

Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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President's Message

Greetings Wildlifers,

This year seems to have gone incredibly fast. The Forest and Wetland Committees have been engaged in issues of local and national importance to Minnesota's habitats and its wildlife professionals. You'll have seen the Prairie and Farmland Committee's newsletters recently as well. The Chapter provided support to the Non-toxic Work Group for its continued involvement in promoting copper shot and their enthusiastic contribution to the National TWS Annual Meeting workshop on this issue in September. In addition, we've had several adjustments in duties on the Board, including a new Wetlands Committee Chair (Marsha Barnes) and Conservation Affairs Network Chair (Styron Bell).



The Board continues to work through the Strategic Plan framework and as part of that effort, is working to update and streamline planning efforts for budgets and annual plans. The Student Relations Committee continues to come up with innovative ways to strengthen our ability to support young professionals and to keep students involved in TWS.

As always, I invite each of you to join in and contribute to the future of the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society by becoming an active committee member, joining the Board, or volunteering time and ideas for an annual workshop. Hope this message finds you all having a wonderful holiday season. I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting February 12-14 in St. Cloud!

Laurie Fairchild
President

Annual Meeting



THE MINNESOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Kelly Inn | St. Cloud, MN | February 12-14, 2018

Plan to Attend. The Annual Meeting of the MN Chapter of TWS will be held at the Kelly Inn in St. Cloud (<http://www.bestwesternstcloud.com/>), February 12-14, 2018. The event is expected to bring together 250 wildlife professionals, educators, students, and supporters from state, federal, non-profit, academic, and tribal organizations within Minnesota. Highlights will include a Plenary Session on the role of technology in wildlife management and a special technical session on prairie grouse management. With two days of concurrent paper sessions, several workshops on utilizing technology (photography, video, cell phone/tablet apps) that participants will be able to apply to their day-to-day work, poster displays, networking opportunities, student events, and an awards banquet, there will be many opportunities to learn and reconnect with colleagues.

Registration

Registration is now open by mail or e-mail. Payment can be submitted with registration by cash or check or at the registration table by credit card. Take advantage of early bird pricing (\$70 for professionals and \$30 for students) by registering before Friday January 26, 2018. Registration after this date will increase by \$10. Onsite registration will be available at 10:00 am on Monday. Appetizers during Monday night's Welcome Reception and Fundraiser are included in the registration fee. Other meals are not included in the registration fee.

Accommodations

Our host hotel, Kelly Inn, is offering participants a discounted room rate of \$99/night plus tax for our block of rooms. Room reservations must be made by January 29, 2018 to guarantee the discounted rate. Make hotel reservations online by clicking [Wildlife Society](#) or call Kelly Inn direct at (320-253-0606), and be sure to mention the MN Wildlife Society Meeting.

Special Events

The annual meeting will kick-off Monday afternoon with an exciting Plenary Session, "**The Role of Technology in Current and Future Wildlife Management: Advancements and Challenges**". This session will highlight the latest uses of technology, potential threats it poses to the resource, and how we can utilize it to gain more interest in outdoor activities.

Monday evening's **Welcome Reception & Fundraiser** will be the perfect time to catch up with colleagues and friends while enjoying appetizers. A silent auction and raffle will offer the chance to bid on or win a kayak, art prints, hand-carved decoys, and other great items. Appetizers during this event are covered with your registration fee.

Tuesday evening's **Awards Banquet** will feature a dinner buffet with chicken parmesan and chef-carved roast sirloin with gravy. The banquet is also our opportunity to honor and celebrate the accomplishments of our award winners during a special ceremony. Reserve your ticket (\$30) on the registration form.

Students will find a number of special events geared towards their professional development, including a student/professional mixer (open to all students), student leader breakfast, quiz bowl, and a paper and poster competition.

Annual Meeting

Tentative Schedule at a Glance	
Monday, 12 February 2018	
9:00a-12:00p	MN Chapter Executive Board Meeting
1:00p-5:00p	Plenary Session: "The Role of Technology in Current and Future Wildlife Management: Advancements and Challenges"
5:00p-6:30p	Student/Professional Mixer
6:30p-9:30p	Welcome Reception & Fundraiser
Tuesday, 13 February 2018	
8:00a-11:00a	Concurrent Paper Sessions
11:00p-12:30p	Chapter Business Meeting
2:00p-4:00p	Concurrent Workshops
4:00p-5:30p	Student Quiz Bowl
5:30p-7:00p	Social/Poster Session
7:00p-9:30p	Awards Banquet
Wednesday, 14 February 2018	
8:00a-12:00p	Concurrent Paper Sessions
8:00a-12:00p	Special Session: Prairie Grouse Management
1:00p-4:00p	DNR-USFWS Coordination Meeting



MINNESOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Kelly Inn | St. Cloud, MN | February 12-14, 2018

REGISTRATION (DUE BY JAN. 26, 2018)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Organization: _____ Title: _____

Annual Meeting	Amount	Amount Due
Registration (Early bird) – Professional	\$70	
Registration (After January 26)- Professional	\$80	
Registration (Early bird) – Student	\$30	
Registration (After January 26) – Student	\$40	
<i>Registration includes appetizers during Monday night's Welcome Reception and Fundraiser; no other meals included</i>		
Tuesday Awards Banquet	\$30	
*Raffle Bucks Coupons	\$5/each x #(_____)	
MN TWS Membership		
Regular Membership	\$25/year	
Student Membership	\$10/year	
Retiree Membership	\$15/year	
Life Membership	\$400	
You can also become a member online by visiting https://wildlife.secure.force.com/memberjoinstep1		

(Cash or Checks Payable to MN TWS) check # _____ Total Due: _____

You also have the option to fill out this form, return to Kyle Daly, and pay using a credit card at the registration desk during the meeting (early bird pricing applies if registration form received by January 26).

