

CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education
<http://drupal.wildlife.org/CMP>

Photo by Amanda Hicks

Spring 2015 Volume 59 Number 1



A Message from the President

Karie Decker—Nebraska

Fellow Wildlifers,

It's been a whorl-wind of experiences since I took over as President last fall. Thanks to so many of you for helping me through the first quarter! Here in Nebraska, we've had several 'sneak-peaks' of warm spring weather all throughout March. But just when we think it's going to stick around, we get another blast of cold precipitation. Ahh, the joys of spring. I was fortunate enough to get to see the mass migration of geese, ducks, and cranes through the Central Platte and Rainwater Basin. No matter how many times I see it, I will never get over the sheer number of birds: well over 10 million birds stopover in the area to refuel in late February and March. Certainly is one of the greatest wildlife spectacles on the continent...I hope many more generations get to see this!

Now that April is upon us, we can finally get the boat out and detangle the fishing equipment. Crappie will soon be spawning and the walleye bite will be on. This month also brings the thrill of spring turkey hunting. In the opening week of archery, spring gave us 80 degrees followed by 25 degrees the next day. Not sure I would have been able to stop shivering long enough to shoot my bow if I wanted to.

As you all get out there to enjoy what spring offers, please pass along your stories. Whether it's out conducting crow counts, starting up a new habitat project, or chasing turkeys, share your experiences. That's one of the things the CMPS board would really like to see this year, improving communication among the states, and even beyond. To help facilitate this, CMPS will soon have a Facebook page! Our newsletter will always serve us well, and we will continue to share updates and stories each quarter, but now, we won't have to wait for each newsletter. It will also help us link up with other Sections and the Parent Chapter. We'll let everyone know when it's ready...so stay tuned!

Have a wonderful spring!

Karie Decker



CMPS Officers

President:

Karie Decker

Past President:

Bill Vodehnal

Vice President:

Jim Hays

Secretary/Treasurer:

Laurel Badura

TWS Council Representative:

Bob Lanka

Board Members at Large:

Emily Munter

Andrea Orabona

Mindy Rice

Silka Kempema

Newsletter Editor:

Amanda Hicks

Inside this issue:

SECTION BUSINESS	2
CHAPTER UPDATES	7
UPCOMING EVENTS	11
CMPS DIRECTORY	13



Coming Soon

Section Business

Seeking Nominations for Officers to CMPS Board

CMPS is seeking candidates to fill 3 positions that will become vacant during the August CMPS meeting in Manhattan, Kansas. Two At-Large and the President-elect positions will be filled. The two at-large positions are 2-year terms. During odd numbered years, the President Elect is selected and they will succeed to a 2-year term as President after serving a year as President Elect. See below for Board Position duty descriptions. We desire to have the list of candidates in the 2015 Summer Newsletter (**due May 20, 2015**) and voting to end 14 days prior to the annual meeting. A board committee has been formed and will be calling for potential candidates, but if you desire to be considered, please email Bill Vodehnal (bill.vodehnal@nebraska.gov). Please strongly consider serving at the Section level for TWS.

-PRESIDENT. The President shall have general supervision of the Executive Board; shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer, a Newsletter Editor, a web master and a Regular Member to chair each standing committee specified in Article VIII, Section 1; shall appoint a member of the Executive Board to serve as a liaison between the Section and the host Chapter for the Annual Section Meeting; shall be, ex-officio, a member of all committees except the Nominations and Elections Committee; and may represent the Section or appoint alternate representatives to other Sections, Chapters, or Society boards, committees or meetings.

-PRESIDENT-ELECT. The President-Elect shall assist the President in administration of Section affairs and shall perform any duties assigned by the President. The President-Elect shall chair the Mission and Strategic Plan Review Committee. The Executive Board shall hear recommendations of this committee at the Annual Business Meeting. Any changes adopted by the Executive Board shall become effective at the close of the New Business session of the Annual Business Meeting.

-VICE-PRESIDENT. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of President during any absence or upon any inability of the President to serve, and shall perform any duties assigned by the President. This office shall preside over the Awards Committee. In the event the Vice-President cannot serve in the President's absence, the Executive Board shall appoint a President, pro tempore.

