

# CANDIDATES FOR FEBRUARY 2015 MN TWS BOARD ELECTIONS

## President-Elect

### **Stephen Winter**



#### Education/Experience

My educational background consists of a B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Management at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a M.S. in Biology from Kansas State University, and a Ph.D. in Rangeland Ecology and Management from Oklahoma State University. My job experiences have included working for the USFWS National Wildlife Refuge System in Texas and California, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, the Missouri Department of Conservation, and The Nature Conservancy in Nebraska.

#### Present Position

I'm a relatively new transplant to Minnesota, having moved here in 2011 to work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Wildlife Biologist at the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

#### TWS Activities

I've been a member of The Wildlife Society since way back in my undergraduate days and I've been a member of various state chapters through the years, including Nebraska, Kansas, Texas, California, and Oklahoma. I've enjoyed and benefitted greatly from membership in TWS through activities such as attending state and national meetings, networking with fellow professionals, and exposure to local, national and international concepts, approaches and issues dealing with wildlife conservation. I've enjoyed serving on the MTWS Board as the Region 5 Representative for the past two years.

#### Personal and Professional Interests

For many years my professional interests have been the ecology, management, and restoration of grasslands. I'm particularly interested in the interaction of fire and grazing animals. My current job has immersed me, so to speak, in the ecology of big rivers and I'm enjoying the work I do with waterfowl, aquatic vegetation, and bottomland forests. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time outdoors engaged in activities such as hunting, fishing, bird watching, hiking, cutting wood, and setting things on fire (i.e., prescribed burning).

## Personal Statement

As a candidate for President-elect, I can offer my experience serving on the Boards of multiple NGOs and similar organizations and my experience chairing or contributing to the organization committees for multiple symposia and meetings. If elected, I look forward to leading the efforts of planning, coordination, and execution of the 2016 Annual Meeting of MTWS. My desire would be for that meeting to be located in southern or southeastern Minnesota, a region of the state that hasn't seen a MTWS annual meeting or summer workshop in many years. I strongly believe MTWS would benefit greatly by expanding its outreach to and connection with wildlife professionals in southern Minnesota.

## Secretary

**Maria Fosado**



## Education/Experience

B.A. in Biology, 2007, College of Saint Benedict, St. Joseph, MN

M.S. in Geographic Information Science, 2009, Saint Mary's University, Winona, MN

### Previous Positions -

Student Career Employment Program (SCEP), USFWS, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Bloomington, MN (2009); SCEP, USFWS, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Middle River, MN (2007, 2008); Biological Science Technician, USFWS, Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, Winona, MN (2006); Park Ranger, USFWS, Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge, McGregor, MN (2005)

### Present Position

Wildlife Refuge Specialist, USFWS, Fergus Falls Wetland Management District, Fergus Falls, MN (2010- present))

### TWS Chapter Activities

MN TWS member since 2012, Chapter Secretary: 2013 and 2014

### Personal and Professional Interests

I spend most of my free time outdoors. I enjoy camping, hiking, hunting and outings with my black lab Ruger. My professional interests include wetland restoration, wetland ecology and management and working with private landowners to conserve habitat.

### Personal Statement

It is important to me to be a member of an organization which is a steward of the earth. The landscape is being altered at an alarming rate and I believe we need to make more of an effort to educate people on the effects these changes are having. My hope is that by being more active in MN TWS more people will understand what is happening to our natural resources and will be motivated to do something about it!

### **Treasurer**

**Lindsey Shartell**



### Education/Experience

PhD Forest Science, Michigan Technological University  
MS Forest Ecology and Management, Michigan Technological University  
BA Biology, Environmental Science, Adrian College

### Present Position

Forest Habitat Biologist, Wildlife Habitat Program, MN DNR

### TWS Activities

Current MN TWS Treasurer and Webmaster

### Personal and Professional Interests

My work focuses on wildlife habitat research and management in the forested zone of MN. In my free time I enjoy many outdoor activities from xc-skiing to hunting, usually accompanied by my pup Murray.

## Personal Statement

Joining the Minnesota Chapter of TWS has been a great way for me to connect with wildlife and natural resource professionals across Minnesota. I am committed to doing my part to help conserve healthy ecosystems and being active in MN TWS has been the perfect outlet for this. I would welcome the opportunity to stay involved with MN TWS and hope to increase our impact on conservation efforts.

## **Treasurer**

### **Mandy Uhrich**



## Education/Experience

Mandy graduated from the University of Minnesota with Majors in Natural Resource Management & Agricultural Management. She started her career with MN DNR in 2001 with the Farmland Wildlife Research and has since worked in a variety of divisions within the Department including Parks & Trails and Wildlife. She has worked with the USDA as a Wildlife Conservation Biologist where she was honored for enrolling 9,650 acres of private lands into conservation programs for both upland and wetland habitats. Before returning to DNR in January of 2013, Mandy spent the last several years working for MNDOT as the Integrated Resource Coordinator managing several natural resource programs and research.

