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# Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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## President's Message

Hello! It is my honor and privilege to write my first note to you as President of Minnesota TWS. We had a great meeting in February, with 221 paid attendees, unofficially breaking the previous attendance record. We had a fantastic turnout from students, with 88 students attending from 11 different colleges and universities! Congratulations to Bemidji State University for winning the 2014 Student Quiz Bowl – we expect you to defend your crown at next year's meeting. We also set a new record for fundraising during the conference, with more than \$3500 raised. Thanks again to Norm Moody, Ann Geisen, Dawn Plattner, and others for all their hard work with the fundraising event, which is a critical part of our chapter's annual income. After meeting expenses were paid, we also raised over \$5000 from a combination with donations, vendor fees, and paid registrations, giving us a solid financial base to work from in 2014. We offered a short workshop this year on telemetry that was well-received. Based on feedback from this workshop and from professionals about the challenges associated with attending the conference at work expense, we are looking for additional ways to enhance learning opportunities for students and professionals by offering more workshops before, during, or after the conference. Thank you again to everyone that helped make our 2014 Annual Meeting such a huge success. We hope to see you all again at next year's joint meeting with Wisconsin Chapter of TWS. As happens every year, we have some changes on the Board. First and foremost, I want to thank the outgoing Board

members for their dedication and service: Jodie Provost (President), Wayne Brininger (Past-President), Charlotte Roy (Treasurer), Gregg Knutson (Region 1) and Ann Geisen (Region 3). Replacing them are Lindsay Shartell (Treasurer), Vanessa Lane (Region 1), and Tony Hewitt (Region 3). Thank you to everyone who ran for office! We hope you consider running again in the future. [And to my old friend Dr. Bill Faber, don't forget you can be President more than once!]



As Past-President Jodie Provost has explained previously, The Wildlife Society is encouraging state chapters to join TWS' [Conservation Affairs Network](#), specifically by creating a Conservation Affairs Committee (or CAC). The intent is to create a network where communication on conservation issues better flows between the Parent Society, the Sections, and the State Chapters and Working Groups. The MNTWS Board has also been talking about how adopting a CAC-structure at the Chapter level can help us internally manage and respond to conser-

## President's Message (continued)

vation issues in a more timely and strategic manner. Over the last few years, the Board has also been discussing how we decide where we focus our efforts and resources, how to streamline our Board, how to better recruit and maintain membership, and how to foster communication within the Chapter. All of these are challenging issues, but we feel that we have reached a crossroads where we can try to address several of these things simultaneously.

The Board has set an agenda for special committees to 1) draft a strategic plan that will set our goals about what we want MNTWS to be and do over the next 3 to 5 years, and 2) draft a plan to reorganize the Board and committee structure to reflect changes in the CAC structure and to streamline Board function. We plan to tackle each of these tasks with input from the Board, the Member survey completed in 2013, and input from MNTWS members like you. Stay tuned – big things are happening on the Board that we feel will continue build our momentum as we strive to make MNTWS a sustainable force in Minnesota conservation and professional development. One last thing. The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a fantastic organization with a long-history, an organization filled with very passionate individuals who believe in the mission of TWS. As archivist John Moriarty keeps reminding us, we were the FIRST STATE CHAPTER of The Wildlife Society in the whole country. But our chapter is relatively small, and an even smaller number of individuals are responsible for keeping things going day after day, year after year. From my own experience, I sat on the sidelines for a long time, waiting for the “just the right moment” to jump in and share the load. In hindsight, I waited too long. There will always be competing interests for our time, whether from work, family, or other personal interests. But for those of who you believe in what MNTWS can do for wildlife professionals and wildlife conservation in Minnesota but are not or have not been particularly active in the chapter, I urge you to start thinking about ways you can get involved. It doesn't have to be much. Maybe it's striving to share more with your colleagues via the GoogleGroup or Facebook. Maybe it's helping out on the Board or helping plan the Annual Meeting. Maybe it's talking to your elected offi-

cials about wildlife issues that are important to you or the chapter. Regardless, we members of MNTWS are the lifeblood of the organization and we all need to contribute so that MNTWS can be a part of the changes we wish to see in Minnesota and beyond.

Sincerely,



Steve Windels  
Ph: 218-324-3400



## COWCH Update

The Minnesota Chapter is working with the parent chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) on the Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH) project to interview influential wildlife biologist, educators, managers and other pioneers who have made a significant contribution to wildlife conservation on a county, state or national level. The COWCH project was established to document the history and evolution of the wildlife profession by interviewing the people who were around when it all started and continue it on today into the following generations. A list of potential and completed interviews can be obtained online at <http://www.mntws.org/mn/cowch.html>. If there is someone that you feel should be interviewed that is not on the list, please volunteer to interview them. The National COWCH Project website at <http://www.wildlife.org/who-we-are/cowch> has information about how to conduct an interview, along with a set of questions and a release form. Please consult the interview guidelines, equipment requirements and questions before conducting an interview. Have questions or want more information? Please contact Nicholas Snavely, MN TWS COWCH Project Coordinator, at 320-223-7872 or [nsnav589@ yahoo.com](mailto:nsnav589@ yahoo.com) many weeks ahead of the planned interview to allow time to make arrangements. Email Nicholas Snavely with a brief proposal containing the name of your subject, why they are important to the wildlife profession/COWCH Project, your estimated time for producing the interview and the type of equipment you will be using.



## The Wildlife Society



Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education

## 2013 ANNUAL AWARDS RECIPIENTS

### SERVICE TO CHAPTER AWARDS.

Service to Chapter Awards are presented to Chapter members in appreciation and recognition for *exceptional service and commitment to the Minnesota Chapter during the past year.*

2013 Service to Chapter Awards were presented to Past President Wayne Brininger, Chapter Treasurer Charlotte Roy, and Awards Committee Chair Thom Soule.



### MINNESOTA AWARD- Ray Norrgard

Currently the Wetland Wildlife Program Leader of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) Division of Fish and Wildlife, Ray's 38-year career has included serving as Executive Director of the Minnesota Waterfowl Association and as a Biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

There is perhaps no one more synonymous with Minnesota wetlands than Ray Norrgard. Nor do they or their inhabitants have a better friend. Whether the topic involves shallow lakes, wild rice, wetland restoration or management, moist-soil management, aquatic invertebrates, or waterfowl management, refuges, and regulations, the depth and breadth of his knowledge is without peer.

While with the Fish & Wildlife Service, Ray worked on their pilot program to restore wetlands on private property through the Mid-Continent Waterfowl Management Project. This program expanded nationwide and became the Partners for Wildlife private lands habitat program.

Ray was the MNDNR Shallow Lake Coordinator for over 11 years. During his tenure, six Wildlife Lake Designations were completed, totaling almost 6,000 acres. He was instrumental in pioneering Wildlife Lake "reclamation" strategies and techniques, and provided technical guidance

and support on numerous lake projects. Ray's efforts resulted directly in the formation of the Shallow Lakes Program, which today has nine specialists working throughout Minnesota.

Ray helped develop the Re-Invest In Minnesota Program, and worked to help pass the initiative through the Legislature. Following passage, he helped develop the RIM Reserve and RIM Critical Habitat programs and worked on the team that wrote and passed the legislation that became the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act.

He served as the MNDNR liaison to the citizen Duck Rally Committee, and the citizen Wetlands, Wildlife and Clean Water rally group, helping to pass the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

Ray created the MNDNR's Working Lands Initiative, a "mini" North American Waterfowl Plan designed to accelerate Minnesota's wetland and grassland management efforts.

Ray wrote the "Minnesota Moist Soil Management Guide", and is currently leading the MNDNR effort to increase the management of seasonal wetlands and develop moist-soil management units to benefit waterfowl and wetland wildlife.

Ever the consummate professional Ray's commitment to wetlands and their wildlife has always extended outside the office in supporting and educating hunters, young and those not so young.

He is a founder of the Minnesota Waterfowl Association's "*Woodie Camp*" – the highly successful waterfowl hunting camp for kids. Twenty-six years, 25 camps and over 900 teens later Ray is still volunteering as a shooting instructor. He also served as a consultant and instructor for the MNDNR Advanced Hunter Education Program, assisting with developing curriculum materials, and traveling throughout the state helping to host 15-20 clinics a year for nearly 20 years.

As much as Ray is known and respected for his wetlands knowledge and accomplishments, he is equally well respected by all those he works with. Considered a "phenomenal mentor" by many he has worked with he is always willing to take the time to answer questions, share his experience, making a deliberate effort to support and facilitate learning opportunities for others.

Ray Norrgard has helped create and shape the conservation legacy that exists in Minnesota today. For over thirty years, his primary concern has been doing what is best for the resource. There is no doubt that the state of Minnesota is a better place because of his work. He has absolutely made a difference.



Ann Geisen presents the 2013 **Minnesota Award** to Ray Norrgard

## **DR. JANET S. BOE MEMORIAL AWARD**- Lori Schmidt

Lori has been an Instructor in the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Department Vermilion Community College (VCC) since 1990.

