

The Wildlife Society



Ohio Chapter Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2017
Newsletter

President's Message from Geoff Westerfield

How to Invest in OCTWS—Challenge: Stop what you are doing for 20 seconds and list 5 people in school or the workplace that have had an impact on you within the wildlife field. Don't proceed reading until you have the 5 names written down.

Got your 5 people written down? Good. So, how does this apply to your membership in the Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society? I struggle at times with how investing time and energy with this organization is beneficial...and to whom. Some become members to advance their career, some to have a better shot at getting a job, and others just do it because fellow students/co-workers do it. And yet some are members only because membership came with attendance at a workshop or at the previous OFWMA conference.

At the upcoming OFWMA conference we will again be electing someone for Secretary for OCTWS. Also, as the national conference approaches in Cleveland in October 2018, we will again be looking for members to assist with this major event and undertaking. Now, I am guessing you too are struggling with why would you invest your limited time and energy into these, or other, OCTWS roles? After all, you are so busy with school/work/family how could you stop for a minute to do yet one more task.

I am sure there are a variety of reasons why the 5 people you listed were impactful to you. I don't know if my name would ever be written down on anyone's list, but that is the answer to why I invest my time and energy with OCTWS. I hope that my work with OCTWS impacts people's careers positively. If so, that not

only improves their effectiveness and sense of belonging to this profession, but mine as well. Further, it provides a stronger foundation for those that will come many years after we have moved on. Those 5 people you listed invested in you, I challenge you to think how your involvement with OCTWS could allow you to become a name on someone else's list.

Officer Call for Secretary

As alluded to above, Gabe Karns' 2-year term as Secretary will expire concurrent with the January 2018 OFWMA conference. While he is willing to take on another 2-year term as Secretary, this is an opportunity for you to engage OCTWS in an active role. If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else for the office of Secretary, please forward your nomination to Geoff Westerfield (Geoffrey.Westerfield@dnr.state.oh.us) by Friday, January 5th.

2017 OFWMA Conference Announcement

The 58th Ohio Fish and Wildlife Conference will be held January 25-26, 2018. This year's OFWMA meeting will continue to build on last year's momentum by offering an extended and enhanced program that spans from noon on Thursday through Friday.

On Thursday, OCTWS is hosting an indoor workshop entitled "Understanding Human Dimensions while Running Surveys" that will go from 12:30-4:00 PM. A joint OCTWS/OFWMA business meeting + dinner + special speaker + social will follow into the evening. All Thursday activities will be held at the Hilton in Polaris where a block of 20 rooms is reserved. Thursday's special speaker will be Harvey Webster, Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Director of Wildlife Resources. His talk is titled "Living with Leopold: the relevance of Aldo Leopold in the 21st century."

The OFWMA conference on Friday will be hosted at the same venue as last year and is back by popular demand— Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center on university campus. Doors will open at 8:00 AM for registration and coffee/refreshments and the presentations will kick off at 9:00 AM with a keynote address entitled "Chronic Wasting Disease—the view from here" by Bryan Richards of the USGS National Wildlife Health Center. The entire agenda is appended to the end of this newsletter.



OFWMA Registration Information

Registration includes an all-events option (includes ALL Thursday AND Friday events) as well as the usual conference option (just Friday events). The early registration deadline is January 5th and regular registrations must be in by January 19th. Visit www.ofwma.com for online registration.

All Events Registration Fees (Th & F)

Early Registration (1/5)

Regular \$90.00
Student \$40.00

Regular Registration (1/19)

Regular \$115.00
Student \$65.00

Conference Registration Fees (F only)

Early Registration (1/5)

Regular \$30.00
Student \$20.00

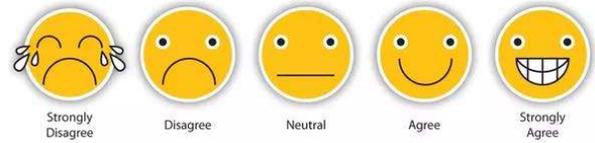
Regular Registration (1/19)

Regular \$40.00
Student \$25.00

Interested in a table or placing an announcement on the job board at OFWMA?

Please contact Marci Lininger at marci.lininger@fws.gov by December 31, 2017 to place an organizational table reservation and/or to place an announcement on our job board. There is no cost for tables and job announcements, but space may be limited so reserve early!

“Understanding Human Dimensions when Running Surveys” Workshop



The Thursday afternoon workshop will focus on human-wildlife dimensions. Specific topics covered will include best management practices for designing and implementing stakeholder surveys (should I do an online or a mail survey?), available public data sources and how BIG data can be integrated into your survey (e.g., National Agricultural Statistics Service), and how different local, state, and federal agencies have integrated survey data to fine-tune their management and communication strategies.