-SECRETARY-TREASURER. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for Section files, records, and funds; shall record the minutes of all meetings, maintain the membership rolls noting whether individuals are regular or associate members, and issue notices of meetings, shall be responsible for receipt and disbursement of Section funds; and shall, within 20 days after the close of the Section year report all official actions of the Section, including a calendar year financial statement, to the Executive Director of the Society, the Section Representative to the Society, the Executive Board of the Section, and to Section membership in the first newsletter of the new Section year, complete reports required in Article VII, Section 2 and make available to the election committee updated information on membership status. The Secretary-Treasurer's report at the Annual Business Meeting shall provide the membership a financial statement covering the period since the last Annual Business Meeting.

-PAST-PRESIDENT. The Past-President shall assist the incoming president with issues involving continuity and Section history and assist in the general administration of Section business affairs.

-MEMBERS-AT-LARGE. Members-at-Large shall assist in the general administration of Section business affairs.

Section Business

CMPS Awards Nominations Due June 15

The Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society gives two awards annually to honor the accomplishments of worthy individuals. The Professional Award is given to a professional individual or group and the Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award is given to an individual or group of citizens to recognize an outstanding contribution towards furthering the enhancement of wildlife endeavors within the Section. Nominations for an award must include a nomination letter emphasizing the basis for determining 'an outstanding contribution towards furthering the enhancement of wildlife endeavors within the Section.' In addition, at least one supporting letter of nomination is required (from a separate individual) and inclusion of a detailed Resume/CV (for individual nominations) of the nominee is encouraged. Nominations should be emailed to the CMPS Vice President, Jim Hays (jim_hays@tnc.org). Nominations must be received by June 15, 2015 to be considered. Complete information is available on our website: <http://drupal.wildlife.org/cmp/sites/wildlife.org.cmp/files/images/Awards%20Criteria.pdf>

CMPS 2015 WAYNE SANDFORT STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION

The Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society (TWS) announce the availability of travel grants for students planning on attending the Society's 2015 Annual Conference in Winnipeg, Canada. Travel grants of up to \$500 each will be awarded to a limited number of student chapters of TWS to assist with expenses incurred attending the TWS Annual Conference. Students may apply through their college student chapter of TWS or individually to CMPS. Applications must be submitted electronically by **July 31, 2015** to Karie Decker (karie.decker@nebraska.gov). Complete application instructions available here: <http://drupal.wildlife.org/cmp/Student%20Travel%20Grant>

Preference will be given to:

1. Current undergraduate students,
2. Students who are currently or who have recently been involved in activities of TWS, CMPS, or a local TWS chapter.
3. Group applications of up to three individuals may be submitted through student chapters of TWS located within the CMPS geographic boundary.

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. A member of the State or Student Chapter;
2. A member of the Central Mountains and Plains Section;
3. A member of The Wildlife Society;
4. A recent Baccalaureate graduate or enrolled at least half time in a program leading to a degree in wildlife biology or closely related field at a college or university within the geographic boundary of CMPS.

Section Business

CMPS Conservation Affairs Network (CAN)-Bill Vodehnal

The CAN for CMPS is journeying forward and holding bimonthly conference calls with the most recent call in February. The intent of CAN is to foster greater communication between states and parent society on conservation issues. Currently, all 8 TWS Sections and 21 of 55 State Chapters are participating in CAN. CMPS has 6-7 states representatives and we are looking for a representative from Utah for a liaison. During future calls, we will be discussing how to collectively store historical letters and position statements on various conservation issues in states and provide access for others to review.

In an effort to share various issues or conservation concerns that CMPS states are following or addressing, we are sharing some highlights in this newsletter.

Conservation News from States

Kansas-Matt Smith

A bill in the Kansas Senate seeks to remove the spotted skunk from the state's threatened species list. The bill was introduced with support from the Sedgwick County Commission (which includes the city of Wichita) who "would rather our engineers spend time designing roads and bridges than applying for permits." The Sedgwick County Commission supports a related bill which would remove all threatened and endangered species from considerations when it comes to work along rivers and streams. This effort is similar to a bill last year that sought to remove the redbelly snake from the state's threatened list. The snake had been blamed for slowing development in the Kansas City area.

Rather than work with Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWP) to either petition for the removal of these species from the state's list or actively seek ways to avoid or minimize impacts to these species, it now appears these types of end-runs will be more common. Due to increased pressure to remove the redbelly snake from the list and with a growing threat of further legislative action against threatened and endangered species in Kansas, KDWP decided to remove the redbelly snake from the state's list last year.

