Newsletter

To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of Intelligent Tinkering. – Aldo Leopold



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*20th Annual Wildlife Society Conference
Milwaukee, WI October 5-9, 2013*

We need your help to make it a success!



*Check out page 7 for
details on how to volunteer.*

2013 Chapter Winter Meeting

The Chapter is holding their winter meeting at the Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, March 12-14, 2013. The plenary theme will be - **Wisconsin Conservation: Achieving Success in the 21st Century Through Collaboration.** The meeting will include a welcome reception, plenary session, general paper sessions, special student sessions, chapter business meeting, and Wednesday dinner.

Registration information is available now on the chapter website. Early registration has been extended to February 15. A final agenda with speaker details will be available soon. Stay tuned to the WCTWS website for more details.
<http://joomla.wildlife.org/wisconsin>

Attention Artists: Consider showcasing your skills at the first ever art show & silent auction. Donate your paintings, drawings, sculptures, carvings and photographs to be voted on and then donated for the silent auction.

INTELLIGENT TINKERING

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Submission Deadlines:

- Winter Issue: January 28, 2013
- Spring Issue: May 15, 2013
- Summer Issue: August 1, 2013
- Fall Issue: November 1, 2013

*A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community.
It is wrong when it tends to do otherwise. – Aldo Leopold*



Presidents Soapbox

By Scott Hull

Civility and Conservation

This is my last newsletter message as President of WCTWS. As such, I figured I should talk about some important conservation or wildlife management issue. I'll get there by way of another story. Stay with me. I recently joined the twitter machine (@ScottDavidHull). I tweet occasionally about my family or random things going on in and around my life. My six followers, only 1 of which appears to be human, really seem to enjoy it. Despite that, I joined primarily because I am a sports junkie and can get the latest and greatest information by following some of my favorite sports-writers. What surprised me the most about twitter is the sheer amount of vitriolic, awful things that people say in response to an original tweet. It has been an eye opening experience for me about civility in this country. My twitter observations have gotten me thinking about the civility and "tone" of conservation issue debates here in Wisconsin. I have only been working in Wisconsin as a professional since 2006 but grew up and went to school here. I can recall lots of heated debates about wildlife management issues but I do not recall the negative tone that seems to surround just about every issue today. As an example, I was at yet another meeting recently where the theme seemed to be how to blame the project leaders for messing up an important conservation project. It was almost as if the critter that was the focus of the work didn't even matter. Rather, it seemed like we were caught up in some sort of conservation "game" with a clear winner and loser. Geez why don't we just settle it MMA style in a cage?

Wishing that we could all get along in the interest of moving conservation **Forward** is just that...a wish. What we can do is highlight success stories and show folks through demonstration that good conservation can and does get done in this state. To that end, the plenary theme of our winter meeting in March is focused on positive conservation success stories that have happened

through collaboration. We have 3 great speakers from a cross section of conservation organizations in Wisconsin. Hopefully this will remind us all of the great work we have done in Wisconsin and the great opportunities that are out there in front of us. I hope you enjoy it.

50th Anniversary of Silent Spring

Submitted by Chuck Pils, Member

The year 2012 was the 50th anniversary of the publishing of "Silent Spring (SS)" by Rachel Carson. As a wildlifer, I feel that this book is important to read, because it was so important in getting DDT banned nationwide.

Rachel Carson (1907-64) was the American marine biologist and tenacious writer that persevered on a mission that faced great odds. Due to her book and relentless pressure, she paved the way for the later DDT ban.

Rachel Carson is a role model for all of us in the wildlife profession. Not only did she successfully face down the petrochemical industry's attacks on her professional credibility (including sexist jabs), but she completed the Silent Spring manuscript, despite fighting her own personal battle with cancer, which took her life two years after Silent Spring was published. I read SS as a college student at the U of Illinois.

During the Spring of 1962, our field ecology class traveled to the Florida keys. During the entire trip, we saw only one brown pelican and one double-crested cormorant (evidence of DDT's impact). Ms. Carson also published 5 other quality books; "The Sea Around Us" was an example of another excellent book.

I hope all wildlifers take the opportunity to read SS.

