

# Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Volume 40, Issue 2

December 2013

## Inside this issue:

Annual Meeting Announced	3
Tentative Annual Meeting Agenda	4
Meeting Pre-registration Form	7
Abstract Submission Information	8
Awards Nomination Information	9
Board Elections—Candidates & Positions	16
TWS Council Update	25
Regional Reports	28
Board Minutes	34
Treasurer Report	43
Membership Database Information	45
Other Items	47

## President's Message

**H**appy Holidays, Fellow Wildlifers! Hope this newsletter finds you well. There is much to update you up on in this issue. My apologies for the lack of newsletters since spring. Effective communication amongst our Chapter members and board is a top priority. We welcome our new newsletter editor, Bailey Petersen, who introduces herself in this issue! Hopefully messages via our Google group for members have kept you well informed of Chapter activities and opportunities to provide input. We also strive to keep our website up to date, Steve Windels has initiated a special Facebook page for our Annual Meeting, and we're inviting our student chapters to begin taking turns administering a regular Chapter Facebook page. Know that your input in Chapter activities is always welcome and appreciated and can be shared with me or any board member.

Chapter involvement in conservation affairs since the April newsletter has been abundant. Highlights include release of a conservation grazing position statement; participation in Minnesota's Environmental Congress to help provide guidance to Minnesota's Environmental Quality Board; contribution to a public forum organized at the State Capitol by the Minnesota Conservation Federation in honor of National Wildlife Week; hosting an excellent Shallow Lakes Ecology and Management Workshop in August;

formal adoption of our parent society's position statements on feral and free ranging domestic cats, and lead in ammunition and tackle; signing on a group letter to support State Wildlife Grants; participation in a roundtable on copper ammunition; signing on a group Farm Bill conservation letter; approval of our logo on a Raptor Center educational brochure regarding lead ammunition; and considering implementation of TWS's new conservation affairs network. I'm sure I've missed something. Look deeper inside



Minnesota Chapter President  
Jodie Provost

the newsletter for details on some of these activities.

This issue is my last as Chapter President, so I'd like to sincerely thank you for the opportunity to serve. It has been an honor, a wonderful learning and growth experience, and underscored what I already knew – Wildlife

## President's Message (continued)

folks are some of the most passionate and dedicated there is. I encourage all our members to consider sharing their time and talents to keep our Chapter running smoothly, guide our activities and help meet our wildlife stewardship objectives. Whether participating at the annual meeting's student/professional mixer, providing input to a draft of a position statement, contacting your legislators, serving as an officer, regional rep or committee chair, interviewing retired professionals for COWCH, or supplying homemade syrup for our fundraiser, it all matters and makes a difference. Thank you to those who so generously serve.

See you at our Annual Meeting in February!

*Jodie Provost*

jodie.provost@yahoo.com  
218-838-3553

## Farewell to a Friend

submitted by Ray Norrgard

### Rob Naplin

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Area Wildlife Supervisor Rob Naplin died tragically in an accident at his home in Park Rapids

Tuesday, December 10.

Raised on a farm in the Thief River Falls area, Rob attended the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, earning a

Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Management in 1971. Like most in his graduating class Rob worked a number of temporary and seasonal jobs for several years in his quest for a career in wildlife.

In 1977, Rob was offered the Area Wildlife Manager position in Willmar. He worked tirelessly to build the MN DNR's relationship with local sportsmen's clubs and media. The 70's and early 80's were tumultuous times for wildlife professionals. The environmental movement that led to great changes in federal point source pollution regulations was largely missing in agricultural communities. Instead, national farm policies encouraged "fence row to fence row" row cropping. Local



clubs were focused on pheasant stocking and predator control rather than restoring and protecting habitat. About the time Rob arrived in Willmar, the state legislature authorized an expansion of public water law to include type 3, 4, and 5 wetlands over 10 acres (over 2.5 acres in incorporated areas). Area wildlife staff conducted the brunt of the required Public Waters Inventory. And, as a result, area wildlife managers provided the bulk of the testimony during the public hearings held in each county. Hearing rooms were packed with outraged landowners. Legal careers were built on brutal cross examinations of wildlife and waters staff. Wildlife professionals were ostracized within their communities, family members harassed, and even death threats were not uncommon. Rob looked at the completion of the inventory and hearings as one of his greatest accomplishments. Despite these challenges, Rob persevered in building community support for wildlife and wildlife habitat. The local chapter of the Minnesota Waterfowl Association, for example, specifically lauded his efforts with a recognition award. And in Rob's personal files is a letter from a local minister profusely thanking him for delivering the Sunday scripture lesson on Proverbs 30:24-31. In that lesson, Rob related the mysteries of God to the wonders of nature. He went on to speak about stewardship of wildlife and wildlife habitat. Rob finished the lesson with the observation that in accepting responsibility for managing wildlife he was ultimately accountable to God for his performance. The presentation was so popular with parishioners that the minister requested permission to provide copies.

That community support helped Rob in his efforts to acquire large acreages of land for Wildlife Management Areas in his work area. Much of that work was performed at a time when area wildlife offices had no support staff and managers were responsible for all the appraisal and negotiation work in these land transfers.

In 1984, Rob accepted the Area Wildlife Supervisor position in Park Rapids. The issues were different but the controversial nature of wildlife management remained. Once again Rob began the arduous task of building community support for sound management. He developed a deep commitment to conservation education, particularly for youth. He was a familiar face at Deep Portage Conservation Reserve helping to establish summer youth camps focused around deer, waterfowl, and upland bird hunting. Rob continued that commitment as an active instructor with Minnesota Waterfowl Association's "Woodie" Camp, Deep Portage's Upland Bird Camp, and firearms safety. He was to receive his 30 year service award as a Youth Firearms Safety Instructor this year.

Rob's breadth of knowledge and love for the fish and wildlife resource made him a particularly valuable instructor. Shotgun shooting, decoy setting, boat and water safety, game care and cooking were all topics he contributed to in addition to the wildlife identification and habitat management one might expect from a wildlife professional.

Rob was always willing to take time away from his regular duties to support special efforts within the Department of Natural Resources. He was an enthusiastic instructor of Customer Service classes for new employees. He was a frequent contributor to developing brochures on forest wildlife. He served on numerous committees dealing with wetlands, wild rice, all-terrain vehicles, statewide black bear policies, and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the DNR wildlife habitat acquisition program. In addition, Rob's openness, gentle demeanor, and ready laughter encouraged many younger professionals through less formal "mentoring" sessions.

Rob was also a dedicated hunter and angler. Although he dabbled at one time or another with everything from fly fishing to elk hunting, Rob was most committed to dogs and bird hunting. While opening day is the high point for most duck hunters, it was the last day of each duck season that cast a particular spell on Rob. Whether he was breaking ice with his trusty sportboat or crossing Leech Lake in a larger craft, he would always finish the season on the water. His deep love for duck hunting was matched only by his fascination with prairie grouse. "Cluckers" and "chickens" fired his imagination of another time when Minnesota's lush prairies cradled abundant populations. For Rob, every hunting or fishing exploit was successful regardless of the outcome. His narration of these adventures was recounted with amazing detail, a reverence for the quarry, a generous dose of humor, and a twinkle in his eyes.

Rob was active in the MN Chapter of The Wildlife Society, MN Assn. of Conservation Professionals, Prairie Chicken Society, Ruffed Grouse Society, MN Waterfowl Assn., and Muskies Inc. as well as being an official scorer for Boone and Crockett. He maintained memberships in nearly every conservation organization active in Minnesota and North Dakota.

Rob was a tremendously dedicated professional who never sought recognition although his impact was apparent to all of us who worked with him. He is survived by his beloved wife Linda, his cherished dogs Emma and Maggie, a brother, and several nieces and nephews.



## **2014 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MINNESOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

**SOUTH SHORE CONFERENCE CENTER, BEMIDJI, MN**

### **ANNOUNCEMENT & 2<sup>ND</sup> CALL FOR PAPERS/ POSTERS**

The Annual Meeting of MN TWS will be held at the South Shore Conference Center in Bemidji on Feb. 4-6, 2014. See <http://www.bemidjiconferencecenter.com/index.php> for more information about the conference facilities.

The Annual Meeting will begin at 1:00 pm on Tuesday Feb. 4 and wrap-up at 12:00 pm on Thursday, Feb. 6. Registration will begin at 10:00 am on Tuesday. The registration fee will be \$50 for professionals and \$10 for students. Meals are not included in the registration fee. Organized group meals will entail a Tuesday evening buffet prior to the fundraiser and an awards banquet on Wednesday evening. Additional information about registration, accommodations, and conference events will be

## MOVING BEYOND LEAD: EDUCATION VS. REGULATION VS. REALITY

**SOUTH SHORE CONFERENCE CENTER, BEMIDJI, MN FEB. 4 - 6**

out soon. Watch for announcements through the MN TWS Google Group for members or on the website ([www.mntws.org](http://www.mntws.org)).

We are planning for an exciting plenary session on Wednesday, Feb 5 titled “**Moving Beyond Lead: Education vs. Regulation vs. Reality.**” We have recruited a great panel of speakers from Sweden, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Minnesota to share their thoughts about how we can make progress on reducing the effects of lead ammunition and fishing tackle on wildlife.

### 2nd Call for Abstracts

Please consider submitting an abstract to present in one of our concurrent sessions or at the poster session. You can discuss your most recent research findings, updates on management projects, or thought-provoking ideas about advancing wildlife conservation. All quality submittals will be considered. Abstracts must be submitted by Dec. 18 to Steve Windels at [mntws2014@gmail.com](mailto:mntws2014@gmail.com). See “MNTWS 2014 Abstract Instructions.pdf” for details.

### TENTATIVE AGENDA

<b>Tuesday February 4, 2014</b>	
8:00am – 12:00pm	MN TWS Board Meeting
8:00am – 12:00pm	Joint MNDNR-USFWS Waterfowl Meeting
10:00am – 5:00pm	Registration
1:00pm	Conference Begins
1:00pm – 5:00pm	General Paper Sessions
5:30pm – 6:30pm	Student / Professional Mixer
6:30pm – 9:00pm	Welcome Reception and Fundraiser
9:00pm – 11:00pm	Craft Beer Tasting at Bemidji Brewing Company
<b>Wednesday, February 5, 2014</b>	
7:00am – 12:00pm	Registration
8:30am – 12:30pm	Plenary Session: <b>Moving Beyond Lead: Education vs. Regulation vs. Reality</b>
12:30pm-1:30pm	Lunch (on your own)
1:30pm– 4:00pm	MN TWS Annual Business Meeting
4:00pm – 5:30pm	Student Quiz Bowl
5:30pm – 7:00pm	Pre-Banquet Mixer
7:00pm – 10:00pm	Banquet and Awards Ceremony

# MOVING BEYOND LEAD: EDUCATION VS. REGULATION VS. REALITY

SOUTH SHORE CONFERENCE CENTER, BEMIDJI, MN FEB. 4 - 6

## TENTATIVE AGENDA

Thursday, February 6, 2014	
7:00am – 8:30am	Registration
8:30am – 11:45am	General Paper Sessions
11:45am-12:00pm	Student Paper & Poster Awards Presentation
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch (on your own)
1:00pm-3:00pm	Workshop: Advances in Telemetry and Other Remote Monitoring Technology
3:00pm	Meeting Adjourned

## PLENARY SESSION (Wed, Feb 5, 8:30am-12:30pm)

Wednesday, February 5, 2014	
8:30am – 8:40am	<b>Welcome remarks.</b> Brian Hiller, Bemidji State University.
8:40am – 9:00am	<b>Effects of lead ammunition on wildlife.</b> TBD.
9:00am – 9:20am	<b>Demonstration of the efficacy of lead vs. copper ammunition at hunter workshops.</b> TBD.
9:20am – 10:00am	<b>Reframing the discussion on lead ammunition and tackle.</b> John Schulz, retired (Missouri).
10:00am-10:30am	Refreshment Break
10:30am-10:50am	<b>Lead ammunition and big game hunting.</b> Lou Cornicelli, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
10:50am-11:10am	<b>Industry perspectives on challenges in moving to non-lead ammunition.</b> TBD.
11:10am-11:50am	<b>European perspectives on non-lead ammunition and tackle.</b> Fredrik Widemo, Jagareforbundet (Sweden).
11:50am-12:30pm	<b>Panel Discussion.</b> Brian Hiller, Bemidji State University [Moderator] Lou Cornicelli, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Wildlife) Mark Johnson, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Paul Radomski, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Fisheries) John Schulz, retired Fredrik Widemo, Jagareforbundet



## **MOVING BEYOND LEAD: EDUCATION VS. REGULATION VS. REALITY**

**SOUTH SHORE CONFERENCE CENTER, BEMIDJI, MN FEB. 4 - 6**

### **Conference Events**

#### **Student/Professional Mixer (Tues. Feb 4, 5:30pm-6:30pm)**

This is an excellent opportunity for students to meet and interact with wildlife professionals. Our goal is to keep this event casual and fun. Those who participated last year had a great time.

#### **Welcome Reception and Fundraiser (Tues, Feb 4, 6:30pm-9:00pm)**

Join us at the Welcome Reception to catch up with old friends or make new ones. An appetizer bar (fruit tray, meat and cheese tray, hot wings, meatballs, etc.) is available for \$15; tickets must be purchased at the time of registration. A silent auction and raffles will offer chances to bid on or win wildlife art, homemade crafts, hunting and fishing gear, and other great items. A cash bar is provided.

#### **Craft Beer Tasting at the Bemidji Brewing Company (Tues. Feb 4, 9:00pm-11:00pm)**

The Bemidji Brewing Company, *almost* the northernmost brewer in the state, is a new craft brewery started in Bemidji in 2012. Their taproom will be open for a few hours Tues night for conference participants to buy pints or flights of beers if you want to sample more than one or two. Sign up early as this event is capped at 50 participants. Check out their webpage at [www.bemidjibeer.com](http://www.bemidjibeer.com) for more information about Bemidji Brewing Company.

#### **Banquet and Awards Ceremony (Wed. Feb 5, 7:00pm-10:00pm)**

The Green Mill Restaurant and Catering will be providing our meal during the banquet. They are offering a buffet-style meal with a choice of chicken, pork loin, and vegetarian pastas, side dishes, and dessert and coffee. Meal tickets are \$25 and must be purchased at the time of registration. Special dietary requests can be accommodated. A cash bar is provided.