After receiving her Natural Resource Technology A.A.S. degree from VCC in 1983 she earned her B.S. degree from the University of Minnesota in 1994 and her M.S. degree from Lakehead University in 2000.

Few Natural Resources Instructors have the width and depth of resource employment experience or landmark teaching and mentoring work with students that Lori does.

Since 1982, her employment history includes the following positions. Minnesota DNR Wildlife Research Technician, NASA Forest Biomass Research Assistant, St. Louis County Land Department, Forestry Technician, University of Minnesota, Forest Biodiversity Project Research Assistant, Wildlife Biologist Minnesota Power Ecological Assessment Project, US Forest Service, Contract Forester Writing Northern White Cedar Conservation Assessment. Since 1989, she has also served as Wolf Curator for the International Wolf Center in Ely.

For over 20 years, Lori has worked tirelessly to coordinate between VCC and other agencies to broaden her students' professional experience and provide hands-on labor to resource professionals throughout the state.

Under Lori's mentorship the VCC Wildlife Club has done a substantial amount of wildlife field work (wildlife surveys, prescribed fire, fire suppression, waterfowl bag checks, disease monitoring, etc) for the Tower/Ely DNR. She leads students on semi-annual brush-cuts for the MN Sharp-tailed Grouse Society and escorts her students to meetings of professional natural resource societies (TWS, SAF and others) on a regular basis. Many of her students have been top-notch wildlife management interns for the MNDNR and other agencies. In addition, many now work for the MNDNR as wildlife staff, foresters and conservation officers. Whenever there is an opportunity for student enrichment, Lori is there with students in tow. She has been an excellent instructor, co-worker and mentor for over 30 years making a significant difference in natural resource science in Minnesota.

Lori is an avid hunter, angler and a consummate conservationist. Lori and her husband, Jim, make their home in rural Ely.



Martha Minchak presents the  
2013 Dr. Janet S. Boe Memorial Award to Lori Schmidt

## **CONSERVATION AWARD-** Sally Hausken

If you are a resident of Becker County, Detroit Lakes, the east shore of Big Detroit Lake or an "Ike" you probably know Sally as a tireless outspoken advocate for the health and welfare of her home, her City and her State.

For those who know her best, she is as a caring, compassionate role model and friend who practices what she preaches and an example for others of the consummate citizen conservationist.

In keeping with her philosophy of being an example for others, Sally, a self-taught botanist nurtures her lakeshore property with native plants. The last time the lawn was mowed was in 1974. Featuring a high diversity of native flowers, shrubs and trees her mini-arboretum provides homes for wildlife such as bees, humming birds, and other small animals and is frequently a highlight of local Master Gardner and other similar tours.

In a 12 year effort to protect Sucker Creek, a designated trout stream that flows into Big Detroit Lake and 64 acres of high quality northern hardwood forest, lowland conifer forest and wetlands Sally spearheaded a tireless and ceaseless effort to purchase what is now *Sucker Creek Natural Area*.

As a child Sally spent time in this special area, knew its value and uniqueness so when she learned that it was platted for development she rallied private citizens, local service clubs, conservation organizations, foundations, and the City of Detroit Lakes to raise the \$500,000 needed for its purchase. With help from a MNDNR Natural and Scenic Areas Acquisition grant Sucker Creek Natural Area became Detroit Lakes' first and only natural area in 2001, featuring single-track hiking trails and a paved accessible trail with interpretive signs that connects the parking area with an outdoor amphitheater for environmental education events.

Knowing the headwaters of Sucker Creek with multiple natural springs were unprotected and vulnerable Sally continued her work, with funding from the Minnesota Parks and Trails Legacy grant program adding an additional 46 acres what is now called Upstream Sucker Creek Preserve.

Sally has always known the intimate relationship between the environment, wildlife and human health. An inveterate educator and caregiver her passion is to bring this message to everyone she can.

When she learned of the book *Sustaining Life: How Human Health Depends on Biodiversity* coauthored by Dr. Aaron Bernstein and Nobel Laureate Eric Chivian, which received the distinction of best biology book of 2008 from the Library Journal, she committed herself to bringing Dr. Bernstein to Detroit Lakes, which she did in October 2011! Dr. Bernstein gave presentations at 3M Corporation in St. Paul, the Holmes Center in Detroit Lakes, Concordia College, Detroit Lakes High School, and for Detroit Lakes Essentia Health medical staff.

As a Master Gardener, she teaches classes on rain gardens and natural landscaping. Never one to sit back she was instrumental in a plan to create a natural vegetation corridor and rain gardens along 4000 feet of shoreline of Detroit Lake to protect it from run off created by Highway 10. Over 12,000 plants planted into the natural plantings and rain gardens.

In her spare time, Sally is active in the Izaak Walton League serving as Vice-President and President of the Prairie Woods Chapter of Detroit Lakes. She has also been president of the Lakes Area Birding Club, and continues to help organize and lead field trips for the *Festival of Birds in Detroit Lakes*.

Sally's nurturing influence and example as a consummate citizen conservationist will be evident in the Detroit Lakes area for generations. Those privileged to know and work with her on her many conservation projects have a deep appreciation for the positive impact she has made.



Sally Hausken accepts her Award from friends  
Donna Dustin and Larry Hanson.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD- Dave Olsen

The **Law Enforcement Award** presented annually since 1992 recognizes an individual who has demonstrated dedication and service to the protection of Minnesota's natural resources.

Lt. David Olsen retired in 2013 from the MNDNR Enforcement Division. For 32 years, Dave was a leader in his Division and community for his dedication and support for the wildlife resources he pledged to protect.

Dave consistently garnered great reviews and unsolicited commendations and respect from fellow Officers other agency staff and the public by combining effective law enforcement techniques with his knowledge of wildlife, hunting and trapping and a sense of fairness and a desire to protect the resource and public safety.

Dave's professionalism and commitment to the resource and his desire to improve the agency and his community is shown in his two decades of working as a primary field-training officer and his leadership in the Youth Safety Training and Volunteer Safety Training Instructors programs.

Examples of Dave's efforts and accomplishments include:

- Consistently lead the District in cases such as taking in closed season, taking after privileges revoked, fleeing, trespassing, illegal motor-vehicle/damage trail, commercial operations, no license/false application, environmental and drug/alcohol violations.
  - Received the DNR's Boat/Water Safety Officer of the Year award in 1998.
  - Received the DNR's Conservation Officer of the Year award in 2002.
  - Nominated for Itasca County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by another agency.
- Initiated a youth Watercraft Safety Program that provided behind the wheel and handlebar operation to help ensure the class graduates were able to operate a variety of watercraft types safely.

As a district supervisor, the position Dave held when he retired, Dave was able to take many of his best assets; superlative field officer, trainer, mentor and partner, and provide the direction and guidance to officers throughout the region and state. Many of the leaders we have had in our division in the past 25 years and that we have today were positively influenced by Dave throughout his career.

For 32 years, Dave worked tirelessly with integrity and professionalism for the welfare of Minnesota's wildlife resources and her people.



Dave Olsen receives the 2013 Law Enforcement Award from Enforcement Division Director Ken Soring

**BOB FEDELER MEMORIAL AWARD** (Undergraduate Award) – Matt Toenies

Matt is from Randall MN. He is a senior studying Natural Resources – Wildlife Management at the University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC) with a current GPA of 3.88. His academic advisor is Dr. John P. Loegering.

The Bob Fedeler Memorial Award is presented to one undergraduate and one graduate student who have a 3.0 or better GPA, a strong interest in a career in wildlife biology, are active in extracurricular activities, have a strong sense of public service and have demonstrated good communication skills.

Dr. Loegering says this about Matt. *"He is dedicated and committed to his studies and excels both in the classroom and out in the field. Matt has a quiet demeanor, but offers well-timed, thoughtful, and appropriate questions. In addition, he will graduate with 149 credits; 29 (nearly 2 terms worth) more than required."*

Dr. Loegering continues; *"Matt's leadership was important during the past year too our Wildlife Quiz Bowl team. He was the spokesperson and lead player at both the North Central Section conclave and the national events. His team won both events in a large part due to his knowledge as well as his leadership and calm demeanor under pressure."*

As Vice President for the UMC Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, he has lead efforts to fund-raise, design Chapter t-shirts, and duck and songbird banding. He also participated in several activities at Central Lakes College during his first two years of college such as bird, toad and frog surveys, owl monitoring, crane counts, Christmas Bird Counts, extensive trapping and telemetry work on fishers, and chimney swift counts.

Matt's passion for birds is demonstrated in two articles he wrote about prairie grouse for the Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse and Minnesota Prairie-Chicken Society newsletters and in his participation as a sophomore in college, as a Board member of the Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Society. Matt is also an accomplished artist winning the *Minnesota Junior Duck Stamp Contest* in 2010.

Although still in school Matt's field experience is broad. He has excellent birding and bird surveying skills. He spent several summers working in Camp Ripley doing everything from biological monitoring to interpretation. Last summer he was an intern for MNDNR Shallow Lakes Program. He has continually worked to increase the breadth of his experience. To that end, his last academic term will be in Australia, further expanding his understanding of the world's ecosystems.

