



THE WILDLIFE SAMPLER

Newsletter of The New England Chapter
of The Wildlife Society
Fall/Winter 2018

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The 75th Annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference

April 14-16, 2019

Mystic Marriott Hotel, Groton, Connecticut.

Hosted by the CT DEEP, the annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference attracts over 500 natural resources professionals in the fields of wildlife biology, fisheries and fisheries management, outreach and education, and law enforcement. The event provides opportunities for education, discussion, and exchanging of ideas. Highlights include: a Plenary Session & Awards Presentation, Concurrent Technical Sessions & Special Symposia, Poster Session, and Networking Events. Please visit the website for more information.

<https://www.neafwa.org/conference.html>

Chapter Workshop:

'Road Ecology and Landscape Connectivity'

In October, the New England Chapter Executive Committee agreed to postpone the annual Fall workshop. The workshop is now planned for Spring 2019, consecutive with the Spring business meeting. More details to come!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recovering America's Wildlife Act: A 21st Century Model of Wildlife Conservation Funding

Everyone, I am dedicating this edition of the President's Message to the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. The **Recovering America's Wildlife Act** (H.R. 4647), introduced by Representatives Debbie Dingell (D-Michigan) and Jeff Fortenberry (R-Nebraska) in late 2017, would provide \$1.3 billion in dedicated annual funding to state fish and wildlife agencies. The funding would largely go

toward conserving and monitoring state-identified at-risk species, known as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). The dedicated funds would come from revenue generated by energy and mineral extraction royalties currently collected by the federal government at about \$5 billion to \$12 billion annually. This legislation follows the recommendation of a diverse group of energy, business, and conservation leaders. This group, known as the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources, determined that an annual investment

Since 2000, state fish and wildlife agencies have pulled from a much smaller funding stream known as the State Wildlife Grants program. This program is vulnerable to the whims of Congressional appropriators each year, though, and it is typically only funded at about \$50 million to \$60 million annually. Such limited funding only provides state agencies with the ability to address a few of the SGCN-related projects deemed necessary within their conservation action blueprints, known as State Wildlife Action Plans. For example, in fiscal year 2017, wildlife professionals with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation had just \$2.3 million to work with in order to conserve more than 350 at-risk species.

Here are some details about the funds and how they will help wildlife and people:

- **NO TAX INCREASE** — The \$1.3 billion will come from existing revenues from energy and mineral fees on federal lands and waters. This is a small portion of the overall revenues from these sources.
- **BETTER FOR HUNTERS AND ANGLERS** — Currently 80 percent of the funding for our state wildlife agencies comes from sportsmen's fees such as hunting and fishing licenses and taxes on outdoor gear. Wildlife that are not hunted or fished do not currently have a similar dedicated funding stream.

- **A PROVEN MECHANISM** — The bill will allocate funds via the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration subaccount of the Pittman-Robertson Act, which was originally passed in 1937.
- **LOCAL CONTROL** — The funds from this bill will be controlled by state fish and wildlife agencies.
- **A HISTORY OF SUCCESS** — State fish and wildlife agencies have had great successes in restoring species once on the brink—bald eagles, white-tailed deer, elk, turkey, striped bass, and more.
- **HELPING WILDLIFE AT RISK** — The money will largely be spent on efforts such as restoring habitats, reintroducing native wildlife, fighting invasive species, and monitoring emerging diseases.
- **CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE** — States can use some of the funds for wildlife viewing, nature photography, educational programs, and trail improvements.

