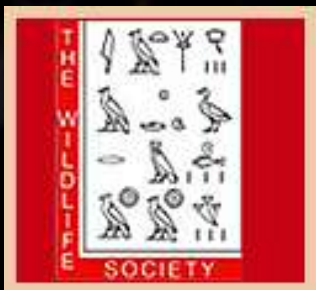




## 2013 Winter Edition Newsletter

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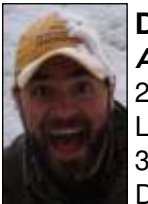
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Cover Photo: A bighorn ram displays textbook flehmen behavior, silhouette style, near Jackson. Mark Gocke.

Background, pp2: Monotone frost skirts the edge of a frozen stream. Mark Gocke.

# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—** **M a k i n g W Y T W S R e l e v a n t**



How relevant is the Wyoming Chapter of the Wildlife Society (WYTW S) within the state of Wyoming? How relevant is the WYTW S to you? Relevancy is one of the most important attributes to any organization in my opinion. If a group or organization is not making a positive impact on the membership or within the pertinent arenas that the organization is involved with then why waste time and energy on the group? That is the thought process many of us go through either cognitively or subliminally and leaves us wondering is this worth my time and/or effort? When it comes to The Wildlife Society I am not naïve in what usually occurs within the organization. I have been involved with the society for over ten years from the student chapter to the national level and I see a reoccurring pattern at all levels: a few people doing a lot of work to try and benefit the masses. I understand the problem: time, time and time. We all have so little of it and with our choice of profession the demand on our time within working hours (and usually outside “working” hours) seems to always be increasing. Our profession is built

on passion for the resource and we all give our hearts and souls to our jobs. What is left after we go home? In all actuality, not much. The real question here is essentially why does The Wildlife Society exist (especially on the state level), and why should we as professional wildlife biologists be a part of and get involved with the organization when we already give so much to our jobs?

In the fall 2012 issue of the Wildlife Professional, Jack Ward Thomas, Past TWS President and former Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, made the statement in an article about his career and involvement in TWS; “a group of wildlifers—wanting a closer identification with our profession than merely being employed—formed the Texas Chapter of TWS”. This captures what I believe is a quintessential concept to grasp regarding the state level of TWS. I believe that because of our drive to do “good work” through our jobs we can end up in a situation where we are like a horse with blinders, we have one path we are on and our focus on that can cause us to miss the rest of the world. Our state chapter affords us the opportunity to remove the blinders and “see” other parts of the wildlife world. Interactions with other professionals outside of our own jobs expands our view of the “big picture” of wildlife management and conservation and in many cases makes us get out of our comfort zone of what we know and what we think to be true. Of course these interactions occur within our job as we collaborate across the table at meetings and over email however; in those interactions we carry a stigma of “I am a state biologist and you are a federal biologist”. The state level of TWS allows you to drop those labels and just be “wildlife biologist”; simply put, it allows us to take a break from the pressures of collaboration and really allow us “to sharpen our tools and make them cut the right way” (Aldo Leopold, 1913, *The River of the Mother of God and Other Essays*).

Wyoming is facing myriad major issues of wildlife and wildlife management, from predator management to threatened species to energy production. I believe in the next ten years we will see more and more challenges to management decisions, the North American Model, and possibly as a whole the profession of wildlife biology. The original intent of the society was the “(1) Establishment of professional solidarity and

# ...PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE,

## C o n t i n u e d

maintenance of the highest possible professional standards; (2) development of all types of wildlife management along sound biological lines; (3) publications to effect these ends; and (4) protection of the interests of its members" (Bennitt et al., *JWM*, 1:1 page 1). Now more than ever these intentions should be upheld by all members and every professional wildlife biologist should find comfort in the fact that this professional society exists to carry out those intentions.

Jack Ward Thomas, in the same publication listed above, stated in relation to a team of biologists tasked with devising a plan for a "cluster of likely threatened species: spotted owls, marbled murrelets, and salmon" that, "Almost all of the biologists on the team were associated with TWS, which gave us the credibility to face the onslaught that was about to follow. " The current climate of court challenges too many wildlife management decisions and the devaluing of the wildlife profession through the new generation of what I will call "blog biologists" are testing the very fabric of our society. "Blog biologists" are those who pontificate through the internet on popular hunting blogs of how game should be managed based on their personal experiences, unsubstantiated "data", hearsay, and most importantly no relevant, rigorous training in wildlife biology and management. The strength of TWS, especially our state chapter, is one of the most effective ways to combat the attacks we are seeing in relation to sound management of our wildlife populations based on scientific information.

The key to a strong chapter is not only the old adage "strength in numbers" but I would say that it is "strength in engagement". A chapter that is only a group of professionals that are not engaged with the chapter or are not continually pushing the chapter forward is a chapter that will have very little relevance within the membership or outside of the chapter. Right now, we as a chapter have the opportunity to increase the relevancy of TWS within our ranks and more importantly within Wyoming. What does being relevant mean? I think it is the idea that when any wildlife management issue comes to light, WYTWS and its membership is looked to for guidance, consultation, and to be the definitive voice on the science behind the management. Basically, when WYTWS speaks, people listen. This can only be accomplished through the engagement of the membership in the chapter via involvement in committees, leadership, and bringing pertinent issues to light within the chapter.

I am calling on you to help and make WYTWS a relevant and respected voice within the state of Wyoming. It is only through you taking the step to be more involved with this chapter that we can expect to achieve more than being a group of folks that get together once a year. So my challenge to this chapter and the membership is to see all of our committees flush with members, folks lined up to take on leadership positions, and a steady stream of emails to me or other board members outlining new ideas, pertinent issues, suggestions, or encouragement in regards to building the strength of the society here in Wyoming. This charge is not a new one but one I think we have to seriously reconsider and ponder if we feel that the battle for our wildlife and wild places is surging and drifting towards defeat. For as Olaus Murie stated in 1954 (*JWM*), "As members of our profession, we have a responsibility to contribute to the highest thinking in this field." That can only come from your engagement in your society.

