



WILDLIFE TRACKS

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

March, 2018



Chapter Officers

President:

Pat Magee

Past President:

Tony Gurzick

President Elect:

Krysten Zummo-Strong

Treasurer:

Nate Seward

Secretary:

Chase Taylor

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President's Column

Greetings Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society Members,



Wishing you a meaningful and fulfilling spring season. The sage-grouse are moving toward their leks, the cranes are flying north, rosy-finches are making their way to higher elevations, marmots will soon peak their heads out of their burrows, pronghorn are shoring up their territories, deer are relatively fat, and most wildlife have food and sex on their minds and in their blood. In winter we live through a time of net negative energy balance surviving the long nights, the cold temperatures, the scarcity of resources. And now, enjoying these lengthening days under Colorado blue skies feels like flourishing. Such a privilege to be a Coloradoan.

Annie Dillard, in her classic book *A Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, reminisces about movements in the spring as "northings". She contemplates: "A kind of nothing is what I want to accomplish, a single-minded trek toward that place where....". Where? Colorado's snow geese have already moved north, the sandhills are on their way, for the warblers it's a distant goal. What about you? Where are you heading and how consciously are you mapping your course? Professionally? Personally? This lovely season of flourishing is also windswept and chaotic. Transitions are like that. They ask much and they promise much. And the time is ripe.

The Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society is northing toward our new fiscal year (April 1) and I'm excited about the new faces that will populate our board. John Hughes and Kendra Cross (see their bios later in the newsletter). I'm also thrilled that all of our dedicated board members from the past year are willing to continue their service to the chapter again in 2018. What changes will come our way? What changes do you want to see? How can the board serve you? How can you serve The Wildlife Society? Do you have any topics you'd like to explore at next year's conference? Embrace change, embrace growth – let's make this a productive year! Please contact me to chat about your ideas; I'm listening.

Patrick Magee!

President, Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Treasure's Report

Treasure's Report

Current Balances (3/9/2018):

Checking: \$28,900.21

Savings: \$20,005.98

Money Market (Candace Taylor): \$41,509.25

Board Meeting

Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society December Board Meeting Minutes 13 December 2017, 9 am

Conference Call (1-866-951-1151; conference room 479-292-893)

Attending: Chris Mettenbrink, Tony Gurzick, Krysten Zummo-Strong, April Estep, Patrick Magee, Marcella Fremgen, Chase Taylor, Andrew Don Carlos

1. November minutes. *Tony motioned to accept the November CCTWS board meeting minutes, Krysten seconded, unanimous approval.*
2. Treasurer's report: Nate Seward not present.
No new news for this report.
Money Market (Candace Taylor gift): has gifted CCTWS an additional \$26,500.00. Totaling approx. \$41,878.00
3. Elections update: Patrick Magee
New CSU officers:
 - Charlee Manguso - President
 - James Kelleher - Vice President
 - Julia Valdivia - Coffee Table manager
 - Catie Castagent - Treasurer
 - Tadio Kishimoto - Raptor monitoring Project lead
 - Kaite Grey - Camera Project lead
 - Amy Nelson - Publicist
 - Kaley Egan - Secretary
 - Sammi - Social Chair
4. Papers and Posters for Annual Meeting
Currently have very few committed papers and presentations.
Expecting more late entries.
5. Public Lands Position Statement: Krysten Zummo-Strong
Pat sent out position statement to board members for review on the week of December 4th.
Board review extended until January 5, 2018
Board is planned to have a final version in early 2018.
Tony suggested additional board meeting to discuss viewpoints of position statement.
Pat will organize a board meeting in early January (5th-10th) for position viewpoint discussion.
Andrew suggested Dr. Rick Knight and Dr. George Wallace as outside reviewers for the position statement.
Pat will check by-laws to see if we need membership vote to approve a position statement.
6. Electronic Agendas for Annual Meeting
Pat made a motion to authorize \$500 to purchase an agenda related app if necessary, Chris seconded the motion.
Tony said we usually spend \$200-300 on printing agendas for the meeting.
Tony will research using a free downloadable app for agenda information at the annual meeting.
Pat will plan to use a plotter to print large agendas to post at the conference location.
Andrew met with new CSU board members notifying them we prefer their assistance with planning the social.

Board Meeting, 13 Dec, Cont..

7. Student/Professional Social at Annual Meeting

Andrew met with new CSU board members notifying them we prefer their assistance with planning the social.

Andrew has reached out to local businesses in the Grand Valley for drink donations.

Andrew is also working on formalizing the student volunteer sign-up.

8. Annual Meeting Auction

Nate is taking lead on the conference auction. He has communicated with several vendors. Board members continue gathering items.

Brain Sullivan donated Waterfowl prints and Tony has them and will bring them to the meeting.

Andrew has wood duck prints that he will donate.

We have a sponsorship letter and donation receipt.

Continue coordinating with vendors that have been reached out to so we avoid duplicate efforts.

9. Awards

All continue seeking nominations for awards – deadline is January 12.

10. By-laws review (committees)

Send By-laws out in an email in January and vote on results at the annual meeting.

11. Round Table

Krysten – Ignite Session has an events page on Facebook and wants to know if we can gain administrative approval as a board member in order to make the event link official on the CCTWS Facebook page. Pat is going to email webmaster to gain this approval.