The Wildlife Society and many other conservation organizations are in support and are advocating for the passage of this landmark legislation. Like every other TWS Chapter, the New England Chapter has reached out to every U.S. Representative and Senator in our geographic territory. If you would like to learn more or get involved, checkout the link below:

<http://wildlife.org/policy/recovering-americas-wildlife-act/>

*Sincerely,
David Paulson
New England Chapter TWS, President*

STATE REPORTS

Connecticut

CT Bird Atlas Project

This project is describing breeding distributions and will collect information on species abundance during summer. Citizen scientists should attend the training workshops planned for spring 2019. <http://www.ctbirdatlas.org/Events-Training-workshops.htm>

Bears Breaking into Homes: For the last several years, reports of black bears breaking into homes have been about 6 per year in Connecticut. Black bears broke into at least 24 homes during summer of 2018. These reports were generally not the same individuals being repeat offenders, but rather different bears. It is not yet clear if the spike in home break-ins will continue into fall. <https://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2018/09/24/us/ap-us-bold-bears-.html>

Tracy Rittenhouse, CT Representative to the Executive Committee

Massachusetts

Mark Tisa appointed MassWildlife Director

On July 17, 2018, the Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife Board unanimously voted to appoint Mark S. Tisa, Ph.D., M.B.A., to the position of Director of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife).

“The Fisheries and Wildlife Board has appointed Mark Tisa as the new Director of MassWildlife because of Mark’s lifelong commitment to wildlife and fisheries conservation and his excellent record of service to the agency and the Commonwealth,” Fisheries and Wildlife Board Chair Joseph Larson said after the meeting. “The Board looks forward to working closely with Mark to achieve his goals for the agency in the coming years.”

Mark Tisa began his career in 1987 with MassWildlife as the Project Leader of the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program. He was promoted to Assistant Director of Fisheries in 1990, and then to Deputy Director in 2015. Director Tisa led a number of major initiatives over the years for the agency, including the Youth Pheasant and Young Adult Turkey hunt programs and the construction of the MassWildlife Field Headquarters’ 45,000-square-foot zero-net-energy building in Westborough. Upon the retirement of former Director Jack Buckley, he was appointed Acting Director, effective May 1, 2018.

“I am extremely pleased with the Fisheries and Wildlife Board’s appointment of Mark Tisa as Director of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife,” said Ron Amidon, Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game. “I have known and worked with Mark for many years. Both Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matt Beaton and I look forward to working closely with him as a team of conservation-minded sportsmen committed to the conservation, restoration, and management of all Massachusetts’ incredible natural resources.”

"I'm honored, humbled, and thrilled to be appointed to lead MassWildlife, where I have worked for 31 years," said Director Tisa. "We at MassWildlife care about all the Commonwealth's wildlife and plants, including state-listed species, and I look forward to continuing to work with hunters, anglers, trappers, conservationists, and all Massachusetts citizens to carry forward MassWildlife's tradition of conserving and helping everyone to enjoy all our treasured wildlife resources."

Director Tisa grew up in Leominster. He earned a B.S. in Biology from Springfield College, an M.S. in fisheries from the University of Tennessee, a Ph.D. in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences from Virginia Tech, and an M.B.A. from Anna Maria College. Tisa is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys fishing, hunting, shooting, and retriever training.

Jonathan Regosin named Deputy Director

Dr. Jonathan Regosin has been promoted to Deputy Director, filling a void that was created when Dr. Mark Tisa moved to the Director position. Over the past seven years, Jon has served as Chief of Conservation Science for the agency's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). As Chief of Conservation Science, Jon managed NHESP's science and habitat management programs. Previously, he was the Regulatory Review Manager and the Reptile and Amphibian Biologist for NHESP. Jon received a MS in Ecology and Evolution from the University of Chicago and a PhD in Biology from Tufts University. His research has focused on a variety of species including protected species such as blue-spotted salamanders, northern red-bellied cooters, and piping plovers. As Deputy Director, Jon looks forward to working with Director Tisa to advance agency priorities including managing rare habitats across the state and expanding opportunities for hunters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts to experience the outdoors. Congratulations, Jon!

New Dog Regulations Take Effect on WMAs

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has a long tradition of welcoming dogs on its Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). Dogs are still welcome, but dog handlers must comply with new leash and waste disposal regulations. The new regulations, which take effect on all WMAs on January 11, 2019, require the following:

1. Dogs and other domestic animals must be on a physical leash/tether while on WMAs. Leashing dogs decreases conflicts with

people and other dogs, resulting in a safer and more positive experience for everyone.