WCTWS Business Meeting Minutes

Conference Call October 1, 2012

Submitted by Travis Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer

Attending: Scott, Travis, David, Rachel, Sharon, Lesa (start: 9am)

1. Treasurers Report
 - a. Travis submitted Financial report for Sept 28, 2012
 - b. Move to accept (David Drake, Sharon 2nd) Accepted
2. Review/accept minutes from July and August meetings
 - a. Motion to accept minutes (DD, Rachel 2nd) Accepted
3. Fall Training Logistics
 - a. Registration: 26 people, Lodging, Meals, Speakers, Costs
 - b. Send out another reminder? No needed.
 - c. Need names of people staying at Kemp
 - i. Need to pay cash/check for Kemp
 - d. Meals: David will take the lead
 - i. Lunch: **Pizza?**
 - ii. Cooler with drinks (David)
 - e. Speakers:
 - f. Costs: \$500 for Tina Hall, about \$650 total for all (lodging, meals)
 - g. Post training survey (David)
4. TWS annual conference & travel grants
 - a. \$2000 for travel grants: Mandi Cyr, Alan Crossley
 - b. Will reimburse Tami for travel costs
5. Winter meeting update
 - a. Contract is signed
 - b. Need to start thinking of plenary (talk about this at our next meeting @ Kemp)
 - c. Call for papers (Tami)
6. New Business
 - a. Fall Newsletter
 - i. Extend deadline to include review on fall training

Meeting concluded: 9:28am

WCTWS Business Meeting Minutes

WDNR Fitchburg Office, Madison, WI

December 6, 2012

Submitted by Travis Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer

Attending: Scott, David, Travis, Sharon, Rachel, Tami phone: Lesa

1. Treasurers/Secretary Report
 - a. Motion to accept Scott, 2nd David accepted
2. Fall Training Review – Cons. Decision Making survey results
 - a. All speakers were great, Bill Walker was popular
 - b. Split on 2 days vs. 1 day
 - c. Many want a further training on this subject
3. Winter Meeting
 - a. Reminder of Nat'l Conference in Milwaukee 2013
 - b. Plenary Agenda
 - i. Replace Tom Heberlein with “hook& bullet” person?
 1. David suggests Stan Temple?
 2. Tami suggests George Meyer (we are leaning toward this presenter)
 - a. He could provide light on success, failures, future outlook (Sharon)
 3. David: Mayor Dave a possibility
 - ii. Jeb Barzen (Int'l Crane Foundation) has asked to present. Where would he fit in? Partnership to re-establish a species. Speaker 2 slot?
 - iii. Mike Carlson of Gathering Waters Conservancy could be first speaker
 - c. General/student session
 - i. Paulios/Crossley symposium idea: Ag community for wildlife conservation (Wed afternoon)
 1. Abstracts will be submitted to Tami
 - ii. Student session on Wed so we can give awards for best papers etc.
 - iii. Thurs: general paper sessions
 1. Deadline for submissions: Dec 31