Send or scan form & payment to: Kyle Daly, 6030 Chasewood Parkway Unit 102, Hopkins, MN 55343

kyle.okeefe.daly@gmail.com



Purchase \$25 worth of Raffle Bucks Coupons and receive a \$5 BONUS Coupon (\$30 value)

*Raffle Bucks Coupons can be used for all raffle ticket sales at the MN Chapter Annual meeting fundraising event. Raffle items can include: a kayak, art prints, hand-carved decoys, or miscellaneous bucket raffle prizes. Raffle Bucks Coupons can be picked up at the registration desk on February 12 or during the fundraiser.

Lodging

The Kelly Inn is offering participants a discounted room rate of \$99/night plus tax. Room reservations must be made by January 29, 2018 to guarantee the discounted rate. Make hotel reservations online by visiting https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.24113.html?groupId=2W8WX5M6 or call Kelly Inn direct at (320-253-0606), and be sure to mention the MN Wildlife Society Meeting.

MN TWS is committed to fostering a community of respect and non-discrimination; MN TWS members and non-members should never be subjected to discrimination or harassment, sexual or otherwise, at any chapter event or in any other aspect of their lives. Please help us ensure that anyone attending chapter events will feel safe, respected, and appreciated for their unique contribution to the important conservation work we're all engaged in.

Call for Award Nominations

Award Nominations Requested

DEADLINE *January 5, 2018!*

Individuals that make significant contributions to their profession deserve recognition for their efforts. A critical function of professional societies is to honor such individuals accordingly. We do this through our Awards program that honors excellence in the wildlife profession.

In every society, important functions, events, ceremonies, festivals etc. are marked by certain acts or a series of acts that have value and considered important for individuals in the society. It is the presence of rituals that make an event formal and traditional. Our Chapter's most important function is the Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony.

This is one time each year we publicly declare those who best represent our conservation values and in so doing we are all united, representing the mission and spirit of our Society. Member recognition increases the Chapters reputation; helps ensure a positive, productive, innovative organizational climate that members are proud of want to contribute to and one that will be more attractive to non-members. The Chapter's greatest asset is its members, their institutional, resource knowledge, talent, and their connections in the various communities within which they live and work. By making a nomination, you make a small but important contribution to the Chapter. When you nominate candidates for these Awards, you help ensure the Chapters character, reputation and legacy.

Take a moment and review the Chapter Awards on the following page.

We are fortunate in this state to have many active dedicated individuals and organizations devoted to the care and stewardship of wildlife and their habitats.

Please take a few moments to think about a deserving individual you work with, and submit a nomination to recognize their contributions. If your nominee last year was not selected, please re-submit the nomination for consideration.

Nominations must be submitted by January 5th 2018.

A nomination form is included with this newsletter and can also be found on the Chapter website <http://wildlife.org/mn/awards>. You may find it helpful to look over the list of previous recipients and their history. Both are also available on the Chapter website.

The nomination process is easy: Send me an e-mail (souletp@bektel.com) with the nomination form explaining why the person or organization you are nominating should receive the Award. Include their name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and the name of their hometown newspaper (if known), so we can publicly recognize the recipients. If needed add more pages of background information and/or supporting information to help the Awards Committee understand why your nominee is deserving of the award. Letters of support from friends and colleagues are encouraged.

Call for Award Nominations

The Minnesota Award has been given to Minnesota's top conservationist annually since 1958. It is the Chapter's highest Award presented to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to Minnesota's wildlife and natural resources.

The Conservation Award, first presented in 1985, goes to an organization or institution that has shown an outstanding commitment to Minnesota's natural resources.

The Law Enforcement Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated dedication and service to the protection of Minnesota's natural resources.

The Student Conservationist Award, also given since 1992, is presented to wildlife major at a Minnesota college who has shown high scholastic achievement, and who shows promise as a future wildlife professional.

The Bob Fedeler Memorial Award is presented to one undergraduate and one graduate student who have a 3.0 or better GPA, a strong interest in a career in wildlife biology, be active in extracurricular activities, have a strong sense of public service and have demonstrated good communication skills. A complete application is due in the same timeframe as other TWS awards. See the following page for details.

The Janet S. Boe Memorial Award recognizes a professional woman or outstanding female graduate or undergraduate student who exemplifies the consummate natural resource scientist. The award was first presented in 2009.

Service to Chapter Awards are presented annually to Chapter members who through their outstanding sustained involvements, perseverance and grit contribute d to Chapter operations resulting in positive improvements and a better functioning Chapter.

OTHER AWARDS

If you know of MN TWS members who received an award during the past year from another organization, please let me know. We will also recognize these individuals during the awards ceremony at the annual meeting.

