



INTELLIGENT TINKERING

Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society Newsletter

To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of Intelligent Tinkering. – Aldo Leopold

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Mark Your Calendars!

Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society Winter Meeting

February 12 – 14, 2019



INTELLIGENT TINKERING

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Subscriptions available with Chapter membership. The editor invites comments and articles for possible publication. Email submissions to: skuldt@uwalumni.com
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*A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community.
It is wrong when it tends to do otherwise. – Aldo Leopold*

President's Soapbox

By Jeremy Holtz

When I was told I would be expected to write a couple of paragraphs for the issues of *Intelligent Tinkering* during my year as president, I decided I should really try to come up with something that would matter, make a difference, maybe leave an impression. I have a lot of thoughts and ideas, but if I had to pick what has taken the majority of my thought in the last year, membership and participation are at the top of the list.



When I first started with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in 2006, my supervisor told me that I was expected to get involved with and attend the winter meeting of The Wildlife Society. I signed up and attended the meeting but had no other involvement to speak of really for a few years. At one winter meeting, I was killing time between sessions and the banquet, and decided to check out a business meeting. Before that, I had never thought about who set the meetings up, ran the chapter, or even the fact that there was a national parent chapter to our own. I was blissfully disconnected. The business meeting was full of discussions about budgets, the chapter bylaws, committee reports, quite a different direction from the educational aspect of the presentations throughout the day.

Fast forward a decade or so, and I am a TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist, member of The Wildlife Society national chapter, the North Central Section, and the national Forest Wildlife committee—and writing this article as your state chapter president. What changed over that time? Well, I have not gotten any pay increases, promotions or advancements as a result of my involvement, that is for certain. In fact, the cost of my expanded involvement has increased more than tenfold compared to my initial \$10 annual chapter dues. My employer has not required increased participation or involvement in the Society, either. No, the decision to increase my involvement in every level of The Wildlife Society was a personal choice built around self-improvement and personal and professional pride.

A common theme in discussions at the state chapter, section, and national levels is lack of membership and participation. How can we get people more involved? How can we get people to pay their dues, to volunteer, to serve in elected positions? In truth, these questions do not only plague TWS, but many groups and organizations that function based on memberships, paid dues and participation by members. Maybe the generations entering the work force today are not joiners. After all, our attention is pulled so many different directions. Or, maybe money is too tight. Most of us enter the field with some level of student loan debt or other expenses that demand our funds. Or, maybe people feel like they have little to contribute, that there are others who can write the opinions, participate in the committees, make the financial decisions, and organize the trainings that make us who we are.

The Wildlife Society has a long-standing tradition of ensuring academic and professional excellence in natural resources and wildlife management. Can professional societies find ways to stay mainstream? Are we able to stay relevant in today's professional and political climate? Can wildlife professionals afford to carve out a portion of their time, talent and treasures to participate in something larger than themselves? I think we need to try to get to the bottom of some of these questions. I want you to think about what membership in WCTWS means to you. What are the benefits? What do you wish we provided? What about membership in the North Central Section or National chapter – money well spent or maybe you don't see the value? Your state chapter board wants to increase

membership and ensure delivery of high quality services. Give some serious thought to these questions and be ready to share your honest feedback with us.

WCTWS Executive Board Meeting Conference Call Meeting Minutes December 7, 2017

By Kelly VanBeek, Secretary/Treasurer

Call to order: 2:03pm

Present: Derek Johnson, Scott Hyngstrom, Kelly VanBeek, Jeremy Holtz, and Lesa Kardash

1. Finance Report (Kelly)
 - a. Account balances have been stable, but we will need to move some funds into checking in anticipation of Midwest conference costs

Old Business

1. Financial investment
 - a. Selection of investments by Board (Vanguard Wellington Fund)
 - b. Derek reviewed proposed investment options from the Finance and Investment Committee (Derek, Kelly, Scott) (Please see Appendix A on page 31 with investment option explanations)
 - c. Jason – the money we are making a decision about is between 50 and 60% of our total assets, meaning a lot of our assets are already locked up in conservative strategies (savings/checking/CDs)
 - d. Scott – the group did a lot of investment research including seeking opinions from financial planning professionals
 - e. Jeremy and Bob are comfortable with the recommendation made by the subcommittee
 - f. Jason moved to accept the committee's recommendation of Option 1: Invest \$65,250 Bjerke corpus in the Vanguard Wellington Fund.
 - i. Jeremy second
 - ii. Roll call vote: Bob aye, Scott aye, Jason aye, Kelly aye, Jeremy aye, Derek aye, Kristina (absent)

Additionally, another motion was needed to solidify signatories for the Vanguard account:

Kelly moved: Be it resolved, that the Secretary/Treasurer Kelly VanBeek and President-elect Jeremy Holtz are duly authorized by resolution of the Executive Board of The Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society, to act on behalf of the organization in connection with any Vanguard mutual fund and/or Vanguard Brokerage accounts owned by the organization. Each such signatory is authorized to invest the assets of the organization; obtain information and give instructions for the purchase, sale, exchange, or transfer of securities; engage in margin and option trading on Vanguard Brokerage accounts owned by the organization; and execute any necessary documents in connection with those securities and/or the Vanguard accounts owned by the organization.

Jeremy seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Technical Training/Workshop (Bob)
 - a. The speaker for the conflict management workshop will incur a \$2000 fee. Scott needs to check his email but we may just pay for travel from Madison to Milwaukee and one hotel night
 - i. We hope to recoup cost through registration fee and overall conference revenue
 - ii. Derek will talk to Tami and Scott to see if the conflict resolution workshop cost could be factored into the overall conference budget, seems to be a justifiable cost that the conference would shoulder rather than WCTWS
 - b. We will pay for Rob Longsinger's registration (R Workshop), Scott will pay for his en route travel, we could also likely cover the room if he does not share with Scott
3. Budget proposal
 - a. Derek went over a draft constructed by Derek and Kelly (see appendix which now includes edits)
 - b. Technical training is also not currently listed
 - c. Kelly brought up that income does not currently reflect anticipated income from Bjerke; Leopold also historically was its own account and had a funding source
 - d. Bob – interest income should be reflected
 - e. Jason – doesn't seem like we have been in the red to this degree in the past couple years
 - i. Kelly – has really varied over the past 5-10 years, some years we do well and others we don't; this reflects our current level of maximum service to members along with current revenue streams
 - f. Derek – some tough decisions to make (limiting travel grants, winter meeting location, increasing membership dues)
 - g. Lesa – need to make sure Leopold fund is its own savings account so the committee knows how much money they have to spend
 - i. Investment option would take a bylaws change
 - h. Bob – need to look at all lines and prioritize to determine what services we want to provide
 - i. Should we increase membership dues to increase income and provide services? When is the last time we had a membership drive?
 - j. Should we put a cap on the amount of money we would give out to other NGOs? We get very frequent requests
4. Chapter Operations Document (Derek)
 - a. No updates; Derek is still working on the document
5. National Conference Student travel support. (Kristina)
 - a. Kristina was not on the call.
 - b. Question remains: Competitive grant process or simple request?
6. Fall issue of IT (Lesa)
 - a. Was submitted this week
 - b. Winter IT goes out after the winter meeting
7. Membership recruitment ideas and fundraising for future stability
 - a. Keep this in the back of our minds especially as it relates to budget
 - b. Should be a charge of membership committee (needs members)

