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WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Wyoming Chapter

2015 Spring/Summer Edition Newsletter

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Volume 42, Number 2

The Wildlife Society – Wyoming Chapter
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Cover: A trumpeter swan basks in the evening glow near Jackson. M. Gocke

Border, pp2. Lush tall forbs dominate an aspen/meadow ecotone.

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Spring: the annual renaissance of wildlife and habitat. Longer days, warmer temperatures, and intermittent bouts of rain encourage flora and fauna to wake from their winter slumber. The land is once again an emerald green stage for the usual cast of characters. At first light on a crisp, calm morning the Black Hills, the booming gobble of a mature wild turkey tom echoes through the valley. What is intended to attract hens roosted nearby also happens to attract my hunting partner and I from a mile away. After methodical pursuit of the same flock over 2 days and many foot-miles, we again slipped into a position to bend their collective ear in hopes for a possible shot.

This spring, a similar renaissance of wildlife was initiated after Governor Mead assembled a team of 20 stakeholder representatives ranging from wildlife and livestock advocates to politicians. Despite WYTWS past involvement with the Governor's office on sage grouse as well as proposing to the Governor to be on the team, WYTWS unfortunately didn't get a seat at the table. Regardless, I represented WYTWS in mid-May to see what opportunities might exist for involvement, and then in June to further maintain a presence. Like my usual pursuit of wild turkeys, I had minimal sleep the nights before, drove many miles, and attempted to get into a position to learn from, adapt to, and communicate with the group.

Engaging the taskforce formally and informally at each meeting was relatively easy with 2 periods for verbal public comment, 2 breaks, lunch, as well as a website and mailing address for public comment. At the first meeting I talked with several members about the process and asked 2 questions: A) will there be a final product, and B) will it be available for public review and comment? I learned that the group was charged by Governor Mead with finding sustainable, long-term funding for wildlife and fish populations in Wyoming. Presentations, discussion, and questions focused on WY Game & Fish history, programs, and especially budget projections beyond 2020. In what is a dynamic, unmapped process facilitated by an experienced consulting firm, they intend to develop a set of recommendations that may be available for public review and will be used to draft legislation for the 2016 session. Of the members I spoke with, they were solicited directly by the Governor or delegate to be there, appreciated WYTWS representation, and encouraged future participation. At the second meeting at public comment, I explained WYTWS support of the North American model yet encouraged them to at least consider alternative funding to address responsibilities beyond game species. After mentioning wind tax and toll roads as possible options for their list, I was later informed from various members that wind tax wouldn't provide much assistance, toll roads are an interesting concept, and license indexing (i.e., adjusting fees with inflation) along with greater Wyoming Game and Fish Commission authority to set license fees is gaining support. With pressure and guidance from a 3rd party, this diverse group is starting to reach consensus on what may work long-term.

Pursuit of wild turkeys is a dynamic balance of persistence, patience, and knowing when to sprint or slither, purr or cackle, hold or shoot. Pursuing the taskforce is no different, and opportunities to engage them are many, upcoming, and likely rewarding. I encourage WYTWS members to attend meetings July 29 and August 26 (8am-5pm) and July 30 and August 27 (8am-12pm) at the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Building, 2211 King Blvd in Casper. For those who can't attend, they are accepting comments via email (fwpublic@thealignteam.org) or mail at:

Governor's Task Force on Fish and Wildlife Resources
c/o Align
1401 Airport Parkway, Suite 300
Cheyenne, WY 82001

Although turkey season is over, it's open season and the chase is on for the future of wildlife and habitat in Wyoming! Don't forget that even a simple move and subtle call can spark success for generations to come.

E. Maichak, WYTWS President

WY TWS BOARD MEETING: SPRING BULLETS

Daly Edmunds, WYTWS Secretary

Since the winter newsletter, the Board met via webinar/conference call on March 30. Below is a list of some of the topics discussed and decisions made. Board meetings are open to the membership, so participation is always welcome! For complete meeting minutes, please contact Daly Edmunds at dedmunds@audubon.org.

- WY-TWS to host a 2-day GIS workshop as part of a membership skills development opportunity May 6-7, 2015. The course will be taught by President-elect Matt Hayes who works as a spatial analyst at the Coop Unit and Wyoming Migration Initiative. Space is limited to 16 at the University of Wyoming. At time of board meeting, 15 had signed up.

