

Minutes:
Annual Business Meeting of the Kentucky Chapter of The Wildlife Society
21-22 February 2019
Barren River Lake State Resort Park
Prepared by: David Brown, Secretary (2016-2018)

The 2019 Business Meeting of the Kentucky Chapter was brought to order at approximately 11:00 a.m. central time by President, Chris Leftwich.

Approval of 2018 Minutes

After review by the membership, Scott Harp, made a motion to accept the 2018 Minutes, which was seconded by a UK student member. The motion passed by vote of the membership present.

Old Business

Meeting and Membership Summary:

There are currently 91 members (35 students) of KCTWS, including 34 members who registered and paid online as part of national membership, but who did not attend the 2019 annual meeting. The 2019 annual meeting attendance was 98 (50 professionals, and 48 students). Two professionals and sixteen students who attended the meeting did not pay chapter membership dues.

1) Treasurer's Report: Cody Rhoden provided the following report:

Current Account Balance: \$20,732.49

Chapter Revenue: \$2,955.81

Revenue sources

Activity	Debit	Credit	Revenue
2019 Annual meeting*	600	0	-600
2018 Annual Meeting	3047.4	2425.45	-621.95
Dues reimbursement from National chapter membership registration	324	0	-324
Federal Grants	29243.73	30705.89	1462.16
Interest	0	10.49	10.49
Petty Cash	200	0	-200
Student Development	250	0	-250
Student Poster	100	0	-100
Student Presentation	200	0	-200
TWS National	250	380	130
Workshop	898.49	2397.6	1499.11
UNK deposits	0	2150	2150

*Does not include 2019 meeting expenses other than the deposit at Lake Barkley SRP, see below for those details.

Operating Costs:

- 2018: \$5,869.89
- 2017: \$6,564
- 2015: \$6,195

3-years operating cost: (including full internship funding of \$3150):

- \$28,078

2019 Meeting breakdown:

Out

Barren River State Park: \$3,697.68

Student Presentation: \$200

Student Poster: \$50 and \$50 split between tie

Student Development Award: \$250

Schaaf Award plaque: \$96.28

Misc. supplies: \$88.23

Total Out: \$4,432.19

In

Silent Auction: \$173
Membership Dues/Meeting registration (cash & checks): \$1,190
Membership dues/Meeting registration (Square): \$3,010
Student Scholarship Fund: \$25
Total In: \$4,398

2) **Investment Committee Report:** Bill Balda was not present, but he provided the following information. For 2018 the investment returned a -2.54% for a total loss of \$719.35, definitely our worst year ever. However, it still managed to collect \$859.09 in dividends and \$1119.61 in capital gains. A large drop in share price caused a total depreciation of \$2698.05, causing the overall loss for the year. The silver lining is the December dividend payment and all the capital gains were reinvested into the fund at the lower share price so we bought more shares than usual at the end of the year. Below is the updated data on the Chapter's investment in the Vanguard Wellesley Fund. Following discussions at last year's meeting about moving some of the checking account funds into the investment account, the Executive Committee agreed to move \$10,000, but as of the time of this meeting it hadn't yet been transferred.

Vanguard account:

- Beginning 2018 balance: \$28,369.40
- Ending 2018 balance: \$27,650.05
- Return: -2.54%
 - 9 year average annual return: 6.99%
- Current ave. annual operating budget is \$9,360 (including \$3150 from internship)