New Business

1. Officer Nominations (Derek)
 - a. Shoot for early January to close nominations, need to close voting a few days before the business meeting on January 30th
2. Request for financial support from Green Fire Initiative (Derek)
 - a. This group could fill our advocacy role
 - b. Scott moved to provide \$500 to Green Fire group for their initial fundraising efforts
 - i. Jeremy - second
 1. Discussion
 - a. Their membership might be a little better aligned with our interests over LCV, so will we want to support both LCV and Green Fire long term?
 - b. Con would be that we have to find another organization to carry out our advocacy efforts instead of ourselves
 - c. Would like to know more about any recognition or continued engagement between this group and our committees. Perhaps could have a Green Fire liaison from both their board and our issues committee, who is also hopefully a chapter member
 - i. Derek will investigate
 - d. Jason – is Chuck’s work through LCV tied to our policy positions?
 - ii. Vote on motion: motion carried unanimously
3. Presentation Awards (Jason)
 - a. Midwest doesn’t give out student presentation awards anymore, neither does NCS
 - b. Jason’s note in the IT indicates that anyone who is interested needs to contact him – mostly targeting WCTWS members
 - i. Encourage student chapter presidents to let students know
 - ii. Lesa could use similar listserv to spread Jason’s message to what she uses for the Leopold scholarship
 - iii. Jason will also forward announcement to other student chapter advisors and university employees
 - iv. Put a deadline of December 29 to let Jason know if the presenter wants to participate in judging
 - c. Shout-out to all the folks who reviewed abstracts for the student poster session!
4. 2018 Midwest Updates (all)
 - a. Volunteer needs are forthcoming and will be passed along through the email list
 - b. Where is student chapter silent auction going to occur, and when?
 - i. Investigate having the silent auction at the UWSP Alumni event
 - c. Derek is working on setting up business meeting items
 - d. Potentially need to set up board meeting time prior to business meeting

Meeting adjourned 4:00 PM

WCTWS Executive Board Meeting Conference Call Meeting Minutes January 10, 2018

By Kelly VanBeek, Secretary/Treasurer

Present: Derek, Jason, Jeremy, Bob, Kelly, Lesa, Kristina, Scott

Called to order 10:03 AM

2. Finance Report (Kelly)
 - a. Please see attached financial report
 - b. Anticipating some significant expenses from Midwest that will come off the books in early 2018 rather than late 2017
 - c. Jason – related to finances and groups we support, WI Green Fire gave an exemplary piece of testimony on the wolf bill. Scott agreed.
 - i. Derek – WI Green Fire will give update at the business meeting
 - ii. Jeremy – talked with Ron Eckstein about Green Fire and expressed frustration that we needed other groups to advocate on behalf of WCTWS
 1. Green Fire has already been asked by many groups to serve in an advocacy role. They do not have intentions of serving as the primary advocate for all these groups including WCTWS
 - iii. Kelly – what kind of recognition/formal relationship will WCTWS have with Green Fire because of our donation?
 1. WCTWS will get recognition on the website/and or publications
 2. Green Fire will give updates at the business meeting; communicate frequently with Derek
 3. Relationship should become more formalized in the next year (designate a pseudo liaison, potentially Tom Hauge)

Related to advocacy efforts:

AB 712 – Eric Anderson is speaking on behalf of WCTWS at the hearing and sent Derek some talking points. Eric also coordinated with other groups in preparing his testimony

Old Business

8. Financial investment update (Kelly)
 - a. Our decision be presented at the annual business meeting
 - b. Currently waiting to hear back from Vanguard on our application
9. Technical Training/Workshop (Bob and Scott)
 - a. 37 registered, 7 on waitlist for R workshop
 - i. 10 of 44 are getting WCTWS discount
 - b. 17 registered for Conflict Resolution, asking Delaney to promote it more to get to full capacity
 - i. 3 of 17 are getting WCTWS discount

- ii. Can we do an email announcement as a reminder about workshops, in particular the Conflict Resolution workshop?
 - 1. Scott will pass something on to Lesa indicating these workshops took the place of the Fall Tech Training
 - a. Jeremy – also include a note in that email that discounted registration was extended to January 19
- 10. Budget proposal
 - a. Will be discussed at the annual business meeting (20 minutes)
 - i. Want to focus the discussion on expense items that could be adjusted
- 11. Chapter Operations Document (Derek)
 - a. Still a work in progress
- 12. Officer Nominations (Derek)
 - a. No nominations yet and the deadline has passed
 - b. May need emergency nomination procedure similar to last year since we won't have 30 days to vote prior to the meeting
 - c. Lesa can send another email reminder
 - d. Jeremy – AFS offers to cover national membership fees for board members. Is this holding people back from running?
 - e. Jason – Showing members what is in the Chapter Operations Document will give them a better feel for workload
 - f. Difficult to get employers to be supportive of participation, especially when meeting support is lacking
 - g. Vacant at large board position can be filled at any time through appointment
 - h. Scott Hyngstrom will be nominated for President-Elect
- 13. National Conference Student travel support. (Kristina)
 - a. The Board thinks the travel support should go to the chapter as a whole rather than an individual student
 - b. Board will take this up again after the conference to finalize procedures
 - c. Kristina will talk to student chapter leadership at Midwest
 - i. Jason – is Kristina communicating with Northland students? Kristina has been unsuccessful at communicating with Northland President and Vice President; Jason suggested contacting their advisor (Paula Anich)
 - d. Board would prefer that financial support be focused toward state meeting
- 14. Membership recruitment ideas and fundraising for future stability
 - a. Ongoing issue
 - b. Jeremy – had to write issue brief and send it to WDNR Division Administrator outlining benefits to participating in a professional society
 - i. Wildlife DNR statewide is being held June 12-13 in Wisconsin Rapids – perhaps do a half day WCTWS workshop?
 - 1. Might be an opportunity to get some membership signups

- c. Kelly plans on sending some email communications to folks that let their membership lapse through the parent chapter sign-up process; many forget to renew until February. She will also send reminders to folks who renewed just their state dues at the annual meeting last year. In the mean time we will use the old email list. Paying membership dues via PayPal is still a work in progress.

New Business

5. Midwest Items

- a. 2018 WCTWS Awards
 - i. Kris Johansen sent us final recommendations from the Awards Committee
 - ii. Committee will also be looking for new members
 - iii. Bob – moved to approve both the Wisconsin and Don Rusch award nominations from the Awards Committee, seconded by Jeremy
 - 1. Motion passed unanimously
 - iv. Leopold Scholarships – committee still voting on nominees, 4 applicants for graduate students, 3 for undergrad
 - v. Janice Lee Fenske – Derek participated on selection committee; process included many applicants
 - 1. We will provide \$250 to the wildlife award recipient
 - vi. Awards will be presented after New Business portion of our annual meeting (~6 PM on Tuesday)
 - 1. We need to get the word out to encourage members to attend the meeting and support award recipients since the setting is not traditional this year
- b. Juneau room in the Hilton is the location of the annual business meeting (somewhat far from poster social)
 - i. AV/room setup is paid for by the conference
- c. Menu options to provide some refreshments at the annual business meeting were ~\$1000; is it worth it?
 - i. In general it doesn't sound like it's worth it despite whatever grumbling occurs
 - ii. Jason – what if we do some kind of door prize? Derek will talk to raffle committee about potentially using some items that were donated that were not raffle worthy items
 - iii. Should we be investing more in our own meeting? We typically provide a banquet setting the night of our awards
 - iv. Hilton is restricting food/beverage items that are brought in via donation. Wisconsin Center is more amenable
 - 1. Can we get the room changed to somewhere in the Wisconsin Center in order to bring in donated food/beverage items? Derek will check, and if so, Jeremy will work on donations
- d. Business meeting agenda – Derek will send out today or tomorrow for board review
 - i. Derek will be contacting committee chairs for reports
 - ii. Kelly – send out frequent reminders about meeting stressing the opportunity to renew memberships, review the budget, and support award recipients.

