



"The Prairie Boomer"

Newsletter of - The Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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No. 2

Presidents Page

As I write this we are in the midst of another arctic blast, making thoughts of spring difficult at best, but the end of winter is drawing near. Every day that goes by without snow and ice is at least one day closer to warmer temperatures. The Chapter celebrated its 40th anniversary this summer. We had a great turnout for our cookout, a fundraiser for our new Robel Scholarship and heard great stories from our past presidents and founding members. The stories told that night reminding me that our conservation achievements don't happen overnight, but incrementally over time. It can be frustrating during the course of our daily struggles when we go home at the end of the day and believe we've only made one step forward and two steps back. Every once in a while we need to stop and look back from where we started, and celebrate the achievements that brought us to our current position. During our Chapters 40th anniversary outing, there was much to celebrate and even to laugh about that evening, thanks to all our members who attended and shared their stories.

As we face the new year one question keeps nagging at me, how do we as professionals and as members of our Chapter, in the world of information and misinformation surrounding us, make our voices heard above the din and make those voices count. We have as a guide our commitment to use sound biological information to shape our management decisions and actions. But the key is how to convey that information to the public, policy makers and even our own members. With more and more ways to communicate, it seems we are talking more but saying less.

I think back to our Chapters cookout this past summer, hearing those wonderful stories first hand within a group friends and colleagues. Our work we do is great story telling. I would challenge us all to find ways to effectively tell those stories to those who will listen.

Matt Smith

Kansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Spring Meeting 2014

KCTWS 2014 Spring Meeting January 30th, 2014 Wichita, KS

The KCTWS 2014 annual meeting will be in conjunction with the seventh annual Kansas Natural Resources Conference (KNRC) in Wichita at the Airport Hilton. The meeting will be held Thursday January 30th, 2014 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. The early registration deadline is January 15th. KNRC meeting and registration information can be found at: <http://kansasnrc.org>.

All attendees must make their own room arrangements with the DoubleTree by Hilton at the \$100.00 per night conference rate. The block of rooms will be held until January 15th, 2014. Contact the DoubleTree Hilton by phone: (316) 945-5272 or 1-800-247-4458 or www.wichitaairport.hilton.com.

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:

Forty Years of the Endangered Species Act: Living with Endangered Species in Kansas

Speakers for the plenary session will include:

- Dr. Chris Barnhart – Professor of Biology, Missouri State University “**Sacrificial Clams: The Conservation Significance of Freshwater Mussels**”
- Heather Whitlaw – Field Supervisor, Ecological Services U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services and Mike Disney, State Coordinator, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program “**We’re Not Scared of any Little Fish and Here’s Why...**”
- Bobb Budd - Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Executive Director “**Common**

Sense Conservation-A Proactive Approach for Sage Grouse and Wyoming”

- Keith Sexson – Assistant Secretary Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism “**Uncharted Prairies-Kansas and the Endangered Species Act**”

KCTWS to offer 2014 student travel grants and wildlife awards

KCTWS will be offering competitive travel grants to students planning to attend the Kansas Natural Resources Conference (KNRC) in January 2014. Students majoring in a wildlife related field are eligible to apply. **The deadline to have applications submitted is January 1, 2014.** To submit your application for a student travel grant go to the at:

http://joomla.wildlife.org/kansas/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=174&Itemid=276.

KCTWS will also 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 or wildlife awards contact Matt Peek at matt.peek@ksoutdoors.com.

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 (see application at back of newsletter). Members will also be able to renew at the KCTWS business meeting at KNRC, or TWS members can renew through National at: <http://www.wildlife.org/>.

KCTWS 2013 Meeting Minutes

KCTWS Spring 2013 Business Meeting Minutes
 KNRC Conference Wichita, KS
 January 24th, 2013

Brad Simpson opened the meeting by introducing the board members

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

Treasurer Report: (J.R. Glenn) 2012 financial report was provided to the membership on the meeting agenda, The current checking account balance at the time of the meeting was \$2,853.08.

Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Treasurer Report Annual Spring Meeting 2013

		Balance 1/01/2013	\$3,114.23
Expenses	Staples		\$15.15
	KNRC Travel Award (1)		\$150.00
	KNRC Student Paper Award		\$150.00
	KNRC Student Poster Award		\$100.00
	KS Wildlife Federation Sponsorship		\$250.00
	The Trophy shop- Past President plaque		\$55.18
	Camp Tongashinga- Summer meeting		\$100.00
	Mike McFadden-Rifle for Robel fundraiser		\$190.99
	John Silovsky- Food for summer meeting		\$35.00
	CMPS dues		\$26.00
		Total Expenses	\$1,072.32
Deposits	Dues		\$643.00
	KNRC Split		\$620.00
	Robert J. Robel Memorial Award Fund		\$691.00
		Total Deposits	\$1,954.00
		Balance 12/31/13	\$3,995.91

Tom Meek representing the Kansas Envirothon provided a background on the purpose of Envirothon meets and encouraged membership to

become involved in local meets. He also thanks KCTWS for its donation to support KS Envirothon.

Committee Reports:

Newsletter/Website: Report provided by Matt Smith since Amy Zavala was unable to attend. Amy Z. was working to improve the KCTWS website and encouraged membership to provide her with relevant photos, articles, etc. to post to the site throughout the year. Website will be moved to a new Internet Services Provider in place of Joomla.

Student Awards: (Matt Peek) KCTWS was awarding scholarships for the best student paper (\$150) and poster (\$100) at the 2013 KNRC. A travel grant to KNRC was awarded to Leah Dale in the amount of \$150.

KNRC: (Brad Simpson) 285 people registered for 2013 meeting

Nominations: President-Elect only position up for re-election. John Silovsky and Elmer Fink running for the position.

Awards: There were no nominations for the Snipe Award.

CMPS

Karl Grover attended the CMPS annual meeting in 2012 and gave a report concerning activities at the meeting.

- Mike Conover was elected as the new vice president for the CMPS
- 2013 CMPS will be held August 12-16 in Cedar City, Utah
- CMPS will provide 2 travel grants to annual meeting in Milwaukee, WI
- CMPS provided \$500 in support of the western section student conclave

TWS Council

Gary White gave a short history of TWS and reminded membership that 2012 marked the 75th Anniversary of the organization. He also reviewed the administrative structure of TWS.

- New record membership for TWS
- Forming Ad hoc committee on deer farming issues
- 2011 budget \$3.1 million expense, 2.8 million revenue
- Working to balance 2013 budget
 - Not filling Government Affairs Associate position
 - Webmaster on contract

- Leadership Institute cut
 - Launched in 2006
 - CMPS no participants in 2011
 - Looking to Chapters for funding to continue
 - Past participants would run program to lower cost
- Affinity program approved to allow use of TWS logo
- Publications-difficult to remain profitable with decline in demand for printed material
 - WSB-1,100 subscriptions
- Annual conference will be held in Milwaukee, WI October 5-10 2013
- Matt Smith and John Silovsky discussed opportunities that attending the annual conference in Portland, OR provided to them as a learning and networking opportunity.

KSU Student Chapter

Chapter was actively involved in several programs throughout the year

- Live bird demonstrations
- Konza Days
- Provided training on GIS and ATV's
- Coordinated w/ ESU Chapter on KNRC raffle as a fundraiser

ESU Student Chapter

Chapter president Nathan True provided a report of activities that the chapter had been involved in.

- KS Envirothon meets
- Booth at Beau Arndt Days
- Booth at Wildlife Conservation Days
- Assistance on black-footed ferret surveys
- Held a recruitment social in the fall
- Coordinated w/ KSU Chapter on KNRC raffle as a fundraiser

Old Business

Matt Smith gave an update on progress of latest Farm Bill. It has been extended to the end of the year. There has been little movement in the House on the Bill and would probably not be addressed until late summer. There is a possibility that Farm Bill will turn into a series of extensions versus a 5 year deal which would make gradual cuts in the Bill more likely.

Brad Simpson reported that KCTWS was unsuccessful in obtaining a Commissioners big

game permit which would have been used for Chapter fundraising.

The Midwest Assoc. Of Fish & Wildlife Agencies annual conference was held in Wichita in December 2012. 540 people registered. KCTWS awarded a \$250 scholarship along w/ Michigan Chapter to Danielle Berger.