- President-elect Matt Hayes is continuing to work with Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI) on partnering for joint 2015 annual conference. Dates selected are Dec 1-3 in Lander at the new conference center. Benefits of this partnership include increased attendance (anticipate twice our usual size), potential new members/Chapter exposure, and reduced expenditures for WY-TWS in hosting a joint-annual meeting. Annual meeting will include workshops and at least 1 special session. Funding agreement with WLCI and meeting space to handle concurrent sessions were primary topics.

- Central Mountains & Plains Section kicked in $500 to host a "Members and Friends of CMPS" reception at the upcoming TWS conference in Winnipeg. CPMS is waiting to hear from other chapters.
  The Board submitted a Chapter of the Year nomination for WY-TWS in mid-March. This extensive package, over 180 pages in length, outlined WY-TWS' accomplishments. This effort was spearheaded by immediate Past president Martin Grenier, with assistance from another Past-president Tony Mong and President Eric Maichak. Martin expects to hear back in early summer. Many thanks to Martin!
  - The Chapter and Student Chapter of the Year awards are presented annually to one chapter and one student chapter of The Wildlife Society for exemplary contributions to the Society's mission and goals. The winning chapter and student chapter receive a special certificate at the Society's annual conference award ceremony and their names are added to a permanent plaque on display at the Society's headquarters. For list of previous winners: wildlife.org/Wyoming/awards

- From the Science Committee:
  - WY Game & Fish Department has accepted a revised version of TWS' *Ungulate Migration Corridor* definition. Scott Smith has forwarded it to each WGFD region's wildlife coordinator for additional comment. Expect it to be written into seasonal range definitions for WGFD (likely this summer).
  - Board voted unanimously for the Science Committee to examine the decision on whether to support removing brucellosis from select agent list. *Background*: Select agent list means need high secure facility to house. CDC wanting public comment on whether to remove. If removed, opens up opportunity for testing. May be good to engage Science Committee to compile brief summary (lit review) and current status of vaccination issues with elk. Science Committee would provide their recommendation, based on scientific merit, whether it would be good to remove brucellosis from select agent list. Reason for WY-TWS to engage on this issue are the direct and in-direct impacts on Wyoming's wildlife.

SPRING BULLETS, Continued…

- Parent's Conservation Affairs Network:
  - Recently developed statement from TWS and the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians regarding disease transmission among wild and domestic sheep. The organizations have issued a joint statement to inform and encourage actions that further the restoration and conservation of wild sheep populations in North America … "The joint issue statement recognizes the need to proactively protect wild sheep populations in order to conserve and manage these species."
  - More updates were requested of what else the Conservation Affairs Network is working on
- Legislative Affairs Committee:
  - Email sent to membership on February 9 concerning bills of interest in the Wyoming Legislative Session.
  - Looking into building relationship with Wyoming Sportsmen's Alliance (created in 2013 - members include: Bowhunters of WY, Muley Fanatic Foundation, TRCP, TU, Wild Sheep Foundation, WY BHA, WY Federation of Union Sportsmen, WWF, Yellowstone Country Bear Hunters Alliance)
- Student Chapter:
  - 16 UW Student chapter attended Western Student Conclave @ TX A&M (March 14-20). Placed 3rd overall (poster & oral presentations etc) + individual winners.
  - Really good attendance at each bi-monthly meeting.
  - Student chapter members were invited to attend Kevin Monteith's Principles of Wildlife Management class – 3 classes had professionals (WGFD, West, etc). Other volunteer opportunities have been provided by WY TWS members.
- Fellowship Committee:
  - On 3/12/15, Sara Fagan of Teton Science School notified Committee Chair Daly Edmunds that TSS did some streamlining/reorganizing. The result was the very recent announcement that the Ecological Research Department/ Teton Research Institute is closing its doors. As a result, TSS is (1) unable to serve as fiscal host for the Fellowship Program and (2) program Coordinator, Corinna Riginos, cannot continue because her position was terminated.
  - Per Board approval, continued to look for alternative fiscal hosts and pursue phone interviews. UW has agreed to act as host. Therese Hartman and Daly Edmunds to stand in as co-coordinators.
  - Of 12 applicants, Fellowship Committee conducted 5 interviews between 3/13-3/19. Luke May selected.
  - Eric assisted Muley Fanatics at MFF banquet in Casper with auction of Commissioner tag for $10,000, 90/10 split between WYTWS/MFF. Eric and Josh Coursey, MFF president, co-wrote thank-you letter to Commissioner Clark for donation of Commissioner tag that will support this program.
- Celebrating our Wildlife Conservation Heritage Program (COWCH)
  - Appears as though Parent has taken COWCH off their website
  - WY-TWS will continue our efforts to document the evolution of the wildlife profession here in WY. Charlotte Snoberger will house second camera in Casper. 3 people have been approached to do interviews. 2015 Fellow may help.
- Board voted unanimously to support the Large Carnivore Workshop with $200 from the Special Meetings Account, should the workshop proceed. Meeting is tentatively planned for May 5-7 in Cody at Holiday Inn.
- Work continues on updating WY-TWS by-laws
- Work continues on updating WY-TWS strategic plan
- Next board meeting set for the afternoon of Monday, August 3.