"If not you then who?" If not now, then when?" Hillel the Elder



Call for Award Nominations



MNTWS 2017 Bob Fedeler Memorial Awards

The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) has established this Award in honor of Bob Fedeler. Bob was a popular and longtime biology and natural resources instructor at Staples Technical College and in the Natural Resources Department at Central Lakes College in Brainerd, MN. He served as Chapter President in 1997 and Membership Chair in 1998. Bob died of cancer in March 1999 after teaching for nearly two decades.

This Award consists of two full memberships (one undergraduate student, one graduate student) in The Wildlife Society (TWS) including all publications. The Fedeler Awards will help beginning wildlife professionals get started with membership in TWS providing them with high quality peer reviewed research, issues and discussions through the Society's various publications and access to TWS's regional and local networks of professional wildlife managers, researchers, conservation practitioners, policy makers, academics, other students and opportunities to participate or attend Conferences and Meetings.

Students applying for the Fedeler Awards should be undergraduates in their junior or senior year or graduate students in a masters or doctorate program at a Minnesota college or university.

Applicants should:

- Have a 3.0 or better GPA.
- Have a strong interest in a career in wildlife biology.
- Be active in extracurricular activities.
- Have a strong sense of public service.
- Demonstrated good communication skills.

How to apply:

1. Send a letter of interest by January 1, 2018 to the MNTWS Awards Committee indicating interest and explain how you meet the requirements. Include your address, phone number, and email address, and the name of your academic advisor.
2. Ask your academic or research advisor to send a letter of recommendation to the MNTWS Awards Committee.

Recipients will be notified prior to the Annual Meeting, to be held February 12-14, 2018 at the Kelly Inn, in Saint Cloud.

Submit Applications to:

Thom Soule, Chair MNTWS Awards Committee

14351 40th St NE

Driscoll, ND 58532

(701) 387-4420

souletp@bektel.com

Call for Award Nominations**2017 MNTWS AWARD NOMINATION**

Date: _____

Award: (Circle or underline one):

1) Minnesota Award. 2) Conservation Award. 3) Student Conservationist Award. 4) Law Enforcement Award.
5) Dr. Janet S. Boe Memorial Award. 6) Bob Fedeler Memorial Award. 7) Service to Chapter Award

Nominee information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone number: _____ Email address: _____

Affiliation: _____

Hometown newspaper: _____

Nominator information:

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Please explain why you are nominating this person for a MNTWS award in **a short biography** and **brief write up his/her character, qualities,** and accomplishments. (Attach extra sheets if necessary.) Letters of support from friends and colleagues are encouraged as well.

Return this nomination by January 5th 2018 to:

Thomson P. Soule,
14352 405th St. NE
Driscoll, ND 58532
(701)387-4420
souletp@bektel.com

Nominations for the MN TWS Board

President-Elect: Tony Hewitt

Education

B.A. in Biology, Concordia College-Moorhead, MN (2010);
M.S. in Natural Resource Management, North Dakota
State University- Fargo, ND (2012)

Present Position

Fish and Wildlife Biologist, USFWS, Wildlife Sport Fish
Restoration Program, Region 3 Regional Office-
Bloomington, MN (2017-present)



MNTWS Chapter Activities

Current Chair of the Non-Toxic Workgroup
Previous Region 3 Representative
Assists with a variety of activities whenever available

Professional/Personal Interests

Restoration, Grazing, Prescribed Fire, Grants, Fishing, Hiking, Wildlife Photography, Hunting,
Birdwatching, Woodworking

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 Tamarac NWR with Greg Hoch, Wayne Brininger, 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. Now I spend most days in the office, but I strive continue to build stronger partnerships with local, county, state agencies, and private industry to provide the best product that we can for the American people. Working with the MNTWS is one of the best opportunities to deliver on that effort by providing me the avenue to stay engaged and informed by listening to the individuals conducting research. I am always eager to hear new research and innovative ideas that people have to contribute to the success of natural resource management.

Nominations for the MN TWS Board

Secretary: Matt Stasica

Education

B.A. in Environmental Studies, Saint John's University-
Collegeville, MN (2010)
M.S. in Natural Resource Management- Fargo, ND (2012)

Present Position

Currently I am an employee for Minnesota Waterfowl Association as a biologist doing prairie and wetland restoration and land management. I also have been a Secretary for MN TWS since February 2016.

MN TWS Chapter Activities

Current Secretary for MN TWS
Committee member with Prairie Farmland Committee since 2016

Professional/Personal Interests

My professional interests include prairie and wetland ecosystems, pollinator awareness, prairie and wetland management, waterfowl education and outreach, private lands projects. My personal interests include waterfowl, small game, and big game hunting, fly fishing, kayaking, hiking, dog training, playing guitar and drums.

Personal Statement

Being secretary for MN TWS for the past two years has helped me become closer with MN TWS and its core values. I have also been active with the Prairie Farmland Committee in helping draft letters on the Bayer Bee Care Program and the partnership with national TWS. The past few months I have assisted with sending out monthly emails with updates on current issues and educational material. I am honored to be nominated as the Secretary for 2018/19 and knowingly can complete the tasks as a Secretary for the MN TWS.