Below is a list of the committees and contact information for the chairs of the committees. Becoming active within these committees is a step towards making WYTWS more relevant within the state; please consider joining one of these committees and look for opportunities to become more engaged in WYTWS.

# ...PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE,

## C o n t i n u e d

Nominations and Awards – This committee shall also solicit nominations for “Professional of the Year Award”, “Citizen of the Year Award”, and the “President’s Special Achievement Award” given by the Wyoming Chapter; conduct the balloting; and obtain the plaques for these awards. It shall assemble a panel of judges to critique the student paper presentations at the Annual Meeting, and present the “Best Student Paper” award. The committee shall prepare and distribute news releases to state and local media describing the awards and the recipients. Contact: Tony Mong, [tony.mong@wyo.gov](mailto:tony.mong@wyo.gov)

Communications – This committee shall seek and employ methods of informing the public of basic concepts of wildlife management and of Chapter and Society activities and interests. This committee shall also publish three Wyoming Chapter newsletters each year consisting of a Winter Issue, a Summer Issue and a Fall Issue (October/November). This committee shall contribute articles, and contact individuals, both within and outside of the Chapter, to submit articles of interest for Chapter newsletters. The newsletter editor shall compile the information into newsletter form, and distribute to the membership in a secure electronic format when possible. Contact: Eric Maichak, [eric.maichak@wyo.gov](mailto:eric.maichak@wyo.gov)

Legislative Affairs – This committee shall review legislative proposals, administrative regulations, and other subjects or issues affecting wildlife or wildlife habitat within the organizational area of the Chapter and make recommendations to the Executive Board for any action that should be taken by the Wyoming Chapter. The Chairperson may ask any Chapter member to assist with reviews. Contact: Tony Mong, [tony.mong@wyo.gov](mailto:tony.mong@wyo.gov)

Audit – This committee shall consist of a chairperson and at least one additional member. It shall review the financial records and support documents of the Treasurer at least annually. The committee also shall review these records and documents prior to any change in the office of the Treasurer. Contact: Therese Hartman, [therese.hartman@wyo.gov](mailto:therese.hartman@wyo.gov)

Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation History – It is imperative that the thoughts, recollections, and impressions of individuals who played key roles in the evolution of the wildlife profession be captured and preserved before they are lost forever. In 1999, The Wildlife Society Council adopted the COWCH Project to accomplish this goal through the use of video and/or audio taped interviews of these living historians. In 2010, WYTW S created this committee to seek out and interview professionals within Wyoming that have helped shape wildlife management in this state. Contact: Andrea Orabona, [andrea.orabona@wyo.gov](mailto:andrea.orabona@wyo.gov)

Science Committee (charge of the committee may change based on voting on By-law changes) – This committee may review, evaluate and make recommendations to the Executive Board on the use of science in wildlife management as it pertains to actions, plans or other activities proposed within Wyoming that are brought forth from any Chapter member in good standing. This committee shall also receive proposed resolutions and position statements from any Chapter member in good standing at any time and shall prepare, submit and recommend action on such items to the Executive Board in accordance with Article VII, Section 5. Membership of this committee shall be limited to highly qualified wildlife professionals, as determined by the Chairperson. Contact: Dan Thompson, [daniel.thompson@wyo.gov](mailto:daniel.thompson@wyo.gov)

*Tony Mong, WY TWS President*



# WY TWS BOARD MEETINGS: WINTER BULLETS



Nichole Cudworth, WY TWS Secretary

The Board has had a busy few months, with meetings in November in Laramie and in January in Lander and a number of conference calls and e-mail discussions in the interim. Below is a list of some of the important topics discussed and decisions made. Remember, Board meetings are open to the membership, so feel free to attend and make your voice heard. For complete meeting minutes, please contact Nichole Cudworth at [nichole.cudworth@wyo.gov](mailto:nichole.cudworth@wyo.gov).

- A number of committees provided updates in November. Overall, 2012 was an extremely successful year, and we are looking forward to another great year in 2013!
- Gary White (CMPS representative to National) attended the Board Meeting in November and provided the Chapter with a number of updates:
  - Leadership Institute funding has been cut from the budget. National may be requesting assistance from Sections and Chapters to provide funding.
  - National is assessing how best to proceed with an affinity program to gain additional revenue. Gary stressed the need for brand protection in these cases.
  - Publication income is still lower than expected and desired.
  - Gary stressed the need for the Chapter and membership to make their voices heard at the National level.
- The Board voted to provide a letter in support of the funding initiative developed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The letter highlighted the mission of the Chapter and its support for adequate funding for wildlife agencies. Tony attended the legislative hearing, along with representative from other organizations, in support of this bill.
- The Board approved the revised MOU with the Teton Science School and provided funding to continue the Fellowship Program in 2013. The Committee is receiving applications.
- The Board made a number of changes to the operating budget for 2013, including:
  - Providing financial support to National to help fund the Leadership Institute
  - Funding travel for a Board member to participate in the Teaming with Wildlife Fly-in to discuss the
  - State of wildlife funding with Wyoming's congressional representatives
  - Reallocating scholarship funds for 2013 to the Student Chapter in support of Conclave
  - Evaluating the need and cost for Subunit Director's and Officer's insurance
- The Board is moving forward on a MOU with the Wyoming Wildlife Federation for collaboration between the Science Committee and the W W F. This collaboration will allow the Chapter to increase its ability to advocate for wildlife and habitat issues in the state.

