

## Nominations for MN TWS Board

### President-Elect

#### Tony Hewitt

##### Education

B.A. in Biology, Concordia College-Moorhead, MN (2010); Masters of Natural Resource Management, North Dakota State University (2012)

##### Present Position

Wildlife Biologist, USFWS, Sherburne, Rice Lake, Mille Lacs, and Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Complex out of the Sherburne office in Zimmerman, MN. (2012-present)



##### Previous Positions

Cellular Biology Lab Instructor at Concordia College- Moorhead, MN; SCEP Litchfield Wetland Management District, US Fish and Wildlife Service- Litchfield, MN; STEP Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge, US Fish and Wildlife Service- McGregor, MN; Harvester for Prairie Restorations, Bluestem Farm in Hawley, MN; Bander for the Institute for Bird Populations- Crane Naval Base near Bloomfield, IN; Biological Technician Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the University of MN-Crookston

##### Personal Statement

Growing up in Grand Rapids, MN, I always enjoyed a large variety of outdoor activities and rarely spent much time inside but it wasn't until the summer after my sophomore year in college when I actually came to the realization that I could spend my career life doing what I really loved to do. That summer was my first internship on a collaborative GWWA project at Tam-

arac NWR with Greg Hoch, Wayne Bringer, and John Loegering. Working with three of Minnesota's top biologists, their passion for the resource made me realize that there actually was job potential in wildlife. After a sense of relief from coming to the conclusion that I would never have to take another pre-med class again, I threw myself at my new goal of becoming the best wildlife biologist I could be. With Greg Hoch as a mentor, I was funneled into the MNTWS chapter that next semester and at the annual meeting found my first job with the USFWS at Rice Lake NWR as a STEP Biological Technician. After graduating with my bachelor's degree, I was accepted into the SCEP as a bio tech at Litchfield WMD. Days after finishing my masters, I began my career appointment at the Sherburne NWR Complex.

## Nominations for MN TWS Board

### President- Elect

#### Laurie Fairchild

##### Education

B.S.in Animal Science, University of Wyoming  
M.S. Water Resources Science, University of  
Minnesota

##### Present Position

Fish and Wildlife Biologist, stationed at Rydell and Glacial Ridge NWR's. Before that, I worked for USFWS in the Twin Cities and in Alaska. I'm in my 25<sup>th</sup> year with FWS.

##### MNTWS Chapter Activities

Wetland Committee Chair approximately 2 years now

##### Personal and Professional Interests

Habitat restoration, wetland function and watershed connections, prairie management strategies, environmental education

Horses and trail riding; travel (just about anywhere)

##### Personal Statement

I began working for the Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska after the Exxon Valdez oil spill and spent most of my first few years after the spill doing seabird population and productivity studies in the Pribilof Islands. I moved to Minnesota, and worked in Ecological Services working on projects spanning everything from windpower to ethanol plants, wetland mitigation to endangered species. My Dad was a geologist with the Bureau of Reclamation so I grew up moving around the U.S. rock and fossil hunting wherever we went. Seeing the outdoors through such a wide lens has shown me how important it is to have trusted resources that can provide sound



scientific input on issues affecting the environment. Organizations that can help people understand how they live in and are responsible for a natural system that can be overloaded, and what we need to do about it. I look forward to a TWS that continues to develop and support a cohesive message regarding wildlife and habitat issues, and which increases our active membership and creates new partnerships.

## Nominations for MN TWS Board

### Treasurer

#### Kyle Daly

##### Education

B.A. Biology, 2009, Capital University  
M.S. Natural Resources Science and Management – Wildlife Ecology and Management, 2014, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

##### Present Position

Fish and Wildlife Biologist, USFWS, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, Bloomington, MN (2013 – present)



##### MNTWS Chapter Activities

Member since 2011

##### Personal and Professional Interests

My past professional focus was on migratory bird conservation and landscape scale habitat management. More specifically, how habitat management affects survival and reproductive success, and assessments of wildlife survey methods. Most of my professional interests are wildlife research related, however, recently these interests have expanded to varying aspects of wildlife conservation, including large scale wildlife habitat restoration and management, conservation focused government regulations, and public perceptions of wildlife. I spend much of my personal time outdoors hunting, fishing, hiking, and doing my best to train a young hunting dog. I also am a volunteer hunter education instructor in Minnesota.

##### Personal Statement

The Minnesota Chapter of TWS has offered me a professional and personal outlet that was diffi-

cult to find elsewhere. We are a group of deeply caring and highly motivated students and professionals that use our diverse talents to better wildlife conservation throughout the state and beyond. My experiences have revealed the need for strong partnerships, and diversity of knowledge and talents in successful wildlife conservation. I believe we all do our part to make this group successful and I would be proud to serve the Minnesota Chapter as Treasurer this upcoming year.