D. Edmunds, WYTWS Secretary

More Applicants Yield Another Excellent Candidate for 4th Year of the WYTWS Fellowship Program

Luke May, 2015 candidate for the WYTWS Fellowship, scruffs an elephant shrew at Mpala Research Centre in Laikipia, Kenya.

The Wyoming Chapter of the Wildlife Society has the pleasure of welcoming Luke May as a fellow during the summer of 2015. Luke is a life-long resident of Wyoming with deep family roots in Teton County. "My family has a long history in Wyoming, and I intend to conserve what generations of Wyomingites have cherished," said Luke. "I grew up spending a lot of time in the outdoors, and I have always has a passion for wildlife." Luke is very excited to have been selected as a fellow and intends to make the most of the opportunities this summer. The fellowship is based out of Jackson, WY but includes extensive travel across the state, shadowing wildlife professionals from state and federal agencies, NGO's, and academic researchers.

The 2015 fellow attended the University of Wyoming and graduated with a bachelor's of science in Zoology in the spring of 2014. Luke was an active member of the student chapter of TWS while pursuing his undergraduate degree and served as the vice president during his senior year. Luke has worked in several western states from Alaska to Nevada in both terrestrial and aquatic applications. Luke also has experience studying abroad in field and classroom courses. Most recently, Luke worked for an environmental consulting company surveying rangeland vegetation on BLM, Forest Service, and private allotments.

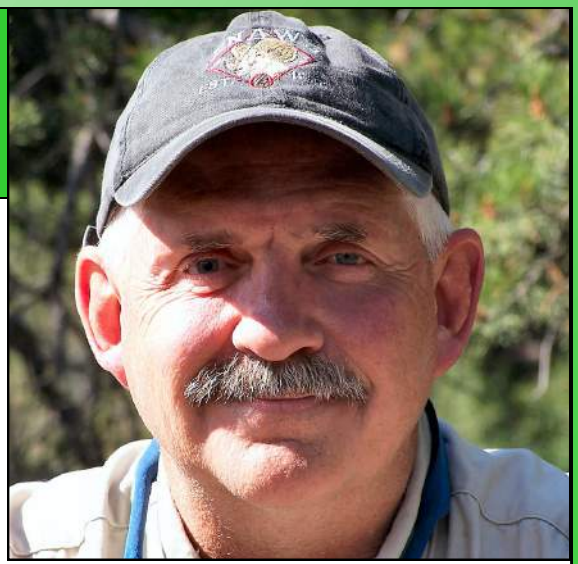
To Luke, the fellowship means that he can be involved in the day-to-day life of wildlife professionals from all aspects of conservation through a breadth of experiences this summer. Luke's career goal is to contribute to meaningful conservation and continue his education with a graduate degree.

D. Edmunds, WYTWS Fellowship Chair

Kevin Hurley Selected as The Wildlife Society Fellow

For his exceptional service to the wildlife profession, Kevin Hurley was recently selected as a Fellow and ambassador of The Wildlife Society.

Throughout Kevin's career he maintained a strong focus on game management and conservation, land use planning, partnerships with multiple agencies and NGO's, and especially bighorn sheep. After retiring from Wyoming Game and Fish with 30 years of service, Kevin became the conservation director for the Wyoming Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep.