## ...Winter Bullets, Continued

- The Board moved to open the bylaws to elevate the Science Committee from ad-hoc to full committee status. See pp 8 and 9 for more information.
- Martin is in the process of organizing the 2013 Annual Meeting. Stay tuned for more details!
- Wyoming will host the CMPS Meeting in 2014, which aligns with the Chapter's 40th anniversary. Tony and Martin will present their proposal at the CMPS Meeting this August.
- Tony is working on an initiative to recruit new members. The Board is looking for feedback from members on why they belong to TWS and what benefits they receive from membership.
- The Board is looking into taking over management of the Chapter's website. Contact Bryan if you would like to assist with this endeavor.

*Nichole Cudworth, WY TWS Secretary*

## WY TWS Science Committee: Current and Future Influence



Hope you're all wintering well...while working on a manuscript recently I was reviewing some literature and came across a familiar citation from the past, *beyond* old school actually. It was something I had read whilst studying for comprehensive exams in grad school and illustrates the cyclical nature of what we wildlife professionals lose sleep over or pontificate about on any given day. I'm referencing a book (or pamphlet really) written in 1789 by Thomas Malthus, discussing in part how the geometric growth of humans inevitably would overtake the arithmetic growth of food (quadratic vs. linear). While Malthus wasn't the first to allude to principles of carrying capacity, his work would serve as a basis for many an argument of  $K$  and  $\lambda$  to come since then. I realize I'm rambling... but if you get a chance peruse some of the classics that drive what we think we know now: Bacon, Verlhust, Lotka, and even Lamarck.

It seems our wildlife are facing a barrage of potential anthropogenic impedances in the near future (not to mention drought, earthquakes, *Elaeophora* burrowing into carotids), and the Science Committee will be attempting to comment on as many plans/proposals/documents as possible to benefit the wildlife and wildlife habitats in Wyoming. Currently we are in the process of reviewing two potential projects with impacts to wildlife habitats in Wyoming. We made comments on the Shoshone Forest Draft Management Plan and provided those directly to the U.S. Forest Service as well as relaying our comments to the Wyoming Wildlife Federation as we continue to collaborate as the scientific review entity for their organization. In addition to all these festivities; my gaiters and gloves are torn, pants full of burs, toes recovering from frostbite, and boots are odorous...it's been a good winter!!!

*Watch yer top knot....*

*D. Thompson, Science Committee Chair*

# Potential for W Y T W S Evolution: Proposed Changes to By-Laws and Certain Committee Responsibilities

With regards to wildlife and natural resources, “Adaptive Management” is often regarded as the consistent, methodical, and deliberate progression of change to benefit how certain species and/or their habitat requirements are supervised and directed by trained professionals. W Y T W S (or any other entity for that matter) is no exception to adaptation, and the time has come for W Y T W S to decide on some potential changes.

Below are excerpts from our chapter by-laws; possible changes range from simple grammatical corrections to those involving collapse of and engulfment within certain committees. For brevity, Sections (e.g., 1, 2, etc.) under Articles (e.g., IV, V, etc.) without potential changes are noted but without text. Those Sections or Clauses with potential changes have full text; deletions are denoted in red text, additions in green text. Please take a few moments to review these potential changes and how they may benefit or diminish W Y T W S. W Y T W S membership will be notified in the coming week(s) of the upcoming ballot regarding these potential changes, and members will then have 30 days to vote via SurveyMonkey. Thanks for helping us keep our chapter polished and efficient!

## Article VII - Management and Finance

Section 1...

Section 2...

Section 3 - Reports - Within 20 days after an election or other official action(s) of the Chapter, the Secretary shall report such action(s) to the Executive Director of The Wildlife Society, and to the Central Mountains and Plains Section representative and President. Annual financial statements and activity reports from the Treasurer shall be forwarded to these same parties. A statement of calendar-year income and expenses, together with starting and ending balances, must be submitted to the Executive Director of The Wildlife Society in January of each year for federal tax reporting.

Section 4...

Section 5 - Resolutions and Position Statements - Any Chapter member in good standing may submit resolutions or statements to the **Resolutions and Position Statements Committee** **Science Committee** (Article VIII, Section 2C) for consideration by the Chapter's Executive Board. These shall be accepted or rejected by the Board and, if involving new policy, prepared for submission to the Chapter membership. Such new items must be approved by two-thirds of the Chapter membership voting and must be transmitted to The Wildlife Society and the Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative and President, if approved. Actions falling within previously established Chapter policies may be carried out by any Chapter officer upon unanimous approval of the Executive Board. On issues where there are no previously established Chapter policies and that demand action on a reasonably short notice, the President, or designated representative, may present a Position Statement on behalf of the Chapter provided that: 1) the concept of the statement be brought to the Executive Board's attention and is accepted by them prior to public issuing of the statement, and 2) copies of the statement will be sent to the membership in the next newsletter. Furthermore, the Wyoming Chapter may issue statements pertaining to subjects in its locale:

- a) when the context of the statement falls within the established policy of The Wildlife Society, and
- b) in the absence of existing position statements by The Wildlife Society.



## ...Proposed By-Law Changes, Continued

The Wyoming Chapter will not issue statements that may be in conflict with the policy of The Wildlife Society without prior approval of The Society's Council. All statements will follow the "Guidelines for Conservation Affairs Activities" (Appendix 4.421b of the Operations Manual) and conform to The Society's policy regarding conservation affairs (Appendix 4.421a of the Operations Manual). The Chapter membership, The Wildlife Society, and the Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative and Section President must receive copies of any Resolutions and Position Statements within 15 days of such action.

### Article VII - Committees

Section 1...

Section 2 - Duties of Standing Committees

Clause A...

Clause B...

Clause C – Resolutions and Position Statements – This committee shall receive proposed resolutions and position statements from any Chapter member in good standing at any time and shall prepare, submit, and recommend action on such items to the Executive Board in accordance with Article VII, Section 5.

