

# The Grapevine

Volume 39

Published by the Oklahoma Chapter of The Wildlife Society



## Remarks from the President














I hope everyone is enjoying the first arctic blast of winter. While it is a bit of a shock to the senses, I always enjoy the changes that are brought with the cold north winds. For wildifers the changing of the season is exciting as it is a transition time for many wildlife species. Sandhill and whooping cranes are moving across the state providing great opportunities for wildlife viewing. White-tailed deer are actively rutting across the state, and work productivity has likely declined for many of you

that enjoy deer hunting. If you bird hunt, dust off your game bag as we have abundant quail this year which should make many bird dogs happy.

As we move into winter, it is time to mark your calendars for the upcoming state chapter of The Wildlife Society annual meeting. Many of you have expressed an interest in holding a more comprehensive natural resources meeting in conjunction with other professional societies. To that end, we have collaborated with the American Fisheries Society to host a joint meeting this winter. We hope to join with other societies in the future to provide the best opportunity for professional development and camaraderie amongst natural resources professionals in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Natural Resource Conference is scheduled for February 11-13 at the Hyatt Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This newsletter contains information on submitting abstracts, award nominations, registration, and scholarships. I hope to see all of you soon in Tulsa.

-Dwayne Elmore

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Blayr Gourley

# Feral Hog Community of Practice

By: Mike Porter

Feral Hogs are a non-native, invasive species causing millions of dollars in damage to agriculture and wildlife resources. The Feral Hog Community of Practice [http://www.extension.org/feral\\_hogs](http://www.extension.org/feral_hogs) was launched by the Cooperative Extension System during June 2012 to provide a source of accurate and useful information prepared by the

most knowledgeable professionals in the US. This is a multi-institutional, multi-state, and multidisciplinary educational and informational effort. The site delivers objective, well-researched information addressing biology, adaptive management, disease risks, control, economics, and human interactions.

# Prescribed Fire Community of Practice

By: Blayr Gourley

Prescribed fire is an important land management tool for many ecosystems across the country. Prescribed fire cannot be replicated by any other type of land management, therefore it is crucial to many wildlife species, grazing animals, and plant communities. The eXtension Prescribed Fire Community of Practice, [www.extension.org/prescribed\\_fire](http://www.extension.org/prescribed_fire), was created in 2011 by knowledgeable professionals to provide a central location to find information on various prescribed fire topics, frequently asked questions. Members are from all over the country, providing a wide-variety of knowledge about prescribed fire. The CoP currently has 70 members, who can contribute information to the CoP. If you are an experienced prescribed fire professional

and would like to contribute to the CoP, please sign up as a member on the website.

The CoP is marketed via social media through the Facebook page “Prescribed Fire eXtension CoP” and Twitter handle “RxFireCoP” with prescribed fire facts, trainings, conventions, meetings, and other information.



Chuck Stanley and John Weir after a summer burn.

# From the Editor's Stand...

By: Blayr Gourley

The trees really responded to the recent cold front. It seemed they were never going to turn, and the next day fall appeared.

The cold is welcomed by everyone in our household. Fall means hunting, and hunting isn't very fun with flies and mosquitos buzzing in your ears. I'm sure the wildlife are ready for the ticks to take a hit by the cold as well.

I don't know how familiar all of you are with social media, but it can not only be a place to reconnect with long lost classmates or friends, but also be a great place to find or advertise for meetings, events, or even educate people about a subject. I am currently the Facebook page manager for The Prairie Project, a project I created as a master's student in 2010; and the eXtension

Prescribed fire Community of Practice; as well as the Twitter handle's for both “prairieproject” and “RxFireCoP”. I have found success in educating people about natural resources as well as advertise for meetings and conferences. If you haven't dabbled in the social media world, you might think about it, social media is now much more than a place to chit chat with old buddies.

## Social Media

If you are on Facebook or Twitter, consider “liking” or “following” these social media presences.