12. Next Meeting: 10 January 2018, 9 am, conference call

Board Meeting

Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society January Board Meeting Minutes 10 January 2018, 9 am

Conference Call (1-866-951-1151; conference room 479-292-893)

Attending: Chris Mettenbrink, Tony Gurzick, Krysten Zummo-Strong, Patrick Magee, Marcella Fremgen, Chase Taylor, Andrew Don Carlos, Nathan Seward, Steph Durno, Aran Johnson

1. Voting Update – Currently 4 write in candidates for president elect: Eric Odell Pat Dorsey, Michelle Cowardin, Krysten Zummo Strong. Voting will close January 14th.
2. Mobile Application Update – Least expensive mobile app that will meet the meetings needs is \$750. Board discussed the need and decided to look into options for building an app for the 2019 meeting. Further, the board discussed options for continuing out zero waste initiative for the meeting. We will ask members to read the agenda off the web page. Several board members suggested that it is difficult to read a pdf or word document that you download on your phone, so we will ask Aleshia to have the agenda both as a link to a pdf and directly on the web page. Further, we will create four posters with the agenda and have them by the registration table and the entrance to the Grand Ballroom. Aran volunteered to make these posters (we also need 4 easels and cardboard backings).
3. Board Meeting before conference – The board will meet pre-conference on Tuesday 6 February at 6 pm at the Rockslide Brewery in Grand Junction. 401 Main Street; Downtown Grand Junction; 970.245.2111; rockslidebrewpub.
4. Tony will bring CCTWS laptop and he will print nametags starting one-week before the conference (Chris will need to send the excel database). For later registrants Tony will print the Day before the conference and he will bring extra name tags for on-site registrants. Tony will also bring Duck Stamps and office supplies.
5. We haven't met our room target yet and we have 51 registered.
6. Room Setup Discussion – Pat is working with hotel and Snob Productions on room setup. He provided three option for the room. Board decided on option 3. We will have two projectors and screens on the side of the Grand Ballroom with a stage in the middle and two mics. Stephanie will get projectors from CPW. Nate will buy a second screen (hotel provides other screen). Snob will be on-site fir tech assistance.
7. Wednesday social – Andrew and Steph are are recruiting student volunteers and looking for beer donations. For social Krysten suggested a speed dating activity and the idea of a treasure hunt also came up. Andrew says we are still expecting donations from local breweries. Students are on break and have not been available for coordination. Andrew is planning to attend first CSU student meeting in order to further communications. Pat has met with Western State students and coordinated on attendance. Andrew, Krysten, and Stephanie will coordinate on ideas for social activities.
8. Invited talk – Mike Miller has been invited to gi÷e an update on Chronic Wasting Disease. Need to get his abstract.

Board Meeting, 10 Jan, Cont..

9. IGNITE talks – currently have 6 abstracts. Hoping to get 2-4 more. Krysten will send out template to speakers. Krysten will ask for talks to be sent to her by Monday Feb 5 and she will run through them to make sure they work.
10. Contributed talks and posters – Marcella reminded the board that we need easels and cardboard backings for poster session (Steph and Tony are getting these supplies).
11. Auction – Nate is organizing auction – we have plenty of items.
12. Awards – Jesse McCarty and Michelle Cowardin received several award nominations and are now deciding the winners and putting the awards together.
13. Road Ecology Plenary session – Chase, Aran and Michelle will do more outreach to CDOT community.
14. Business meeting – Pat! will get the proposed bylaws changes to the membership in the next week or so and we will vote on these at the business meeting – these are with regard to Article VIII: Committees.
15. Conservation Affairs – a sub-group (Andrew, Tony, Krysten, Steph and Pat!) met on Monday 8 January to look more closely at the public lands position statement and discuss revisions.
16. American Prairie Conservation Act – Krysten brought this to us as an opportunity to sign onto a letter of support. Steph moved that we sign the support letter, Chris seconded the motion. All board members were in favor. Krysten will sign and send letter.
17. CCTWS Sagebrush Workshop – summer 2018. Marcella is taking lead on organizing a summer educational opportunity for CCTWS members.
18. CMPS Annual meeting – 28 Feb to 2 March 2018, Kearney, NE. Grassland Ecology: Conservation in an altered landscape.
19. December minutes. Krysten motioned to accept the December CCTWS board meeting minutes, Nathan seconded, unanimous approval.
20. Next Board Meeting – Friday 9 February 2018 at Doubletree Hilton, in-person, conference overview with lunch provided.

Board Meeting

Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society February Board Meeting Minutes 9 February 2018, noon Double Tree Hilton Hotel, Grand Junction

Attending: Chris Mettenbrink, Tony Gurzick, Krysten Zummo-Strong, Marcella Fremgen, Chase Taylor, Andrew Don Carlos, Nathan Seward, Steph Durno, Aran Johnson, April Estep