Science Committee – This committee may review, evaluate and make recommendations to the Executive Board on the use of science in wildlife management as it pertains to actions, plans or other activities proposed within Wyoming that are brought forth from any Chapter member in good standing. This committee shall also receive proposed resolutions and position statements from any Chapter member in good standing at any time and shall prepare, submit and recommend action on such items to the Executive Board in accordance with Article VII, Section 5. Membership of this committee shall be limited to highly qualified wildlife professionals, as determined by the Chairperson.

Clause D...

Clause E - Audit – This committee shall consist of a chairperson and at least one additional member (s). It shall review the financial records and support documents of the Treasurer at least annually. The committee also shall review these records and documents prior to any change in the office of the Treasurer.

Section 3...

Section 4...

### *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.*

# Story Behind the Photo: Remembering a Jackson Hole Wildlife Regular

It is not often you get a chance to see, let alone photograph, a wild animal as impressive as the magnificent mule deer buck that made the Gros Ventre river bottom north of Jackson its home for the past several years. In fact, it's not often you can simply refer to an animal as "Big Buck", or "Big Boy" as some of us called him, and people immediately know who you're talking about. He was that special. I think what made him even more special, beyond his incredible set of antlers, was that he seemed to make himself scarce for much of the year and he wasn't always available for viewing or photographing, such that, when you did see him, it was a pretty special occasion.



I recall one such special occasion this past fall. I had the good fortune of watching Big Boy bed down right at day break, along with another sizeable buck he liked to hang out with, in a place not visible from the nearby road. So, I ambled out to see if I could get a few photographs. I soon gained their trust and the two went about their day, as I happily watched and photographed. The minutes turned into hours. They would bed down for a rest, so I would too. They would get up and browse and I nibbled on some old Halloween candy I found in the bottom of my pack. I ended up spending the entire day with them, which appropriately ended with a snow squall, making for some nice wintry photographs as well. It was an awesome day I will never forget.

Sadly, on January 7th, 2013, the big fella was found dead along the banks of the Gros Ventre River he called home. He had injured his hoof, which became infected and almost assuredly contributed to his demise. After investigation, it was determined the buck died of natural causes and was not poached, thankfully. There are few things more maddening than to see magnificent animals such as he, illegally shot by disrespecting dirt bags. The fact that this buck was so well-known, and watched and photographed by so many people, likely helped protect it from being poached for its antlers.

*Mark Gocke, W GFD I & E Specialist*

# Enhancing Educations at the Event Horizon of Tomorrow: The 2012 WY TWS Annual Meeting

Over the years, every WY TWS annual conference has left attendees with something to remember: gripping speeches, cutting-edge information, infamous extracurricular activities. Members who make the trip year after year are usually content with memories of the glory days while charter members are pushing all available limits to make their own. Dubbed “Enhancing the education of the next generation of wildlife biologists,” the new opportunities and challenges of this meeting pushed the limits, set new standards, and enhanced the education of the board, committees, students, as well as professionals young and old.



Hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and roaring dialogue accentuate the poster session. Photo, E. Maichak.



As is typical of most college towns, Laramie provided a lively and up-tempo environment for what was sure to be a fun conference. Following a speedy interstate drive on thankfully dry November roads, many attendees were scrambling to register in the plush halls of the Hilton Garden Inn just before the afternoon kickoff. With board members and assistants bustling to accommodate last minute details, and lack of the usual pre-conference board meeting that resulted from a hotel scheduling snafu, the conference appeared to begin in a full sprint rather than the usual leisurely stroll.



The humorous and comfortably outspoken president-elect and conference architect Tony Mong opened it up with a big thanks to Dan Thompson and Daly Edmunds (abstracts), Therese Hartman (registration), and all other members who assisted in preparation and planning and finished up with a call to all members to, “...get involved with WY TWS, engage students, and connect with other professionals.” UW undergrad Dylan Herman followed with a summary of recent student chapter activities but especially with a frank confession about his past progression from avoidance of TWS to understanding its relevancy, as well as his desire to be and ultimate election as Student Chapter president. Rounding out conference introductions, long time TWS stalwart Tom Ryder reminded everyone of the benefits of being a member of the Parent Chapter, telling everyone, “...don’t sit on the sidelines – get involved.” Everyone then enjoyed a plethora of polished student presentations on everything from horned lizards and sagebrush songbirds to charismatic megafauna and management. Highlights included such findings as 75% of sagebrush songbird nests were depredated by rodents (including mice) as well as the potential development of a method to identify species of frogs with DNA extracted from host water. After a few announcements and a chorus of applause to presenters, most attendees headed to dinner with friends and colleagues while discussing the day’s events, speculating on quiz-bowl questions, and determining how best to spend a whopping \$50 committee budget.



From top to bottom, Questions from Tony and Dylan, chuckles from Gary White, and awarding the stick of knowledge to Melissa Richards and Jake Goheen. Photos, D. Edmunds.

# ...2012 Annual Meeting, Continued

Back in the hotel, the location of the poster session was apparent; laughter and loud voices echoed well around the corner and down the halls to the lobby. Inside the ballroom, presenters satiated intellectual appetites with vibrant posters and cerebral discussions while the open bar and fabulous spread of hors d'oeuvres satiated animal appetites with free libations and savory snacks. Given the increasing number and decibel level of most conversations in this setting, attempts by some to cruise and eavesdrop on poster explanations faded. End result? Networking and personal relationships were virtually mandatory as everyone had to get close to understand just what was being said.



Blurred impressionism near the end of the night, Justin Binfet (left) and Dylan Herman (right) listen intently to Tony's story. Photo E. Maichak



As the tales grow taller, the smiles grow wider from Amy Williams, Melia DeVivo, and Jenny Jones. Photo unknown.

