



Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

The Minnesota Wildlifer

The Minnesota Wildlifer Volume 40, Issue 1

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President's Message

Greetings, fellow Wildlifers! Hard to believe it's already March. We've enjoyed a more typical winter for outdoor activities, habitat and research projects, and our annual meeting. As spring fever hits, I look ahead to all our wildlife team can accomplish in the next year to further "excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education".

First, I'd like to thank all who assisted in making our annual Chapter meeting at Walker a great success! From the students who stuffed registration folders to those who donated fundraiser items, presented papers/poster, or braved the boisterous student/professional mixer, all contributed to our gathering's achievements. There are so many folks who worked behind the scenes, I can't list them all here. Thank you!

We potentially had record attendance for a meeting that was not held jointly with a sister society – 87 students and 130 professionals! We began to burst at the seams – a good problem to have! The students were very appreciative of the opportunities provided them through support to attend with travel grants, free registration, the mixer, quiz bowl and judging of their papers and posters - their presence and involvement brought a vibrant and hopeful feeling to the meeting. They are our future.

Thank you immensely to the student advisors who encourage and support them. You are key links between them, their

student chapters/clubs and our state chapter. We should continue backing students in all our Chapter does.

At our annual meeting, new board members were elected. Congratulations and welcome to Steve Windels (President Elect), Maria Fosado (Secretary), Charlotte Roy (who continues and does awesomely as Treasurer), Dawn Plattner (Region 2 representative), Kristin Fritz



Chapter President, Jodie Provost

(Region 4), and Tom Cooper (Region 6)!

Thank you to all who ran for a board position and your willingness to serve our Chapter, to Mike Larson for getting a great line up of candidates, and especially to our outgoing officers of Wayne Brining-

President's Message (continued)

er (President), JB Bright (Secretary), Nancy Gellerman (Region 2 representative), Molly Tranel (Region 4), and Erica Hoaglund (Region 6).

Our Chapter and wildlife resources benefitted and will continue to benefit from the experience, wisdom and connections you brought and gained while serving on our board. I encourage all our members to consider serving in a position or on a committee at least once, if not a couple times, along their career paths.

Now, onto our vision for the coming year! It's going to be a fruitful one. There's tremendous opportunity for us to work toward our two primary goals of 1. managing wildlife resources on a sound biological basis that benefits ecosystems and people; and 2. encouraging the highest possible professional standards in those working with wildlife resources. As with most organizations, our chapter tasks are a balance of internal operations to keep us healthy and productive into the future, and external work to make a difference toward our mission.

Key activities that we'll strive to accomplish this year include: 1. completion and use of an on-line membership survey (to learn what members want from our Chapter and how our operations and activities can be improved); 2. development and implementation of a membership recruitment, retention and participation plan; 3. greater pro-active initiative and participation from our committees; and 4. a summer workshop regarding shallow lakes management. Wayne and others have already done a wonderful job getting us rolling on these tasks.

While all the above activities are important, I'm especially excited about increased participation from our committees, particularly the prairie/farmland, wetland, forest and statewide committees. These com-

mittees are the "muscle" of our Chapter that needs to be exercised, strengthened and active. They are in the process of evaluating their teams and what they'd like to achieve. I'd like to see them each identify one or two specific tasks for the year to make the focus of their energies and talents, whether that be developing and distributing a position paper, supporting a workshop, organizing a letter to legislators, collaborating with partners, or whatever they deem as the most effective method for our Chapter to conserve their respective wildlife resource.

Other activities our Chapter will contribute to in the coming year include the Teaming with Wildlife Fly In at Washington, D.C. on March 5-6 (John Loegering will attend), the Minnesota Environmental Congress on March 16 at Bloomington (I will attend), and the DNR Roundtable (early January 2014). There is always an adventure of some sort to have a hand in! Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as President. You are always welcome to give a holler with questions, ideas and input. Have a safe, productive spring and field season, and most importantly, enjoy yourselves while doing it!

Yours in conservation,
Jodie
jodie.provost@yahoo.com
218-838-3553



2012 Annual Awards

I must give sincere thanks to the Awards Committee, chaired by Thom Soule, for another tremendous program.

As expected, the 2012 Annual Awards turned out to be quite the emotional event. As you may know, at each annual meeting, well deserving members receive the Chapter's highest awards. But what I find most gratifying (and impressive) is that these individuals truly have no idea that he or she is about to receive such honor.

Humbleness or humility often followed by tears of joy filled surprise characterize the gracious response of these honorees to high praise and recognition of his or her contributions to Minnesota's natural resources. Witnessing these honest reactions gives me great satisfaction that our Chapter truly has remarkable individuals that should be recognized for their work.

Again, thank you to the Awards Committee for another fine program.

—Wes Bailey, Newsletter Editor

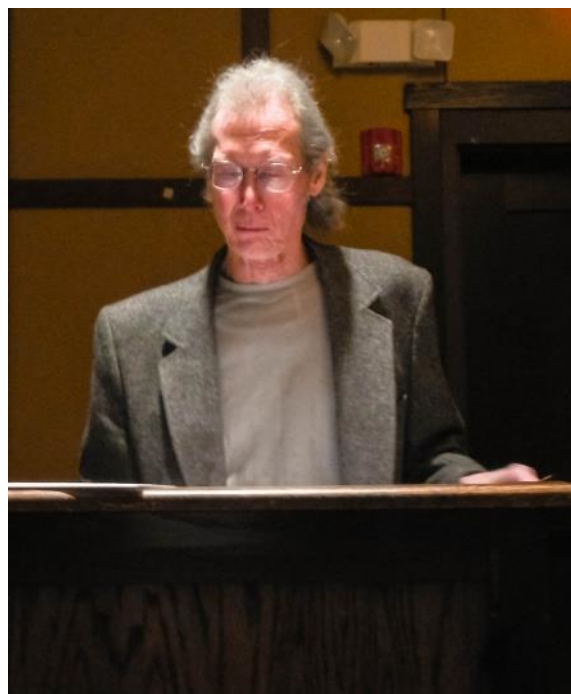


Photo: Thom Soule, Awards Committee Chair, was the Master of Ceremonies at the 2012 Annual Awards Banquet.

The **Minnesota Award** is our Chapter's highest Award and is presented to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to Minnesota's wildlife and natural resources.

The **Conservation Award** is presented to an organization or institution that has shown an outstanding commitment to Minnesota's Wildlife resources.

The **Student Conservationist Award** 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.

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

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

The **Bob Fedeler Memorial Award** established two Awards in memory of past president Bob Fedeler. The Award is full membership in TVWS including all publications for an undergraduate and a graduate student enrolled in a Wildlife related program at a Minnesota College.

2012 Annual Awards Recipients

LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD- Minnesota Division of Law Enforcement, Conservation

Officer Scott Fritz, La Crescent, MN. The Law Enforcement Award presented annually since 1992 is recognizes an individual who has demonstrated dedication and service to the protection of Minnesota's natural resources.

Officer Fritz started his career with the Division of Enforcement in 1985 in the Appleton station. He transferred to the Benson station where he worked for 3 years then the Faribault station where he worked for 15 years before transferring to his present station in La Crescent.

Throughout his career, Officer Fritz has volunteered and served the Division with distinction as a Field Officer, Field Training Officer, Airboat operation trainer, Community Leader and decorated rescuer.

Officer Fritz received the Minnesota Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation Officer of the Year in 2011.

He received the Division of Law Enforcement, Conservation Officer of the Year in 2008.

He received the Boat and Water Officer of the Year in 2007 and was the recipient of the prestigious Willard Munger Wetland Achievement Award in 2002.

Officer Fritz's actions during the devastating floods of August 2007 have been well documented, publicized and recognized by the Department, Division and others. The Division's Award of Honor, Boat and Water Officer of the Year, Houston County Law Enforcement Officer of the year, La Crescent Fire Department Appreciation Award and the Minnesota Police Chiefs Award have all recognized him for his life saving efforts.

Officer Fritz is now the top Minnesota Enforcement representative on the Upper Mississippi Conservation Committee (UMRCC). Scott works cases with the Federal Refuge Officers on the Mississippi River has arranged for *Empowerment Through Law Of The Common People* (ELCOP) assistance during small game and firearm deer seasons and organized work crews with Wisconsin Officers to address boundary waters violations. ELCOP is a voluntary, non-profitable, non-political, non-governmental human rights education, research and training organization dedicated to the empowerment of the common people of Bangladesh.



Photo: Conservation Officer Scott Fritz (right) is presented the 2012 MNTWS Law Enforcement Award by Lt. Dean Olson.

2012 Annual Awards Recipients

Officer Fritz believes in community education and the importance of reaching out to those in his communities in order to make them safer and to improve the quality of life. Officer Fritz is dedicated, professional and has a genuine desire to do the right thing. His accomplishments have been possible due to his commitment, professionalism and demeanor.

CONSERVATION AWARD- *The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)* received the Chapter's 2012 Conservation **Award** at its annual meeting in Walker, MN. Jane Kingston, Council member from Eveleth attended the Awards Ceremony and accepted the Award on behalf of the Council. First presented in 1985, The **Conservation Award** recognizes individuals, organizations or institutions that have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the conservation of Minnesota's natural resources. LSOHC council members and staff are recognized for the tremendous contributions they have made in time, perseverance, and leadership in fulfilling the promise of a better future for Minnesota's fish and wildlife to the citizens who so highly value these resources.



Following passage in 2008 of the *Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment* the Minnesota Legislature established the LSOHC. The LSOHC was established to provide annual recommendations on how the Outdoor Heritage Funds should be used. The LSOHC has made tremendous contributions in time, perseverance, and leadership in fulfilling the promise of a better future for Minnesota's fish and wildlife to the citizens who so highly value these resources.