2. Dogs may be off-leash only when hunting or hunt-training with licensed hunters under existing regulations, or if they are participating in retriever or bird dog trial events that have been permitted by MassWildlife.
3. Dog feces in the WMA must be picked up by dog handlers and disposed of offsite. Licensed hunters engaged in hunting or hunt training, and those participating in sanctioned field trials are exempt from this requirement.
4. Dog feces in WMA parking areas and within 100 feet of the parking area must be picked up by **ALL** dog handlers and disposed of off the WMA.

MassWildlife protects and manages its WMAs to sustain wildlife abundance and to provide wildlife-related recreation such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife-watching. At the same time MassWildlife strives to provide a safe and enjoyable outdoor experience for all visitors.

Over the years, MassWildlife had received numerous complaints from WMA users about negative and unsafe encounters with unleashed dogs and issues with dog waste. The most common complaints included: dog attacks and bites on other dogs (both off- and on-leash) and people, and piles of accumulating dog waste: a nuisance and health concern for pets, people, and wildlife. Other incidents and complaints from WMA users involved: user conflicts between loose dogs with hunters, birders, field trial dog participants, naturalists and hikers; observations of dogs harassing or chasing wildlife; dogs chasing or killing livestock on abutting property; chasing/harassing neighboring property owners and families; dogs spooking horses, resulting in injuries to riders or horses; dogs trampling through posted endangered species restoration projects or newly planted agricultural crops.

The new regulations were drafted after a staff review and presentation to the Fisheries and Wildlife Board. A public hearing was held in February 2018. After considering written and oral comments submitted during the public hearing process, amendments were made and the final regulation package was approved by the Fisheries and Wildlife Board March 14, 2018. The regulations will go into effect on January 11, 2019.

Though many municipalities have leash or animal control bylaws, they do not have legal standing on

state lands; the new WMA regulations address this disparity. Enforcement of these regulations, as with all **Wildlife Management Area Regulations**, is carried out by the Massachusetts Environmental Police. State and municipal police departments also have authority to enforce Wildlife Management Area regulations.

Preliminary Bear Harvest Report for September Season

For the September bear hunting season, licensed bear hunters reported a harvest of 145 bears; 72 reported as female, 72 as male, 1 unknown. This is down slightly from the 151 taken during the September season in 2017.

Youth Deer Hunt Preliminary Harvest Report

The 2018 Youth Deer Hunt Day was held on September 29. This unique opportunity allows young hunters to hunt deer with their own permit during a special one-day season that precedes the Commonwealth's regular annual deer hunting seasons. MassWildlife issued 1,115 youth permits; 125 harvested deer were reported online. Deer reported at physical check stations will be tallied and added to the total at the conclusion of the regular deer hunting seasons.

*Michelle Cozine, NETWS Newsletter Editor
For Todd Olanyk, MA Rep*

New Hampshire

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department 2018-19 Wildlife Rule Package

Data from New Hampshire's hunting seasons are reviewed every year to monitor the status of game species, and changes are recommended every two years to make sure that season dates and bag limits are in line with population goals reflected in the state's ten-year Game Management Plan. New Hampshire's 2017 deer seasons resulted in the 5th highest deer harvest and highest antlered buck take in 95 years. New Hampshire Fish and Game (NHFG) 2018 deer rule changes will enhance hunting opportunities in 11 of 20 Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to include additional either-sex hunting opportunities in 9 WMUs, the provision of 2,000 antlerless-only permits for use in WMU L (permits to be issued via an online lottery), and allowance for the use of crossbows during the archery season (WMU M only); establish a Deer

Management Assistance Program to support special deer management needs at the town level for areas with documented impacts associated with overabundant deer populations; and authorize NHFG to regulate deer feeding to reduce deer mortality and enhance public safety. Also, New Hampshire bear populations have recently grown above goal in two of six bear management regions. Consequently, the Wildlife Division has added to the available days of bait-, and still-hunting, in several areas. This included adding 7 days of bait hunting and 9 days of still hunting to the existing bear season in the White Mountains and Central regions. In addition, the Department added 14 days of still hunting in the Southwest-2 and Southeast Regions. NHFG also increased the Spring turkey season length, and Spring bag limits in parts of the state, although annual bag limits are unchanged. Finally, due to reduced moose tick loads and the stabilization of moose population numbers, NHFG again issued 51 either-sex moose permits for the Fall 2018 moose season, plus one permit each for the New Hampshire's Hunt of a Lifetime program, and the New Hampshire Wildlife Heritage Foundation.

Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program Highlights

NHFG partnered with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services to initiate research to benefit milkweed, a critical resource for declining monarch butterfly populations.

NHFG initiated the state's first comprehensive spotted turtle (state threatened) assessment to identify core populations and population status, initiated a turtle nesting habitat management project for Blanding's turtles (state endangered) at a known priority location, and partnered with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to launch a Working Lands for Wildlife Program for turtles.

In addition, NHFG completed a statewide Wildlife Corridors report that summarizes ongoing and completed research and implementation efforts, and provides recommendations to improve wildlife corridors.

NHFG also reported that the bald eagle population continued to do well post-delisting (removed from state threatened list during 2017) with 60 territorial pairs seen in 2018.

Lastly, a new rabbit reporting website was launched to gather information on population distribution.

USDA Forest Service

Vernal Pool Identification using LIDAR

Working with colleagues at the Forest Service's Geospatial Technology and Applications Center, White Mountain National Forest biologists spent the spring testing a GIS model that uses high resolution LIDAR to identify potential vernal pools (i.e., depressions that may hold water). Although the model produces many false positives, it provides a more efficient method to improve field searches.

Long-eared Bat Conservation

Five years of stationary bat acoustic surveys show northern long-eared bats (*Myotis septentrionalis*) still present on the White Mountain National Forest, albeit in much lower numbers. Biologists recently established a survey cell to support the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat).

USDA Wildlife Services

Wildlife Hazards to Aviation at Pease International Tradeport

Wildlife Services (WS) continued to play an important role in reducing wildlife hazards to aviation through an integrated wildlife damage management program at Pease Airport in Portsmouth, NH to protect human lives, aviation safety, and wildlife populations by reducing attractants on the airfield, preventing wildlife from accessing the airport environment, and removing or relocating wildlife as needed. WS has also worked cooperatively with NHFG to trap, band and relocate turkeys from airport property to a local state WMU. Captured turkeys are sampled as part of WS national avian health program. In addition, WS relocated captured raptors from the airport in collaboration with USDA Forest Service.

Feral Swine

NH WS is in its eighth year of feral swine surveillance coordinating efforts with both NHFG, NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food and USDA, Veterinary Services. As well as documenting sightings and damage reports of this invasive species, NH WS continued working with private landowners and state cooperators placing trail cameras to determine extent of the problem. Damage has been observed primarily in Sullivan

and Grafton Counties to agricultural crops, hay fields, septic leach fields, turf and lawns. Along with the damage threat, feral swine are vectors for a number of wildlife, agricultural and zoonotic diseases of which NH WS conducts disease surveillance activities for. Although the problem appears to be limited, NH WS has trapped and removed more than 60 feral swine.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Turtle Nesting at Edward MacDowell Lake

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) continues to work with state and local partners on a turtle nesting habitat project at Edward MacDowell Lake in Peterborough, NH to benefit turtles and upland species. Cooperators have included NHFG, the Monadnock Trail Breakers Snowmobile Club, Cub Scout Pack 8, Boy Scout Troop 308 and Venture Crew 308 in order to enhance critical turtle nesting habitat.

Pollinator Conservation at Surry Mountain Lake

In addition, at Surry Mountain Lake, a flood control project within the New England ACOE District, Corps funds were granted which in cooperation with local partners, helped fund a project to help conserve pollinators, increase pollinator habitat, and provide opportunities for outdoor learning. Of the nine projects funded across the U.S. this year, the Surry Pollinator Project was the only New England District project approved and was awarded \$19,000, which along with in-kind donations, grew to \$139,000 for this important work.