- e. Presentation Awards
 - i. 8 students contacted Jason, 6 judges volunteered
 - ii. Several students are in Tuesday poster session during business meeting
 - iii. The awardees will be notified via email with an announcement to the entire chapter through email and the IT
 - iv. Will we be giving them a monetary award? Gift cards were used in the past
 - v. Might have to wait and see what the results are but originally announced we would have both grad and undergrad awards for poster and oral presentation categories
- f. Board meeting at 5 PM on Sunday of Midwest in room 103A of Wisconsin Center
- g. Student Leader Breakfast
 - i. Would be very difficult to fit in given all the other things going on at the conference
 - ii. Cost savings could be put toward annual meeting refreshments? ~\$200
 - iii. Derek and Kristina have talked about expanding student leader breakfast in the future – invite more attendees
 - iv. Breakfast is important in developing new student chapter leaders
- h. Booth space
 - i. Student chapters could sell stuff from there? Display information? WCTWS itself doesn't have any materials
 - ii. Kristina will ask student chapter leaders if there's any time they might use the booth space. Otherwise Derek and Jeremy will tell the steering committee we won't use it and it should be offered to other exhibitors.

Adjourned at 12:17 PM

WCTWS Executive Board Meeting Conference Call Meeting Minutes March 20, 2018

By Kelly VanBeek, Secretary/Treasurer

President Jeremy Holtz brought the meeting to order at 9:03 AM

Board Members Present: Jeremy Holtz, Scott Hyngstrom, Bob Holsman, Shawn Crimmins, Derek Johnson, Aletha Hefko, Lesa Kardash, Kelly VanBeek

- 3. Agenda repair and minute approval
 - a. We will handle agenda repair and minute approval by consensus
 - b. May need to move some items to April in the interest of time
 - c. Scott – do we have committees full?
 - i. Jeremy – no, so we should talk about that during this meeting if we have time
- 4. Finance Report (Kelly)

- a. See attached report
- b. Report approved by consensus

Old Business

15. What old business can we remove from the agenda?

- a. Financial investment
 - i. Continue to include in the financial report
- b. Budget proposal
 - i. Provide alongside regular financial report
 - ii. Budget proposal will be item of new business for the board in October and presented to membership in January/February
- c. Chapter Operations Document (Derek)
 - i. Derek will continue working on it and will bring it back to the board when he has a draft ready for review
- d. National Conference Student travel support
 - i. Want to focus on getting students to local meetings
 - ii. Need to come up with a process to allocate funds (application, split amongst student chapters?)
 - iii. May want to write it into the bylaws since the professional grants are in the bylaws
 - iv. Still needs to stay on old business because we are unsure how much money we will give out and process used to allocate funds

16. Spring issue of IT (Lesa)

- a. Will be combined winter/spring issue
- b. Deadline April 6th for material submissions, reminder will go out this week
- c. Will include everything from the winter meeting
- d. Need a picture from Jeremy for the Soapbox

17. 2018 Midwest Folo (financial (if available), workshops, business meeting)

- a. Delaney has not received the bill from the Wisconsin Center so we still haven't received any revenue from workshops or overall conference events
- b. Jeremy and Kelly will pass on information as soon as it is available
- c. Workshop follow-up
 - i. Scott received good feedback on both workshops
 - ii. Bob said the survey also indicated high ratings for workshops
- d. There was a follow-up survey from Delaney
 - i. Typical results so far – 1/3 gave good ratings, 1/3 gave ok ratings, 1/3 gave negative ratings
 - 1. Plenary received mixed reviews
 - 2. Most of the comments were about the venue being too large
 - 3. Positive and negative comments about the food
 - 4. Hard to please everyone
- e. Jeremy received mostly positive feedback from folks about the business meeting

- f. Some frustration about the lack of emphasis and priority placed on Chapter events, like the business meeting being place far away from other conference events, which may have limited participation
18. Section Update (Jeremy)
- a. Poor enrollment concerns
 - i. Difficult to sign up for memberships given that you have to sign up for national membership at the same time with the current website setup
 - ii. Also struggle to have an identity
 - 1. Are multiple membership levels redundant? Need a better value proposition
 - b. Money for workshops?
 - i. They have money for workshops but haven't advertised it – now advertised on website
 - 1. Jeremy might ask for some money for both a training and our winter meeting
 - c. Support for annual meeting?
 - i. We may ask them for financial support of our winter meeting
19. Membership recruitment ideas and fundraising for future stability
- a. Raise chapter dues?
 - i. Wide range across the section and country
 - ii. Average is \$13 in our Section
 - iii. When brought up as an idea at the business meeting, there weren't any significant objections
 - iv. We need to investigate how to actually increase dues
 - v. Could consider a different rate for students – could potentially leave at \$10
 - vi. What rate should we consider? \$15? \$20? (for professionals)
 - 1. May need to give out a swag item as a reward for membership
 - a. Another way to improve visibility
 - vii. Lesa could include something in the upcoming IT and poll membership
 - viii. Scott – language about dues in the bylaws, meaning we will have to provide some justification per that language
 - 1. Important part is that the current bylaws say it has to be voted on at the annual meeting
 - 2. Could change bylaws to remove all the language about CPI
 - 3. Maybe could tie this bylaws change in with a larger effort to change some bylaws including the student travel grant
 - 4. Last bylaws change was early 2016 – probably a simple amendment
 - 5. Could put out a bylaws change vote in summer
 - a. Add as new business for the next meeting – reviewing bylaws changes
 - b. Greater online participation (e.g. social media)?
 - c. Swag/goodies for enrollment? (stickers, hats, etc.)

New Business

- 6. Planning for 2019 winter meeting
 - a. Location (Rothschild?)

- i. Derek investigated late January/February at Stoney Creek for availability; will send out an email with dates after the meeting
 - ii. Check with other groups on potential conflicts
 - b. Venue (the usual)
 - i. Stoney Creek
 - c. Standalone (recommended)
 - d. Assignments and timelines
 - i. Board develops a theme; president elect helps set up sessions
 - 1. Scott would likely take a committee approach and improve participation of general membership
 - 2. President works with UW Madison to get programs printed
- 7. SAF Technical Training in Spring Green (Jeremy)
 - a. Jeremy advertised on Facebook
 - b. The training is an opportunity to provide information on somewhat controversial topics for DNR to discuss presently
- 8. Mid-year training ideas
 - a. Co-op with SAF?
 - i. Could provide some exposure to cooperating foresters
 - b. Co-op with DNR WM?
 - i. Potentially could fill a gap in the statewide program based on what WM won't cover
 - 1. Jeremy/Derek will try to share WM statewide agenda for review
 - ii. Being held in June in Wisconsin Rapids
 - iii. Probably more for professionals than students
- 9. 2018 TWS National meeting (Cleveland)
 - a. officer attendance
 - i. Traditionally send president-elect and up to 2 members at large
 - ii. Scott is planning on using his own funds to attend
 - 1. Could save the money or allow another member to attend
 - b. travel grants
 - i. Important to have a Chapter presence at this meeting
 - ii. Important to continue providing this as a value proposition for professional chapter members
- 10. Officer Nomination committee timeline?
 - a. Scott read off the committees stated in the bylaws
 - i. How many members do we have?
 - 1. 185 today
 - a. Need to reach out more to students; also should pick up members at the next winter meeting and summer training
 - b. Will continue discussion about all committees at the next meeting
- 11. Other items not addressed or I don't know about

Adjourn 10:26 AM

***WCTWS Executive Board Meeting
Conference Call Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2018***

By Jeremy Holtz, President

Board Members Present: Jeremy Holtz, Scott Hyngstrom, Aletha Hefko, Lesa Kardash

In the eyes of the chair a quorum was not present. Meeting was not called to order. Informal discussion about select portions of the agenda followed. No formal actions were taken. Discussion lasted until 12 p.m.