Based on his academic excellence, experience, community and professional engagement, and commitment to student organizations Matt is a great addition to the growing list of Bob Fedeler Memorial Award recipients.

## STUDENT CONSERVATIONIST AWARD- Tom Strack



Tom Strack receives the Student Conservation Award from Dr. Bill Faber

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

Tom is from Randall Mn. He is a senior at Central Lakes College (CLC) in Brainerd with a 3.8 GPA. He plans to attend UW-Stevens Point next fall to continue his NR-related studies to earn his Bachelors degree.

His advisor Dr. Bill Faber describes Tom as "*a self-motivated, mature, responsible young man without whom all of our endeavors both inside and out of the classroom would not get done.*"

Tom is the current President of the CLC Natural Resources Club. He has worked three years on a statewide fisher project at Camp Ripley, worked as a MNDNR Forestry Intern the summer 2013 in Little Falls.



## Regional Reports - News from the Field

### Region I—Vanessa Lane

#### *Crookston Wildlife Office*

The Crookston Wildlife Office is still short-staffed a wildlife technician due to Ruth Anne's promotion to the Assistant Wildlife Area Manager for Crookston. Crookston is busy planning spring-summer burns, farming agreements, and brush regeneration work.



#### *Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District*

##### Habitat Management

###### Activities

Tree removal and diversity seeding continues on the Enhanced Public Lands grant that Pheasants Forever and the MN Prairie Chicken Society received from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC). Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District (DL WMD) received \$264,000 to cut trees, chemically treat stumps and resprout areas, and reseed with native grasses and forbs on seven Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) in Becker and Mahnomen Counties. To date, tree removal and stump treatment has occurred on five WPAs, while tree removal is in progress on the remaining two WPAs with completion anticipated by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Further chemical treatment is slated for summer or fall of 2014 and reseeding is slated for March 2015.

The grant also funded diversity seeding on ten WPAs in DL WMD for \$50,000. So far, \$8,000 has been spent on hand-harvested wetland edge seed. They soon anticipate another bill for hand-harvested wetland edge seed. The remainder of the

### MN Chapter TWS Regions



money will be spent after the 2014 hand harvest season.

Tree removal work is also planned on three new tracts of land purchased by Pheasants Forever that will be donated as WPAs through the Accelerating the Small Wetlands Acquisition Program LSOHC grant. The three tracts were lumped together and the winning bidder has been notified. Tree removal work will probably not begin until late summer (after nesting season), and will be paid for by Pheasants Forever.

Past tree removal work on Kenyon WPA, south of Hawley, resulted in two large piles to be chipped and hauled to Benson, MN. However, those plans fell through. As of late February, the piles were being chipped and hauled to North Dakota where the chips will be used as mulch on handicap accessible playgrounds. Prairie Recovery dollars paid for the chipping.

##### New Grant Awards - Uplands

DL WMD was recently awarded \$50,000 through a separate grant to complete upland enhancement. They will hire contractors and CCM crews to cut brush and trees and spray invasive species in some of their highest quality grassland restoration sites. Work is slated to begin this summer.

## Regional Reports (continued)

### New Grant Awards - Wetlands

The Friends of DL WMD were awarded three new grants to fund additional wetland restoration work throughout DL WMD. The funds will be used to restore wetlands on the following WPAs in Clay, Norman, and Polk Counties of Northwestern Minnesota: Downer Prairie, Sliniger, Clarke, Hill River, and Winger. The Friends have been applying for and receiving grants to fund wetland restoration on WPAs throughout the District for the past three to five years. This has opened a huge door that allows the District to restore wetlands in tracts with no initial restoration funds. The District has been restoring 75 to 150 wetlands per year for the past couple of years using these funds, and has provided critical habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and other wetland dependent species as they nest and migrate through western Minnesota. DL WMD gives a huge thank you to the Friends for continuing to partner with their office to complete habitat restoration.

### ***Hamden Slough NWR***

Three snowy owls have become regular winter “residents” of Hamden Slough NWR just north of Audubon, MN. The snow birds have selected the drained Hamden lakebed in the northern portion of the refuge as their home away from home and can usually be seen sitting high atop the large power poles running parallel to County Highway 13.

### ***Red Lake WMA***

A new assistant manager, Charlie Tucker, started in October. Charlotte Roy is conducting a pilot research project on effective methods to conduct spruce grouse population surveys. The project will begin in April (2014), and is currently recruiting trained dogs and handlers to help confirm survey results. Habitat work is proceeding for golden-winged warblers, American woodcock, and ruffed grouse this winter. New walking trails are being constructed, and grant proposals have been submitted for to do long term soil temperature and moisture monitoring.



### **Region 2 – Dawn Plattner**

#### MN DNR Personnel Updates

Christine Reisz started on February 6<sup>th</sup> as the new Area Wildlife Manager for the Brainerd/Aitkin Area. Her primary office will be at the Aitkin DNR office. For the last 10 years, Christine has been working out of the DNR Wildlife office in Karlstad, first as the Assistant Area Wildlife Manager and most recently as the Area Wildlife Manager. Prior to working for the DNR, she worked on The Nature Conservancy's Glacial Ridge Project in Mentor, MN. She graduated with a B.S. in Environmental Science with a focus on Wildlife Management from The Ohio State University and received a M.S. in Resource Ecology and Management from the University of Michigan.

Jeff Hines started on January 29<sup>th</sup> as the assistant Area Wildlife Manager for the Grand Rapids Area. His office will be at the Grand Rapids Regional DNR office. For the last 13 years, Jeff has been working out of the DNR Wildlife office in Tower as the Assistant Area Wildlife Manager. Prior to working for the DNR at Tower, he worked for 12 years for the Nongame program at the Regional DNR office. Jeff is heading back home. He graduated with a B.S. in Wildlife Management from University of Minnesota.

Jodie Provost accepted the reclassified Forest Private Land Specialist position. Jodie, a North Dakota farm girl, received her BS in Zoology from NDSU and MS in Biology from UND. She has enjoyed service with the DNR for over 22 years, serving as assistant area wildlife managers at Karlstad and Brainerd, a wildlife resource assessment specialist at Brainerd, and private land specialist at Aitkin. She looks forward to returning as the private land specialist on

## Regional Reports (continued)

Wildlife's Forest Habitat Team out of Aitkin, and again collaborating with partners and private landowners in the forest region of MN to enhance, restore and protect brushland and forest habitats.

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

USGS deer-trapping technicians have radio-collared 7 white-tailed deer around Garden, Fall and Birch Lakes since they started trapping in mid-February as part of the agency's long-term wolf-deer study in the Superior National Forest. Live-trapping of white-tailed deer for radio-collaring will shift soon to areas around Isabella and might continue through April (weather dependent). Aerial wolf tracking and observation for the annual wolf count will continue through March. Wolf trapping for radio-collaring operations will commence in June and continue to approximately mid-November.

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

The club students wanted to thank all of the resource professionals who shared their time, enthusiasm and advice at the State meeting. It was a valuable experience and students focused their enthusiasm into their job search efforts and many have successfully acquired positions. Students returned to campus and to continual cold and snow conditions which is always a good time for burn projects. The Fire Management class is working on Snowshoe Hare habitat improvement on the Campus 40 acre tract, primarily thinning some balsam fir and creating small forest openings for spring planting of preferred browse species. The club finished a GIS map for the local snowmobile club identifying landownership adjacent to the Taconite Trail from Ely to the North Shore and will be developing some ski trail maps for local trails. VCC should have at least 10 sandwick operators attending the Sharp-tail Grouse habitat project in Palisade on March 22nd. By April, owl surveys, grouse surveys and deer mortality surveys should be underway, if winter ever ends.

### Moose Calf Mortality in Northeastern Minnesota – Bill Severud, University of Minnesota

Prompted by the moose population decline in northeastern Minnesota and the poorly understood causes and rates of calf mortality, the Minnesota Department of Nat-

ural Resources initiated a moose calf mortality study in May 2013. The study is a companion to the adult mortality study that began in January 2013. Using progesterone levels and movement patterns of collared adult cow moose allowed us to determine when cows were giving birth. After allowing for dam-calf bonding, we captured and collared 49 moose calves of 31 dams, a 58% twinning rate. The collars send us a text message when an animal dies, allowing us to investigate calf mortalities within hours of death and improving our capability to assign causes of mortality. Thus far we have documented 24 natural mortalities (excluding capture-related mortalities and slipped collars), including 1 abandonment, 1 drowning, 1 unknown predator kill, 4 bear kills, 16 wolf kills or possible wolf kills/scavenges, and 1 wolf injury that led to a secondary lethal infection, yielding a 74% mortality rate as of January 2014. We plan to collar another cohort of neonates this spring and spring 2015 to see what degree of variability we can observe in mortality rates, cause-specific mortality, and recruitment. In addition, we will examine habitat use at multiple scales and the importance of the interspersion of concealment cover, forage, and thermal cover to calf survival.

### Adult Moose Mortality Project Update – Michelle Carstensen, Wildlife Health Program Supervisor

Since the last update, much as happened. Another round of moose captures has occurred and we successfully rebuilt our sample size; however, both non-collared and collared moose mortalities have been happening simultaneously.