Tim Algeo, NH Representative to the Executive Committee

Rhode Island

No report submitted.

Chase Bernier, RI Representative to the Executive Committee

Vermont

EMERALD ASH BORER FOUND IN VERMONT

In February, officials with the USDA Animal & Plant Health and Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the identification of an emerald ash borer (EAB)

beetle found in northern Orange County, Vermont. The insect was reported through the vtinvasives.org website. Since then, EAB has been confirmed in Washington, Caledonia, and Bennington counties. The detection in Bennington county is within five miles of a recent EAB detection in the town of North Adams, MA.

Emerald ash borer is a destructive forest insect originally from Asia. The larvae overwinter under the bark of ash trees where they feed on the part of the tree that moves water and sugars up and down the trunk. Once infested, ash trees rapidly decline and are killed in 3-5 years. EAB was first discovered in North America in the Detroit area in 2002, and over the past sixteen years, it has decimated ash populations. EAB was also recently detected in Maine and Rhode Island and is known to occur in 35 states and four Canadian provinces. Ash trees comprise approximately 5% of Vermont forests and are also a very common and important urban tree. EAB threatens white ash, green ash and black ash in Vermont and could have significant ecological, cultural, and economic impacts. There are no proven means to control EAB in forested areas, though individual trees can sometimes be effectively treated.

A multi-agency delineation survey effort, including personnel from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Foods & Markets, APHIS, the US Forest Service and the University of Vermont Extension has been implemented at each of the detection sites to delineate the extent of the infestations.

Slowing the spread of EAB is very important. While adult EAB are capable of flying short distances, humans have accelerated spread by moving infested material, particularly firewood, long distances. Residents and visitors are reminded to protect Vermont's forests by buying and burning local firewood. To slow the spread, Vermont has joined the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s quarantine boundary. The quarantine will help reduce the movement of infested ash wood to un-infested regions outside of Vermont's borders. Vermont will be directing available resources to protect state forest health by providing Vermonters with low-risk options for use and disposal of wood that is already infested.

"The areas where EAB has already been found in Vermont pose the greatest risk to the health of our forests," says Vermont Forests, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Michael Snyder. "Based on science and our learning from strategies used in other states, we are choosing to focus on outreach and education in a collaborative approach to seriously limit further spread of the insect within Vermont."

The State of Vermont already has a firewood quarantine in place to help prevent the introduction of damaging forest pests by prohibiting untreated firewood from entering the state. This firewood quarantine remains in effect.

To learn more about these recommendations, to see a map indicating where EAB is known to occur in Vermont, and to report suspected invasive species like EAB, visit vtinvasives.org.

RECENT LAND ACQUISITIONS CREATE A NEW WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA AND INCREASE THE SIZE OF ANOTHER

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department celebrated the grand opening of the new Windsor Grasslands Wildlife Management Area on June 7. The land was previously owned by Vermont's Buildings and General Services and was recently transferred to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. The 826-acre property in Windsor, Vermont contains habitat for a variety of species, from hayfields that are a favored nesting site for grassland birds, to young forests and apple trees that attract deer and bear.

"We're pleased that these lands will be permanently conserved for wildlife habitat and public access," said Louis Porter, commissioner of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. "The local community has been highly engaged in these lands in recent years, helping to release apple trees to improve wildlife habitat, hunting turkeys, or bird-watching for grassland birds. We look forward to continuing that tradition as we manage this property for a variety of wildlife species and those who care about them."

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's Otter Creek Wildlife Management Area, well known for its waterfowl and songbird habitat, has grown to nearly 1,200 permanently conserved acres through the purchase of 54 acres of land in Mt. Tabor. The Vermont Land Trust facilitated the transaction.

The new addition, known as Hallagan Woodlot, is a land-locked, forested parcel nestled between Otter Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and the Green Mountain National Forest. The Vermont Land Trust bought the land at auction and transferred it to Fish & Wildlife when federal Pittman-Robertson funds (raised through an excise tax on shooting and sporting equipment) became available.