Financial Report for 4/24/18

Submitted by Kelly VanBeek, Secretary/Treasurer

Income

Membership	\$1,590.01
Donations	\$ 10.00
Account Interest	\$-3,029.57
Subtotal	\$ -1,429.56

Expenses

Midwest Workshops	\$ 2,666.47
Midwest Catering	\$ 536.80
Awards	\$1,051.13
Leopold	\$ 2,016.84
UWSP cut of silent auction	\$ 195.00
Administrative	\$ 12.00
Subtotal	\$ -6,283.24

YTD Cash Flow **\$ -7,712.80**

Account	1/1/18 Amount	4/24/18 Amount
CHECKING	\$69,489.70	\$1,546.47
Bjerke Transfer 01/09/18 of \$65,250.00		
SAVINGS 1	\$34,764.82	\$34,773.41
Leopold Account (SAVINGS 2)	\$20,411.30	\$18,416.05
Bjerke (VANGUARD)	\$65,250.00	\$62,207.09
Total Assets	\$124,665.82	\$116,953.02

WCTWS Annual Business Meeting
January 30, 2018
Hilton, Milwaukee, WI

By Kelly VanBeek, WCTWS Secretary/Treasurer

President Derek Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM

Board members present: Derek Johnson, Jason Riddle, Scott Hyngstrom, Bob Holsman, Kelly VanBeek, Kristina Kennedy, Lesa Kardash

54 general member present

Finance Report

-please see the attached financial reports (Appendix A, page 30)

Old Business

1. Financial investment final report (Derek and Kelly)
 - a. After extensive research by this and previous boards, the Bjerke corpus was invested in the Vanguard Wellington Fund (Admiral Shares). Please see the attached document, written by Scott Hyngstrom, outlining pros and cons of various investment options discussed (Appendix A, page 30).
2. North-central Section Representative to Council updates (John Moriarty)
 - a. Fairly quiet year at the national level. The spring meeting is in Norfolk Virginia and Cleveland will host the annual meeting in October.
 - b. TWS has been pushing give back program; renewing members can gift a 6-month membership to a non-member
 - c. Council has been assessing TWS national position statements and how these statements guide their work
 - i. Working on national position statement regarding predator control
 - d. Council is striving to keep all levels connected (parent, section, and local chapters)
3. North-central Section Update (Derek Johnson)
 - a. Financial planning and operations have been priorities this past year

New Business

4. Election results
 - a. President-elect is Scott Hyngstrom
 - b. At-large board member is Shawn Crimmins
5. Draft operating budget (20 min)
 - a. Please see attached draft budget (Appendix A, page 30)
 - b. Tim Van Deelen moved to accept the proposed 2018 budget. Robert Rolley seconded
 - i. Discussion – how do we deal with funding requests? How do we determine if the request will help us fulfill our mission?

- a. There have been efforts to assess what priorities members want to see (Brad Strobel conducted a membership survey last year and results were presented at the annual meeting).
 - b. Board has been using that loosely to determine if we should fund certain requests
 - c. Historically we had a \$1000 budget line item for discretionary spending
- c. Motion passed unanimously
- 6. Student representative's report (Kristina Kennedy)
 - a. Thanks to the chapter for providing a travel grant to student chapters for the national conference
 - b. The board is hoping to provide an application process for student chapter travel grants to encourage travel to local TWS meetings (Midwest and most importantly the state meeting)
 - c. Student rep position on the board now rotates to Northland
- 7. Student chapter president reports
 - a. Valerie Kenur (UW Madison)
 - i. Chapter conducted a variety of surveys and field work for DNR
 - ii. Also conducted outreach events
 - iii. 4 members taken to national meeting, successful at quiz bowl
 - iv. Game feed fundraiser
 - v. Student chapter of the year award from NCS
 - vi. Currently planning an event with Snapshot WI and other student tours
 - b. Kristina Rexroad (UW Stevens Point)
 - i. 148 paid members
 - ii. Thanked the chapter for helping take students to national meeting (18 students attended)
 - iii. Helping with Adopt a Wildlife Area Program at Buena Vista
 - iv. Contributed to a Stem Day for girls
 - v. Still providing opportunities for a variety of field activities to members
 - c. Jordan O Gara (Northland University)
 - i. Membership dropped – only had about 5 members at the beginning of the semester but now up to 20 members
 - ii. Try to conduct field work at each meeting
 - iii. Looking to increase funding options and field work experiences
- 8. Green fire group update: Tom Hauge
 - a. This can help fulfill the goals of WI Green Fire
 - b. Website for organization does exist
 - c. 12-person board of directors; first annual meeting last summer
 - d. Recently conducted a major fundraising effort
 - e. Trying to fill the void by providing scientific information and commenting on pieces of legislation; recently acted on the wolf bill and wetlands bill
 - f. Currently going through process for 501c3; in process of hiring part time assistant; trying to populate work groups including a wildlife work group
 - g. Not as constrained as folks may be who are associated with certain agencies

- h. Also have a Facebook page
 - 9. Issues committee reports
 - a. Deer management: Keith McCaffery
 - i. No report
 - b. Farmland wildlife: Mark Witecha
 - i. No report
 - c. Forestry: Ron Eckstein
 - i. See report on page 22
 - d. Furbearers: John Olson
 - i. See report on page 23
 - e. Government affairs: Derek Johnson on behalf of Chuck Pils
- Chuck will keep us posted on AB 712. Chuck is also doing somework with AB 499, the sulfide mining bill. He also commented on the bill that impacted student fees at Universities, which would have impacted our student organizations during the state biennial budget process.
- f. Wildlife damage management: Daniel Hirschert
- Dan would be happy to look at the position statement from the parent chapter about predator control.
- g. Wolf management: Randy Jurewicz
 - i. See report on page 24

Awards Presentation -

- 10. The Wisconsin Award (see page 16)
- 11. Don Rusch Memorial Award (see page 17)
- 12. Leopold Scholarships (see page 19)

2017 Wisconsin Award Recipient Tom Nicholls

*By Kris Johansen, Awards Committee
Chair*

The 2017 Wisconsin Award is being presented to Tom Nicholls. Tom is a native of Madison, Wisconsin and received his B.S. in Zoology in 1960 from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In 1964 Tom received his M.S. in Forest pathology from UW-Madison and then went on to receive his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1973. His dissertation was titled "Ecology of Barred Owls as Determined by an



Automatic Radio-Tracking System”. Tom was an early pioneer in the use of radio telemetry on birds and his work was truly ground-breaking, developing radio telemetry techniques that were used on raptors for the first time.

Tom went on to work for the USDA Forest Service, serving as a Project Leader, research wildlife biologist, and forest pathologist at the North Central Research Station, in St. Paul, MN. Though Tom is now retired, he continues working as a Forest Service Volunteer and holds a Federal master bird banding permit. His professional career accomplishments span research, management, and education, and he has linked these three aspects of his career and passion into a cohesive message that has reached thousands of people.

Tom is an extraordinary naturalist with a life-long passion for birds. To feed that passion, Tom and his wife, Mary Lou, started the Fifield Nature Education Center on their property in 2001 with the goal of hooking kids on nature. Tom’s and Mary Lou’s thousands of visitors have learned about banding, capture and survey techniques, radio telemetry, forest diseases, forest management and much more. Tom’s photos show how delighted the kids are when they actually have a bird in the hand! Doubtless, he has touched the lives of many children and has changed some lives along the way.

Another one of Tom’s interests been the importance of stop-over habitat for Neotropical migratory birds during migration. Tom’s research on the habitat preferences of birds during migration through Fifield, Wisconsin confirmed the importance of shrubby wetlands to birds as feeding and resting areas. During this study, which was conducted from 1989-1992, Tom and his crew captured and banded over 4,000 birds (plus over 1,300 recaptures) of 89 species.

Conducting research, especially research on birds and sharing his knowledge about what he learns are a way of life for Tom. His never-ending curiosity, boundless energy, love of teaching, and genuine enthusiasm are infectious. Travel with him and his ever-present tally counter and you’ll hear the ‘click-click’ of Tom counting anything and everything - hawks per mile, lightning in an hour, or grazing wildebeasts. His curiosity truly knows no limits! He even keeps a log of the species of mice he catches in the basement!