Total Annual Return for KY Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Vanguard Wellesley Income Fund									
Month/Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Beginning Balance	\$ -	\$ 3,293.56	\$ 3,610.67	\$ 19,940.05	\$ 21,772.13	\$ 23,528.11	\$ 23,828.29	\$ 25,753.71	\$ 28,369.40
Added Funds	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Ending Bal	\$ 3,293.56	\$ 3,610.67	\$ 19,940.05	\$ 21,772.13	\$ 23,528.11	\$ 23,828.29	\$ 25,753.71	\$ 28,369.40	\$ 27,650.05
Total Return	9.79%	9.63%	7.14%	9.19%	8.07%	1.28%	8.08%	10.16%	-2.54%
Dividends	\$ 119.05	\$ 126.50	\$ 494.67	\$ 634.96	\$ 715.45	\$ 710.02	\$ 736.90	\$ 785.63	\$ 859.09
Capital Gains	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 271.03	\$ 574.19	\$ 405.16	\$ 572.47	\$ 266.41	\$ 319.07	\$ 1,119.61
Appreciation	\$ 174.51	\$ 190.61	\$ 563.68	\$ 622.93	\$ 635.37	\$ (982.31)	\$ 922.11	\$ 1,510.69	\$ (2,698.05)
Total Earnings	\$ 293.56	\$ 317.11	\$ 1,329.38	\$ 1,832.08	\$ 1,755.98	\$ 300.18	\$ 1,925.42	\$ 2,615.39	\$ (719.35)
Beginning Balance	2010	\$ (3,000.00)							
	2011	\$ -							
Added Funds	2012	\$ (15,000.00)							
	2013	\$ -							
	2014	\$ -							
	2015	\$ -							
	2016	\$ -							
	2017	\$ -							
Ending Balance	2018	\$ 27,650.05							
9 Yr Avg Annual Total Return		6.99%							

3) **Student/Professional Development Committee Report:** Danna Baxley, stepped down as the committee chair. The Executive Committee thanked her for being a founding leader of this committee. Brian Gray and Rob Lewis agreed to serve as the new co-chairs. Brian provided an update on recent activities. At the 2019 meeting the committee organized a brief meeting with students to discuss recent and upcoming job openings and provided suggestions on how to network and get a job.

During 2018 the committee created an internship to be co-funded by KDFWR and a professional organization. The committee was able to initiate the internship program and the first internship is scheduled for summer 2019. Several proposals to host the internship were submitted to the KCTWS committee from KDFWR and USFS. The USFS London District was awarded the internship. The committee received 14 student applicants and is interviewing the candidates following the business meeting.

The committee discussed plans to hold a quiz bowl competition between university students and professionals at the 2020 meeting.

The winner of the 2019 Student/Professional Development Award (\$250) was Gage Barnes, a graduate student for Murray State University, for his proposal "The influence of telecommunication towers on Osprey nesting behaviors in western Kentucky." The EKV student chapter received the Student/Professional Development in 2018 to support FFT2 training for 10

students, and Ted Brancheau reported that the training was successful and students are looking forward to gaining field experience with prescribed fire during the upcoming spring season.

Past and current recipients

- 2013 Micah Perkins (U of Louisville)
- 2014 EKU Fire Training
- 2015 Murray State Mammoth Cave NP inventory of Sloan’s Crossing Pond
- 2016 Jennifer McKenzie (UK)
- 2017 Murray State SEAFWA travel
- 2018 EKU Fire Training
- 2019 Gage Barnes (Murray State University)

- 4) Dr. Charles Elliott was awarded The Shaaf Award. He was nominated by a group of former and current students and colleagues. During the presentation of the award Scott Harp and EKU student, John McKinney, pointed out the significance of the award and that Dr. Elliott is only the ninth winner in the 28 year history of the Chapter.

Schaaf awardees	year
Charles Elliott	2019
Bob Frederick	2015
Steve Bonney	2012
Tom Edwards	2009
Mike Morton	2008
Jeff Sole	2000
John Phillips	1999
Lee Nelson	1998
Lauren E. Schaaf	1997

5) **Student Presentation and Poster Awards:**

The **Best Student Presentation Award**, including a \$200 check, was given to Jonathan Matthews, a graduate student from University of Kentucky, for his oral presentation titled “Influence of Deer Density on Corn and Soybean Yields in Western Kentucky.”.