- iv. How can students get more involved?
 - 1. Present papers on student chapter activities
 - 2. Term papers could be presented
 - 3. How do we get more students (Outside UWSP UW) to be involved if interested? Rick Buser (FVT) contacted Tami with interest in presenting. Scott will try to contact other schools (Northland, Oshkosh, Green Bay)
 - d. Registration
 - i. Fees
 - 1. Early \$75, students/retirees \$40, +\$10 for late registration
 - a. David suggests upping members to \$80, keeping students/retirees at \$40
 - b. Should we charge a 1 day fee?
 - i. \$ 60 for Wed., \$30 for Thur.
 - 2. It will cost us ~\$60/65 per person
 - 3. Should offer to cover plenary speakers rooms
 - ii. Rooms are good through Feb 9
 - e. Art contest/Silent Auction
 - i. Get rid of silent auction and/or garage sale?
 - 1. Krista McGinley to handle the garage sale?
 - ii. Krista McGinley to handle the art contest?
 - 1. Artists (winners) could donate their work to the silent auction
 - 2. Announce winners at the awards banquet
 - 3. We'll buy Krista's membership for doing this
 - 4. Co-chair from student chapters?
 - iii. Winners get gift cards (1st, 2nd, 3rd)
 - f. Program development (Lesa)
 - i. Lesa will get past examples to Tami
 - ii. Tami will set up the order of abstracts in the program
 - iii. Printing was done in Madison
 - g. Food
 - i. 1 choice for lunch (sandwich)
 - ii. 1 choice for dinner
 - iii. Breaks: coffee soda
 - iv. Reception and banquet: cash bar /bar tender
 - v. Hors d'oeuvres for reception?
 - 1. Light snacks
 - h. Poster Session(?)
 - i. Are we having one? No
 - ii. Charge a fee to set up as a display \$20
 - i. Awards (Ken Jonas is chair) Bruce Bacon handles scholarship
 - i. Wisconsin Award
 - ii. Rusch Award
 - iii. Outstanding student award
 - iv. Also Leopold Student Scholarships (grad/undergrad)
 - v. Best Student paper: grad/undergrad if enough papers
4. Elections
- a. 30 day period of notification
 - b. Officers need to be Nat'l members
 - c. President-elect ideas
 - i. Discussion of individuals who may be interested
 - d. Board member ideas
 - i. Discussion of individuals who may be interested
5. WCTWS role – controversial conservation issues in WI (e.g. Deer, Wolves)
- a. What should our chapter do for advocacy on these issues?
 - i. How effective are we when we send out letters?
 - 1. Feel we haven't been as effective
 - ii. Would we be more effective with fewer or more non DNR members?
 - iii. Are we more effective in writing policy papers to legislators?
 - 1. Still need to have the relationship with the individual legislator
 - b. What do our members expect?
 - i. Poll the members
 - ii. Business meeting discussion at Winter Meeting
 - c. What are the sideboards from national?
 - d. What is our relationship with WWF and what are we getting out of our membership?
 - i. Are they lobbying on our behalf? Do they reflect our views?

- ii. Speak with Pat Kaiser in advance of winter meeting
 - 6. National-State chapter business
 - a. TWS leadership workshop (Tami)
 - i. Workshop was an Over view of gov't affairs
 - ii. Nat'l Chapter is willing to help the state chapters to advocate on various issues
 - iii. Discussed Advocacy vs. lobbying
 - 1. TWS members can lobby
 - iv. Relationships trump information
 - 1. Need to build connections with people
 - 2. Should TWS members meet with the DNR Secretary to show them what it means to have certified biologists
 - v. Nat'l wants State Chapter to do strategic planning
 - 1. Mission statement
 - a. We have one, but should it be revised?
 - b. It was revised when By-Laws were updated last year
 - 2. Do each sub-committee have a clear vision?
 - b. Strategic planning/facebook presence
 - i. Is this a way to communicate with elected officials?
 - ii. Nat'l is pushing state chapters to have facebook (to be used as a membership recruitment tool)
 - iii. Shannon Peterson from Nat'l would help
 - iv. Encourage weekly updates at a minimum
 - 1. Could hire a student to manage this?
 - 2. Form a Social Media Sub-committee?
 - c. Insurance
 - i. How much is it?
 - ii. Board says "No"
7. National conference – Milwaukee
 - a. TWS 2013 2nd plenary session ideas (Drake)
 - i. How to be effective advocates?
 - b. Merchandise committee ideas/input from State Chapter
 - i. Glass tumblers
 - ii. Micro Brews sale
8. Next meeting: Feb 13 conference call 9-11am (adjourned 3:30pm)

WCTWS Financial Report: 12/6/12

Submitted by Travis Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer

CREDITS	
Membership	\$ 580.00
Technical Training	\$ 980.00
Total	\$ 1,560.00
DEBITS	
Pres-Elect 19 th Conference Travel	\$ 1937.03
Memberships	
- WI Wildlife Federation	\$ 55.00
- WI Conservation Hall of Fame	\$ 100.00
National Travel Grants	\$ 2,000.00
Postage, clerical	\$ 34.00
Total	\$ 4,126.00