Our annual meeting is a chance to celebrate accomplishments in wildlife conservation throughout the past year. The main part of the program during the banquet will be the presentation of chapter awards, including the Minnesota Award, the Conservation Award, the Law Enforcement Award, the Janet Boe Memorial Award, the Bob Fedler Award, and the Student Conservationist Award.

#### **Workshop: Advances in Telemetry and Other Remote Technology for Wildlife Research and Monitoring (Thurs. Feb 6, 1:00pm-3:00pm)**

Representatives from wildlife telemetry and technology companies are sponsoring a workshop to discuss recent advances in radio, GPS, and satellite telemetry. There will also be a presentation on advances and uses of remote cameras in wildlife research and monitoring. This workshop is open to any conference registrants as part of the registration fee.

#### **Poster Session**

Posters will be displayed in the room where coffee breaks are held from 12:00pm on Feb 4 – 12:00pm on Feb 6.

#### **Best Student Paper and Best Student Poster Awards**

Papers and posters submitted by current students will be entered in a contest for best paper and best poster. Winners will be announced before the lunch break on Thurs, Feb 6.

#### **Vendors**

Vendors will have display booths in the room where coffee breaks are served from 12:00pm on Feb 4 – 12:00pm on Feb 6.



**2014 ANNUAL MEETING, FEB. 4-6,  
SOUTH SHORE CONFERENCE CENTER, BEMIDJI, MN**

**MEETING PRE- REGISTRATION (DUE BY JAN. 2, 2014)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Annual Meeting:</b>		<b>Amount</b>
Registration – Regular/Retiree.....	\$50	_____
Registration - Student.....	\$10	_____
Late fee (if post-marked after Jan 2).....	\$10	_____
Tues Mixer & Auction.....	\$15	_____
Tues Beer Tasting at Bemidji Brewing (Max. 50).....	\$5	_____
Wed Awards Banquet.....	\$25	_____

**Membership:**

Regular Membership.....\$15/year \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Membership.....\$5/year \_\_\_\_\_  
 Retiree Membership.....\$7.50/year \_\_\_\_\_  
 Life Membership.....\$375 \_\_\_\_\_

(Cash or Checks Only Payable to MTWS) check # \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Due:** \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been a Chapter member in the past? YES NO

Please circle all that apply:

MTWS Life Member    North Central Section Member    TWS National Member

**Please check if you would like to learn more about the following Committees or Positions:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Audit	<input type="checkbox"/> Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH)
<input type="checkbox"/> Awards	<input type="checkbox"/> MN Conservation Federation Representative
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> NRCS State Technical Committee Representative
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership	
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Relations	<u>Habitat Teams (address issues/opportunities)</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity/Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Prairie/Farmland <input type="checkbox"/> Forest
<input type="checkbox"/> Historian/Archivist	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Statewide

**SEND FORM & PAYMENT TO: CHARLOTTE ROY, 5523 MILL ST. NE, BEMIDJI, MN  
56601**

**2014 Annual Meeting, Feb. 4-6  
South Shore Conference Center, Bemidji, MN**

**Abstract Instructions**

**Oral and poster presenters, when submitting abstracts, please:**

- ◆ Designate as ORAL or POSTER.
- ◆ Designate as PROFESSIONAL or STUDENT presentation.
- ◆ Give presentation title in **BOLD**.
- ◆ Put each author on a separate line followed by organization and contact info (mailing address, email, phone).
- ◆ Keep the abstract to 250 words or less; use Arial 12 point font.

Email your abstract **by Dec. 18** to Steve Windels at [mntws2014@gmail.com](mailto:mntws2014@gmail.com). Please put **"MNTWS 2014 ABSTRACT"** in the subject line. Presenters will be notified by Dec. 20 of acceptance.

**Abstract Example:**

ORAL PRESENTATION

PROFESSIONAL

**Double-crested Cormorant Survival, Movements, and Habitat Use in Northern Minnesota**

John P. Johnson, Center for Bird Studies, 3713 Junco Lane, Splenda, MN 54282, [jjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:jjohnson@gmail.com), 218-293-2210

John D. Johannsen, Department of Wildlife Conservation, 271823 5<sup>th</sup> St. SE, Duluth, MN 48382, [jjojannsen@gmail.com](mailto:jjojannsen@gmail.com), 218-300-1029

Since the 1970s, double-crested cormorants have increased dramatically throughout the Great Lakes region, including the Border Lakes area. Concerns about impacts of expanding cormorant populations to disease transmission and recreational fishing spurred investigations in 2008 to study movements and habitat use of adult cormorants in Kabetogama Lake and other lakes in the area. Backpack style radio transmitters were affixed to 7 adult cormorants in 2008 and 18 in 2009. Cormorants were located 2-3 times a week starting in early summer and continued until birds left the area. Adults provisioning chicks foraged relatively close to the nesting colony, with all locations <8km distant. Feeding locations of nonbreeding adults or post-breeding adults were concentrated in the western half of Kabetogama Lake where depths were generally <20 feet. Cormorants resident to Kabetogama Lake were rarely detected in Rainy Lake. However, there was some movement between lakes in the area by non-breeding adults, perhaps in relation to disturbance at the colony where they were initially captured. Six of the 25 adults affixed with radios died, with at least 4 attributable to eagle predation.

**Contact Steve Windels with any questions:**

w: 218-283-6692, h: 218-283-9926, c: 218-324-3400, [steve\\_windels@nps.gov](mailto:steve_windels@nps.gov).



## **Student Travel Expenses MNTWS 2014 Annual Meeting**

The MNTWS provides financial assistance to Minnesota college students who plan to attend the Chapter's Annual Meeting. The 2014 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Feb. 4-6, 2014 at the South Shore Conference Center in Bemidji, MN.

Stipends are intended to assist with meeting registration, banquet tickets, and lodging. Students must be members of the MN Chapter of TWS (\$5.00 student membership, can join at the meeting) to qualify. Students should contact their academic advisor for details on how to apply.

The Chapter encourages recipients to volunteer to assist with the meeting as needed with lights, projectors etc.

Recipients will be notified of their stipend prior to the Annual Meeting.

**DEADLINE DECEMBER 31st!**

## **Award Nominations Requested**

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."* Margaret Mead

This year our Awards will be presented at the Chapter's Annual Meeting scheduled for Feb. 4-6, 2014 at the South Shore Conference Center in Bemidji, MN.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is **December 31, 2013**

A nomination form is included with this newsletter and can be found on MNTWS website <http://www.mntws.org/mn/awards.html>

The nomination process is easy: Send Thom Soule an e-mail with the nomination form explaining why the person or organization you are nominating should receive the Award. (souletp@bektel.com) 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.

## Award Nominations Requested (continued)

You may find it helpful to look over the list of previous recipients (page 13) and the description of each award. Descriptions of our Awards and their history are available on the Chapter website <http://www.mntws.org/mn/index.html>.

Please take a moment now and review the Awards History to reacquaint yourself with these friends. Then, think of someone who would fit well in the company of previous recipients, and e-mail me the nomination. Remember how nice it is to be pleasantly surprised and how welcome an award can be to a hard-working individual or organization

### 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.



### 2013 MNTWS AWARD NOMINATION

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Award: (Circle or underline one):

1) Minnesota 2) Conservation 3) Student Conservationist 4) Law Enforcement 5) Janet Boe Memorial

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.)



The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society has seven annual awards that are presented at its Annual Meeting.

*Minnesota Award:* This award is presented to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to Minnesota's wildlife and natural resources.

*Conservation Award:* This award is presented to an individual or organization that has shown an outstanding commitment to Minnesota's wildlife resources.

*Student Conservationist Award:* This award is given to a wildlife major at a Minnesota college who has shown a commitment to wildlife and promise as a future wildlife professional.

*Law Enforcement Award:* This award is given to a Minnesota Conservation Officer who has shown an outstanding commitment to the protection of Minnesota's resources.

*Bob Fedeler Memorial Award:* This 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.

*Dr. Janet S. Boe Memorial Award:* This award is presented to a professional woman or outstanding female graduate or undergraduate student who exemplifies the consummate natural resource scientist.

*Service to Chapter Awards:* This award is given for exceptional service and commitment to the Minnesota chapter during the past year.

### **MNTWS 2013 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.
- Have demonstrated good communication skills.

How to apply:

1. Send a letter of interest by January 6th, 2014 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.

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 which will be held Feb. 4-6, 2014 at the South Shore Conference Center in Bemidji, MN.

Submit Applications to:

Thom Soule, Chair MNTWS Awards Committee

14351 40<sup>th</sup> St NE

Driscoll, ND 58532

(701) 387-4420

souletp@bektel.com

## MINNESOTA CHAPTER, THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY, AWARDS HISTORIES 1958-CURRENT

YEAR	MINNESOTA AWARD	CONSERVATION AWARD	STUDENT CONSERVATIONIST AWARD	LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD	Dr. JANET S. BOE MEMORIAL AWARD	BOB FEDLER MEMORIAL AWARD
1958	George Selke					
1959	Lytton Taylor	The <b>Minnesota Award</b> is our Chapter's highest Award and is presented to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to Minnesota's wildlife and natural resources.				
1960	Jack Berryman					
1961	John Moyle					
1962	Arnold Erickson	The <b>Conservation Award</b> is presented to an organization or institution that has shown an outstanding commitment to Minnesota's Wildlife resources.				
1963	Samuel Eddy					
1964	Richard Dorer					
1965	William H. Marshall	The <b>Student Conservationist Award</b> is presented to a Wildlife Major at a Minnesota college who has shown a commitment to wildlife, has high scholastic achievement, and shows promise as a future wildlife professional.				
1966	George McCullough					
1967	Walter J. Breckenridge					
1968	Flick Davis	The <b>Law Enforcement Award</b> is presented to an individual who has demonstrated dedication and service to the protection of Minnesota's natural resources.				
1969	Grady E. Mann					
1970	Milton Stenlund					
1971	Robert Burwell	The <b>Dr. Janet S. Boe Memorial Award</b> is presented to a professional woman or outstanding female graduate or undergraduate student who exemplifies the consummate natural resource scientist.				
1972	Robley W. Hunt					
1973	Art Hawkins					
1974	Dave Vesall	The <b>Bob Fedeler Memorial Award</b> established two Awards in memory of past president Bob Fedeler. The Award is full membership in TWVS including all publications for an undergraduate and a graduate student enrolled in a Wildlife				
1975	Ross Hanson					
1976	L. Daniel Frenzel					
1977	Laurits W. Krefting					
1978	Robert E. Farnes					
1979	Gordon W. Gullion					
1980	Max Partch					
1981	David Dickey					
1982	**					
1983	John Mathisen					
1984	Arlin Anderson					

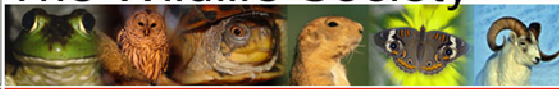
1985	Carl Madsen					
1986	L. David Mech	Minnesota Waterfowl Association				
1987	John Scharf	Fish & Wildlife Legislative Alliance				
1988	Alfred Berner	Nicollet Conservation Club				
1989	Wallace Dayton	The Big Game Club-Special Projects				
1990	Edward Crozier	Friends of the Minnesota Valley				
1991	Roger M. Holmes	Pheasants Forever				
1992	Harvey Nelson	Itasca Community College	Eric Spadgens-	Doug Sand-		
1993	Carrol Henderson	Clean Up the River Environment (CURE)	Dean Paron	David Mador		
1994	Janet Green	Coalition For a Clean Minnesota River	Jane Mueller	Todd Manley		

### MINNESOTA CHAPTER, THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY, AWARDS HISTORIES 1958-CURRENT

YEAR	MINNESOTA AWARD	CONSERVATION AWARD	STUDENT CONSERVATIONIST AWARD	LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD	Dr. JANET S. BOE MEMORIAL AWARD	BOB FEDLER MEMORIAL AWARD
1995	William E. Berg	Hennepin Co. Parks-DNR	Kent	Larry Lewis		
1996	Alfred H. Grewe		Eric	David Duncan		
1997	Al Radtke	Ducks Unlimited-Minnesota	Myron	Jeff Birchem		
1998	Larry R. Nelson	Central Lakes College Natural Resources Department	Eric Thorson	John F. Smith		
1999	Dan Svedarsky	Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse	Shane Os-	Martin Book		
2000	Robert Janssen	Izaak Walton League Minnesota	Emily Spinler	Leland Ow-		
2001	Larry Lewis	Minnesota Conservation Fed-	Chad	Tom Provost		
2002	Ross Hier	Central Minnesota Audubon Society	Dan Oberg	Brian Mies		



## The Wildlife Society



Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education



2003	<b>Francesca Cuthbert</b>	<b>KAXE Northern Community Radio</b>	<b>Tom Gorman</b>	<b>Joyce &amp; Paul Kuske</b>		
2004	Douglas Keran	Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society	Russell Kleinschmidt	Karl Hadrits		
2005	Terrance Wolfe	Stearns County Pheasants Forever	Nathaniel Emery	Richard Stoltman		Brent Hasse
2006	Gary L. Huschle	St. Louis River Citizens Action	Tim Barberg	Scott Staples		Micah
2007	Janet Boe Lee Pfannmuller	Luverne and Mary Jo Forbord of Prairie Horizons Farm	Mary Jo Geldert	Gary Forsberg		Jessica Jessica Holmes
2008	Brian Winter	Jane Bennett-Central MN Citizens For Responsible Growth	Chris Waltz	Jeremy Woinarowicz	Margaret Anderson	Sarah Thompson
2009	John Toepfer	Purple Martin Working Group	Beth Woodswalker	Ed Picht	Gretchen Mehmel	Stefanie Bergh
2010	Margaret Anderson	Shell Rock River Watershed	Sheila Carleton	Charles Melvin III	Jodie Provost	
2011	<b>Dave Zentner</b>	Laddie & Jim Elwell	Adam Klein-	Tyler Quandt	Jeanine Vorland	Ariane L. Waldstein
2012	<b>David E. Andersen</b>	<b>Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council</b>	<b>Kyle Daly</b>	<b>Scott Fritz</b>	<b>Martha Minchak</b>	Jennifer DuBay Robert Dunlap

## Election Time—Board Positions and Candidates

All members are invited to vote for candidates to serve on the 2013 board in the following positions:

- ☐ *President-elect*
- ☐ *Secretary*
- ☐ *Treasurer*
- ☐ *Region 1 Representative*
- ☐ *Region 3 Representative*
- ☐ *Region 5 Representative*

Descriptions of the positions and duties are available in the Chapter's Operations Manual at < <http://www.mntws.org/mn/bylaws.html> > or by emailing Mike at the address below.

