



"The Prairie Boomer"

Newsletter of - The Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Vol. 44

October 2016

President's Page

Greetings,

As fall weather seeps into our state, our thoughts turn to enjoyment of the outdoors in more comfortable temperatures, fall colors, and—of course—meetings of respective agencies, organizations, and professional societies (okay, some might be more enjoyable than others, but they have important purposes). I sure enjoyed taking some young wildlife students to their first Kansas Ornithological Society meeting in Garden City. Witnessing youthful enthusiasm for wildlife science and management are even more refreshing for many of us to witness than the cool breezes of fall. Related: we have announced this year's Robert J. Robel Memorial Award (see below <http://wildlife.org/kansas-chapter/>) for a deserving undergraduate student studying wildlife biology in Kansas. Encourage our young folks to apply!

More frigid winds—of sorts—that blow our way on a seemingly annual basis are those from the State House in Topeka. It seems challenges to wildlife-related laws—especially the Kansas Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act—have become annual in their frequency. In the past two years SBs 268 and 269 (2015) and SB 384 (2016) were three such bills, which were all opposed by KSTWS, per consultation among our executive board. Similar opposition was sent from KSTWS toward SB 425 in the past year, a bill which would have severely weakened conservation easements, volunteered by private landowners, as effective long-term management tools for wildlife habitats. One could connect the dots of the political constellations that loom over the state to predict such challenges. However, sometimes the views of the legislature on the roles of government in wildlife management—especially regarding SB 425—are confusing. Even the actions of **Non**-GOs were threatened. This year's political dramas at state and national levels might further fuel the political fervor. One shudders. Why can't we just study and solve the problems regarding wildlife without such interferences? This is the nature of our democracy, I suppose. That's why it's important that we wildlifera have a coordinated voice through institutions such as The Wildlife Society to make our expert opinions heard. I encourage all KSTWS members to be attentive to such issues and contact your KSTWS executive board to suggest responses. Often times it's the board and a small handful of attentive KSTWS members who regularly stand at the ready to fend off short-sighted legislation. The more eyes we have, the better.

As the seasons roll on we also look forward to that winter-embedded gem: the Kansas Natural Resources Conference, of which KSTWS is a constituent. This is always a warm, inviting event of fellowship for those involved in natural resource biology and management. So many old friends! And so many students! Ever the professor, I encourage you to interact with these young people, who may look as though they are lost—they often are! To you mature professionals: coax these students along in their chosen field. Someday they too might have trouble making it across the break room at KNRC because of conversations with acquaintances along the way. This year's KNRC has an aquatic theme "Rivers & Streams: Reflecting Landscape Management." What we do for wildlife in the uplands has an obvious connections to the aquatic veins of our state. Let's see what we can learn!

Lastly, I'll make a call for you to become involved with administration of KSTWS. We currently have nominees for the positions of President-Elect (2), Secretary/Treasurer (2), and the two open positions of Board Member at Large (5). Send additional nominations (including self-nominations) to Brad Rueschhoff ASAP (brad.rueschhoff@ksoutdoors.com). **Deadline for nominations is October 28, 2016.** Voting will be done using SurveyMonkey (announced via email) in advance of our annual business meeting at the KNRC on January 26, 2017.

Thanks for **your** participation in KSTWS. I hope to see you at KNRC and elsewhere!

Bill Jensen

President, Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society



KANSAS CHAPTER - THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY 2017 Robert J. Robel Memorial Award

We are pleased to announce the Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society (KSTWS) is accepting applications for the **Robert J. Robel Memorial Award** for undergraduate students studying wildlife biology/management or equivalent degree from a university in Kansas. One student will be selected in 2017. The award will be presented to the winning student during the annual KSTWS business meeting at the Kansas Natural Resources Conference in Wichita on January 26, 2017.

The selected student will be presented with a scholarship of \$500. The winner of the Robel Memorial Award will be selected based on their enthusiasm and dedication of wildlife resources, professional involvement, and their leadership that promotes management activities through science based information. Past recipients of KSTWS's Robert J. Robel Memorial Award are ineligible.

To apply, please submit a resume, transcripts, one letter of recommendation from an academic advisor or professional in wildlife management, and a one-page cover letter stating why you chose the wildlife profession and your future career goals. **The deadline for submission is December 31, 2016.** Application materials must be sent to:

Dr. William E. Jensen
Robel Memorial Award Committee Chair
Department of Biological Sciences
Campus Box 4050
Emporia State University
1 Kellogg Circle
Emporia, KS 66801

Email submissions preferred (wjensen1@emporia.edu)

Kansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Spring Meeting 2017

KCTWS 2017 Spring Meeting January 26th, 2017 Wichita, KS

The KCTWS 2016 annual meeting will be in conjunction with the tenth annual Kansas Natural Resources Conference (KNRC) in Wichita at the Airport Hilton. The meeting will be held Thursday, January 26th, 2017 from 4:30-6:00pm.