"We were excited to partner with Vermont Land Trust to conserve a critical piece that was privately held in our Otter Creek WMA," said Jane Lazorchak, Vermont Fish & Wildlife's land acquisition coordinator. "Partnerships like this are key to conservation in Vermont and what make it such a special place to work."

Bordered by Otter Creek to the west and Green Mountain National Forest to the east, Otter Creek WMA contains a mixture of deciduous and evergreen forests, including deer wintering habitat, as well as wetlands and streams, and is known for its healthy population of deer, bears, otters, beaver, mink, raccoons, and muskrats.

“By increasing a large connected area of conserved habitat along this biologically diverse waterway, this purchase will greatly benefit many fish and wildlife species,” said Commissioner Louis Porter. “Keeping this land in a forested state will also help improve filter runoff and buffer against floods, naturally improving water quality in Otter Creek and Lake Champlain.”

In addition to its habitat benefits, the newly conserved land will be accessible to the public for recreation, including fishing, bird-watching, hunting, photography, and snowshoeing.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department owns and manages 94 wildlife management areas throughout the state, comprising nearly 140,000 acres, for fish and wildlife habitat and public access.

VT FISH & WILDLIFE INSTALLING WATER CONTROL DEVICES ON BEAVER DAMS

To prevent flooding on nearby roads, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department recently completed construction of 19 water control devices on beaver dams in locations throughout Vermont. Known as ‘beaver baffles’ these devices allow some water to pass through the dam without breaching the dam and destroying the wetland.

The Fish & Wildlife Department expects to continue to install additional beaver baffles throughout the state this year. The baffles are one of many techniques that department staff employ or recommend to landowners to minimize beaver damage to property or trees. Other techniques include using fences to protect culverts or placing wire mesh or special paint around the base of trees to prevent gnawing.

“The wetlands that beavers create provide critical habitat for a variety of wildlife such as waterfowl, songbirds, frogs, turtles, and otters. These areas can also absorb extra water during rain events and clean pollutants from water, so we work hard to preserve these wetlands.” said Kim Royar, wildlife biologist for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

“Baffles don’t work in every situation and can’t replace the need to appropriately manage the beaver population,” Royar noted, “but they can often be used to help reduce flooding and minimize property damage while preserving these important wetlands. Beaver baffles add to the tools

landowners have at their disposal for resolving conflicts with the species”

As a result of unregulated trapping and habitat degradation, beavers disappeared from Vermont’s landscape by the early 1700s. Beavers returned to the state after the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department reintroduced them starting in the 1920s. Today, beavers are once again plentiful and widespread throughout the state. However, most of the roads and villages in Vermont were established before beavers became abundant again. As a result, conflicts between people and beavers are frequent and can be a challenge to resolve. Beaver baffles have helped.

With funds granted from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and generated by waterfowl hunters through the Duck Stamp Program, the Fish & Wildlife Department has installed more than 300 beaver baffles in Vermont protecting over 3,000 acres of wetland habitat since the program started in 2000.

“We receive roughly 200 beaver complaints a year,” said Royar. “Several staff members respond to these complaints, and one technician is dedicated solely to addressing beaver conflicts from spring through fall. Despite these efforts, other management techniques must be used. We also rely on regulated, in-season trapping to maintain a stable beaver population, so Vermonters continue to view beavers as a valued member of the local ecosystem and not as a nuisance.”

WILDLIFE CAUGHT ON CAMERA AT ROAD CROSSING STRUCTURES

As part of a collaborative partnership between Vermont Fish & Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, and VTrans game cameras have been set at road crossing structures to better understand wildlife movement around potentially hazardous roads.

Information learned through this collaborative partnership has allowed VTrans to modify the design of bridges, culverts, and overpasses to permit improved movement of fish and wildlife, while also making these crossings safer for drivers on the road. Additionally, these modifications often help these structures to become more resilient to flooding events.

“We have thousands of photos of wildlife using these structures to safely move from one side of the road to the other, including shots of moose, bear, and deer, as well as several bobcat photos.” said John Austin, Vermont Fish & Wildlife’s lands and habitat program manager.