The following pages contain information on candidate running for each position. Special thanks to Wayne Bringer for spearheading the effort to solicit members to run for these important positions.

## Nominations for MN TWS Board President-Elect

### Richard Olsen

#### Education

MSc. Wildlife, Louisiana State University, 1999  
BS. Natural Resource Management, Cook  
College, 1991

#### Present Position

Assistant Area Wildlife Manager, MN DNR  
Glenwood

#### MNTWS Chapter Activities

Secretary - 2008-2011

#### Professional & Personal Interests:

Wildlife and Grassland Management, Live-  
stock, Sustainable Farming, Soil Health, Soil  
Regeneration, and Soil Biology, Local Foods

#### Personal Statement

MNTWS President-Elect, President, and Past President positions are a tremendous opportunity to further build leadership skills, and work with a dedicated and passionate group of individuals that comprise the board. I look forward to the experience and challenges that come with these responsibilities. I would like to take my interests for the prairie region, sustainability, and our natural resources and challenge our management paradigms to become more effective by doing the right things. Further, I encourage everyone to become



more involved, not only within the MNTWS, but in your own local communities to make the place a gift to our children and their future.

## Nominations for MN TWS Board

### Secretary

#### Maria Fosado

Wildlife Refuge Specialist, Fergus Falls  
Wetland Management District

#### Education

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

#### Present Position

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

#### 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)

#### MNTWS Chapter Activities

Member since 2012, MNTWS Chapter Secretary (2013)

#### 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 wet-



land 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 MNTWS more people will understand what is happening to our natural resources and will be motivated to do something about it!

## Nominations for MN TWS Board

### Treasurer

#### Lindsey Shartell, Ph.D.

Lindsey relocated to Minnesota in January 2013 to take on the Forest Habitat Biologist position as part of the MN DNR Wildlife Habitat Program. She is currently conducting research on sharp-tailed grouse habitat and looks forward to diving into more forest wildlife projects. She previously worked as a research associate with Wayne State University and Seney NWR assisting with GIS and statistical analyses for habitat and landscape ecology research.

Lindsey received a PhD in Forest Science from Michigan Technological University in 2012, a MS degree in Forest Ecology and Management from Michigan Tech in 2007, and a BA degree in Biology and Environmental Science from Adrian College in 2005.

As a new Minnesotan, Lindsey joined the MN TWS Chapter in early 2013. She is also a member of the National Chapter, and helped to start the Michigan Tech TWS Student Chapter while in graduate school serving as the club's public relations chair.

Serving as the treasurer of the MN TWS Chapter would be a great way for Lindsey to become more involved with wildlife and conservation issues and connect with the many people and organizations committed to managing wildlife and their habitats in Minnesota. She is also pretty good with numbers!





## Nominations for MN TWS Board

### Treasurer (continued)

#### Alex Galt

I am currently a Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Morris Wetland Management District where I coordinate the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

Through this program I work with private landowners and other partners to restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat on private lands in 8 west-central Minnesota counties. I spent the past three years coordinating the Partners Program in southeastern Iowa and western Illinois while stationed at the Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge.

I earned a B.S. degree in zoology from North Dakota State University in May 2008 and a M.S. degree in biology from Fort Hays State University in December 2010. My graduate research was a collaborative effort between FHSU and the USFWS MN Private Lands Office where I worked for two years as a student trainee in the Student Career Experience Program. Our research looked at the effects of various sediment removal techniques on bird communities in restored prairie pothole wetlands in western MN. We also tested the “hemi-marsh condition hypothesis” in small prairie pothole wetlands.

The challenges associated with delivering conservation on-the-ground and understanding ecological principles are truly rewarding. I consider conserva-



tion to be a lifestyle instead of simply a career and I believe that it is crucial that we communicate with the public about the art and science of wildlife management. When I'm not pursuing fish, game, or rare birds with a camera, I spend much of my free time developing digital conservation media for local, regional, and national outlets.

I have been a member of The Wildlife Society and various state chapters since 2008. I recently returned to MN and would like to become more involved with conservation issues through the MN TWS and to work with others to further the mission of the chapter. Representing wildlife professionals within the state as a board member would be a great honor.

## Nominations for MN TWS Board

### Region 1 Representative

#### Jessica VanDuyn

**Education:**

B.S. in Wildlife Management and Natural Resources Aviation from University of Minnesota, Crookston, MN 2008

A.A.S. in Wildlife Management and minor in Wildlife Ecology from Vermilion Community College Ely, MN 2006

**Current Position:**

Wildlife Lake Specialist MN Department of Natural Resources  
Detroit Lakes, MN (2011-present)

**Previous Positions:**

Wildlife Technician, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks, AK (2010-2011)

Wildlife/Wetland Research Technician  
MN Department of Natural Resources in Bemidji, MN (2007)

Wildlife Technician MN Department of Natural Resources in Eveleth, MN (2005-2006)

**MNTWS Chapter Activities**

National member and Minnesota chapter member since 2008

**Personal and Professional Interests:**

I enjoy spending most of my free time in the outdoors. Some of my pastimes include hunting, fishing, camping, canoeing, traveling and spending time with family



and friends. Flying single-engine aircraft is also a passion of mine.

My professional interests include wetland habitat management, wetland restoration and enhancement, and waterfowl population management.

**Personal Statement:**

Since becoming a member in 2008, I have truly enjoyed my time with The Wildlife Society. That being said I would be honored to take a more active role within the society. As Regional Representative for Region 1, I would bring my passion and determination to this position. I appreciate the consideration and will be dedicated to make a difference for the society.



## Region 1 Representative (continued)

### Vanessa Lane, Ph.D.

#### Education

Ph.D. Forest Resources, University of Georgia, 2010  
M.S. Animal and Range Sciences, Montana State University, 2005  
B.S. Natural Resources, Cornell University, 2003

#### Current Position

Lecturer of Fisheries and Wildlife Management, University of Minnesota Crookston

#### MNTWS Chapter Activities

Member since 2012

#### TWS Activities

Member since 2007  
Member College and University Education Working Group since 2012  
Associate Wildlife Biologist™

#### Personal and Professional Interests

Vanessa has long been interested in the interactions of land management techniques and native flora and fauna. She quantified nesting and brood rearing habitat of greater sage grouse in Montana for her M.S., and she examined the effects of site preparation techniques in southern pine plantations on native plant, bird, and small mammal communities for her Ph.D. She is currently collaborating with Minnesota DNR and



USFWS to examine effects of several hybrid cattail control methods on plant, amphibian, and bird communities at Glacial Ridge NWR. She is also working with Dr. Dan Svendsarsky on his cattail biofuels project in northwestern Minnesota.

In her spare time, Vanessa is an avid birder, herper, and reptile breeder. She is also a huge fan of New Zealand, having backpacked the entire country during two months in 2006. She hopes to eventually visit Australia, which is any herp lover's dream.

#### Personal Statement

I am new faculty at the University of Minnesota Crookston, teaching a variety of courses ranging from herpetology to conservation biology and undergraduate research techniques. I am currently in my second year of resident instruction, having moved to Crookston from Georgia in 2012. In the past I worked on a variety of projects across the continent, including Project Puffin off the gulf of Maine, a cerulean warbler project in West Virginia, a butterfly migration study in Costa Rica, and humpback chub monitoring in the Grand Canyon. I was also President of the Oconee Rivers Audubon Society in Athens, GA, for several years. I am eager to become more involved in MNTWS and become part of positive change for conservation in Minnesota and nationwide.

## Region 3 Representative

### Mandy Uhrich

**Present Position**

Statewide Wildlife Depredation Specialist -  
MN DNR

**Education & Work History**

Mandy is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with Majors in Natural Resource Management & Agricultural Management. Mandy started her career with the 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 last year, Mandy spent the last several years working for MNDOT as the Integrated Resource Coordinator managing several natural resource programs and research.

**Personal Statement**

Growing up in rural 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 am honored to be nominated to represent Region 3 professionals.

## Region 3 Representative (continued)

### Tony Hewitt

#### Education

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

#### Present Position

Wildlife Biologist, USFWS, Sherburne, Rice Lake, 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 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. 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 and I never looked back. The MNTWS chapter is a great resource that helped in the development of my career and my hope is that I will continue to grow as I become more active in the chapter, but I also hope that I can also contribute in strengthening the chapter by providing an opportunity for future generations of natural resource managers to realize their passion as I did with the help MNTWS.



## Nominations for MN TWS Board Region 5 Representative

### Stephen Winter

I was born and raised in Nebraska and have spent most of my time in the Great Plains, obtaining degrees from the University of Nebraska, Kansas State University, and Oklahoma State University. I've worked for a variety of federal, state and NGO employers in a variety of locations, including Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, and California. The bulk of my experience and interests are in the areas of grassland ecology, management and restoration



but my current job with the US Fish and Wildlife Service has me immersed, so to speak, in big river ecology. I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, a Refuge spanning 261 miles of the Mississippi River between Wabasha, Minnesota and Clinton, Iowa.

I have been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1994 and a TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist since 2004. I was appointed to serve as the MN TWS Region 5 Representative in 2013 to fill a vacancy in that position. I have enjoyed my service to MN TWS through activities such as the annual meeting, the summer workshop, and the position statement on conservation grazing. I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving the MN TWS.

## TWS Council Activities Update

### David E. Andersen, North Central Section Representative

As the new North Central Section Representative, I first want to say thank you for the opportunity to serve the North Central Section of TWS and to represent the Section on Council. It's quite an honor to serve such a respected group of professionals, and at the same time, a daunting challenge. Second, I want to express my thanks to Karl Martin, both for his service as North Central Section Representative, and for his assistance as he transitions out of that position and I fill in behind him. Karl has been a strong representative for the Section and a leader on Council—I know that he will be missed, and that I will be leaning on him as I learn the ropes.

My first Council activities were rather intensive, in that prior to and at the Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, Council engaged in a 2-day strategic planning workshop, 2 days of business meetings, and a final business meeting on the last day of the Annual Conference. Between meetings and listening sessions and conversations in the halls and after hours, it was a busy week. The following are some of the highlights of Council activities in Milwaukee.

**Financial Situation** – As Karl reported in the spring Section newsletter, TWS has been working to address financial difficulties. Past-President Wini Kessler described TWS's financial situation in the July 2013 edition of *The Wildlifer*, and TWS's new Executive Director, Ken Williams, TWS staff, and Council have been working to develop a strategy to address our current financial situation. As a new Council member, I am working to understand our current financial position and practices, and to help implement strategies to move TWS toward a stronger and more sustainable financial future. I can report that Executive Director Williams and Council are focused on TWS's financial situation, and are working to address past practices that resulted in deficit spending. The budget that Council approved after 2 days of deliberations is both fiscally conservative, and, I believe, gives Executive Director Williams and TWS staff the resources and support they need to be able to function effectively until our financial situation improves. This means that TWS will be able to continue to provide services important to membership (e.g., *The Wildlife Professional*, our scientific journals, TWS's activities in Government Affairs), but with fewer staff and a smaller budget, with the goal of moving toward a more sustainable and favorable financial position that will allow additional investment into TWS's programs in the future.

I can also report on 2 financial items that I know many members are concerned about. First, previous deficit spending resulted in a significant reduction in the operating account of TWS. TWS still has sufficient operating funds, but the balance in this account is considerably lower than is desirable. TWS Council and staff are working on strategies to increase the balance in this budget over the next several years to a more healthy level. Second, no funds from accounts designated for specific purposes (e.g., the Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship) have been used to cover recent operating deficits. These funds are restricted and can only be used for the purpose for which they were donated. I think that there has been concern expressed about these accounts, but the fact is that these funds are held and used only for the purposes for which they were donated.

Bottom line is this—TWS has put itself in a difficult financial position. The current leadership is working to address TWS's current financial position and put it on a sustainable path. TWS has gotten leaner, but will continue to provide core membership services. It will take some time and lots of work to get where we want to be, but I believe that we are headed in the right direction. I would encourage North Central Section members to look for opportunities to strengthen TWS—renew your membership; encourage your colleagues to become members of the parent society, if they are not already; and pay attention to what is happening at the level of the parent organization as well as at the Section and Chapter levels.

## TWS Council Activities Update (continued)

**Milwaukee Annual Conference** – The recent Annual Conference held in Milwaukee was a great success. The Wisconsin Chapter, North Central Section, TWS staff (under the able direction of Darryl Walter), and the local Arrangements Committee and the Program Committee worked hard to put together a first-rate conference. Over 1300 people attended the meeting and participated in a variety of workshops, 2 plenary sessions, working group meetings, a variety of symposia, numerous contributed paper sessions, and a plethora of associated meetings and activities. Other than a few minor issues with visual aids in a couple of sessions, the only real major detraction was the difficulties federal employees experienced related to the partial federal government shutdown. Some workshops were cancelled, as were a number of presentations, although in many cases, presentations by federal authors were given by non-federal co-authors or collaborators. The government shutdown also limited attendance by federal employees, which may negatively impact revenues from the conference and the economic impact of the conference on the host community.

**Awards and Honors** – Keith McCaffery (WI Department of Natural Resources, retired) received a Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to TWS, having formally served both the Wisconsin Chapter and the North Central Section. Adrian Wydeven (WI Department of Natural Resources) received the Jim McDonough Award, which recognizes Certified Wildlife Biologists who make significant contributions to the wildlife profession. Co-authors Dawn Redding, Anne Bronikowski, and William Clark of Iowa State University and Warren Johnson of the National Cancer Institute won a Wildlife Conservation Award for their 2012 article on genetic differentiation in bobcats. Chuck Pils (WI Department of Natural Resources, retired) and John Shultz (Missouri Department of Conservation, retired) were both recognized as TWS Fellows. The Missouri Western State University Chapter was awarded the honor of Student Chapter of the Year, and the chapter's advisor, Dr. Cary D. Chevalier (aka DRC) was recognized as Student Chapter Advisor of the Year—congratulations to both the chapter and to DRC. Finally, the University of Minnesota, Crookston team won this year's Quiz Bowl, in what was a hard fought and exciting competition. Way to go, Crookston! As you can tell, folks in the North Central Section were well-represented in TWS awards this year—congratulations to all.