Nebraska-Greg Schenbeck

A Colorado based company has plans to develop an injection well in western Nebraska for disposing large quantities of fracking waste fluids. The proposed site is in southern Sioux County, a sparsely populated rural ranching landscape. The site is also on the edge of the Oglala aquifer. Most of the waste fluid will come in from drilling sites in adjoining states. This proposal has resulted in considerable public debate over risks to the Oglala aquifer and impacts to the local public transportation system from increased truck traffic. The debate is also extending to the perception of this relatively pristine rangeland landscape becoming a dumping ground for out-of-state interests and corporate profit.

South Dakota-Paul Coughlin

In December 2013, Governor Dennis Daugaard hosted the Governor's Pheasant Habitat Summit to gather public input and support for addressing the recent decline in South Dakota's pheasant population. Following the summit the governor formed a Pheasant Habitat Work Group (PHWG), tasking the group with compiling all the ideas and suggestions into an action plan focused on addressing pheasant

Section Business

habitat needs and conditions across the state.

House Bill 1192 was a result of a recommendation made by the PHWG. HB 1192 was designed to provide \$1.5 million in seed money to the newly formed South Dakota Conservation Fund. The public funds would then be matched with donated private resources, and put to use improving pheasant habitat on public and private lands. However, the Governor's proposal to generate up to \$3 million dollars for the fund fell short in the legislature when the final version of the bill provided only \$350,000. While the amount of public money dedicated to the fund and whatever private donations it will generate are almost meaningless for addressing habitat conversion and loss in South Dakota, it should still be viewed as a small victory for conservation: a "D-" effort at best by the South Dakota Legislature.

Wyoming-Tony Mong

A Senate Bill SF0012 was passed and signed into law in Wyoming that would make trespass for the collection of resource data a felony on the first offense (<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2015/Summaries/SF0012.pdf>). The fine for such an offense would be up to 1 year in prison, \$5,000, or both.

TWS COUNCIL REPORT

Bob Lanka, Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative

TWS Council met March 8-9 in Omaha, Nebraska in conjunction with the 100th Assembly of the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. While I attended a brief orientation Council meeting at the end of the Pittsburgh Conference last October this was my first real council meeting.

TWS Budget

Past section representative Gary White spent considerable time in his columns discussing the TWS budget. While our professional Society has turned the corner, going from being in the red to the black, it is important we all keep our eye on the ball as the budget is funded in large part by the dues we as members pay. Based on projected revenues of \$2.7 million and projected expenses of \$2.5 million Council passed a budget that, if projections hold, will result in a budget surplus for the third year in a row.

Likely the highest budget priority for the upcoming year focuses on enhanced engagement of TWS and TWS staff with membership. There are dollars in the budget to allow TWS staff to travel to chapter and section meetings more frequently to meet members and listen to your concerns and ideas. Chief Operating Officer Ed Thompson and his staff are working hard to connect with TWS members more frequently. Hopefully you have visited our revised website. It is still a work in progress so be patient a little longer as more content is migrated over. You should have also noticed the now weekly e-Wildlifer and the Wildlife Talks traffic in your e-mail. At each of the past few TWS annual conferences all talks were recorded. Wildlife Talks is a member benefit that allows those that could not make the conference to watch a couple talks each week from the comfort of your home or office. Publications and Communications Director Nancy Sasavage is finalizing plans that will bring each of us The Wildlife Professional six times per year rather than the current four. Government Affairs and Partnerships Director

Section Business

Laura Beis and Assistant Director Keith Norris are working with all eight sections and many of the state/provincial chapters on the Conservation Affairs Network. Besides providing a mechanism for TWS Organizational Units (TWS, Sections, Chapters and Student Chapters) to network on policy activities, Laura and her staff are working to develop a searchable online database of TWS policy documents, letters and testimony. Easy access to these documents will provide an invaluable resource for section and chapter led conservation policy activities. See our website at <http://wildlife.org/policy-2/conservation-affairs-network/> for more details. These and other initiatives are designed to provide more value for your TWS membership dollar.