### Facebook:

- The Prairie Project
- Prescribed Fire eXtension CoP
- OSU Natural Resource Ecology & Management
- Managing Oklahoma Ponds - OSU Cooperative Extension
- Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC)
- Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation - Game Wardens
- The Wildlife Society
- Oklahoma State University Chapter of The Wildlife Society
- The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
- The Oklahoma Nature Conservancy
- Society for Range Management
- Feral Hogs

### Twitter:

- @prairieproject
- @RxFireCoP
- @OKWildlifeDept
- @noblefoundation
- @wildlifesociety
- @Nature\_OK
- @rangelands
- @FeralHogsCoP

## Lesser Prairie-Chicken Update

By: Ashley Unger



A male lesser prairie-chicken fitted with a GPS Transmitter

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the lesser prairie-chicken as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act in March 2014. The listing included the acceptance of the range-wide conservation plan as developed by the five states within the lesser prairie-chicken range. Under this plan, the states can continue to manage conservation efforts. Part of those conservation efforts include annual

aerial surveys, which began in 2012. Surveys revealed a population decrease from 2012 (35,223) to 2014 (22,415); however, 2014 estimates were greater than those recorded in 2013 (18,747). Fluctuation in population estimates has been attributed to persistent drought throughout the range.

Oklahoma State University and Sutton Avian Research Center are focused on filling the gaps in lesser prairie-chicken research to better inform future conservation efforts. Researchers have trapped and marked individual birds with radio and GPS transmitters in the panhandle region of Oklahoma. Locations gathered from these transmitters will be used to determine survival rates, identify important habitat characteristics, examine seasonal movement patterns, and study the influence of increasing development on these birds. Increasing energy development will impact large portions of current lesser prairie-chicken habitat; therefore existing and current research will be critical to improving management plans and updating mitigation policy.

## Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation Wildlife Websites

By: Mike Porter

The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation has created websites that provide access to all Noble Foundation publications in print addressing each topic and provide links to other extension and state agency publications and websites. These websites cover four topics, white-tailed deer ([www.noble.org/deer/](http://www.noble.org/deer/)), fire ([www.noble.org/fire/](http://www.noble.org/fire/)), ponds ([www.noble.org/ponds/](http://www.noble.org/ponds/)), and feral hogs ([www.noble.org/feral-hogs/](http://www.noble.org/feral-hogs/)). The deer website addresses food, habitat, food plots, feeding, management, buck harvest, doe harvest, associations, harvest records, camera surveys, spotlight surveys, other surveys, aging, antler development,

hunting, leasing, behavior, calculators/tools, and other issues. The fire website addresses weather, smoke, equipment, clothing, training, associations, burn plans, fuels, firebreaks, laws/regulations, liability, pros and cons, brush control, wildlife habitat, drought, wildfire, fire-wise, costs, and other issues. The pond website addresses design/construction, fish identification, fish management, fish stocking, fish surveys, birds, mammals, reptiles, vegetation management, and water quality. The feral hog website addresses trapping, alternative control methods, and other issues.



# Northern Bobwhite Research

By: Matt Carroll



Photo by: Matt Carroll

A male bobwhite after being fitted with a radio-collar during spring 2012, at Packsaddle WMA

Northern bobwhite populations have been declining for at least 40-50 years across the majority of their distribution. While the decline has been less severe in Oklahoma, it has generally been attributed to land conversion to croplands and fire suppression. However, low bobwhite numbers observed in 2011 and 2012 were also indicative of the negative short-term impacts that drought and high heat can have on bobwhite population size. Recently, more favorable conditions occurring during the 2013 and 2014 breeding seasons have corresponded to increased bobwhite numbers.

