



WILDLIFE TRACKS

*The Quarterly Newsletter of the
Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society*

Vol. 43, Issue 6: Fall 2015



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President's Column

Communication Is the Key to Public Trust



I heard an interesting and somewhat disturbing radio report the other day. Many of you may have heard or read similar reports. The radio announcer explained that scientists, at least for some topics, have a credibility problem. For example, 42 percent of Americans do not believe in human evolution. In another poll, only 50 percent of the public believes that humans are the main cause of climate change (versus 87 percent of American Association for the Advancement of Science members). In yet another poll, only 36 percent of Americans had a lot of trust in scientists.

As wildlife managers, biologists, researchers and ecologists it is imperative that the public has a high degree of trust in our work and in our observations. Public policy, land use and species conservation depend on the best, most reliable sources of information. One way to foster that trust is through direct, simple and honest communication.

I know that many CCTWS members often write articles and give public presentations. For other members, the thought of writing a popular article or presenting to a general public audience can seem daunting, if not terrifying. I'd like to offer a couple of suggestions on ways to improve communication skills, present much needed information and thereby, help to improve credibility. Writing opportunities abound if you are looking for ways to improve your written communication skills or present information on topics on which you work. Many conservation organizations, especially the local chapters, beg for newsletter articles. The articles are often short and written in an informal manner. The format allows the writer to quickly get to the point while keeping the reader's attention. If you are interested, the CCTWS Newsletter could always use stories written by members who aren't on the board. If you are more into social media and the use of technology, consider starting a blog (an online journal) or contribute to another person's or organization's blog. Like newsletters, blogs tend to be more informal and written in a popular style. This style helps add credibility to the author as the author seems more genuine and approachable. (If you're interested in hunting and fishing topics, for example, check out ColoradoOutdoorsMag.com – CPW's blog.) (cont. page 2)

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting - February 3-5, 2016 in Colorado Springs. There will be two workshops, plenary session, presentations, poster sessions and banquet.

Call for papers - See page 3

Watch your email in the coming weeks for more information

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President's Column- Cont.

Public speaking, for many people, can be a scary proposition and there may seem to be little opportunity for real-world practice. Although I am not afraid to speak publicly, I felt that I could certainly use practice talking on a variety of subjects. I discovered and joined Toastmasters. This international organization teaches communication and leadership skills through public speaking in an environment that provides speaking opportunities and effective feedback. The group I attend has members who range in age from early career to retirees and whose professions include CEOs, lawyers, doctors, educators and public employees to name just a few. I have watched people truly become effective speakers and overcome their fears. Although not for everyone, if you are interested, you can easily find them online at www.toastmasters.org

Communication is key to gaining and keeping public trust. Like any skill, communication needs to be practiced and used or we will lose those skills. Let's all find ways to engage with our fellow Coloradans and ensure that wildlife science is always credible and trusted.

TWS Travel Grant Award

by: Jennifer Timmer

I attended the International Grouse Symposium in Reykjavik, Iceland from September 4-7, 2015. The conference was a great opportunity to network with fellow grouse researchers and to learn about new techniques and management problems/solutions from different parts of the world. It was particularly interesting to compare the management strategies for grouse species between the U.S. and Europe. The scale for habitat management is much smaller in most European countries, so they intensely manage small parcels of land for red and black grouse and capercaillie, such as using very controlled burns to alter the heather structure. They also have more captive breeding and re-introduction programs than we do. In addition to learning about other species and systems, I also received positive feedback on my presentation (Sage-grouse as an umbrella species in northwestern Colorado) and gained more experience speaking in front of a large audience.

Before the conference started, I attended a field trip to see rock ptarmigan and ptarmigan habitat and shorebirds and sea birds. Unfortunately it was very rainy on the day of the field trip, but the host for the conference narrated our trip and gave some history on grouse management in Iceland, as well as information about the native flora and fauna. On the last night of the conference, I attended the reception dinner, which was held on a small island (Videy) in a historical building about five minutes from Reykjavik. Besides enjoying delicious Icelandic food (char and lamb), it was really neat to hear some of the "old timers" reminisce about previous meetings and how conferences have changed over the years (eg-more women and non-Americans attending now). However there is still a need to recruit more students and younger professionals to the conference.