Membership

Membership will be around 8,900 at the end of the current fiscal year (June 30, 2015). The goal for next fiscal year is to increase membership by three percent. Check out our website at <http://wildlife.org/join/> to see a list of member benefits and to join if you haven't already. But, if the regular and enhanced member benefits mentioned above are not enough to convince you to join TWS right away, I understand. Many of the benefits of TWS membership may not make sense to someone who has not experienced them or only experienced part of them in a very different form in the past. For you, TWS is launching a new initiative to engage prospective members through a program called **Wildlife Partners**. The intent of this new outreach effort is to establish a relationship with wildlife professionals and students as well as other supporters and allow them to explore TWS before, hopefully, becoming members. Think of it as try before you buy. Becoming a Wildlife Partner is free and provides the prospective member with a subset of member benefits. See our website at: <http://wildlife.org/professionals-students-and-supporters-become-a-wildlife-partner-today/> for more details.

Travels

As council representative from our Section it is important that I also connect with section and chapter members and hear what you have to say. I have had the good fortune, along with good roads, to attend 2015 state chapter meetings in Colorado, South Dakota and Nebraska so far this year. I want to express my gratitude for the hospitality shown me at each of these great events and for the willingness to share ideas. It was good to catch up with old friends and meet many new ones. By the time this newsletter comes out I will also have been to the Utah Chapter meeting. If I didn't get the chance to see you at one of these meetings hopefully we will run into each other at the 2015 CMPS meeting, tentatively scheduled for August 11-13 in Manhattan, Kansas.

The 2015 TWS Annual Conference will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada October 18-22. I know it may be more difficult to get permission for international travel from employers. However, after talking to Art Rodgers, Canadian Section Council Rep and TWS President Rick Baydack, I am confident the conference planning committee is putting together an outstanding conference you won't want to miss. Check out our website for more details <http://wildlife.org/2015conference/>.

Closing Thoughts

Some of you have heard me say this, others not, so I will say it here. The Wildlife Society is your professional organization. For the wildlife manager, wildlife biologist, wildlife administrator, wildlife re

Section Business

searcher and wildlife student, The Wildlife Society is your American Bar Association, your American Medical Association, your _____, you fill in the blank. Like any professional organization, ours is only as strong as its members. Since being founded in 1937, our professional organization has been dominated by folks that look a lot like me. That's OK. To those past and current members that fit the same mold I do and to those that don't, whose legacy is having helped build The Wildlife Society to what it is today and who continue to contribute, we owe a debt of gratitude that we can appreciate but cannot repay. However, society is changing and TWS must change with it. Today about one-third of our members are women. A much lower percentage is Native American, Black, Hispanic or Asian. As we move to the future, TWS needs the passion, energy, wisdom and diversity of opinion people of different backgrounds bring to the table. No matter who you are or what your gender, ethnic or social group, if you see a wildlifer that talks, thinks or just plain looks different than you but when you look in their eyes you see the same fire for wildlife and wild places, do what it takes to welcome them and encourage them to join you in The Wildlife Society. You will be doing yourself and your professional organization a huge favor while at the same time creating legacy of your own.

Chapter Updates

Colorado State University

The Colorado State Chapter of the Wildlife Society was able to send 16 students to the annual CCTWS conference in Grand Junction, CO in February. This conference was an invaluable opportunity for our members to learn about what is happening in the field of wildlife biology as well as making connections with professionals in the field. Three of our members were able to present posters at this conference—two of the posters concerned the ongoing remote camera wildlife monitoring projects we have set up at Pineridge Natural Area and Soapstone Natural Area. At Pineridge, we were able to use our camera data to teach environmental education to a local 6th grade class. At Soapstone, the cameras are helping to monitor the recently reintroduced black-footed ferret population. After the conference ended, we were able to squeeze in a quick visit to the Colorado National Monument where we able to view a herd of desert bighorn sheep.

We have brought in a variety of speakers this semester such as Jeff Birek from the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Russ Reidinger on wildlife damage management, Luke McNally from Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, and Cooper Farr on the effects of urbanization on bats. Later this month, we are excited about a speaker coming from USFWS to talk about black-footed ferrets.

Our raptor monitoring program allows members the opportunity to go birding bi-weekly. Members record raptor data from Boyd Lake and the information is then used by Colorado Parks & Wildlife. In addition to this, we are continuing our efforts to monitor the reintroduction of black-footed ferrets at Soapstone Natural Area. Members can go out to Soapstone twice a month to learn how to check wildlife cameras as well gaining experience with data entry.