Tom has made tremendous lifelong contributions to the field of wildlife research and education, plant pathology, and wildlife disease and continues to do so. He is most deserving to be this year’s recipient of The Wisconsin Award. Please join me in congratulating Tom Nicholls as the 2017 Wisconsin Award recipient.

2017 Don Rusch Memorial Award Recipient Jamie Nack

By Kris Johansen, Awards Committee Chair

This year’s recipient exemplifies the criteria for the Don Rusch Award, actively working in the field of wildlife management and education, an active member in good standing with the Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society and an active participant and strong supporter in the role of hunting in wildlife conservation.

Our recipient interacts annually with thousands of people in a variety of ways – answering phone calls and emails about a myriad of questions about Wisconsin’s wildlife, disseminating information about managing wildlife at venues like Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Garden Expo, and the Wisconsin State Fair, and is a regular guest on the Wonderful World of Wildlife with Larry Meiller on Wisconsin Public Radio.

No program better reflects our recipient's commitment to wildlife management and education than the "Coverts Project". Coverts workshops bring together 25-30 woodland owners for a 4-day workshop packed with lectures, demonstrations, field tours and fireside discussions on a wide range of wildlife and forestry topics. Since our recipient assumed responsibility for Coverts, some 500 landowners have become enthusiastic "cooperators". Our recipient's attention to detail, organizational skills, and personal connections with the cooperators are the driving factors in the success of coverts.



Our recipient also leads and teaches one of 4 student groups in skills as diverse as trapping, wildlife inventory, vegetation sampling, data analysis, and report writing. She has had a lasting impact on the students she has taught. One former student and graduate of the UW-Madison wildlife program had the following to say about our recipient: *"The first things that come to mind when thinking about her are encouragement and positivity. She is a favorite of students due to her positivity. Jamie Nack was very influential in my education. She made me feel very welcome in the wildlife ecology major at UW-Madison. She always had time to meet and give advice. I had not even considered the possibility of graduate school until she suggested it. And her involvement doesn't end at graduation. I still ask her for advice and she still makes the time for me. She continues to have a large influence on my professional career."*

It is hard to find some way Jamie Nack has not been involved in or positively impacted the WCTWS. She has served as chapter President, webmaster, and professional mentor to students in the UW-Madison TWS student chapter. Furthermore, Jamie was integral to helping the WCTWS successfully host TWS's national meeting in Madison in 2005 and Milwaukee in 2013. She has always been willing to help any way she can to promote and support the WCTWS.

Jamie is a lifelong hunter and an unflinching advocate for hunting as well as a hunting educator. An example of Jamie's commitment to hunting is her involvement in Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLfT), a program that started in Wisconsin in the 1990's and became a major national program. CLfT is designed to expose future resource management professionals who have no prior hunting experience to the importance of our hunting heritage to wildlife conservation, the motivation and demographics of hunters, the role of hunting in society and many other topics. Participants complete Hunter Education, learn how to shoot, and participate in a mentored pheasant hunt. Running a CLfT session is a logistical nightmare, but as with Coverts, Jamie handles all the administrative details for the workshop held on the UW campus each spring semester. Jamie is also a national instructor for CLfT and serves on the National Advisory Committee.

As summed up by Scott Craven, Don Rusch's first graduate student and close friend, "Don would be thrilled with the kind of work Jamie is doing, especially her emphasis on hunting and trapping at a time when these important activities have all but vanished from most college curricula. Jamie is a most worthy recipient of the Don Rusch Award."

2017 Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarship Graduate Student Recipient Christine Anhalt-Depies

By Lesa Kardash, Scholarship Chair



The 2017 Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarship graduate recipient is pursuing her PhD in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

As a child, she spent countless hours with her Dad on the marsh in pursuit of ducks with their dog. Those experiences helped shape her desire to ensure the future of wildlife and the wild places they make their home. As with Aldo Leopold, this love of all things wild has made her research more than simply an academic pursuit.

She obtained her Masters of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development. Her thesis focused on developing a non-lethal method for dealing with wolf depredations on livestock in northern Wisconsin. She worked independently to design the research, conduct the field work, analyze the data, summarize her findings, and publish. Along with her coursework, she accomplished this in record time. As one of her recommenders put it “there are few among the best of our students who could have pulled this off.” Over the course of her work, she came to realize how important human dimensions are to managing wildlife and added a social component to her thesis. She received a

Doris Duke Fellowship recognizing her valuable work.

Following her masters, she continued to work on human dimensions research as a research scientist for the Wisconsin DNR as part of the Snapshot Wisconsin project. During her involvement, she recognized an opportunity to pursue a PhD on the human dimensions of citizen science. Much of the project developed out of her own initiative (again), resulting in a cutting-edge proposal that will answer fundamental questions on the connects between wildlife and citizen science, focusing on the essential question about what keeps citizens engaged in citizen science. She has exciting preliminary data that she has presented at several venues. She also organized a panel on citizen science at this year’s Midwest.

Simply stated in a letter of support, [she] “is the full package.” She’s done wildlife research in remote field settings to office data analysis. Her coursework has covered traditional wildlife management to social sciences. She successfully works across agency and academic boundaries. She is a dedicated, enthusiastic teacher, sharing her time and knowledge across a spectrum from university lecture halls to landowner workshops. Her academic performance is excellent. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her masters and PhD, and a long list of academic honors.

I would like to end with a few quotes from her letters of support. [She has} a level of professionalism that is well above her peers.” [She} is destined for remarkable leadership in the profession as a scientist and mentor.”

Please join me in recognizing and congratulating Christine Anhalt-Depies.

2017 Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarship Undergraduate Student Recipient - Rachel Konkel

By Lesa Kardash, Scholarship Chair

The 2017 Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarship undergraduate recipient graduated in December from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with degrees in both Wildlife Ecology and Communications.

She has been active with within the student chapter of TWS since she was a freshman, quickly becoming a leader in several projects, assisting in workshops, taking a lead role in planning the 2016 North Central Section Student Conclave, and serving as an officer and web designer.

She was a field technician on a greater prairie chicken research project in central WI, where she assisted in radio-telemetry, nest monitoring, and vegetation analysis. She was selected among nearly 400 undergrads to receive a Doug Stephens Boone & Crockett Undergraduate Research Fellowship. She used this opportunity to tackle an independent study where she estimated the time of greater prairie chicken nest failure using circular statistics, an approach new to even her advisor. She presented her preliminary results at the 2016 WI Chapter of TWS annual meeting and was recognized for “Best Undergraduate Presentation.” She presented the next stage of her work. “Determining the temporal ecology and predation of GPC nests” at the 2017 WI Chapter of TWS annual meeting and was selected for “Best Undergraduate Presentation” again (a first for anyone within our state chapter).



She has chosen to utilize her exemplary communication skills to serve as a mentor to her fellow students. She tutored students at the writing lab, served as an academic resource coordinator to in-hall residents by advising them on everything from time management to test anxiety, and served as a resource for students as a teaching assistant, setting up and overseeing labs, necropsies, and exams.

Her strong interests in communication also led her to the world of video production. She was a member of Stevens Point TV, assisting with producing news shows. As a project assistant for the WI Center for Wildlife, she took the lead in developing six professional quality videos highlighting wildlife research and management accomplishments at the university. Additionally, she has developed touchscreen kiosks, social media posts, and a website for the Center.

Despite all these involvements, she still found time to volunteer with The Environmental Stewards of Sauk Prairie and maintain over a 3.9 GPA in both her majors.

I'd like to share a few quotes from her letters of recommendation. “She is an outstanding student, an incredible researcher, and an active member of our student chapter of TWS.” “Her unique combination of academic, research, communication, and professional skills are unmatched.”

This year's recipient plans to attend graduate school and ultimately pursue a natural resources career in which she can utilize writing and filmmaking. In her words, "By telling nature's story, I aim to help educate, inspire, and reconnect people to wildlife and the natural world." Please join me in recognizing and congratulating Rachel Konkel.

