

# The Grapevine

Volume 42



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## Remarks from the President



Already over half the year has gone by and we are making preparations for the 3rd Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference (OKNRC). This year we will be back up in Tulsa at the Hyatt Regency Hotel from February 22nd-24th, 2017. Thanks to the work of the Planning Committee, and most notably our Oklahoma Chapter of The Wildlife Society (OKTWS) Past President Steven Smith, we have added three more organiza-

tions, the Oklahoma Ornithological Society, Oklahoma Division of Society of American Foresters and the Oklahoma Game Warden Association. We are also pleased to retain all of last year's conference organizations, the Oklahoma Chapters of The Wildlife Society, American Fisheries Society, and Society for Range Management, the Oklahoma Invasive Plant Council, the Prescribed Fire Council, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

The conference will have presentation topics on rangelands, fire, wildlife, fisheries, forestry, environmental sciences, and natural resources law. One goal of this meeting is to increase awareness of what the different societies, agencies and NGOs are doing as well as foster future partnerships. Abstracts covering a wide variety of topics have been submitted. Please visit our OKNRC website at [www.oknrc.com](http://www.oknrc.com) to remain abreast of developing details of this exciting conference and share this information with friends and social media.

President's remarks continued on next page

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I'm also pleased to announce that Vicki Jackson, a transplant from Missouri now on the faculty of UCO, has made tremendous progress on initiating another TWS student chapter at UCO. We look forward to fostering this new group of budding wildlife professionals as well as maintaining our support for our current student chapter at OSU.

Recently I was able to attend the Pushmataha Fire, Wildlife, Timber and Cattle Field Tour. I've been to the area several times before and am familiar with the research, but this was my first time attending this outreach, and I must say it was very good. I was also able to connect with at least one person who had roots in TWS, but was unfamiliar with our state chapter, until this event. One of my goals as President was to increase the public visibility of the OKTWS. Unfortunately, I didn't do a great job following through on that, and several partnership opportunities for public outreach slipped by me over the summer. However, my brain finally caught up with my intentions later this summer, and I'm happy to announce we helped sponsor some of the refreshments at this field day and in return have received at least some notoriety as a professional organization with an active presence in the state. As I round out my term and pass on the mantle to our President Elect, Craig Davis, I'd like to see this continue. However, since I've proven to be somewhat blind to some of these opportunities I would like to invite each of you as members of OKTWS to nominate potential outreach opportunities that we might be able to partner with and maintain this public face in the coming years.

## **Leadership - The 2016 Elections**

Don't skip this, I'm not going to write about the upcoming political elections. During the past 4 months here at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC), we have seen a tremendous amount of change through retirements. Unlike our deer herd, the age structure of our Dept. is definitely skewed toward the older cohorts. In many ways this is a good thing, usually producing leaders with the wisdom and experience that age brings, but in some ways it's a dangerous strategy to follow. Approximately 20% of ODWC employees are or will be eligible to retire in the next 5 years, that's 1 of every 5 employees. While these numbers are specific to the Dept., many wildlife agencies and wildlife management organizations are experiencing or have experienced similar trends. The most recent loss to the Department was Richard Hatcher, our Director for the last 7 years. As transitions like this occur, it becomes ever more incumbent on younger professionals to step up and fill the voids left behind. Fortunately, our Commission has already selected a new Director, a young man who was ready to stand up and take on the challenges and setbacks the ODWC will face in the coming years.

Now I'll bring this back closer to home for the rest of you. In the last few years it has become increasingly difficult to fill nominations on our ballot elections. We have pretty well settled into a routine of individuals who cycle through with a couple extras to allow folks to "sit the bench" for a while to rest. I know each of you reading this are busy, so are all of us on the Executive Board. However, I would encourage each of you to assess your situation have the courage to say "I can be a leader". And not in a way

that says "What's in it for me?" or "What can I get out of it?", but in a way that says "I see a need, and I have the ability to fill that need for the betterment of others". If you're reading this and aren't a member of OKTWS and think you get a free pass, think again. Through your schooling and career you have had people and organizations pouring into you, and chances are either directly or indirectly one of those organizations was OKTWS. It is time to both pay it back and pay it forward by helping guide this organization and helping to pour into new students and young professionals. Who knows, one of those people you pour into may be the next spearhead of the OKNRC, or the next Director of the ODWC, or the next student chapter advisor who continues to pour into new generations of students.