Kevin Hurley, Conservation Director of the Wyoming Chapter, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep.

Within WYTWS, Kevin major accomplishment include chapter president in 1988 and Professional of the Year Award recipient in 1999.

Kevin will receive his Fellow Award at the 22nd TWS Annual Conference in Winnipeg in October.

WYTWS Science Committee: The Torrents of Spring

Dan Thompson, WGFD Trophy Game Supervisor and Science Committee Chair.

That's probably copyrighted by Hemingway but it seemed mighty appropriate with the weather of late in Wyoming. The rains and snows of late are some of the most moisture that have been documented in many moons in Wyoming; along those lines sage grouse lek counts have been above average, and it's refreshing to see last year's fawn cohort bounded about in the verdant pastures and transitional ranges as we near peak parturition (realizing we'll be past that by the time you read this). Again science has been in the news of late, from arguments about use of science standards in some Wyoming schools, to the swirling vortex surrounding upcoming decisions and discussions regarding sage grouse populations in the West. Wyoming is of course center stage in sage grouse discussions with the majority of core habitat and sage grouse populations occurring within our friendly confines – it's encouraging to see the work done to better understand and maintain the species on the landscape, while allowing the hominid mammalians to maintain their home ranges and provide sustenance for their neonates and juveniles. People are as much a part of the ecosystem as any other species, and realizing humans have the most potential to significantly alter a landscape comes into play when regarding the future of….well…earth, but it is obtuse and naïve to attempt to take humans out of the picture. Compromise and sacrifice are the key to coexistence; these are anthropomorphized terms for people analogous to competition and niche development. It's easy to focus on doom and gloom when it comes to wildlife conservation and management, but there are a lot of great stories that abound from the past, present, and hopefully future related to the work done to keep wild places wild and animals on the landscape. To think that within the last 120 years or so there was worry about extirpation of white-tailed deer in North America; that notion is almost hard to fathom in today's world.

You'll remember the Science Committee provided data-based information on migration for wildlife populations; these definitions are currently being used in discussions related to potential impacts to migratory ungulate populations from development, and susceptibility to negative impacts therein. Again, this is a prime example of using the data to better understand wildlife on the landscape, and coexistence with humans for science based decisions -- as the proverbial world keeps spinning.

Watch yer top knot...D. Thompson

The Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society strives to:

- *Provide an organization of wildlife management professionals from which statements affecting wildlife can be made exclusive of agency limitations.*
- *Provide for the exchange of ideas and information between wildlife workers without agency consideration.*
- *To strengthen The Wildlife Society, its objectives and goals.*
- *To promote and provide for intradisciplinary communication and training to keep abreast of modern needs and technological developments.*
- *To promote awareness of and continued improvement in wildlife management.*

WYTWS Hosts a Geographic Information System Workshop in Laramie

Dave Edmunds, postdoctoral research fellow at Colorado State and USGS.

I have been a member of the Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society since 2002 when I first began attending the annual meeting as a wildlife technician. I became more actively involved with WYTWS during graduate school when I presented annually at meetings. Today, I continue to participate as a professional because I believe it offers gains both personally, through all of the great friendships I have made, and professionally.

One such professional advancement opportunity that WY TWS offered was the Geographic Information System (GIS) workshop at the University of Wyoming May 6 and 7, 2015. The workshop instructor was our very own President-Elect Matt Hayes, who is a spatial analyst at the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. The workshop was well-attended by folks from a variety of entities, including academia, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, federal natural resource management agencies, private consulting firms, and non-governmental organizations.

The workshop consisted of short lectures to introduce a topic followed by well-conceived and thorough practice exercises. Workshop participants were exposed to the GIS software packages du jour, including ArcGIS, Program R, and Geospatial Modeling Environment (GME). Matt provided an overview of each of the software packages and the exercises utilized all of the available software.

The topics discussed during the workshop were varied and inclusive of the interests of attendees. We learned about projections and how they can affect your analyses, how to build a model in ArcGIS, develop a workflow to organize and understand your GIS analyses, perform home range and resource selection function analyses, perform statistical modeling in R, digitize features in ArcGIS, and much more.