There are many other exciting events going on this semester, such as our annual techniques workshop with Colorado Parks & Wildlife. We were also fortunate to be able to provide members with hunter's

Chapter Updates

education through CPW. Lastly, we are part of an event called Collaborative Colorado, which will put on an environmental education day for a group of 5th graders later this semester.



TWS member Tyler Greenly presents his poster at CCTWS.



TWS members and advisors at CCTWS. From left to right. Top: Samuel Peterson, Cory Kerr, Spencer Roberts, Bryce Davis, Stewart Breck. Middle: Savanna Smith, Hannah Wherry, Breanna Dodge, Kaylee Karmazin, Hayden Akers, Joao Carlos, Rebecca Much, Stacy Lischka. Bottom: Larissa Bailey, Eleanor Mock, Jesse Ellgren, Eveline Goncalves, Tyler Greenly.



TWS members at the Colorado National Monument.

Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society

The Nebraska Chapter gathered in Ogallala, NE on February 26th for their annual meeting. Over 85 professionals and students attended a full day of student and professional presentations on topics including swift fox occupancy in western Nebraska, land values and conservation planning on private lands, and resume writing and interview strategies. Three students were recognized for their work in the student poster competition with Jocelyn Olney from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln taking 1st place with her poster entitled "Effect of a wind farm on greater prairie chicken nest site preferences in the Nebraska Sandhills". The photography contest recognized student and professional photographs in four categories, several of which were later donated to the chapters' primary fund-raising event, a live auction which provided an entertaining close to the meeting. Professional awards included the NETWS Distinguished Service Award presented to Wayne Mollhoff, NETWS Career Professional of the Year awarded to Laurel Badura, and NETWS Professional of the Year awarded to Monica Keep. Following the annual meeting, students from all four student chapters attended a student-professional workshop at

Chapter Updates

Cedar Point Biological Station, where they toured and learned about habitat management, attended a bald eagle viewing event, and participated in hands-on table talks about deer aging, antler scoring and grouse wing aging. The chapter will be celebrating 50 years next year and is already planning an exciting meeting to commemorate this historic event.



South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

The South Dakota Chapter (SDTWS) held its annual meeting February 23-25 in Oacoma, SD. Over 140 students and professionals attended the meeting and learned about environmental contaminants and the threats they pose to wildlife. Those in attendance enjoyed many other excellent presentations and the workshop on falconry. Nathan Baker was elected president elect, Julie DeJong was elected secretary/treasurer, and Alex Solem was elected as executive board member. John Kanta also took over as president. Awards given at this year's meeting were: Wildlife Professional of the Year, Dennie Mann; M.S. Student of the Year, Tait Ronningen; Ph.D. Student of the Year, Erica Mize; Best Student Presentation, Sarah Nevison; Best Open Presentation, Jarrett Pfrimmer. A Past-President plaque was also given to Mark Norton for his service as SDTWS President in 2014-15. 2016 will mark the SDTWS's 50th anniversary. Preparations will start soon to make next year's annual meeting one to remember. Please contact a board member with any suggestions you have for next year's annual meeting.

SDTWS Chapter information and activities can be found on our website at: <http://sdwildlife.org/index.htm>

Harold (Hal) M. Swope

2 March 1923-15 December 2014

Hal (to everyone he met) was enamored with all things Colorado and moved to Colorado from Kansas where he had enrolled in college just as WW II was starting. Once he was released from active duty and after an additional year of college in Kansas, he moved to Colorado and completed his formal education in 1950 in the Departments of Wildlife Management (B.S.) and Forestry (M.S.) at Colorado A and M College. His M.S. thesis was on waterfowl production and habitat evaluation. He was offered a position as a 'Bird Biologist' in the Federal Aid Section with the then Colorado Department of Game and Fish (now Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife) in 1950 where he was a staunch supporter of hunting, especially of pheasants. His title was changed in 1961 to Wildlife Researcher when the Federal Aid Section was placed under the Wildlife Branch and the Research Section was formed. He later

Chapter Updates

served as a Wildlife Research Leader and Game Research Chief. During his 31-year career his field work was primarily with pheasant projects but also with sage grouse in North Park. He was involved with several game farm facilities operated by his agency, especially with the Wildlife Research Station northeast of Fort Collins. He recognized that raising and releasing pheasants was neither cost effective nor increasing the number of wild pheasants in the field and supported closing all state game farms (Colorado Springs, Rocky Ford) except the research facility northeast of Fort Collins. There were people in the Colorado Department of Game and Fish (which became the Colorado Department [and then Division] of Game, Fish and Parks) who supported raising and releasing other non-native game birds and Hal inherited the job of supervising the production and release of species such as Pale-spotted Tinnunculus, Gray Partridge, and Mountain Quail even though he confided to several of us that we were wasting money when we should be focusing on habitat improvements.