### **What does it take to be on the Board?**

The first step is to make sure you are a member of OKTWS. This is done simply enough by checking with our Chapter Treasurer, Mike Sams, to ensure your dues have been paid up for this year. This is enough to get you onto the ballot. Elected board members will be petitioned by parent group (The Wildlife Society) to become national members, but the only positions it is absolutely required for is the Treasurer. In addition, elected members will be called upon through the year for input (and possible vote) on OKTWS business. In addition, the Secretary and Treasurer keep minutes at the meetings and maintain financial books and membership records, respectively. Open positions for this year are President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Executive Board Members. Take this opportunity to rise up and help guide our organization into the coming years.

- Josh Richardson

# Q & As with the new Director of the Wildlife Department



J.D. Strong, Director

## What's your background (hometown, education, work, etc.)?

I grew up in Weatherford but spent a lot of time out on the farm piddling around and shooting, but also on the working end of it. I've bucked a lot of bales. I wouldn't trade for anything the upbringing that I had out in western Oklahoma. After graduating with my wildlife and fisheries ecology degree from Oklahoma State University, I actually tried to get on with the Wildlife Department right when I graduated from college, and there were simply no positions available. I have now spent 23 years in public service, and I'm one of those people that really think it's a calling. I think that if you're not passionate about it then you should get out of it right away. I have been Executive Director of the Water Resources Board since 2010, and was Secretary of the Environment under Gov. Brad Henry from 2008-10. Prior to that, I served as Director of Environmental Affairs and then Chief of Staff in the state Office of the Secretary of the Environment. I have been engaged in a lot of national organizations that have been involved in water, like Western States Water Council, 4 different interstate water compacts, that kind of thing. When

I was Secretary of Environment I was on the Western Governor's Wildlife Council.

## What started your passion for wildlife?

My great grandpa was one of those guys who farmed through the Dust Bowl and stuck it out in Custer County and taught me everything there is to know about conservation. We spent countless days and nights out on his farm north of Butler fishing, plus hunting mostly quail. Out in Custer County, especially as I was growing up, there wasn't much else to hunt. I did a ton of quail hunting, but mostly fishing. I have fished for just about everything there is to fish for in this state now. I'm not sure I fully appreciated it at the time, but I certainly do now, that this is the most ecologically diverse state mile-for-mile than any other state in the nation. So there are a lot of great and varied opportunities. My favorite thing to do is a toss-up between quail hunting behind some really good bird dogs and catching some lunker largemouth bass on a really well-managed farm pond.

## What's your vision for the Dept. and for wildlife/fisheries/natural resources in OK?

The whole reason that I do what I do is to make sure that we are always providing our customers, which are all Oklahomans, with the best service that can be provided and that they deserve. First and foremost to me is dedication to serving the people of Oklahoma, to make sure that we leave this state better than it was when we picked up the reins. From what I've been able to see so far at the Department

of Wildlife, that philosophy permeates this place. I think you've got such a really good, tight-knit family of folks here that are all very dedicated to serving the public and providing everybody with great hunting and fishing and outdoor experiences. Everybody's very passionate about it.

I've mentioned my story going back five generations in Oklahoma and really the tradition of hunting and fishing was passed along to me, in my case by my great-grandfather, but certainly there are still a lot of people who love this state, grew up in this state, and understand how important it is to pass along that hunting and fishing tradition to their children and their grandchildren. That's another thing that I think is important for us to encourage and to foster here at the Department of Wildlife.

## What opportunities do you see for wildlife management in OK in the future?

I believe the prospects for hunting and fishing in our state are bright, but obviously we are going to continue to have challenges. We've got great resources in this state that give us great opportunities. I think this agency has done an amazing job. Oklahomans that have participated in hunting and fishing have done a great job of following the rules and regulations and understanding that this is what it takes to grow our opportunities to hunt and fish. So far we're on a great glide path. We've got way more opportunities to hunt deer in this state than we've ever had historically, the turkey population has done really well, the quail appear to be bouncing back, fishing opportunities are more abundant

Interview continued on next page

than ever. And so I think the future looks very bright. And again our big challenge will be to make sure that we expose as much of our population to those opportunities as possible.