**TWS Strategic Vision** – TWS Council spent 2 days prior to the Annual Conference in Milwaukee in a strategic planning retreat, with the goal of updating and revising TWS's strategic vision and plan. The planning document is still a work in progress, but unlike our previous strategic plan, this document will include less detail and more emphasis on what Council sees as TWS's future and what we can do to achieve that future.

Stay tuned for more information as the plan comes together.

**Government Affairs** – TWS staff in the Government Affairs and Partnerships program (Laura Bies, Terra Rentz, and others) have worked with Chapter and Section representatives to build a foundation for a Conservation Affairs Network. Terra and Laura have spear-headed development of a draft document, which is currently being reviewed by Council, chapters, and sections, that outlines how a more effective network could benefit all levels of TWS and help make TWS more effective in advocating science in conservation policy. Council also views this effort as a mechanism to better integrate TWS across all levels from chapters to sections to the parent society. The North Central Section will discuss this proposal at our meeting in at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Kansas in January 2014, and I would encourage chapters to think about how a Conservation Affairs Network might integrate into existing efforts and structure at the chapter level.

**Other News** – Council acted on several other items of interest to the North Central Section at our recent meeting. TWS will implement a Premium Membership Tier that includes subscriptions to all journals and discounts on conference registration and certification fees. Albuquerque, New Mexico was approved as the location for the 2017 Annual Conference, and Council approved official status for the Wetlands Working Group. Council also approved changes to certification requirements for Associate Wildlife Biologists and



Certified Wildlife Biologist, and these changes to the Certification Program will be provided to membership and posted on the TWS website in the near future. Also of interest, Council approved a membership marketing proposal to reach members of Chapters and Sections who aren't members of the parent society, and state agency biologists who may not be members of TWS. Expect to see more about these efforts in the future.

**TWS Staff**—Since the Annual Conference in Milwaukee, 2 staff in TWS Headquarters have announced that they are leaving TWS for other opportunities. Terra Rentz will be starting a graduate program at SUNY ESF/University of Syracuse—Maxwell School for Public Administration focusing on the Public Trust Doctrine and our effectiveness as a conservation community. Terra has brought great enthusiasm and commitment to TWS's Government Affairs Program, and she will be sorely missed. Darryl Walter also announced in late October that he is departing TWS to take advantage of a great career opportunity. Darryl has served as Chief of Staff for TWS for the past several years, and has been instrumental in TWS's transition between Executive Directors. One of Darryl's most visible contributions is organizing the Annual Conferences, which have been smashing successes. TWS is losing 2 great staff, but I think that I can speak for the entire North Central Section in wishing Terra and Darryl the best and thanking them for their service to our organization. Finally, thanks again for the opportunity to serve as the North Central Section Representative. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me ([dea@umn.edu](mailto:dea@umn.edu)). I hope to see you at the upcoming Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Kansas City, Kansas in January 2014, and I also hope to be able to attend several of the Chapter meetings over the next couple of years. And, don't forget to start planning to attend the 2014 TWS Annual Conference next October in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



## Regional Reports - News from the Field

### Region I—Gregg Knutsen



#### Beltrami Island Land Utilization Project lands

Gary Huschle represented the MNTWS at organizational meeting for the Beltrami Island Land Utilization Project (LUP) Citizens Input Panel in August. The primary purpose of this panel is to improve communication between the MNDNR and citizens about implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for the Beltrami Island LUP lands. MNTWS was invited to have representation on the Panel. Maggie Anderson was appointed by the MNTWS board to represent the Chapter. The first meeting was in October and background material was reviewed. These LUP lands are owned by the USFWS (Agassiz NWR) and managed by the MNDNR (Red Lake WMA).

#### Agassiz NWR

Larry Anderson, the Refuge's Fire Mgmt. Officer retired in September, after more than 18 years with the USFWS. Moving forward, the fire programs at Agassiz, Glacial Ridge, and Rydell NWRs will be combined and Darrin Franco will serve as the Fire Program Manager for all three. Agassiz NWR will serve as his primary station.

MN DNR Personnel Updates (submitted by Ann Geisen)

New Assistant Wildlife Managers are:

### MN Chapter TWS Regions



- Thief Lake WMA – Kyle Arola
- Karlstad – Graham Parson
- Roseau River WMA – Jessica Melin
- Red Lake WMA – Charlie Tucker
- Thief River Falls – Becky Eckstein
- Crookston – Ruth Ann Franke

In Crookston, Ross Hier was promoted to Area Wildlife Manager, succeeding Terry Wolfe.

Blane Klemek was recently named the Assistant Regional Wildlife Manager for Region I, stationed out of Bemidji. He started his new duties on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Rob Rabasco, former Assistant Wildlife Manager in Park Rapids, accepted a new position in Fisheries, overseeing management of Aquatic Management Areas in the northern half of Minnesota.

Tom Kucera, Assistant Wildlife Manager in Detroit Lakes, retired in September, ending his 39-year career with the DNR.

Tom Carlson, waterfowl habitat specialist stationed in Fergus Falls, retired in November after 40 years working for DNR Wildlife.

## Regional Reports (continued)

### **Region 2 – Dawn Plattner**



#### MN DNR Personnel Updates

Bob Kirsch retired on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013, which also happened to be his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was the Area Wildlife Manager in Two Harbors for the past 26 years, but was with the DNR a long time before that. Bob's retirement was celebrated at the Moose Lodge in Two Harbors on September 7<sup>th</sup>. He also had a nice interview with Sam Cook in the Duluth News Tribune following his retirement.

Bob's history with the MN DNR:

- Two Harbors since 1987 (as Area Wildlife Manager)
- Madison '85-'87 (Wildlife)
- Carlos Avery '80-'85 (Wildlife)
- Eco Services '78-'80
- Forestry '72-'78
- Fisheries/Creel Survey Spring '71-Fall '72
- Summer Lake Surveys in 1969

Bruce Anderson was hired as the Assistant Area Wildlife Manager in Cloquet. His first official working day was September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. Bruce's most recent experience comes from the US Forest Service. He worked for the Superior National Forest the last 12 years and held the positions of Storm Recovery Monitoring Coordinator, Acting District Ranger, and Forest Monitoring Coordinator. Prior to coming to Minnesota, Bruce worked for the USFS out west. He was the Wilderness Invasive Species Coordinator for the Frank Church Central Idaho Wilderness, the Forest/District Program Leader for

Non Native Invasive Species, Wild & Scenic Rivers, Wilderness, Recreation and Trails for Nez Perce National Forest – Idaho, and the Rangeland Management Specialist/Wildlife Biologist for the Black Hills and Custer National Forests.

Meadow Kouffeld-Hansen accepted a Working-Out-Of-Class position as the Region 2 and 3 Contract Specialist. She is based out of the Grand Rapids office and will be filling in for Jeff Busse through the end of December, or longer. Her first day in the new position was September 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### The Superior National Forest selects their new Forest Wildlife Biologist

Susan Catton will start her new job in Duluth on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Susan will bring a tremendous amount of experience and skill – to both the ecological and natural resources management technical side of this job and to the leadership, partnership and communication or “people” side of the job. Susan has had ten years' experience on the Superior at Kawishiwi as District and Zone biologist – working on everything from District level vegetation management and stewardship projects to serving as Acting District Ranger on Laurentian, to working on the national level lynx science team. She has also worked on Siskiyou and Rogue River National Forests.

#### USGS Superior National Forest Wolf and Deer Study - Shannon Barber-Meyer and Dave Mech, USGS

The USGS wolf trapping technicians radio-collared 19 wolves this summer and fall in the agency's long-term study area of the Superior National Forest including 2 wolves now wearing GPS collars that periodically post location data. Live-trapping of white-tailed deer for radio-collaring will proceed from February through April (weather dependent).

#### Vermilion Community College – Lori Schmidt, Natural Resource Program Coordinator

The Vermilion Forestry and Wildlife students had a

## Regional Reports (continued)

very busy fall with their usual Fall Surveys including Predator Scent Post, Small Mammal, and Bag Limit Surveys for various agencies. In addition, they assisted the DNR - Fish and Marten project by conducting an additional 54 Small Mammal Transects. In addition to some fuels reduction projects, property boundary searches and miscellaneous Wolf Center projects, every weekend has been filled with field work.

### Isle Royale Holds Public Information Meetings about Wolf Management

In November, Isle Royale National Park held a series of 4 public meetings to discuss the status of wolf management on the island. During the meetings, the Natural Resources team presented information about the history of wolves on Isle Royale, climate change implications, and current and future status. The presentations were followed by an opportunity for the public to discuss natural resources, ecology, climate change, and wildlife management as well as ask questions and provide comments to park staff.

You can learn more about this issue at:

<http://www.nps.gov/isro/naturescience/isle-royale-to-hold-public-information-meetings-about-wolf-management.htm>

### Izaak Walton League of America – W. J. McCabe Chapter, Rich Staffon

The W. J. McCabe Chapter of the Iles have been very busy with a plethora of conservation issues. It never seems to let up! We've been attending meetings, giving testimony and writing comments on a number of fronts including:

- proposal by Elkhorn Industries to construct an oil shipping dock in Superior that could result in oil tankers traveling the Great Lakes from here in Duluth-Superior
- a meeting with PCA about why they stopped the Mercury TMDL study for the St. Louis River and are now proposing a new approach
- the soon to be released SDEIS for Polymet

- a soon to be released EA by the BLM on applications for renewal of mining leases for Twin Metals on the edge of the BWCA
  - the Wetland Defenders which is a group of environmental orgs who are meeting to plan for ways to improve wetland mitigation efforts in the state in response to legislation that was proposed last year to revise the WCA
  - keeping tabs on the Sax-Zim mega wetland mitigation proposal by a private wetland mitigation firm
  - plans and proposals by the city of Duluth for restoration of a number of trout streams in the city that were damaged by the June 2012 flood.
- the oil boom in N Dak and how that is affecting pipeline expansion to get the oil to the refineries in Superior

### Upcoming Events – International Wolf Center

#### **Group Visits**

Experience Minnesota's wolf country for a few hours or a whole week-it's completely up to you. Contact the Center for information on how to schedule a visit to the Center for your group of 8 or more friends, family or colleagues/students to partake in science-based programs related to wolf ecology, research, management, or associated species/habitats both indoors and out. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.wolf.org/wolves/experience/groupvisits/groupvisits.asp>

#### **New Year's Family Weekend**

December 28 - 29, 2013

Let our pack meet yours! Incorporate this fun, educational package into your family's holiday vacation plans. With plenty of family-focused activities and outdoor fun, your family will talk about this trip for years to come! Spend quality time together learning about the wolf.

Activity Level: One snowshoe hike over uneven terrain for one to three miles depending on group abilities.

For more information, please visit:



## Regional Reports (continued)

<http://www.wolf.org/wolves/experience/programs/newyearswknd.asp>

### Tracking the Pack - Family

January 18-19, 2014

Do you have a budding biologist in your family? Let our pack meet yours during this fun, educational family package. Spend quality time together learning about the north woods home of the wolf and wolf research methods through lessons on tracking, radio telemetry and howling.

Activity Level: One hike over uneven terrain for one to three miles depending on group abilities.

For more information, please visit:

[http://www.wolf.org/wolves/experience/programs/trackingthepack\\_fam.asp](http://www.wolf.org/wolves/experience/programs/trackingthepack_fam.asp)

### WildKids Day Camp

January 20, 2014

February 17, 2014

March 31, 2014

Calling all preschool to sixth grade students! Pull out those hiking boots and join us at the International Wolf Center as we explore the natural world.

This educational and interactive program\* is a perfect way for your child to spend school release days.

\*Each camp has a different theme with associated

activities, snacks and projects.

Activity Level: Age appropriate hikes and active play.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.wolf.org/wolves/experience/programs/wildkidsdaycamp.asp>

### Tracking the Pack

February 15-16, 2014

Do you have a budding biologist in your family? Perhaps you always wondered what it was like to be a field biologist? Join us for a full day of learning about the north woods home of the wolf and wolf research methods currently used in the study of wolves.

Activity Level: One hike over uneven terrain for one to three miles depending on group abilities.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.wolf.org/wolves/experience/programs/trackingthepack.asp>

[trackingthepack.asp](http://www.wolf.org/wolves/experience/programs/trackingthepack.asp)

### Region 3— Ann Geisen



### MN DNR Personnel Updates

New Assistant Wildlife Managers are:

- Mille Lacs WMA – Bart Bly
- Cambridge – Melissa Boehner
- Brainerd – Jodie Provost

Kati Miller is the new Office and Administrative Specialist working for the Depredation and Shallow Lakes Programs, stationed in Brainerd. Kati transferred from the Aitkin office where she previously worked for Forestry.

Mike North was recently named the Forest Gamebird Coordinator, focusing on grouse and woodcock management, working out of the Brainerd office.

### DNR Area Wildlife Office Updates

*Little Falls – submitted by Beau Liddell*

Little Falls Wildlife staff have been busy as usual with typical autumn activities, particularly wetland habitat maintenance, trail maintenance and firebreak construction. In addition, we have several woodland, savanna, and grassland enhancement projects we're

## Regional Reports (continued)

doing with partners to control woody vegetation and restore oak woodland and savanna systems on Ereaux WMA in Morrison County and Sartell WMA in Benton County. Father time and muskrat have taken their toll on the infrastructure of several of our WMA wetland impoundments, and we're currently working on about 6 major dike and structure rehabilitation projects at various stages at Ereaux, Graham, Hartford, Quistorff, Spohn, Aurzada, and Staples WMAs that are being funded through the OHF. Finally, we've experienced another successful deer season this year, and as of the week prior to the muzzleloader opener, our work area has experienced a 5% increase in harvest from last year, and permit areas within and surrounding our work area currently lead the state in total deer harvest.