Best Student Paper

By Jason Riddle, WCTWS Member/Past President

As you know, our state winter meeting co-occurred with the Midwest Fish and Wildlife meeting in Milwaukee. Nevertheless, we were able to evaluate student presenters from our state chapter and/or Wisconsin student chapters. This year, we had a variety of exceptional student talks as well as posters. Each student was evaluated by 3 judges and we had 10 individuals from our chapter volunteer for that role.

The award for best graduate student presentation went to Kali Rush from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. Her poster was titled "Wood Duck Demography in WI: Pilot season field methods and summary". Kali is a MS student in Wildlife and is advised by Dr. Jacob Straub.

The award for best undergraduate student presentation went to Emily Masterton for her poster on "The Anthropogenic Effects on the Urban and Rural Coyote Diet". Emily is a Wildlife Ecology and Management major at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. Her undergraduate research was advised by Dr. Cady Sartini.

Many thanks to all of our students who presented this year! Also, many thanks to the judges who worked so hard to get to all of their assigned posters and talks!

Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award for Outstanding Student Recipients

By Derek Johnson, WCTWS Past President

The Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award for Outstanding Students is one of the highest individual recognitions a student can attain at the Midwest level for The Wildlife Society. This year we are proud to recognize finalists for this award that are members of our Wisconsin Student Chapter at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. There were sixteen finalists for the wildlife student award of which four were members of the UWSP student chapter. Those students include McKenna Hammons, Rachel Konkle, Jordan Meyers and Abby Weigel. Through a rigorous selection process that keys in on passion for the practical wildlife management, mentoring, involvement in wildlife organizations and strength of character, our very own Jordan Meyers was selected as the 2018 Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award winner for wildlife. Along with the award came a \$500 cash prize for Jordan's accomplishments.

Jordan is Masters candidate at UWSP focusing on bat ecology and white-nose syndrome. His academic success is highly noted, but his practical approach to wildlife management was key. Jordan's experience and qualifications in all judging criteria were exceptional, placing him at the top this year. The Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society would like to congratulate Jordan once again on this honor.



Truisms - Contributed by Tom Bahti

Shamelessly borrowed, stolen and plagiarized from other sources

Restroom air dryers are a great way to warm your hands before drying them on your pants.

I can tell by your sarcastic undertones, rude comments and sheer lack of common decency, that we could be best friends in no time.

I don't remember much from last night, but the fact that I needed sunglasses to open the fridge this morning tells me it was awesome.

I like to surround myself with people who enjoy my witty sarcasm, crazy ideas and solid love of Tanqueray.

Just because it's a bad idea doesn't mean it won't be a good time.

Some days I amaze myself. Other days, I look for my phone while I'm holding it.

The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

Sometimes I just want someone to hug me and say: "I know it's hard. You're going to be okay. Here's a coffee. And 5 million dollars."

Issue Committee Updates

Climate Change (vacant)

Deer: Keith McCaffery No report.

Farm Wildlife: Mark Witecha No report.

Forestry Issues Committee: Ron Eckstein

January 1 through March 31, 2018

Silviculture Guidance Team meetings attended:

- January 18 Team conference call
- February 8 Rotation Age Team conference call
- February 13 Team meeting at Merrill
- March 2 Team meeting at Stevens Point

Governor's Council on Forestry meetings attended:

- January 1 at Stevens Point
- March 28 at Madison

Correspondence to the Natural Resources Board

- January 25 Management of ATVs on State Forests
 - February 20 Concern for forests per DNR land trade at Kohler - Andrae State Park
- March 3 Support for public lands fee question on the Spring Questionnaire

Furbearer & Trapping Issues: John Olson

January 30, 2018

On a local, statewide level the committee is not aware of any furbearer or regulated trapping issues. At the same time there is active furbearer and carnivore research occurring across the state from the southwest, through north-central counties and even on the Apostle Islands. Depending on the project there are numerous collaborators including willing trappers; the WTA; DNR; university, college and tribal researchers; GLIFWC; federal agencies; landowners and interested volunteers.

On a national level there is heightened activity. A lawsuit, filed in early May 2016 by WildEarth Guardians (Plaintiff) claimed the USFWS (Defendant) "...violates its own purpose by facilitating export of pelts of bobcats, gray wolves, brown bears, river otters and Canada lynx." The focus is the CITES Export Program managed by the Service through which states and tribes may receive tagging authority via a lengthy application that includes a detailed background of their management program (rules, regulations, tagging, research, etc.) as well as habitat status and management plans. The Plaintiffs specific argument is the Service never did a thorough review of NEPA and long-term impacts of harvest on selected species. The Service, in May of 2017, issued a Final Environmental Assessment for its CITES Program. Shortly thereafter, in July of 2017 the Plaintiffs' attorneys countered with a claim stating the Services' assessment: "...violates NEPA and its implementing regulations and is arbitrary, capricious, and otherwise not in accordance with law...", and asking the court, among other things to impose temporary restraining orders on tag issuance (and of course), pay for Plaintiffs' attorney costs! On November 23, 2017 the Fur Information Council, Montana Trappers Association, and National Trappers Association asked the judge to dismiss, as this action would infringe on the authority of states and tribes to manage their wildlife. In the meantime, attorneys from two of our state agencies are reviewing this issue and working with an anonymous state employee (and WCTWS member) to assist and prepare for any event that might jeopardize our states' management programs.

On a positive note (!) the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) continues to assist the states on overall furbearer management needs; humane trap research and Outreach Programs. The Furbearer Technical Working Group of AFWA is meeting in New Orleans at this very moment and we're fortunate to have one of our WCTWS members, Jonathan Gilbert, an active participant of this prestigious national group. Among other important topics this group will discuss recent surveys (national trap use and citizen opinion), past outreach efforts and then make recommendations on future trap research and multiple outreach projects. Two such efforts: Trapping Matters Workshops and Fur School Workshops have become priority efforts. Created and developed here in Wisconsin, through support of regional AFWA organizations and interested states, we now have "standing" Fur School programs in the Northeast (NY), Southeast (KY), Midwest (WI), and Northwest (ID).

On a global scale we worked with US delegates and AFWA on a serious "scare" that occurred in Europe. With little to no information a EU committee recommended dissolution of International Organization of Standards (ISO) protocols for humane trap research! Canada, the U.S., and trade organizations came together to provide this committee (and others) with factual information and the importance of such standards. The recommendation was eventually dropped.

And one trivia note: last year at this time the chairman of this committee traveled to Portugal to represent the U.S. humane trap research program at a World Trapper Conference. Catch me somewhere and I'll give you the interesting details of the conference; the young "Harry Potters of Europe" and vineyards! Have a great conference.

Government Affairs: Chuck Pils No report.

Wildlife Damage: Daniel Hirschert No report.

Wolves: Randy Jurewicz

Update was provided by Adrian Wydeven during the winter business meeting.

Eric Anderson testified for WC-TWS in January against SB602 (Senator Tom Tiffany et al. sponsor) and AB712 (Assembly Adam Jarchow et al. sponsors). The bills would have taken away authority from WDNR to conduct research and monitoring on the state wolf population, and would have prohibited WDNR for investigating, apprehending, convicting, or assisting in illegal wolf kill investigations. Tom Hauge (AB712) and Jerry Bartelt (SB602) gave testimony for Wisconsin Green Fire, pointed out the many problems with the bill, and Adrian Wydeven for Timber Wolf Alliance spoke out against the bills. The coordinated effort of the three organizations helped defeat the bills that never made it to discussions within either house.

Fred Riser recently proposed a bill to eliminate payments on hounds killed by wolves in the state, but the committee opted not to comment on that bill.

The survey conducted by Timber Wolf Alliance in Fall 2016 of WC-TWS members on potential wolf goals for Wisconsin is now published on the TWA web site as a White Paper. While WC-TWS members did not have a preferred wolf goal for the state, there was very little support for the existing goal of 350 wolves, and greater support for higher goals or a non-numeric goal.

https://www.northland.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Olson_Wydeven_2017_TWS_Membership_Opinion_Survey_2016_f.pdf

Student Chapter Corner

Northland College

By Michaela Fisher, President

No report.