Nominations for the MN TWS Board

Board Member at Large: Bruce Anderson

Education

B.S. in Botany/Range Management with a Minor in Wildlife Management, University of Minnesota- Crookston and North Dakota State University (1976)

Present/Formal Positions

Retired from the MN DNR in July 2017. My prior DNR positions included Whitewater WMA planning consultant and 3 1/2 years as Cloquet WL Area Assistant Manager. Prior to this 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, fire effects and recreation.

MNTWS Chapter Activities

Current Chair of Forest Committee
Previous Region 2 Representative
Co-chair of committee to organize the 2016 Summer Workshop

Professional/Personal Interests

Paddling, hiking, hunting, natural history, environmental advocacy and hanging out with my grandchildren.

Personal Statement

During the past 40+ years I've witnessed the remarkable loss of wildlands from the Pacific NW to Northern MN to now East Central MN from a variety of factors. To the extent I can, I intend to do my part to influence this rate of loss through involvement with the MN Chapter of TWS.



Nominations for the MN TWS Board

Board Member at Large: Jillian Fejszes

Education

B.S. in Sociology and Psychology, Central Michigan University (2003)

B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University (2011)

Present Position

Farm Bill Biologist, Pheasants Forever, Pennington, Marshall and West Polk Counties.

MN TWS Chapter Activities

I'm the current Chair of the Prairie Farmland Committee. My committee activities have included working on letters to TWS regarding the Bayer Bee Care program and serving on the NRCS technical committee. I'm working to become more engaged on pertinent prairie and farmland issues by regularly sharing information with the membership. I've also helped to organize the opening session for 2017 annual meeting.

Professional/Personal Interests

After working in social work for 6 years, I decided to pursue a totally different field of work and went back to school. I worked seasonal jobs for The Nature Conservancy at the Sleeping Bear Dunes and Nachusa Grasslands. I also worked for a few years with the Invasive Species Network in Northwest Michigan. Now I spend time working on private lands and work on CRP and RIM most of the time. I enjoy helping private landowners with decisions on their land and can relate since I grew up in a farming family. I live in Thief River Falls with my husband Louis, and our two turtles. I enjoy learning about the plants and wildlife of this region, and in my free time enjoy birdwatching, hiking, gardening and reading. I also spend time volunteering on the board of Agassiz Audubon.

Personal Statement

I think TWS is important for connecting wildlife professionals to network and collaborate. I enjoy being part of an organization of individuals that cares deeply about wildlife issues and works to advocate for these issues. As a board member at large, I would like to continue to be involved in the board of TWS to help further the goals of TWS in Minnesota.



Nominations for the MN TWS Board

Board Member at Large: Lindsey Shartell

Education

B.A. Biology and Environmental Science, Adrian College
M.S. Forest Ecology and Management, Michigan Technological University
Ph.D. Forest Science, Michigan Technological University

Present Position

Forest Habitat Research Scientist for the MN DNR in Grand Rapids



MN TWS Chapter Activities

Currently an active member of the Student Relations Committee and served as Treasurer and Webmaster during 2014 and 2015. I have helped out with many Chapter activities from planning the annual meeting to updating the bylaws and operations manual.

Professional/Personal Interests

My professional interests focus on improving habitat management for wildlife. My current research includes projects on sharp-tailed grouse use of managed habitat, woodcock use of forest openings, and effect of prescribed fire in different seasons on brushlands. I also get involved with many forest-wildlife issues that arise in the MN DNR. I spend much of my free time outdoors hunting and exploring with my dogs, Izzie and Murray. I also enjoy curling, agate hunting, and drinking hoppy beer.

Personal Statement

I am eager to return to the board of MN TWS. The organization is a great resource for professionals and students to network, share information, promote science, learn, and grow. I would like to help improve communication with members and increase our impact. I am passionate about wildlife and their habitats, and enjoy being around a great group of people who share that passion. I would be honored to serve for the next two years as a Board Member at Large.

Committee Reports

Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH) – Andy Tri, Chair

In 2017, Kyle Daly conducted a COWCH interview of Carol Henderson, Non-Game Supervisor of the MN DNR; Carol's interview can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/swaTrwbTRs0>. In addition, the COWCH committee was able to recover older interviews from TWS National Headquarters, which will be featured on our [YouTube Channel](#). When uploading is complete, we will have digital interviews of 10 leaders of conservation in Minnesota. Dan Svedarsky was also able to send us an older instructional video for how to do a COWCH interview, which is also hosted on the main YouTube site. Lastly, if you are interested in nominating someone for an interview or would like to conduct an interview, please contact Andy Tri (andrew.n.tri@gmail.com) or use the google forms link to enter in as much contact information as you know (<https://goo.gl/forms/hnN6j4GI58YDVAYp2>). Again, find us on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHFSHNC5h9B_b5AjahXmUFA.



Carol Henderson, MN DNR Non-Game Supervisor, being interviewed by COWCH.

Forest Issues Committee – Bruce Anderson, Chair

The Forest Issues Committee is currently completing a review of the MN DNR Sustainable Timber Harvest Analysis, which will be used by MN DNR Leadership to determine a sustainable level of timber harvest on state lands. The draft report is now open for public comment through December 30th and can be viewed online at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/harvest-analysis>. TWS members are encouraged to submit their own comments or to contact Bruce Anderson (bdandersons1953@outlook.com) to provide feedback for comments from the Chapter.