1. President Pat Magee was ill and missed the conference, the board did an excellent job running the meeting and filling in for the President's roles.
2. The conference went well. We had over 200 registered.
3. **Business Meeting**
 - a. Tony Gurzick presided over the business meeting. At the business meeting, the proposed by-laws changes passed by unanimous member vote. These changes concern Article VIII: Committees.
 - b. Bob Lanka gave a talk at the business meeting and spelled out the TWS code of ethics, specifically in relation to diversity and respectful behavior.
 - c. Elections results were presented and Krysten Zummo-Strong is the new President-Elect. John Hughes was elected to the board.
 - d. Tony Gurzick shared the work the board has done on creating a public lands statement. Krysten Zummo-Strong has been leading this effort.
4. **Road Ecology plenary** session was great but there may have been some repetition in speakers' topics. This may be an indication that this is a new discipline and there aren't a lot of projects completed yet.
5. **The federal government** briefly shutdown on Thursday night but opened again before conference activities started up Friday morning. Some federal employees left the conference and many stayed.
6. **Post Conference Discussion**
 - a. **Student Participation**
 - i. Board indicated they'd like to see more student participation at the conference, especially as speakers or poster presenters. Adams State and Colorado Mesa University Each had a poster presented by undergraduates.
 - ii. Resume review?
 - iii. Inviting Colorado College (**Attitudes of the West invited talk?**)
 - iv. Extend student opportunities/volunteering to Adams State
 - b. **The IGNITE session**
 - i. Was a big success and the board hopes to keep this up in the future.
 - ii. Timing at the end of the day was great. Kept people involved towards the end of the day
 - iii. Possibly expand the time frame instead of extending the morning plenary
 - iv. Kendra Cross from USDA APHIS indicated she was interested in serving on the board. The board approved her as a board member.
 - v. Technology issues can't keep happening. Make sure that equipment used for presentations are up to the task.

Board Meeting, 9 Feb, Cont..

e. 2019 Conference

- i. A discussion about next year's meeting location included a desire to reduce meeting costs with hopes of attracting more members and participants. YMCA of the Rockies was recommended as a potential site. An alternative perspective was shared to keep the statewide rotation that provides moves the meeting closer to members on a three-year time frame.
 - 1. 2019 in the southeast (Salida, Woodland Park, Sanddunes, Pueblo)
 - a. Not DoubleTree of south Colorado Springs
 - b. Cheyenne Mountain Resort?
 - 2. 2020 – YMCA of the Rockies
- ii. Plenary Ideas
 - 1. Private Lands Conservation: Managing landscapes through collaboration & communication
 - 2. Pollinators (workshop?)
- iii. Auction
 - 1. Get 2-3 more credit card readers so payments go faster.

f. Front desk

- i. could be set up so that attendees need to get name badges from us instead of walking up past signage taking them and leaving. Maybe place table with name tags behind us.
- ii. Too many misspelled nametags and then printer issues when we needed to fix them.
- iii. Need better signage. Agenda was not properly updated. Looked like a draft agenda was printed.

g. Hotel - staff was decent but not the most responsive. Same with IT group.

h. Meals -

- i. Might need to consider a gluten free vegan food option.
- ii. Some comments that the Mexican food was not the best by a handful of folks.

7. Discussion for March

- a. CO/WY committee to look at crossings on I-80

Next Board Meeting –9 March 2018 – conference call

Welcome to the Board

The Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society welcomes two new board members for 2018. John Hughes and Kendra Cross. Many thanks for stepping up and volunteering to serve our society!

John Hughes is a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Black-footed Ferret Conservation Center in Wellington, Colorado. John has worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 15 years, and his professional interests include conservation and management of endangered species, rangeland ecology, and conservation of wildlife on private lands. John has a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology from the University of Montana, and a master's degree in biology from Kansas State University. John is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and member of The Wildlife Society and is a lifelong hunter, bird-er, and hiker.



Kendra Cross has been an animal damage management biologist for 17 years working with various human-wildlife conflict projects on airports and within urban/suburban areas. She graduated in 1999 with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources from West Virginia University. Entered the work force for the Maryland USDA APHIS Wildlife Services program in 1999 as a Biological Science Technician. In 2001, became the first airport wildlife biologist at Baltimore Washington International Airport working to protect aircraft and the flying community from damage as a result of wildlife strikes. Moved to Denver in 2005 to work at Denver International Airport (DIA) managing wildlife hazards. In 2009, Kendra started an agreement with CDOT-Division of Aeronautics working as the state airport wildlife biologist with CDOT – Division of Aeronautics to provide wildlife damage management services including training, technical assistance and direct control to the 76 general use airports in Colorado. Kendra successfully increased funding and support at DIA and throughout the state and currently oversees seven airport biologists that effectively manage wildlife and habitat for aviation safety. Currently, Kendra is serving as District Supervisor in Northeastern Colorado with USDA APHIS Wildlife Services and lives in Golden, CO.



Krysten Zummo-Strong is the new President-Elect. Her engagement at many levels with TWS will serve the chapter well in her new leadership position.

CCTWS Annual Meeting Photos



Bob Lanka, TWS Council Representative from the CMPS speaks at annual business meeting.



Michelle Cowardin and Bobby Day with Bobby's generous decoy donation

CCTWS Annual Meeting Photos



Nathan Seward dreams big!



Dr. Kerry Foresman asks, "How did the small mammal cross road?"

CCTWS Annual Meeting Photos



Plenary Session Keynote Speaker, Marcel Huijser sets the context for conference theme on road ecology

Award Recipients

The 2018 Jim Olterman Scholarship

The Jim Olterman Scholarship Award is offered annually to encourage and support an upper-level Colorado college student in the pursuit of a career in wildlife biology and management. The recipient received a \$500 award, a commemorative plaque, and was recognized at the CCTWS Annual meeting.