## Nominations for MN TWS Board

### Secretary

#### Matt Stasica

**Education**

B.A. in Environmental Studies, Saint John's University (2010)  
M.S. in Natural Resource Management, North Dakota State University (2012)

**Present Position**

Minnesota Waterfowl Association Biologist

**MNTWS Chapter Activities**

Attended 2015 Duluth MNTWS and WITWS;  
Past member of the ND TWS chapter.

**Personal and Professional Interests**

Wetland Ecology and Management, Botany, Prairie Ecology, Waterfowl Hunting, Small and Big Game Hunting, Fly Fishing, Hiking, Music.

**Personal Statement**

I have been an active member of Wildlife Society Chapters in North Dakota and Minnesota, I see a need for myself to become more actively engaged in The Wildlife Society chapter and this position will help in doing so.



## Nominations for MN TWS Board Region 1 Representative

### Kyle Arola

#### Education

B.S. Ecology and Field Biology (Wildlife Emphasis) and GIS minor, St. Cloud State University  
M.S. Ecology and Natural Resources, St. Cloud State University

#### Present Position

Assistant Wildlife Area Manager- Thief Lake WMA (August 2013- present)

#### MNTWS Chapter Activities

Region 1 Representative (2014-present); Parent TWS Chapter member; MN TWS member since 2009

#### Personal and Professional Interests

As a relatively new professional I have been exposed to a lot in the past couple years. Working at Thief Lake WMA has allowed me to become immersed in both waterfowl and elk management. In my free time during September-December you can usually find me in the woods hunting something. Outside of those months I enjoy camping, spearing northern pike, wood-working, and contemplating running a half marathon.

#### Personal Statement

Since becoming a member of the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society I have had the opportunity to coordinate at both the university and professional level. I believe that working with people from a variety of backgrounds and experiences greatly facilitates achieving a common goal. I have always been intrigued by the natural world and am fortunate to be part of an organization that is concerned with protecting it. I would be honored to continue to represent Region 1.



## Nominations for MN TWS Board Region 3 Representative

### John Riens

#### Education

B.S. Natural Resource Management from University of Nebraska-Kearney, 2007. M.S. Biology from the University of Nebraska-Kearney, 2009.

#### Present Position

I am currently working as a Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. My position involves the restoration of any degraded native Minnesota habitat type within my region located on private lands. I have had the opportunity to conduct this type of restoration work in Nebraska, Wisconsin, New York, Oregon, and Minnesota.

#### MNTWS Chapter Activities

I have been a member of The Wildlife Society since my undergraduate college days and have continued my interest in the Society throughout the other states I have worked in. I have enjoyed attending the varying activities brought about by the Society and attending the state meetings where we have the opportunity to network with fellow biologists. Furthermore, I appreciate the fact that these events provide the opportunity for our future biologists to talk to current professionals in their discipline of interest.

#### Personal and Professional Interests

Spending time with family, waterfowl hunting, ice fishing, and backyard birding.

#### Personal Statement

Growing up in the farming and ranching communities of western Nebraska I developed an early passion for the outdoors. I grew, and continue to grow my understanding of what it truly



means to be a land steward. A land steward is something that must be labeled on all of us in which we do our part to ensure the actions we are conducting are sustainable for the future, and that wildlife can continue to be a part of the lives of our future generations. I believe The Wildlife Society plays a crucial role in the success of our future by fostering the inspiration and education of future professionals that will take our place to continue the Societies' work in years to come. As a representative of Region 3 I would work to continue the great partnerships already created and represent the region with passion and integrity. I would be honored to serve as the Region 3 Representative.

## Nominations for MN TWS Board

### Region 3 Representative

#### Mandy Uhrich

**Education**

B.S. in Natural Resource Management & Agricultural Management, University of Minnesota

**Present Position**

Wildlife Damage Extension Specialist - MN DNR

**MNTWS Chapter Activities**

Membership coordinator 2015-present

**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 representative.



## **Nominations for MN TWS Board**

### **Region 5 Representative**

**Michelle Barrett**

#### **Education:**

My educational background consist of a B.S. in Zoology from The Ohio State University and a Master's of Environmental Science with a concentration of applied ecology and conservation from Miami University.

#### **Present Position:**

Wildlife Biologist at Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge-Winona District

#### **MNTWS Chapter Activities:**

I moved to Minnesota from Ohio last June, and haven't had the chance to get too involved in MNTWS. I plan on being a presenter and volunteer at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

#### **Professional/Personal Interests:**

My professional interests are ecology, conservation, and adaptive management. I am particularly interested in estimating population density using different methods and statistics. In my free time I like to participate in a variety of outdoor activities such as rock climbing, backpacking, hiking, fishing, and bird watching. Now that I live in Minnesota, I hope to take advance of the cold to get into ice climbing and skiing.

#### **Personal Statement:**

*"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."* Jane Goodall

For as long as I can remember, I have had a passion for the outdoors and conservation. I am dedicated to doing my part to help conserve the environment for future generations, and I think being active in MN TWS is a great way to help make a difference. If elected, I will do my best to be an effective representative for Region 5 and work to engage and recruit members.