**What is the biggest challenge you see facing wildlife management in the next 5 years?**

Long term, I think clearly it's going to continue to be a challenge to keep our citizens engaged in hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. We, like a lot of other smaller rural states, are seeing population migration from the rural areas to the urban areas, and Oklahoma's no different in that regard. So how to adapt to that, to entice the younger generation to get outdoors and experience all the great things that Oklahoma has to offer in the outdoors is going to continue to challenge this agency going forward. I would say that's first and foremost. I think the equation is fairly complicated, and part of it is not just rural and urban differences, but different opinions of hunting and fishing. One of the great things that this Department does very well is to expose – even to the urban population and kids in particular – Oklahomans to what it's like to actually hunt and fish; it's not about killing things, it's about managing our fish and wildlife resources and keeping them as healthy as possible. And to show them what happens if you don't manage that population, and the fact that you can have stunted growth and disease. That's one of the things that I think will continue to be an emphasis of this Department. When I first took my daughter to the Wildlife Expo, which was one of the first years when it started, we went to the archery station. She reared back and hit a bull's-eye, and I had never taken her out to shoot a bow. I asked her, 'How did you learn how to do

that,' and she said, 'Oh, we have archery in the schools that comes around every year.' She just took to it like that."

**The Oklahoma Chapter of The Wildlife Society (OKTWS) has several members that work for ODWC. How can OKTWS assist you and the ODWC in the future?**

I think we always struggle with getting the message across to our society that hunting and fishing isn't, for most hunters and fisherman, about killing animals, it's about managing the wildlife resources of the state. People that don't have an ecological degree or background certainly don't understand that, and some that do have that background don't fully appreciate that as well, so I think that's one area that certainly the Society could probably help us constantly get that word and that message out. And then just helping folks get more educated, more training. Wildlife management is a very complicated and rich science, and so making sure that people have the opportunities to continue to advance their education and learn all the new stuff that's coming along in that field I think is another area where we have a lot of opportunity for cooperation.

**Now to turn it around, how might ODWC help or be more involved OKTWS in the future?**

There have got to be opportunities for us to work together and for the Dept. to be able to benefit the Society by giving people the opportunity to get hands on training, or see for themselves what the Dept. does and how their degrees or the science that people are interested in are actually applied out in the field, out in the real world. It's really kind of a two-way street, us helping each other get the word out about the importance

of hunting and fishing to overall ecological health and wildlife management. And too, I think there are great opportunities for us to utilize each other when it comes to all the non-game interests. We often lose sight in a lot of states that it's not just about the hook and bullet stuff, it's also the complete ecological picture, and complete ecological health relies on us being able to take care of and manage ALL of our wildlife resources, including those things that we don't hunt and fish.

**How/why would you encourage young professionals to develop their leadership potential and step up into leadership positions (both in their company/agency and in outside groups and organizations)?**

I think that it's very important to develop leadership skills because, at the end of the day, while we are engaged in wildlife management we're also very much engaged in people management, so developing those leadership skills really helps a person understand how to engage people, engage our hunters, our fisherman, our outdoor enthusiasts, our nongame folks, our legislators, all the folks that really make decisions or buy licenses or outdoor equipment. So developing those leadership skills helps us to tell our story, influence people, influence people's decisions and behaviors and funding and appropriations and just about everything else that makes us tick. I guess I'm a good example of someone that had no desire, no inkling I was ever going to be in any kind of leadership position. I got a wildlife ecology degree because I had big dreams of going off to Africa or Alaska or Australia, exotic places, just researching all my life, and look what happened. Twenty-three years later, I'm running the Dept. of Wildlife now, and for the

last 19 years worked a lot at the Capitol with the legislature and others too. I struggled, picked up habits and behaviors and sort of learned along the way, mostly by the hard-knocks way. So anybody that has an opportunity to develop leadership skills in college, at a young age, it's well worth it because whether you have ambitions of being an agency director or not, again you do have to ultimately

interact with people, influence people, and really you learn a lot of those skills in leadership development and leadership classes. I wish I would have taken advantage of more classes, workshops, those sorts of things. I'm not a great learner by reading books and materials, and of course there are lots of great leadership books out there, but certainly taking advantage of every opportunity to go

to workshops, classes, whatever in leadership development. I definitely wish today that I had done a lot more of that then because it would have saved me some mistakes and hard knocks along the way for sure. And I think it's good for any organization to be able to provide as many leadership opportunities as we can for our employees, as well.

