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President's Message

A recent article in the Wildlife Professional focused on building diversity in the wildlife profession. This is an issue that I think all who love wildlife and want to see it thrive in the future must take seriously. The simple reason is that without increasing the diversity in the wildlife profession, we will not be able to effectively engage the stakeholders and audiences that will determine the regulations and funding for wildlife in the future.

So how do we make changes? The first step is simply to be aware that an issue exists. Does everyone on your team or group look the same and come from similar backgrounds? Often times this is the case for a variety of reasons but it is critical to understand that teams with diverse backgrounds and experiences have clearly been shown to be more creative in problem solving and decision making. Are there opportunities within your organization to seek input from individuals who are different in gender, race, or background?

A second challenge is engaging under-represented groups in thinking about wildlife management as a career. Without some kind of personal interaction and education, many students, especially in urban areas, have no ideal about the career opportunities that are possible in the wildlife field. Students currently in wildlife programs at the university level can make a real difference by seeking opportunities to tell their stories to young students. One of the upcoming events this spring will provide an opportunity for university students interact with wildlife professionals as the student seek a career path.

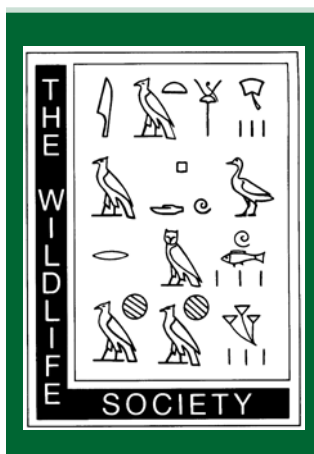
A third challenge is the need for specific opportunities and programs to encourage and grow promising students from under-represented groups. With tight funds and limited opportunities, I know competition is strong for the few paid internships and apprenticeships in the wildlife field. Partnerships with non-traditional organizations such as local jobs initiatives or foundations may offer the opportunity to increase funds and provide key experiences.

Michael Enright, OCTWS President



Wildlife Student/Professional Pig Roast

The Ohio State University Student Chapter is partnering with OCTWS to host the Wildlife Student/Professional Pig Roast (vegetarian options will be available) on April 8th at 5:00 on the west side of Kottman Hall. As of this newsletter date, the Student Chapter from University of Rio Grande is sending a van load of participants and members of the Hocking Student Chapter will be attending. We are excited to see stronger relationships developing between the different student chapters and OCTWS moving forward. Panelists from The Nature Conservancy, USDA APHIS, Ohio Division of Wildlife, and Metro Parks will discuss specifics about how to penetrate the natural resources job market, what different agencies look for in candidates, and more. Wildlife professionals are encouraged to attend the event. Please contact OSU Student Chapter President Jack Rabe (osufishandwildlife@gmail.com) if you have any questions .



56th Ohio Fish and Wildlife Management Conference

Clint McCoy, OFWMA President

The Ohio Chapter of TWS again sponsored the 56th Ohio Fish and Wildlife Management Conference held on Feb. 5th, 2016. The conference theme, “Conservation for Everyone: Working with Unconventional Partners,” was exemplified in Tovar Cerulli’s keynote address. The author of *The Mindful Carnivore: A Vegetarians Hunt for Sustenance*, Cerulli addressed the 271 conference attendees on the topic of “adult-onset hunting”, particularly focusing on who these new hunters are, what motivates them to take up hunting, the obstacles and challenges they face, and how wildlife professionals can foster relationships with them. Planning is already taking place for the 2017 conference, so be on the lookout for upcoming newsletters as well as a survey to gauge our members’ level of interest on a variety of topics.