Jim Olterman, a Colorado Division of Wildlife Senior Terrestrial Biologist and pilot, died in a plane crash on September 4, 2002, while conducting aerial fish stocking operations in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in southeastern Colorado. During the crash, Jim's actions saved the life of a CDOW hatchery technician flying with him.

This awardee demonstrated good quality character through independent and compassionate works leading to contributions not only to the Wildlife field, but the community around her. Her sincere driven initiative of getting hands on experience, while performing well academically, made her rise above other candidates.

She volunteered for Trailcampro and CPW, worked with APHIS and Wildlife Field Forensics, and is an active member of the Student Chapter of TWS at CSU. The committee described her as “dedicated and committed” and “she has the most potential to be successful in our field and best fits the intent of the Jim Olterman Award.”

In photo below, on behalf of the Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Student Awards Chair, **Jesse McCarty**, proudly presents the 2018 Jim Olterman Scholarship to Colorado State University wildlife student **Katie Gray**.



Award Recipients

Congratulation to the 2018 Award Recipients!

We had a great awards ceremony this year and were honored to have Scott Wait and Bruce Gill there to talk about the history of two of our most prestigious awards: the Jim Olterman Professional Achievement in Wildlife Management and the Gilbert L. Douglas for Outstanding Achievement in Wildlife Sciences. It is important to pay honor to the award namesakes and to remember the dedication and sacrifices our predecessors made to better natural resources in Colorado. Thanks to Max Canestorp for all photos!

2018 Professional Award Recipients:

Jim Olterman Professional Achievement in Wildlife Management Award
Mark Vierra, Colorado Parks and Wildlife



Gilbert L. Douglas for Outstanding Achievement in Wildlife Sciences Award
Scott Wait, Colorado Parks and Wildlife



Award Recipients

Professional Achievement in Wildlife Education Award
Bruce Gill, retired Colorado Division of Wildlife researcher



Meritorious Service Award
Michelle Cowardin, Colorado Parks and Wildlife



Award Recipients

Blown Blunderbuss Award

Chase Taylor, Pinyon Environmental Engineering



Best Graduate Student Oral Presentation

Megan Jones, CSU

Best Graduate Student Poster Presentation

Marina Rodriguez, CSU

Best Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation

James Kelleher, CSU

Award Recipients

2018 Small Grant Award Recipients

Education Grant

Robin Bingham, Erin Twaddell, and Pat Magee, Western State Colorado University

Freddy Gross, Bureau of Land Management

Weed Free Wildlife Habitat: An educational strategy to promote weed awareness in the Gunnison Basin

Research/Management

Marina Rodriguez, Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, Colorado State University

Variation in blood parasitism in a high elevation bird community

M.S. Thesis project; advisors: Dr. Paul Doherty and Kathryn (Kate) P. Huyvaert, PhD

Award Recipients

CCTWS Small Grants in Education, 2017 Summary

Awarded to: Black Canyon Audubon Society (Bruce Ackerman and Marcella Fremgen)

Summary:

The 2017 small grant for education was awarded to Black Canyon Audubon Society (BCAS; Marcella Fremgen and Bruce Ackerman) to improve the educational program at the Ridgway State Park bird banding station. BCAS provides early education programs to children across Delta, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel, and Gunnison counties, including a bird banding station and classroom presentations. The purpose of this grant was to improve the educational experience at the bird banding station hosted by Ridgway State Park every September. Grant money was used to purchase supplies that increase efficiency of how the station is run (walkie talkie radios, blue-tooth speakers), offset costs incurred by the state park (entrance fees for school buses and volunteers), and donations of bird guides, bird seed, and a bird feeder to each school that attended.

The bird banding program at Ridgway State Park runs for approximately two weeks every September, and brings in schools from Ridgway, Montrose, Olathe, and Delta. The 2017 banding season was the 12th season at the station, and brought in close to 700 students and visitors, during which time there were 177 birds banded (the second highest total at the station) representing 30 species (the highest number ever trapped in a single season at the station). This year also included two species new to the station, including a Marsh Wren and a surprising Golden Winged Warbler.

Students rotate through five educational stations to learn about bird identification (two stations; one with binoculars and one with study skins), monitoring, habitat, and migration. Stations are run by State Parks staff, volunteers, and retired educators. Birds are banded by staff from Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, under their banding permit. Running the station costs an estimated \$20,000 annually, which Friends of Ridgway State Park, Black Canyon Audubon, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife partner in each year.

Bird banding stations are important for monitoring avian movements, migration timing, and for assessing population trends. Over the past twelve seasons, there have been over 1,500 birds banded at the Ridgway State Park banding station, contributing to our knowledge about riparian bird species and their migration. The education and outreach component is important for wildlife conservation because it exposes children to birds and the importance of habitat at an early age. We estimate that we reached around 700 students last year alone, plus teachers and chaperones, in addition to hosting a day for the public to visit. Banding stations are very engaging and provide children with an opportunity to see wildlife up close, while also providing an education program that informs them about how the station is used to monitor birds. This provides benefits to wildlife by promoting an interest in conservation of wildlife and habitat, exposing children to science and creating trust in the scientific community that may influence the child's viewpoints and lifestyles as they reach adulthood. Early environmental education may improve student interest and connectedness to wildlife, with potential implications for future investment in wildlife, if interest is maintained.