Last minute recruiting from

Tony during the poster session and a solid tournament bracket was ready. What bracket?! In the spirit of fostering new professional relationships, as well as friendly competition, several members volunteered or were "voluntold" to test their memorization metal in this year's inaugural student/professional quiz bowl. Proposed by Tony several months ago, this year's competition pitted 20 teams of a student and professional in head-to-head battle for trivial wildlife knowledge supremacy. Limited time and often limited memory recall kept team scores low and audience smiles wide. While students and young professionals shined, many professionals (and their colleagues) couldn't believe how much they'd forgotten. In the end, both realized the need for partnership

to be successful, and those who partnered best this year and claimed the "Stick of Knowledge" were Melissa Richards and Jake Goheen.

For some who needed to wind down after intense competition or just wanted to keep the games going, Laramie's night life was irresistible. It's not every day you get to explore a new setting with friends, and several members new and old mingled, shuffled the puck, or sunk the 8-ball at a nearby saloon. Amidst the tall glasses, dim lights, and hardwood floors, competition faded and camaraderie ensued until consensus was reached by all that it was time to rest.

The smells of steaming coffee, sizzling bacon, and sweet syrup aroused taste buds and mental activity while sunlight powered through the curtains in the hotel's breakfast lounge. Frustrating the waitress who couldn't figure out how to close the blinds, the direct sunlight accentuated everyone's age and eye clarity, helping to define just who got rest or has never really slept.



Tony Mong merges the attentions of mentors and students with a full explanation of the new WYTWSS Student/Mentor Program. Photo D. Edmunds.

# ...2012 Annual Meeting, Continued



The 2013 inaugural class of student mentors. Back row, left to right: Steve Kilpatrick, Hall Sawyer, Mary Read, Hank Harlow, Terry Kreeger, Greg Arthur, Mindy Meade, Dan Thompson, Anna Chalfoun, Daly Edmunds. Front Row, Bryan Bedrosian, and Tony Mong. Photo unknown.

Preparing for the day, or still recovering from last night, several members caught up on work activities and talked shop in pairs and triplets while others who needed solo time lazily scanned the USA Today for factoids and random news. One last gulp of coffee, a quick check of the watch, and it was time for the day's events to start.

Throughout the day, there was a large focus on song birds, sage grouse, and raptors in professional talks as several presenters explained impacts of ravens, energy development, wind, and even the northbound bike path out of Jackson Hole. Furthermore in Wyoming, forest-dwelling bats are being found in new areas,

while moose and elk body condition, movement, and behavior are strongly associated with wet/dry weather patterns, resources, and predators. Rounding out the afternoon with extra experience, Terry Creekmore, Terry Kreeger, and Carlos del Rio displayed innovative avenues to count sage grouse with FLIR, immobilize bears with Carfentanil, and utilize the Arts to promote biodiversity. After brief closing remarks from Tony and more applause from the audience thanking presenters, most attendees drifted off to spruce up for the banquet or sample local happy-hour specials and catch up with friends.

Bridging the gap between the day's talks and banquet in a more serious fashion, several wildlife students and professionals attended the inaugural WY TWS Student/Mentor program orientation

meeting back at the hotel. Seated at a long table, the panel of current and

retired Wyoming professionals provided personal highlights from diverse careers and generations, answered questions, and gave everyone myriad perspectives on breaking into and navigating through a career in wildlife. With partnerships formed, the meeting drew to a close, and participants filtered back into the main banquet hall to remix with the crowd and review a vast array of silent auction and raffle items.



Steve Kilpatrick explains the WY TWS Fellowship Program and introduces the 2013 Fellow, Clareaesa Zook. Photo E. Maichak.



Winners of the Best Student Poster and Oral Presentations, Jason Carlisle and Riley Deibert (left) as well as Professional of the Year, Hall Sawyer (right) beam with pride under the stoic pose of Kevin Monteith's handiwork. Photos E. Maichak

# ...2012 Annual Meeting, Continued

After members settled down to drinks, conversation, and expected dinner choices, another scheduling snafu by the hotel killed the mood as some meal orders were either switched or unfulfilled altogether. Those without began to grumble and stir, yet a bit of side-stage dialogue between Tony and the hotel staff resulted in an agreeable solution. Initially, the situation was defused after Tony announced that the hotel agreed to provide what they could for food. When he also announced unexpectedly that they would toss in \$500 worth of open bar, copious applause and cheers erupted from the crowd. Suddenly it seemed that many people didn't care what they'd ordered in the first place, and the mood, chatter, and hotel's reputation were elevated once again.



Immediate Past President, Bryan Bedrosian, passes the President's title plaque to Tony Mong. Photo E. Maichak

Refocusing attentions, Gary White and Vicki Herren provided overviews of the parent chapter of TWS as well as the COUCH program. Thereafter, Wyoming Wildlife Federation President and TWS Fellowship Chair, Steve Kilpatrick, provided a summary of a new partnership with the WY TWS Science Committee. By



For her unyielding efforts during the campaign to purchase the PXP leases, Tom Segerstrom presents Linda Cooper with the award for Citizen of the Year. Photo E. Maichak

forging the technical expertise of the Science Committee's position statements and peer-review with the advocacy expertise and lobbying potential of WWF, Steve and others are confident they can influence policy and legislature on large-scale wildlife issues. Steve then introduced and turned over the spotlight to the 2012 WY TWS Fellow, Clareesa Zook. Probably the youngest wildlifer to ever provide a keynote speech at any WY TWS banquet, Clareesa provided an eloquent and picturesque presentation on the adventures and learning experiences of her summer. Unlike most keynote speeches, the audience engaged in a Q&A with Clareesa and gained further insight to the benefits of the program. In closing she ultimately expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to all individuals she worked with, Steve, WY TWS and Teton Science School, and everyone else involved in the partnership.