Photo: Jane Kingston, LSOHC member from Eveleth receives 2012 MNTWS Conservation Award from Ray Norrgard.

The *Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment* increased the general sales and use tax rate by three-eighths of one percent, and dedicated the additional proceeds as follows:

- 33% to a newly created Outdoor Heritage Fund to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for game, fish, and wildlife.
- 14.25% to a newly created Parks and Trails Fund to be spent only to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance.
- 19.75% to a newly created Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for arts, arts education, and arts access and to preserve Minnesota's history and cultural heritage.

The LSOHC makes recommendations on appropriations of money from the Outdoor Heritage Fund that are consistent with the Constitution and state law and that take into consideration recommendations of the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan. Funded project must directly relate to the restoration, protection,

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and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, and that prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie.

In the four years since its establishment the LSOHC has reviewed natural resource agency and non-governmental plans, created a 25 year framework to guide recommendations, developed formal operating procedures, reviewed more than 40 proposals annually totaling more than \$800 million, and recommended for funding approximately \$80 million in projects annually. Throughout this process the council has maintained high standards that truly reflect its constitutional and statutory guidelines. The process has been transparent and open to public review and comment and clearly kept fish and wildlife habitat values at the core of its review and decision-making.

STUDENT CONSERVATIONIST AWARD— KYLE DALY. Kyle is a senior in the University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology. Kyle has been a member of the Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society since 2009. Kyle came to Minnesota in 2009 through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Conservation Internship Program to work at Tamarac NWR. While there, he started an M.S. program at the University of Michigan investigating juvenile woodcock survival. Due to his out-going personality, enthusiasm, leadership skills and exemplary performance he was selected for the USFWS Student Career Experience Program and in 2010 placed as a Wildlife Biologist trainee at Tamarac NWR. In early 2010, he transferred to the University of Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit becoming Dr. David E. Andersen's graduate student.



Photo: Kyle Daly (left) is presented Student Conservation Award by MN TWS Past-President Wayne Brininger.

His project focused on population response of woodcock to landscape-scale management at Tamarac with an emphasis on abundance, juvenile survival, reproductive ecology, and habitat use. One of the integral facets of Kyle's research was the documentation of survival of woodcock broods and adult females in response to Forestry Best Management practices.

Kyle has finished his coursework and fieldwork for his degree program and is currently working on com-

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pleting his M.S. thesis, which he plans to complete by spring 2013. He presented some of his research findings at recent Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference meetings in Des Moines (2011), Wichita (2012) and thru a poster presentation at the 2013 MNTWS meeting in Walker, Minnesota where his poster *Effects of Radio-transmitters on Survival of Juvenile American Woodcock* received the Best Poster Award.

Kyle is looking forward to a productive and rewarding career in wildlife conservation and will someday be a recognized a leader in Wildlife Conservation.

BOB FEDELER MEMORIAL AWARD (Undergraduate Award) - JENNIFER DUBAY.

Jennifer is from Apple Valley, MN. She received her Associates in Arts degree from Central Lakes College, in May 2011 with a GPA of 3.5. She is currently a senior at the University of Minnesota Crookston studying Natural Resources specializing in Wildlife Management and has a GPA of 3.13. She will graduate in December 2013.

Jennifer served as Vice President (2012-2013) and is currently the President for the Wildlife Society Crookston Student Chapter. She is also an active member of the Crookston Natural Resources club and was a Crookston Student Association Representative for the Natural Resources Club from 2011-2012.

In the last two years, Jennifer has gained valuable experience by working for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as a Shallow Lakes intern surveying more than 40 shallow lakes in west central Minnesota. She has also volunteered at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge assisting a U of M graduate student with his American Woodcock study.



Photo: Dr. John Loegering presents Jennifer the 2012 Bob Fedeler Memorial Undergraduate Award.

Jennifer has a strong interest in research and following graduation will be applying to graduate schools.

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BOB FEDELER MEMORIAL AWARD (Graduate Award) - Robert Dunlap. Robert is from Chaska and is a senior in the University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology. He is in the final year of a Master's program looking at the effects of biofuel harvest on grassland wildlife in western Minnesota. Robert received his undergraduate degree from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. For two consecutive summers during college, he worked as a biology intern for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, monitoring shorebird and waterfowl populations on refuge lands. After graduating, he worked for three years as Gustavus's Arboretum Naturalist. Robert has a cumulative grade point average of 3.8.

Robert has been a longtime active member of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union (MOU), having served one year as chair of the MOU State Fair Booth Committee and several years as both associate editor and seasonal reports compiler of The Loon. In 2009, he was awarded the Young Birder of the Year Award by the MOU for contributions to Minnesota birding. He is the youngest person ever to serve on the MOU Records Committee.

Robert recently presented his research at the 73rd Annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Wichita, Kansas and at the Chapter's Annual Meeting where his paper Short-term Effects of Native Grassland Biofuel Harvests on Small Mammals in Western Minnesota received an Honorable Mention Student Paper Award.

Robert plans on a career in wildlife biology oriented toward avian conservation hope to continue to serve both people and the natural world as a wildlife manager working for a state or the federal government or as an educator developing nature curriculum for a wide variety of audiences.

DR. JANET S. BOE MEMORIAL AWARD- Martha Minchak Duluth Assistant Area Wildlife Manager. Martha Minchak was born and raised in Saunderstown, Rhode Island. An influential teacher and a childhood spent near the ocean enhanced her innate love of the natural world. Her formal training in wildlife management began with a B.S. from the University of Minnesota in 1983. Martha has been a long-time supporter and active member of Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society, serving as President (2000), Regional Representative, and the Awards Committee Chairperson (2005-2009).

Martha's nearly 30-year career in natural resources has spanned Minnesota's biomes and its many species and habitats. She has volunteered at the University of Minnesota's Raptor Rehabilitation Center, served as the Volunteer Services Coordinator for the DNR in New Ulm. She has been a DNR wildlife technician in New Ulm and at Thief Lake WMA. She served as the Assistant Curator of Biology at the Science Museum of MN. She has been the Assistant Wildlife Manager at Talcot Lake WMA, Karlstad, Thief River Falls and now serves as the Natural Resource Specialist Senior in Duluth.

Martha contributes her time and talents to many conservation groups, including the Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, the Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society, the Audubon Society and the Izaak Walton League. Martha is also a wonderful wildlife artist, donating her artwork to many causes, such as newsletters, fundraisers, websites and educational purposes.

Most recently, she has served on the Board of Directors, the Conservation Issues Committee, the Ban-

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quet Committee and the Youth Waterfowl Expo Committee of the Izaak Walton League, W.J. McCabe Chapter. Martha is a member of the Association for Women in Science (AWIS). She also served on the Midwest Board of Witness for Peace and has traveled to Columbia, Venezuela and South Dakota for social justice work.



Photo: Past recipients of the Dr. Jane Boe Memorial Award Jodie Provost (2010; far left), Jeanine Vorland (2011; 2nd left), and Gretchen Mehmel (2009; right) stand with Martha Minchak (center) after she is presented with the 2012 award.

Throughout her career, Martha has been dedicated to the health and welfare of moose in Minnesota and North America. Playing a key role in the first moose research project in northwestern Minnesota to investigate the populations' decades long decline she provided artwork, letterhead design and text for the information package sent to the public, non-government organizations, and research institutions. This first of its kind 5-year long research to bring the life events of a moose and wildlife research into a Minnesota classroom involved schoolchildren in innovative internet learning through the "*Adopt a Moose*" and "*Moose Mystery*" programs. She was instrumental in planning the 2010 North American Moose Conference & Workshop held in International Falls, MN. Since 2000 she has attended and supported nearly all of the annual North American Moose Conferences at her own expense and time.

Deeply involved in her community and the organizations she supports Martha is a dedicated friend of wildlife management and conservation. She is a personable and professional woman who leads by example. She is a strong voice for conservation, within the DNR, her community, and the State. Without fanfare, she gives

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wholeheartedly and generously of her time and talents for the betterment of Minnesota's natural resources and her community. Her passion for wildlife and conservation carries greatly into her personal life so there is no clear separation between them.

Often referred to by friends and colleagues as a manager's "conscience" she always stands up for what is best for the resource. She is an accomplished outdoorswoman who enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing, bird watching, and more. She recognizes her obligation to share her passion with others and cares about the next generation of women in the field. Always sharing her generous sense of humor and laughter, she has a

MINNESOTA AWARD- Dr. David E. Anderson Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit leader. The **Minnesota Award** presented annually since 1958 is the Chapter's highest award and is presented to an individual who has made exceptional unequivocal contributions to Minnesota's wildlife and natural resources. Dr. Andersen graduated Magna cum laude from St. Olaf College in 1981, earned his Master's (1984) and Doctoral (1988) degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has worked for the U.S. Geological Survey at the Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit where he has been Research Unit Leader since 1995. Since 1989 Dr Andersen has been an adjunct faculty member in Wildlife Conservation teaching several courses at the University of Minnesota including designing and teaching a course on Avian Conservation and Management.

For more than 20 years, Dr. Andersen has made significant contributions to our knowledge of basic ecology, population dynamics, research methods, effects of environmental contaminants, and informing management, conservation, and monitoring plans for many Minnesota wildlife species. He has lead numerous large-scale research projects focused on raptors, game birds, waterfowl, songbirds, and occasionally mammals.