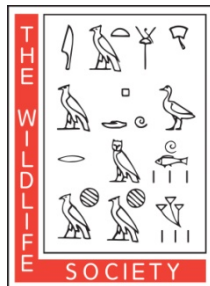
The reception dinner was a highlight for me because I sat next to new people, including a teacher and grad student from Japan and a biologist from Norway. We laughed over our cultural differences but also talked about our common interests (eg—trying new beers, exercising, being bird nerds). The teacher from Japan gave me some career advice on teaching at a small college with no research focus versus teaching at a large university where research is required. I spoke with two other professors (both involved with Extension) and they also gave me some advice on Extension positions that are either outreach and teaching or outreach and research focused. I am at the point in my graduate career where I am trying to narrow down my focus for post-graduation and these conversations are very helpful. I also learned about some post-doc positions and had face-to-face interactions with potential employers. This should give me an advantage over other applicants when I start to apply for positions.

Thanks again for helping to make this experience possible!

Call for Contributed Presentations and Posters!

For the

2016 Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting
February 3rd-5th 2016,
Double Tree Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO



We invite you to present an oral presentation or poster on the topics of wildlife research, ecology, management, conservation, education, or policy at the 2016 annual meeting of the Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Abstract Submission Deadline: January 8th, 2016

Oral presentations:

20 minutes are allotted for each presentation - 15-minute presentation followed by 5 minutes for questions and answers. Oral presentations are limited to Microsoft PowerPoint; no other formats will be accepted.

Poster presentations:

Maximum dimensions are 4 feet by 4 feet in size.

Submit abstracts as a Microsoft Word attachment to:

Evan Phillips at evan.phillips@state.co.us

- ☐ Provide all required information in one Word document
- ☐ Provide the presentation title, author(s) name, authors' affiliations, and contact author's postal and email addresses
- ☐ Abstract text cannot exceed 250 words
- ☐ Authors will be notified the status of their submission via email by **January 13th, 2016**
- ☐ **ABSTRACTS ARE DUE January 8th, 2016**

Hunting Ethics: Lions, Trophies and Conservation

By: David A. Lien
Chairman, Colorado Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

In the words of author (and hunter-angler) Lily Raff McCoulou (in *Call Of The Mild*), “To me, hunting my own meat feels like saying grace before a meal and really, for the first time in my life, meaning it ... It is only since I started killing my own dinner—watched it switch, in an instant, from living to dead—that I have felt truly grateful for a meal.” Renowned southwest Colorado elk hunter and hunting ethicist, David Petersen, adds: “The first test of ethical hunting, in my book, is to kill only what you really want to eat.” However, there are others who don’t hunt primarily for meat, but instead trophies, or some combination of the two.

Shane Mahoney—an internationally known lecturer on conservation issues and an expert on the North American Model of Wildlife Management—had this to say about trophy hunting (in *Sports Afield*): “While hunting in general is a controversial issue, there can be little doubt that much of the harshest criticism is directed toward trophy hunting. Even among hunters who readily pursue animals and harvest them, trophy hunting is sometimes criticized. To the general public, it is often portrayed as a distortion of the original activity, and one that has entered a self-indulgent and frivolous domain.”

More specifically, regarding trophy hunting in Africa, there has recently been a lot said and written about the “Cecil the lion” controversy. In case you haven’t heard the story, Cecil is (was) a black-maned male lion whose territory included part of Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe. The lion was collared (part a university study) and a local tourist attraction, but was shot outside of the park by an American trophy hunter under questionable (i.e., unethical and/or illegal) circumstances.

My aim here, however, is not to enter the Cecil-the-lion debate, but to speak up for the vast majority of hunter-conservationists who go afield primarily to experience the wild and natural world, oftentimes with friends and family, while also looking to (hopefully) put some meat in our freezers. Modern conservation was, in fact, first promoted by hunters, including our Hunter-In-Chief, Theodore Roosevelt.