Kansas Wildlife Federation will be awarding Evelyn Davis of Wakarusa its Conservationist of the Year award at the KWF banquet in February.

Election Results

President-Elect: John Silovsky elected with 57% of votes (38 votes).

Brad Simpson turned the meeting over to incoming President Matt Smith. Matt Smith presented Brad S. with a plaque recognizing his service as President of the KCTWS.

New Business

(all led by Matt Smith unless noted)

KCTWS Officer Insurance

Membership discussed whether to purchase insurance to cover officers/board through national TWS. Insurance was estimated to cost between \$500-600/year. Suggestions were made to look into cost from local insurers and to determine the feasibility of building that cost into KNRC registration.

Lesser Prairie Chickens

Species has been proposed for listing as a threatened species range-wide by the Fish & Wildlife Service. Topic was opened up to discussion amongst membership whether to develop a position statement/letter of support for 5 states opposing the listing and asking to be precluded from the listing. Listing was open to public comment until March 11. Public meeting was to be held in Garden City on Feb. 7 2013. Mike Mitchener moved to write a letter in support of the 5 states, seconded by Elmer Fink – Passed by membership with no opposition.

40th Anniversary of KCTWS – founded in 1973

Brad Simpson moved to hold a celebration for the charter members that could also serve as a 2nd business meeting for KCTWS. Seconded Elmer Fink. Passed unanimously.

Brad Simpson moved to develop a Memorial Award in memory of Dr. Robert Robel. Motion

was seconded by several members and passed unanimously.

Elmer Fink asked that KCTWS send a letter of thanks to the KDWPT for allowing its employees to assist with the MAFWA conference in December.

It was moved to adjourn several seconded. Meeting was adjourned.

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

TWS News

The Wildlife Society 2014 Annual Conference

The Wildlife Society 21st Annual Conference will take place October 25-30, 2014 in Pittsburgh, PA. The Calls for Contributed Papers and Posters is available at www.wildlife.org. The deadline for submission of abstracts is April 25, 2014. TWS only allows one contributed paper or poster per primary author.



The Leadership Institute

Soon TWS will be opening the application process for The Leadership Institute. 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. This year’s meeting will be held in Pittsburgh, PA on October 25-30th. Check the TWS website (www.wildlife.org) for updates on The Leadership Institute and the application process.

CMPS News

The 59th annual meeting of the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society will be August 26-28, 2014, in Sheridan, WY. Meeting details, including agenda, lodging, and travel information, will be forthcoming in future months. Check the CMPS website for future information <http://wildlife.org/cmp/>



Other News

The 74th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference was held January 26-29th in Kansas City, Missouri. The annual conference attracts over 800 biologist and students from state, federal and tribal natural resource agencies across 12 Midwestern states. Highlights include over 400 technical talks, posters displays, plenary sessions, networking opportunities and social events. Next year’s meeting will be held February 8-11th at the Hyatt Regency in Indianapolis, Indiana. Check the website for future information and updates on the meeting www.midwestfw.org.

The Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

"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

KCTWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Matt Smith
#3 State Park Road
Sylvan Grove, KS. 67481 785-658-2465
matt.smith@ksoutdoors.com

President Elect

John Silovsky
Regional Public Lands Supervisor
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
300 SW Wanamaker Road
Topeka, KS 66606
785-273-6740
john.silovsky@ksoutdoors.com

Past President

Brad Simpson
512 SE 25th Ave
Pratt, KS. 67124-8174
620-672-0757
brad.simpson@ksoutdoors.com

Secretary/Treasure

J.R. Glenn
1724 Thompson
Emporia, KS 66801
james.glenn@ksoutdoors.com

Board Members

Bill Jensen
Emporia State University
1200 Commercial Street
Emporia, KS. 66801
620-341-5339
wjensen1@emporia.edu

Brad Rueschhoff
300 SW Wanamaker
Topeka, KS. 66606
785-273-6740
brad.rueschhoff@ksoutdoors.com

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

Justin Hamilton
24421 Parallel Road
Tonganoxie, KS 66086
913-845-2665
justin.hamilton@ksoutdoors.com

Please do not hesitate to contact the KCTWS or Newsletter Editor with Newsletter suggestions, additions, or related comments.

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
J. R. Glenn
1724 Thompson
Emporia, KS 66801**