Improving road crossings is one part of a larger effort of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department to use science to sustain healthy habitats for wildlife across the state, referred to as Vermont

Conservation Design. Other aspects of Vermont Conservation Design help protect Vermont's forests from over-development, maintain clean air and water, and support the social and economic benefits of the state's healthy fish and wildlife.

VERMONT ALLOCATES 13 MOOSE HUNTING PERMITS FOR 2018

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Board voted to have 13 moose hunting permits awarded this year. By law, five permits will be available to Vermont military veterans and up to three permits will be available for "Special Opportunity" recipients with life-threatening illnesses; the remaining five permits were auctioned in accordance with regulations. The auction bids totaled \$43,702.83 which will help fund Fish & Wildlife Department educational programs, such as the Green Mountain Conservation Camps for youths.

The hunt will be restricted to bull moose in Wildlife Management Units E1 and E2 in the northeastern corner of the state where the Fish & Wildlife Department recommends the moose population be maintained at its current level to reduce the effects of winter ticks. The department expects only nine to ten moose to be taken. The small number of bulls-only permits is not expected to have any impact on Vermont's moose population.

No regular public lottery will be held. People who have moose hunting bonus points from previous years will have those points "frozen" so that they may be used in future years.

Vermont's moose project leader, wildlife biologist Cedric Alexander estimates Vermont has 1,650 moose statewide with the greatest concentration in the Northeast Kingdom.

"We are limiting the hunt to the portion of the state where the moose population is stabilizing, and we believe it is in the best interest of moose to keep their density at its current level of one moose per square mile," said Alexander. By maintaining moose at this level, research indicates winter ticks will have fewer hosts to feed on. For the remainder of the state, a no-harvest approach is designed to increase the population."

Jaelyn Comeau, VT Representative to the Executive Committee

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

**August Executive Board Meeting August 22, 2018
MassWildlife Field Headquarters**

In attendance: Dave Paulson, Susan McCarthy, Dave Cowell, John McDonald, Todd Olaynk (call-in), Tim Algeo (call-in)

Agenda

- Treasurer's Report
- Spring 2018 Workshop Recap
- Fall Workshop Planning
- State Updates
- Northeast Section/National Updates
- Other Business

Treasurer's Report– The Chapter's account balance as of August 1st was \$12,392.65. The Board discussed that the account has averaged around the 10 to 12k mark for several years, and the average annual income and costs are each around \$2,000, thus little annual change. Since January 1st, the Chapter has received \$1,320.00 in membership fees through direct deposit from the National Chapter. Since January 1st, the Chapter has spent \$700.00 as follows: \$100 donation to the Connecticut Envirothon, \$100 donation to the Rhode Island Envirothon, and \$500.00 as scholarship for a student to attend the TWS Field Course.

2018 Spring Workshop Recap – The 2018 Spring Workshop was held at the USFWS Regional Headquarters in Hadley, MA on Tuesday, April 24th. The subject was the Applications of Drones in Wildlife and Habitat Research. The morning session was highlighted by presentations given by BSC Group, Oxbow Associates, American Robotics, and the UMASS AIR Geospatial Lab. The afternoon session was held at the Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge and featured a drone flight demonstration given by George Andrews, an FAA licensed Unmanned Aircraft System pilot, in which several participants were able to operate a drone in the field.

2018 Fall Workshop Planning – The Board deliberated on several possible topics for the fall workshop, including Urban Wildlife, Inland Fisheries, Endangered Species, Waterfowl, Wetland Habitats, and Game Camera Use. The Board decided to pursue a workshop on Landscape Connectivity, because we would be able to recruit presenters from the Northeast Transportation and Wildlife Conference held at UMASS Amherst September 9th through 12th, and it would be easy to coordinate an afternoon field session visiting site locations of wildlife crossing projects.

Northeast Transportation and Wildlife Conference – The Chapter coordinated sharing an exhibit table at the Northeast Transportation and Wildlife Conference with the collaboration with the UMASS Student Chapter. The Board discussed bringing visual aids, such as a laptop with a slideshow, marketing material, membership forms, a poster display, and merchandise for sale.