For Roosevelt, conservation became one of the defining causes of his presidency. He was the first American president to use the word “conservation” in an annual message to Congress and the first to convene a White House conference on preserving America’s natural heritage, where he delivered a speech titled “Conservation as a National Duty.” Under his leadership more than 280,000 square miles of federal land—an area larger than the state of Texas—would be placed under one kind of conservation protection or another.

In the 1930s, conservation-minded hunters crafted the Pittman-Robertson Act, which established some of the nation’s first habitat-restoration programs using gun and ammunition excise taxes. Through these taxes, in combination with a similar tax on boats, boating fuel and tackle (the Dingell-Johnson Act), along with archery equipment taxes, sportsmen raised \$882 million in 2013 alone, money that goes directly to fund wildlife and fisheries conservation.

Thanks to hunters, anglers and recreational shooters who provide wildlife-management funds, non-hunters also enjoy the benefits. The success stories of this revenue stream can be demonstrated in the rebuilt populations of game species such as pronghorn antelope, wild turkey, deer, wood ducks, black bears, Canada geese, elk, mountain lions, and the list goes on.

The true, and too often (these days) forgotten, legacy of America’s hunters and anglers is a never-ending effort for the preservation and stewardship of wildlands and wildlife. The founding fathers of conservation in America, including George Bird Grinnell, Theodore Roosevelt and Aldo Leopold, each understood that their passion for the rod and the gun must be equally matched by a passion for conservation for the sake of both sport and wildlife. The conservation ethic they pioneered has endured as a guiding light for subsequent generations of America’s hunters and anglers.

Hunting Ethics: Lions, Trophies and Conservation, Cont..

And some of them prefer to hunt for “trophies.” Shane Mahoney reminds us that “trophies are really tokens of remembrance: the mount or horns or tusks are the touchstones by which the hunter returns to the experience of the hunt and through which he can communicate his experience to others. In this regard, they are no more ‘trophies’ than a wedding picture or the bronzed boots of a child.”

In the words of Teddy Roosevelt, “The mere size of the bag indicates little as to a man’s prowess as a hunter, and almost nothing as to the interest or value of his achievement.” It’s also important to note that we’re still hunting today not solely because of sportsmen’s efforts to restore game populations from dismal to robust, but because in a democratic society hunting is still supported by the majority of citizens.

Save the Monarch Butterfly

The monarch butterfly is one of the most recognizable species of wildlife in all of America. They undertake one of the world's most remarkable and fascinating migrations, traveling thousands of miles over many generations from Mexico, across the United States, to Canada.

North American monarch butterflies are in trouble. Threats, including loss of milkweed habitat needed to lay their eggs and for their caterpillars to eat, are having a devastating impact on their populations and the migration phenomenon. Unless we act now to help the Monarch, this amazing animal could disappear in our lifetime.



The state of Monarchs reflects the health of the American landscape and its pollinators. Monarch declines are symptomatic of environmental problems that also pose risks to food production, the spectacular natural places that help define our national identity, and our own health. Conserving and connecting habitat for monarchs will benefit many other plants and animals, including critical insect and avian pollinators, and future generations of Americans.

Monarchs cannot survive without milkweed. Every backyard can become an oasis for monarchs and other pollinators—even in cities. Schools, youth and community groups, businesses, and state and local governments can engage in planting native milkweed and protecting monarch habitat along roadsides, rights of way, and other public and private lands.

Consider planting a butterfly garden and make sure to include milkweed, preferably a local, native variety. For more information, visit <http://www.fws.gov/savethemonarch/> or <http://monarchjointventure.org/>

Call For Action

Land and Water Conservation Fund Needs Your Help

By: TWS' Government Affairs Team

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a program vital to protecting America's lands and waterways for over fifty years, will expire in days unless there is Congressional action. This program, which is funded by taking a small portion of offshore oil drilling royalties received by the federal government, goes to federal conservation programs as well as state and local grant programs. Throughout the entirety of this program, the LWCF has protected over five million acres of land in 98% of U.S. counties.