Hal produced a number of articles for Outdoor Facts, a mostly internal publication of the Colorado Department of Game and Fish including on Legal Harvest of Hen Pheasants (1964), Pheasant Weights and Winter Stress and Starvation (1965), Pheasant Crowing counts (1967), and Guidelines for Range Conversion Projects in Sage Grouse Range (1969). All of these efforts were important and Hal was well ahead of everyone on the Sage Grouse issue. He was an early supporter of incorporating use of radio-telemetry in wildlife studies as demonstrated by early work on sage-grouse in North Park.

Hal was a member of The Wildlife Society at the Section (President of CMPS in 1968) and Chapter (Charter Member, 1973) levels. He was a stalwart in attending Section meetings in the 1950s and 1960s and Chapter meetings whenever possible. He also encouraged those who worked with him to be active in Chapter and Section affairs. Hal preferred to be out of the spotlight but was a willing participant when help was needed.

I met Hal in 1965 when I enrolled at Colorado State University as he was close friends with people (Ron Ryder, Lee Yeager, Doug Gilbert, and many others) at the University as well as at the Colorado Division of Game, Fish and Parks who were important to my personal development (Glenn Rogers, Wayne Sandfort, Jack Grieb). Hal was a Co-project Leader for Upland Game when I came on board in 1969 and, even though I was assigned to the Migratory Bird Project for a number of years, he always had a helpful approach for those interested in game bird research. Thus, there were memorable trips to eastern Colorado to help with surveying pheasant hunters as well as a few opportunities to hunt pheasants. Hal was Game Research Chief when I was asked by The Wildlife Society to serve as an Assistant Editor (and later as Editor in Chief) for the Journal of Wildlife Management. Following discussions with Wayne Sandfort (Assistant Director), Hal prepared a letter laying out my continuing research responsibilities as well as serving The Wildlife Society as an editor starting in 1979 and continuing through 1983. He was a man of conviction but also understood the chain of command.

A facet of Hal's experience that he rarely mentioned was his wartime service as a co-pilot of B-17s (Flying Fortress) involved with bombing missions over Germany in WW II. The survival rate of B-17s during that phase of the war was reportedly 1 in 4.

Hal was an expert gardener and even in retirement stopped at the Division office in Fort Collins to share his abundance of fresh vegetables. We almost had to stand in line as everyone was eager to sam

Chapter Updates

ple Hal's produce. This exemplified Hal's selfless contributions to his friends as well as to the wildlife profession and natural resources. He was a great friend to those he knew and was the most decent person that anyone could hope to meet. He was truly someone that was deeply respected not just professionally but also as a person.

(This article benefited from the suggestions of R. W. Hoffman and B. E. Poley.)

Clait E. Braun

31 December 2014

Upcoming Events

2015 Annual Meeting of the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

"Grassland Strongholds: Biodiversity and Management"

10-13 August 2015, Manhattan, Kansas

The Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society and Kansas State University are proud to host the 2015 meeting of the Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society in Manhattan, Kansas, from 10-13 August 2015. The academic host, Kansas State University, is one of the region's top institutions in wildlife biology. K-State faculty and post-docs will be leading informative workshops on software packages (R, FRAGSTATS) that have become staple research tools in wildlife biology.

The theme for the meeting, "Grassland Strongholds: Biodiversity and Management" pertains, in part, to the ecoregion in which the meeting will be held: the Flint Hills, the largest remaining expanse of tall-grass prairie in North America. This unique landscape will feature prominently in the meeting's plenary sessions, field trips, and social venues. Further west in Kansas are most of the planet's Lesser Prairie-Chickens (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*), a species now federally designated as a threatened. In addition to management considerations regarding grassland wildlife, issues pertaining to threatened and endangered species will also be featured in afternoon panel discussions. As grassland stongholds and issues with threatened and endangered species feature prominently in other states in the CMPS, we invite you to share your research and management efforts at the meeting. However, all topics pertaining to wildlife-related research and management are welcome for the paper and poster sessions.