## ODWC unveils feral hog phone app

On November 1, the Wildlife Department unveiled a new feral hog phone app to make the process for allowing night shooting of feral hogs on private land easier for landowners.

The exemption offers immediate approval whereby the landowner (or their written designee) re-

ceives an exemption number and can allow others to night hunt the property for feral hogs simply by providing a copy of the exemption and written or electronic permission. There are a few nuances and to clearly understand the process you can read the full set of rules at [http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/sites/default/files/Feral%20Swine%20Emergency%20Rule%20%2716\\_0.pdf](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/sites/default/files/Feral%20Swine%20Emergency%20Rule%20%2716_0.pdf)

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## From the Editor's Stand...

By: Kristen Gillman

Thank you for everyone's patience while I pitch hit for Blayr Gourley on this edition of the newsletter.

Congratulations to Blayr and Adam on the birth of their second child, Graham. Mother and son are doing well.



## Upcoming Events

- 🕒 Noble Foundation Prescribed Burning Workshop  
January 19, 2017
- 🕒 Lesser Prairie-Chicken Festival  
April 19-26, 2017, Woodward
- 🕒 National Society for Range Management Meeting  
January 29 - February 2, 2017, St. George, UT
- 🕒 American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting  
August 20-24, 2017, Tampa Convention Center
- 🕒 Southern Division American Fisheries Society Meeting  
February 2-5, 2017, Oklahoma City
- 🕒 Oklahoma Wildlife Expo  
September 23 & 24, 2017, Guthrie
- 🕒 Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference  
February 22-24, 2017, Tulsa
- 🕒 The Wildlife Society National Meeting  
September 23-27, 2017, Albuquerque, NM

## OSU TWS Student Chapter Update



Club members at a hair snare workshop.

The Oklahoma State University chapter of The Wildlife Society has grown significantly over the past few years. We have 281 students signed up on our email list, and we have about 50 due paying members. We have meetings twice a month, and our turn out is usually around 35-40 members. At the beginning of the semester, our organization was pretty quiet, but as we progress into fall we have begun to ramp it up. This past weekend was quite busy for our members as we had to pre-

pare for homecoming. Some of our members also joined the Graduate Student Organization here on campus on a camping trip to the Red Rock Canyon State Park. We plan to take a trip to Wildcare, a wildlife rehabilitation center in Noble, OK, in the upcoming week. We have also been preparing a team of TWS conclave potential students ready for the competitions at the TWS conclave in Yosemite, CA.

A really interesting project that we have been involved with is what we call "The Bobcat Project". The OSU chapter of The Wildlife Society has joined up with the University of Central Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to build and set hair-snare type traps around Oklahoma to initiate a state-wide study of the bobcat distribution in Oklahoma. Our approach will be an occupancy study that will

provide information on distribution and trends of bobcat occurrence in different parts of the state, while taking into account differences in detectability. As the bobcat is a major furbearer species in Oklahoma, the information resulting over time will be useful for managing the species.

In November, we will invite experienced trappers to visit the wildlife clubs at both universities to train students in setting cubbies for bobcats. Students and other interested volunteers will set the cubbies in December, when students have returned home for winter break. When students return to their campuses, microscopic identification of hairs extracted from the cubbies will be conducted by students. A small group of students will compile the data, analyze it, and report on the findings. This is expected to be a multi-year project.

## University of Central Oklahoma (almost) newest student chapter of TWS in Oklahoma!



Recently UCO's Wildlife Club submitted a petition to become the newest TWS student chapter in Oklahoma. We are 1 step away from having all of the needed approvals and are very excited about what this means for students interested in wildlife and natural resources conservation. We hope to be a very active society, engaging in volunteer and outreach opportunities. This year we have already volunteered for

By Dr. Vicki Jackson CWB®, Associate Professor of Biology, University of Central Oklahoma Dept. of Biology

Oklahoma Zoo and Botanical Gardens, completing some landscaping projects for the keepers. Some of our members attended the Wildlife Expo to learn about the different organizations involved in wildlife conservation. We even got to attend Oklahoma BioBlitz and learn more about the diversity of wildlife in Oklahoma. Our next big project involves collaborating with OSU's student chapter to conduct a bobcat survey through the implementation of hairsnares. We are looking forward to expanding our opportunities and becoming more involved! Anyone from the Oklahoma City/Edmond area is welcome to join us at our meetings, or you can follow us on Facebook for more details.