To comprehensively address the bobwhite decline and increase knowledge about bobwhite ecology, Oklahoma State University is conducting a multi-year research project, funded by and partnership with, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. Since 2012, researchers have fitted over 1,000 bobwhite with radio-collars

at the Packsaddle and Beaver River Wildlife Management Areas in western Oklahoma, for the purpose of investigating bobwhite ecology from both a



A male bobwhite being fitted with a radio-collar during winter 2014, at Packsaddle WMA

habitat and environmental perspective. Accordingly, a wide array of research topics including habitat use, dispersal and movement, survival, nest success, brood habitat, and thermal constraints on bobwhite are being studied. Thus far, a large amount of data has been collected and analysis is underway, yet this long-term commitment to quail research in Oklahoma will continue for several years to help answer important questions about bobwhite ecology and habitat needs.

# TWS Student Chapter

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## Vice President

Breton Sloan

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Michaela Crossley

## Secretary

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## Historian

Marli Claytor

## Advisor

Sue Fairbanks

# TWS Student Chapter Update

By: Lisa Elizondo



Club members at Reptile Awareness Day with the herpetology club

The Oklahoma State University student chapter has participated in a variety of activities this semester. The chapter has participated in several outreach events, including the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Wildlife Expo and several recruiting events on campus such as the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Round-Up. The chapter, in

conjunction with the herpetology club, also hosted a Reptile Awareness Day, in which live animals were brought to campus to help educate the general public. Additionally, it was arranged for our members to have a tour of the Oklahoma City Zoo with one of their keepers to discuss zookeeping as a profession and the role of zoos in conservation.

This semester has kept everyone busy with football season, but the chapter still managed to organize a camping trip, the highlight of which was the Eastern Screech-Owl found on the night hike! There is a lot coming up in the near future for the OSU TWS student chapter, including all of our conclave preparations for the spring, and we hope to continue to have a great year.

## Upcoming Events

- NRCS Fire School  
 January 12-15, 2015, Stillwater
- Noble Foundation Prescribed Burn Workshop  
 January 14-15, 2015, Ardmore
- National Society for Range Management Meeting  
 February 1-6, 2015, Sacramento, CA
- NRCS Fire School  
 March 16-20, 2015, Clayton
- Lesser Prairie-Chicken Festival  
 April 15-22, 2015, Woodward
- National Bobwhite Technical Council  
 August 4-7, 2015, New Jersey
- American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting  
 August 16-20, 2015, Portland, OR
- NRCS Fire School  
 August 17-21, 2015, Stillwater
- Oklahoma Wildlife Expo  
 September 26 & 27, 2015, Guthrie
- The Wildlife Society National Meeting  
 October 17-21, 2015, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting  
 November 1-4, 2015, Asheville, NC
- Society of American Foresters National Convention  
 November 3-7, 2015, Baton Rouge

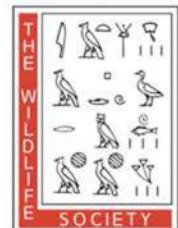


# Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference

Sponsored by the Oklahoma Chapters of the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society



**Tulsa, OK**  
**February 11-13, 2015**  
**Hyatt Regency Tulsa**



**Feb 11: Evening Social for Students & Professionals**  
**Feb 12: General Session & Social at McNellies (6:30-8:30 PM)**  
**Feb 13: General Session & Business Meetings (Ends at Noon)**

**More information soon at: <http://sdafs.org/okafs>**

# Call for Abstracts for the OK Natural Resource Conference

Abstracts for paper presentations are now being accepted for the Oklahoma Natural Resource Conference, hosted by the Oklahoma Chapters of the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society, which will be held on February 11-13, 2015, at the Hyatt Hotel in Tulsa, Okla. Professionals, graduate, and undergraduate students are encouraged to submit abstracts. Subject matter includes topics in natural resources including range, wildlife, fisheries, forestry, and environmental sciences. Submit all aquatic and fisheries related abstracts to Shannon Brewer, shannon.brewer@okstate.edu. Submit all other abstracts to Steven Smith, sgsmith@noble.org. **Deadline for submission is January 15, 2015.**