Prairie Farmland Committee – Jillian Fejszes, Chair

The Prairie Farmland Committee works to review and bring up issues affecting wildlife or habitats in the prairie and farmland region of Minnesota. In an effort to become more engaged with the Chapter, the committee started putting together monthly newsletters with relevant articles and updates on what the committee is working on. The committee is also interested in providing educational opportunities and current events. Some of the topics the committee would like to focus more on include: pollinators, prairie restoration, buffer law, floristic quality assessments, prairie chickens and windfarms, as well as grass based practices such as grazing. At the moment the committee is wrapping up edits on a letter offering comments to the MN Dept of Transportation regarding right of way haying and mowing. If you have an area of interest you would like to become involved in researching or further wish to volunteer or serve on the committee, please get in touch with the chairs of the committee: jillian.fejszes@gmail.com or matt.stasica@gmail.com.

Committee Reports

Student Relations Committee – Jennifer Boucher, Chair

Winter has arrived which means it's time again for the Student Relations Committee (SRC) to start gearing up for the MNTWS Annual Meeting in February. We are already working out the details for the student professional mixer and all the other fun activities we help out with. This year we are planning on mixing up the mixer by adding a workshop component to it. We are planning to focus on basic job hiring skills that students might find helpful for the professional level they are at, like resume building and mock interviews. Students will be asked to have a few copies of their resumes in hand when attending the mixer. The mock interview portion will also most likely be generic interview questions, so no need to stress over the possibility of tough taxa or habitat management type questions. Students can save that for the quiz bowl! Lindsey Shartell, a member of our committee, will lead the student paper & poster competition, and the committee will assist with the student leadership breakfast & quiz bowl as needed.

The Student Professional Development Grant has really started to pick up in popularity with more and more applications rolling in every grant period. While this is very exciting, it also makes our job a lot harder as the selection process becomes more competitive. Our final grant period closed on December 1st and is the grant period you would want to apply to if interested in using funds for the MNTWS Annual Meeting. In May and August we awarded \$750 to 3 group and 3 individual applicants. Recipients received assistance for professional development opportunities including presenting at the national conference in New Mexico, volunteer banding, and a wildlife medical preceptorship.

Wetlands Committee – Marsha Barnes, Chair

This year, the previous wetlands committee chair became MN TWS president; therefore a new chair was needed. The committee's new chair is Marsha Barnes, pictured to the right. So far this year, the wetlands committee has held multiple conference calls to plan out there goals and objectives for the future. The committee also submitted a public comment on the proposed rule titled *Definition of "Waters of the United States" — Recodification of Pre-Existing Rules: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0203*. To do this, the committee partnered with the national Wetlands Working Group of The Wildlife Society parent organization. For those interested, the full letter can be found on the [MN TWS Google Drive](#). The wetlands committee hopes to do more partnerships like this in the future.



Student Chapter Reports

University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC) – Maddy Witt, President

The UMC Student Chapter along with the UMC Natural Resources Club welcomed 32 members with our annual cookout in the Red River Valley Natural History Area near campus. Grilled meats and Svedarky's fresh sweet corn were highlights. In September, 23 members worked with US Fish and Wildlife Service banding ~450 waterfowl on Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge. Most recently, six of our members traveled to Albuquerque, NM for the TWS Annual Conference where five attended the "Animal Trapping Techniques for Researchers and Managers" workshop. The students enjoyed expanding their knowledge of the wildlife field, making connections with professionals, competing in the Wildlife Quiz Bowl, as well as exploring a locale quite different from northern Minnesota. We are looking forward to a few more events and projects this semester, including a snowshoe sale fundraiser, joint campouts with UMC's Natural Resources Club, and volunteering with the Agassiz Audubon Society to improve bird habitat in the area.



Students Maddy Witt, Justin Kobberdahl, LaRyssa Nelson, Bailey Yliniemi, Forrest Brenske, and Noah Roseen pose in their Quiz Bowl attire at the TWS Annual Conference in Albuquerque. Photo by John Loegering.

Central Lakes College – Kelsie Hanson, President

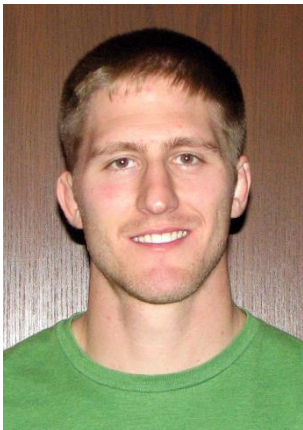
The Natural Resources Club at Central Lakes College had a busy start to this fall semester. Staying true to tradition, this year's students have been putting in many hours of volunteer service, attending natural resource-related meetings, and aiding local agencies in their endeavors to conserve Minnesota's natural resources. Once again, we cleaned our Adopt-a-Highway stretch along two miles of old Hwy. 371 south of Brainerd. The Club cleans this stretch of highway every fall and spring. The Natural Resources Club provides numerous student volunteers to run the Camp Ripley Archery Hunts. There, students helped process hunters with checking in and out, weighing, registering, and aging deer. In addition to the archery hunts at Camp Ripley, CLC Natural Resources students aided Morrison County Pheasants Forever run a youth pheasant hunt, their local chapter banquet, and a trap shoot. The hunt and trap shoot took place at LeBlanc's Game Farm in Little Falls. At the pheasant hunt, students guided and mentored youth on their pheasant hunt while also helping the staff facilitate a safe and successful event. At the banquet the students operated games and passed out prizes. On the following weekend students again helped facilitate a similar event at the Morrison County MDHA (Minnesota Deer Hunters Association) banquet.