Note: After this was submitted, UCO and OKTWS received an email with the following, "The Executive Board of the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society has approved your group's petition to establish a student chapter of The Wildlife Society at University of Central Oklahoma. As a result, your chapter's interim status is effective November 2, 2016. Congratulations and thank you for your leadership in wildlife education." Again, congratulations to the UCO student chapter, we look forward to working together with you through the years.

- Josh Richardson, OKTWS President

## State Chapter Executive Board

### President:

Josh Richardson

### President Elect:

Craig Davis

### Past President:

Steven Smith

### Treasurer:

Mike Sams

### Secretary:

Mike Porter

### Board Members at Large:

Matthew Fullerton

Kristen Gillman

### Education & Information:

Blayr Gourley

## OSU TWS Student Chapter

### President:

Kaylynn Branham

### Vice President:

Andrea Ford

### Treasurer:

Justin Gronewald

### Secretary:

Shauna Folchert

### Historian:

Wendi Ridings

### Chapter Liason:

Jennifer Knutson

## UCO TWS Student Chapter

### President:

Amamda Smith

### Vice-President:

Alexa Prim

### Treasurer:

Toran Muldowny &

Justinn Cheek

### Secretary/Reporter:

Ashley Hughes

## OKTWS Awards

I would like to take a minute to re-acknowledge our award winners from the past year.

**Our Publication and Creativity Awards winners were;** Electronic Media: Building a Better Hog Trap by Joshua Gaskamp and J. Scott McNeill;

**Peer-reviewed Scientific Article:** Thermal Patterns Constrain Diurnal Behavior of a Ground-dwelling Bird by J. Matthew Carroll, Craig A. Davis, R. Dwayne Elmore, Samuel D. Fuhlendorf, and Eric T. Thacker published in Ecosphere (2015); Technical Publication: A Practical Guide to Food Plots in the Southern Great Plains by Adam Gourley, Dwayne Elmore, Mike Porter, Russell Stevens, John Weir, and Terry Bidwell;

**Popular Article:** To Catch a Poacher by Stephen Webb and Aaron Haines published in Quality Whitetails (2013).

**Our Private Land Management Award** went to Mr. Win and Mrs. Kay Ingersoll and the Harold C. Stuart Conservation Excellence Award went to Mr. John Groendyke.

Now I would like to put a challenge out to all of you. We had 3 awards with no nominees, the Publication and Creativity Award: Books, the Oklahoma Award, and our Undergraduate Scholarship. In addition, nominations for our given awards were somewhat limited. These awards are meant to recognize the efforts of our members or others of our acquaintance that embody the spirit and mission of the Oklahoma Chapter of The Wildlife Society. If you know of a someone who has done, written, or promoted proper wildlife or habitat management please send in a nomination to recognize them for their hard work. Additional information on award criteria or deadlines can be found at the back of this newsletter.

- Josh Richardson, OKTWS President

## 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 Craig Davis, [craig.a.davis@okstate.edu](mailto:craig.a.davis@okstate.edu). Contact Craig Davis for more information. Entries are due by **January 15, 2017**. 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 22-24, 2017.

Entries are due by **January 15, 2017**. 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 Craig Davis, Chair, OCTWS Awards Committee ([craig.a.davis@okstate.edu](mailto:craig.a.davis@okstate.edu)). For further information, contact Craig Davis.

## 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 22-24, 2017.

Entries are due by **January 15, 2017**. 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 Craig Davis, Chair, OCTWS Awards Committee ([craig.a.davis@okstate.edu](mailto:craig.a.davis@okstate.edu)). For further information, contact Craig Davis.



## 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 22-24, 2017.

Entries are due by **January 15, 2017**. 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 Craig Davis, Chair, OCTWS Awards Committee (craig.a.davis@okstate.edu). For further information, contact Craig Davis.