ACCOUNT	DATE	AMOUNT	DIFFERENCE
CHECKING	09/28/12	\$3,936.68	
	12/6/12	\$1,953.96	-\$1,982.72
SAVINGS 1	09/28/12	\$3,145.62	
	12/6/12	\$3,146.41	\$0.79
SAVINGS 2	09/28/12	\$1,066.63	
	12/6/12	\$1,066.91	\$0.28
CD #1	09/28/12	\$1,942.38	
	12/6/12	\$1,944.08	\$1.70
CD #2 (Bjerke)	09/28/12	\$82,980.81	
	12/6/12	\$83,058.13	\$77.32
CUNA Brokerage	6/30/12	\$12,239.76	
	9/30/12	\$12,844.39	\$604.63
TOTAL	09/28/12	\$105,311.88	
	12/6/12	\$104,013.88	-\$1,298.00

TWS Issue Committee Reports

Deer Committee

The Deer Issues Committee's antenna remains in an upright position as we wait to see what recommendations from the "Kroll Report" might be considered for implementation by politicians or the DNR. Meanwhile, a draft position statement on Captive Deer and Elk remains in Executive Committee review.

Keith McCaffery, Chair

Tom Bahti, Retired DNR

Dr. Jon Gilbert, GLFWC

Dr. Tim Van Deelen, UW

Wolf Committee

Wolf Hunting with Dogs Lawsuit:

A group of humane societies filed a lawsuit in August 2012 claiming the DNR did not place any restrictions on how wolf hunters could use dogs. On January 4, 2013 Dane County Circuit Judge Peter Anderson ruled that people can use dogs to hunt wolves in Wisconsin, but he blocked hunters from training dogs to go after wolves. He said that the DNR had an obligation to amend a pre-existing rule that allows people to train dogs on wild animals to address problems that would arise between dogs and wolves. He found the rule is invalid and can't be used to support training on wolves. However, he also said that the DNR had no duty to impose restrictions on actually hunting wolves with dogs.

WI Wolf Harvest Season:

The season was open for 70 days from October 15 through December 23, 2012; 117 wolves were harvested. Breakdown by zone is below. Daily updates of the harvest were shown on our DNR website <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/wolf.html> or dnr.wi.gov keyword "wolf".

The total wolf harvest consisted of 69 males (59%) and 48 females (41%). A total of 55 wolves were harvested by hunting (47%), and 62 were harvested by trapping (53%). Prior to the deer season 78 wolves were harvested including 54 (78%) by trapping, and consisted of 44 males (56%). During deer season,

20 wolves were harvested including 18 (90%) by hunting, and 15 (75%) were males. After the deer season 19 wolves were harvested including 13 by hunting (68%), and 10 (53%) were males. Wolves have been harvested from 30 counties with top counties being Douglas (12 wolves harvested), Jackson (9), Taylor (9), Wood (9), Price (8), Iron (7), Bayfield (6), Rusk (5), Adams (4), Clark (4), Forest (4), Oneida (4), Vilas (4), Washburn (4), Florence (3), Langlade (3), Shawano (3), and Taylor (3). No wolves were harvested in Ashland County.

A total of 4 radio collared wolves were harvested including an adult female, two adult males, and a yearling female. A total of 46 wolves were on the air in the beginning of the wolf season, including 3 yearling, and 43 adults. No pups were radio collared in 2012.

2012 – 2013 WI WOLF HARVEST

Zone	Quota	Harvest	Oct. 15-Closed
1	32	32	Dec. 1
2	20	19	Nov. 16
3	18	19	Dec. 23
4	5	5	Nov. 16
5	23	23	Dec. 12
6	18	19	Dec. 14



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

20th Annual Conference October 5-9, 2013 Milwaukee, WI

The Conference Arrangements Committee is looking for eager volunteers willing to donate their time and talents to assist in hosting the 20th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Milwaukee, WI.