Photo: Dr. David E. Andersen (right) is presented the 2012 Minnesota Award by former graduate student Henry Streby

Through his service as an editor, journal referee, research proposals referee, invited presentations, service to professional societies, and appointment to numerous technical committees Dr. Andersen has had an im-

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pact on the larger scientific community. However, it is through his mentoring of graduate students who have also had productive careers and have gone on to be leaders in research and management where Dr Andersen has had his most important impact. He has directed 27 master's theses and doctoral dissertations for 25 graduate students, and hosted a few postdoctoral researchers fulfilling the primary goal of the Cooperative Research Unit system to train future generations of wildlife biologists.

Dr. Andersen has a rare ability to communicate effectively and respectfully with any group and he is uniquely capable of bringing very different stakeholders to the table for the sake of conservation. He just has a way of inspiring everyone to work harder, without ever talking down to anyone – well technically he talks “down” to everyone because he is a foot taller than the rest of us, but you know what I mean. David has put his communication skills to good use in the classroom as well, teaching several courses at the University of Minnesota, including designing and teaching a course on Avian Conservation and Management. Dr. Andersen represents so much of what Minnesotans represent; not only is he a very hard worker and outstanding scientist, he is also an avid hunter and outdoorsman, a very effective communicator, teacher, coach, and a loving family man.

2012 Service to Chapter Awards

Outgoing President, Wayne Brininger presented Service to Chapter Awards to Dr. John Loegering, (UMC Student advisor & Webmaster), Kristen Fritz (Membership Chair), Wes Bailey (Newsletter Editor), and Jodie Provost (President Elect) to recognize their commitment and service to the Chapter.



Photo: Kristin Fritz, Wayne Brininger, and Wes Bailey received Service to Chapter awards

2012 Service to Chapter Awards



Photo: John Loegering receives Service to Chapter Award from Past-President Wayne Brininger.



Photo: President-Elect Jodie Provost receives Service to Chapter Award from Past-President Wayne Brininger.

Election Results—New Board Members

Elections were held at the annual meeting for several board positions including Regional Representatives for Regions 2, 4, and 6, President-Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Thank you to all members who voted, either at the annual meeting last week or in advance.

Many thanks to the other nominees, Emily Hutchins, Cara Greger, Brian Hiller, Dave Grandmaison, Greg Hoch, Sarah Anderson, and Sarah Thompson!

It was great to have multiple candidates running for each position, and we are grateful to all who are willing to serve on the Board.

Thanks also to JB Bright for serving on the Nominations & Elections committee with me and to Greg Hoch, Erica Hoagland, and Jodie Provost for helping with nominations.

Regional Representatives in Regions 1, 3, and 5 will be up for election at the next annual meeting. If you'd like to serve the Chapter please consider being a nominee.

MN Chapter TWS Regions



Election Results—New Board Members for 2013



◆ President-elect: Steve Windels



◆ Treasurer: Charlotte Roy



◆ Secretary: Maria Fosado



◆ Region 2: Dawn Plattner



◆ Region 4: Kristin Fritz



◆ Region 6: Tom Cooper

History of Minnesota Chapter Awards 1958 to Present

YEAR	MINNESOTA AWARD	CONSERVATION AWARD	STUDENT CONSERVATIONIST AWARD	LAW ENFORCE- MENT AWARD	Dr. JANET S. BOE MEMORIAL AWARD	BOB FEDELER MEMORIAL AWARD
1958	George Selke					
1959	Lytton Taylor					
1960	Jack Berryman					
1961	John Moyle					
1962	Arnold Erickson					
1963	Samuel Eddy					
1964	Richard Dorer					
1965	William H. Marshall					
1966	George McCullough					
1967	Walter J. Brecken-					
1968	Flick Davis					
1969	Grady E. Mann					
1970	Milton Stenlund					
1971	Robert Burwell					
1972	Robley W. Hunt					
1973	Art Hawkins					
1974	Dave Vesall					
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				

History of Minnesota Chapter Awards 1958 to Present

YEAR	MINNESOTA AWARD	CONSERVATION AWARD	STUDENT CONSERVATIONIST AWARD	LAW ENFORCE- MENT AWARD	Dr. JANET S. BOE MEMORIAL AWARD	BOB FEDELER MEMORIAL AWARD
1991	Roger M. Holmes	Pheasants Forever				
1992	Harvey Nelson	Itasca Community Col- lege	Eric Spadgenske	Doug Sand- strom		
1993	Carrol Henderson	Clean Up the River Envi- ronment (CURE)	Dean Paron	David Mador		
1994	Janet Green	Coalition For a Clean Minnesota River	Jane Mueller	Todd Manley		
1995	William E. Berg	Hennepin Co. Parks-DNR	Kent Sundseth	Larry Lewis		
1996	Alfred H. Grewe		Eric Rosenquist	David Duncan		
1997	Al Radtke	Ducks Unlimited- Minnesota	Myron Weltikol	Jeff Bircham		
1998	Larry R. Nelson	Central Lakes College Natural Resources De- partment	Eric Thorson	John F. Smith		
1999	Dan Svedarsky	Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society	Shane Osborne	Martin Book		
2000	Robert Janssen	Izaak Walton League Minnesota Div.	Emily Spinler	Leland Owens		
2001	Larry Lewis	Minnesota Conservation Federation	Chad Nordstrom	Tom Provost		
2002	Ross Hier	Central Minnesota Audu- bon Society	Dan Oberg	Brian Mies		
2003	Francesca Cuth- bert	KAXE Northern Commu- nity Radio	Tom Gorman	Joyce & Paul Kuske		
2004	Douglas Keran	Minnesota Prairie Chick- en Society	Russell Klein- schmidt	Karl Hadrits		
2005	Terrance Wolfe	Stearns County Pheas- ants Forever	Nathaniel Emery	Richard Stolt- man		Brent Hasse
2006	Gary L. Huschle	St. Louis River Citizens Action Committee	Tim Barberg	Scott Staples		Micah Meyer
2007	Janet Boe Lee Pfannmuller	Luverne and Mary Jo Forbord of Prairie Hori- zons Farm	Mary Jo Geldert	Gary Forsberg		Jessica Holmes
2008	Brian Winter	Jane Bennett-Central MN Citizens For Responsible Growth	Chris Waltz	Jeremy Woinarowicz	Margaret Anderson	Sarah Thomp- son
2009	John Toepfer	Purple Martin Working Group	Beth Woodswalker	Ed Picht	Gretchen Mehmel	Stefanie Bergh
2010	Margaret Ander- son	Shell Rock River Water- shed	Sheila Carleton	Charles Melvin III	Jodie Provost	
2011	Dave Zentner	Laddie & Jim Elwell	Adam Klein- schmidt	Tyler Quandt	Jeanine Vor- land	Ariane L. Wald- stein
2012	David E. Ander- sen	Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council	Kyle Daly	Scott Fritz	Martha Min- chak	Jennifer DuBay Robert Dunlap

2012 Treasurer's Annual Report

CHECKING	AMOUNT
Beginning Balance	\$1,716.64
Change	(\$-4,445.53)
Debits	
Silver Bell Trophies	\$700.00
Jodie Provost (hotel reimbursement for Roundtable attendance)	\$112.49
Beau Lidell (fundraising costs for MN TWS 2012)	\$345.49
Mike Kilgore honarium for speaking at MN TWS 2012	\$250.00
Doug Franke – postage for last 3 newsletters	\$187.46
Cash for MN TWS 2012 meeting	\$150.00
Greg Hoch (fundraising costs for MN TWS 2012)	\$50.00
MCF dues	\$250.00
Dave Zentner –reimbursement for awards dinner (recipient)	\$15.00
TWS National memberships paid at TWS meeting	\$213.00
Student Conservationist Award to Adam Kleinschmidt	\$100.00
Jodie Provost-Reimbursement for TWW Fly-IN	\$752.18
US Postal Service (stamps)	\$9.00
North Dakota Chapter of TWS (for TWS Joint Meeting costs)	\$4,658.11
Society for Range Management (Sponsorship)	\$300.00
Thom Soule –(reimburse for A. Waldstein's Fedeler Award)	\$151.00
Subtotal	\$8,243.73
Credits	
Deposit (TWS registration, fundraising, \$150 cash above)	\$10,301.50
Deposit (Prairie Chix Soc/Wood Cock MN contrib to TWW Fly-IN	\$200.00
Deposit (MN Sharp-tailed Grouse Society contrib to TWW Fly-IN	\$100.00
Dividends	\$6.26
Membership dues	\$1,675.50
TWS Advocacy Workshop registration	\$190.00
MN TWS 2013 Conference registration to date	\$217.00
Subtotal	\$12,689.26
Ending Balance	\$6,162.17

2012 Treasurer's Annual Report

SAVINGS	Amount
Beginning Balance at Affinity	\$1278.33
Interest	\$1.31
Subtotal	\$1,279.64
Ending Balance	\$1,279.64

Current Investments

Wahoo certificate (7142749)	Amount
Beginning Balance	\$23,881.11
Moved Midwest Steering Funds to 60	\$20,000.00
Ending Balance	\$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.