#### **Moose Captures**

In early February, the Grand Portage moose project added 16 adults to their study. Once their captures were complete, we captured a total of 37 adult moose in 6 days. This included 12 adult males and 25 adult females (6 of the females were collared from James Forester-UMN collaborator and 1 female was a recapture we did for Grand Portage to swap out a malfunctioning old collar). Weather was great for captures and everything went smoothly. There were 5 national/international media outlets in attendance for the first few days of the operation, including the NY Times, BBC Canada, CBS-New York, French TVI, and Al-Jazeera-America. To see some of the footage already out from these venues, there are links on bottom of our moose project webpage: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/moose/index.html> All the media attention for this event demonstrates to all of us

## Regional Reports (continued)

the level of interest in the Minnesota moose decline; it was a pretty crazy few days of being filmed and interviewed for all of those involved.

One of the really interesting things that occurred during captures this year was that sick moose were being spotted by our aircraft (fixed-wing and helicopter) during the operation. I know last year we had the capture company film a few moose with their GoPros that were “spinning in circles” once pushed by the chopper; this year, at least 5 moose were spotted that looked sick (circling, standing motionless with head down, or downed and unable to get up). Of these 5 moose, ground crews (including both DNR and Grand Portage biologists) were able to get to 2 of these moose and euthanize them. One was extracted whole for submission to UM-VDL, the other had a field necropsy performed by our very own Dr. Arno Wuenschmann, who got the chance to experience real field conditions (i.e. waist-deep snow and cold) compared to the comforts of the VDL necropsy floor. Final diagnoses are pending for both, but P. tenius was suspected as the culprit. Think about the odds of us spotting 5 potentially moribund moose from the air, when we only covered a small fraction of moose range in our operations! Also, 2 captured moose had large, numerous abscesses on their sides that we are unsure of the cause. At first, we thought these were fibromas but they were ruptured and necrotic. Unfortunately, 3 of our newly captured moose did not survive beyond the 2-week, post-capture period and are now censored from our study. We are awaiting any confirmatory diagnoses of capture myopathy from sample that were submitted. So a quick recap in sample size from Year 1 and now the start of Year 2. In 2013, we captured 111 moose (4 capture-related mortalities were censored), so study sample was 107 for Year 1. A total of 22 moose died (21%), leaving 85 collared moose in the study by the end of year one. This included 74 working collars and 11 MIA collared moose. We recaptured 4 of these MIA moose using their VHF signal and replaced their collars in 2014. So we recruited 32 new moose and 4 recaps. Here’s the final numbers:

- 85 collared moose at end of Year 1 minus 11 MIA collars (censored moose) = 74 known individuals in study at the end of year one
- 32 new moose and 4 recaps of 2013 moose = 36 new collars on the air  
 $74 + 36 = 110$  (3 capture-related mortalities were censored), therefore we start Year 2 with 107 moose.

### Moose Mortalities

We’ve already had 2 mortalities to kick off Year 2 of this study. Both of these moose were originally collared in 2013 and turned out to be very interesting cases. Moose 12578, a 12-yr old female, was euthanized on 14-Feb, after we received a mortality alert and found her alive but unable to get up. She had quite a few issues, including open sores on the insides of her legs and a possible fibroma, cysts on the liver and lungs, tooth abscess, plus other teeth appeared loose, thin (only a minimal amount of fat on heart noted), and non-pregnant. Results from all the samples submitted through the field necropsy are pending. Moose 12618 was a 5-year old bull captured in 2013, which should be in his prime, and he died on 23-Feb. There were comments made on his capture sheet from 2012 that he was circling, so we had him listed last year as a possible P.Tenius suspect, yet he managed to survive another year. In the >30” of sugary snow, it took us 1.5 days to reach his carcass. He was killed by wolves, yet the kill site suggested he was standing and struggling as they brought him down (confirmed by blood spray patterns and broken trees/branches). The remaining carcass left quite a bit for us to sample and when we approached his carcass, we immediately noticed a bad smell. We found his liver to be riddled with abscesses and infection and at least one of his lung lobes was green/yellow along with his trachea. The quality of all the other surrounding organs led us to believe this “rotten liver & infected lung” was not an artifact of decomposition, but rather a real infection that this bull was dealing with. We also collected his brain for examination for P. Tenius tracks, especially since he was observed with neurological issues last winter. Results are pending. Great thanks to all that helped with moose captures and we appreciate everyone’s continued interest and support of our project. Now we patiently await snow depths to lessen.

### Submitted by Lori Schmidt

It was most humbling to receive the Dr. Janet Boe Memorial Award at the Annual meeting. I would like to thank the Nomination committee, my students, colleagues and friends who supported this nomination and the state Chapter members for such an overwhelming show of support. We will be hanging the “For the Future” watercolor of a nesting pair of Eared Grebes and the Memorial plaque in an NR Student Resource room on campus. I recently

## Regional Reports (continued)

acquired a \$10,000 grant to upgrade this resource room and allow students a place to develop collaborative GIS projects and continue to assist local resource agencies. In my opinion, there's no better place to honor the "For the Future" print than in a room dedicated to the students who are the future of Resource Management. On a recent trip to Isabella, one of my students asked me to identify the most enjoyable part of my teaching position; It was easy to define. I am most proud of the students who have left our 2-year college in Northern Minnesota, have gone on to complete their Bachelor's or Master's degree and are now resource professionals, but more importantly resource professionals that are active members of the Wildlife Society. So, if you are reading this and you are a VCC alumni, I hope to see you at the next annual meeting, where the "For the Future" print and Memorial plaque will travel to the next recipient.

### Region 3— Tony Hewitt



### Events at Sherburne NWR

#### **APRIL**

Evening Moth Program  
Friday, April 25, 8:00pm - 11:30pm  
Join author Jim Sogaard to learn about these fly-by-night creatures.  
Meet at Refuge HQ on CR 9.

#### **MAY**

Spring Celebration of Nature  
Saturday, May 10, 7am - 1pm,  
Bird tour 7am at Mahnomen Trail; Eagle's Nest

Nature Store open 8am - 1pm; Audubon Center of the North Woods live birds, reptiles, amphibians and a porcupine, Friends' Plant Sale and Kids' Nature Craft 10am - 1pm and more! All activities at Refuge HQ unless otherwise noted.

#### Spring Butterfly Tour

Saturday, May 31, 10am - 12pm  
Meet your guide at Mahnomen Trail.

## JUNE

#### Bird Tour

Saturday, June 7, 8am to 11am  
Meet your guide at the Blue Hill Trail.

#### Wildflower Tour

Saturday, June 14, 10am - to 12pm  
Meet your guide at Refuge HQ for the car caravan tour.

#### Summer Butterfly Tour

Saturday, June 21, 10am to 12pm  
Meet your guide at Blue Hill Trail.

## Sherburne NWR

Minnesota Deer Hunters Association is in the process of working with refuge staff towards the restoration of 150 acres into native oak savanna at the Blue Hill Trail site. The project is funded through the Conservation Partners Legacy and management activities that are currently ongoing include tree thinning operations, invasive species control, and planting of native grasses and forbs. Tree and brush removal will open up the canopy and sub-canopy to allow adequate light penetration to promote the savanna understory. Prescribed fire will also be implemented this spring to prepare the site for seeding and stimulate the native savanna community.

## Sherburne, Crane Meadows, and Rice Lake NWR

Woodcock Minnesota and refuge staff have been working with local contractors to shear over-mature and unproductive stands of aspen, birch, or

## Regional Reports (continued)

shrubs. This will open up the plant canopy, allowing more light on the ground, and stimulate suckering from the existing roots. The project will benefit a number of game and nongame species including woodcock, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, deer, moose, golden-winged warblers, eastern towhees, rose-breasted grosbeaks, and a number of other songbird species.

### Region 4—No Report

### Region 5 – No Report

### Region 6—Tom Cooper

### Minnesota Waterfowl Symposium

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Minnesota Waterfowl Symposium was held February 1 at the Mall of America Ramada in Bloomington, MN. The focus of this year's symposium was on blue-winged teal and wild rice. Over 100 people attended the symposium, which was sponsored by the Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Minnesota DNR, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Next year's symposium is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2015 at the same location.

### Sheldon Myerchin honored

Sheldon Myerchin, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was recently honored by the Minnesota Waterfowl Association as its Professional Conservationist of the Year. This award is presented to a professional working in the area of resource management who has consistently exhibited a commitment to Minnesota's wetland environments, waterfowl and wetland wildlife above and beyond job requirements and responsibilities. Sheldon is the Private Lands Coordinator for Minnesota. With around eighty percent of all lands in private ownership, Sheldon and the Private Lands Program have many projects to coordinate and work on for the benefit of all wildlife. Sheldon is a shining example of working and bringing together conservation partners, state, federal and NGO's to improve habitat. Sheldon is a distinguished leader in highly complex federal

programs and still finds ways maximize his efforts to do even more.