Photo 1: A young birder releases one of the birds banded at the Ridgway State Park Banding station in 2017 while the bander watches. Over 700 children visited the banding station this year. Photo by Marcella Fremgen.

Award Recipients

CCTWS Small Grants in Education, 2017 Summary



Photo 2: Golden Winged Warbler at the Ridgway State Park banding station in 2017. Photo by Marcella Fremgen.



Photo 3: Bander Linnea Rowse shows children the process as she bands a bird at the Ridgway State Park bird banding station, in 2017. Photo by Marcella Fremgen.

Award Recipients

CCTWS Small Grants in Education, 2017 Summary

Awarded to: Nathan Seward and Marcella Fremgen

Summary:

The 2016 small grant for education was awarded to Nathan Seward and Marcella Fremgen to produce and present posters about Gunnison Sage-Grouse habitat to elementary school children throughout the range of the bird. Gunnison Sage-Grouse is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act and is found only in a limited range. Declines in habitat quantity and quality are largely responsible for population declines of the bird over the last several decades, so focusing on habitat is an important way to make local children aware of the importance of healthy sagebrush habitats.

The Gunnison Sage-grouse conservation poster is currently in the design and edit stage with wildlife photographer, Bob Gress, and publisher, Mennonite Press Inc. Over the past several years, Bob Gress has captured high quality photos of sage-grouse during the spring lek season when sage-grouse display and breed. Quality photos of sage-grouse chicks and winter flocks have proved more difficult to capture which was a main objective of the poster, documenting the annual life cycle of sage-grouse. A request to other wildlife photographers for winter flock and early chick photos is needed to round out the poster, otherwise photos may be dominated by males in breeding plumage. This has delayed production of the poster. However, all of the educational text has been written and edited by local experts, and once images are identified the poster will be developed quickly from there.

Currently the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee (GBSGSC) is holding \$1,200 from poster sponsors including: CCTWS, Sisk-a-dee, Re-max, and Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. Other verbal commitments include funding from the U.S. Forest Service, National Parks Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and up to \$2,000 from the Information and Education subcommittee of the GBSGSC. These fiscal commitments will cover the cost of printing, approximately \$3,200, for 4,000 posters. We hope to complete the poster by the end of summer 2018.

Distribution will occur during the 2018-2019 school year, across the range of Gunnison Sage-Grouse. There are 22 elementary schools that are located within or near Gunnison Sage-Grouse mapped critical habitat, with potential to reach more schools if desired. Schools have been contacted to gauge interest in having presentations and posters handed out. Response rates were excellent. Once the posters have been finalized, schools will be notified and we will schedule dates for presentations to occur.

Travel Grant Announcement

CCTWS Travel Grant Announcement

The Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society is now accepting applications for its Spring/Summer Travel Grants Program. The purpose of the CCTWS Travel Grants Program is to assist with travel costs for CCTWS members attending meetings or workshops that further their professional knowledge and benefit management and conservation of wildlife in Colorado. CCTWS will award two travel grants in the amount of \$500 each. The Awards Coordinator and CCTWS Board will select and announce the winners by the end of May. The applications guidelines are as follows: Identify the training opportunity, meeting, or conference that would be helpful for your occupation or education as a wildlife professional or student CCTWS member.

Type up a ½ to 1-page description of the meeting, telling the 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 explain how this meeting would be a valuable contribution to your employment or education as a Wildlife Professional.

Include your name and contact information (phone number and email).

Applications for Spring/Summer travel grants are due by May 1st. Winners will be notified by June 1st. Please email applications to Awards Coordinator Chris Mettenbrink as a Word or PDF document to Chris.Mettenbrink@state.co.us. Or mail them to: Chris Mettenbrink Colorado Parks and Wildlife 4207 W. CR16E Loveland, CO 80537

Announcement

Help Requested for Pilot Blake Malo

Helicopter pilot Blake Malo has flown many of us on our wildlife monitoring, capture, and research projects in Colorado over the years. On Saturday January 27, 2018, Blake's helicopter crashed in a remote area of Washington state, north of Pomeroy, WA. Blake's gunner sustained multiple broken bones and Blake's mugger was killed. Blake sustained serious, life threatening injuries (two broken legs, serious injuries to his right hand, a severe head injury). His wife, Sam, has been caring for Blake since the accident. Blake has undergone several major surgeries, but he is slowly recovering. It will be a long rehabilitation and a difficult year for Blake, Sam, and their families. Any support you can provide would be greatly appreciated. Financial contributions to help offset Blake's medical care and rehabilitation expenses can be made at: www.youcaring.com/blakeandsamanthamalo-1084140.

Announcement



What is the Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife?

The purpose of the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife is to secure funding for much needed conservation of our most precious natural resources, our fish and wildlife.

This campaign has expanded out of the strong partnership created by the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources, whose members represent the outdoor recreation retail and manufacturing sector, the energy and automotive industries, private landowners, educational institutions, conservation organizations, sportsmen's groups and state and federal fish and wildlife agencies.

How Our Wildlife is Currently Funded

Congress requires each state to develop a State Wildlife Action Plan – a proactive, comprehensive conservation strategy which examines health and recommends actions to conserve wildlife and vital habitat before they become more rare and costly to protect. License fees and excise taxes help, but without adequate, dedicated funding to implement these plans, Colorado won't be able to conserve the full array of its treasured fish and wildlife.