60-month CD (7149290, 2.227%) opened Mar 2 2012 with Midwest Steering Committee Funds	Amount
Beginning Balance	\$20,000.00
Dividends	\$375.33
Subtotal	\$20,375.33
Ending Balance	\$20,375.33

60-month Step-up CD opened Aug 24, 2012 with funds from Wahoo Certificate (7142749)	Amount
Beginning Balance	\$3,998.06
Dividends	\$1.77
Subtotal	\$3,999.83
Ending Balance	\$3,999.83

Total chapter assets as of 31 December 2012: \$ 31,816.97

INVESTMENT HISTORY

12 MONTH CD (Affinity Plus 7115999-renewed (0.499% rate), matures 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.

2012 Annual Treasurer's Report

12 Month CD	Amount
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.

Submitted by MN TWS Chapter Treasurer Charlotte Roy, 05 February 2013

January 2012 Board Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2013 (in lieu of Dec. board meeting); Conference Call

Present: Wayne Brininger, John Loegering, Bill Faber, Charlotte Roy, Stephen Winter, Jodie Provost, Greg Hoch, Kristin Fritz, Ann Geisen, Wes Bailey, JB Bright

Call to Order: 8:05 am

Officer Reports

President – Wayne Brininger

Welcome of Stephen Winter to the Board

Motion approval via on-line voting conducted since last Board meeting (Sept. 7, 2012)

Secretary's Report – May 2012 Board meeting minutes

Quarterly Treasurer's Report – Sept 7, 2012

Nomination & approval of Loegering to represent Chapter at Teaming with Wildlife Fly-In in Washington, DC

Resignation of Brian Pember as Regional Representative – R5

Appointment of Stephen Winter as interim Regional Rep – R5

New Committee Chairs –

- ◆ Forest Issues – Mike North replaced Wes Bailey (resigned as chair)
- ◆ Wetland Issues – Laurie Fairchild replaced Mike North (resigned as chair)
- ◆ Farmland/Prairie Issues – Greg Hoch replaced Molly Tranel (resigned as chair)

Secretary – JB Bright

Board meeting minutes from Sept. 7, 2012 were reviewed. Motion to approve the board meeting minutes from Sept. 7, 2012. Made by Faber, seconded by Geisen. *Note: The board was short a full quorum for the board meeting so*

January 2012 Board Meeting Minutes

the motion was approved via on-line voting finalized on Feb. 1, 2013.

Treasurer – Charlotte Roy

Quarterly Treasurer Report – Motion to approve the quarterly treasurer's report dated Sept. 8 – Dec. 31, 2012. Made by Faber, seconded by Winter. *Note: The board was short a full quorum for the board meeting so the motion was approved via on-line voting finalized on Feb. 1, 2013.*

Annual Treasurer Report – Motion to approve annual treasurer's report dated Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2012. Motion by Loegering, seconded by Faber. *Note: The board was short a full quorum for the board meeting so the motion was approved via on-line voting finalized on Feb. 1, 2013.*

It was noted that the electronic newsletter is saving ~\$1,200 annually.

Newsletter Editor – Wes Bailey - no report.

Old Business

2013 Annual Meeting

Jodie Provost reported planning is going smoothly so far.

Student Paper/Poster judging: Emily Hutchins and Greg Hoch are taking the lead, Best paper/poster \$100;

Fundraiser is being led by Norm Moody with guidance from Gregg Knutsen

Student social being led by Mark Hanson and Jim Bergeen;

Awards Banquet is being overseen by Thom Soule

Student Travel Stipend for annual meeting attendance

Student Travel Stipend: 13 applications for \$500 budget. (*Secretaries note: ~\$38.46 each was mentioned as the stipend, but that amount would equate to 13 students not 15 students as originally thought during the board meeting*). There was much discussion about raising it to \$100 each. The consensus was it was too late at this point to change, so the board agreed to award \$40 each to the applicants.

Charlotte Roy expressed that this stipend should be for student presenters/posters.

Wayne Brininger would like the Academic Advisors & the Awards Committee to sort this out and come up with a recommendation to the Board for next year's annual meeting.

2013 Audit

Charlotte Roy has passed the financial records on to Gretchen & for annual auditing

List-serve Update

John Loegering noted the Google Group listserve is up & running and working, except for people who haven't gone and changed their email address. He said that people not signed up just need to click on the button at the bottom of the web page, anyone can sign up they don't even need to be a member.

Wayne Brininger asked Charlotte Roy to make up a business card sized reminder with directions for signing up on Google Groups. He would like them distributed at the meeting.

Webmaster Update

John Loegering said the website will remain as is for now until the IT vacancy is filled at National level. Then it can be moved to the TWS server.

Online members survey

Would like to get survey done soon so there's a paper survey for meeting in addition to an on-line survey.

Ann Geisen provided a draft list of questions based on what she compiled from the feedback she received. John Loegering can provide access to survey monkey

A small group of board members (Roy, Hoch, Soule, Provost, Brininger, Fritz and Geisen) will refine and move survey forward. Board members need to provide feedback to Ann by Tuesday, Jan. 15. The group will have a conference call on Fri-

January 2012 Board Meeting Minutes

day the 18th at 8AM to finalize the process.

Recruitment, Retention & Participation Plan

Thom Soule provided some guidelines and provided a draft outline for the development of a membership recruitment, retention and participation plan. Provost, Larson, Fritz, Brininger and Soule will be on the committee to move it forward. Need comments from board members by Jan. 15th.

Membership Drive/Retention

Wayne Brininger said there is no mechanism in place to remind those that are casual participants that their membership has lapsed. May need to send out membership renewal notice. Some members have contacted board members wondering why they haven't received their newsletter and they don't know their membership has lapsed.

Nomination Committee for Board Elections

John Loegering suggested a nominating committee for Board positions, with the past-President taking the lead, the incoming President, and one other Board member.

Re-invigorating the Chapter's Special Committees

Our standing committee members need to continue to be engaged, so we can be more pro-active on issues, rather than reactive. Wayne Brininger has put together a brief questionnaire for each of the committees that will be shared with each committee in an effort to get the committees more engaged in the Chapter.

Advocacy

With a great summer workshop on advocacy, where does the Board want to go from here? Jodie Provost said she e-mailed Allison Wolf about who would be willing to testify on particular issues as they arise, and John Loegering and Bill Faber stepped forward.

Issues with Membership

Kristin Fritz said membership forms are incomplete so it is hard to have a good complete list of people and their contact information.

It was mentioned that it is important to retain the students when they become professionals.

Kristin Fritz asked if it would be a good idea to revamp our annual meeting registration form? Jodie said we need to make a note that for next year, we have a statement on the form that contact information is important and will be secure & confidential.

Teaming with Wildlife Fly-in

Wayne Brininger said we need to put out a request to members for issues they feel are important to advocate for.

Also the board should start soliciting sponsorships from other partners to support MNTWS representative at the Fly-In on their behalf. Jodie Provost said it would be groups that benefit from State Wildlife Grants. It's more effective if TWS members that are members of other groups do the solicitation rather than the one doing the Fly-in. Jodie Provost will provide a list to John Loegering of groups to contact that helped out last year. March 5 is the deadline for getting sponsors or partners to support the Fly-in. John Loegering will put a letter together for people to use when they solicit sponsorships. The amount to ask for is \$100, and have checks made out to MN TWS and sent to Charlotte Roy. Jodie Provost said the budget was \$1,000 last year and expenses came to \$752.

Drain Tiling White Paper Update

Wayne Brininger contacted Dave Trauba and he noted the progress that had been made on the issue. A lot folks have been involved in a lot of meetings and it's such an enormous topic that it's difficult to determine how to tackle the issue. Wayne Brininger will task the Wetlands Committee with developing a plan of action on what is the best approach for dealing with this issue. There was consensus by the Board that was a good approach.

Farm Bill Briefing Paper

No discussion since Thom Soule was not in attendance.

January 2012 Board Meeting Minutes

Position Statement for Public Lands Grazing in MN

Greg Hoch and JB Bright have been tasked with this and wanted clarification on who the audience is. Wayne Brininger said all audiences, and the intent of the paper is to state a formal position that is data driven on why we do, or don't, support grazing of public lands. Stephen Winter offered his assistance.

Greg Hoch asked what is the next step to getting the white paper distributed to sportsmen and the public.

Proposal for use of Proceeds from the Lifetime Membership account

No discussion since Thom Soule was not in attendance.

Summer Raffle

Wayne Brininger proposed the question, what do we think about doing something above and beyond our Annual Meeting Fundraiser?

Due to time the issue was tabled under the next board meeting.

Farming 101 Course

Jodie Provost noted that NRCS had consulted with MNTWS for input on the farming 101 course to add a wildlife benefit component to the course. Provost noted that there are ideas from the board, but no commitment. Provost suggested the Farmland Committee could address this.

New Business

Public comment on Minnesota Public Rulemaking on Endangered, Threatened & Special Concern Species

Bill Faber said there are two separate rule making processes, a SGCN list and an E/T/SC list. The E/T/SC list is once every twenty years. The species he is concerned about are Chimney Swifts and Red-headed Woodpeckers. They are already on the SGCN list, and he would like them added to the E/T/SC list. Wayne Brininger questioned if there were more species we should be advocating for?

Wayne Brininger intends to send an announcement out to the general membership that we will be advocating for Red-headed Woodpeckers and Chimney Swifts, and ask if there are other species members would like to add.

Bill Faber made a motion that a formal letter be sent to the MNDNR encouraging them to list these species as special concern under the new list. The motion, was seconded by Stephen Winter. *Note: The board was short a full quorum for the board meeting so the motion was approved via on-line voting finalized on Feb. 5, 2013.*

DNR's Extended Rotation Forestry Policy Change

The MNDNR has terminated its extended rotation forest policy primarily because other policies and procedures exist to protect old growth forest such as the subsection forest resource management planning. The Board believes that MNTWS and Forest Issues Committee would be justified in commenting on ERF policy change. Since the ERF decision has already been made, it might be better to comment on how is it going to be implemented? Wayne Brininger will task the Forest Issues Committee with reviewing this issue and providing the board with a recommendation on how to proceed.