Overall the workshop was a great success and we learned a lot during our two days in Laramie.
Thank you Matt for an excellent job teaching this course!

D. Edmunds, Colorado State University/U.S. Geological Survey

Aligning Contortion: Story Behind the Photo

People often think that because I work for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, I must get great wildlife photo opportunities through my job. Every now and then, I do hear about some animal in someone's yard or whatever, but in reality, it rarely pans out to be a good photo op. Nine times out of ten, the animal is gone before I can get there. Or if it is still there, it's usually obscured by bushes, in terrible light, or just in a bad setting in any number of ways so that it doesn't make a good photo. However, in this case, things did fall together.

I met Joan through our Nongame Biologist, Susan Patla. Joan likes to feed birds and we've become friends. Joan knows I like to photograph birds, so she sent me an email when she had two young Northern Saw-whet owlettes show up in her yard! I called as soon as I saw the email and to my amazement, they were still there! I covered the 20 minute drive to her house in about 10. Upon arrival, again surprisingly, they were still there, but they were mostly obscured by tree limbs. However, after some finagling, I was barely able to find a small hole with a clear view through the limbs, but only if I pushed my 600mm lens and tripod right up against the side of her shed. And if I contorted my body just right, I could actually see through the viewfinder to compose a photo and click the shutter.

The first photos I took had a terrible mix of harsh midday sunlight with a lot of dark shadows - not good. I documented the birds, but definitely not a stellar photo. Then the photo gods smiled upon me by sending some clouds over that removed the harsh light/shadow mix. And then after some time, the little birds became curious, and animated, and it became a very memorable photo experience. Every now and then the stars do align.

M. Gocke, WGFD I&E Specialist

Matt Hayes, WYTWS President -Elect

Prepare for the 2015 WYTWS-WLCI Conference!

The Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society is pleased to announce our 2015 annual conference. This year, the conference will be a joint event with the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative. This strategic partnership will ensure that this year's meeting is better than ever, and as a result of sponsorship from WLCI, registration fees for the main conference will be waived!

The meeting is scheduled to take place at the new Lander Community Center December 1st through December 3rd, 2015. November 30th and December 4th (Monday and Friday that week) are marked as travel dates. Be sure to save the date!

Please pass this message on to anyone you think may have an interest; more information will follow as we continue with planning and developing a website for registration. Activities already in preparation include: student/professional poster and oral presentation sessions, quiz bowl, various mixers, special sessions, topic sessions, workshops, and more!

If you have a bit of time and want to help plan/organize, or have other questions regarding the conference, please contact President-Elect Matt Hayes: mhayes1@uwyo.edu

Jerod Merkle Selected to the 2015 TWS Leadership Institute

Jerod Merkle, WY Coop postdoctoral fellow and candidate for the 2015 TWS Leadership Institute.

Annually since 2006, The Wildlife Society has selected a small group of diverse young professionals desiring to further their leadership skills and understanding through the TWS Leadership Institute. Since then, 5 individuals from Wyoming have been selected and graduated including Sarah Bucklin (2009), Nick Kaczor (2009), Martin Grenier (2010), Nichole Cudworth (2011), and Tony Mong (2011). This year, Jerod Merkle was selected to the 2015 Leadership Institute class. Below is Jerod's autobiographical summary:

I am currently a postdoctoral research fellow with the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Wyoming. I have a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Arizona (2006), a M.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana (2011), and a Ph.D. in Biology from Université Laval, Québec (2014). My research mainly focuses on understanding foraging ecology and predator-prey dynamics to help develop management plans that minimize human-wildlife conflicts. I have contributed to research on gray wolves, coyotes, black bears, bison, mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, moose, and caribou.

From my experience and discussions with peers and colleagues, getting "in" the wildlife profession/field is not easy. I see The Wildlife Society (TWS) as THE entity for students and professionals to 1) connect with others so that ideas and best practices are shared, 2) stay up-to-date on the latest in the wildlife profession, and 3) mentor each other to prepare future leaders in our field. I support these professional development practices by staying involved with and donating my time to TWS.