TWS has been involved with the LWCF Coalition, an alliance of many different organizations that wish to see permanent re-authorization of the LWCF occur before the September 30 expiration.

We feel this program is vital to the work conducted by wildlife professionals, and ask for your help to encourage reauthorization of this program. The LWCF has enabled the wildlife refuge system to protect an additional 1.5 million acres of land, which provides new areas and opportunities for wildlife research, management, and conservation. This program has provided \$3 billion in grants which have leveraged more than \$7 billion in outside matching funds to advance land conservation projects.

TWS' Government Affairs Team asks you to consider signing on to the petition below in order to show your support for the permanent re-authorization of the LWCF:

[Change.org petition](#)

You can also use the [TWS Action Center](#) to locate your Congressional representatives using your zip code and contact them directly to encourage LWCF reauthorization.

Travel Grants

Winter-Spring Travel Grants

Three \$500-750 travel grants are available to assist Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society members (wildlife professionals and students) in attending a training opportunity, meeting, or conference that will be valuable to their education and career.

Eligibility

Applicants must be members of the Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society (CCTWS).

Applicants who have never received a CCTWS travel grant will be given preference over previous grant recipients. Previous grant recipients who received their funding > 12 months before the application period are given preference over applicants who recently received the CCTWS grant.

Application

Type up a ½ to 1-page description of the meeting, telling CCTWS Board the goals of the conference or training and describing how you would like to use this experience for your occupation or education. Be sure to convince the Board that this meeting would be a valuable contribution to your employment or education as a wildlife professional. Also, explain your need for funding to attend the conference or training. Outline any other support you have and how much funding you need from CCTWS. Include your name and contact information (phone number and email).

Deadline

Email your summary to Nate Seward (nathan.seward@state.co.us) by Friday October 9, 2015. The Awards Coordinator and CCTWS Board will select 3 winners for winter/spring. The winners will be notified by Friday October 30, 2015. Another set of travel grants should be available for summer/fall.

Requirements

Recipients must submit their travel receipts to show how the grant was used and a ½ to 1-page summary of the training, meeting, or conference they attended within one month of their trip. The summary should explain how this experience benefitted the recipient's education and career. Recipients must also report how CCTWS funding was used. Failure to submit this information on time will result in disqualification from future CCTWS travel grants.

Grant Recipient

The recipient of the 2015 CCTWS Conference travel grant to Winnipeg, Manitoba is:

Frances Buderman is a member of the Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) and TWS Biometrics Working Group. She is third-year Ph.D. student at Colorado State University in the Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology department and a student in the Colorado Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Frances will be presenting the first half of her dissertation, which focuses on movement and space-use of Canada lynx in Colorado. This work has been done in collaboration with the National Park Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and Colorado Department of Transportation. Information on Canada lynx movement behavior in the conterminous United States is lacking, making this data set a vital and largely untapped resource. Frances is looking forward to getting feedback from other wildlife experts on her re-search. She will be networking and increasing her visibility in the field of wildlife biology. She plans to look for new opportunities in the field of wildlife biology.

Congratulations to Frances! We look forward to hearing what you learn through these professional development activities.

Announcements

WINTER TRAINING AND MEETING NEWS

Everyone is invited to attend “Communicating with the Land User” a training hosted by the Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management (CSSRM). The training will be held from 1 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3 to noon on Thursday, November 5 at the Hotel Colorado in Glenwood Springs. This training is applicable to anyone who wants to do a better job of communicating, not just to those in the range profession. To see a full agenda and to register go to www.cssrmwintertraining.eventbrite.com.

Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes for CCTWS Board Meeting (July 30, 2015, 10:00-2:30)

Blue River Room, North Branch Library, 651 Center Circle, Silverthorne, CO

Members Present: Evan Phillips, Tony Gurzick, April Estep, Nate Seward, Andrew Don Carlos, Stephanie Ferraro, Chris Mettenbrink, Chase Taylor, Ryan Monello (phone)

Meeting called to order: 10:04 AM

Checking & Savings Account Balance: Wells Fargo-\$52,348.10 (will be 51,863.11) & Bank of the West-\$1,500. About \$3,800 more than last year at this time.