Awards presentations and the farewell speech from outgoing president Bryan Bedrosian started the last round of the evenings big events. Taking the best student oral and poster presentations were Riley Deibert and Jason Carlisle, and for his exemplary use of science to sway mineral development, Bryan presented Hall Sawyer with the Professional of the Year Award. WY TWS service awards went to Dr. Matt Kaufann (Board Member At-Large), Therese Hartman (Treasurer), and Bryan Bedrosian (Past-President) who passed the President's Title Plaque to Tony Mong. As the crowd hushed, Tom Segerstrom retold the influential career and passion for wildlife held by his dear friend, Mark Winland, ultimately announcing him as recipient of the WY TWS Lifetime Achievement Award which drew a standing ovation for a great past WY TWS member. Tom remained at the podium and then described another friend who had a great passion for wildlife and the land; possibly the keystone in the monumental, and what many thought impossible, impending buyout of the PXP Hoback gas leases. After announcing Linda Cooper as Citizen of the Year, she quickly took the microphone. With everyone wide-eyed and captivated, she vividly described her commitment and vision to an Upper Hoback that will not be industrialized, thanked everyone for their support, and then gracefully strolled from the podium, head down, smiling humbly amidst all but deafening applause.

# ...2012 Annual Meeting, Continued

Bringing a humorous tone back to the banquet, card raffles for a shoulder mount (courtesy Kevin Monteith) and the unmistakable leg lamp were marketed by Tony and Dylan who then kept everyone thumbing thru their raffle tickets and cheering for tablemates by announcing winners prize by prize. As card and “live” raffle as well as silent auction winners collected their loot, some fondling it rather proudly at their tables, Tony thanked everyone for a great conference and the mob began to dissolve. Atypical of many past conferences, a large volume of keg beer and unused open tab were available. So what do you do? While wet snow fell heavy outside, those with a deeper thirst opted to forgo the slushy drive and Laramie night life of Mulligans, the Cowboy, even the fabled Buckhorn for the warm and instantly gratifying confines of this impromptu Hilton mead hall. Although our demand couldn't exhaust the supply, those remaining forged team bonds in this unexpected environment, and for once at a WY TWS conference, everyone actually made it to bed at a reasonable time on banquet night.



Boys will be boys as Jeremy Brown and Dave Edmunds inspect a classic piece of furniture and much sought after prize. Photo E. Maichak

No matter, the next morning came quickly with little time to pack the truck or even thank friends for accommodations. In a cozy Hilton conference room, the board and several committee and general members assembled for the annual board/member meeting.

To the relief of many who had missed breakfast entirely, gourmet coffee, cookies, and confections provided a much needed high-octane boost. Countless items were addressed among a healthy agenda as Nichole's steady tick-tacking on her laptop scribed future plans laid out by Tony and several committee chairs. After three hours of discussions, some rushed to balance fluids, some rushed to check out before the deadline, and some rushed to escape the stuffy meeting bunker, enjoy fresh air on a sunbaked open road, and wonder if next year's conference can yet again top this year's. See you in Lander....

*E. Maichak*



# Unraveling the Mystery of a Mountain Icon: Pneumonia Sampling in Jackson Bighorns



Doug Brimeyer, Jackson wildlife biologist W GFD, lands a dart in a ewe near Jackson. Photo M. Gocke.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has begun to capture bighorn sheep this winter to monitor the presence of pneumonia in the Jackson Region. Nasal and tonsil swabs, along with blood, are being collected from sheep east of Jackson.

The Jackson herd experienced a significant die-off due to pneumonia in 2002. Wildlife Biologist Doug Brimeyer, estimates as much as half of the herd (which numbered approximately 500 sheep at the time) died in 2002. Near Dubois, the Whiskey Basin herd in the Wind River Range has struggled through several pneumonia outbreaks as well. Similarly, several bighorn sheep herds across the Rocky Mountain west have experienced significant declines in population due to pneumonia in recent years.

While there are several pathogens that can cause pneumonia in bighorn sheep, many of these are normally suppressed unless the animal becomes weakened by other pathogens or environmental stressors. Once the animal's immune system is undermined, these pathogens are able to establish themselves and cause disease.

“We became concerned about sheep in the Jackson herd this summer when approximately 20 percent, or four of twenty radio-collared sheep died,” said

Brimeyer. Laboratory results from sheep that died this summer indicate that the sheep had *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, a pathogen that has been implicated in other bighorn sheep die-offs across the West.

“Although there is some debate regarding the pathogen's virulence in bighorn sheep, wildlife managers consider its presence a red flag warranting closer monitoring of the state's bighorn sheep herds,” said Hank Edwards, a wildlife disease specialist with Game and Fish. Brimeyer noted that some of the sheep observed on winter ranges were coughing, but otherwise appeared in good health.

Last winter, biologists collected samples for laboratory analysis and fitted GPS collars to animals wintering in five distinct areas near Jackson: the Gray Hills, Red Hills and Slide Lake areas in the Gros Ventre drainage, as well as Miller Butte on the National Elk Refuge and Hoback Canyon south of Jackson. Monitoring the animals will help identify migration corridors between winter and summer ranges, and help determine whether the different segments of the herd intermingle on lambing and summer ranges. The information also will help wildlife managers determine the potential scope of a pneumonia outbreak, should it occur.



Jessica Jennings-Gaines conducts a tonsillar swab on an immobilized ewe for later testing. Photo M. Gocke.

This past summer wildlife managers learned that sheep collared on the National Elk Refuge migrated to a high-elevation plateau east of the “Sleeping Indian” (Sheep Mountain). Also, several ewes migrated into Granite Creek, to an area southwest of Granite Hot Springs. Sheep that were collared in the Gros Ventre also migrated to the plateau east of the Sleeping Indian, and to high-elevation areas in Crystal Creek. “This research provides a good start in helping managers understand these movement patterns and the potential spread of disease in the herd,” said Brimeyer.



