

## Biography for President-Elect



### Kyle Daly

My involvement in The Wildlife Society has spanned over 10 years. In 2017, I graduated from The Wildlife Society Leadership Institute. By participating in this program, I was able to interact with the TWS staff and Executive Board, understand connections between the Chapter, Section, and National levels, and solidify my belief that the Chapters are the most vital part of TWS. My involvement in the Minnesota Chapter began in 2011, and this year marks my second and final term serving on the governing board as Treasurer.

During my time on the Governing Board for the Chapter, we have improved our fiscal health, expanded our grant programs, and worked to increase services for our members. We have created a \$10K account as a safety net for our Chapter, increased student grant

programs to \$2K/year, and facilitated wildlife conservation meetings for other organizations. The Board continues to support members by planning annual meetings and workshops, providing funds for special initiatives, and representing our membership's interests within Minnesota, the North Central Section, and Nationally. Over my time on the Board, I believe we have continued to grow as a Chapter, and I look forward to continuing my involvement on the Board.

The Chapter relies on the dedication of the individuals on the Board and Committees to accomplish the majority of our work. The more people we have engaged with the Board, the better the Chapter will be able to address wildlife conservation issues in Minnesota. The Board is continually seeking motivated individuals to serve the Chapter, and I believe I can continue to recruit others to increase our ability to accomplish our mission and echo our voice. Additionally, we must continue to strive for diversity and inclusiveness in our membership and provide a safe and educational environment at our events. Staying focused on these outcomes will ensure we have an effective and vibrant Chapter for the future.

Admittedly, one thing the Board could improve is communicating our work with Chapter members. The Board is doing much more than planning our annual meeting. I value TWS because it is the voice for wildlife professionals. As we continue to face reemerging and new challenges in our careers, TWS provides an objective science-based community to help us overcome these challenges, advocate for science-based policies, and perpetuate our profession.

I completed my M.S. degree in Wildlife Ecology and Management from the University of Minnesota in 2014 working with David Andersen and the USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. While working on my M.S. degree, I was also employed by the Fish and Wildlife Service in the National Wildlife Refuge Program. In 2013, I joined the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program (formerly known as Federal Aid). In my current position, I review and administer Wildlife Restoration and State Wildlife Grants for Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri. This position provides me with a holistic view of wildlife conservation issues and successes throughout the Midwest as well as being tuned into the political battles we continually face in the conservation profession. Additionally, I am the lead for the Outdoor Recreation Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation (R3) Team for the Fish and Wildlife Service Midwest Region.

These experiences make me qualified to be President of the Minnesota Chapter because I have an understanding of TWS operations, knowledge of Chapter business and initiatives, and am engaged with conservation issues within Minnesota and regionally. Thank you for consideration for this position.

## Biographies for Board Members at Large (2 openings)

### Jessica Piispanen



I am originally from Liberty Township, Ohio. I graduated from Ohio Northern University in 2007 with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in Environmental Studies. I then traveled the country working as a biological technician specializing in birds in Ohio, Texas, Kauai, Florida, Tennessee, and Santa Cruz Island. In 2012, I got my Masters in Natural Resources with an emphasis in Wildlife from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. My thesis work focused on bobwhite and songbird nest success and depredation patterns.

I joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in May 2012 as a SCEP student with Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR). After completing the SCEP program, I became a Fish and Wildlife Biologist with WSFR. I currently manage Wildlife Restoration and State Wildlife Grants. I am also the Midwest Region's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) coordinator.

I have been a member of TWS since 2010 and recently joined the Minnesota Chapter a few years ago after moving to Minnesota. I am running for board member at large because I am interested in becoming more involved and engaged with TWS at a local level. I enjoy hiking, camping, and road tripping around the country. I also enjoy running, gardening, and am an avid sports fan.

### Nicole Bernd

Nicole Bernd, married 21 years, two teenage children (13 & 16), dog, cat, chickens and 2 rabbits. I implement best management efforts both professionally and personally for pollinators, song birds and all wildlife, through conservation programs and self-management efforts on our own land, with the reward of observing the results from my Stuga.

I've been District Manager of West Polk SWCD, Crookston, since 2006, and an employee since 1994. Favorite part of my job is creating relationships/partnerships and collaborating successful projects for the restoration and conservation of our natural resources. I attended the University of Minnesota Crookston Graduate (1996), Natural Resource Management and hold an Associate's in Applied Science Degree in Natural Resource Technology (1993), from Brainerd Community College, aka, Central Lakes College. A believer in people knowing all want to be included and to be a part of something bigger than themselves.



## Biography for Treasurer:

### William (Bill) Severud



I grew up in a suburb of Minneapolis. My childhood was spent playing in streams and forests around my house; it was there I developed my interests in the natural world and wildlife in particular. Throughout my career, The Wildlife Society has fostered these interests I held since childhood. Being a board region representative allowed me to be more involved in an organization that has given me so much. I benefitted from the state chapter through attending annual meetings and networking with other professionals in the field. As a student, I experienced what TWS can do for one's career. Also, as a student I was the treasurer for the Natural Resources Association of Graduate Students. I would like to encourage more undergraduate and graduate student involvement at the state level so that students can

continue their training to become the next leaders in wildlife science, management, and conservation. I would like to serve as treasurer for our state chapter to maintain involvement and further our chapter's mission.

I received my B.A. in Biology at Carleton College (2002) and went on to get a M.S. in Biology, at Northern Michigan University (2011) and later a Ph.D. in Natural Resources Science and Management- Wildlife Ecology and Management, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (2017). I am now a Postdoctoral Associate in Forest Resources at the University of Minnesota.

Professional interests include predator-prey interactions, cause-specific mortality, survival analysis, wildlife management, habitat use and resulting effects on demography. Personally, I enjoy Nordic skiing, distance running and hiking.