The extended abstract must follow the style of The Journal of Wildlife Management (JWM; see example and visit [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/store/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1937-2817/asset/homepages/JWMGuidelines2011Final.pdf?v=1&s=2b3c697db77509e634f2612b03449ed67b435687](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/store/10.1002/(ISSN)1937-2817/asset/homepages/JWMGuidelines2011Final.pdf?v=1&s=2b3c697db77509e634f2612b03449ed67b435687) for complete style guidelines). Limit abstract length to 300 words. Abstracts will include 1) a statement of justification for the research; 2) a statement of research objectives or hypotheses tested; 3) brief description of methods; 4) concise presentation of salient findings; and 5) implications of findings. Do not include tables, appendices, or literature cited. Submit abstracts as e-mail attachments in Microsoft Word. The time limit for presentations is 20 minutes, which will include 15 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes for questions.

## Call for Student Papers for TWS Research Award

This award rewards undergraduate and graduate students who conduct outstanding research in natural resource ecology and management. Subject matter includes topics in range, wildlife, natural resource, and environmental sciences. Please send electronic files to Steven Smith, sgsmith@noble.org. Contact Steven for more information. Entries are due by **January 15, 2015**. Awards of \$500, \$200 and \$50 and plaques will be given to the top three competitors.

### Eligibility

Graduate and undergraduate students are eligible. Students who have graduated since the last OCTWS meeting are eligible if they are members of OCTWS at the time of the annual meeting. Students must be the senior author of the abstract and oral presentation. The work being reported must be primarily that of the student. Research projects should be based on at least one season or year of data collection. Only students who are affiliated with an Oklahoma college or university at the time of research or students who conducted field work in Oklahoma, but are affiliated with an out-of-state college or university, are eligible to compete.

### Extended Abstract Submission

The extended abstract must follow the style of The Journal of Wildlife Management (JWM; see example and visit [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/store/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1937-2817/asset/homepages/JWMGuidelines2011Final.pdf?v=1&s=2b3c697db77509e634f2612b03449ed67b435687](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/store/10.1002/(ISSN)1937-2817/asset/homepages/JWMGuidelines2011Final.pdf?v=1&s=2b3c697db77509e634f2612b03449ed67b435687) for complete style guidelines). Limit abstract length to 300 words. Abstracts will include 1) a statement of justification for the research; 2) a statement of research objectives or hypotheses tested; 3) brief description of methods; 4) concise presentation of salient findings; and 5) implications of findings. Do not include tables, appendices, or literature cited. Submit abstracts in Microsoft Word as e-mail attachments.

## TWS Publication and Creativity Award

Please consider nominating someone for the TWS Publication and Creativity Award presented to member(s) of the Oklahoma Chapter who, as individuals or members of a team, make outstanding contributions to natural resource management and conservation through books, technical articles, popular articles, videos, or other media or programs completed within the last 3 years, including the current year. The award will be presented at the annual meeting, February 11-13, 2015.

Entries are due by **January 15, 2015**. Send your nomination for the Publication and Creativity Award in the form of an electronic letter and any other documents needed to support your nomination, to Steven Smith, Chair, OCTWS Awards Committee (sgsmith@noble.org). For further information, contact Steven Smith.

## Private Land Management Award

This award recognizes exemplary contributions to natural resource management on private land. Nominations should include descriptions of the landowner's goals, property, and wildlife management practices. The nominator should be prepared to give a brief slide presentation about the recipient and the property at the annual meeting, February 11-13, 2015.

Entries are due by **January 15, 2015**. Send your nomination for the Private Land Management Award in the form of an electronic letter, with attached photo, maps, and any other documents needed to support your nomination, to Steven Smith, Chair, OCTWS Awards Committee (sgsmith@noble.org). For further information, contact Steven Smith.

## Harold C. Stuart Conservation Excellence Award

This award recognizes a lay person or group that has contributed significantly towards enhancing conservation stewardship and perpetuating a conservation ethic through activities in Oklahoma. The award will be presented at the annual meeting, February 11-13, 2015.