America's Fish and Wildlife Heritage

Our nation's fish and wildlife are among its most valuable resources, along with clean air, water, healthy forests and agricultural lands that support all of us. Our quality of life, outdoor heritage and prosperity are tied to the health and sustainability of these treasures. The benefits of connecting Americans with nature include:

- Increasing quality time with family and carrying on traditions through fishing, hunting, birdwatching, camping, biking, boating and various other forms of outdoor recreation.
- Physical and mental health increases when we spend time in nature. Even a short amount of time outdoors each day can improve concentration, reduce stress, lower blood pressure and improve mental health, all of which can help prevent disease.
- Ensuring the next generation understands the important benefits of conservation in their communities.

Americans hold their country's resources dear, and our goal is to make sure future generations will have the same available resources and outdoor opportunities.



Announcement

OurNatureUSA.com

P. 2

Primary Challenge to Conserving Colorado's Wildlife

As our nation's population increases, so does the stress we put on our shared natural resources. If federal underfunding of conservation efforts continues, familiar Colorado species could be pushed to the brink and become endangered and we risk losing a piece of our natural environment that we may never get back.

Among the species of greatest conservation need are those familiar to all Coloradans including the white-tailed ptarmigan, greenback cutthroat trout and Canada lynx.

Lynx were established in Colorado's high elevation forests prior to European settlement. In the early 1800s, commercial trappers sought the thick fur, which sold for premium prices in the international market. The lynx population in Colorado dropped rapidly in the late 1800s and early 1900s. With no records after the early 1970's, it was believed that the species had been extirpated from the state.

In 1999, Colorado Division of Wildlife (now Colorado Parks and Wildlife) brought the first 41 lynx from Canada and Alaska to the San Juan Mountains in southwest Colorado, where river valleys, rugged mountains and adequate snowshoe hares provided good habitat in the 5.2 million acre core reintroduction area. Through 2006, a total of 218 lynx were released in Colorado. All animals were fitted with radio and satellite collars, allowing researchers to monitor movement patterns, survival, male and female proximity during breeding season and female denning and births.

In 2010, CPW declared that the reintroduction project met all benchmarks of success established prior to the start of the project. The benchmarks included high survival rates after release, successful reproduction in released animals and animals born in the wild, low mortality rates and reproduction rates that are equal to or that exceed mortality rates over an extended period of time.

Although there have been great strides in conservation made for important species, states won't be able to stay ahead of the pressures that keep pushing our fish and wildlife further toward becoming endangered without additional funding.

Working Together for the Future of all our Precious Resources

A lot is at stake if we don't act soon. Every American benefits when we have healthy and accessible fish and wildlife. We need to start down a new path where we invest proactively in conservation rather than reactively to avoid contentious endangered species battles that inhibit business, slow the economy and pass on the high cost of species recovery to the next generation.

We invite you to join us in our quest to advance a 21st century vision for conservation of our valuable natural resources. Please visit OurNatureUSA.com to write a letter to your U.S. Representative requesting their support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.



CONTACT:

Sean Saville, Campaign Manager
Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife

Announcement



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

APPLY NOW FOR 2018 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Wildlife Society (TWS) is currently accepting applications for its Leadership Institute. The Institute's goal is to develop leadership skills among early-career wildlife professionals. The Institute will recruit promising early-career professionals for a series of intensive activities and mentoring relationships. The focus will be on exposing the participants to the inner workings of organization management, using TWS as example, and increasing the number of capable, active leaders in the wildlife and natural resource management profession.

From May until October, participants will engage in a series of activities to develop and expand their leadership skills. Institute members will attend TWS' Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, October 2018 and participate in various activities, including mentoring and leadership workshop sessions. The Institute is free, and participants receive complimentary registration and a travel grant to attend the conference.

Participation in the Institute is geared toward early-career professionals who are 2 to 3 years out of school (either undergraduate or graduate school), currently working full-time in a wildlife professional position, and have demonstrated evidence of their leadership potential. Also eligible are more recent graduates who have shown strong evidence of their leadership potential and those who are working while concurrently pursuing a graduate degree. All applicants must be members in good standing of TWS and a chapter or section of TWS. The selection committee will be seeking to create a diverse group with participants of varying gender, ethnic, and regional diversity. Selection will be based upon:

- An excellent academic record
- Demonstrated leadership capability or potential
- Demonstrated level of excellence in current position
- Commitment to and involvement in TWS

Preference will be given to individuals who are certified as Associate Wildlife Biologists® or Certified Wildlife Biologists®, or who have submitted such an application to TWS.

Applicants must submit (in one PDF, excluding recommendation letters):

- Completed Leadership Institute application form
- Cover letter with evidence of leadership capacity or potential, such as previous leadership in TWS organization units or in other organizations
- Résumé including a list of publications, awards, etc.
- Academic transcript(s)
- An essay (1000 word limit), which succinctly summarizes 1) your concept of leadership, 2) your aspiration for your engagement within TWS and the wildlife profession in 5 to 10 years, and 3) why you are an ideal candidate for the Leadership Institute
- Have two letters of recommendation sent from supervisors, academic advisors, professors, or others with whom you have worked and who are familiar with your previous and potential leadership, history and commitment to TWS, and commitment to wildlife management and conservation
 - Letters should be sent directly to leadership@wildlife.org with subject line "Leadership Institute Recommendation for [applicant last name]"

Application deadline is March 18, 2018. Email all materials to: leadership@wildlife.org. Visit wildlife.org/leadership-institute for more information.