Volunteer Information:

- Responsibilities assigned to each volunteer must take priority over any and all other commitments at the time of the Conference.
- Volunteers **must register** to attend the Conference
- Volunteers must be able to commit to a **minimum of 4 hours** of service.
- Volunteers will receive a FREE long-sleeved, cotton Conference t-shirt & 2014 Wisconsin Chapter TWS membership (includes quarterly newsletter).
- Volunteers who are **students** are eligible to receive reimbursement for hours worked. Payment is intended to offset expenses (i.e. registration, lodging, etc.) for volunteers **not** receiving full support from their educational institution to attend the Conference. Volunteers with the means to pay for their own expenses are encouraged to decline payment. Checks for payment will likely be distributed during the Conference. Payments will be limited to a first come, first served basis until all required time slots are filled and/or the available budget is obligated.
- Volunteers are needed for AV, registration, photo contest, ticket takers (evening events), sales (conference store), runners, and field trips.
- If interested in volunteering, please contact Lesa Kardash at (715) 421-7813 or lesa.kardash@wisconsin.gov. Those interested will be sent a volunteer application form and be able to indicate availability and preference for volunteer tasks.

Thanks! Lesa Kardash (Chair, Volunteer Sub-Committee)

Fundraising Committee Needs Your Help

Our chapter is honored to bring the 20th Annual Wildlife Society Conference to Wisconsin this October. But to do so requires funding support. A Chapter fund-raising subcommittee has been established and can use your assistance in one of the following ways: 1) Become a member of the committee and help secure funding for the conference, (2) Notify the fund raising committee of potential funding opportunities you are aware of that may be interested in providing a sponsorship or support (i.e. company contacts, foundations, available grants). This could be the company you or a family member works for especially if they are in the wildlife field. (3) Find a donor or send in a donation on your own without formally becoming a member of the committee.

Please contact Fund Raising Co-Chairs Kevin Wallenfang at Kevin.Wallenfang@wisconsin.gov or Gary Zimmer at rgszimm@gmail.com to offer your assistance.

Truisms - Contributed by Tom Bahti *Shamelessly borrowed, stolen and plagiarized from other sources*

It's easier to fool people than to convince them that they've been fooled.

When you get to be my age you kind of get weaned off standing on ceremony.

I've always felt that a part of leadership is conveying a sense of urgency in dealing with key issues.

Laughter is the best medicine if morphine is out of your price range.

The trouble with doing something right the first time is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was.

A single fact can spoil a good argument.

Nature never deceives us; it is always we who deceive ourselves.

When angry, count to four; when really angry, swear.

Student Chapter Corner

University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point



By Katherine Moratz, President

This past semester has been a busy one for the student led projects of UW-Stevens Point's TWS Chapter. Small mammal and saw-whet owl projects both had successful trapping seasons, and flying squirrel project was very successful in their nest box surveys in Schmeackle Reserve. Deer project gave students the opportunity to learn how to use telemetry as the project tracked four radio collared white-tailed deer who regularly inhabit Schmeackle Reserve. Our projects were also reminded through a family's experience on the saw-whet owl project, that public education is a crucial part of wildlife management.

The Chapter sent six students to Portland for the National TWS Conference, and three members presented posters on their undergraduate research. The UWSP Quiz bowl team did well, and finished fourth. Four students also attended the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Wichita to network with professionals and also to present their posters again.

This coming semester, the Chapter is looking forward to a number of projects starting up again. Many of the projects that utilize Sandhill Wildlife Area will be starting as the semester begins. These projects include: gray squirrel, otter, ruffed grouse, and woodpecker. Gray squirrel project and woodpecker will be continuing their mark-recapture studies, and otter project will be continuing its track surveys. Ruffed grouse project will begin its first year this spring, and we are all excited to see what opportunities the new project will provide for the members.

Other activities for members this coming semester include the semester's broomball game against the foresters, a wild game feed in April, and student conclave at Michigan State. A number of speakers are also planned for weekly meetings to give members perspectives from different areas within the wildlife field. Many members are also looking forward to presenting their

undergraduate research at the CNR Undergraduate Research Symposium in April.

University of Wisconsin - Madison



By Josh Seibel, President

Students of UW Madison Wildlife Society have returned from their winter breaks and many of them are already looking towards the warm spring weather and applying to summer jobs. To give the students an idea of the current research projects in the wildlife field we will have presentations at our meetings from current graduate students including: Jeff Lorch talking about his work with white-nose syndrome, Andrew Norton talking about his research on game species population ecology and management, and Camille Warbington talking about her research on White-tailed deer fawn survival. We will also be having Prof Stanosz from plant pathology talking about the interaction of fungus and wildlife. Additionally, we will have a graduate school panel for students to ask professors and current grad students about their experiences with grad school and how to be a successful applicant.