### Ed Crozier inducted into Minnesota Waterfowl Hall of Fame

Ed Crozier, who spent his career working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was inducted into the Minnesota Waterfowl Hall of Fame on February 1<sup>st</sup> by the Minnesota Waterfowl Association. Ed was the driving force behind the establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, where he also served as the first manager.

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service News

**Tim Bodeen** was selected as the project leader for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District. He started duties there in August 2013. Tim replaced **Charlie Blair**, who was named the FWS Region 3 Refuge Chief earlier in 2013. Charlie is stationed at the Region 3 Regional Office in Bloomington, Minnesota.

### Department of Natural Resources News

**Walt Rohl**, retired manager of Carlos Avery WMA, **Bill Longley**, retired DNR Federal Aid Coordinator and a very early DNR wildlife manager, and **Dick Carlson**, DNR central office project coordinator, and **Gordy Forster**, retired Section of Wildlife, all passed away during the past year.

## Student Chapter Reports

### Central Lakes College

It has been a busy year so far for the Natural Resources Club at Central Lakes College. We began fall semester helping out with numerous banquets for local organizations. In October the first year students of the Land Measurement class, and many other second year students helped teach third, fourth, and fifth graders about pace factors, navigation using a compass, tree identification and tree aging. The Club then assisted the MNDNR with the Camp Ripley Bow Hunt. Club members aged, weighed, and collected tooth samples in efforts to learn more about the deer herd out at Camp Ripley. Also the club is currently in its fifth year working on an ongoing project with the Camp Ripley Environmental office, live trapping and tracking Fisher.

The NR Club at CLC has many events planned for this upcoming Spring Semester. So far this spring semester we light luminaries at Kathio State Park for their Candlelight Ski Event. And the following weekend we completed the same task for the Crane Meadows Candlelight Ski event down in Little Falls. The Club will continue to stay busy throughout the year, as one example, we plan to help the MN Sharp-Tailed Grouse Society with a brush cut in Palisade in early March. This is just one of many events that we currently have on our calendar for this coming spring.

### University of Minnesota—Crookston

#### Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

The chapter has been active in gaining experience and professional development over the last several months, and plans for the rest of spring are even more frenetic. In December we assisted with the local Christmas Bird Count, a great opportunity for

the club veterans to share the experience with the first timers. We also made pine cone and peanut butter bird feeders with kids at UMC's annual Santa Land event. We removed exotic conifers at Rydell National Wildlife Refuge as part of the friends group's 'Cut your own Christmas tree' week. In February students attend the Minnesota Chapter meeting of The Wildlife Society, placing second in quiz bowl competition (congratulations the victors from Bemidji State University!). At the meeting, former Vice President Jenny DuBay was runner up for the student poster award! Also in February, a few members assisted organizers with the Justin Knebel Ice Fishing Tournament on Lake of the Woods, as we have done over the past 4 years. We also held a social gathering among members early in the month to take a break from school and brainstorm some ideas for the future. Our last activity was the construction of American Kestrel nest boxes that will be put up around the city of Crookston as part of club secretary Andy Albersen's undergraduate research project. We are looking forward to conducting Owl and Goshawk Surveys at Beltrami Island State Forest, attending the North Central Section Student Conclave, and celebrating spring from the blinds viewing Greater Prairie-Chicken leks at Rydell NWR.

Photo Caption: Mark Koep, Mark Jackson, Alisha Mosloff and Jake Arvidson proudly display the American Kestrel Boxes they constructed for a student research project.



Our  
online  
job board  
just got  
better!

- Create a profile  
- Post your résumé

Looking for a wildlife job?

- Create job alerts

Search hundreds of postings

Discounts for employers

The Wildlife Society

Check out <http://careers.wildlife.org>

This image shows a bulletin board with several pinned notes. A large white note on the left reads "Our online job board just got better!" in red. To its right is a black note with white text: "- Create a profile" and "- Post your résumé". Above this is a yellow note that says "Looking for a wildlife job?". Below the first two notes is a yellow note with "Search hundreds of postings" and a black note with "Discounts for employers". In the center, there is a small logo for "The Wildlife Society" and a note below it. At the bottom, a large blue note encourages checking out the website. The board has colorful pushpins holding the notes in place.

## Board Minutes

### MN TWS Board Meeting Minutes

February 04, 2014

Bemidji, MN

Tuesday, 8:00am to Noon

Action Item

Motion

Meeting called to order at 8:06 am

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

Gretchen Mehmel, Thom Soule, Ann Geisen, Dawn Plattner, Jodie Provost, Laurie Fairchild, Tom Cooper, Stephen Winter, Steven Windels, Maria Fosado, Rich Olson, Bailey Peterson, Wayne Brininger, Bill Faber

#### **OFFICER REPORTS:**

**President:** Jodie Provost

The following were approved by Board voting at and/or since the Nov. 25, 2013 Board meeting:

Nov. 25 Board Meeting Notes

Nov. 2013 Treasurer Report

MTWS logo on Raptor Center education brochure regarding alternatives to lead ammunition  
Student Chapter Leaders Breakfast at Annual Meeting

MCF membership renewal (but not financial support for youth magazine)

Letter to USFWS regarding NWI support

Formal adoption of parent TWS position statement on global climate change and wildlife

The following were supported by on-line input from the Board since the Nov. 25 Board meeting:

Ray Norrgard serving as BWSR drainage work group rep (need BWSR ok yet)

The following was executed by the President since the Nov. 25 Board meeting:

Signed on group letter to USDI Sec. Jewell regarding feral and free roaming domestic cats

Signed on group letter to Pres. Obama about addressing climate change

The Chapter provided input to:

DNR Enforcement Long Range Strategic Plan

A motion was made by Jodie that MTWS annually allocate up to \$500 in travel grants for students to attend the annual meeting. Seconded by Ann and passed. It will be left to the committee (student relations?) to determine how it is best allocated to chapters/clubs/students.

2013-14 Accomplishments - A handout summarizing these was shared by Jodie. It was recommended the board generate an accomplishment report each year.

USFWS support for staff attendance at MTWS Annual Mtg. and workshops – Jodie recently spoke with Charlie Blair of the USFWS via phone regarding this concern. He explained the tight regulation on what USFWS staff can attend is due to the federal budget sequester and resulting limited travel budget, thus the 14 person cap on attendance.

It was suggested our concern be elevated to parent TWS and Dan Ashe, USFWS Director, to encourage them to communicate about it. Regional reps can be recruiters for the annual meeting, creating an informal support network to help USFWS employees attend it by en-

## Board Minutes (continued)

couraging them to have official roles in it and on the board. It was also suggested that Pat Heglund be contacted for support.

A follow up letter to Charlie was suggested, stating that conferences like MTWS qualify as training for staff, asking how MTWS can best assist in meeting their training needs, and requesting a memo to the field to raise awareness of MTWS conference/workshop/training opportunities and how to attend. Jodie will draft a letter and the Board, and esp. USFWS staff, will review it.

The USFWS/DNR Coordination meeting prior to our Annual Mtg. is considered separate from the conference, therefore the USFWS cap does not apply. Perhaps coordination meetings could be organized on more days of the conference to help justify USFWS staff attendance, as well as continue developing a quality agenda and workshops that provide definite training.

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

2014 Annual Meeting - Fundraising/donations for this year's conference - \$850 for the conference, \$1,700 in donations for the plenary. Bemidji State University was a big donor. It is estimated there will be a surplus of \$2,000 -\$4,000.

Draft Annual Work/Financial Plan - One of Steve's goals for the year is strategic planning, including prioritizing how our dollars are best spent - habitat, workshops, students, science/ research and/or advocacy?

A fixed cost list (e.g., conference call allocation, MCF annual dues) was developed by Steve and Charlotte. Now a list of potential additional costs (e.g., TWW Fly In every year?) to meet our annual goals/priorities needs generating.

An Ad-hoc committee will draft a Strategic Plan (for five years?) by the summer workshop. Members will include: Steve (chair), Thom, Laurie, Wayne, Jodie. They will use membership survey results for guidance and to determine how to best allocate our resources. Input can be sought from members and should be sought from subcommittees.

Motions/Voting - Steve will pilot use of "doodle polls" to conduct voting, to make tracking votes easier.

**Past President:** Wayne Brininger - nothing to report

**Secretary:** Maria Fosado - nothing to report

**Treasurer:** Charlotte Roy - nothing to report (Charlotte was busy with annual meeting registration).

See the 2013 Final Treasurer Report to be reviewed and approved at membership meeting on Feb.

5.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Conservation Affairs**

**Conservation Affairs Network (CAN):** Jodie Provost

CAN info - Jodie shared three handouts regarding the CAN (presentation by TWS), our board member list and possible new board structure. Participation in the CAN will strengthen MTWS communications on policy and conservation affairs related issues by improving communication with neighboring Chapters, with the Section and with TWS. A Chapter Conservation Affairs Com-

## Board Minutes (continued)

mittee (CAC) would be formed. The Chair would serve on a Section CAC, acting as a liaison to share information back and forth. The Chapter CAC could have topical subcommittees (such as our current prairie/farmland, wetland, forest and statewide committees) or geographical committees. Each CAC subcommittee could be beefed up, with clear and transparent roles for each member/expert regarding their duties for their topic (e.g., endangered species, Farm Bill, climate change, etc.). Hopeful benefits of a CAC approach including taking some conservation affairs workload off the President, providing longer term consistency in conservation affairs for the Chapter, increasing collaboration on similar conservation issues with neighboring Chapters, increasing our impact, and allowing us to be more pro-active. The key, as always, is to have ACTIVE subcommittees and members who are experts and committed.