Student Chapter Update

Western State Colorado University Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society
Spring 2018 Update

President: Marcel Such

720-255-5853

marcel.such@western.edu

Vice-president: Erin Blair

erin.blair@western.edu

Secretary: Haley Barnard

haley.barnard@western.edu

Treasurer: James Antley

james.antley@western.edu

It feels like we are rapidly approaching the end of an unnaturally mild and dry winter here in Gunnison! The Western State Colorado University Student Chapter has had a successful first half of the spring semester. First, we were extremely grateful for the opportunity to send a rather large and active representative group of students to the annual Colorado Chapter meeting, where we were blessed to be able to sit in on amazing talks and also to meet so many of you wonderful Colorado biologists. We additionally have put on a handful of early semester events in an effort to pull students out of their mid-winter hibernations, those being an evening of plant propagation in our greenhouse, a wildlife biology themed Jeopardy event, and also a day trip to observe Sandhill Cranes in their stop-over migration habitat at the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge.

We are looking forward to finishing out the school year strong, with many more amazing and beneficial club-hosted events. We have events scheduled to meet and network with local United States Forest Service biologists about potential internship opportunities, and additionally will be joined by Defenders of Wildlife for a campus-wide talk and film viewing. Also, we are pleased to continue our involvement with the Sisk-a-dee watchable wildlife program as Gunnison Sage-Grouse lek monitors later this spring. Finally, be looking forward to announcements for a spring trail race as a fundraising event for our club in order to facilitate more great events, and we would love for you to join us!

Thanks, and happy spring!

Marcel Such, Student Chapter President



Chapter VP Erin Blair setting up a remote camera study



Chapter members participating in a plant propagation evening event

Student Chapter Update, Cont..



Western Student Chapter members at the Colorado Chapter meeting banquet.



Wildlife biology themed Jeopardy night!



Chapter president Marcel Such with a Black Rosy-Finch, as part of a joint project between Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Workshop Announcement

Sagebrush Workshop 8-9 August 2018 Gunnison, Colorado

Sponsored by

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Colorado State University Extension
Western State Colorado University

A workshop about sagebrush and understory vegetation will be presented in Gunnison, CO on August 8 and 9. The workshop will cover identification of important functional groups, palatability/nutrition, and how wildlife use critical plants both for food and cover. Wildlife species of interest will include sage-grouse, mule deer, pronghorn, and a wide variety of other sagebrush inhabitants. Additionally, we will discuss how livestock use certain plants and if certain management strategies will improve cover of important species. The workshop will feature presentations and discussion from both local experts and sagebrush botanist Roger Rosentreter (retired BLM botanist from Idaho).

For more information contact:

Marcella Fremgen, AWB®
Private Lands Range Ecologist
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
Working in Partnership with NRCS, USFWS, and BLM
Office: (970) 964-3594
102 Par Place, Suite 4 (NRCS)
Montrose, CO 81401
www.birdconservancy.org

Workshop Announcement

Save the Dates!

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 13th Western Black Bear Workshop will be held May 21-24, 2018 in Grand Junction, CO. Details are available on the WAFWA website at: http://www.wafwa.org/workshops/western_black_bear_workshop/



As a sponsor of this conference the Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society has one registration available for an interested member. Please contact Chris Mettenbrink at chris.mettenbrink@state.co.us to inquire. If we get more than one request we will draw randomly for the registration.

Workshop Announcement



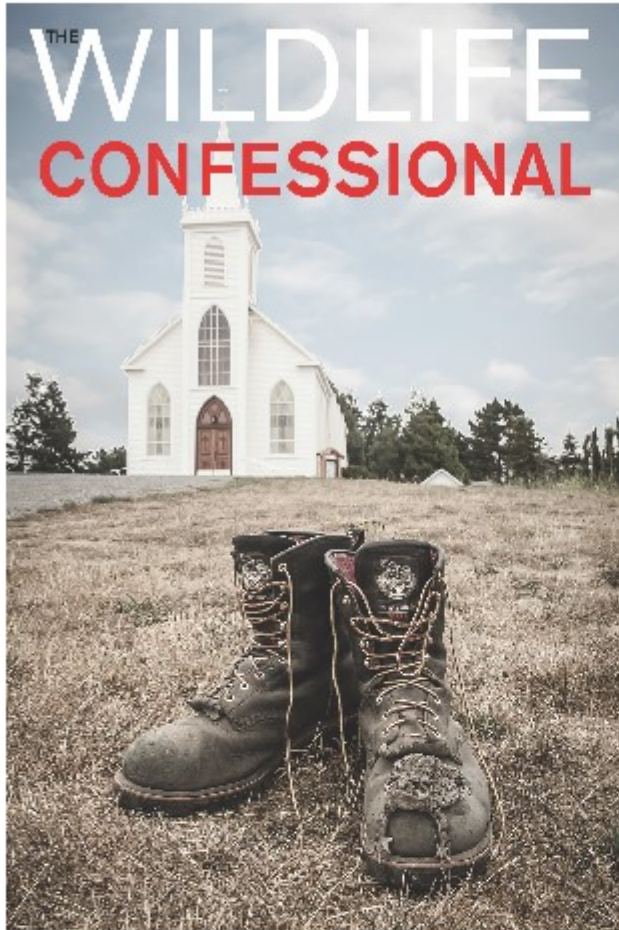
Partnership

CCTWS is actively cultivating partnerships and seeking sponsors to help further the great work we're doing to benefit wildlife and wildlife professionals in Colorado. New partnerships help connect wildlife professionals with the agencies, companies and non-profits and the products and services they deliver and facilitate our partners' great work for wildlife in Colorado.