## Present Position

Wildlife Damage Extension Specialist - MN DNR

## TWS Activities

MNTWS Member

## Personal and Professional Interests

Be it fins, feathers, antlers or fur, my “off/vacation” time is consumed with over 30 tournaments for three Bass circuits, hunting multiple states and Canada, ice fishing, and Guest speaking at seminars on fishing and outdoor education.

## Personal Statement

Growing up in North Dakota, a passion and respect for the outdoors was inspired at an early age. My father instilled in me that we are ALL stewards; we have a personal responsibility to respect

and conserve. Our actions directly influence the landscape and its wildlife inhabitants. That passion led me to an education and career path that involves both agriculture and natural resources intertwined to help mitigate and balance the human to wildlife/habitat interface. I believe this same passion is held by the members of the TWS and I would be honored to serve as your Treasurer.

## **Region 2 Representative**

### **Bruce Anderson**



#### Education/Experience

A.S. Natural Resource Management. University of Minnesota Crookston. 1975.  
B.S. Botany/Rangeland Management. WL Minor. North Dakota State University. 1977.

I had a 35 year career with the US Forest Service where I worked in North and South Dakota, Montana, Idaho and most recently on the Superior National Forest in Duluth. During my Forest Service career I worked in program management positions for invasive species, wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers, trails, rangeland management, wildlife and recreation. I have worked at length within five wilderness areas on wilderness related topics including livestock and recreational grazing, wildlife management, invasive species control, motorized use management, fire effects monitoring and wild and scenic rivers.

#### Present Position

I am currently an Assistant Wildlife Manager with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in Cloquet, Minnesota. My current position involves wildlife surveys, wildlife damage management, habitat assessments, invasive species management and interdisciplinary support to timber management.

#### TWS Activities

I am a re-instated member. I was a member for 15 years during the 1980's and early 1900's.

#### Personal and Professional Interest

Spending time with my grandkids, hunting, x-country skiing, bird watching, botanizing, researching loss of wild lands and adjusting to aging.

## Personal Statement

During my previous and current careers over the past 36 years as a federal and state natural resource manager across multiple states, I have been alarmed at the extent and rapidity of the loss of wild lands. The disappearance of wild lands in the lower 48 states particularly pristine, unmodified wild lands has been drastic. Since the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century unspoiled wild lands have declined by 92%. In Minnesota, the loss of our wild land heritage has been no less alarming. Since pre-settlement the state's original wild lands have waned from about 51 million acres to 3 million acres today; a 95% loss. Within 20 years, assuming current rates of wild land loss continue, up to 99% of our original wild heritage could be gone indefinitely. I think it critical that resource planners, decision makers, legislators and governmental land management boards and the public be aware of the rapidity of this loss and that local management actions be viewed in a larger context to ensure informed decisions are made. I look forward to re-engaging with TWS and becoming part of constructive change for conservation and our wild land heritage.

## Region 2 Representative

### **Lori Schmidt**



### Education/Experience

My personal work history allowed me to gain a broad perspective of the NR profession. After a 1982 internship at the MN DNR -Forest Wildlife Populations and Group in Grand Rapids, I received an AA and an AAS degree from VCC in 1983, then entered the job market. Initially, I was employed on a Carbon Dioxide Study conducted by the University of California and funded by NASA Earth Resources within the Superior National Forest surrounding Ely. In 1984, I accepted a job as Forest Technician for St. Louis County, but continued to gather phenology and climate data for the Carbon Dioxide study from 1984 - 1987. During the summer of 1986 after being laid off from the tree planting season, I volunteered on a wolf project with Dave Mech, and by 1989, I became the Curator for the International Wolf Center as it opened up an educational facility in Ely, and am still employed there today. By 1990, I resigned by position at St. Louis County and accepted my current position as an instructor for Vermilion, initially conducting wolf education programs and serving as Co- PI's with Dave Mech on Earthwatch. During that time, I completed my Bachelor's degree through the University of Minnesota - Department of Individualized Learning receiving a Bachelor's of Science degree in Resource management - emphasizing Canid Behavior. I spent a winter in Stanley, Idaho working on a film project for Jim Dutcher called "Wolves, Return of a Legend" that gave me some first hand perspective of western attitudes towards wolves prior to the reintroduction of Yellowstone. I continued EarthWatch and Wolf Research based courses until 1995, when I transitioned into more

traditional classroom assignments, teaching courses focused on field skills such as GPS, Mapping, forest and wildlife measurements as well as the policies, agencies and current issues facing resource managers. In the year 2000, I enrolled at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay Ontario, completing my Master's of Forestry degree.

### Present Position

Natural Resources Instructor at Vermillion Community College

### TWS Activities

Current MN TWS Student Relations Committee Chair

### Professional and Personal Interests

Whenever there's an opportunity to be involved in research around Ely, I make time to be aware of the project, and if time allows, contribute to the project. This includes Biodiversity work with Dr. Peter Reich at the University of Minnesota, Northern White Cedar Conservation assessments for the US Forest Service and as a contract Wildlife Biologist for the Minnesota Power hydroelectric dam reauthorization permits near Ely. I take the time to read the latest publications, policies and news.