Registration information, a call for paper and poster abstracts, and venue-specific details are forthcoming. Abstract submission will be 26 June and early registration will end 3 July. Check <http://wildlife.org/kansas> for updates. A tentative schedule of events is listed below. We hope to see you in Manhattan in August!

Upcoming Events

2015 Annual Meeting of the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society “Grassland Strongholds: Biodiversity and Management”

10-13 August 2015, Manhattan, Kansas

Hosted by the *Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society* and *Kansas State University*

Tentative Schedule and Venues

Oral presentation / poster abstracts due: 26 June

Early registration: 3 July

Dates & times	Event	Venue
Monday, Aug. 10		
0800-1200	Workshop: FRAGSTATS	Bluemont Hotel
1200-1300	Lunch	Local Manhattan eateries
1300-1700	Workshop: R	Bluemont Hotel
1300-1800	Registration	Bluemont Hotel
1700-1900	Dinner	Local Manhattan eateries
1900-2200	Opening social	Flint Hills Discovery Center
Tuesday, Aug. 11		
0600-0800	Early-bird Field Trip	Konza Prairie Biological Station
0700-0815	Registration	Bluemont Hotel
0800-0815	Welcome	Bluemont Hotel
0815-0915	Plenary I: Ecology of the Flint Hills	Bluemont Hotel
0915-0930	Break	Bluemont Hotel
0930-1150	Paper sessions (20 min slots)	Bluemont Hotel
1150-1320	Lunch	Local Manhattan eateries
1320-1500	Paper sessions (20 min slots)	Bluemont Hotel
1500-1520	Break	Bluemont Hotel
1520-1700	Panel discussion I: T/E Species issues	Bluemont Hotel
1800-2200	Supper, poster session, and social	Konza Prairie Biological Station
Wednesday, Aug. 12		
0600-0800	Early-bird Field Trip	Bolton Wildlife Area
0700-0815	Registration	Bluemont Hotel
0800-0815	Announcements	Bluemont Hotel
0815-0915	Plenary II: Management of Tallgrass Prairie	Bluemont Hotel
0915-0930	Break	Bluemont Hotel
0930-1150	Paper sessions (20 min slots)	Bluemont Hotel
1150-1320	Lunch	Local Manhattan eateries
1320-1500	Paper sessions (20 min slots)	Bluemont Hotel
1500-1520	Break	Bluemont Hotel
1520-1700	Panel discussion II: Tools for Conservation of Private Lands	Bluemont Hotel
1700-1800	Pre-banquet social and raffle bids	Bluemont Hotel
1800-2300	Banquet, Plenary III, and Raffle	Bluemont Hotel
Thursday, Aug. 13		
0630-1030	Early-bird Field Trip	Tallgrass Prairie Nat'l Preserve
1100-1200	Closing remarks & CMPS board/member meeting	Bluemont Hotel

Upcoming Events

The Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be holding their annual meeting December 1-3, 2015 in Lander, Wyoming at the Lander Community Center.

Central Mountains and Plains Section Directory

COLORADO

State Chapter

President	Tony Gurzick	tony.gurzick@hotmail.com
Past President	Ryan Monello	ryan_monello@nps.gov
Secretary	Chase Taylor	
Treasurer	Nate Seward	Nathan.seward@state.co.us

Colorado State University Student Chapter

President	Savanna Smith	savsmith@rams.colostate.edu
Advisors	Larissa Bailey	larissa.bailey@colostate.edu
	Steward Breck	swbrack@gmail.com

Western State College of Colorado Student Chapter

President	Amy Harmon	amy.harmon@western.edu
Advisors	Patrick Magee	pmagee@western.edu

KANSAS

State Chapter

President	William (Bill) Jensen	wjensen1@emporia.edu
President Elect	Brad Rueschhoff	brad.rueschhoff@ksoutdoors.com
Secretary	JR Glenn	jr.glenn@westarenergy.com
Treasurer	JR Glenn	jr.glenn@westarenergy.com

Emporia State University Student Chapter

President	Richard (Cale) Hedges	rhedges2@g.emporia.edu
Advisor	William Jensen	wjensen1@emporia.edu