Registration is NOT required to attend the KCTWS meeting, but those wishing to attend the KNRC meeting or events need to register. KNRC meeting, registration, and lodging information can be found at: www.kansasnrc.org.

The KNRC is hosted by six professional conservation societies from Kansas, including KCTWS. The meeting has had over 250 attendees annually, and includes a broad range of conservation-related presentations. This year's plenary session theme is:

“Rivers & Streams: Reflecting Landscape Management”

Speakers for the plenary session will include:

- Amy Burgin, Ph.D. Associate Professor, University of Kansas, Kansas Biological Survey
- Dave Derrick, Potomologist & VP at River Research & Design, Inc

For more information about this year's plenary speakers check out the Kansas Natural Resource Conference website at www.kansasnrc.org

KCTWS awards

KCTWS will offer a \$150 Best Student Paper award and a \$100 Best Student Poster award again this year at the KNRC. Student presenters addressing wildlife related subjects were asked to state their intent to compete for the awards along with their abstract submission. For additional information about student travel grants and other KSTWS awards contact Bill Jensen at wjensen1@emporia.edu.

Dues Notice

Dues expire December 31. If you haven't renewed your membership recently, it's likely past due. Dues are \$10 for regular members and \$2 for students. Dues should be sent to KCTWS Secretary J.R. Glenn. Members will also be able to renew at the KCTWS business meeting at KNRC, or TWS members can renew through National at: www.wildlife.org.

Other News

The 77th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference will be held February 4-5, 2016, at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska. Check the website for more information and updates on the meeting www.midwestfw.org.

The 23rd Annual TWS Conference will be held October 15-19, 2016, in Raleigh, NC. See [http://wildlife.org/](http://wildlife.org) for more information.

(Meeting announcement of the Central Mountains and plains Section below.)

Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Minutes of Spring Meeting

February 4, 2016

Bill Jensen opened the meeting by introducing the board members Shelly Wiggam provided an update on the newly established Rangeland Working Group within TWS. The group was formed to bridge range management and wildlife management and exchange technical information.

- In order to reach permanent Working Group status the RWG must host 2 Symposia and 3 Workshops.
- RWG can now have elections and is seeking nominations for officers
- Hope to create a national liaison between TWS and SRM.

Minutes: J.R. Glenn reported that the minutes had been published in the latest newsletter for membership review. Minutes approved

Treasurer Report: (J.R. Glenn) 2013 financial report was provided to the membership on the meeting agenda. The current checking account balance at the time of the meeting was \$8,042.37. This included a net gain of \$3,870.32 from hosting the CMPS meeting in August.

Committee Reports

- a) Newsletter/Website:** (Justin Hamilton) In the process of transitioning to the new host site which will be consistent across all chapters. The KS chapter Facebook page is available for posting information related to TWS and/or wildlife issues. An email will be sent to membership with the new address.
- b) Student Awards** (Bill Jensen). Student travel grants up to \$300 are available, applications can be found on the KCTWS website. Applications for the Robel Memorial Award (\$500) are due March 11 for the 2016 award and applications are available on the KCTWS website.
- c) Snipe Award:** Brad Simpson discussed the history of the Snipe Award and past recipients and encouraged members to

make nominations to deserving members in the future.

- d) Resolutions and Public Comments:** Matt Smith and membership discussed the following legislative resolutions
 - a.** SB268 would exempt stream maintenance projects from review.
 - b.** SB269 would exempt the spotted skunk from the KS Endangered Species Act. A letter of opposition from KCTWS was sent on March 4.
 - c.** SB384 would make critical habitat limited only to where it exists and not include neighboring habitat Ron Klatske provided comment indicating the Senate NRC would pick up public comment the following Wednesday and encouraged members to send a letter to members of the committee.

CMPS

The 2015 meeting was hosted by KCTWS in August in Manhattan and by all appearances and comments from attendees was a great success. Over 100 people attended the conference

TWS Council – Bob Lanka

- Dave Haukos was selected as the Editor in Chief of the Wildlife Society Bulletin
- Gary Potts made a challenge to council members
 - Expand membership with agencies and groups
 - Staff and Council members should get connected to the field
 - Create better connection/interaction between student chapters
- Annual conference will be held in Raleigh, N.C. October 15-20, 2016
 - ½ of attendance at conference has been students in the past
- TWS is planning a joint meeting with the American Fisheries Society in Reno NV
- Bob provided FY15 and FY16 TWS budget information
- TWS membership on 9/15 9,403 goal in 2016 is to gain 3%
- Bob provided demographic information of TWS members

- Goal for KS membership is 65 members

TWS Policy: Bob summarized policy considerations including number of positions, position statement reviews (12 currently being worked on including invasive/feral species and energy development), 27 technical reviews Conservation Affairs Committee goal is to create 2 way communication with the section from the state to TWS staff

Awards:

- Fellows – No more than 10/year and 2/section
- Group Achievement – Awarded to a group providing outstanding wildlife achievement consistent with advancing the objectives of TWS. Nominations are due February 15. The council votes in March.