More recently, students have just finished up volunteering with the MN DNR for the Chronic Wasting Disease operations at hunter check stations around the north central zone. We are finishing our annual Hides for Habitat hide cleaning with the Brainerd Chapter of MDHA. Lastly, since school started students have been helping the Brainerd Land Services Forestry Department in bud-capping a 61 acre plot of white pines north of Cross Lake. Over 200 hours of volunteer service had been put into finishing this feat. Soon, students will be helping children assemble wooden bird feeders for Crane Meadows Wildlife Refuge. As we move forward, there will be many more opportunities for volunteering service and the students are excited for the rest of the semester's services.

A Focus on Students – Kyle Arola, President-Elect

The Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society has a number of ways to engage students with the Chapter. Examples include activities at the [Chapter's Annual Meeting](#) such as the student professional mixer, student quiz bowl, and student leader's breakfast. The Chapter places a high priority on acknowledging students for their achievements. The Chapter also assists students that want to attend events where they have the opportunity to network, learn, and develop professionally. I want to take a moment to highlight an example each of how the Chapter has recently acknowledged and assisted students in attending important events.

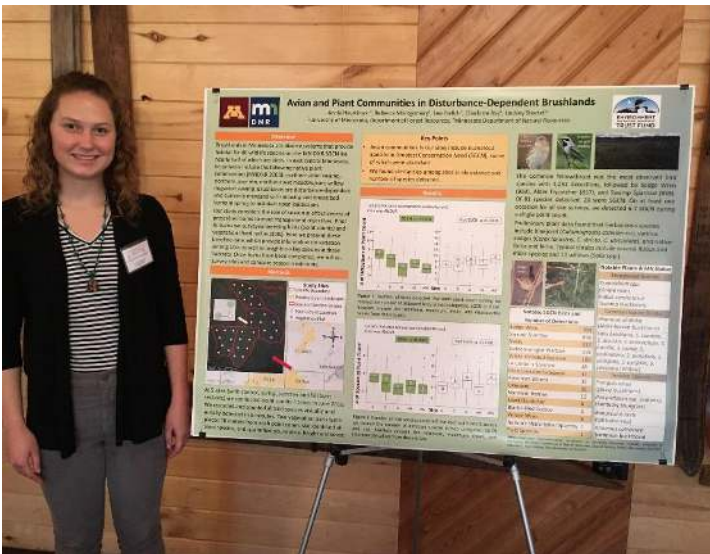
First there is the student paper and poster competition that takes place at the Chapter's Annual Meeting. This competition offers awards for the top graduate and undergraduate student in both the poster and paper categories. At last year's meeting in February 2017 we had the largest-ever showing of student poster and paper presentations for a Minnesota-only meeting. There were 17 (all graduate) paper and 20 (6 graduate and 14 undergraduate) poster presentations. With this breakdown of students, we had awards for Best Graduate Student Poster, Best Undergraduate Student Poster, and Best Student Paper. Award recipients receive a \$75 check and a certificate signed by the Chapter President.



Best Graduate Student Paper: Michael Joyce
"Dispersal of American Martens in Minnesota"



Best Undergraduate Student Poster: Benjamin Stubbs (right, with award presented by Kyle Arola)
"Comparison of bird communities on restored and remnant prairies in northwestern Minnesota"



Best Graduate Student Poster: Anna Hawkinson
"Seasonal burning of brushland habitat and the response of avian communities"

A Focus on Students (continued)

In regards to assisting students, in early 2016 the Chapter's Student Relations Committee developed the Student Professional Development Grant. The grant was established to encourage student participation in professional workshops, conferences, continuing education, and volunteer opportunities. Successful applicants can use the funds towards transportation, lodging, and registration for events. After the first year of this grant we helped nearly 50 students attend training and TWS meetings at the state, section, and national levels. The grant is proving to be both popular and beneficial to students throughout the state. The Chapter is excited about this new program and looking forward to watching it grow in coming years. Below some of the award winners from 2017 describe their experiences:

Jacqueline Pieroni – Preceptorship at The California Wildlife Center

The California Wildlife Center is a non-profit two-doctor rehabilitation center that serves over 4000 wildlife patients annually. With the help of The Wildlife Society (Minnesota Chapter), I was able to spend one month studying and practicing wildlife medicine and husbandry as a Wildlife Preceptor at the center. Although my responsibilities varied day to day, I frequently worked with on-staff veterinarians to perform recheck evaluations, medicate the in-hospital patients and assist with surgeries. As a preceptor, I was given the opportunity to perform clinical skills with the veterinarians, under their direct supervision, and even solo once more comfortable. These skills included physical examinations, radiology, anesthesia, venipuncture and lab-work. Overall, this externship met my expectations and the experience gained there will prove paramount for someone like myself looking to enter the wildlife field. Many thanks to the MN TWS Student Relations Committee!