For the **Best Student Poster Award** there were two winter due to a tieThe winners were Keely Kohen a student from University of Kentucky for her poster titled “Just Bead It: Presence of Microbeads in New Mexico River Otter Scat,” and Josey Berta a student from Eastern Kentucky University for her poster “Ecosystem Functional Consequences of Amphibian Mortality due to the Inasive Honeysuckle Shrub, *Lonicera mackii*.” Checks for \$50 were awarded to each of the winners.

New Business

- 1) **Executive committee elections:** Madeline Pratt (KDFWR) was elected president-elect, Kathy Terry (KDFWR) was elected Secretary, and Rob Lewis was elected as member-at-large. Terri Brunjes took over as President. Chris Leftwich became past-president. David Brown stepped down from the Secretary position, Gregg Janos stepped down from the Member-at-large position. Scott Harp’s duties with the Executive Committee officially ended as he stepped down from the past-president position. The membership thanked Scott, Chris, Gregg and David for their service.
- 2) **Audit Committee:** Matt Springer (UK), Courtney Hayes (EKU student) volunteered to serve on the Audit Committee last year and reported that everything checked out with no problems. Matt Springer and another newly recruited member of the audit committee looked at the records as of the 2019 meeting and again reported that everything was in order. They plan to do this every year.
- 3) **Southeastern section representative:** Terri suggested that a new officer position be created. Ben Robinson suggested that this duty be taken up by the member-at-large. Scott Harp suggested it should be a high ranking KDFWR representative. The Executive Committee will continue to discuss this. The President can appoint this position at any time without need for a vote from the membership.
- 4) **Increasing membership and recruiting:** There was a discussion of how to grow professional membership. It was suggested that we build our social presence, but several people pointed out that we need a purpose and plan, and possibly this could be done by appointed positions or by a new committee. It was also suggested that we could invite vendors to the meeting. Other suggestions include creating a regular newsletter, holding joint meetings with other societies or states, find national members from the state who aren’t state members, including workshops for certification credits as part of the meeting, or offering field trips during the meeting. Workshops could occur Friday afternoon, but some expressed concern about organizing more workshops in addition to the biennial event. During biennial workshops we could also better advertise the state meeting and provide opportunity to join the state society. Offering free membership to state group at TWS Working Group events was

also suggested, these new members would then be likely to renew membership in the group. It was also encouraged that current members reach out to state NRCS offices, USFS, USDA, and other agencies to promote attendance. National TWS has letters that could be sent out to help potential members persuade their supervisors. A student suggested adopting a “Bring a friend...” program. It was generally agreed that the most successful recruiting tool is just word of mouth encouragement to attend.

- 5) **Biennial workshop:** Following on the success of the Bat workshop from 2016 and the Invasive Species workshop in 2018, it was agreed that this program should continue on a biennial basis. Suggested topics for the next workshop: establishing and managing warm season grasses, pollinators, wetland/stream creation and mitigation, communication strategies, forest management, human-wildlife conflict management. It was pointed out that the topic should be linked to training activities so that participants can earn credit towards certification.
- 6) **Fund-raising and Finances:** It was suggested that discontinuing free lunch for professionals, but keep it for the students, might be a way of saving money. It was suggested that we require membership to receive free lunch at the meeting. The cost of the social has increased in recent years because of state park requirements of having a bartender, and with increased student involvement we’ve provided more cabins in recent years. It was also suggested that the silent auction could be improved by having more and better materials for the auction and including a raffle as part of the auction.
- 7) **Miscellaneous:** Dr. Elliott is the official contributor for the Kentucky section of the Southeastern Newsletter. He’s had difficulty getting information for this. Terri Brunjes will look into this and get back to him. Eric Darracq suggested reaching out to representatives of specific organizations, which used to be how Dr Elliott got contributions but he moved away from that approach. He plans to try it again since there are many new faces in the positions that could provide information.
- 8) **Adjourn:** Terri adjourned the meeting