*Pine County/Willow River office – submitted by Dave Johnson*

### **William M. Rath Wildlife Management Area Dedication**

The 845-acre William M. Rath Wildlife Management Area (WMA) was officially dedicated in October. Located about 7 miles east of Bruno, it is the 17<sup>th</sup> WMA in Pine County. The WMA was made possible due to the conservation ethic of the former owners, Ray and Cecilia Rath. After managing and enjoying their land for decades, the Raths wanted to ensure the property would not be sold in parcels after they were gone. So they contacted DNR Wildlife staff about selling their land for a WMA. Ray and Cecilia generously donated half of the appraised value, qualifying the rest of the acquisition for matching RIM critical habitat funding. The acquisition was finalized in 2011. The new WMA is named after Ray's dad, who, according to Ray, "was a conservationist way ahead of his time". With a parking lot established and boundary signing complete, the WMA is ready for visitors.

## **Conferences and Meetings**

### Minnesota Waterfowl Association (MWA) annual Waterfowl Symposium

The Minnesota Waterfowl Association will be hosting its 17<sup>th</sup> annual Waterfowl Symposium on Saturday, February 1, 2014 in Bloomington, MN. Topics will include blue-winged teal, rails, and wild rice.

The website will be updated as details are finalized (<http://www.mnwaterfowl.com/page/show/364090-minnesota-waterfowl-symposium>).

### Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA) annual conference

WWA's 19<sup>th</sup> annual wetlands conference, "Discovering Wetlands", will be held February 18-20<sup>th</sup> in La Crosse, Wisconsin. More information can be found on the website: <http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/2014conference.htm>.

## **Wildlife Internships**

The Minnesota DNR – Shallow Lakes Program is planning to hire student interns for the 2014 summer field season to assist with surveying shallow lakes and assessing waterfowl habitat throughout Minnesota. The complete announcement and application instructions will be posted in January on the State of Minnesota jobs website (<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting>). For more information, contact Ann Geisen ([ann.geisen@state.mn.us](mailto:ann.geisen@state.mn.us)).

## **Region 4—No Report**

MN DNR Personnel Updates (submitted by Ann Geisen)

New Assistant Wildlife Managers are:

- Nicollet – Tammy Baden

Bill Schuna was promoted to Area Wildlife Manager, and transferred to the Slayton office.



## Regional Reports (continued)

Cory Netland was named Area Wildlife Manager for the Willmar/New London work area, succeeding LeRoy Dahlke who recently retired.

### **Region 5** – No Report

### **Region 6**—No Report

MN DNR Personnel Updates (submitted by Ann Geisen)  
New Assistant Wildlife Managers are:

- Carlos Avery WMA – Marshall Deters
- Forest Lake – Jamie Gangaware
- Shakopee – Josh Koelsch

Kelly Pharis is the new specialist with the Conservation Partners Legacy grant program, filling in behind Jamie Gangaware. Kelly is stationed in the St. Paul office.

## Student Chapter Reports

### **Central Lakes College**

The Natural Resources Club at Central Lakes College is involved with many events during Fall Semester. In mid-September we started off our year by volunteering at a banquet put on by Morrison County Pheasants Forever. The following week we took a Club trip to Hawk Ridge in Duluth to observe the migration of eagles, hawks, and numerous other types of birds. In October, club events really began to pick up. Many of our first year students, along with a few of the second and third year students, taught third, fourth, and fifth graders about pace factors, how to navigate using a compass, tree aging and tree identification. In the latter part of October and early November, the Club helped the DNR with the Camp Ripley Bow Hunt. Club members aged, weighed, and collected tooth samples in an effort to learn more about the condition of the deer herd at Camp Ripley. After the

deer hunt, Club members assisted with the Al Norenberg Youth Pheasant Hunt sponsored by Morrison County PF - teaching youth about safe gun habits and the reasons for using hunting as a means for population control. All this was taking place while the kids had a chance to shoot a couple of pheasants.

The most recent club activity that we have helped with is cleaning deer hides for MDHA (specifically the Brainerd MDHA Chapter). By far our biggest activity that occurs throughout fall and spring semester is trapping fisher at Camp Ripley. Throughout fall semester, members initiated the Fisher Project the club has been involved with at Camp Ripley for over 5 years; live trapping animals and performing telemetry work trying to keep track of the animals that were collared during previous trapping seasons (6 animals at present).

The events that the Natural Resources Club at Central Lakes College participates in take a lot of effort to put together and then to accomplish them. Without the unwavering guidance of our instructors: Dr. Bill Faber, Kent Montgomery and Gary Carson, these events would not take place. From the instructors to the students, everyone did an excellent job and so to all of them we offer a huge thanks for all their efforts.

## Board Minutes

### MN TWS Board Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2013

Via Conference Call

Monday, 9:00 – 11:00 am

#### Action Item

##### Motion

Meeting called to order at 9:03 am

**ATTENDANCE:** Jodie Provost, Charlotte Roy, Stephen Winter, Steve Windels, Thom Soule, Bill Faber, Wes Bailey, Gregg Knutsen, Maria Fosado (One regional rep short of a quorum. **Jodie** will need to oversee voting on motions via e-mail.)

#### OFFICER REPORTS:

##### **President:** Jodie Provost

Environmental Congress – Attended March 15. E-mailed out notes summarizing the event.

National Wildlife Week – Participated in a public forum at the State Capitol organized by MCF on March 21.

DNR & TNC “Public Land Management through Grazing” dialog – Participated on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

North Central Section of TWS - Sent article for Spring 2013 Newsletter. Joined Continuing Education Committee.

Directors and Officers Insurance – Wayne Bringer brought forward this question at a previous meeting (should our Chapter get this insurance?), however was not present to give more info/background. The North Central Section does not feel it necessary to secure this insurance. It is meant to protect the individual/chapter against liability. **Steve Windels** will check with other chapters to see what they are doing.

The following motions have been approved since the Feb. 5 Board Meeting via on-line voting:

Feb. 5, 2013 Board Meeting Notes

Debit Card – Charlotte has obtained a debit card for our checking account.

Conference Call Account (with Guidelines) - Steve Winter made a **motion** that the Chapter allocate \$600 for conference calls until Feb. 2013. Bill Faber seconded the motion All present agreed.

Change to Operations Manual Language regarding Regions Reps Workshop Duties

Sponsoring Shallow Lake Workshop on Aug. 22 at Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

All are appreciating the on-line voting process. Jodie uses a spreadsheet to document votes and language voted on.

##### **President Elect:** Steve Windels –

##### 2014 Annual Meeting -

Steve has contacted WI TWS regarding interest in co-hosting a joint meeting in the Duluth/Superior area. At WI's quarterly meeting later this month they will decide. The distance that govt. employees can travel out of state needs to be considered. More info is needed to determine if a joint meeting is feasible.

Theme ideas include wildlife disease (WI's idea) and forest management (MN's idea). The theme idea that is not the primary topic could have a smaller emphasis on it.

Coordination of the banquet and awards would be needed. During the ND/MN Joint Meeting there was a joint banquet during which turns were taken handing out awards. Service to chapter awards were presented at the annual business meeting.

Membership needs/issues should generally dictate meeting location.

Steve would like assistance in planning the meeting. Charlotte will oversee treasury duties. If the theme is forest management, it would be appropriate for the Forest Committee can assist. Jeff Hines has also volunteered to help Steve. Wes, the Program and Publicity Committee chair, can also assist. **Wes** will look at the bylaws to review his duties in regard to assisting with the annual meeting program.

Steve Winter made a **motion** to have a Joint Meeting with Wisconsin TWS in the Duluth/Superior area and Charlotte seconded its. All present agreed.

##### **Secretary:** Maria Fosado

JB completed notes from the Feb. 5 Board meeting. Wayne sent them out and they have been approved.

## Board Minutes (continued)

### **Treasurer:** Charlotte Roy

John Loegering needs reimbursement yet for Teaming With Wildlife Fly-In expenses. It is estimated to be several hundred dollars. MDHA, MSGS and Woodcock MN each donated \$100 to defray costs.

Tax forms for 2012 have been submitted. A report was submitted that stated we are non-profit, our income, our expenses and our balance. As long we have < \$50,000, reporting is easy.

A Chapter debit card has been secured and activated which allowed set up of conference call account.

Jodie's name has been added to our account.

Bill Faber **motioned** to accept the May treasurer report. Gregg K. seconded it. All present agreed.

### **Newsletter Editor:** Wes Bailey

Newsletter items are due June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Statewide:** Bill Faber

Bill organized a Statewide Committee including Gerry Shimek, Nick McCann, and Steve Windels.

The Chapter sent a letter supporting listing of the Chimney Swift and Red-headed Woodpecker as SGCN. Bill received confirmation from Rich Baker of DNR Nongame that the letter was received but our recommendations were not accepted. He could not find information on an appeals process.

What does the Chapter consider statewide issues/opportunities? It was suggested that we make an effort to define them. Legislation that affects wildlife could be an example. **Bill** will review our operations manual/bylaws to see if we define "statewide issues".

### **Prairie/Farmland:** Greg Hoch - absent/no report

Greg, JB Bright and Stephen Winter hope to get the draft polished up and to the Board soon as there are opportunities to share it at meetings/workshops this summer. DNR Ecological and Water Resources staff have concerns about grazing. After the Board reviews a draft, it could be shared with them for their input.

### **Forest:** Mike North - absent/no report

### **Wetlands:** Laurie Fairchild - absent/no report

This committee plans to revive the draft drainage/tiling position paper. They held a conference call (using the old conference call system, since the new one was not yet set up.)

### **Membership:** Kristin Fritz - absent

Kristin e-mailed the updated membership database and membership breakdowns to the Board prior to the conference call. She updated it after the annual meeting. Membership is up slightly.

### **Program & Publicity:** Wes Bailey

Wes wonders about utility of the newsletter. He is considering new communication methods such as a blog, or Facebook, in addition to it. New methods could create the ability to send out more instantaneous updates. They would not replace the newsletter, but be an addition. The idea was well received. Perhaps Wes could enlist the help of a student. Such new methods may engage our youth more. The parent chapter has useful weekly or monthly emails on policy updates and wildlife related news. E-mail updates like them are a possibility.

### **Student Relations:** Jim Berdeen/Mark Hanson - absent/no report

Jim and Mark are interested in keeping this committee active. They did a great job rounding up mentors for the student / professional mixer at the annual meeting.

**Student Paper & Poster Awards** - Emily Hutchins oversaw judging and these awards at the annual meeting. **Emily and Jodie** are to consult with the Awards and Student Relations Committees to develop awards that are consistent with others, in preparation for next year's meeting.

**Student Travel Awards** - **John Loegering and Bill Faber** are to work with student chapter advisors to draft a proposal with alternatives and preferred alternatives on allocation of these awards.

### **Awards:** Thom Soule

**Fedeler Award** - Thom will visit with Bob Fedeler's wife to determine intent of the award. He has sent his wife a letter introducing himself and asking to visit. Thom would like to invite her to be present and involved with that award. She lives in Brainerd.

## Board Minutes (continued)

**Fundraising:** Gregg Knutsen

**Gregg** will check into a gambling permit after we know the location of our next annual meeting. Games of chance may require one. Permits are generally city specific. A cost is likely.

Fundraising decisions will be held off until membership survey results are in and we know what the membership wants. Because of the MOU required by USFWS, **Gregg** needs to look into whether he can assist with fundraising. He will report his findings to the Board.

Gregg is considering purchase of a fundraising book for guidance.

If MTWS receives income from gambling, it may affect how we need to complete our tax report. **Charlotte** will look into it and report back to the Board.

**MN Conservation Federation:** Bill Faber

**FWLA:** Lance Ness of FWLA was to join the conference call but was unable.

**Jodie** will ask him to answer the questions our Board has about membership in FWLA.

Everyone was in favor of advocacy by our Chapter; however the best method(s) for us to be effective is unknown. The Chapter could explore the kinds of advocacy available. Concern exists over the Chapter losing its voice/identity if we join and utilize groups such as MCF and FWLA for advocacy. Time for our members to be active in legislation and lobbying is a limiting factor. We have expertise but are not experts in everything. It takes time to become informed on all issues. Perhaps we need to create an advocacy plan or maybe the Statewide Committee fits the niche?

**Nominations for 2014 Elections:**

Past President Wayne Brininger is responsible for the 2014 elections.

**NRCS State Technical Committee:** Jodie Provost

Members include USFWS (Sheldon Myerchin), BWSR, DNR (Mark Lindquist), Jodie as the Chapter Rep., Pheasants Forever, etc. Generally about 30 people are present. Jodie continues to attend the STC meeting and share information from them.

**Webmaster:** John Loegering - absent/no report

**Archivist:** John Moriarty - absent/no report

**COWCH Project:** Nicholas Snavelly - absent/no report

**Audit:** Gretchen Mehmel - absent/no report

**OTHER REPORTS:****Membership Recruitment, Retention, and Participation:**

**Survey** - John Loegering hopes to have it placed on survey monkey soon. **Six members** who volunteered at the annual meeting will then test it.

**Draft Plan** - After survey is completed, **Wayne** will work with Thom, Mike Larson and Kristin to use the guidance and outline drafted by Thom to develop a plan.

**Board Participation** - **Wayne** will share results of questionnaire he shared with Committee Chairs at the annual business meeting in Feb. The intent is to increase participation by board members.

**Bylaws:** Wayne will touch base with John to begin the review that is due.

**Lifetime Membership:** Thom Soule

**Thom** will develop a proposal to start an endowment using lifetime membership dues. He hopes to complete it by end

## Board Minutes (continued)

of summer. Earlier discussions mentioned a \$25,000 minimum, but the amount hasn't been set yet. Contributions to the endowment can take place via a number of ways: donations, fundraisers, proceeds from the lifetime memberships, etc. An endowment committee could oversee fundraising. After the minimum goal is reached, then interest could be used to sponsor Chapter activities and increase financial capabilities.

### **Shallow Lakes Workshop:** Gregg Knutsen

A tentative date and location have been set - August 22 at the Fergus Falls Prairie Wetlands Learning Center (USFWS). It will be an Ecology and Management Workshop coordinated by Ann Geisen, Steven Winter, Gregg Knutsen, and Doug Wells. Kyle Zimmer, Mark Hanson and Brian Herwig will be key organizers. Wetland managers will be updated on recent study results and management strategies.