Michael Joyce – Presentation at The Wildlife Society 24th Annual Conference

This past fall, I was awarded a Student Professional Development Grant to attend The Wildlife Society's 24th annual conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Attending the conference was a great experience that allowed me to present and gain valuable feedback about my research, learn about exciting wildlife research and management activities taking place throughout the world, and meet and network with other students and wildlife professionals. I am a Ph.D. student at the University of Minnesota Duluth studying habitat ecology of American martens in northeastern Minnesota. This was the third TWS annual conference I have attended, and this particular conference was especially valuable to my professional development. I presented a talk titled "Resting microsite use by fishers and boreal martens: role of thermal stress across species and regions" and was a co-author on a presentation titled "Techniques for studying reproduction and associated habitat use in mesocarnivores: examples from field studies on fisher and other members of the *Martes* complex." There were many students and professionals at this meeting that study fishers and martens, which lead to a lot of fascinating conversations about research ideas and potential collaborations. There were many fascinating talks and posters on a variety of species and topics. One of my favorite sessions was a symposium titled "Mesos in the Middle: strategies for researching understudied or elusive mid-sized mammalian carnivores". This symposium included many presentations that were directly relevant to my research interests. As with past TWS annual conferences I attended, I left this meeting with fond memories, new ideas to explore, and an expanded professional network. I am very thankful for the support provided by the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society through the Student Professional Development Grant that helped me attend this conference.

Voices from the Swamp

Thoughts on Harassment by Ray Norrgard

The 2016 Annual Meeting was notable for its location, presentations, awards and camaraderie. It was also notable for the comment the board received after the meeting concerning sexual harassment. Since then, of course, the number and notoriety of sexual harassment complaints across the nation have brought this issue to the forefront of the daily news.

It has jarred my thinking and caused me to think back over the decades. If I ever thought I completely understood this issue, the past year has certainly shown with certainty that I do not and perhaps never can given my gender, age, and background. Some things, however, have become much clearer.

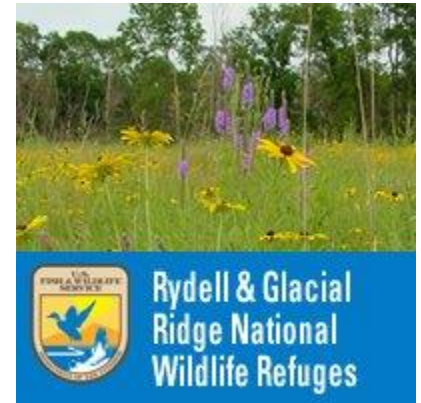
1. **It is no joke.** I am a child of the sixties. Cynicism and biting humor were rampant. My friends and I used humor as kind of a rebellion, I suppose. Nothing and no one was sacred; not gender, race, religion or station in life. We were as hard on ourselves as we were on others. I think we operated on the principle that if we ridiculed ourselves as much as we did others it was OK. It is certainly not acceptable now nor should it have been then. The problem with the type of humor we, and others around us, typically used was its dependence on ridicule. To suggest that this behavior ended with adulthood would be whitewashing decades of experience. As cynical as I could sometimes be, some behaviors and situations shocked even me. Humor can be fun, it can be useful, and it can lighten the load, but when it ridicules it can also cause great pain even when that was never the intent.
2. **Good intentions.** The problem with good intentions is its one-sided nature. For example, I don't know how many men and women in our chapter that I have given a hug over the years but it is a lot. I know what my intentions were but never gave any thought to what the recipient might have thought my intentions were. More important, I never thought much about the recipient's internal reaction. The recent public discussions have given me pause. I cannot help but wonder now how many times in the past that I was the cause of discomfort or worse.
3. **No statute of limitations.** The hurt, anxiety, and fear felt by those suffering from direct or indirect harassment can last a lifetime. That fact is clear as women, and others, come forward to share their stories. Some of the stories sound all too familiar, others are heartbreaking. Observing the changes in our profession over four decades I believed that these situations were largely a thing of the past. The reality of the world around us would indicate otherwise.
4. **Power play.** Much has been made in the most recent examples of harassment that the perpetrators operated from a position of power. Perhaps that is always, or at least often, the case. But we need to understand that power does not necessarily come from an organizational structure. It can come from the social dynamics of groups. It can come from differences in knowledge or experience. It can emanate from the promise of support. It may be felt rather than seen and it may not be obvious to those around the victim. At times, it is the very act of harassment that feeds the need for power, for some sense of dominance over someone else.

This is an opportunity for all of us to do some soul searching. To really give some thought to our relationships with other folks both at work and in our personal lives. While sexual harassment has the center stage now, we need to remember that harassment can be based on characteristics other than gender. Regardless it creates wounds that in the end can infect and poison everyone involved.