DNR Roundtable Update

Bill Faber and John Loegering represented MNTWS. During the closing of the regular roundtable, Bill Faber gave closing comments. Faber will submit a synopsis of the comments for the March newsletter.

MN Environmental Congress Citizens Forum Update

No board members attended any of the citizen forums held around the state – No report

General Membership Dues Increase

There was agreement amongst the Board to leave the current membership dues at the same amount.

January 2013 Board Meeting Minutes

Bylaws Review:

Tabled until next board meeting

2013 Summer Workshop –

Shallow Lake Management was suggested as a theme for the 2103 summer workshop. The idea originally spawned from Mark Hanson and Doug Wells. Regional Reps 1, 3, and 5 will be responsible for coordinating the summer meeting. The topic was tabled until the next board meeting.

Proposal to dissolve FWLA & Shallow Lakes Committee

Wayne Brininger noted that we no longer have a membership with FWLA so there's no need for a FWLA Committee. As for the Shallow Lakes Committee, he asked, couldn't we just roll it into the Wetlands Committee? Ann Geisen said it wasn't a committee per se, but rather a MNTWS representative on the Shallow Lakes Forum. She said the forum took a two year hiatus, but plans may be in the works for a forum in 2013. Geisen suggested that when and if there is a forum, then assign someone from the Wetland Issues Committee to be the MNTWS rep. Bill said the same thing for the Moose Advisory Committee.

Directors and Officers Insurance

Based on suggestions from the Parent Chapter, Wayne Brininger submitted Chapter status information so an estimate of costs could be provided. To date, the estimate has not been provided.

Research Grant

It was suggested that the Chapter develop a research grant which would be through a competitive process. Jodie Provost will draft a proposal to present at the next meeting. Greg Hoch and Charlotte Roy agreed to assist with the development of this proposal.

Bemidji State University

New student chapter is official. Congratulations to BSU!

Sponsoring MNTWS members in the Leadership Institute

No discussion since Thom Soule and Mike Larson were not in attendance
Bill Faber made a motion to adjourn @ 12:20, seconded by Ann Geisen. Motion passed.

February 2013 Board Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2013, Chase on the Lake, Walker, MN, Tuesday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Present: Mike Larson, Wes Bailey, Thom Soule, Jodie Provost, Greg Hoch, Stephen Winter, Bill Faber, Gretchen Mehmel, Mike North, Wayne Brininger, John Loegering, Luke Burlingame, J.B. Bright, Charlotte Roy

Call to order: 9:14AM

Officer Reports

President – Wayne Brininger

On-line voting – Motion approval via on-line voting conducted since last Board meeting (Jan. 8, 2013) due to a lack of quorum at Jan. Board meeting

February 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes

Secretary's Report –Sept. 7, 2012 Board meeting minutes. Motion made by Faber, second by Geisen. Motion passed Feb. 1, 2013.

Quarterly Treasurer's Report – Sept. 7 – Dec. 31, 2012. Motion made by Faber, second by Winter. Motion passed Feb. 1, 2013.

Annual Treasurer's Report – Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2012. Motion made by Loegering, second by Faber. Motion passed Feb. 1, 2013.

Formal letter to MNDNR on E/T/SC rulemaking – Motion by Faber, second by Winter to send a formal letter to the MN DNR encouraging them to list Chimney Swift and Red-headed Woodpecker as species of special concern under the new State Endangered/Threatened/Special Concern list. Motion passed Feb. 5, 2013.

Secretary – JB Bright

Board meeting minutes from Jan. 8, 2013 were reviewed. Motion to approve the Jan. 8, 2013 board meeting minutes was made by Faber, seconded by Winter. *Note: The board was short a full quorum for the Feb. board meeting so the motion was approved via on-line voting finalized on Feb. 27, 2013.*

Treasurer – Charlotte Roy

An audit review identified a need for an amendment to the 2012 Annual Treasurer Report (which was approved at the last board meeting) that more clearly documented the transactions of the Wahoo Certificate. Motion by Winter to approve the amendment or amended version of the 2012 Annual Treasurer Report, seconded by Faber. *Note: The board was short a full quorum for the Feb. board meeting so the motion was approved via on-line voting finalized on Feb. 27, 2013.*

Newsletter – Wes Bailey

Reminder that newsletter due dates for submission are March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1

There was some discussion over newsletter content, with some board members seeking to have more scientific emphasis with less social media. Bailey will work with the Publicity/Program committee to address any concerns with the current context of the newsletter.

Old Business

2013 Annual Meeting

Final preparations were made. Provost provided a welcoming statement for meeting kick-off and the board supported it.

2012 Audit Review

Mehmel stated that the audit committee (Mehmel Olfelt) reviewed all the ledger entries, bank statements, and the Annual Treasurer's Report for 2011 and found them to be correct with the amendment (Wahoo Certificate mentioned in Treasurer report above).

Enhancing Chapter member recruitment, retention, and participation

The Membership survey is close to a final version, which will be implemented via Survey Monkey. It's broken down to the following areas: communication, membership, student support, participation, and recognition. The final version will be provided to the board for approval and it will be beta-tested by six members from the general membership.

Draft recruitment/retention and participation plan

The goal is to try and put out a plan in the next year based on some of the results from the membership survey. The Past President (Brininger) will work with a small committee (Soule, Larson and Fritz) to take the guidance and outline drafted by Soule and develop a plan.

Faber commented getting and retaining students is a key. Need to impress on them the importance of maintaining their membership when they become wildlife professionals.

February 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes

Mehmel suggested regional reps contact the ~15 new DNR Assistant Area managers that will be hired in the coming months. Charlotte, its very important to send reminders for lapsed memberships. Thom suggested we have a membership year from Annual Meeting to Annual Meeting.

Membership Drive

Discussion about whether to have a membership drive contest, but we need to be careful how we do that. Some agencies, such as Forest Service are under-represented within the Chapter.

Enhancing Board Member recruitment, participation, and retention

We need our special committees to become a lot more active and pro-active with issues occurring in the state. Bringer provided a questionnaire that was also distributed to Special Committee Chairs at the Annual Business meeting, which could serve as a catalyst to generate more activity from our Special Committees. In addition, it would serve as aid in the development of an annual work plan for the Board and committees.

In an effort to be more pro-active, the Special Committees should be identifying critical issues that MNTWS should address and communicate with the Board on how to address those issues, because committee members are the ones on the front lines of these issues every day.

The Board will do a better job of welcoming and orienting new Board members at the Annual Meeting.

Teaming With Wildlife Fly-In

Loegering will be the MNTWS representative this year and will continue to solicit our partners for sponsorship of his travels. MN Prairie Chicken Society and MN Sharp-tailed Grouse Society have already contributed.

Farm Bill Briefing Paper

Tabled till the next board meeting. Soule is continuing to work on a draft.

Conservation Grazing Position Statement

Tabled till the next board meeting. Hoch and Bright will get a draft roughed out in the next couple of months.

Lifetime Membership – Thom not ready with proposal yet.

Tabled till the next board meeting. Soule is continuing to work on a draft proposal.

Student Travel Award for annual meeting attendance

A \$500 travel stipend (currently divided equally) is awarded to students within the Chapter to encourage student attendance at the annual meeting. It's meant to encourage attendance, not cover all of their costs. Discussion revolved around how these funds should be distributed in the future. Loegering and Faber will work with the student chapter advisors to draft a proposal with alternatives and preferred alternatives for how to allocate the Student Travel Awards in the future.

Public comment on Minnesota Public Rulemaking on Endangered, Threatened & Special Concern Species

Bringer passed around the draft letter prepared by Faber to encourage the MNDNR to list Chimney Swifts and Red-headed woodpeckers as species of special concern under the new State Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern List. Comments received by the general membership were included in the draft. Board members in attendance supported the letter. Bringer will send the final letter to the MNDNR.

Extended Rotation Forestry policy change

The MNDNR has terminated its extended rotation forest policy primarily because other policies and procedures exist to protect old growth forest such as the subsection forest resource management planning. MNTWS is essentially too late to comment on the policy change but still intends to comment on how future forest management should be implemented for wildlife benefits, particularly management of old growth forest.

Recommendations for how to implement forest management in the absence of this policy will be drafted by the Forest Issues Committee.

February 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes

Directors and Officers Insurance

Loegering noted that subunits of the Parent Chapter received a quote of \$500-\$600 premium per organization. There was little discussion and the Board will need to make a decision on this issue at the next board meeting.

The D&O insurance coverage protects the subunit against allegations of mismanagement, as well as allegations of personal injury & publisher's liability (libel, slander, defamation of character, infringement of copyright & trademark). It also includes employment practices liability (employment related wrongful termination, sexual harassment, etc), third party coverage (discrimination claims by outside parties, etc.), claims alleging mismanagement of your organization's assets (improper use of donated funds, etc), and coverage for Breach of Contract Claims (Defense Costs)

2013 Summer Workshop

A shallow lake workshop was suggested during the Jan. Board meeting.

Soule would like to see a continuation of advocacy as a workshop at some time in the future.

Regional reps for regions 1, 3 and 5 will decide on the topic and begin planning the summer workshop soon.

By-Laws Review

Based on the by-laws our five year review is due in 2013. Current past president is responsible. Loegering will work with Briningner to review the by-laws and solicit any changes from the members.

New Business

Inability to reach a full quorum

Discussion revolved around the inability to reach a full quorum at board meetings and options for resolving the issues.

Soule suggested the possible need to revise our definition of what a full quorum is; however, most of the Board agreed that the current structure for a quorum is appropriate to adequately represent our members.