University of Wisconsin-Madison



By Valerie Knurr, President

The UW Madison Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has had a busy spring semester. We started out with Conservation Warden Jake Donar, a UW Wildlife Ecology alum, speaking about his job and what it is like to work for the DNR. We had a lot of events including a tour of the CWD testing station in Black Earth, a Snap-a-thon in partnership with Snapshot Wisconsin where teams competed to classify as many trail cam photos as possible, a trip to the UW Arboretum for Madison Reads Leopold and a hike, and an ice skating social with the Forestry Club. We also had former WDNR herpetologist and current director of Turtles for Tomorrow, Bob Hay, speak about Wood Turtle conservation. In April we had a Crafts for Conservation event in partnership with the Henry Vilas Zoo where our members created crafts out of snares from South East Asia that were being used to illegally trap Saolas. These crafts are sold to make money for Saola conservation efforts. We are also taking a trip to a Maple syrup festival at the Mackenzie Center and participating in Science Expeditions for an outreach event. We plan on attending a naturalist lead hike in Owen Conservation Park and cleaning up a highway segment on Earth Day. We will also be participating in the DNR citizen science Frog and Toad Survey and the Great Wisconsin Birdathon like we've done for many years.

This semester we have been focusing on getting as many people involved as possible, especially underclassmen. We did a member survey to see how we can improve our club. We followed that up with an officer shadow meeting where members who were thinking about running for an officer position could experience an officer meeting and get a better understanding of the organization's leadership. We have also tried to increase the number of events we offer to so more people can participate and members have more options. We hope these efforts will have a lasting impact on the club and keep members invested for years to come.





University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point



By Katherine Rexroad, President

The students of the Stevens Point Wildlife Society chapter started 2018 with a bang! Over 50 Pointers, both faculty and students, attended the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference this year in Milwaukee, WI. We had 5 poster presentations with multiple student authors, and multiple students took home awards. Organization member Emily Masterson won best undergrad presentation and UWSP graduate student Kali Rush won the best graduate presentation. Alumni Rachel Konkle received the Aldo Leopold Award from the Wisconsin state chapter of the Wildlife Society and graduate student Jordan Meyer received the Janice Lee Fenske Award! We would also like to congratulate Dr. Scott Hygnstrom and Dr. Shawn Crimmins for getting elected to serve on the Wisconsin State chapter board.





Along with conferences, participating in the Adopt a Wildlife Area project with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources keeps our members busy! During the month of February, 30 Pointers became chainsaw certified through the program. We also have had multiple work days on the area to allow our members to practice their new skills. Additional research projects that took volunteers out this semester include the woodpecker project, ruffed grouse project, lagomorph project, waterfowl project, and whitetail deer project. The saw whet owl project presented data from their fall season at both the Midwest conference and the Izaak Walton League local chapter. Unrelated to research, McKenna Hammons, our chapter treasurer, initiated the showing of the Aldo Leopold film "Green Fire" in early March. Finally, elections for our 2018-2019 student officer team will be held on April 17th. Our organization has lots of goals for the future and a dedicated group of students to pursue them!



The Wildlife Professional

Submitted by Lowell Suring, TWS

This award-winning publication of The Wildlife Society provides wildlife professionals with articles and links to news and analysis that help to inform us about advances in wildlife science, conservation, management, policy, and education. It features in-depth articles, summaries of relevant scientific papers, profiles of wildlife professionals, new field techniques, and much more.

The North Central Section's representative on the Editorial Advisory Board for *The Wildlife Professional* (TWP) is Lowell Suring (lowell@northern-ecologic.com). He is your link to providing your thoughts and ideas about this publication to The Wildlife Society. As you read the publication, if you come across features or articles you particularly liked, disliked, or wanted to comment on, let Lowell know and he will take your thoughts to the Board and the Editor. Also, if you have ideas about subjects you would like to see covered in TWP, or would like to submit an article for publication, let Lowell know. This is your publication, help make it the best it can be.



Madison Public Hearings Update

By Dr. Eric Anderson

Recently, public hearings for 2 bills, AB712/SB602, were held in the capitol. The bills would specifically prohibit Wisconsin law enforcement officers from enforcing any laws related to the management or killing of wolves. The bills also called for discontinuing funding for wolf management, monitoring, and research until gray wolves are removed from the federal endangered species list. The legislative sponsors felt these bills, if passed, would exert pressure on the federal government to accelerate the delisting of the wolf.

I spoke on behalf of the WC-TWS on Jan 10 and 16 outlining why we were opposed to the legislation. I emphasized that our organization was strongly in favor of returning control of wolf management to the state of Wisconsin, however, our concern was that the sacrifices made in pursuing that end through these bills would actually reduce our opportunities to regain state management control of the species and might cost us financially and legally in both the short and long run. I spoke specifically to 3 areas of concern: 1) abdicating responsibility for managing wolves, 2) prohibiting data collection/research on wolves in Wisconsin, and 3) not consulting with the tribes. Adrian Wydeven, representing the Timber Wolf Alliance, also spoke against the bill, as did Tom Hauge and Jerry Bartelt, representing Wisconsin Green Fire.

The majority of testifiers on both bills were in opposition, however, several powerful organizations were in support – Wisconsin Bear Hunters, Wisconsin Conservation Congress, and Wisconsin Independent Businesses.

The extreme nature of the bill makes it seemingly inconceivable that it could move forward in the legislative process, however, recent experiences with legislative and executive actions make its future uncertain. Senator Erpenbach noted that no fiscal analysis of the bill had been done yet and should have been done prior to the public hearings. There are concerns that the bill might put Pittman-Robinson money at risk which represents \$19 million annually to the wildlife budget. Watch for updates in the coming months.

Madison Reads Leopold

The Arboretum held the 13th Annual “Madison Reads Leopold” event at their visitor center in Madison on March 3, 2018. This was a community read-aloud event to celebrate the life and legacy of Aldo Leopold. Throughout the day, a mix of readers gave voice to Leopold’s words, including our very own Chuck Pils, who read on behalf of the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Thank you, Chuck!



WCTWS Executive Board

Jeremy Holtz, President Jeremy.Holtz@wi.gov	Scott Hygnstrom, President-Elect Scott.Hygnstrom@uwsp.edu
Derek Johnson, Past President Derek.Johnson@wi.gov	Kelly VanBeek, Sec./Treasurer WCTWS.secretary@gmail.com
Shawn Crimmins, Board Member Shawn.Crimmin@uwsp.edu	Robert Holsman, Board Member Robert.Holsman@wi.gov
Lesa Kardash, Newsletter Editor skuldt@uwalumni.com	Aletha Hefko, Student Rep. Hefkoa821@myemail.northland.edu

WCTWS Issue Committees

Climate Change Vacant Keith.McCaffery@wisconsin.gov	Deer Keith McCaffery
Farm Wildlife Mark Witecha markjwitecha@yahoo.com	Forestry Ron Eckstein roneckstein@charter.net
Furbearer John Olson Johnfolson51@gmail.com	Government Affairs Chuck Pils cmpils@sbcglobal.net
Wildlife Damage Daniel Hirschert Daniel.L.Hirschert@aphis.usda.gov	Wolves Randy Jurewicz jurewrb@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Jamie Nack
jlnack@wisc.edu

Facebook Administrators

Jeremy Holtz, Lesa Kardash, Kelly VanBeek

Website: <http://wildlife.org/wisconsin>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wisconsin-Chapter-of-The-Wildlife-Society/963763133656811>

Appendix A

Winter Business Meeting Handouts

Financial Report

Income

Membership	\$ 2,316.08
Winter Meeting Registration	\$ 14,249.07
Winter Meeting Sponsors/Exhibitors	\$ 2,250.00
Winter Meeting Fundraisers	\$ 1,540.14
Account Interest	\$ 1,226.36
Subtotal	\$ 21,581.65