By-Laws Update

Andy Montoney, Past President

During the last OCTWS Business Meeting, updates and changes to our By-Laws were voted upon and passed. The process then required these changes to be approved by TWS Headquarters. Here is a brief description of the changes:

1. Annual dues are valid for 365 days from the date of payment.
2. Members are considered as RESIGNED if dues are not renewed within the established time frame.
3. Nomination Committee shall be responsible for preparing a candidate pool (no longer requires at least two nominations).
4. All nominees must be willing to become a Parent Society member within 30 days of being elected. (This was denied by TWS Headquarters)
5. Voting for candidates should be conducted prior to annual Chapter meeting (but now can be at another designated time).
6. The Executive Board shall determine a date when ballots will be last accepted and will notify membership of that date.
7. The Secretary is now responsible for producing/editing the Chapter Newsletter.
8. The Treasurer is now responsible for maintaining the Chapter membership records including email addresses.
9. Any member of the Executive Board may serve as the North Central Section Representative for the Chapter if the Chapter President is not present.
10. Current Ohio Chapter By-Laws must now be posted on the Chapters website and can still be made available by request.
11. Financial records of the Chapter must now be audited annually (not periodically).
12. Reference to the TWS Headquarters “Operations Manual” was replaced with the new “Policy Guidelines” as set forth by TWS (<http://wildlife.org/network/tws-local/annual-reporting/>).

The biggest disappointment was the denial of #4 by TWS Headquarters. Our By-Laws allow for a “State Membership” in such that members are not required to be a parent TWS Society member (at a minimum cost of \$80/year). It is understood that Chapter Executive Board members need to also be a paying member of the parent Society. But we felt this should not be a requirement just to be nominated for a Chapter Executive Board position. This policy has never been strictly enforced by the Chapter and reasonable considerations will be taken in the future. TWS Headquarters have indicated that they are considering this change and will be discussing it this year.

OCTWS Legislative Report ,February 5, 2016 by Kendra S. Wecker, Legislative Chair

State Legislation

We are in the 131st General Assembly of the Ohio legislature. There are several bills we are watching:

HB165 (Green) free or reduced price hunting licenses/permits for military personnel, reported out of House committee.

HB 267 (Ruhl) deer sanctuary license

HB 396 (Hall) Prohibited species, primarily aquatics

New issues on the horizon involve body cameras for law enforcement (HB 407) and use of drones (SB251).

Federal Legislation

State Wildlife Grants – This federal program for funding “species of greatest conservation need “is authorized by the Interior Appropriations Bill. The Teaming With Wildlife Coalition will gather in Washington, DC March 1-2 to urge support for State Wildlife Grant funding. Letters of support should be sent to your congressional representatives urging support for permanent wildlife funding for wildlife diversity species similar to the Pittman-Robertson program. Results from the Blue Ribbon panel on finding a solution to permanent wildlife funding will be unveiled at this event as well.

Farm Bill – The [Agricultural Act of 2014](#), was signed on February 7, 2014, Estimated funding at \$489 billion; Conservation Programs = 6% of all funding

- Gradually reduces Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) cap from 32 million acres to 24 million acres by 2017.
- As of Dec. 1, 2015: 23.47 million acres nationwide in CRP
- CRP celebrated its 30th anniversary on Dec. 23, 2015.
- A General CRP Sign-up is ongoing and will run through Feb. 26, 2016

OHIO CRP info:

As of 10/1/2010, Ohio had 343,584 acres enrolled in CRP. Current enrollment is at 256,292. A loss of 87,292 acres. Another 21,622 acres are due to expire on 9/30/2016.

Top 10 CRP Counties by Acres

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1.) Ross 25,524 | 6.) Marion 11,236 |
| 2.) Highland 13,693 | 7.) Wyandot 8,260 |
| 3.) Pickaway 13,156 | 8.) Union 8,140 |
| 4.) Williams 12,380 | 9.) Wood 7,636 |
| 5.) Defiance 11,855 | 10.) Hardin 7,370 |

Ohio has applied for two additional State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE); one for Bobwhite quail in 19 southwest counties and another for Monarch habitat in 43 counties.

Hocking College Student Chapter Update

This autumn semester the Hocking College student chapter has participated in several activities. In September, club members traveled to the Red Wolf Sanctuary in Indiana and helped build a pen for gray fox and finish a pen for bobcats. The club built several squirrel boxes and erected them on the Hocking College land lab in pole timber oak-hickory forest. Members also cleaned up trash from their 2-mile Adopt-A-Highway portion of State Route 33 outside of Nelsonville, Ohio.

In October, club members built several bat boxes with Rural Action personnel after being treated to a presentation on bat ecology. The following weekend, the club erected the bat boxes on several areas in the Trimble, Ohio area.