2013 Annual TWS Meeting Pledge/Sponsorship

The Parent Chapter sent a letter soliciting MNTWS to pledge (contribute financially) to the National TWS meeting to be held Oct. 5-9, 2013 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Discussion and agreement was reached not to pledge, but rather possibly put \$500 more into Student Travel Stipend.

Board Nominations for 2014

Kudos to Mike Larson for an excellent cadre of candidates running for board positions during this year's elections. Mike acknowledged help from Bright, Hoch and Hoaglund.

Briningner will configure a committee to assist with board nominations for the 2014 elections.

FWLA Rep. and Shallow Lakes Forum Rep.

These two committee representatives have not been active within the last several years. A decision to dissolve these two positions from the board will be addressed during the bylaws review.

Student Paper and Poster Awards at the Annual meeting

There is a need to develop and approve appropriate awards for poster/paper judging at future annual meetings. For this year's meeting the 1st place winner will receive \$75 and the runner-up will receive \$25 for both paper and poster awards.

The Board will move forward on developing awards that are consistent relative to other MTWS awards. Provost will work with Emily Hutchins, who is overseeing judging this year, and consult with the Awards and Student Relations Committees to develop awards.

Fedeler Award Issue

There is some uncertainty to how this award should be distributed and who is eligible. Soule will visit with Bob Fedeler's wife to determine intent of the award and provide the Board with guidance on how it should be awarded.

Research Grant

Tabled until next Board meeting

February 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes

Sponsoring MNTWS members in Leadership Institute –

Potential role for Chapter would be recruiting and promoting participation in the National Leadership Institute. Costs are covered for successful applicants. The Board will encourage members to apply for the Leadership Institute.

Permanent Address for TWS

Tabled until next Board meeting

Larson made a motion to adjourn @ 3:58 pm, seconded by Faber. Motion passed by those in attendance.

Regional Reports - News from the Field

Region I—Gregg Knutsen



Red Lake WMA/ Norris Camp:

The LUP CCMP is nearing its final form. It will be distributed to the public within the next month.

There are 22" of soft snow on the ground: good for grouse, challenging for deer (and wolves too at this point).

Still waiting to hire an assistant manager.

Brush shearing is going well – lots of frost.

No bovine TB detected last fall, so there will be more restrictive deer harvest regulations next fall in an effort to increase deer densities in this area.

Morris WMD

There have been two recent land acquisitions: 1) The 203-acre Beyer tract in NW Lac qui Parle County, which will be a stand-alone WPA when Pheasants Forever transfers it to us, and 2) the 20-acre Burdick tract which is an addition to Prairie WPA in western Big Stone County.

MN Chapter TWS Regions



Habitat projects accomplished over the winter were tree removal at Artichoke WPA and Big Slough WPA, a fence at Johnson WPA, and the start of a fence at Kolstad Lake WPA. All of these projects were made possible with the TNC-administered Prairie Recovery Grant.

With the help of the MNDNR and USFWS, the Big Stone/Traverse Cooperative Weed Management Area received a Pulling Together Initiative grant (3rd attempt!) from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for \$50,000. This award will complement the work already being accomplished through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources grant, and

Regional Reports - News from the Field

allow the purchase of much needed equipment for the treatment of invasive species, such as wild parsnip, Queen Anne's lace, and yellow toadflax.

USFWS and MNDNR - Comings and Goings

- ◆ Joel Huener named Thief Lake Area Manager.
- ◆ Ross Hier named Crookston Area Manager.
- ◆ Christine Reisz named Karlstad Area Manager.
- ◆ Christine Herwig selected as Nongame Biologist in Bemidji Office.
- ◆ Stacy Salvavold selected as Deputy Manager for Detroit Lakes WMD.

Region 2—Dawn Plattner



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

During Minnesota's first wolf season, 4 radio-collared wolves from the USGS Superior National Forest Wolf and Deer Study were legally harvested and 1 radio-collared wolf was shot but unreported (out of 28 radio-collared wolves we were tracking inside our study area). Two additional radio-collared wolves were legally harvested in Canada. No radio-collared deer were lost during the hunt (out of 9 radio-collared deer we were tracking inside our study area).

Students also met with the local Minnesota Trapper's Association (MTA). The local MTA constructed Pine

Marten nest boxes, eleven of which were donated to VCC, and the students contacted private landowners in the Ely area for box placement. Students will continue to monitor marten use of boxes and analyze habitat changes around the box locations.

VCC students have also been assisting the USGS wolf/deer project with mortality wolf retrieval and mortality assessment via field and in-depth lab necropsies. There have been several wolves that have died of mange and have shown some low weight body conditions.

Students are preparing for Northern Owl surveys, Ruffed Grouse Drumming counts, Deer Mortality surveys, and waiting to hear about the Sharp-tailed Grouse cutting project, which usually occurs in March.

NE Minnesota Adult Moose Mortality Study – MN DNR
Capture efforts for the adult moose mortality project started on January 20, 2013 and by February 7, 2013 the team captured and collared the last moose for the project. A total of 111 moose were outfitted with GPS collars that will track the animals' movements. In addition, Wildlife researchers also implanted a second device in the digestive tracks of 28 of the collared moose to record the animal's heartbeat and internal body temperature. If the device senses that the moose's heart has stopped beating, the implant will instruct the GPS collar to notify researchers via a text message. Once the text message is received, researchers will locate the moose within 24 hours to either retrieve the remains or conduct a field necropsy.

This part of the project is the first phase of a multiple-year project to attempt to determine why moose are dying at unusually high rates in northeastern Minnesota. DNR developed this project to collect accurate and timely biological data on the moose's physical condition and the likely cause of death before decomposition. If researchers can learn more about why moose are dying, that information may be used to help inform wildlife management decisions to try and help save the northeastern MN moose population. Of the 111 collared moose, the study has had 5 mortalities to date.

Regional Reports - News from the Field

Of these, 4 were capture related and 1 was a wolf kill.

A second phase of the project will examine moose calf mortality. After calving in spring, the locations of cows collared this winter will be used so their calves can be located, captured and fitted with collars that will provide data similar to that being collected from adults. Data from calves will provide much-needed information about calf survival and causes of mortality.

The study is funded by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) and includes a great deal of cooperation and in-kind contributions from the MN DNR, University of MN, 1854 Treaty Authority, Fond du Lac Natural Resources, and the MN Deer Hunters Association. It will build on research that is ongoing or planned by other agencies and universities.

Please visit the following link on the DNR website for updates on the moose research project.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/moose/index.html>

2012 Carnivore Scent Station Survey Report - John Erb, MN DNR

In the early 1970's, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service initiated a carnivore survey designed primarily to monitor trends in coyote populations in the western U.S. (Linhart and Knowlton 1975). In 1975, the Minnesota DNR began to utilize similar survey methodology to monitor population trends for numerous terrestrial carnivores within the state. This year marks the 37th year of the carnivore scent station survey.

A total of 258 routes were completed this year (Figure 1). There were 2,384 operable scent stations examined on the 258 4.3 km routes. Route density varied from 1 route per 601 km² in the Forest Zone to 1 route per 1,261 km² in the Farmland Zone. Statewide, route visitation rates (% of routes with detection) were highest for red foxes (40%), followed

by skunks (38%), raccoons (30%), coyotes (25%), domestic cats (24%), domestic dogs (19%), wolves (14%), and bobcats (12%).

Although the survey is largely intended to document long-term trends in populations, confidence intervals improve interpretation of the significance of annual changes. Based on the presence/absence of confidence interval overlap, the only significant change this year was an increase in the Forest Zone striped skunk index, which follows a significant decrease last year. In addition, the increase in the Transition Zone wolf index approached significance, although the Transition Zone represents a comparatively small percentage of wolf range in Minnesota.

Thanks to all of the cooperators who participated in the 2012 survey: DNR Division of Wildlife staff; Superior National Forest Aurora District; Agassiz, Rydell, Sherberne, and Tamarac National Wildlife Refuges; USFWS Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District; 1854 Treaty Authority, Red Lake, and Leech Lake Tribal Natural Resource Departments; St. Croix National Scenic Waterway; Lori Schmidt and Vermillion Community College; Jim Pederson and Marshall County Central High School; Peter Jacobson and Fari-bault High School; and Richard Nelles and Tom Stuber.

Regional Reports - News from the Field

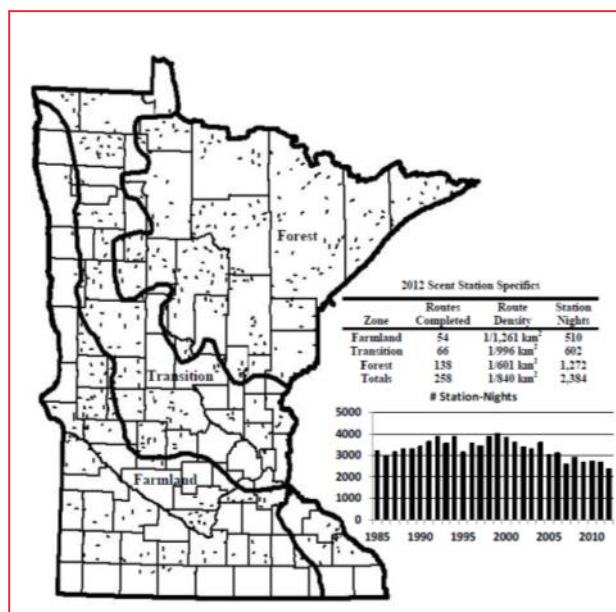


Figure 1. Locations of existing scent station routes (not all completed every year). Insets show 2012 route specifics and the number of station-nights per year since 1983.