Leadership Institute: 70% of TWS Leaders are eligible to retire in the next decade. Goal of the institute is to train 10-15 members/year to fill leadership positions in the future. Looking for early career professionals. Costs to attend the TWS Annual Conference paid for by TWS. Applications are due in March 2016.

KSU Student Chapter (Emily Ferleman)

Members were involved in the following activities. Attended conclave in TX (5), assisted with CMPS in Manhattan, attended TWS Annual Conference (1), completed ferret and herpetofauna surveys at Konza, participated in small mammal trapping, spotlight counts, and coyote calling. Newsletter was published 4 times in 2015 Chapter also has an active Facebook page Planning a hunting workshop and Smithsonian speaker for future activities.

ESU Student Chapter

Members were involved in the following activities: Participated in ferret surveys, fish sorting at Melvern Lake, set up an information booth at Bluestem Days in Emporia. Planning a bat survey in the Red Hills, Youth fishing tournament, and a spring banquet

Old Business

Matt Smith discussed the Conservation Affairs Network and indicated a newsletter was available online. Members were encouraged to bring any wildlife related issues to the board for comment/discussion.

- KCTWS signed on to a letter of support for the Farm Bill
- The KS Rural Center provides weekly updates to assist in tracking bills
- The Congressional Sportsmans Caucus tracks conservation related bills

Brad Rueschhoff provided an update on the legislative luncheon at the on March 25, 2015. KDWPT hosted the event which was sponsored by KCTWS. KCTWS set up a booth but was placed in a poor location which provided little interaction with legislators. The event is still important to participate in to attempt to facilitate and engage conversation. KCTWS was unsuccessful in obtaining a Commissioners big game permit which would have been used for Chapter fundraising. Members were encouraged to run for open KCTWS board member positions in 2017 and get involved.

Snipe Award: Bill Jensen presented the annual Snipe Award to Jim Hays (below, left) for his dedication and service to the wildlife profession over his career.



New Business

Leadership Institute: Members were encouraged to apply and/or discuss opportunity with colleagues. It was moved to adjourn several seconded. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by
J.R. Glenn – Secretary/Treasurer

TWS News

The Wildlife Society 2016 Annual Conference

North Carolina will be hosting The Wildlife Society's 23rd Annual Conference at the Raleigh Convention Center October 15th-19th. There will be more than 500 educational sessions, 3 plenary sessions, over 40 networking opportunities, and much more! The Calls for Contributed Papers and Posters is available at www.wildlife.org.



The Leadership Institute

The Wildlife Society will be accepting applications for the The Leadership Institute, Class of 2017, in January. The Leadership Institute was developed in 2006 for "early career professionals." This means individuals who are 1-5 years out of school and working in the field of wildlife biology or conservation. The purpose of the institute is to provide leadership training, mentoring, and networking opportunities to new professionals who are underrepresented in the society due to low membership. These new professionals have an important role in wildlife management and conservation as we begin to see a large turnover of retiring employees throughout the profession (70% within the next 10 years). The goal of the institute is to help prepare new biologists for leadership roles within their profession and within the National society. Each year the institute selects 10-15 participants, nationwide, through a competitive application process. Those selected spend several months engaged in a series of exercises (reading, writing, conference calls, collaborative projects, etc.) to improve a range of leadership skills. The Institute culminates with a paid trip to attend the national meeting. Check the TWS website (<http://wildlife.org/next-generation/leadership-institute/>) for updates on The Leadership Institute and the application process.

CMPS News

The 61st annual meeting of the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society was held August 8-11, 2016, in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Several states were represented (including Kansas) and there were excellent presentations and field trips. Thanks to Mindy Rice for organizing a great meeting in a wonderful place!



"Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions in his sphere."

Theodore Roosevelt

Objectives of the Kansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

1. To develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environments upon which wildlife and man depends.
2. To undertake an active role in preventing man induced environmental degradation.
3. To increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values.
4. To seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.

**Application for Membership
Kansas Chapter TWS**

Membership Dues (Payable April 1)
 Regular Member.....\$10.00
 Student Member.....\$2.00
 (Applicant may pay multiple years)

Total Enclosed \$

Are you a member of THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY?
 Yes _____ No _____
 Are you willing to be called to help the board?
 Yes _____ No _____

If so, what is your phone number?
 Home _____
 Office _____
 Area of Expertise _____

Area of interest _____

Date _____ Signature _____

Make Check Payable to: KS Chapter TWS

Full Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____
 Present Position _____

Mail application with dues to:
Kansas Chapter TWS
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1724 Thompson
Emporia, KS 66801
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**Please do not hesitate to contact the KSTWS or
 Newsletter Editor with Newsletter suggestions,
 additions, or related comments.**