### Personal Statement

I would be honored to represent the Wildlife professionals in Region 2 for the Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

## **Region 4 Representative**

### **Lisa Gelvin-Innvaer**



### Education/Experience

B.S. Wildlife Management, Biology, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) (1985)  
M.S. Wildlife Management, West Virginia University (1988)

### Previous Positions -

Nicollet National Forest-USFS, wildlife intern (summer 1983)

Minnesota Valley NWR-USFWS, Youth Conservation Corps leader (summer 1984)  
Buena Vista Research Station-UWSP, research technician (summer 1985)  
Crex Meadows Wildlife Area-WI DNR, volunteer, sharp-tailed grouse research (fall 1985)  
Mead Wildlife Area-WI DNR, seasonal technician (fall-winter 1985)  
WI DNR, research technician, ruffed grouse & other game research (spring 1986)  
Camp Sidney Cohen, nature center assistant (summer 1986)  
West Virginia University, research assistantship (Aug1986-Oct 1988)  
Wildlife International, Inc., Research Biologist (Jan-Aug 1989)  
Delaware Div. of Fish & Wildlife/ Nongame & Endangered Species Program  
Biologist/Coordinator (Sept 1989-Mar 1999)

### Present Position

Regional Nongame Wildlife Specialist, MNDNR Southern Region (April 1999-present)

### TWS Activities

TWS-UWSP Chapter 1980-1985  
Parent TWS Chapter (1988-present)  
Delaware & Northeast Section TWS Chapters (1988-1999)  
Northeast TWS Annual Meetings – session moderator, reviewer, presenter (various times 1988-1998)  
MNTWS & North Central Section Chapter (1988-present)  
TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist (1999-present)

### Personal and Professional Interests

I love camping, hiking, kayaking, fishing, wildlife watching and outings with my dog, Willow. I'd like to get back into deer hunting when my husband and I join the ranks of empty nesters in the not too distant future. My husband also works in Wildlife so the topic is never far from our minds. My professional interests include wildlife diversity, ecological health and sustainability, high quality data collection to guide decision-making and then translating this to effective action via technical guidance/outreach and cooperative on-the-ground conservation.

### Personal Statement

A career in Wildlife was a natural fit for me- It's not just what I do but a great deal of who I am. Growing up in Iowa and Wisconsin, I rarely spent much time inside and have been incurably curious about nature. I was raised that it is our responsibility to be good conservation stewards and have been deeply influenced by Leopold's "land ethic". Humans are included in that equation because we are a part of (not apart from) our environment. Although my job focuses on nongame wildlife resources, I have background with both game and nongame species. I've devoted my professional career to integrated, collaborative conservation based on the best available sound science from site to landscape-level scales. I've worked closely with many wildlife/land managers, agencies and NGOs, private landowners and others both informally and on working groups. Our environment faces many challenges, some increasing at an alarming



rate. It's essential that we network to help ensure good communication and coordination in order to pool our collective resources and expertise for the best outcomes for wildlife, their habitats and humans.

TWS is a great resource for wildlife conservation and has benefitted my career development. Over the years, I've been involved where I could, including providing input and guidance. There has been a period of time where my personal and professional responsibilities just didn't allow me to commit to additional TWS responsibilities. Life is still busy but all things change. Now I'm in a better position to step up to the plate to play a more active role in MN TWS and give back. I also can offer greater knowledge and experience I've accumulated. I look forward to the opportunity to further build my leadership skills and work more closely with other dedicated, passionate MN TWS members. If elected, I will do my best to be an effective liaison and representative for Region 4 and work to engage and inform members—ultimately so that MN TWS can be even more valuable and influential from on-the-ground conservation to policy and education.

## **Region 6 Representative**

### **Bill Severud**



#### **Education/Experience**

B.A. in Biology, Carleton College (2002)

M.S. in Biology, Northern Michigan University (2011)

Ph.D. in Natural Resources Science and Management-Wildlife Ecology and Management,  
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (in progress)

#### **Previous Positions -**

Biological science technician at Voyageurs National Park, graduate student instructor at Northern Michigan University, adjunct instructor at Northern Michigan University, volunteer and crew leader for Montana black-footed ferret/prairie dog study, educational associate and field assistant at Carleton College

### Present Position

Graduate research assistant, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, 2012-present

### TWS Chapter Activities

Member of national (2009) and state (2012) chapters, presented at and attended national, MN, and Michigan annual meetings, presented at the Canadian Section meeting, contributed to MN Chapter and North Central Section newsletters

### Professional and Personal Interests

Predator-prey interactions, cause-specific mortality, survival analysis, wildlife management, habitat use and resulting effects on demography, Nordic skiing, distance running, hiking

### Personal Statement

I grew up in a suburb of Minneapolis. My childhood was spent playing in streams and forests around my house; it was there I developed my interests in the natural world and wildlife in particular. Throughout my career, The Wildlife Society has fostered these interests I held since childhood. Being a board region representative would allow me to be more involved in an organization that has given me so much. I have benefitted from the state chapter through attending annual meetings and networking with other professionals in the field. As a student, I experienced and continue to experience what TWS can do for one's career. I would like to encourage more undergraduate and graduate student involvement at the state level so that students can continue their training to become the next leaders in wildlife science, management, and conservation.