It will be one day (9:30 am to 4:30 pm). Pre-registration will close about a week prior. A \$15 reg. fee for chapter members and a \$20 fee for non-members is being considered. The agenda will likely include 8-10 speakers, a poster session, and a panel discussion. **Mark** will have a tentative agenda by May 24.

Gregg doesn't anticipate much cost to the chapter. The only cost will likely be lunch. Mark and Kyle do not anticipate much if any request for travel assistance by speakers. USFWS is not charging for the use of the Learning Center.

Steve Winter will handle the registration and transfer money to Charlotte. **Gregg** will send out an email within the next week or two as a "Save The Date" notice.

### **REGIONAL REPORTS:**

Region I: Gregg Knutsen - Didn't have anything else to report.

Region II: Dawn Plattner - absent/no report

Region III: Ann Geisen – absent/no report

Region IV: Kristin Fritz – absent/no report

Region V: Steve Winter

After realizing that his Region had only three members based on the recently updated membership, Steve contacted colleagues in other agencies and organizations to make them aware of the Chapter and recruit. Awesome! **Steve** will share how he did this outreach with other regional reps.

Region VI: Tom Cooper - absent/no report

### **STUDENT CHAPTER & CLUB REPORTS:**

Bill Faber contacted the Central Lakes College Natural Resource Club to get an update for the June 1 Newsletter. He also reported on the election of officers for next year.

### **NEXT BOARD MEETING:**

Holding the next Board meeting either the evening before or after the Shallow Lake Workshop on August 22 at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center at Fergus Falls was discussed. Meeting at the USFWS District Office's conference room would allow people a call-in option. Camping could be an option for lodging. The Delagoon Park campground in Fergus Falls would be closest. **Jodie** will organize the next board meeting.

Lack of participation in conference calls/meetings has been an ongoing issue. It needs to be addressed. **Jodie** will reach out to Board members to encourage their participation and request that people unable to attend generate and submit a report to the Board prior to each meeting. Support for conference calls was voiced because they are cheaper and more convenient than in-person meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.



## Board Minutes (continued)

### MTWS Board Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2013

Fergus Falls Wetland Management District  
& via Conference Call  
Wednesday, 5:14 – 8:15 pm

Action Item

Motion

Meeting called to order at 5:14pm

ATTENDEES: Maria Fosado, Kristin Fritz, Ann Geisen, Gregg Knutsen, Dawn Plattner, Jodie Provost, Charlotte Roy, Thom Soule, and Steve Winter

Guest: Jason Ballard from Big Stone NWR

VIA PHONE: Tom Cooper, Bill Faber, John Loegering, and Steve Windels

#### OFFICER REPORTS:

President: Jodie Provost

**Directors and officers insurance** - Steve Windels checked into directors and officers insurance and heard from 3 different chapters (ID, MI, and WI) as well as the North Central Section. They all passed on it due to not seeing a need based on their chapter activities. John Loegering mentioned some southern chapters pursued it because of deer/high fence initiatives they've participated in. Some were sued because of the stance. He doesn't think our chapter has done anything risky necessitating insurance. Bill Faber gave an example of hiring trappers to blow up beaver dams so they had liability insurance; however, when the effort stopped, liability insurance was dropped. Jodie moved to pass on liability insurance at this time. Steve Winters seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.

**Online voting:** The following were approved with motions and voting since the May 2013 board meeting:

May 13 Board Meeting notes and May Treasurer Report

\$600 for conference calls

MTWS Conservation Grazing Position Statement

Student support for the Shallow Lakes Workshop - Did not receive any requests for financial support. Need to confirm with Mark Hanson to ensure students are aware of the opportunity for financial support.

Support the Parent TWS's position statement on Feral and Free Ranging Domestic Cats. John will place a link on our MTWS webpage to all Parent TWS position papers we support.

Rep to Panel for LUP Lands - Maggie Anderson was selected as our main rep and Gary Huschle as backup rep.

Jodie will double check on if we're allowed a backup rep and/ or written input on subject matter if our main rep cannot attend a meeting.

**The following was supported through on-line input:**

NRCS Tile Outlet Initiative rep - Ray Norrgard was supported by all as our MTWS rep.

**Other topics up for Voting:**

MTWS President or designee to the annual Midwest meeting. Financial support for this was approved. Jodie will estimate the cost for the Board's approval. Ann and Tom voted ayes, then all others voted to support it. Thom wanted to know if the financial support is a per year or perpetual commitment? Do we need to add it to the Bylaws? Once we come to an agreement on how much financial support the chapter is willing to provide, we add it to the operations manual instead of the bylaws. There were several comments made stipulating that the degree of our financial support has to be stated in a clear manner, so that we understand that we are not expecting people to pay for all or part of the expenses out of their own pocket. Another recommendation that was made was that the individual should first check to see if their employer is willing to foot their bill before they ask the Chapter for funding.

## Board Minutes (continued)

Possible conflict when members attend functions with an interest as a MTWS member and also as an employee.

How can this be addressed? Board consensus was that if an individual does not feel comfortable in the situation, they can recuse themselves. Ideally they and fellow participants should clearly know who they are representing at the function. The Board cannot generate a general blanket statement that would be applicable to all individuals. It has to be addressed on a case by case basis, and not in our manual or bylaws.

MN River as a National Blueway - This designation would provide recognition that promotes a healthy river system and water quality, generating addition support for grants and conservation. Steve Winters moved to write a letter of support. Ann seconded. All Ayes. Motion passed. Jodie will draft a letter of support for Board review.

President Elect: Steve Windels

2014 Annual Meeting – WI decided to hold off on an annual joint meeting with MTWS due to coordinating the national meeting in Milwaukee. They are interested in an annual joint meeting in March 2015, possibly in Duluth/Superior. Steve is now considering St. Cloud, Feb 4 - 6. Theme suggestions included advances in genetics, advocacy, language of conservation, human dimensions, developing an initiative work closer with private landowners, and our changing of landscape. Steve will continue to firm annual meeting plans up.

Past President: Wayne Brininger – absent, e-mailed input -

Draft Recruitment, Retention & Participation Plan - Thinks we can make some progress on this plan in advance of the survey and leave placeholders for the elements that would be derived from the survey. Has begun to loosely plug away at some of the sections. Wayne will work with Thom, Mike and Kristin to have a draft by the next board meeting (provided we have some results from the survey).

Special Committee Chair questionnaires – Wayne distributed these at the annual membership meeting and noted in a March 12 email to committee chairs to send them to Jodie when completed.

Bylaws Review – Wayne will work with John to review and have any revised bylaw recommendations provided by the next board meeting. If any board member has a recommendation(s) for changes please let John or him know. John and Wayne will send out an email on the google groups requesting input for changes.

Secretary: Maria Fosado

May 13, 2013 Board Meeting Minutes Notes were e-mailed and approved.

Treasurer Report: Charlotte Roy

Aug. 2, 2013 Treasurer Report - E-mailed for review on Aug. 4. All were in favor of supporting the treasurer's report.

Newsletter Editor, Program & Publicity: Wes Baily - absent, e-mailed input -

Newsletter Editor – Wes wants to step down. He will write the next two newsletters (through the end of the year) unless someone else volunteers to take over sooner.

Newsletter - Wes thinks it is outdated. Information is being shared at too long a time interval to make it effective. Announcements are often time-sensitive. The Board should consider creating a Facebook page so information can be shared instantaneously and at any time. Another option to supplement the newsletter is a blog.

Ad hoc Communication Subcommittee: This subcommittee was formed. Kristin will be the lead, Dawn and Maria will assist. It will identify better methods of communication with our members and present the options and their recommendations to the Board. The subcommittee can set up a conference call if they'd like.

Program & Publicity – Intended to be a committee that helps with annual meeting plans, etc..

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Statewide: Bill Faber

Roundtable on Copper Ammunition - Bill attended this meeting for MTWS on Aug. 14. He will be involved in continuing discussions and keep us informed. John Moriarty attended for Three Rivers Park District. It was non-confrontational with much fruitful discussions. There was no feeling that people will be forced to switch right away. Science shows that copper is superior to lead for ballistics. Retailers/smaller vendors were present. Ammo makers aren't on board yet. Many board

## Board Minutes (continued)

members supported the idea of providing funds for a copper brochure. The Parent Chapter is struggling with this issue due to some strong supporters of NRA. Thom suggested we encourage a position on all lead ammo. Gregg suggested that if we need more help with this issue that Maggie Anderson would likely be willing to help.

State Wildlife Grants and others federal conservation grants support letter - The Chapter will sign on plus write its own. Steve Winters moved that John write the letter of support. Jodie will send it. She will also see that we sign on the group letter. Gregg Knutsen seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.

Minneapolis proposal to TNR feral cats - Is someone anybody interested in providing written comment to the City on behalf of the Chapter? Tom Will may possibly be interested. Steve Windels said he would help if Tom Will is willing to take the lead. A news release on the position statement for cats may be warranted, such as in the Outdoor News.

Prairie/Farmland: Greg Hoch – absent, gave Jodie input over phone -

Loss of bees/pollinators – Greg wondered if MTWS wanted to address this issue. The difference between native and honey bees needs consideration. See the article in recent Time magazine. MN passed legislation last year mandating DNR and MDA to address issue.

Chapter's Conservation Grazing Position Statement – We want to ensure we're promoting it and don't "fail to launch". It should be shared at grazing tours (an example of possible conflict when members attend functions with an interest as a MTWS member and also as an employee). Bill suggested we send it to Rob Drieslein, editor of Outdoor News. Steve Winter volunteered to write a news release and contact Rob.

After release of the statement, concern was expressed that the term "conservation grazing" may offend cattleman, implying that we are conservationists and cattleman are not. The statement may have been better titled "Grazing as a management tool on conservation lands". Overall thought was the term would not "sink" the statement and it does not need changing.

Farm Bill Briefing Paper - Thom - The more he learns the about the Farm Bill, the more he is torn and feels it is immoral. He doesn't know how to best address it yet. It will be put it on hold. Thom can work with the Prairie/Farmland Team.

Forest: Mike North – absent, no report

Wetland: Lorie Fairchild - absent, no report

Wetland Drainage/Tiling position paper - The team would like to develop this paper. They had a conference call several months ago.

Membership: Kristin Fritz

Welcome letter - Kristin began this letter for new MTWS members, but it became too long with too much information. She will improve and send it out. It will include information on how to join our Google Group.

Google Group – Directions on our website to join it need to be made more clear, concise, and readily found. Determining how many members are on our Google Group is very tedious. John has access to do so. We currently have one group for the Board and a second for general membership which is how members get the newsletter and other updates and news. A third group could be created for those people who want to receive only the newsletter, and not other news and updates from fellow members.

Student Relations: Jim Berdeen/Mark Hanson – absent, no report – Jodie explained -

Student Paper and Poster Awards - These awards were started at the annual meeting last Feb. to encourage student involvement. 1st place was \$75 and 2nd Place was \$25 for both the poster and oral presentations, as well as certificates. Emily Hutchinson led the judging effort and is interested in doing so again. Gregg said he may be interesting in helping. Jodie and Emily need to consult with the Awards and Student Relations Committees to ensure award amounts and types are consistent with other awards.

Professional Mixer (Speed Networking) – Was good feedback on this mentoring session at the annual meeting last Feb. A louder timer for rotating and a larger room are needed. We were limited to the lobby area last year. A keg of beverage helps too.

## Board Minutes (continued)

Student Travel Assistance: Bill and John are to draft a proposal on guidelines for travel assistance to the annual meeting.

Awards: Thom Soule

Chapter Award Nominations – Regional reps and everyone need to begin considering who to nominate for awards.

North Central Section Professional Award of Merit – Nominations were due for this Aug. 20.

Bill Berg may be a good nominee to plan for next year.

Fundraising: (Norm Moody) Gregg Knutsen

Gambling information - Charlotte recently sent this info out again to the Board. We may be able to gamble and keep our tax exempt status. However, we may have to change our tax forms and file differently than in the past. It depends on how much income we make on gaming. If we choose to pursue gaming, Charlotte will need additional help. Tom will check with a PF chapter to see what they do and what forms they use. Needed permits depend on the city the event is in.

As a USFWS employee, Gregg will be unable to be involved in fundraising. We will hear in membership survey if want to expand fundraising efforts.

MN Conservation Federation – Bill Faber

Next annual meeting - Sept. 7-8 at Owatonna. Bill cannot attend due to his sebatacle to Sweden.

Fish & Wildlife Legislative Alliance:

Rejoin or not? - The Board is still trying to determine whether or not does the same or better job of advocacy as FWLA. Bill, as our MDF rep., said yes, perhaps even better. An actively involved MTWS rep is key to a successful partnership with FWLA. One of the key reasons that we dropped our FWLA membership was that our budget was very tight, plus we didn't have anybody willing to be our rep. Both have changed – our budget has improved and Ray Norrgard has offered to be our rep. Two vital pieces of information are needed for this discuss/decision – 1. How much does it cost: is it \$500/one seat on their board and \$1,000/two seats, or a flat \$1,000 no matter what. 2. Who is willing to be a representative/who does MTWS want as representatives? We need to confirm with that Ray is still interested. Jodie will check into these two questions.

2014 Elections: Wayne Brininger – absent, e-mailed input -

Nominations - Wayne is making and will continue making contacts for officer positions. Open positions include President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Regional Reps 1, 3 and 5. The Bylaws note that there should be a 3-person election committee if anyone on the board is interested in volunteering to assist.

NRCS State Technical Committee: Jodie Provost

New rep? - Jodie is currently the rep, but due to her switch in positions, her work is no longer private land related, so she may seek a new rep for the Chapter.

Webmaster: John Loegering

Website - John thinks it is ok where it is currently being hosted (Univ. of M - Crookston server) but we could possibly move it to the Parent website at some time. Doesn't think we will get kicked off the U of M server any time soon.

Historian/Archivist: John Moriarty- absent, no report

COWCH: Nicholas Snively – absent, no report

Interviews - We need to be get moving on interviews before it's too late for some of our older folks. She is encouraging Nicholas to promote COWCH in our newsletter and seek members to help conduct interviews.