Throughout the upcoming semester we have many events and trips planned to help give students new experiences. Some of the events we have planned are deer trapping in northern Wisconsin with the WDNR, a herping trip to Kettle Moraine State Forest, prairie restoration, maple tapping, salamander nights, volunteering at the Urban Ecology Center in Milwaukee and a possible prairie burn. Additionally, the club is going to help the community by cleaning up our adopted stretch of highway and help at local school outreach activities called Science Nights. At the end of the year, we will be participating in the Great Wisconsin Birdathon to help raise money for bird conservation. It's shaping up to be a great and fun spring semester!

New TWS Executive Director

The Wildlife Society (TWS) is pleased to announce that Dr. Byron Kenneth (Ken) Williams will become the Society's new Executive Director effective March 4, 2013. Highly regarded for his leadership at state and federal levels, Williams brings significant natural-resources expertise to the helm of TWS, the premier scientific society for professionals in wildlife management and conservation.



Williams is currently completing his service as Co-Director of the Science and Decisions Center in the U.S. Geological Survey, where he has focused on adaptive management, valuation of ecosystem services, and advancing the use of science in natural-resources decision making. Since 1997, Williams has also been Chief of the USGS Cooperative Research Units, a natural-resources science program with research units at 40 universities in 38 states. In that role he has been responsible for strategic planning, budget management, and coordinating research activities with federal, state, and university partners.

After earning MS degrees in mathematics from the University of Oklahoma and statistics from Colorado State University, Williams earned a Ph.D. in rangeland ecology from Colorado State. Prior to his service with USGS, he held science and management positions at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland, then served as Chief of the Office of Migratory Bird Management for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, leader of the Vermont Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Vermont, and Executive Director of FWS's North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office.

Widely published, Williams has authored scholarly papers on issues including adaptive management, biological modeling, vertebrate mapping, waterfowl management, and habitat conservation. Over the past 20 years he has been heavily involved in developing an adaptive framework for integrating science

into natural-resource management for the U.S. Department of the Interior, serving as lead author of the DOI Adaptive Management Technical Guide and the DOI Adaptive Management Applications Guide.

“The Wildlife Society has just celebrated its 75th anniversary and reached record membership of nearly 11,000 professionals,” says TWS President Wini Kessler. “At this time of growth and celebration, we are extremely pleased to welcome Ken Williams, a leader of vision who will strengthen our mission to promote science-based wildlife management and conservation for future generations.”

Jennifer Stenglein – TWS Outstanding Graduate Student Award



Jennifer Stenglein (Ph.D. candidate, Forest and Wildlife Ecology) was recognized as 2012's Outstanding Graduate Student by the Northcentral Chapter of The Wildlife Society (<http://www.wildlife.org/>). The award was announced at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference December 10 in Wichita Kansas. Jen is studying the population dynamics of wolves in Wisconsin and has recently been advising the Wisconsin DNR on the potential population-level effects of wolf hunting. The Wildlife Society is the professional society for wildlife biologists working in government agencies, the private sector, and academia. The Northcentral section include the states of WI, MI, MN, IN, IL, OH, KS, MO, IA, NE, SD, ND and the province of Ontario.

Call for 2012 Award Nominations

The WCTWS Awards Committee is seeking nominations for chapter recognition.

The Wisconsin Award is our chapter's highest recognition of a person or group that exemplifies the wildlife profession in our state. The award is intended to be given out annually and nominees are rated on the basis of their overall achievement or service to the wildlife profession in the fields of management, research, teaching, public relations, or legislative direction. Nominees may be any member of the wildlife profession and its supporting disciplines including members of governing bodies.

The Don Rusch Memorial Award is presented annually to a nominee who has made an outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation and meets the following requirements: 1) A wildlife professional actively working in the field of management, research, or education in the State of Wisconsin. 2) A member in good standing of the Wisconsin Chapter. 3) An active participant in or a strong supporter of the role of hunting in wildlife conservation. Nominees are judged on the significance of their contribution to wildlife conservation in the state of Wisconsin for either the short /or long term. The person selected for this award will be the type of individual who is recognized by their peers as an excellent representative of a working wildlife professional.