In November the club partnered with the Hocking College Forestry Club and worked on two 1-acre patch cuts on an EQIP project on private land adjacent to Hocking College. The objective of the harvest was to promote oak and hickory regeneration. A lot of non-mast producing trees were cut into firewood and several large brush piles were constructed.

Plans for December include checking southern flying squirrel boxes with the University of Rio Grande Student Chapter and assisting the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources with controlled deer hunts. Next semester, the club will be involved in the Blennerhasset deer drive and a wetland restoration project with the Monday Creek Watershed Organization.

Submitted by Clay Wilson, President Hocking College TWS Student Chapter

The Ohio State University Student Chapter Update

This year the Fish and Wildlife Society has been involved in a variety of activities. First of all, we have tried to make our meetings more interactive than just having speakers so that we could have a healthy balance of having professional speakers coming in and gaining professional experience. For starters, at the annual college's "Back 2 School Bash," we had a falconer from the Ohio School of Falconry come and talk to students in the college about falconry as well as spreading the word about the society. We have also had many professional speakers come in to talk, including speakers from the fisheries collection and sampling aspect of the campus' Museum of Biological Diversity, Trap History Museum in Galloway, OH, a wildlife vet from South Africa as a part of Ecolife Expeditions to discuss wildlife conservation, and the ODNR Division of Wildlife to discuss intern opportunities.. Speakers will also be coming in from the USDA APHIS-Wildlife Service to discuss feral swine control initiatives and the Ohio EPA to talk about their various internship opportunities. We also held a fisheries professional cookout recently which will be followed up with a wildlife professional cookout in the spring. When it comes to activities, we have held a net seining demonstration, taken a trip to the Trap History Museum, and gone out on a falconry hunt and demonstration with a falconer from the Ohio School of Falconry. Future plans include another possible net seining demonstration later in the year as well as participating in bird banding and possible volunteer opportunities at the Olen-tangy Wetlands Research Park, possibly during Earth Month or specifically on Earth Day. I attended the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Grand Rapids, MI to represent the Ohio State Chapter of the society. We also plan on bringing in professionals from The Wildlife Society and taking a private tour at The Wilds. Lastly, we are currently planning with the Wildlife Society's Forestry and Wildlife Working Group to attend a workshop in Michigan that may focus on the management of Kirtland's Warbler and other avian species in respect to fire-dependent forest ecosystems. Along with this project, we are currently looking into the possibility of developing an annual research focused trip to refuges in the South over Spring Break starting in 2017 also in partnership with the Wildlife Society's Forestry and Wildlife Working Group.

Jack Rabe

Ohio Chapter of the Fish and Wildlife Society, President
Wildlife and Fisheries Management
School of Environment and Natural Resources

University of Rio Grande Student Chapter Update

Several of our current members along with the class of 2015 members took an educational trip to The Wilds in Cumberland, Ohio last April. The tour was sponsored by the chapter, and included a special visit to the rhino facility. That was the final activity we participated in before our summer break, and when we returned this past fall we elected new officers and began planning events for the semester.

Bob Evans Farm hosts their annual fall festival very close to our campus every year in October. We were able to raise funds for the chapter by working at the sorghum syrup mill station, and some of those funds enabled us to design and purchase t-shirts for every one of our members. Also in October, several of our members helped Dr. Althoff install a pair of bat maternity houses on the Ohio Valley Conservation Coalition's Keystone Furnace Wetlands property. We are planning to install another set of houses on the Buckeye Swamp property this spring.

Another activity a few of our members participated in was a youth hunt sponsored by Pheasants Forever. This took place at Holly Hills Game Preserve in South Salem, Ohio on November 7th. There were more youth hunters than there were parents, so our members helped those kids with safety and gave them the best opportunity to be successful. Jacob, the vice-president of our chapter, also took his camera and got several great shots of the hunters in action, which were sent to their parents.