## 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 22-24, 2017.

Entries are due by **January 15, 2017**. 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 Craig Davis, Chair, OCTWS Awards Committee (craig.a.davis@okstate.edu). For further information, contact Craig Davis.

### 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, 2017**. Submit nominations in writing via an electronic letter to, **Craig Davis**, Chair, OCTWS Awards Committee (craig.a.davis@okstate.edu). For further information, contact Craig Davis.

## Undergraduate Award

The Oklahoma Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be awarding a \$500 scholarship to an undergraduate student majoring in wildlife biology or management or a closely related field at its annual meeting, February 22-24, 2017.

Entries are due by January 15, 2017. Send electronic files to Craig Davis, Chair, OCTWS Awards Committee (craig.a.davis@okstate.edu). For further information contact Craig. See application on next page.

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

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Name

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Phone number

E-mail

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Street address

City

State

Zip

---

University

---

Major

Hours completed

GPA

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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?”

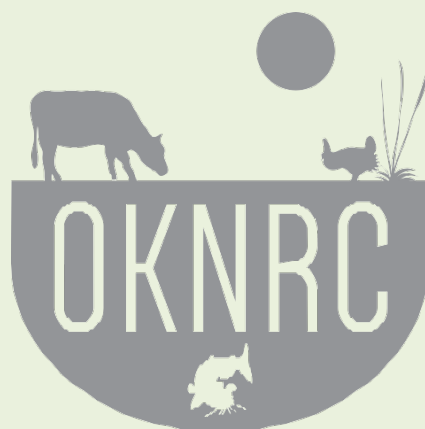
**Scoring Criteria**

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, 2017. Return scholarship application to Craig Davis ([craig.a.davis@okstate.edu](mailto:craig.a.davis@okstate.edu)). Return membership form below to Mike Sams (address on form).**

# Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference



February 22-24, 2017  
Hyatt Regency Tulsa Hotel

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Please join us at the 2017 Oklahoma Natural Resource Conference February 22-24, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Tulsa Hotel. The OKNRC is hosted by the Oklahoma Chapters of The Wildlife Society, American Fisheries Society, Society for Range Management, Oklahoma Invasive Plant Council, Prescribed Fire Council, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, Oklahoma Ornithological Society, Oklahoma Game Warden Association and the Oklahoma Division Society of American Foresters. The conference will have presentation topics on range, wildlife, fisheries, forestry and environmental sciences.

## Room Blocks

The OKNRC has rooms blocked at the Hyatt Regency Tulsa Hotel. The Hyatt hotel is located at 100 East 2nd St., Tulsa OK 74103 and just steps away from Downtown. This location makes it very convenient for meeting attendees. Use the code "WILD" for the room block. Rooms are \$89+tax per night. Room block rate deadline is **January 30, 2017**. Prices cannot be guaranteed after that date.

## Registration

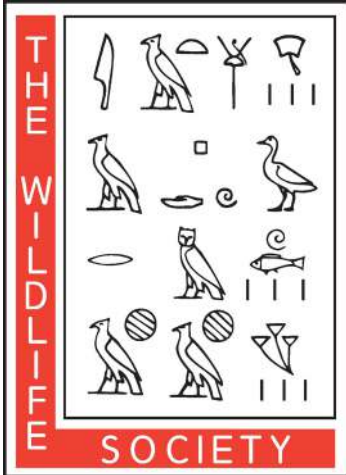
Is available online at [www.oknrc.com](http://www.oknrc.com). Early registration ends February 1, 2017.

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Proudly Hosted by the Oklahoma Chapters of The Wildlife Society, American Fisheries Society, Society for Range Management, Oklahoma Invasive Plant Council, Prescribed Fire Council, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, Oklahoma Ornithological Society, Oklahoma Game Warden Association and the Oklahoma Division Society of American Foresters

# Membership in the Oklahoma Chapter of

# The Wildlife Society



Please print,  
complete and mail  
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Mike Sams  
OCTWS Treasurer  
347260 E 830 Rd  
Stroud OK 74079

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Name

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Affiliation (Agency, University, Company, etc.)

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Address

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City, State, Zip

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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)