Whether a field biologist, state commissioner, or a wildlife professor, I imagine excellent leadership skills are essential for success. I anticipate the Leadership Institute elaborating on the logic behind strong and effective leadership decisions while providing experience in how to mediate conflict and deal with challenges in the workplace. Personally, I would like to be prepared to tackle work-related tasks and issues with leadership skills TWS considers essential. I do not think we should see wildlife professionals failing due to insufficient training in fundamental leadership.

On a more personal note, I love being outdoors. Pretty much any excuse to go outside works, including hunting, fishing, hiking, birding, photography, mountain biking, traveling to new places, taking my dog to the park, fiddling around in my yard, etc. When I must be inside, however, I enjoy cooking, eating good food, tinkering with things, playing the guitar, and planning my next trip outside.

J. Merkle, 2015 TWS LI Candidate

Road Trip! Tales from the 2015 Student Chapter Conclave

Berry Biodiversity Institute,
Department of Zoology and Physiology,
Wyoming State Chapter of The Wildlife Society, May 9, 2015

Thank you for supporting the University of Wyoming Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society as we attended the Western Student Regional Conclave at Texas A&M University Kingsville. This year we exceled in many of the competitions and activities and placed 3rd overall:

Members of the University of Wyoming Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society displaying their "uniforms" at Conclave 2015 in Kingsville, Texas. These colorful bandanas and unique t-shirts were designed by Lindy Collamer (in green).

- As a group, we ranked 2nd place in poster presentations
- Rebecca Burton – 1st place in animal photography
  2nd place in shooting .22 rifle
- James Erdmann – 1st place in orienteering
- James Erdmann and Rhiannon Jakopak – 2nd place in team orienteering
- Sara Locker – 2nd place in landscape photography
  3rd place in painting/drawing
- Logan Merrill – 1st place in archery
  1st place in individual plant identification
  2nd place in the free form picture category
- Nicole Meyer – 1st place in painting/drawing
- Bobby Riotto – 1st place fly casting
- Shea Williams – 3rd place in shotgun shooting
- Shea Williams and Garrett Smith – 2nd place in radio telemetry
- Kyle Wilson – Honorable mention for the longest fly fishing cast

The conference hosted some interesting field trips including a visit the Welder Wildlife Refuge where we went kayaking and searching for reptiles; a tour of a deer breeding facility at the Las Palmas Exotic Ranch; a visit to the red drum/spotted sea trout hatchery and fishing; and workshops at the Game Warden Academy. All these activities were also enriched by the chance to meet and interact with our professional peers from 14 other universities and colleges across the west.

Bobby Riotto (red bandana) and James Erdmann (yellow bandana) explain Bobby's poster to judge Dr. Scott Henke.

Shea Williams (left) and Logan Merrill (middle) discuss one of their posters with two of the judges.

The University of Wyoming Conclave shooting team displaying their weapons. From left: Logan Merrill, Shea Williams, Garrett Smith, and Rebecca Burton with assistant Nicole Davis.

After spending the first night of the trip to Conclave with Logan Merrill's parents in Colorado, we headed south to Texas. On our way we stopped at the Comanche National Grassland for a short hike and presentation by Garrett Smith on management of Canada geese. From there we continued to Palo Duro

State Park south of Amarillo Texas, where Nicole Davis educated us about horned lizards. We spent the night camping and eating around a campfire.

Kayaking (above) and some of the amphibians and reptiles (below) at the Welder Wildlife Refuge

On our way back from Kingsville we stopped at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. A 2.5-hour boat trip along the coast provided unparalleled observations of Whooping Cranes, bottlenose dolphins, Roseate Spoonbills, nesting Great Blue Herons, and many other fantastic birds. James Erdmann presented a talk on barrier islands. Kyle Wilson described the conservation efforts of Whooping Cranes. The ill effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill were covered by Rhiannon Jakopak, while Rebecca Burton discussed the conservation of sea turtles. Last but not least Ana Bode presented on the recovery of Brown Pelicans while we were under attack by large swarms of wasps.

The red rocks of Palo Duro (left) and dinner around the campfire (right)

At Aransas National Wildlife Refuge we met with biologists Donald (Keith) Westlake and James Panaccione who explained the mission of the refuge, the effort to conserve Whooping Cranes, the challenges of managing natural resources amid oil and gas development, and problems with invasive species. Their insights were interrupted by yawning of a couple of alligators, calls of a bull frog and the prancing of a rail. Our appreciation of American alligators increased following a thorough presentation

by Bobby Riotto. The best observation we had was of a great blue heron swallowing a huge fish. It took at least 20 minutes.