Sax-Zim Bog Winter Birding Festival

The 6th Annual Sax-Zim Bog Winter Birding Festival took place February 15-17, 2013. The event brought some 120+ birders to northeastern Minnesota eager to see, and hopefully photograph some boreal bird species.

Sax-Zim Bog is an important birding area approximately 3 hours north of the Twin Cities metro area. This area includes a mixture of state, county, private land, the Cloquet Valley State Forest, Whiteface River State Forest, the Sax, and two units of the Zim Wildlife Management Area. It is a well-known wintering area for Great gray owls, Northern hawk owls, and Rough-legged hawks, and provides ideal habitat for more than 240 species of migrant and breeding birds.

The weekend long festival received national attention and was featured by Gustave Axelsson in The New York Times. Please visit the Sax-Zim Bog website and stay tuned for plans for the 2014 Festival!

<http://sax-zimbog.com/>

2013 Boreal Owl Irruption – Steve Wilson

Owl Irruption Alert (Again!) - Steve Wilson

Right on cue, four years after the last one, we find ourselves in the midst of another northern owl irruption. Boreal owls seem to be getting the most attention. Since they are suspected of being most closely tied to red-backed vole populations, the assumption is that the owls are moving south in response to a crash of that species' population, which occurs about every four years. Large numbers of great gray owls are also being reported, along with fewer--but still above average--numbers of northern hawk-owls. Initially it seemed the mortality that accompanies most boreal owl irruptions might not occur, but in recent weeks boreal owls have been turning up dead, along with a surprising number of northern saw-whet owls.

Researchers are interested in documenting the extent of the irruption, and you can help. If you see any of the mentioned species, please note the date and location and report this to Frank Nicoletti, Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory's Banding Director (218-591-0174 or fnicoletti@hawkridge.org). If you find a dead owl of one of these species, freeze it in a plastic bag with a label specifying the date and location it was found, along with the name and contact information for the finder. The nearest DNR Wildlife office should accept them, although it would be a good idea to call ahead to make sure they have adequate freezer space. In any event, please let Frank (or Steve Wilson, in the case of boreal owls: 218-753-6110; wils@frontiernet.net) know about your find so carcasses can be weighed and measured before they've been in the freezers for too long.

MN DNR Personnel Updates

Dr. Charlotte Roy is the new Grouse Research Scientist with the Forest Wildlife Research Group. She started her new position on February 27, 2013 and is stationed in Grand Rapids. Charlotte was previously the Waterfowl Research Scientist with the Wetlands

Regional Reports - News from the Field

Wildlife Research Group, stationed in Bemidji.

Upcoming Events

Duluth Audubon Society April Program

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth, 835 West College Street, Duluth

7:00 pm

Free and open to all.

"BirdSafe/LightsOut ... It's Good Business For All"

Presented By Joanna Eckles, Audubon Minnesota BirdSafe/LightsOut Coordinator

Duluth Audubon Society May Program

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Natural Resources Research Institute, 5013 Miller Trunk Highway, Duluth

7:00 pm

Free and open to all

"What Does the Natural Resources Research Institute Do To Protect The Environment For Future Generations And Create New Economic Opportunities?"

Presented by Dr. Gerald Niemi and various staff.

Region 3-Ann Geisen

FWS staff updates



Lori Stevenson, Private Lands Biologist stationed in Waite Park, has accepted a new position with the FWS in Ohio. Lori will be the State Coordinator/ Project Leader administering the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, out of the Private Lands Office in Newark, Ohio. She will be starting her new position March 25th. After 20 years working out of the

Minnesota Private Lands Office, this will be a big change, but Lori is looking forward to the new challenges and project opportunities in Ohio. She is already planning on numerous phone calls and e-mails to stay in touch with family and friends in Minnesota.

Best of luck, Lori! You will be missed.

DNR staff updates

Mandy Uhrich is the new Animal Damage Program Specialist stationed in Brainerd. She will be working with Eric Nelson on statewide animal damage responsibilities. Mandy has worked in a variety of locations and positions in Minnesota, including DNR Farmland Wildlife Research, Parks, and Wildlife; USDA as a Wildlife Conservation Biologist; and most recently with MNDOT as the Integrated Resource Coordinator managing several natural resource programs and research. Mandy started her new position at the end of January.

Gary Drotts, long-time Area Wildlife Supervisor in Brainerd, is planning to retire this spring.

There are currently 15 vacant assistant area wildlife manager positions across the state, which DNR Wildlife is planning to fill in the near future.

DNR Projects and Area Wildlife Office updates

Sharp-tailed grouse research study

A two-year, sharp-tailed grouse research study will begin in east central MN in late March. Lindsey Shartell, DNR forest habitat assessment biologist (who began in January) will be leading the effort to trap hens, fit them with transmitters and track them to learn more about the habitats they selecting and their survival. Technician, John McLaughlin, began last week and will be on for six months to assist in the study.

The Joint MSGS & WSGS Meeting on April 26-27 at Crex Meadows Wildlife Area near Grantsburg, WI.

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Smith Lake in Wright County. Bulrush sprouting on mud flats during drawdown. July 22, 2011. Photo courtesy of MN DNR.



Daphnia response when Smith Lake was re-filled after the drawdown. May 21, 2012. Photo courtesy of MN DNR.



Fringe of emergent vegetation and beds of submerged vegetation on Smith Lake after being re-filled. July 10, 2012. Photo courtesy of MN DNR.

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Friday will be a technical session for managers and researchers and Saturday a more general session. It will be complete with tours, a social, fundraising and membership meetings. Agendas and registration details should be placed on their web sites soon - <http://sharptails.org/> and <http://www.wisharptails.org/>

Sauk Rapids – Fred Bengtson

Smith Lake management project

Smith Lake in Wright County, is responding to management efforts. After being designated as a Wildlife Lake in 2009 (one of only 47 Designated Wildlife Lakes in the state), the DNR partnered with Ducks Unlimited to install a water control structure to allow for water level management. Funding for the new structure was provided by the Legacy Amendment. Smith Lake was completely drawn-down through 2011, and emergent vegetation began to sprout. Water was returned to the lake in 2012, and with it came abundant aquatic vegetation and waterfowl. Locals reported more waterfowl using the lake this last fall than they had seen in years.

Malardi Lake management project

Malardi Lake, also in Wright County, is another shallow lake we hope to manage in the near future. Again, we partnered with Ducks Unlimited to complete an engineering feasibility study and design a water control structure. DNR Wildlife was able to secure an easement from the landowner at the outlet to install the new structure. Construction is currently underway. Once the new structure is completed, the lake drawdown can be started.

Other news

We also have numerous on-going WMA acquisitions in Stearns and Wright utilizing Legacy funding that has been made available, not only to DNR, but to organizations like PF and TNC.

Also, USFWS wetland districts are getting hit hard by federal budget cutting and it could get worse in the near future.

Region 4-Kristin Fritz (No report)

Region 5-Stephen Winter

Jon Cole MN DNR Whitewater WMA

At Whitewater WMA a 210 acre prescribed burn was conducted in the fall of open woodlands that had previously been mechanically and chemically treated to remove invasive honeysuckle and buckthorn.

Restoration of 110 acres of oak savanna in the center of the WMA was completed, benefitting Karner blue butterflies and other species of conservation concern associated with this unique native plant community.

A January bird count documented two golden eagles using the WMA.

Plans are in place for 2-3 prescribed burns in the spring of bluffslands.

The final steps in purchasing a 120 acre addition to the WMA consisting primarily of deciduous hardwoods, are being completed. This purchase will increase spring birding and fall hunting opportunities for the public.

Don Nelson MN DNR Rochester WMA

We completed the second season of CWD testing in the Pine Island area. 1195 hunter harvested deer were sampled and all tested negative for CWD. One more year of testing in the area is planned, provided no more animals test positive. This is in response to CWD being found in a hunter-harvested deer during the 2010 deer season. Approximately 4000 deer have been tested in a 300 square mile zone since January 2011, with 0 additional animals testing positive for the disease.

A bull elk was hit by a truck on TH 52 in September just north of the CWD zone. It did not have any ears tags or markings and the source of the animal is unknown.

A yearling mule deer showed up at Beaver Creek

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Valley State Park in Houston County. The animal was emaciated, and walking in circles. A necropsy determined it was infected with *P. tenuis*, brainworm.

This is the third year of antler point restrictions in southeast Minnesota. Hunter and landowner surveys have been conducted, and 2 public input meetings will be held at the end of February to gauge support to continue the regulations. State law requires the department to obtain legislative approval to continue the regulation beyond this year. Hunter support for the regulation has increased and we expect the regulation will be continued.

DNR will be taking public input this winter on allowing open water hunting for waterfowl on Lake Pepin. We are also taking input on opening the early goose season in mid-August, for portions of the state where there are significant crop depredation issues.

2012 was a big year for black bear in SE Minnesota, with multiple reports of wandering bears during June and July. Bears were also observed swimming the Mississippi River, undoubtedly trying to escape Wisconsin.

Turkey numbers appear to be strong following 2012's early, dry spring. The spring hunting season should be good for hunters.

Jeanine Vorland, MN DNR Owatonna Area

The area entered the winter in severe drought. Wetlands are nearly all dry and most lakes entered winter as low as they have been for decades, some shallow lakes dried completely or nearly so. A second open winter is benefiting many species including small game, deer and raptors. Lack of snow cover has a downside for small mammals and others dependent on the subnival environment for shelter. The lack of snow cover is also playing a part in lack of winterkill conditions in several area shallow lakes needing relief from high rough fish populations. Despite the lack of snow, 2013 has near nor-

mal precipitation mainly arriving as rain.