Kansas State University Student Chapter

President	Carl Bowden	bowden03@ksu.edu
Advisor	Dave Haukos	dhaukos@ksu.edu

Central Mountains and Plains Section Directory

NEBRASKA

State Chapter

President	Jessica Jurzenski	Jessica.jurzenski@fhueng.com	308-440-9727
President-Elect	Laurel Badura	laurel_badura@fws.gov	308-263-3000
Past President	Eric Zach	eric.zach@nebraska.gov	402-471-5449
Secretary	Thomas Freeman	freemantl@unl.edu	
Treasurer	Kent Fricke	kfricke2@gmail.com	

Chadron State College Student Chapter

President	Brandon Werner	Brandon.werner@eagles.csc.edu	
Advisor	Teresa Frink	tfrink@csc.edu	

University of Nebraska Kearney Student Chapter

President	Kelsey Seifert	seifertk2@lopers.unk.edu	
Advisor	Thomas Freeman	freemantl@unk.edu	308-865-8920

University of Nebraska Lincoln Student Chapter

President	Sara Christianson	unlwildlifeclub@gmail.com	
Advisors	Larkin Powell	lpowell2@unl.edu	
	Dennis Ferraro	dferrano1@unl.edu	

Wayne State College Student Chapter

President	Sarah White	Sawhit02@wsc.edu	402-990-4380
Advisor	Mark Hammer	mahamme1@wsc.edu	402-375-7043

NORTH DAKOTA

State Chapter

President	Mike Szymanski	duckszymanski@gmail.com	
President Elect	Bill Jensen	lbjensen2@bis.midco.net	
Past-President	Kory Richardson	fowlwacker@hotmail.com	
Secretary	Stephanie Tucker	satucker.nd.gov	
Treasurer	Adam Ryba	strixacademicus@gmail.com	

North Dakota State University State Chapter

President	Barbarah Back		
Advisor	Erin Gillam	erin.gillam@ndsu.edu	

Central Mountains and Plains Section Directory

University of North Dakota Student Chapter

President	Tanner Stechmann	tanner.stechmann@my.und.edu
Advisor	Susan Ellis-Felege	susan.felege@.und.edu
Advisor	Jason Boulanger	Jason.boulanger@und.edu

SOUTH DAKOTA

State Chapter

President	John Kanta	john.kanta@state.sd.us	605-394-1755
President Elect	Nathan Baker	Nathan.baker@state.sd.us	605-223-7709
Past President	Mark Norton	mark.norton@state.sd.us	605-773-3096
Secretary	Julie DeJong	Julie.dejong@state.sd.us	
Treasurer	Julie DeJong	Julie.dejong@state.sd.us	
Newsletter	Charlene Bessen	ladyhawk155@hotmail.com	

South Dakota State University Student Chapter

President	Jessica Ring	Jessica.ring@jacks.sdstate.edu
Advisor	KC Jensen	kent.jensen@sdstate.edu

UTAH

State Chapter

President	Kevin Labrum	kclabrum@fs.fed.us	801-721-9788
President Elect	Brock McMillan	brock_mcmillan@byu.edu	801-422-1228
Past President	Chris Wood	chriswood@utah.gov	435-820-6019
Secretary	Jessica Van Woeart	jessicavan@utah.gov	
Treasurer	Blair Stringham	blairstringham@utah.gov	

Brigham Young University Student Chapter

President	Allison Williams	animalz01@yahoo.com
Advisor	Tom Smith	tom_smith@byu.edu

Utah State University Student Chapter

President	Stephen Lytle	lytle.stephen@yahoo.com
Advisor	Frank Howe	frankhowe@utah.gov

Utah State University Uintah Basin Student Chapter

Advisor	Brent Bibles	brent.bibles@usu.edu
---------	--------------	----------------------

Central Mountains and Plains Section Directory

Utah Valley University

Advisor Melissa Monk monkme@uvu.edu

WYOMING

State Chapter

President Eric Maichak eric.maichak@wyo.gov 307-360-6616

Secretary Daly Edmunds dedmunds@audubon.org 307-760-7342

Treasurer Therese Hartman therese.hartman@wyo.gov 307-231-0919

President Elect Matt Hayes mhayes1@uwyo.edu 307-766-6415

University of Wyoming Student Chapter

President Rebecca Burton rburton4@uwyo.edu

Advisors Merav Ben-David bendavid@uwyo.edu