A new report from Wiley sheds light on one of our profession's biggest challenges

We live in interesting times... I could stop there, link the report, and call it quits, but I'm not going to because I'm fascinated by the topic of science communication. In fact, nearly a decade ago I altered my career from studying wildlife to studying new frontiers in wildlife conservation. I say new frontiers because our profession is increasingly operating in uncharted territories. The world is changing, public attitudes are shifting, and skepticism towards science is increasing.

Gone are the days when we could produce a standalone scientific report, retreat to the field, and expect society to exhibit a heightened level of deference towards our research. Some may point to partisan politics or blame millennials because that seems to be a thing, but perhaps, we as a profession have failed to keep pace with the changing times. Our science may reach other scientists but is seemingly lost in the glut of information available to policy-makers and the public. So, what's the solution? Unfortunately, there's no simple answer to that question, but Wiley's report—[*To Know the World: Transforming Science Literacy and Communications to Improve Research Impact*](#)—touches on several timely and thought-provoking concepts including:

- Recognizing the need for “translated” scientific information;
- Fostering curiosity and improving scientific literacy by inspiring others to ask questions and seek science-based answers;
- Making science relatable and the profession welcoming to all through providing diverse portrayals of scientists and by highlighting the personal stories of scientists;
- Contextualizing science and the scientific process; and
- Developing innovative ways to expand the audience and understanding of research.

Massachusetts Association of Wetland Scientists. The Board discussed organizing material to display at the table and possible

This is not about becoming activists or about attacking the messaging of others. It's about improving our own messaging, becoming better storytellers, and figuring out ways to enhance our communication while still preserving the depth and integrity of our work. How can we as individual wildlife professionals shape our own personal networks, touch the lives of those around us, and inspire the next generation? Not every aspect of Wiley's report is relevant to wildlife professionals, but I hope the report sparks dialogue within your Chapter while demonstrating that, while these are interesting times, we face boundless opportunity to forage new paths through the unknown. What do you think? Is the increased skepticism towards science a good thing? What role should wildlife professionals play in communicating science? How do you share your science? Share your thoughts with us on social media @wildlifesociety or #wildlifesociety.

Wiley is the publisher of TWS' three premier wildlife journals—*The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Monographs* and the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*.

The Journal of Wildlife Management Now Available Online

The next issue of *The Journal of Wildlife Management* is now available on early view through *The Wildlife Society's* new journal [hub](#). With online access included as a membership benefit, TWS members are increasingly engaging with the latest research findings in wildlife science and management. Simply login to [Your Membership](#) directly through the hub to access the latest content or browse archive issues of *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Monographs*, and the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*.

Not a member of TWS? You can still access abstracts and some full studies through the hub.

Cameron Kovach
TWS General Manager

THE NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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CHAPTER MERCHANDISE

The New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society has merchandise available for purchase displaying our logo!
To view merchandise available for sale, visit the Chapter's webpage:
<http://wildlife.org/new-england/about/merchandise/>

Items are also available for purchase at Chapter meetings and workshops!

The Wildlife Sampler is a biannual newsletter of the New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society that provides up-to-date information on both state (CT, MA, NH, RI, VT) and regional wildlife management programs and conservation issues. The success of this newsletter depends on **your** contributions. Suggestions regarding the content and format of the newsletter are always welcome, as are contributions of news articles, job announcements and meeting notices. Letters and commentaries offered for publication also will be considered. Contributions from student members and members employed by consulting firms, educational institutions, or other environmental organizations are encouraged. Newsletter items should be forwarded to your state representative. Please email documents as attachments in Microsoft Word format. See email addresses above. State representatives must submit newsletter items to the Editor by the deadline to be considered for inclusion in the newsletter.

The New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a non-profit scientific and educational organization serving professionals in all areas of wildlife conservation. For more information about the Wildlife Society, please visit the website: <http://wildlife.org/> and the Chapter's page: <http://wildlife.org/new-england/>.

New England Chapter TWS logo created by Paul Rego, CT DEEP Wildlife Division