Wildlife observations in Aransas National Wildlife Refuge from aboard the M/V Skimmer

After spending the night at Stephen F. Austin State Park (and meeting Nicole Meyers' parents to celebrate her birthday), we arrived early in the morning at Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge. Refuge manager Terry Rossignol and biologist John Magera with their colleagues drove us to

watch the birds lekking. It was an amazing experience although a bit discouraging given that, as Karly Higgins shared with us, the population persists only as a result of supplementation with captive-bred individuals. We learned about soft-release practices, efforts to eradicate fire ants, and habitat management.

Heron swallowing a large fish (sequence) and alligator basking at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge

We continued north to Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge, where Nick Plata the environmental education specialist guided us through some of the remarkable landscapes of the refuge. We saw elk (shedding their antlers), the purest Texas longhorns, and the famous heart-shaped rock. We learned about river otter reintroductions in the west from Sara Locker, and Shea Williams told us about the history of bison management.

At Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge

Without your support, this successful trip would not have been possible – many thanks!!

Ana, Bobby, Garrett, James, Karly, Kyle, Lindy, Logan, Nicole (D), Nicole (M), Nicole (R), Rebecca, Rhiannon, Sarah, and Shea

WY-TWS Nomination Form for Awards and Officers

It is not too early to start thinking about deserving nominees for our WY-TWS awards and officer positions. Please take a few minutes and give some thought about those who are working hard for wildlife and should be recognized for their efforts, as well as those who would make strong candidates for board members. At next year's annual conference in Lander, awards (Professional and Citizen of Year) will be presented to recognize outstanding efforts by individuals in the state who conserve and manage wildlife and wildlife habitat. Successful candidates for officers are also announced at this time, and by October 2015, positions available will include President-elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and Board Member At-Large.

To submit a nomination, please fill out the biographical information listed on the form below and write up a short summary of the nominee's accomplishments in the wildlife conservation/management arena.
Nominations can be mailed or e-mailed to the following:

WY TWS Awards and Nominations
Eric Maichak
PO Box 850
Pinedale, WY 82941
307-231-1334
eric.maichak@wyo.gov

Nominee:

Award (circle one): Professional Citizen Lifetime Achievement

Officer (circle one): President-elect Secretary Board Member At-Large

Address:

Present Position (i.e., Specific Job Title):

Academic Background:

Professional Background:

Submitted By:

Address:

Phone:

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WILDLIFE SOCIETY
Wyoming Chapter

WY TWS Membership Form

Change of Address **New Member** **Membership Renewal**

NAME _____

AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

WORK PHONE _____ HOME PHONE _____

Dues are $10.00 per year or $25.00 for 3 years.

☐ ADDRESS CHANGE
☐ E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGE
☐ MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
☐ NEW MEMBER

Make checks payable to: **Wyoming Chapter-TWS**

☐ I wish to receive the newsletter via E-MAIL or at the physical address listed above