## ...Jackson Hole Big Horn Sheep, Continued

The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation provided funding for this winter's monitoring effort. A variety of sources funded the radio collar study, including the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, University of Wyoming, Montana State University, and the Jackson chapters of Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife and Safari Club International.

*M. Gocke, WGFD I&E Specialist, Jackson*



## H i g h l i g h t s f r o m t h e P a r e n t M e e t i n g i n P o r t l a n d

The Wildlife Society celebrated their 75th anniversary in Portland October 13-18, 2012. President Paul Krausman organized the Plenary Session to highlight the past, present and future of TWS. Plenary speakers included: Jack Ward Thomas discussing where the society came from, Mamie Parker discussing the importance of TWS to both minority and women wildlifers and Jerod Merkle, currently a doctoral student, discussing the future of TWS. Shane Mahoney, the concluding speaker, tied together the session in his unique, inspiring style.

Meeting content was as varied as the wildlife profession with 14 workshops, nearly 500 papers and over 300 posters presented. If one needed a break from the various sessions about 1,800 wildlife professionals of all kinds attended providing ample opportunities to catch up with old friends and colleagues as well as connect with new ones. The students in attendance, both undergraduate and graduate, proved once again that the future of our profession, while it may be somewhat different than today, is in good hands. Personally I find their enthusiasm, unbridled passion to work for wildlife and their outlook on the world uncluttered by various organizational mandates, policy manuals and experience working in the "real" world refreshing. The chance to meet so many of these young people at the Student/Professional Mixer/Work-in-Progress Poster Session is always one of the highlights of the entire meeting.

The 2013 meeting will be held October 5-9 in Milwaukee, WI. Here is your opportunity to become an honorary cheesehead for a week. I know, the timing is not ideal for those working or participating in hunting seasons. However, in my experience after attending half a dozen of these meetings, I think you will find the professional development and networking opportunities are something that will stay with you the rest of your life. Hope to see you in Milwaukee!

*B. Lanka, WGFD*

# Lessons from the Past, Preparing for the Future: Student Chapter Gears Up to Host 2013 Conclave

Every spring break, wildlife students (mostly undergraduates) from many universities across the western U.S. (approximately 120 students from 10 – 12 schools) gather for 4 days filled with professional and social activities in an exciting event known as “Conclave.” Activities include: presentations of individual undergraduate research projects (oral and poster presentations), wildlife art competition, field trips and workshops (including wildlife trapping techniques, chemical immobilization, necropsy, and more), an outdoors activity (Wild-cache), and a wildlife trivia competition (quizbowl). Every year this gathering is hosted by a different student chapter. This upcoming spring break (March 15 – 18, 2013), the University of Wyoming Student Chapter of TWS will be hosting Conclave (for details visit: [uwyo.collegiatelink.net/organization/uw-tws/](http://uwyo.collegiatelink.net/organization/uw-tws/)).



Hosting Conclave in spring 2013 has a special meaning to our chapter and the University of Wyoming. This year we celebrate our 50th anniversary as a professional student chapter of TWS (founded in 1963). Also, it has been 10 years since we last hosted Conclave (2003). All indoor activities (except the banquet) will be held in the UW Berry Center building, largely because we will make extensive use of the UW Vertebrate Museum’s collections for quizbowl. Field trips will be led by University of Wyoming faculty and students, Wyoming Game and Fish biologists, and members of the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database.

Numerous entities have provided financial support for Conclave including the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, The Wyoming State Chapter of The Wildlife Society, the TWS Central Mountains and Plains section, TWS National, the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (via the USGS), and the Department of Zoology and Physiology. The Haub School of the Environment and Natural Resources and the Berry Biodiversity Conservation Center as well as the College of Arts and Sciences and the UW Office of Academic Affairs also contributed funds.

*Merav Ben-David, Faculty Advisor*  
*Jordan Winter, Student Chapter President*  
*Jake White, Conclave Executive Board*



# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education

Apply now for TWS Leadership Institute!

The Wildlife Society (TWS) is currently accepting applications for its Leadership Institute. The Institute's goal is to facilitate development of new leaders within TWS and the wildlife profession. The Institute will recruit 10-15 promising early-career professionals for a series of intensive activities and mentoring relationships. The focus will be on exposing participants to the inner workings of TWS and increasing the number of active leaders in TWS and the wildlife profession.

From May to October, participants will engage in a series of activities to develop and expand their leadership skills. Institute members will also attend the TWS Annual Conference in Milwaukee (October 4-9, 2013) and participate in various activities, including mentoring and leadership workshop sessions. The Institute is free, and participants will receive free registration and a travel grant for the conference.

Participation in the Institute is geared towards early-career professionals, individuals 2 to 3 years out of school (either undergraduate or graduate school), currently working full-time in a wildlife professional position, and with demonstrated evidence of their leadership potential. A small number of slots may also be available for (1) more recent graduates who have shown strong evidence of their leadership potential or (2) those who are working while concurrently pursuing a graduate degree. All applicants must be members of TWS and a Chapter or Section of TWS. The selection committee will be seeking to create a diverse group, with participants of varying gender, ethnic, and regional diversity. Selection will be based upon:

- An excellent academic record
- Demonstrated leadership capability or potential
- Demonstrated level of excellence in current position
- Commitment to and involvement in TWS

Preference will be given to individuals who are certified as Associate Wildlife Biologists® or Certified Wildlife Biologists®, or who have submitted such an application to TWS. Candidates must be a member of TWS as well as a Section or Chapter of TWS, and are responsible for the cost of both memberships.