Entries are due by **January 15, 2015**. Send your nomination for the Private Land Management Award in the form of an electronic letter, with attached photo, maps, and any other documents needed to support your nomination, to Steven Smith, Chair, OCTWS Awards Committee (sgsmith@noble.org). For further information, contact Steven Smith.

## Oklahoma Award

The Chapter's most prestigious award, the Oklahoma Award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the profession of wildlife management in the state of Oklahoma. The award will be presented at the annual meeting, February 11-13, 2015.

Entries are due by **January 15, 2015**. Send your nomination for the Private Land Management Award in the form of an electronic letter, with attached photo, maps, and any other documents needed to support your nomination, to Steven Smith, Chair, OCTWS Awards Committee (sgsmith@noble.org). For further information, contact Steven Smith.

### **General criteria to be used for nominations for the Private Land Management Award, the Harold C. Stuart Conservation Excellence Award, and The Oklahoma Award :**

1. A nominee should live or work in Oklahoma or have done so during period pertinent to the nomination.
2. A nominee may have received professional training or be a layman in the field of wildlife management.
3. A nominee is not required to be a member of The Wildlife Society or the Oklahoma Chapter.
4. A nominee's achievement need not have occurred in the 12 months prior to the date his accomplishments are recognized.

The information for nominations should include:

1. Name, title.
2. Education – place, degree(s).
3. Pertinent Employment – past and present, place and dates.
4. Distinguishing activities (may include papers).
5. Reason for which nomination is being made.
6. Signature of nominator.

Entries are due by **January 15, 2015**. Submit nominations in writing via an electronic letter to, Steven Smith, Chair, OCTWS Awards Committee (sgsmith@noble.org). For further information, contact Steven Smith.



**OKLAHOMA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**  
**UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP (\$500) APPLICATION**

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Name

---

Phone number

E-mail

---

Street address

City

State

Zip

---

University

---

Major

Hours completed

GPA

---

Name(s) of the TWS chapter(s) of which you are a member

***Criteria that must be met to qualify:***

1. Member of a chapter of TWS (if not a member, you may join using attached form)
2. Classified as a junior or senior (at least 60 semester hours completed)
3. Majoring in wildlife biology/management or a closely related field

***Application materials:***

1. A current resume
2. A current transcript (unofficial is acceptable) indicating total hours and grade point average
3. An essay (300–600 words, double spaced) on “What are the most important issues confronting wildlife conservation today?”

**Scoring Criteria**

Resume	Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 High
Transcript	Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 High
Essay	Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 High

Applications will be scored by a panel of judges at the annual meeting of the Oklahoma Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Judges will be the same as those for the Student Presentation Award. That panel includes at least 3 members selected on the basis of objectivity and experience.

**Submit scholarship and membership form by January 15, 2015. Return scholarship application to Steven Smith ([sgsmith@noble.org](mailto:sgsmith@noble.org)). Return membership form below to Josh Richardson (address on form).**



## 2015 Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference



**Hyatt Regency - Downtown Tulsa, OK**

Registration includes access to technical sessions, Student/Professional social Wednesday evening, and Thursday evening banquet/auction