Expenses

Winter Meeting 2017	\$ 15,256.88
Winter Meeting Fundraisers - expenses	\$ 116.05
UWSP cut of silent auction	\$ 195.00
Travel Grants	\$ 4,616.90
Awards	\$ 756.68
Scholarships	\$ 2,020.83
Administrative	\$ 224.10
WI League of Conservation Voters	\$ 500.00
WI Conservation Hall of Fame	\$ 250.00
Wisconsin Green Fire	\$ 500.00
Midwest Raffle	\$ 223.98
Midwest Conference Expenses	\$ 295.00

Subtotal \$ 24,955.42

YTD Cash Flow **\$ (3,373.77)**

		01/01/2017	12/31/2017	YTD	
CHECKING		\$5,339.83	\$69,489.70	\$64,149.87	\$0 in cash box
<i>Bjerke Transfer 12/28/17</i>	<i>\$65,250</i>				
<i>Transfer from Savings 1, 12/13/17</i>	<i>\$3,500</i>				
SAVINGS 1		\$15,973.97	\$34,764.82	\$18,790.85	
<i>CUNA Brokerage transfer 3/22/17</i>	<i>\$20,409.41</i>				
<i>Bjerke Transfer 9/24/17</i>	<i>\$64,515.67</i>				
<i>Transfer to Checking Account 12/13/17</i>	<i>\$3,500.00</i>				
<i>Transfer from Leopold Account 12/22/17</i>	<i>\$2,567.35</i>				

Transfer Bjerke Funds to Checking

12/28/17 \$65,250.00

Interest \$48.42

	01/01/2017	12/31/2017	YTD
Leopold Account (SAVINGS 2)	\$22,955.69	\$20,411.30	-\$2,544.39

Transfer to Savings 1 to balance account -\$2,567.35

Interest \$22.96

CD2 (BJERKE)

	\$64,327.87	\$0.00	\$64,515.67
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Interest \$187.80

CUNA BROKERAGE

	\$19,442.23	\$0.00	-\$20,409.41
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Interest \$967.18

Total Assets	\$128,039.59	\$128,665.82	-\$3,373.77
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FY 18 Budget for WCTWS

INCOME		YTD
MEMBERSHIP		
Membership (225 Members)	\$2,250.00	\$1,590.01
WINTER MEETING		
Winter Meeting Registration (goal)	\$15,000.00	
Winter Meeting Sponsors/Exhibitors (goal)	\$2,500.00	
FUNDRAISERS		
Winter Meeting Fundraisers Gross Income (goal)	\$1,500.00	
TECHNICAL TRAINING		
Annual Technical Training	\$1,000.00	
INVESTMENTS		
Bjerke Interest Income (Assume 5% on corpus amount)	\$3,262.50	-\$3,042.91
Other Account Interest and Donations		\$23.34
Subtotal	\$25,512.50	-\$1,429.56
Student Chapter Travel Grants	\$1,000.00	
AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS		
Awards (Don Rusch, Wisconsin, Student Papers)	\$1,000.00	-\$1,051.13
Leopold Scholarships	\$2,050.00	-\$2,016.84
FUNDRAISERS		
Winter Meeting Fundraisers Gross Expenses (including UWSP cut of silent auction)	\$400.00	
ADMINISTRATIVE		
Administrative (postage, PO Box, office supplies)	\$250.00	-\$12.00
WINTER MEETING		
Winter Meeting Gross Expenses	\$16,000.00	
TECHNICAL TRAINING		
Annual Technical Training	\$1,000.00	
SPONSORSHIP/DONATIONS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS		
WI Conservation Hall of Fame Membership	\$150.00	
Traditional annual donation to League of Conservation Voters	\$500.00	
Other specific funding requests	\$1,000.00	
Midwest Costs CY18		-\$3,203.27
Subtotal	\$27,150.00	-\$6,283.24
Net Cash Flow Projected	-\$1,637.50	-\$7,712.80

WCTWS Finance Committee Recommendations for Potential Investments

A motion was approved by the WCTWS Finance Committee that recommends that the WCTWS Board choose one of following three options for investing \$65,250 of the Bjerke Fund:

1. 100% in the Vanguard Wellington Fund (currently 65% Stocks, 31% Bonds, 4% Short-term), or
2. 65% in the Vanguard Social Index Fund (100% Stocks) and 35% in the Vanguard Long-term Bond Index Fund (100% Bonds), or
3. 50% in the Vanguard Social Index Fund (100% Stocks) and 50% in the Vanguard Long-term Bond Index Fund (100% Bonds).

Explanation of Competing Funds

The Vanguard Wellington Fund has more potential returns and higher risk with 65% in stocks. It also has a higher expense ratio (0.25%, Table 1) because it has managers that change about 30% of the stock and bond assets annually, which costs money, but may provide some safeguard against catastrophic losses in particular stocks. It has a high social responsibility index with only 11% of its distribution in Industrial stocks (in particular, Chevron and Bristol – Myers). The majority of its distributions are in IT (Microsoft, Google, Comcast, Verizon) and Finances (JP Morgan Chase Bank, Bank of America). You can learn more at <https://personal.vanguard.com/us/funds/snapshot?FundIntExt=INT&FundId=0021#tab=2>.

The Vanguard Social Index Fund moves away some from Industrial Stocks and does not include any in its top ten holdings. Rather, they shift their distribution, albeit 100% stocks which have high risk, to more IT (Apple, Microsoft, Google, Facebook), Financial (JP Morgan Chase Bank, Bank of America, Wells Fargo), and Health Care (Johnson and Johnson, Procter and Gamble, Pfizer). The expense ratio is 0.22% because people have to keep track of the environmental, social, and political nature of the assets. You can learn more at <https://personal.vanguard.com/us/funds/snapshot?FundIntExt=INT&FundId=0213#tab=2>.

The Vanguard Long-term Bond Index Fund is 100% bonds, which are quite secure, relative to individual stocks and stock funds. Concomitantly, their returns typically are much lower than stocks. Their expense ratio (0.15%) is low because it is an Index fund and market does most of the work to determine which individual bonds are held in the portfolio. Most of the individual bonds are in the US Treasury/Government (40%) and Industrial (37%) which aren't necessarily socially responsible. You can learn more at <https://personal.vanguard.com/us/funds/snapshot?FundIntExt=INT&FundId=0522#tab=0>.

Table 1. Key factors associated with selected Vanguard Funds that should influence the decision-making process, including relative risk of losing principal investment (1-low to 5-high), rate of returns (1-, 5, and 10-year), minimum investments, initiation fees, and expense ratios (annual fee charged to maintain a fund, based on a percentage of the assets).

Fund Name	Risk 1-5	Minimum Investment	Initial Fee	Expense Ratio	1-year	Return 5-year	10-year
Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fund 100% Stocks	4	\$10,000	\$0	0.04%	23.96%	15.07%	7.72%
Vanguard 500 Index Fund 100% Stocks	4	\$10,000	\$0	0.04%	23.59%	14.54%	7.37%
Vanguard Social Index Fund 100% Stocks	4	\$ 3,000	\$0	0.22%	26.14%	16.79%	7.40%
Vanguard Long-term Bond Index Fund 100% Bonds	2	\$ 3,000	\$0	0.15%	2.13%	3.67%	7.14%
Vanguard Govt Nat Mort Assoc (GNMA) 100% Bonds	2	\$ 3,000	\$0	0.21%	0.22%	1.89%	4.08%
Vanguard Wellington 65% Stocks, 31% Bonds, 4% Short-term	3	\$ 3,000	\$0	0.25%	16.15%	10.40%	6.98%
Vanguard Admiral 60% Stocks, 40%, Bonds	3	\$10,000	\$0	0.07%	14.21%	9.79%	6.63%