We have opportunities for partners to advertise in our newsletter and on our webpage as well as have a presence at our annual meeting. We'd like to explore a mutually beneficial relationship with your organization to further wildlife conservation in Colorado.

If you're interested in participating in a new partnership opportunity, contact Pat Magee! at 970.943.7121 or pmagee@western.edu.

The Wildlife Confessional



How to Purchase

The *Wildlife Confessional* will be published through Inkshares, a crowd sourcing publishing house in Oakland, CA. To purchase a copy for yourself, friends, and family, visit this link:

<https://www.inkshares.com/books/the-wildlife-confessional-an-anthology-of-stories>

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You can also "Like" and follow our progress at:

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Wildlife-Confessional-1070767069681846/>

where we'll be sharing snippets of each story.

• Charles Jonkel

• Brian Cypher

• Katie Quint

• Brianna Williams

• Joseph Drake

• Jeff Keay

FEATURING STORIES BY

• Ivan Parr

• Thomas A. Roberts

• Eric Lund

• Matthew Bettelheim

• Darren Sleep

• Marcy Cottrell Houle

• J. Drew Lanham

Board Members

CCTWS Board – March 2018

Officers

President: Patrick Magee!
Past-President: Tony Gurzick

E-mail Contact

pmagee@western.edu
tony-gurzick@hotmail.com or tony.gurzick@state.co.us

President-Elect: Krysten Zummo-Strong kzummo11@gmail.com

Treasurer: Nathan Seward Nathan.seward@state.co.us

Secretary: Chase Taylor cataylormade@gmail.com

Executive Board: Regional

NE Representative: Kendra Cross Kendra.B.Cross@aphis.usda.gov

NW Representative: Stephanie Durno stephanie.durno@state.co.us

SE Representative: April Estep April.estep@state.co.us

SW Representative: Aran Johnson ajohnson@southernute-nsn.gov

Executive Board: At-Large

Andrew Don Carlos awdc@lamar.colostate.edu
John Hughes john_hughes@fws.gov

Chris Mettenbrink chris.mettenbrink@state.co.us

Marcella Fremgen Marcella.fremgen@co.usda.gov

Committees and Chairs

Committee	Chair	Chair Contact
Standing Committees		
Conservation and Land Use Review	Randy Ghormley	rghormley@fs.fed.us
Information and Education	Joel Humphries	jhumphries@blm.gov
Annual Meeting Program	CCTWS Board	pmagee@western.edu
Finance and Fund Raising (Auction)	Vacant	
Audit	Vacant	
Legislative Review	Vacant	
Wildlife Management	Vacant	
Newsletter	Aran Johnson Greg Davidson	ajohnson@southernute-nsn.gov greg@finditdetectiondogs.com
Nomination/elections	Krysten Zummo Strong	Kzummo11@gmail.com
Policy/Resolutions	Krysten Zummo Strong	Kzummo11@gmail.com
Professional Awards	Michelle Cowardin	Michelle.cowardin@state.co.us
Student Awards	Jesse McCarty	jmccarty@fs.fed.us
Membership	Mindy Rice	rice1min@gmail.com
Ad Hoc Committees		
Certification	Rob Schorr	rschorr@lamar.colostate.edu
Historian	Dangoule Bockus	Dangoule_bockus@nps.gov
Photographer	Max Canestorp	Kmax1350@mesanetworks.net
Small Grants and Travel Grants	Chris Mettenbrink	Chris.mettenbrink@state.co.us
Web Page, Social Media (Marketing)	Aleshia Fremgen	Aleshia.fremgen@westernalum.org
Professional Development Programs	Vacant	
Student Affairs and Mentoring	Vacant	
Representatives		
CSU Student Chapter	Charlee Manguso Liaison: Andrew Don Carlos Advisor: Larissa Bailey	charlee09@msn.com Andrew.don_carlos@colostate.edu
Western Student Chapter	Marcel Such Liaison: Nathan Seward Advisor: Pat Magee!	Marcel.such@western.edu Nathan.seward@state.co.us
CMPS President	Andrea Orabona	Andrea.orabona@wyo.gov
CMPS Representative to TWS	Bob Lanka	Bob.lanka@wyo.gov
CCTWS Representative to CMPS	Pat Magee!	pmagee@western.edu

Are you interested in being more involved with the society?

We currently have openings for 7 committee chairs

Please contact Patrick Magee! (pmagee@western.edu; 970-641-3959) or any current board member if you have interest in serving as a committee chair.

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:

Mail to: Nathan Seward, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 300 West New York Ave., Gunnison, CO 81230
Or scan and email to: nathan.seward@state.co.us

Please visit the Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society web page at Wildlife.org/Colorado and the Wildlife Society web page at Wildlife.org. Become a member today!