Possible Board Restructure – The current Board structure was discussed. Can it be streamlined and made less cumbersome? Implementing the CAN is an opportunity to re-evaluate it. Currently the quorum required for voting is three elected officers and six other board members (three of which must be Region Reps). If streamlined, who should the governing/voting board include? The ad-hoc strategic planning committee will also draft a new board structure for review.

Statewide: Bill Faber

NRCS State Technical Committee – Jodie Provost

Next meeting is Feb 20. (Was cancelled due to weather. Is yet to be re-scheduled.)

MN Conservation Federation – Bill Faber

MCF & FWLA may merge. Dues may thus increase.

Gary Botzek, MCF Executive Director, was interested in attending our annual meeting to visit with the Board and membership, but was unable to make it.

Teaming with Wildlife Fly In – Greg Hoch (absent)

Greg is attending in DC in late February on behalf of MTWS. It was suggested he talk to the Governor's office to help line up appointments with congressmen/women's offices and take our accomplishment report. Members should contact Greg if they have issues/information they'd like him to share.

Sending a student along for experience was discussed but it was decided that environmental policy experience for students may be better gained by shadowing MCF at the state level first.

Prairie/Farmland: Greg Hoch (absent)

Conservation grazing position statement - A commentary regarding developed by the committee was published in Outdoor News. Stephen will send it to other papers also.

Draft DNR Pollinator BMP guidelines and pollinator plant list – Input is due Feb 15. Does the committee have comments? Stephen will contact Wedge Watkins of Missouri to tap his expertise.

Forest: Mike North (absent)

Draft DNR Lowland conifer Old Growth Definition and Criteria – Comments on this document were recently submitted from the committee.

Draft DNR Blufflands/Rochester Plateau SFRMP – Input was due Feb. 3. None was provided. Stephen shared the draft with people in the SE to give them the opportunity for input via MTWS.

## Board Minutes (continued)

### Wetlands: Laurie Fairchild

Draft Drainage/Tiling Paper – Completion of it is feasible and now is the time. Laurie wants help crafting this position statement and would like to draw more folks into the committee. She has been visiting with Doug Norris about it. Existing literature can be referenced in the statement.

The white paper she uses to generate the position statement should be archived with MTWS.

NWI Support – A letter to USFWS encouraging support for the National Wetland Inventory was recently sent from MTWS. Brian Huberty of USFWS drafted a suggested letter to also send to Sally Jewel, head of Dept of the Interior. Laurie will review it and suggest to the Board whether it should be sent or not.

NRCS Tile Outlet Initiative – Ray Norgarrd (absent, no activity)

BWSR Drainage Work Group – The Board supports Ray Norgarrd as our rep. Jodie left a phone message for Al Kean of BWSR inquiring about Ray's participation on the work group.

### Operational Affairs

By-Laws Review: Wayne Brininger (and John Loegering - absent)

Review was due in 2013 but overarching issues should be resolved before we can move forward on by-laws review, such as the CAN, strategic plan, organizational structure, and an annual financial plan. Other Chapters by by-laws could be reviewed to see how they do them. By-laws are technical and the operations manual more descriptive. By-law changes need to be out for review 30 days prior to Annual Membership Meetings and some changes need approval by TWS.

### Membership: Kristin Fritz (absent)

Membership numbers - Kristin recently sent out information on numbers via email. Up to 249 in 2013 from 202 in 2012!

Welcome/thank you, Google Group info, and membership renewal message – Kristin sent this message to members via email about a month prior to the annual meeting. It was successful.

Lifetime Membership – Thom still plans to work on drafting a proposal for use of proceeds from this account. He hopes to have a draft by the next Board meeting.

### Member Recruitment, Retentions, and Participation Survey - Jodie

The survey has been preliminarily summarized. The deadline was Jan. 1. Seventy-six people completed it. MTWS did not get permission to send it to DNR Wildlife and written permission was not secured from USFWS (just verbal permission with which staff were not comfortable). It was decided to not promote it at the annual meeting to seek additional input.

Each committee will review the survey individually to determine how they can utilize the results in their committee's work. They are encouraged to organize conference calls. Results are available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-77FFYD/> Additional analyses can be generated.

We should look for what we can most easily influence and implement, for example 33% said they weren't members because they weren't invited (invite them!) and 42% thought the top way to increase funds was through a \$5 increase in annual dues, and close behind was beefing up our annual conference fundraising (let's do them!).

### Draft Membership Plan - Wayne

## Board Minutes (continued)

This plan is in a holding pattern. It will meld with the strategic plan discussed and the membership survey results will be considered. The master list of 1300 current and past members can be used in recruitment efforts and additional survey work.

### **Student Relations:**

Recruiting student volunteers for annual meeting: Should this responsibility fall under the Student Relations Committee? We should ask Charlotte to jot down how many students were needed to for each activity (registration, set up, etc.) to track volunteer needs and aid future meeting planning.

Student Paper and Poster Awards – Certificates and monetary awards of \$75 for first place and \$25 for runner up for each the oral and poster presenters were determined consistent with other awards.

Student Travel Award/Grants- John Loegering, Bill and Thom drafted guidelines on how to allocate student travel awards/grants. In the future, it may be more appropriate for the Student Relations Committee to handle it. Their notes regarding the allocation can be passed along and the Student Relations Committee can determine how to allocate the \$500 allotted annually.

Committee Upgrade - This committee can be re-vamped to oversee all student activities (quiz bowl, paper/poster judging, student professional mixer, mentoring, travel grants, liaisons with student chapter/clubs and advisors, student leader breakfast). Brian Hiller is interested in Chairing it in about a year. In the meantime, Lori Schmidt has offered to serve as Chair.

### **Awards:** Thom Soule

Past local Conservation Awards winners were invited to the banquet this year. The Elwells and John Mathisen will attend.

Fedeler Award – Thom still plans to visit with Bob Fedeler's wife to verify intent of the award.

Award Nominations - More feedback would be appreciated on whether a nomination is received and/or who is selected?

### **Communications/Outreach Committee:**

Newsletter – Next deadline is March 1. Bailey Petersen, editor, will send a reminder on the Google Groups and on Facebook.

Committee Upgrade - The committee could be changed to include all communications and outreach efforts, such as the newsletter editor, webmaster, and Facebook administrator, as well as perhaps annual meeting and workshop promotion. A Chair is needed.

Webmaster – We need to add the cost of a web designer to the annual budget plan.

### **Fundraising:** Dawn Plattner

A new Chair for this committee is needed. (Dawn and Sheldon Myerchin have since agreed to co-chair it.) Norm Moody is still interested in assisting. We need to build a committee of people to help, start planning earlier, and allocate starter funds for fundraising effort.

**Historian/Archivist:** John Moriarty – absent, no report

**COWCH Project:** Nicholas Snavely - absent, no report

### **Audit:** Gretchen Mehmel

Gretchen and Dave Olfelt reviewed all the ledger entries, bank statements, and the Annual Treasurer's report for 2013. All were in good order. Total Chapter assets were \$37,045.73 at the beginning of the calendar year 2014.

## Board Minutes (continued)

### **REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

2014 Summer Workshop – Tom Cooper is interested in developing a summer workshop regarding forest. Ann will send him comments from this Shallow Lakes Ecology and Management workshop held last August. Mike North, forest committee chair, may be interested in helping.

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

No reports

Meeting adjourned at 11:59 am

## Treasurer's Report

### TREASURER'S REPORT

MN Chapter TWS  
1 January–14 March 2014

#### SAVINGS

Beginning Balance at Affinity	\$ 1,280.95
Vectronics vendor payment	\$ 727.00
Fee for wired money	-\$ 10.00
Interest	\$ 0.28
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$ 1,998.23
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,998.23</b>

#### CHECKING

Beginning Balance	<b>\$10,919.24</b>
Change	( \$ 7,485.38)

#### Debits

North Star Publishing –Flyer	\$ 82.58
Cash for meeting	\$ 200.00
Silver Bell Trophies	\$ 493.00
Student Awards	\$ 952.00
Jodie Provost-copies for the Board and Members meetings	\$ 86.50
South Shore Conference Center	\$9,582.62
Supplies for Annual meeting (folders, labels, name tags)	\$ 318.55
Bryce Olson (snacks for beer tasting social at taproom)	\$ 48.40
Hampton Inn Suites (Plenary Speakers' room costs)	\$ 645.71
John Schulz – plenary speaker travel costs	\$ 376.66
Steve Windels- Survey monkey, ribbons, taproom balance	\$ 102.07
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$12,888.09