General Notes/Old Business:

- Nate opened a business checking and savings account with Bank of the West. 100 fee a year for non-profit fee.
-
- \$2000 grant soon to be awarded to Frannie Buderman.
- National chapter representative will give us credit for giving our student grant winner funding to go to the National TWS Conference.
- Summer newsletter due by August 10th to Greg Davidson.
- Grant announcement going out in this next newsletter. Three travel grants for \$500-\$750 open to any member.
- April will contact Erik for any comments (potentially for newsletter) coming out about the State Wildlife Action Plan.
- Approval from committee for Tony to go to National Meeting. \$2,500 available, but Tony probably only needs \$1,500.
- A Western State Graduate Student gave up grant money so another \$1,000 is available.
- Plan to announce small grants (up to 4) @ \$1,000ea. in the last newsletter of the year. Items due to Greg on Dec 1st and plans to get the letter out by Dec 15th.
- Committing funding up front for becoming a Certified Wildlife Biologist or Associate Wildlife Biologist if a member. Tony is going to put together an announcement on this.

***Stephanie Ferraro is moving to Eastern Kansas. Husband is taking a job w/ USFWS. She will try and get a new member to replace on the board. Good Luck Stephanie!!**

- Nate will now start receiving all applications for grants since Stephanie is leaving in September.

Board Meeting Minutes, Cont...

Annual Winter Meeting:

- **Feb 3-5th Wed-Fri**
- Tony has called Colorado Springs Event Center. A representative is expected to get back with him in the next week.
- Potential for: The Antlers, Cheyenne Mountain Resort, and other facilities to host.

Annual Meeting Duties:

- Ryan, Tony and April will work on facilities for 2016 Winter Meeting.
- Evan will handle the technical session and collecting submitted abstracts.
- Wildlife Forensics workshop Chris will take the lead and Ryan will help.
- Brett will help with the (Introduction to R- RHR) session.
- Chase will take the lead on inviting speakers and Tony will help.
- Stacey can take care of students and volunteers, getting judges, etc. Tony will ask Stacey if she will help with getting together a student combined meeting.
- Joel will take the lead on the auction and we all can help him. Tony is going to get Cary's old files to Joel.
- April will take on attaining beer from potential Colorado Springs breweries for the meeting in February.
- Workshop Ideas: Drone booths. Potential for them to fund meeting and give a presentation and demonstration.

Non-Technical Session Ideas:

- **#1 Choice.** Wildlife Forensics (field identification, sampling methods, potentially bring in CPW, WY or OR).
- **#2 Choice.** How to Write Solid Land-Use Comments and Technical Writing (lots of interest)
- Early Career Development (Student Chapter Meetings or a Working Group) Send articles or flyers out to other colleges for recognition.
- RMBO Database (potential table/booth to sell bird atlas)
- Conservation Social Science Method (May have a small interest group)
- Use of Social Media (maybe a talk or technical session for a couple of hours)
- How to Build and Use Citizen Science - (AVENZA app, Create local interest)
- Telemetry 101

Board Meeting Minutes, Cont...

Andrew Don Carlos Ideas:

- Invasive species and non-native wildlife (ex. Feral hog as game species)
- Paradigm shift from restoration approach to larger scale adaptation ecosystem approach.
- State and federal jurisdiction complications as related to the Endangered Species Act and other issues. Will state wildlife management be limited?
- Conservation Funding (state level, hunter recruitment, retention, reengagement)
- Locavore agency management facilitated through sharing of game meat etc.