Despite a seeming lack of winter conditions the area hosted a variety of winter birds. In addition to the usual winter flocks of Lapland longspurs, good numbers of pine siskins and redpolls graced the area. A snowy owl played hide and seek with birdwatchers in SW Dodge County for a second year in a row. The number of nesting pairs of bald eagles continues to climb.

Deer harvest for Prairie SE permit areas was similar to 2011. Intensive chronic wasting disease surveillance in zone 602 yielded no positives for a second year. Testing is to continue at least one more season. Small game hunters had a disappointing season for most upland game birds. Pheasant numbers have begun to rebound some from lows brought about by successive harsh winters and poor nesting seasons, but finding roosters usually required enjoying a long hike. Gray partridge continued at very low numbers as well although they remain much more abundant than jack rabbits. Fur harvesters has mixed results. Trapping has enjoyed some resurgence in participation in recent years. However, trappers had limited water to work for aquatic furbearers and fox and coyote hunters were frustrated some by lack of snow.

Contradicting the notion that row crop farmers would implement good soil and water conservation if only they had better margins, high commodity prices are enticing farmers to clear natural areas and wood lots, plow grasslands and tile and drain remaining wetlands and dredge many ditches and rivers.

Several key land acquisitions have come together recently.

Wo Wacintanka WMA 557 acres grassland/wetland and oak woodland in NE Freeborn County donated by John Goetz through the RIM Critical Habitat Match Program.

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State Line Lake WMA 46 acres of grassland along about ½ mile of shore of State Line Lake in southern Freeborn County. The land was acquired by Ducks Unlimited, Inc. using Outdoor Heritage funds and will be transferred to the MN Department of Natural Resources for a Wildlife Management Area. The tract has the lake outlet and is critical for lake management and rehabilitation. The tract also has a developed access for the lake.

Somerset WMA 42 acres of grassland will be added to the Somerset Wildlife Management Area along the Straight River near Owatonna. The Owatonna Izaak Walton League and Minnesota Pheasants, Inc. Steele County Chapter using a Conservation Partners Legacy grant acquired this land. The officers of the local MN Pheasant chapter deserve a special medal of honor for overcoming very high hurdles to make this a reality.

Juglans Woods AMA 257 acres containing oak-walnut woodland, prairie, marshes and cropland along the headwaters of the Shell Rock River. This tract was acquired by the Shell Rock River Watershed District using Outdoor Heritage funds and will be transferred to the MN Department of Natural Resources as an Aquatic Management Area. This tract has the outlet for Albert Lea Lake and is critical for lake management.

Hannah Texler, MN DNR Regional Plant Ecologist

The MN DNR will conduct two indoor training sessions on the use of their Native Plant Community Field Guides. The exact dates and locations have yet to be finalized, but they will be held in late May or early June, and one will be in the Twin Cities area and one will be in north-central Minnesota. There will also be several follow-up field classes throughout the summer. For more information or to get on the e-mail list to receive more details, please contact Hannah Texler (hannah.texler@state.mn.us; 651-259-5811).

Region 6-Tom Cooper

Thanks for electing me as the Regional Representative for Region 6. I look forward to serving the MN TWS members from Region 6. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. Also, please forward me any news that you would like to share in the quarterly newsletter such as recent hires, retirements, upcoming meetings, and other events.

Tim Marion was promoted to the Area Wildlife Supervisor position at Forest Lake. He worked previously as the Assistant Area Wildlife Manager (AAWM) at Forest Lake, and the AAWM at Cambridge. The Forest Lake work area includes Ramsey, Anoka, Washington and most of Hennepin County.

Jim LaBarre has been promoted to the Carlos Avery Wildlife Area Supervisor position. Previously Jim worked as an Assistant Area Wildlife Manager at Shakopee, Forest Lake, and most recently Carlos Avery. Carlos Avery is a 23,000 acre Wildlife Management Area lying north of the Twin Cities from Columbus City in Anoka County to Stacy in Chisago County.

Tim Bremicker, Region 3 Wildlife Supervisor, is retiring on March 5th after a 41-year career with the DNR. Tim, thank you for your decades of leadership, dedication, and service to natural resource conservation.

University of Minnesota, Crookston Student Chap-

Student Chapter Reports

ter of the Wildlife Society

In November some chapter members assisted in removing exotic conifers at Rydell NWR that were then sold as Christmas trees for a local fundraiser. DNR Wildlife Research Manager Lou Cornicelli addressed the chapter in December on the topic of deer management. The public was invited and over 150 people attended, it was standing room only! Also in December the chapter participated in UMC's Winter Wonderland on campus and made pine cone bird

Student Chapter Reports

feeders with many little kids, there were smiles all around! Some members also assisted with the Christmas Bird Count in the Crookston area. This winter the chapter has helped staff the visitor center at Rydell National Wildlife Refuge as well as aided in some of their programming. Following spring break we will conduct owl and goshawk surveys in the Beltrami Island State Forest, do some habitat management / burn preparation at Agassiz Audubon, attend the annual tree-planting weekend sponsored by the Natural Resources Club on campus. We have ~25 active members.

Krista Kenyon, President

Vermilion Community College Forestry & Wildlife Club – Lori Schmidt, Faculty Advisor

Vermilion Community College students have been very active on cooperative projects with agencies as well as some internal VCC data collection. Students are still monitoring USFS wood duck boxes for utilization and conducting annual maintenance on each box. Many of these boxes were setup in the late 1980s and have been checked annually by VCC students. During the prime of this utilization survey, as many as 400 boxes were scattered around the forest;

today only about 25 boxes remain. The USFS will discontinue this survey when the final boxes decline.

Students also met with the local Minnesota Trapper's Association (MTA). The local MTA constructed Pine Marten nest boxes, eleven of which were donated to VCC, and the students contacted private landowners in the Ely area for box placement. Students will continue to monitor marten use of boxes and analyze habitat changes around the box locations.

VCC students have also been assisting the USGS wolf/deer project with mortality wolf retrieval and mortality assessment via field and in-depth lab necropsies. There have been several wolves that have died of mange and have shown some low weight body conditions.

Students are preparing for Northern Owl surveys, Ruffed Grouse Drumming counts, Deer Mortality surveys, and waiting to hear about the Sharp-tailed Grouse cutting project, which usually occurs in March.

Announcements

The **MN Sharp-tailed Grouse Society (MSGS)** and the **WI Sharp-tailed Grouse Society (WSGS)** will be hosting a joint meeting on April 26-27 at Crex Meadows Wildlife Area near Grantsburg, WI. Friday will be a technical session for managers and researchers and Saturday a more general session. It will be complete with tours, a social, fundraising and membership meetings. Agendas and registration details should be placed on their web sites soon - <http://sharptails.org/> and <http://www.wisharptails.org/>

Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) National Meeting

The SWS national meeting will be held in Duluth, Minnesota this summer, from June 2-6. More information can be found on the website: <http://www.swsannualmeeting.org/>.

Breeding Bird Survey Routes Available in Minnesota

Each spring over 2500 skilled amateur birders and professional biologists volunteer to participate in the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). Since 1965, these volunteers have contributed to one of the most widely used bird monitoring datasets in North America. In 2009, the Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring

Announcements

Partnership began a campaign to fill all vacant BBS routes in our region. Each year, the number of vacant routes has decreased, and I am confident that we will have a record year for filling routes in 2013.

Minnesota: 9 Vacant Routes (contact Tony Hertzelt; email: axhertzelt@gmail.com; phone: 763-780-7149)

Requirements for participation are listed below:

- ◆ Access to suitable transportation to complete a survey.
- ◆ Good hearing and eyesight.
- ◆ The ability to identify all breeding birds in the area by sight and sound. Knowledge of bird songs is extremely important, because most birds counted on these surveys are singing males.
- ◆ New BBS participants must also successfully complete the BBS Methodology Training Program before their data will be used in any BBS analyses. The training program is available from the national BBS offices and the state, provincial, and territorial coordinators.



The poster features a background image of tall grasses under a blue sky with clouds. At the top left is the National Wildlife Federation logo, and at the top right is the K-State Kansas State University logo. The main text reads "SAVE THE DATE!" in large, bold, black letters. Below this is a circular graphic containing a black and white bird perched on a green grass stem with a yellow flower. Text inside the circle includes "America's Grasslands Conference", "August 12-14 2013", and "Manhattan, KS". Below the circle, the text "America's Grasslands: The Future of Grasslands in a Changing Landscape" is written in bold, followed by a paragraph describing the conference's focus on conservation and ecosystem management. At the bottom, contact information for John Briggs and Aviva Glaser is provided.

SAVE THE DATE!

America's Grasslands Conference
August 12-14 2013
Manhattan, KS

America's Grasslands: The Future of Grasslands in a Changing Landscape will bring together researchers, natural resources professionals, farmers and ranchers, policy experts and conservationists to discuss the conservation of North America's grasslands and the opportunities and outlook for these vital ecosystems in a changing landscape. The conference will take place **August 13-14**, sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation and Kansas State University. August 12th will be a day of optional field trips to local grasslands in Kansas.

For More Information:
John Briggs, KSU jbriggs1@ksu.edu Aviva Glaser, NWF glasera@nwf.org

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If you would like to contribute to the next newsletter please send an email to Wes Bailey, Newsletter Editor at wes_bailey AT yahoo.com and type in the subject line "MN TWS newsletter". Previous editions of The Minnesota Wildlifer are available on our website.



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