Nominations for the **WCTWS Student Award** are open to any person in their junior or senior year enrolled at a Wisconsin university or college during the 2012-2013 school year. Nominees will be judged on the basis of grade point average, leadership qualities, participation in wildlife conservation organizations, and the potential for future contributions to the wildlife profession.

To submit nominations, please supply any member of the Committee with a statement of nomination and any relevant supporting information. If you know of other persons/organizations having information on the nominee, please furnish those as well. Your Awards Committee includes: Jim Ruwaldt, USFWS (Retired)–Madison, Scott Lutz, UW-Madison, Jim Evrard, DNR (Retired) Grantsburg and Ken Jonas, DNR - Hayward: kenneth.jonas@wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Committee Meeting Summaries Stevens Point, WI

Submitted by Pat Kaiser, WCTWS Liaison to WWF

The Wildlife Committee Meeting, 12/1/12

1. Bill Vander Zouwen – WDNR wildlife staff provided an update on several issues:
 - a) 2012 gun deer license sales were 633,460 and a preliminary 9-day season gun deer harvest is 243,749 (103,000 bucks ... +14% and 140,750 antlerless deer+4%)
 - b) Wildlife Mgt. is in process of filling wildlife position vacancies of which there are approx. 30 positions (15 field biologists, 10 field technicians and 5 central office staff)
 - c) Wolf harvest during the gun deer season was 20 animals of which at least 7 were illegal. Discussion of the planning for conducting wolf tracking counts for upcoming winter season because last year only approx. 70% of the assigned tracking routes were completed.
2. Ralph Fritsch, WWF-Wildlife Committee Chairman discussed several items:
 - a) Crossbow use by 55 yr. old and older hunters during the archery season. Numerous states now allow the use of crossbows during the regular archery season and there appears to be very little different harvest success rates by crossbow hunters vs. conventional archery hunters. Motion was made to approve use of crossbows by hunters 55 yr. old and older during the archery season. Motion approved!
 - b) Dr. Kröll Deer report. WDNR is working on some changes based on the report recommendations including: archery (2013) deer registration by telephone call-in; possibly transition to county-based deer management; Deer Mgt. Assistance Program (DMAP), including a 'Young Forest Initiative' to the plan; management of deer based on impacts of deer to agriculture, forests, road kills, etc.; and WDNR hire a 'Coordinator for Implementation of the Deer Trustee report'.
 - c) CWD Today. Hunting regulations in CWD areas has been significantly relaxed in past 2 years. WDNR has \$530,000 for CWD

monitoring in 2013 thus hopes to sample approx. 5200 deer season, and about 1/2 of that in 2013. Last yr. – 2011 – 4872 deer were sampled and there were 238 positive deer (5%). The former Hall property near Almond, WI, the 2nd containment fence is now under construction.

d) Hunting and trapping in State Parks (Act 168). Statewide hearings and public comments are now being taken and assessed. There were many concerns about conibear trap use and hunting near hiking trails.

e) Tribal night deer hunting proposal. Tribes want to hunt deer on tribal lands in the ceded territories (approx. the area north of Hwy 29). This needs to go thru federal courts for decision.

f) Bobcat proposals. Laurie Groskopf of Tomahawk, WI commented that the WDNR bobcat estimates are nowhere near reality. She states that bobcat permit #'s need to be increased. Motion was made to allow the harvest of bobcats throughout the state of Wisconsin. Motion approved!

g) Elk Herd Expansion. Reported that WDNR has held public meetings and the main concerns are: closing of roads on public lands, cost of long term mgt., introduction of diseases, and crop damage. Proposed plan is to help the Clam Lake herd reach a population of 200 animals and put 75 animals in the Black River Falls area.

h) Bear Season Harvest. The 2012 bear harvest was 4424 of which 1036 were taken via hunting with dogs, and 3253 taken by bait hunting. The permit success rate was 48%. The tetracycline study for 2012 is the 2nd yr. for rib collections from harvested bear.

i) Future Funding for the WDNR. Was noted that there has been no 'license fee ' increase for hunting , fishing and trapping in the past 7 yrs. Motion was made that WWF supports a fee increase for hunting, fishing and trapping. Motion Approved!