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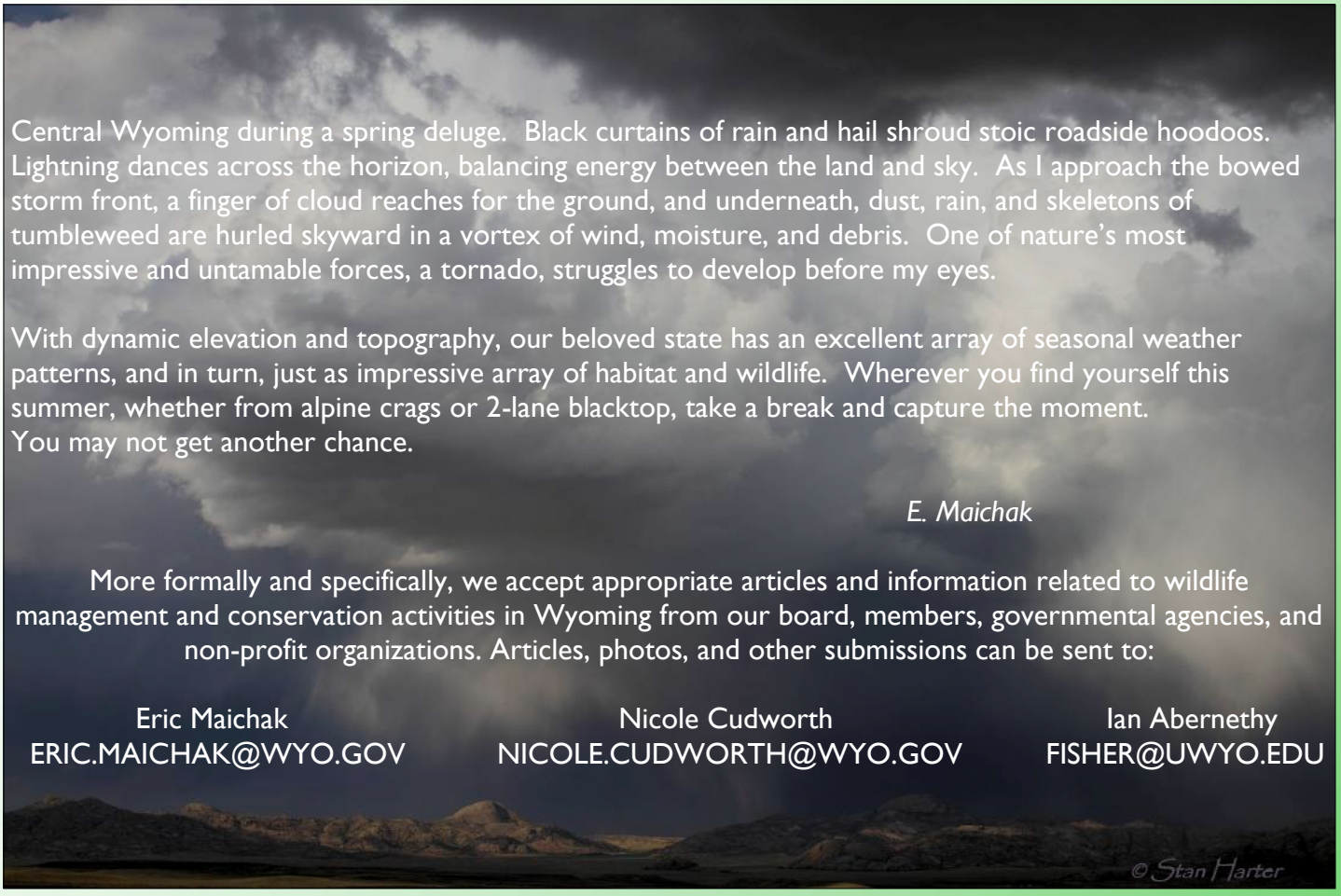
Existing WY TWS members can log in and pay dues on-line! Check out the WYTWS website at http://wildlife.org/Wyoming/

If you are not an existing WY TWS member and pay dues on-line, Please also complete and send this form to Therese Hartman

Therese Hartman P.O. Box 850 Pinedale, WY 82941
Email: WYTWS.Hartman@gmail.com
Fax: 307-367-4403

Please support your WY-TWS Chapter by paying your membership dues!

Note from the Editor...



Central Wyoming during a spring deluge. Black curtains of rain and hail shroud stoic roadside hoodoos. Lightning dances across the horizon, balancing energy between the land and sky. As I approach the bowed storm front, a finger of cloud reaches for the ground, and underneath, dust, rain, and skeletons of tumbleweed are hurled skyward in a vortex of wind, moisture, and debris. One of nature's most impressive and untamable forces, a tornado, struggles to develop before my eyes.

With dynamic elevation and topography, our beloved state has an excellent array of seasonal weather patterns, and in turn, just as impressive array of habitat and wildlife. Wherever you find yourself this summer, whether from alpine crags or 2-lane blacktop, take a break and capture the moment.
You may not get another chance.

E. Maichak

More formally and specifically, we accept appropriate articles and information related to wildlife management and conservation activities in Wyoming from our board, members, governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations. Articles, photos, and other submissions can be sent to:

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Newsletter deadlines for 2015:

February 15 (Winter Edition)

May 15 (Spring/Summer Edition)

September 15 (Autumn Edition)

We're on the Web & Facebook!
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