Audit: Gretchen Mehmél – absent, no report

OTHER REPORTS:

## Board Minutes (continued)

Membership Recruitment, Retention, and Participation: Ann Giesen

Draft survey on survey monkey- Has been tested by six members. Ann is reviewing their feedback. She will incorporate them and work with John to edit and finalize the survey. Jodie will have one last review of it too.

Lifetime Membership: Thom Soule

Draft proposal for use of proceeds from this account - Thom will continue to work on it.

Shallow Lakes Workshop:

Super attendance - We ended up turning people away because there was not enough room for all interested. Next time we'll have to look use a bigger facility!

Thank you - Jodie will e-mail a thank you to participants for attending with a link to abstracts and our membership form.

Abstracts – We will ask Mark Hanson to organize them so they can be placed on our website.

Regional Representative Reports: All present, but nothing to report

I. Gregg Knutsen

II. Dawn Plattner

III. Ann Geisen

IV. Kristin Fritz

V. Steve Winter

Tom Cooper

Student Chapter & Club Reports: All absent, no reports

Univ. of MN-Crookston

Central Lakes College

Univ. of MN-Twin Cities

Vermillion Community College

MN State Univ.-Moorhead

Bemidji State University

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 pm



## Treasurer's Report

### TREASURER'S REPORT

#### MN Chapter TWS

3 August–6 November 2013

#### SAVINGS

Beginning Balance at Affinity \$ 1,280.40

Interest \$ 0.33

Subtotal \$ 1,280.73

Ending Balance \$ 1,280.73

#### CHECKING

Beginning Balance \$ 10,084.78

Change (554.79)

##### Debits

Jeff Foisel refund- Shallow Lakes Workshop \$ 20.00

Zen's Creative Catering (Workshop meals) \$1,260.00

Doug Wells- snacks for workshop \$ 253.52

Conference calls- Start Meeting \$ 75.38

Subtotal \$1,608.90

##### Credits

Shallow Lakes Workshop registration \$ 1,665.00

Memberships \$ 370.00

T-shirt sales \$ 126.00

Dividends \$ 2.69

Subtotal \$ 2,163.69

Ending Balance \$10,639.57

60 Month Step-Up CD (7153652) opened August 24 2012 with funds from Wahoo certificate (7142749)

## Treasurer's Report (continued)

(note: rate increased to 0.613% on 8/31/13)

Beginning Balance \$4,002.71

Dividends \$ 4.97

Subtotal \$4,007.68

Ending Balance \$4,007.68

60 Month CD (7149290, 2.227%) opened Mar 2 2012 with Midwest Steering Committee Funds

Beginning Balance \$20,640.35

Dividends \$ 116.08

Subtotal \$20,756.43

Ending Balance \$20,756.43

### INVESTMENT HISTORY

12 Month CD (Affinity Plus 7115999-renewed (0.499% rate), matured 24 Aug 2011) – Established from revenue (\$1000) for lifetime memberships in 1995, \$350 added to CD in 2002. The interest may be used for typical operating expenses of the society if needed.

Beginning Balance \$ 3,410.65

Dividends \$ 10.99

Ending Balance as of 24 August 2011 \$ 3,421.64 CLOSED

On August 24 2011, the funds from the 12 MONTH CD (7115999) were invested into a Wahoo certificate at Affinity Bank (7142749, 1.982%). On October 17 2011, \$375 from Bill Faber for a lifetime membership was added to the Wahoo certificate (7142749). On November 8 2011, \$20,000 from the Midwest Steering Committee was added to the Wahoo certificate (7142749) until a decision was made by the Board about how to invest it. The Board decided to invest the money in a 5 year CD (2.227%) at the annual meeting in February 2012. The money (\$20,000) was moved to the 5 year CD (7149290) on Mar 2 2012.

Beginning Balance (7142749) \$ 3,421.64

Faber lifetime membership \$ 375.00

## Treasurer's Report (continued)

Midwest Steering Committee funds \$20,000.00

Dividends \$ 201.42

Moved Midwest Steering Funds to 60 Month CD (7149290) -\$20,000.00

Ending Balance-matured Aug 24 2012 \$ 3,998.06 CLOSED

Reinvested funds from Wahoo certificate (7142749) in 60 month Step-up CD (7153652, APY 0.125, 0.625, 1.125, 2.625, 3.625) at Affinity Bank on Aug 24 2012 with no penalty of withdrawing after 3 years.

**Total chapter assets as of 6 November 2013 \$ 36,684.41**

Charlotte Roy, Treasurer

6 November 2013

## End of Year Membership Database Information

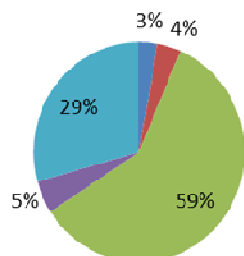
The final tally of MN TWS Chapter Memberships for the year of 2013 came to 249 members. In 2012 we had 202 members so we have increased our numbers. Hopefully in 2014 we can keep increasing our numbers of memberships.

I have broken out the numbers a few ways. The first pie chart shows the percent breakdown of members as a whole. The following bar graphs breakdown the memberships by Region; this way we can see where all of our members are located across the regions. Abbreviations are as followed: JT (Joint), LF (Lifetime/Joint Lifetime), RG (Regular), RT (Retired), ST (Students). If anyone would like more information on membership numbers please feel free to email me at [Kristin\\_Fritz@fws.gov](mailto:Kristin_Fritz@fws.gov).

### 12/5/2013 % Membership Breakdown

JT LF RG RT ST

JT	7
LF	9
RG	148
RT	12
ST	73



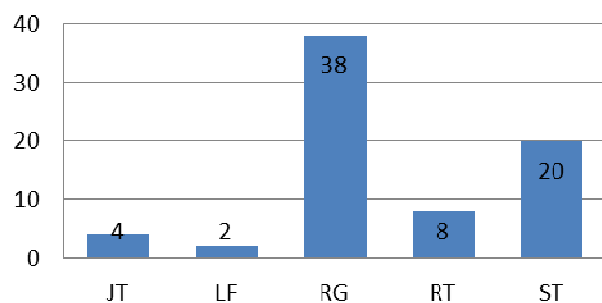
JT (Joint), LF (Lifetime/Joint Lifetime), RG (Regular), RT (Retired), ST (Students)

### MN Chapter TWS Regions

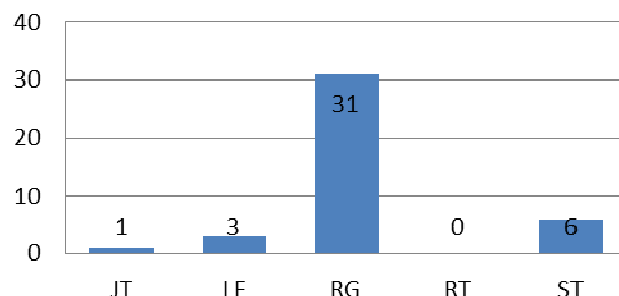


## Membership Database (continued)

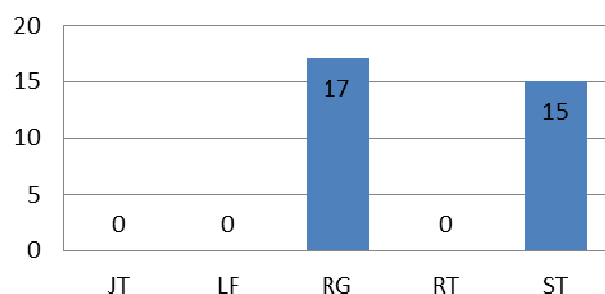
Reg 1



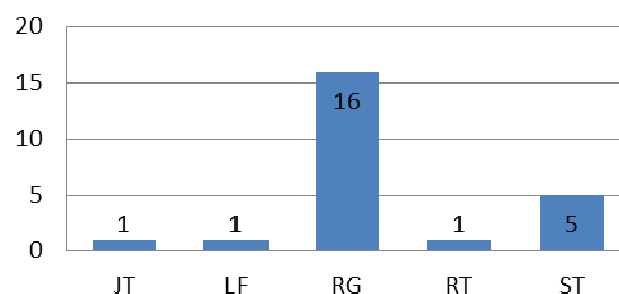
Reg 2



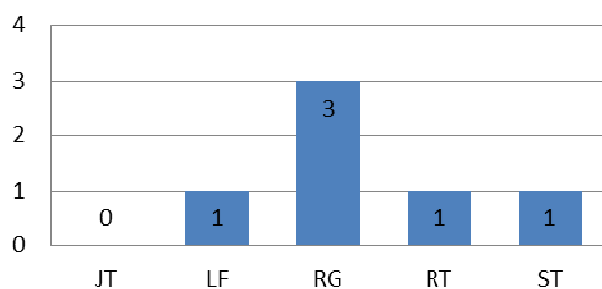
Reg 3



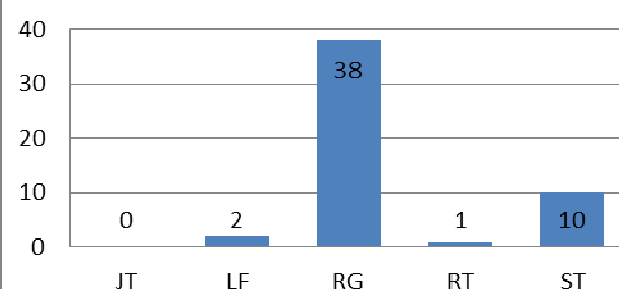
Reg 4



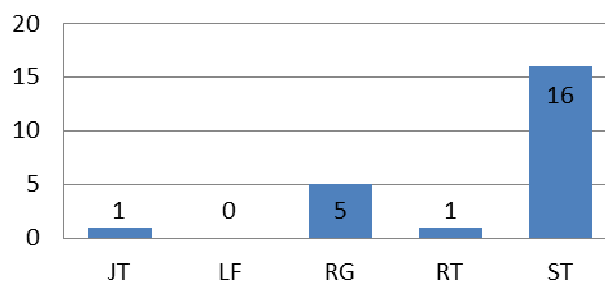
Reg 5



Reg 6



Reg 8 (outside MN)



## Other Items...

November 14, 2013

High Conservation Value Forest Workgroup

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Forestry  
500 Lafayette Rd

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear DNR High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) Workgroup:

The Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society has reviewed the proposed process for identifying HCVF and the proposed list of candidate sites. We offer the following comments for your consideration. We believe the process as outlined is commendable and the tracts that have been identified all merit the designation of HCVF. The tracts closely match those that have been recognized as Areas of Limitations through the state forest Off Highway Vehicle planning process and areas that have been recognized as meriting Scientific and Natural Area status, such as Bemis Swamp.

We are concerned, however, that the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) has not been completed for Beltrami, Clearwater, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Roseau and St. Louis. These counties lack proposed candidate HCVF sites. We seek assurances from the DNR that as MCBS is completed in these counties that additional HCVF be designated. In particular, we believe there should be significantly more primary lowland conifer forests within the Minnesota—Ontario Peatlands Section that should be considered HCVF under both HCV Categories 2 and 3.

We also note that there are no designated HCVF candidate sites in the Nashwauk Uplands, the Littlefork Vermillion Uplands, or the Toimi Uplands Ecological Classification System (ECS) Subsections. *Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare* lists several forested habitats as key habitats for Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) for all of these ECS subsections. We respectfully request that these ECS subsections be re-evaluated for candidate HCVF sites.

We also note that Cass County generally lacks candidate sites and we are concerned that Cass County has been overlooked due to the MCBS data not residing with the DNR, but rather with ProWest Associates in Walker. We have three recommended sites for you to re-consider for HCVF status in Cass County: 1) the Willow River area in the Remer State Forest, 2) a tract of old-growth forest along the Pine River south of the City of Pine River, and 3) areas in the northern region of the Pillsbury State Forest along CSAH 15 from Gull Lake to Rock Lake. This latter area contains natural origin mature red and white pine forests (which are key habitats in *Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare*) and old growth forests that support many SGCNs and Species of Special Concern including red-shouldered hawk, Eastern whip-poor-will, American wood-



## Other Items...

cock, bald eagle, gray wolf, veery, least flycatcher, rose-breasted grosbeak, yellow-bellied sapsucker, and potentially northern goshawk.

Lastly, we recommend that the portion of the Mississippi Headwaters State Forest within Clearwater County be re-evaluated for HCVF status. State lands contain bog adders-mouth (endangered), ram's-head lady's-slippers (threatened), and white adders-mouth (special concern); the Mississippi River that flows through the State Forest supports a unique assemblage of rare invertebrates including *Oxytheria itasca*, Vertree's ceraclean caddisfly, and creek heelsplitter; and nearby tributaries to the Mississippi further contain *Oxytheria ecornata* (LaSalle Lake State Recreation Area) and the only known population in the world of *Chilostigma itasca* (in Itasca State Park), both of which could reasonably be expected to occur in the State Forest.

Our Chapter thanks you for the opportunity to provide input and your consideration of these important recommendations. As a society of professionals working in a wide array of wildlife resource related fields, we are eager to assist and collaborate for the benefit of habitat, wildlife and people. Please feel free to contact our Chapter if we can assist further.

Sincerely yours in conservation,



Jodie Provost, President

Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society

27267 Spruce Grove Road

Aitkin, MN 56431

218-838-3553

## Other Items... (continued)



### **Position Statement Conservation Grazing**

Conservation grazing is the use of domesticated grazing or browsing livestock for the primary purpose of modifying vegetation structure and composition to meet habitat management objectives. It is often utilized on lands dedicated to conservation of natural resources such as plants, plant communities, fish and wildlife, ecosystems, biodiversity, and landscapes. Examples of these conservation lands include, but are not limited to, state Wildlife Management Areas, State Parks, state Scientific & Natural Areas, federal National Wildlife Refuges, federal Waterfowl Production Areas, and properties owned or managed by non-governmental conservation organizations and land trusts. Conservation grazing is not conducted for the primary purpose of generating income through sale of animal products such as meat, dairy, fiber, or leather. However, income and habitat management objectives can often be met simultaneously.