Technical Session Ideas:

- **#1 Choice.** Known Fate Survival Modeling and Assessment of Competing Risk
- **#2 Choice.** Introduction to R and Telemetry RHR (homerange).
- Remote Sensing, LIDAR, Infra-Red, Drones
- Zonation Software (no)
- Hierarchical Modeling
- Bioinformatics & Genomics
- Introduction to Bayesian
- Analysis of Wildlife Telemetry Data
- Individual Stochasticity How to model, measure and interpret
- Sampling for Species Using Environmental DNA (maybe next year)

Plenary Topics:

- **#1 Choice.** Use and Advances of Technology, science, research, management.
- **#2 Choice.** Use of technology and social media, communication, education.
- Using New Path for conservation (TNC Scientist) (don't know enough about it)
- Communicating science for conservation actions (no)
- Bats and energy (too soon to do energy again)
- New Energy Economy (CSU) (maybe next year)
- Managing Diversity (no)
- Future of endangered species and wildlife management (no)
- Global warming: Carbon (no)

**If we want to cover technology, we can potentially split it up into a concurrent technical session. Plenary will be #1.

***Potential to bring in a key speaker on historical methods and past use in radio telemetry.

Adjourn

Board Meeting Minutes, Cont...

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Adjourn

COLORADO WILDLIFE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please note! You can now renew your membership online at
www.wildlife.org/colorado

Name:

Address

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Work Phone:

Home Phone:

E-Mail:

Today's Date:

Affiliation:

Interested in Committee Work?

Yes

No

Are You a TWS Certified Biologist?

Yes

No

Areas of Expertise/Interest:

Dues: 1 Year: \$15 2 Years: \$27 3 Years: \$35 Student/Retirees: \$10

MC/Visa:

Expiration Date:

Signature:

Print this Form and Mail to: Nathan Seward, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 300 W. New York Ave., Gunnison, CO 81230
Or fill it out and email it to: ColoradoTWS@gmail.com

2015 Committee Chairs and Liaisons

<u>Committees</u>	<u>Chairs</u>	<u>Email</u>
Awards:	Eric Bergman	eric.bergman@state.co.us
Certification:	Rob Schorr	rschorr@lamar.colostate.edu
Conserv. Rev.:	Randy Ghormley	rghormley@fs.fed.us
Educ. & Info.:	Joel Humphries	jhumphries@blm.gov
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Historian:	Danguole Bockus	danguole_bockus@nps.gov
Land Use:	Kelli Stone	2birds_1stone@live.com
Membership:	Mindy Rice	mindy.rice@state.co.us
Newsletter:	Greg Davidson	greg@finditdetectiondogs.com
Nominations & Elections:	Ryan Monello	Ryan_Monello@nps.gov
	Tony Gurzick	tony.gurzick@state.co.us
Policy/Res.	Ryan Monello	Ryan_Monello@nps.gov
Scholarships:	Theresa Childers	theresa_childers@nps.gov
Small Grants:	Chris Mettenbrink	Chris.Mettenbrink@state.co.us
Student Chapter Liason:	Stacy Lischka (CSU)	stacy.lischka@state.co.us
	Nathan Seward	nathan.seward@state.co.us
Travel Grant:	Nathan Seward	nathan.seward@state.co.us
Website:	Brett Walker	brett.walker@state.co.us

Winter Meeting/Workshops: TBD

DIRECTORY OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Officers

President:	Tony Gurzick	tony.gurzick@hotmail.com or tony.gurzick@state.co.us
Past President:	Ryan Monello	Ryan_Monello@nps.gov
President-Elect:	OPEN	
Treasurer:	Nathan Seward	nathan.seward@state.co.us
Secretary:	Chase Taylor	chase.taylor@co.usda.gov

Email

Executive Board : Regional

NE Rep.:	Stacy Lischka	stacy.lischka@state.co.us
NW Rep.:	Brett Walker	brett.walker@state.co.us
SE Rep.:	April Estep	april.estep@state.co.us
SW Rep.:	Joel Humphries	jhumphries@blm.gov

Executive Board : At Large

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Chris Mettenbrink	chris.mettenbrink@state.co.us
Evan Phillips	evan.phillips@state.co.us
Vacant	

Wildlife Society Affiliates:

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Savanna Smith	
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TWS:	bob.lanka@wyo.gov
Bob Lanka	