Deadline for early registration is **January 15, 2015.**

Name		Date	Indicate affiliation: OCTWS <input type="radio"/>
Street Address			OKAFS <input type="radio"/>
			Other/Guest <input type="radio"/>
City, State, Zip Code		Organization (Agency, University, Company, etc.)	
Phone		Email Address	
<b>MEETING REGISTRATION:</b>		<i>Cost/Person</i>	<i>Enter Applicable Cost Below</i>
Professional Member Registration – Received <b>by</b> Jan 15, 2015		\$75	
Received <b>after</b> Jan 15, 2015		\$110	
Graduate Student Registration – Received <b>by</b> Jan 15, 2015		\$50	
Received <b>after</b> Jan 15, 2015		\$85	
Undergraduate Student Registration - Received <b>by</b> Jan 15, 2015		\$20	
Received <b>after</b> Jan 15, 2015		\$55	
Extra Thursday Night Banquet Ticket For Guests		\$35	
Chapter Membership Dues – <i>(Please note student registration &amp; membership is for full-time, currently registered students only.) Membership Dues can be paid separately from registration, if needed. You can also submit two separate payments, if needed.</i>	OCTWS Professional	\$10	
	OCTWS Student	\$5	
	OKAFS	\$5	
<b>TOTAL (not including possible transaction charges):</b>			<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>PAYMENT METHOD:</b> <i>Please indicate which option you chose below</i>			
<input type="radio"/> <b>PayPal</b> - www.paypal.com - 3% fee will be added to total registration amount (credit card option available).		if selected, type <b>03</b> -->	
<input type="radio"/> <b>Dwolla</b> - www.dwolla.com - No service charge; however, requires link to bank account (no credit card option available)		if selected, type <b>0</b> -->	
<input type="radio"/> <b>Check</b> (make payable to OKAFS - must be post-marked by Jan 15, 2015 for early registration and Feb 1st for late registration - option to pay late registration at door) - see address at bottom of form		if selected, type <b>0</b> -->	
<b>TOTAL COST:</b>			<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL MEETING SIGN-UP INFO:</b> <i>Free for all registrants - please indicate if you plan to participate.</i>			
Willingness to serve as a presentation judge at meeting ( <i>OCTWS and OKAFS professional Members only, students are not eligible.</i> )			Yes <input type="radio"/>
			No <input type="radio"/>
Thursday Student/Mentor Lunch: Pair up with someone with interest in or experience with governmental agency, academia, private consulting, etc.			Yes <input type="radio"/>
			No <input type="radio"/>
Thursday Banquet at James E. McNellies Pub House - Dinner and two drink tickets provided. Auction items available.			Yes <input type="radio"/>
			No <input type="radio"/>
Friday Morning OCTWS and OKAFS Business Meetings: OCTWS and OKAFS will have separate, concurrent business meetings. Please attend for more information on committees to serve on, chapter business and any potential voting that may be conducted.			Yes <input type="radio"/>
			No <input type="radio"/>

**HOW TO SUBMIT REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT:**

**STEP 1: Registration Submittal** - Save this filled-out form and email it to **OklahomaAFS@gmail.com**. Please put **'2015 Registration'** in email subject line. You should receive an automatic response, indicating your email has been received.

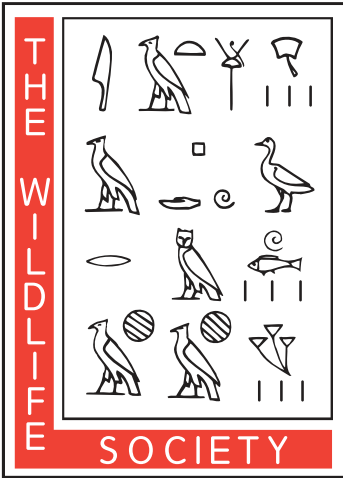
**STEP 2: Payment:**

If you are using **Paypal** or **Dwolla**, please visit the appropriate website and make payment to **OklahomaAFS@gmail.com**. A separate email verifying payment will be sent to you. **\*\*Registration will not be considered complete until payment has been received\*\***

If **paying by Check**, make check out to **OKAFS** and send to: **Kyle James, 6733 SW State Hwy 1, Wilburton, OK 74578**

# Membership in the Oklahoma Chapter of

# The Wildlife Society



Please print,  
complete and mail  
this page with your  
check to:

Josh Richardson  
OCTWS Treasurer  
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife  
Conservation  
P.O. Box 53465  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73152

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Name

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Affiliation (Agency, University, Company, etc.)

---

Address

---

City, State, Zip

---

Phone #

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Email address (Important to receive newsletter)

- Regular Membership (\$10 per year)
- Student Membership (\$5 per year)
- Supporting Membership with Numbered Certificate (\$100 per year)