WWF Bi-Monthly Meeting, 12/15/12

1. George Meyer, WWF Executive Director discussed several topics.
 - a. The WWF is in negotiations with WDNR for continued funding assistance for operation of the MacKenzie Environmental Center at Poynette.
 - b. The WWF supports the Green School Network of which there are now 12 participating schools and WWF provides financial assistance for 6 field biologists (i.e. Field Corp

Biologists) that direct the schools in environmental education experiences.

- c. New Mining Legislation is in the works but there needs to be significant changes from last year's bill for it to be environmentally acceptable.
2. David Murphy, Ex. Director of Conservation Federation of Missouri made a guest presentation on the 'Youth Conservation Leadership Program'. The Conservation Federation of Missouri is the equal counterpart of WWF in Wisconsin. This program in Missouri has the focus of Leadership Development for young adults who have an interest in conservation of natural resources for Missouri. The leadership program provides 2 yr. scholarships for up to 10 young adults per year. These young adults participate in the Conservation Federation of Missouri yearly activities by being members of committees and developing proposals that improve conservation programs. Thus, the overall goal of the program is to develop future new conservation leaders in the State. So far they have approx. 100 young adults complete the leadership program, and approx. 2/3rds of those graduates are still active in the Conservation Federation of Missouri. The WWF expressed an interest in adopting this type of program here in Wisconsin to help develop future conservation leaders for Wisconsin. A template of the program has been given to WWF.
 3. Committee Reports. Written reports were provided by most committees. The Wildlife Committee report had several items that included requests for Motions for Approval by WWF Board of Directors. The discussion of these items are noted in the previous 'Wildlife Committee Meeting (Dec. 1, 2012) Report. A) Motion was made to support the usage of crossbows in regular archery season by hunters 55 yrs. of age and older. Motion Approved! B) Motion was made to support the harvest of bobcats on a statewide basis. Motion Approved! C) Motion was made to support a license fee increase for hunting, fishing, and trapping and/or alternative funding for hunting, fishing and trapping; and, work with other state fishery groups to encourage WDNR to provide funds for updating WDNR fish hatcheries. Motion Approved!
 4. Other Concerns

2012 TWS Conference in Portland, OR

Submitted by Amanda Cyr, Member

- a. There are some hunters that are dissatisfied with the WDNR processes used in estimating some wildlife populations. Motion was made that 'WDNR convene a work group to examine ways to use hunter and trapper reports/observations into wildlife population estimates. Motion Approved!
- b. There is an interest by dog trainers to have access to MFL lands "open lands" for dog training. Motion was made that dog training be allowed on MFL "Open lands". Motion Approved!
- c. Some hunters that use dogs for hunting say that some properties have been purchased via the use of 'Stewardship Funds' that are owned by local units of government and non-profit organizations do not allow access for hunting and dog training. Motion was made that a change be made to the Stewardship Law so that lands purchased with Stewardship funds by local units of government and non-profit organizations are open to hunting and dog training. Motion approved!
- d. Some bear hunters have expressed an interest in allowing recipients of 'Disability Permits' to transfer that permit to other Class A, B, or C permit holders if the recipient is unable to use that permit. Motion was made to that effect. Motion Approved!

I want to extend a big Thank You to WCTWS for selecting me to receive one of the travel grants to attend the annual conference of The Wildlife Society, October 12-18 in Portland OR. The travel grant was very much appreciated and was the only way for me to take advantage of this opportunity. This was also the first National conference of The Wildlife Society I was able to attend and the timing couldn't have been more perfect! This conference was a joint meeting of The Wildlife Society and the American Associations of Wildlife Veterinarians, which meant there were plenty of wildlife health topics to go around! Because I am especially interested in wildlife health, it was no surprise I was like a 'kid in a candy shop' with so many wildlife health topics to choose from.

If you want to read more about Amanda's conference experiences, her full article is available on our chapter website, <http://joomla.wildlife.org/wisconsin>

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