Forestland Workshop for Professionals



In early October 2017, the OCTWS fall professional workshop highlighted the US-Forest Service's SILVAH platform for oak silviculture and convened at the Vinton Furnace Experimental Forest site. Research scientists from the US-FS Northern Research Station gave introductory lectures on SILVAH and demonstrated data collection afield. They also introduced some exciting new integrated platforms that tie oak silviculture to specific wildlife species' habitat requirements. Headlined by one of OCTWS' own officers Andy Merkle, Ohio Division of Wildlife employees weighed in with their personal experiences of utilizing the SILVAH system. Overall, the utility of the SILVAH approach to informing oak silviculture was well represented by all the workshop speakers.

To conclude workshop activities, Andrew Hoffman (graduate student from The Ohio State University) lectured on timber rattlesnake conservation and led the 40+ workshop attendees on an afternoon hike that successfully tracked and observed a female timber rattlesnake. She was staged just upslope of her probable overwintering den site, and the timber rattlesnake held still and stationary while workshop attendees walked by single file to get a closer look.

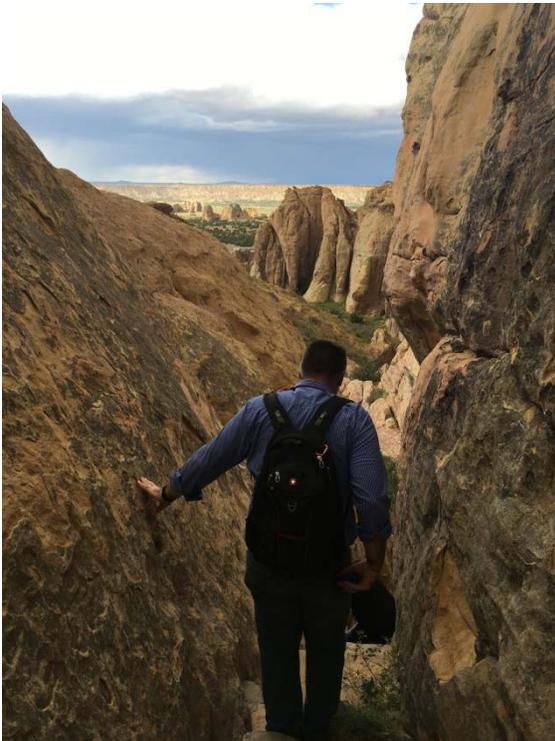


Continuing Education Credits for Future Workshops

We have been more intentional about securing continuing education credits for workshops this past year, but we want to know from you if there are particular certifications or professional societies that you feel we are overlooking. We will do our best to address those requests!! Email Gabe Karns (karns.36@osu.edu) if you have thoughts on this front.

TWS National Conference: 2017 Past and 2018 Future

The Ohio chapter is already engaged with TWS National to help make the 25th Annual Conference a memorable success in early October 2018 in Cleveland, Ohio. Several OCTWS officers attended the Albuquerque conference in September 2017 to start addressing fundraising, field trip planning, and other responsibilities in earnest. Beyond the logistical meetings, the conference was enjoyed by all as a great time of re-connecting with colleagues, deepening new peer-to-peer relationships, and learning about the latest wildlife management and research updates from across the country. Our chapter was again honored to sponsor one “wildlifer” college student to attend the national conference in New Mexico—Alex Lewis from Auburn University.



Moving forward with 2018 National TWS conference planning, Mike Enright – Past President OCTWS and leading the Fund Raising Committee, shares these words.

Funding is always a challenge for wildlife projects and the national conference coming to Cleveland in 2018 is no exception. To date, approximately \$75,000 of the necessary \$225,000 has been raised to support the conference. These funds are critical to success of the conference, and without the full amount, numerous parts of the conference will have to be scaled back or eliminated. This is where the Ohio Chapter needs your help. Many “wildlifers” are more comfortable in the field than fund raising and that is as it should be. But the Ohio Chapter needs your contacts with individuals and organizations that would be willing to donate in support of the conference. Specifically, we are looking for donors that can donate at the Bronze Level (\$3,000) or higher. Smaller amounts are welcome but checks with a number of zeros will help us reach the goal faster. The good news is that you don't have to ask anyone for money—the fund raising committee will do that for you. We just need to know who to ask. Please send your potential fund raising contacts to menright@juno.com or call 937-313-8727 if you would like to discuss possible fund raising opportunities. Thank you for helping to make Cleveland a great conference. See you there.



TWS 25th Annual Conference

SAVE THE DATE!!

OCTOBER 7—11, 2018

Mailing Address for Ohio Chapter of TWS:

Attn: Geoff Westerfield
912 Portage Lakes Drive
Akron, OH 44319
(937) 277-4109

Executive Committee Members:

Geoff Westerfield – President
Michael Enright – Past President
Grace Dietsch – President Elect
Gabriel Karns – Secretary
Andy Merkle - Treasurer