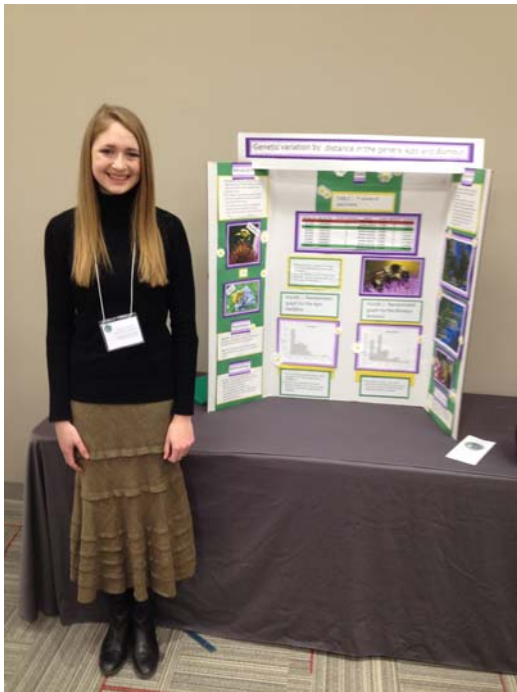
After participating at that event, we organized another fund raiser by designing a calendar with photos taken by chapter members. Many of us sold them to family and friends, and the fund-raising efforts allowed us to pay for full registration to the Ohio Fish and Wildlife Conference to all members (13) that could attend.

This semester we are in the initial stages of getting the trail system on our campus completed. There is a nice section of hardwood forest where we conduct many class projects that has established trails, but there are no markers for people to orient themselves. First, we are going to map out the area on foot, and then anchor wooden posts in the ground at trail intersections with color markers to distinguish the different trails. Once this is complete, our chapter and the university will be able to advertise the trails for others to enjoy for many years to come.

State Science Fair Wildlife Awareness Award Winners

Catherine Powell, a 9th grader from Upper Arlington High School was the 1st place State Science Day Wildlife Awareness Award Winner. She attended this year's OFWMA conference on behalf of OCTWS. Catherine was recognized during the OCTWS business meeting and did a very professional job explaining her project and giving a short speech. She presented her project as part of this year's poster session.

Katie Petit, a 7th Grader, from St Hilary School in Fairlawn was the 2nd Place winner. Her project was titled Bird Flocks and Foraging Behavior: Do Birds of a Feather Eat More When Together? Unfortunately Katie was unable to attend the conference.



Genetic variation by distance in the genera *Apis* and *Bombus*

Catherine Powell, 9th Grade, Upper Arlington High School

The purpose of this study was to determine if specimens in 8 different species under the genera *Bombus* showed stronger correlation between genetic distance and geographic distance than bees in the species *Apis mellifera*. It was hypothesized that the *Bombus* would show stronger correlation in this respect than the *Apis*. Genetic data from the CO 1 gene was collected for each of the species through the web database GenBank and entered into an R-Package, which proceeded to generate a P-value for the correlation between genetic and geographic distance for all the specimens within a species, along with a randomized graph. While the *Apis mellifera* showed no correlation between genetic distance and geographic distance as expected, only two of the species in the *Bombus* genus exhibited the high correlation as expected. These results indicate that there were possibly some limitations in the data, including a narrow geographic distribution or an inconsistency of specimens collected per species.

Learn, Network and Engage

The Wildlife Society 23rd Annual Conference

October 15-19, 2016

Raleigh, NC

North Carolina will be hosting The Wildlife Society's 23rd Annual Conference at the Raleigh Convention Center next fall. We hope you will join us there for more than 500 educational sessions, 3 plenary sessions, over 40 networking opportunities, and much more!

Full registration and conference program details will be available May 15, 2016.



Present at our Conference:

Call for Contributed Papers and Posters

Submissions accepted:

Feb. 22, 2016 – Apr. 8, 2016, 11:59 p.m. CST

Call for Student Research in Progress Posters

*Deadline: **TBA***

Call for Proposals for Educational & Training Programs

Submission period ended Feb. 5

Become a Member of The Wildlife Society Today!

Membership is open to wildlife professionals, students and supporters who are interested in wildlife science, management and conservation. Join online or download our membership form to begin taking advantage of the benefits of TWS membership and to show your commitment to sustaining healthy wildlife populations and habitats for generations to come!

If you are only a member of the Ohio Chapter of TWS please consider joining our Parent Society (<http://wildlife.org/join/>).

If you have any questions, please call (301) 897-9770 or email us at membership@wildlife.org.

Ohio Chapter of TWS

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