Updates across the State

Glacial Ridge and Rydell NWRs Offer Hunting Opportunities

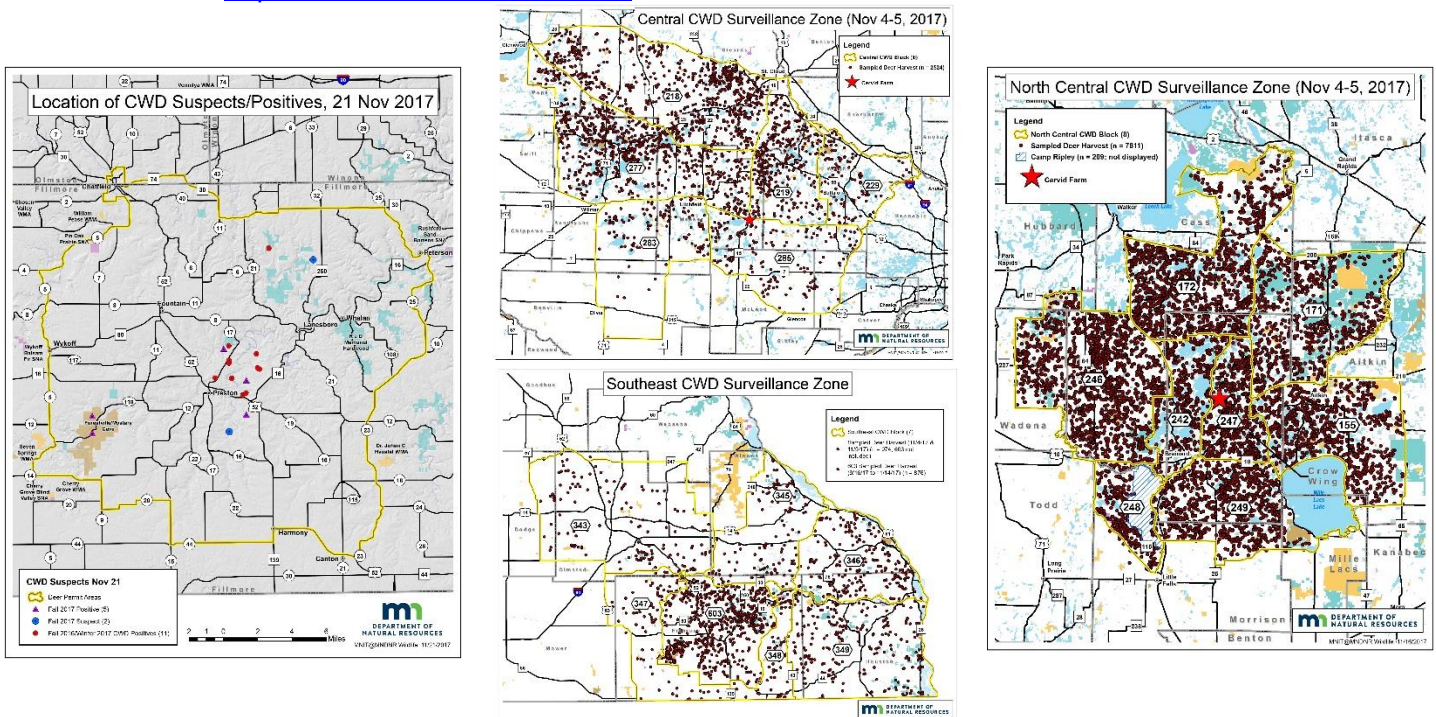
Glacial Ridge NWR recently completed a new Hunt Plan and Environmental Assessment. This process involved an opportunity for public input and coordination with both the MNDNR and TNC. Under this Hunt Plan, more than 16,950 acres of the Refuge will be open to hunting of deer and upland game, and 9,140 acres will be open to hunting of migratory birds. As more land is acquired as part of the Refuge, it can be opened to hunting under this Hunt Plan. National wildlife refuges are opened to hunting on a species-specific basis. For example, prior to this new hunt plan, the harvest of a ruffed grouse or gray squirrel on the Refuge would not be legal, because those species were not listed in the original (2005) Refuge Hunt Plan. This new Hunt Plan has added several new species to its "hunnable" list to improve consistency with the general MN hunting regulations. The new Hunt Plan will be printed in the Federal Code of Regulations and go into effect for the 2018 hunting season.



Rydell NWR had two very successful special hunts this past October. Twenty hunters participated in the three-day Accessible Deer Hunt, which is conducted in cooperation with Options Resource Center for Independent Living. They harvested seven deer. Five of 12 youths harvested deer during the two-day Mentored Youth Hunt, which is held in late October in cooperation with the MNDNR.

MN DNR Finds Additional CWD Positive Deer in Permit Area 603

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing has found 6 confirmed CWD positive deer harvested in southeast Minnesota's disease management zone, DPA 603. All results are in for the north-central and central precautionary testing areas and no CWD-infected deer were detected. Samples in the southeast precautionary testing area are still being processed but have not yet turned up any suspect results. Additional details online at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/cwd/>.



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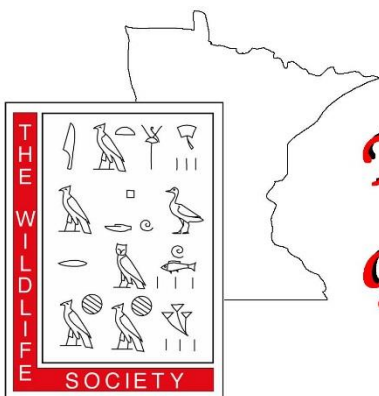
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Forest Issues
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 Membership
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 Statewide Issues
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***The Minnesota Chapter
 of The Wildlife Society***