#### Credits

T-shirt sales at registration desk	\$ 42.00
Return cash for meeting	\$ 200.00
TWS registration and meals (paid in 2014- \$460 paid in 2013)	\$12,840.00
Fundraising at conference	\$ 2,973.45
MPCS contrib to TWW-Fly-In	\$ 100.00
Woodcock MN contrib to conference	\$ 100.00
Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon contrib to conference	\$ 250.00
ATS contrib to conference	\$ 100.00
Izaak Walton League contrib to conference	\$ 250.00
Minnesota Waterfowl Association contrib to conference	\$ 100.00
Voyageurs National Park Association contrib to conference	\$ 150.00
Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society contrib to conference	\$ 75.00
Minnesota Ornithologists' Union contrib to conference	\$ 250.00
MDHA contrib to conference	\$ 250.00
BSU contrib to conference	\$ 750.00
Vendor fees for conference (ATS- Vectronics to Savings acct)	\$ 250.00
T. Soule donation for R. Day student travel	\$ 15.00
J. Provost donation for plaques	\$ 20.00
Elwells' donation to conference	\$ 35.00
Dividends	\$ 3.02
Membership dues through conference (paid in 2014)	\$ 1,240.00
Membership dues separately	\$ 380.00

## Treasurer's Report (continued)

<i>Subtotal</i>	\$20,373.47
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$18,404.62</b>

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

Beginning Balance	\$4,011.79
Dividends	\$ 3.98
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$4,015.77</i>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$4,015.77</b>

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

Beginning Balance	\$20,833.75
Dividends	\$ 75.07
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$20,908.82</i>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$20,908.82</b>

### 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
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.**

<b>Total chapter assets as of 14 Mar 2014</b>	<b>\$ 45,317.44</b>
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Charlotte Roy, Former Treasurer  
14 March 2014

## Treasurer's Report (continued)

### Conference Budget:

Income	Amount	Notes
Registrations and late fees	\$ 8,150.00	
Tickets for Mixer, Banquet, Beer Tasting	\$ 5,150.00	
Vendor fees	\$ 967.00	Includes \$10 charge for wire transfer
Donations/Sponsorships	\$ 2,275.00	
T. Soule donation for Leader's Breakfast	\$ 100.00	
<u>Income Subtotal</u>	<u>\$16,642.00</u>	
Expenses	Amount	Check #/Notes
Total charges to South Shore Conference Center	\$ 9,582.62	Facility, meals, coffee, Leader's Breakfast
Bemidji Brewing Company rental	\$ 40.00	#1182, as part of #1201 to S. Windels
Snacks at Beer Tasting	\$ 48.40	#1193 to B. Olson
Ribbons for name tags	\$ 58.07	part of #1201 to S. Windels
Folders/name tags for meeting	\$ 318.55	#1184
Printing costs for vendor flyers	\$ 82.58	#1183
Printing costs for Board and Members meeting	\$ 86.50	
Gambling permit	\$ 50.00	#1179
Meeting evaluation -Survey Monkey fee	\$ 24.00	part of #1201 to S. Windels
T-shirt gifts to Plenary Speakers	\$ 96.00	
Plenary Speaker hotel - J. Schulz, F. Widemo, P. Re	\$ 645.71	
Plenary Speaker travel - J. Schulz	\$ 376.66	
Plenary Speaker travel - F. Widemo	\$ 600.00	Not paid yet
<u>Expenses Subtotal</u>	<u>\$12,009.09</u>	
<b>Conference Balance</b>	<b>\$ 4,632.91</b>	

#### Notes:

1. as of March 16, 2014, we still have not received the check for \$200 pledged by TWS Toxicology Working Group.
2. as of March 16, 2014, Fredrik Widemo still has not claimed the 50% of his remaining travel expenses (airfare, meals, taxi) as we had originally agreed. We will hold this until he confirms that he does not need this money.

## Other Items...

### **Voices from the Swamp 2 – Ray Norrgard**

#### **Finding Balance**

Within our ranks there are those who specialize only in the exercise of their digits and those who run one or more marathons every year. Diana Schwarzbein, M.D., would find concern with both. She suggests that there needs to be a balance to prevent premature aging; that a little exercise is not enough but a lot (particularly of only one type) might be too much.

There are many areas of our life that are like that. Our work is one of them. My generation of wildlifers graduated from high school inflamed with the passion of the early environmental movement. Although high school guidance counselors rarely had any idea that the field of wildlife management existed, land grant universities still enrolled the largest classes ever in the wildlife curriculum.

Unfortunately, this large supply of potential professionals far outstripped the demand. Working seasonal and temporary wildlife jobs, sometimes for years, was the norm for these graduates before landing full-time positions. In desperation, many moved on to other careers. Others did everything possible to prove their worthiness for the next open position. Even the most menial tasks were tackled with fervor. As a result, a culture was established that respected and rewarded those willing to work long hours, often unpaid and “off the books”.

I suppose the resulting stress would have been predicted by any sociologist, particularly as these young professionals married and started families. Over time some were able to find a workable balance between passion and responsibility. Some sadly did not. Others simply continued to struggle just as many wildlife professionals do today. Schwarzbein might have looked at it and observed that a “little commitment is not enough, but a lot may be too much”.

Achieving balance is not just a survival mechanism. Extra hours don’t necessarily equate to a commensurate increase in output. Work fatigue can negatively impact concentration, innovation, safety, and workplace relationships. On the other hand, working extra hours, paid or not, to reach a particular endpoint such as finishing an important project may actually reduce stress and provide a fresh, confident approach to upcoming challenges. So how much is too much?

First, recognize that the balance point differs between individuals and over time. For example, working even a few extra hours can overburden anyone facing family struggles such as chronic illness. Second, it is extremely important to track any extra work hours kept “off the books”. For one thing there may arise legal situations when it is important to establish that you were working even though the hours may not show on your time sheet. For another, it can be easy to overlook how many hours it actually took to finish a task unless it is recorded. Adding up the past year will provide an idea of what you actually contributed. For example, 200 hours a year equates to roughly an extra half hour a day or half day a week.

Over 800 hours a year tells you that you worked the equivalent of seven days a week with no holidays. While it is tempting to suggest a reasonable number of hours, it is far more telling to review your behavior. Are you able to consistently get a full night’s sleep? Are family members or coworkers commenting that you are crabby or down? Are you able to fully concentrate on individual tasks or do you feel like you are spinning your wheels? Are you eating markedly more or less than normal? These are all signs that you are out of balance.

## Other Items...

Steve Ressler, manager of the list serve GovLoop, suggests this list of questions to help you get back on track.

1. Am I keeping to a regular schedule? Meaning: Am I getting to bed at around the same times? Eating at around the same times? Generally performing activities at the same times.
2. Am I giving myself time to get things done properly? Meaning: Am I managing my time blocks so that I can fully complete one task before moving on to the next? Am I managing my to-do list so that I have a realistic chance of completing everything on it? Am I budgeting time to standup, stretch and eat?
3. Am I doing things properly? Meaning: Am I multi-tasking? (In Ressler's experience nothing kills real productivity like the illusion of productivity that comes with multi-tasking.) Am I reading what I write once out loud before I hit send, thinking before I speak and pausing before I leap into action? Am I delegating the things I can and allowing others to help me succeed?

This list is a good starting point, but only you can judge the level of its impact on helping you achieve a reasonable balance. It may be necessary to sit down for a frank discussion with your supervisor, friends or family. If in doubt, don't hesitate to seek professional help.

One final piece of advice; this from Edward Abbey, "So get out there and hunt and fish and mess around with your friends, ramble out yonder and explore the forests, climb the mountains, bag the peaks, run the rivers, breathe deep of that yet sweet and lucid air, sit quietly for a while and contemplate the precious stillness, the lovely, mysterious, and awesome space. Enjoy yourselves, keep your brain in your head and your head firmly attached to the body, the body active and alive, and I promise you this much; I promise you this one sweet victory over our enemies, over those desk-bound men and women with their hearts in a safe deposit box, and their eyes hypnotized by desk calculators. I promise you this; you will outlive the bastards."



The Minnesota Chapter  
of The Wildlife Society

## Other Items... (continued)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Jan. 25, 2014

### **Owl Experts Cross Political Boundaries to Receive Awards**

A retired U.N. diplomat who studied and wrote about owls in his spare time for more than 40 years and an Israeli scientist leading a program to use barn owls instead of poison to control rodents in Israel, Jordan, and Palestine will be inducted into the World Owl Hall of Fame on Saturday, March 8, 2014 at the International Festival of Owls in Houston, Minn.

The Champion of Owls Award will be presented to Dr. Heimo Mikkola, a native of Finland. An avid birdwatcher since age 11, he retired in 2007 from a lifelong career in the United Nations. At the end of that career he was "Ambassador of Food," the resident representative of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. As head of a diplomatic mission, he led Food and Agriculture Organization activities in countries in Africa and South America. He visited 127 countries during his foreign assignments -- at the same time publishing more than 150 owl papers and books.

Mikkola, who holds a Ph.D. in applied zoology and limnology from the University of Kuopio, Finland, has 40 years experience in fisheries and aquaculture development. He said he realized early on in his career that he couldn't support his family by studying owls, "so I switched my career toward fish and food."