### **Applicants must submit the following materials:**

- Online Application (available at [http://wildlife.org/Leadership\\_Institute\\_Application/index.cfm](http://wildlife.org/Leadership_Institute_Application/index.cfm))
- Cover letter with evidence of leadership capacity or potential, such as previous leadership positions held in TWS Chapters or Student Chapters or in other organizations
- Résumé including a list of publications, awards, etc.
- Academic transcripts (scanned copy)
- 2 letters of recommendation from supervisors, academic advisors, professors, or others in leadership positions with whom you have worked and who are familiar with your leadership potential, commitment to TWS, and commitment to wildlife management and conservation
  - Letters should be e-mailed directly to: Laura Bies ([laura@wildlife.org](mailto:laura@wildlife.org)), subject line "Leadership Institute Recommendation for [applicant last name]"
- An essay (1000 word limit), which succinctly summarizes (1) your concept of leadership, (2) your aspiration for your role within TWS in 5 to 10 years, and (3) why you are an ideal candidate for the Institute

Application deadline is April 1, 2013. E-mail all materials (except the online application form and recommendation letters) in one PDF to: Laura Bies ([laura@wildlife.org](mailto:laura@wildlife.org)). Visit [www.wildlife.org](http://www.wildlife.org) for more information ('Leadership Institute' is under the 'Professional Development' drop-down menu).

Please contact Laura Bies, Director of Government Affairs ([laura@wildlife.org](mailto:laura@wildlife.org)) with any questions.

# WY TWS Membership Form

Change of Address

New Member

Membership Renewal

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**AFFILIATION** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WORK PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **HOME PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS CHANGE** Dues are \$10.00 per year or \$25.00 for 3 years.

**E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGE** Make checks payable to: Wyoming Chapter-TWS

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**  **NEW MEMBER**

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

If you would like to receive your newsletter other than via e-mail or the web page,  
please let Therese know.

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

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

**Therese Hartman P.O. Box 850 Pinedale, WY 82941**

**Email: [Therese.Hartman@wyo.gov](mailto:Therese.Hartman@wyo.gov)**

**Fax: 307-367-4403**

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

# W Y-TW S Nomination Form for Awards and Officers

To all TW S members,

It is not too early to start thinking about deserving nominees for our W Y-TW S 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. Each year at the annual meeting banquet, awards (Professional and Citizen of Year, Lifetime Achievement) are presented to recognize outstanding efforts by individuals in the state to conserve and manage wildlife and wildlife habitat. Successful candidates are also announced, and in autumn 2013, President-elect, Secretary, and Board Member At-Large will be available.

## W Y TW S Awards and Nominations

### Committee Chair

Frank Blomquist  
P.O. Box 1571  
Rawlins, W Y 82301  
307-328-4207  
fblomqui@blm.gov

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:

Wyoming Chapter – The Wildlife Society Award Nomination Form

Nominee:

Award (circle one): Professional Citizen Lifetime Achievement

Officer (circle one):

Address:

Present Position:

Academic Background:

Professional Background:

Submitted By:

Address:

Phone:

# W Y-TW S Nomination Form for Awards and Officers

It is not too early to start thinking about deserving nominees for our W Y-TW S 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. Each year at the annual meeting, awards (Professional and Citizen of Year, Lifetime Achievement) are presented to recognize outstanding efforts by individuals in the state to conserve and manage wildlife and wildlife habitat. Successful candidates for officers are also announced at this time, and in autumn 2013, positions available will include President-elect, 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:

W Y T W S Awards and Nominations  
Committee Chair  
Frank Blomquist  
P.O. Box 1571  
Rawlins, W Y 82301  
307-328-4207  
fblomqui@blm.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:

## Note from the Editor....

A windless morning and the mercury is subdued yet again by a stark temperature inversion. Tangerine sunlight slips through cumulo-stratus curtains, dappling jagged mountain peaks and embellishes the already picturesque landscape of this *art du jour*. For a moment plants do not stir, and like the creeks and rivers below, seem frozen in time. Drifting through the dormant buffet on a foothill ridge, a young mule deer pauses to break her fast on a hedged sagebrush plant tenured through decades of service to her predecessors. Both life forms exist on different scales of time, yet their interaction reminds us that in order to survive, all organisms consistently “live in the moment” and adapt to change.

For WY TWS, dawn breaks on a new year and new opportunities for members to live in the moment. The introduction of the Student/Mentor Program, continuation of the Student Fellowship Program, as well as the methodical expansion of the Communications and Science Committees are the result of vision and commitment from the board and many past members. Stable growth is wise and helps our Chapter adapt to changing conditions, yet like any entity, all WY TWS programs and committees need recruitment to grow and survive through consistent weathering. So as you socialize over coffee and bear claws in break rooms, board rooms, and even IM chat rooms, keep your eyes peeled and ears pricked for those who can bring something to WY TWS. The ones you pull into the fold will help our Chapter advance to the next level.

*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:

Eric Maichak      Jason Carlisle      Lorraine Keith      Bryan Bedrosian  
[ERIC.MAICHAK@WYO.GOV](mailto:ERIC.MAICHAK@WYO.GOV)    [JASON.D.CARLISLE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JASON.D.CARLISLE@GMAIL.COM)    [LORRAINE\\_KEITH@BLM.GOV](mailto:LORRAINE_KEITH@BLM.GOV)    [BRYAN@BERINGIASOUTH.ORG](mailto:BRYAN@BERINGIASOUTH.ORG)

### Newsletter deadlines for 2013:


February 15 (Winter Edition)

May 15 (Spring/Summer Edition)

September 15 (Autumn Edition)

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- Increased credibility
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[wildlife.org/certification](http://wildlife.org/certification)  
or contact  
[shannon@wildlife.org](mailto:shannon@wildlife.org)