Properly functioning grassland ecosystems support a wide diversity of native plants and vegetation structure that provides critical habitat for wildlife and contributes to the maintenance of biodiversity. Scientifically sound management plans and practices which mimic the disturbances under which grassland ecosystems evolved and to which their plants and wildlife are adapted, are key to properly managing, protecting, enhancing and restoring grasslands. These disturbances included grazing and browsing by wild animals, along with fire and periods of rest between disturbances. Conservation grazing is an important management tool used to mimic grazing and browsing by wild animals.

The policy of the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society in regard to conservation grazing is to support:

1. The use of properly managed domestic livestock as a habitat management tool on conservation lands to meet clearly defined objectives when science indicates it may be an effective tool in achieving those objectives.
2. Its use on conservation lands when potential effects of livestock grazing on resources for which lands are managed have been fully considered, as well as on other natural resources important to society such as biota, soil, and water.
3. Its use on conservation lands as a flexible management tool that allows managers to alter stocking rate and timing of grazing to meet specific restoration or management objectives.
4. Monitoring to determine its effectiveness in meeting management objectives, including development of criteria to determine what plant communities, landscapes or habitat conditions benefit from grazing based on plants, soils, or water resources at the site.
5. Adaptive management driven by results of field-based, experimental design to provide for continual improvement in its application as new knowledge becomes available.

## Other Items... (continued)

6. Identification of lands where grazing could be detrimental to the plant community or local wild life population or certain species, such as a threatened or endangered species.
7. Consideration of its use in the context of other management practices such as burning, mowing, and haying, either alone or in combination, such as with patch burn grazing.
8. Effective coordination and cooperation between agencies, organizations and the affected public, such as livestock producers, to encourage information sharing and unity toward a common goal of healthy grassland ecosystems and local economies.
9. Its use on conservation lands as a catalyst to encourage its implementation on private lands.
10. Training and education of agency and organization staff, the public and landowners on its uses and benefits, as well as practical details such as fencing, watering, and development of site-specific management plans.
11. Development of strong professional and public education programs which clearly explain goals and outcomes of its use and encourage development of grazing plans and specific objectives for sites.
12. Its use, when appropriate, to demonstrate successful integration of habitat conservation and livestock production objectives that benefit native species, plant communities and ecosystems while also providing economically viable livestock production.
13. Efforts by agencies, non-government organizations and landowners to implement this position statement.

## Other Items... (continued)

### *Creating a Conservation Affairs Network - A New Way of Doing Business at All Levels*

Things are changing in the world of Conservation Affairs for The Wildlife Society. In an effort to support and strengthen our subunits, the Government Affairs and Partnerships staff is working with members to develop a Conservation Affairs Network focused on the Section level. Traditionally, each TWS subunit has functioned independently when dealing with conservation affairs related issues – only engaging headquarters or neighboring subunits when deemed necessary. For some, this process has worked well. For others, the lack of a communication structure or standard guidance has created difficulties. Depending on the scale and complexity, volatile nature, or comfort and understanding of a particular issue and the players involved, many subunits and members have shied away from engaging in the conservation affairs arena. Although it is up to any given subunit to engage in conservation affairs, the lack of a cohesive effort hurts the engagement and effectiveness of many wildlife professionals.

TWS staff recognizes this difficulty and looks forward to working with our subunits to create a system of support that works! At the TWS Annual Conference in Portland, staff met with representatives from each Section to discuss how a Conservation Affairs Network could function. Essentially, the network features coordination at the Section level through the creation of Conservation Affairs Committees (CACs) comprised of representatives from each Chapter within the Section. The Section CAC would be responsible for tracking and taking action as appropriate on regional issues of concern, providing support to Chapters who need assistance addressing issues that are too volatile or difficult on a local level for direct Chapter involvement, and highlighting regional issues that may have national significance to headquarters to address. The Section CAC would also serve as the hub for subunit communication and collaboration for particular issues. Chapters would, of course, still function with autonomy and could tailor a system to address conservation affairs issues in a way that best meets the unique needs of the individual chapter.

The Conservation Affairs Network is still in the planning and assessment stage. If designed correctly, with the right member input and strong grassroots support, TWS' Conservation Affairs Network can help decrease workload for subunits currently engaged in conservation affairs, reduce duplicative efforts, increase resource sharing, increase communication and inter-subunit collaboration, and provide a mechanism to better engage all levels of our Society on critical issues that affect natural resource management and the wildlife profession.

MTWS is considering using this new network. Look to hear more about it soon, including the Annual Membership Meeting in early February. If you are interested in learning more about conservation affairs or getting engaged with your Section or Chapter's CAC or the Conservation Affairs Network please contact your Section or Chapter President or TWS Government Affairs Staff ([laura@wildlife.org](mailto:laura@wildlife.org)) for more information.

## Other Items... (continued)

# Report warns of climate threat to big game in Minnesota

By *STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press*

POSTED: 11/14/2013 11:10:06 AM CST

MINNEAPOLIS—Climate change threatens the big game animals that call Minnesota home—from moose to deer to bears—and the state needs to plan for how protect those species and the outdoor recreation economy that depends on them, conservation groups warned Thursday.

The National Wildlife Federation has released a report titled "Nowhere to Run: Big Game Wildlife in a Warming World," which examines how "climate change is already having significant impacts on big game and their habitats" across the country due to higher temperatures, droughts, more frequent wildfires and other factors.

"Moose are the poster child of climate change and Minnesota is demonstrating that," the study's author, Doug Inkley, senior scientist with the federation, told The Associated Press.

The report notes that moose are "superbly adapted" for deep snow and bitter cold. But the big, fuzzy animals are prone to heat stress, and they eat less when they suffer from it. The moose population in northwestern Minnesota, which had numbered around 4,000 in the mid-1980s, has nearly died out as summer temperatures have increased by 3 to 4 degrees. Meanwhile, northeastern Minnesota's moose population has plummeted by 52 percent since 2010 to an estimated 2,760 last winter.

Research indicates winter ticks and other parasites that survive mild winters, nutritional deficiencies resulting from a changing food supply in the forests, and drier bogs where moose could otherwise cool off may be among the reasons why Minnesota is losing its moose. The exact reasons aren't clear. But those factors are all associated with climate change, said Leslie McInenly, big game program leader with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Moose aren't the only big game animals in danger in Minnesota. Inkley and McInenly said even highly adaptable species such as white-tailed deer and black bears are at risk. So is the state's small elk population. They cited threats from diseases, drought and habitat changes that a warmer climate could bring.

The report cited epizootic hemorrhagic disease as a particular threat to deer. It has devastated populations in some other states. The disease is carried by midges, tiny biting insects also known as no-see-ums. During droughts, deer tend to concentrate in wet areas that support midge reproduction, Inkley said.

The disease hasn't been found in wild deer in Minnesota yet, McInenly told the AP, but one case was confirmed in a cow last year. It has also turned up in neighboring states.

"Certainly it's here and it's all around us. So I anticipate that's something we will be facing soon," she said.



## Other Items... (continued)

Changing forests and other habitat could also lead to more conflicts between humans and deer, bears and elk as the animals move into populated or agricultural areas in search of food, McInenly and Inkley said.

The report said solutions require cutting carbon dioxide emissions, which are the root cause of climate change, by transitioning to cleaner sources of energy. It also calls for smarter approaches to wildlife management and habitat that take climate change into account. Inkley said Minnesota's wildlife professionals began preparing "way ahead" of many other states.

"What we need to look out here for are surprises," Inkley said. "There will be surprises with climate change. And you don't know what you don't know. This is why it's important that Minnesota is trying to look ahead with their management plans."

The federal government estimates Minnesotans spend about \$260 million a year on big game hunting, noted Gary Botzek, executive director of the Minnesota Conservation Federation. The DNR has already sold nearly 450,000 licenses for the firearms deer season, which opened Saturday. And those figures don't account for the growing spending by people who head into the outdoors just to observe wildlife, he said.

"We have to rely and expect that our outdoor community will step forward and be part of the solution," Botzek said.

## Other Items... (continued)

### Voices from the Swamp

#### **When the Boss isn't Right**

Sooner or later, regardless of the level of respect you have for your supervisor, it is going to happen. As sure as the stars, someday you will be asked to support a decision that you find misguided at best, perhaps incredibly stupid at worst. At first, you may be simply stunned. Then as the decision sinks in there is a small voice in your head that grows and grows until its screams begin to blot out the rational.

Okay, that's a little over the top, or not, depending on the circumstances. How you respond to that voice, however, can have career long implications. Here are a few rules of thumb, courtesy of those who have been there many, many times.

First, recognize that the decision may not have been your boss's and they may be feeling the same level of anguish as you. Everyone in the organization has a "boss" and they all do things at times that we would rather they didn't.

Second, recognize that your boss has access to, and is influenced by, information that you may not. Just one example is the political realities of conservation program survival in addition to conservation program design to meet ecological principles. In addition, for better or worse, we are professionals in a scientific field that is subject to change. Uncertainty is nearly always present to some degree.

Third, if you absolutely must confront your boss, do so in private. This allows your boss the opportunity to be open and honest about the basis and ramifications of the decision. If the response seems unusually gruff it may be an indication that they are as frustrated as you but have no latitude to change the decision.

Fourth, asking the right questions will be much more important than having the "right" answer. Adopt the attitude that you need to better understand the decision to effectively perform your duties. Ask your boss sincere questions and listen carefully to the content, and tone, of the answers.

Fifth, as employees we are paid for providing a service to our organization. We have a contract, written or not, with our employer. Unless we are being asked to do something illegal or immoral, we have a responsibility to our employers to do our job as long as we are accepting payment. Nearly three decades ago I put in a very long day on construction of a wetland "restoration". Although it had been approved by my boss it was a project that never should have happened. The list of negatives is too long to go into here. Suffice to say that as the hours mounted so did the frustration. We got back to home base well after dark. My boss had waited for us. My behavior was in synch with my attitude as I responded to his question of how it went. I was very lucky to have a great supervisor. He looked me straight in the eyes, smiled, and simply said "The boss may not always be right, but they are always the boss. See you tomorrow." Good words to remember.

## 2013 Chapter Governing Board

### Officers

**President:** Jodie Provost jodie.provost@yahoo.com  
**President-Elect:** Steve Windels steve\_windels@nps.gov  
**Past President:** Wayne Bringer wayne\_bringer@fws.gov  
**Secretary:** Maria Fosado maria\_fosado@fws.gov  
**Treasurer:** Charlotte Roy charlotte@lancebenson.com  
**Newsletter Editor:** Bailey Petersen baileypetersen@gmail.com

### Regional Representatives

**Region 1:** Gregg Knutsen Gregg\_Knutsen@fws.gov  
**Region 2:** Dawn Plattner dawn.plattner@state.mn.us  
**Region 3:** Ann Geisen waterlily726@hotmail.com  
**Region 4:** Kristin Fritz kristin\_fritz@fws.gov  
**Region 5:** Stephen Winter stephen\_winter@fws.gov  
**Region 6:** Tom Cooper tom\_cooper@fws.gov

### Committee Chairs

**Audit:** Gretchen Mehmehl gmehmel@wiktel.com  
**Awards:** Thom Soule souletp@bektel.com  
**COWCH:** Nicholas Snaveley nsnav589@yahoo.com  
**Fundraising:** Norm Moody cassland@tds.net  
**Forest Issues:** Mike North tjnorth@brainerd.net  
**MCF Representative:** Bill Faber wfaber@clcmn.edu  
**Historian/Archivist:** John Moriarty john.moriarty@co.ramsey.mn.us  
**Membership:** Kristin Fritz Kristin\_Fritz@fws.gov  
**NRCS State Technical Committee Representative:** Jodie Provost jodie.provost@yahoo.com  
**Prairie/Farmland Issues:** Greg Hoch greghoch1@gmail.com  
**Publicity/Programs:** Bailey Petersen baileypetersen@gmail.com  
**Shallow Lake Forum Advisory Board:** Molly Tranel  
**Statewide Issues:** Bill Faber wfaber@clcmn.edu  
**Student Relations:** Jim Berdeen james.berdeen@gmail.com, & Mark Hanson Mkhan-son@paulbunyan.net  
**Wetland Issues:** Laurie Fairchild laurie\_fairchild@fws.gov

## 2013 Student Chapters

### School

#### **Bemidji State University**

**Chapter Advisor:** Brian Hiller BHiller@bemidjistate.edu

**Chapter President:** Andrew Seagren andrew.seagren@live.bemidjistate.edu

#### **Minnesota State University—Moorhead**

**Chapter Advisor:** Donna Stockram [stockram@mnstate.edu](mailto:stockram@mnstate.edu)

**Chapter President:** Jaime Kallstrom kallstroja@mnstate.edu

#### **University of Minnesota—Crookston**

**Chapter Advisor:** John Loegering [jloegeri@umn.edu](mailto:jloegeri@umn.edu)

**Chapter President:** Emily Trapp trapp026@umn.edu

#### **University of Minnesota—Twin Cities**

**Chapter Advisor:** Peter Jordan [sbme@umn.edu](mailto:sbme@umn.edu)

**Chapter President:** Roberta Ryan ryanx923@umn.edu



## About the editor:

Greetings Wildlifers!

If you've made it all the way back to the end of what seems to be the longest newsletter in history I congratulate you and hope this finds you well. My name is Bailey Petersen and I am the new editor of The Minnesota Wildlifer. A little about me: I graduated from Bemidji State University in 2009 with a Bachelor's degree in Biology with an emphasis in Wildlife Management. After a brief stint with the University of Minnesota working on woodcock research, I accepted a position with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as a Wildlife Lake Specialist for the Shallow Lakes Program within the Division of Wildlife.

My personal interests include hunting (duck, grouse, pheasant, deer) and fishing of course, but also a variety of other activities including alpine skiing, rock climbing, mountain biking, scuba diving, and many more depending on the season...

I look forward to helping serve the MN Chapter of TWS, and would like to make the newsletter as interesting and informative as possible. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or comments about the newsletter, my contact information is listed below.



**The Minnesota Wildlifer is an electronic publication published quarterly by The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Newsletter items to be considered for publication should be sent to the Newsletter Editor by the following dates: March 01, June 01, September 01, and December 01. If you would like to contribute to the next newsletter please send an email to Bailey Petersen, Newsletter Editor at [baileypetersen@gmail.com](mailto:baileypetersen@gmail.com) and write in the subject line "MN TWS newsletter submission". Previous editions of The Minnesota Wildlifer are available on our website.**



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