"Luckily I always kept owls as my main hobby instead of golf or something like that," he said. "So when I retired from 'food business,' I had an easy way to go back to my owls."

The second edition of Mikkola's latest book, "Owls of the World: A Photographic Guide," is just being released. The 528-page book, published by Firefly Books, includes photos, range maps and detailed descriptions of 268 owl species.

Dr. Motti Charter, who is doing postdoctoral work at the University of Haifa, will receive the World Owl Hall of Fame's Special Achievement Award. Charter has been scientific coordinator of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel's barn owl nesting box project since 2007. The national research project, which receives funds from three governmental ministries and a private fund, involves a team of bird banders, naturalists and ornithologists who monitor breeding and other aspects of barn owl biology.

The project promotes using owls instead of poison to control rats and other pests. It has resulted in placement of nearly 3,000 barn owl nesting boxes in seven regions within Israel, says Alan Sieradzki, who nominated Charter for the award.

"Even though barn owls are accepted by Jewish farmers in Israel, some Arab farmers continue to fear and persecute them," Charter said. "We therefore want to bring Arab minorities and Jewish farmers together in Israel."

## Other Items... (continued)

A panel of five owl experts from four countries selected Mikkola and Charter from a pool of nominees from around the world to receive these awards. The World Owl Hall of Fame is sponsored by the International Festival of Owls, Global Owl Project, and Bob Kierlin and Mary Burrichter.

More information is available online at [www.festivalofowls.com/halloffame](http://www.festivalofowls.com/halloffame).

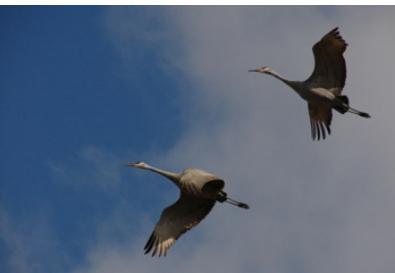


## Other Items... (continued)

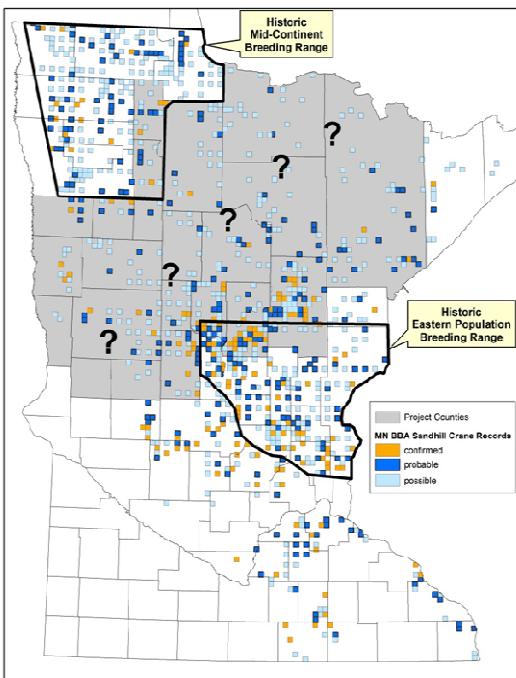
### Sandhill Crane Observations Needed!

### Delineation of Sandhill Crane Populations in Minnesota

**Background:** Two separate management populations of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) breed in Minnesota, the Mid-Continent Population (MCP) and the Eastern Population (EP). Historically, the breeding range for the MCP was in northwestern Minnesota, while the breeding range for the EP was east-central Minnesota. Over the past decade, both populations have expanded their breeding range within in Minnesota with the MCP range expanding to the southeast and the EP range expanding in all directions. Data from the Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas indicate that the breeding ranges for the two



populations may have intersected. Stakeholders are interested in assessing if the breeding ranges currently overlap. Determining if overlap exists could have important management implications especially since there has been a hunting season for MCP cranes in Minnesota over the past 3 years.



Map Showing records from the Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas (2014), Historic Breeding Ranges of cranes in MN (delineated by black border), and area of possible overlap between populations in MN (delineated by “?”).

locations with consistent use by groups of cranes.

**Research:** The Minnesota DNR, Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, the University of Minnesota, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have received funding to assess the possible overlap of breeding ranges for the two populations. Cellular-based GPS transmitters will be placed on cranes breeding near the tension zone between the two populations (delineated by “?” on the attached map). We will determine which population they belong to when the cranes migrate in the fall. Those migrating through Nebraska will belong to the MCP, while those migrating to the Southeast U.S. will belong to the EP. Besides determining if the populations overlap, we will also determine habitat use, migration chronology, and home range size.

**Assistance Needed:** We need your assistance in locating territorial, breeding pairs of sandhill cranes in the counties highlighted in gray on the map during the 2014 and 2015 breeding seasons (April-July). If you see a pair of cranes, please record: date observation (e.g., territorial pair, nest, brood), location (latitude and longitude coordinates or other directions), and land ownership (public or private). We are targeting pairs of cranes, but also record other

Please forward your sightings to David Wolfson, the University of Minnesota graduate student who will be working on this project. You can reach him via email at [wolfs064@umn.edu](mailto:wolfs064@umn.edu) or by phone at 574-360-9723.

## Other Items... (continued)

### **Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz**

Do you enjoy birdwatching and would you like to contribute to the conservation of a species that has shown chronic long-term population declines? If so, you have the opportunity to participate in the Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz 2014 (RBSMB 2014), a citizen science project that will provide important information about this species' life history. Participants in Minnesota are encouraged to go birding during March and early April (yeah, I know, that's asking a lot) and if they see rusty blackbirds, to enter that information into eBird. That's it, that's all you need to do!

The RBSMB 2014 is a coordinated effort led by the International Rusty Blackbird Working Group (IRBWG), in partnership with eBird, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and the Vermont Center for Ecostudies. Participants will be collecting data throughout the migratory range of the species from the southern United States, through the Midwest and Atlantic Coast, all the way into Canada. The objectives of the RBSMB 2014 are: 1) to determine important migratory stopover sites; 2) to assess consistency of use and timing at stopover locations; 3) to strengthen relationships with other conservation organizations and enhance the conservation of rusty blackbirds; and 4) to increase awareness of rusty blackbirds among the birding community and general public.

If you'd like to learn more about how you can participate in the RBSMB 2014, please see the IRBWG website (<http://rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz/>) or contact the RBSMB 2014 coordinators for Minnesota, Brittney Larson ([brittneylarson27@gmail.com](mailto:brittneylarson27@gmail.com)) and Alyssa DeRubeis ([alderubeis@gmail.com](mailto:alderubeis@gmail.com)).

## Other Items... (continued)

### Calling all Birders and Citizen Scientists!



Have you ever wanted to turn your passion for birds into something more? This spring you have an opportunity to help the International Rusty Blackbird Working Group collect valuable data about a vulnerable species: the Rusty Blackbird. We need YOU to participate in the

### Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz



The Rusty Blackbird population has plummeted by **85-95% in your lifetime** (over the past 40 years).

**You can help** conservation efforts by submitting your sightings to eBird.

Sightings can be submitted from anywhere in the state by birders of any level of experience. Visit our website for information on where to look for Rusties and how to differentiate them from other similar species.

Are you willing to help? Visit

**RustyBlackbird.org**

to get more information about how you can participate.

You can contact state coordinator Brittney Larson at [brittneylarson27@gmail.com](mailto:brittneylarson27@gmail.com)

### Border Battle!



Minnesota is going up against Wisconsin to see which state can spot the most Rusties during the Spring Migration Blitz! Help Minnesota win the trophy to be displayed at the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union!

## Other Items... (continued)

# 📍HerpMapper

[www.HerpMapper.org](http://www.HerpMapper.org)

HerpMapper (HM) is a cooperative project, designed to gather and share information about reptile and amphibian observations across the planet. Using HM, you can create records of your herp observations and keep them all in one place. In turn, your data is made available to HM Partners – groups who use your recorded observations for research, conservation, and preservation purposes. Your observations can make valuable contributions on behalf of amphibians and reptiles.

### HerpMapper Wants You!

- Data contributors
  - Citizen scientists
  - Herpers
  - Professionals
- Data users
  - National, regional, and local units of government
  - Non-governmental conservation groups
  - Existing herp atlas projects
  - Researchers
  - Other conservation partners



### Share with Confidence!

- Public does not have access to detailed location information
  - County-level only in United States
  - Similar scale for other countries that do not use counties
- Maintain access to data you have submitted
- Export your data in a wide variety of formats (more upon specific request)

### Data is Available!

- Free access for research, conservation, and preservation purposes
  - Supports one-time requests and continuous access
- Shared data available at multiple scales
  - City to international-level access
  - Species-specific access
- Photo or audio vouchers for all observations

### Easy to Use!

- Easy web interface that extracts voucher metadata when present
- FREE mobile app that allows multiple configurations

For more information about contributing or receiving data, or for questions and concerns, contact: [info@herpmapper.org](mailto:info@herpmapper.org)

*Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook and follow us @HerpMapper on Twitter!*

## 2014 Chapter Governing Board

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Visit our website! <http://www.mntws.org/mn/>