

# Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Volume 47, Issue 1

April 2019

## President's Message

Hello Wildlifers!

It is my honor and privilege to write my first message to you as President of Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society. I would like to start by thanking all of the membership for your support for MNTWS. Whether you choose to support the chapter through your annual membership or if you are one of the many that step up and work on conservation issues across MN, you have my appreciation and respect. Since 1944, when MNTWS was first organized, our chapter has thrived because the membership has made it our mission to ensure the management of wildlife resources on a sound biological basis that benefits ecosystems and people, and to encourage the highest possible professional standards in those working with wildlife resources. Over the past 75 years there have been innumerable accomplishments in which the chapter has been instrumental. Those accomplishments, both direct and indirect, are due to the passion that our membership has for our natural resources. I thank all of you and the members that have come before us and left behind a legacy that we can be proud of. I encourage you all to take advantage of the strong and effective voice that MNTWS provides and let's continue to pave the way for our next generations to flourish.

With that being said, what a fantastic week in Duluth! Thank you all for attending and making it a wonderful experience. I owe a **BIG** thank you to Brian Leitingner and the MN Chapter of the Society of American Foresters for all of the help in the planning and organization of this year's Annual Meeting. If you have not yet be a part of a team that has organized a meeting of this size and caliber, you'll be in for a treat when your time comes! It was truly a wonderful experience and the MNTWS team is fantastic to work with. Sincere appreciation go out to our newest Past President, Kyle Arola, who was invaluable in providing any answers in how to "eat the whole elephant". Kyle Daly, who was in charge of the financial tracking, getting everything ready for registration, recruiting sponsorships, and quite honestly anything else that needed to get done. Our welcome reception/fundraising event was a wonderful evening and we owe that to, not only each of you that donated and contributed items, but to Dawn Plattner, Norm Moody, Sheldon Myerchin, Ann Geisen, and John Reins who received and organized all those items. Once again, Thom Soule organized another exceptional awards program to recognize and honor our newest award recipients. Linsdey Shartell and her crew of judges were kept busy during the conference judging the wonderful student posters and presentations. Ben Walker did an outstanding job supporting all the powerpoint presentations, and an additional thank you for everyone that provided projectors and

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screens. Ross Hier once again provided outstanding for the cover of the program and the two prizes for the quiz bowl winners. I'll give Ross another special thank you since he has done this service for our chapter for many years, never asks for anything in return, and I have great luck in winning the originals... John Loegering and Jenny Boucher for the complexity involved with combining this years' student quiz bowl to include the SAF students.

Matt Stasica and Bill Severud for your assistance with updating the website and Facebook. Finally, this conference is not possible without the help of many nameless volunteers that staffed the registration desk and other behind the scenes activity. You were no less integral to the success of the annual meeting. I thank you all!

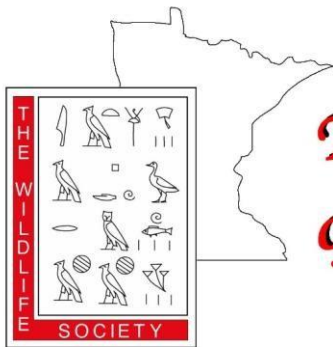
With all of your help, there were nearly 400 wildlife and forestry professionals that came together for the meeting in February! Of that 400, over 130 were students from various colleges throughout the state. I hope that we continue to bring more students to this event to help develop our future wildlife professional as well as giving professionals the opportunity to recognize the bright future we have for conservation. That becomes clear when we showcase the students at the Student Quiz Bowl. Congratulations to Central Lakes College and their SAF partners from Vermillion Community College on their Quiz Bowl Victory! We look forward to seeing your continual success out in the field!

Finally, after meeting expenses were paid, MNTWS was able to raise almost \$2000 from a combination with donations, vendor fees, and paid registrations. This keeps us in a very good financial position as we move into this new year. That is by no means the most important measurement of success from the meeting though. It is the intangible, qualitative measurements that are of most importance. Most important, to me, is the network that is created and developed through these meetings. Over the years we become extremely close with one another and learn that we can rely and support each other. To that end, I would like to thank the outgoing committee chairs and board members: Laurie Fairchild (Past-President), Kyle Arola (President), Kyle Daly (Treasurer), Steven Hogg (Board Member at Large), Mike Schrage (Board Member at Large), Thom Soule (Awards Chair), and Jenny Boucher (Student Relations Chair). You have all served the chapter with dignity and we appreciate all that you have done in service to wildlife. You may recognize some of the incoming members, or not if you were on the quiz bowl team that didn't recognize me! Kyle Arola (Past-President), Tony Hewitt (President), Kyle Daly (President-elect), Bill Severud (Treasurer), Jessica Piispanen (Board Member at Large), Nicole Bernd (Board Member at Large), Steve Windels (Awards Chair), and Joey Riley (Student Relations Chair).

Thank you all for running and your continual ambition to making the chapter stronger. I encourage you to take a moment and introduce yourself to them when you have a chance. Or even better, contact one of them and let them know that you are willing to help!

This year is going to be another successful year for the chapter. Although we are still finalizing this years' annual work plan, we started hot right out the gate, with an issue, brought up from newly active members, about a land acquisition in the prairie region of the state. The board ENCOURAGES you to get in contact with us if you have an issue that you are passionate about. Over the next month we will be finalizing our 2019 Annual Work Plan and Budget to provide to each of you. Please don't hesitate if there is something you would like to add to the list and shepherd enthusiastically! Our work plan is co-evolving with issues as they arise. Get in contact with any one of us and we will bring it to the board to discuss how we can get involved. As a final thought, our chapter, your chapter, work for and represents you. Our chapter is small but mighty, and its success is a reflection of our individual passions and the results of our combined contribution toward our chapter goals. We all depend on each other. I challenge everyone to lend a hand, get involved, be supportive of one another, and be a leader in conservation. **Take Care, Anthony Hewitt, President**

Contact me at [arhewitt3@gmail.com](mailto:arhewitt3@gmail.com)



# *The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society*

## *50 Years Ago Today*

**How Minnesota's Natural Resources  
Have Changed Over the Last Fifty Years**

**Perspectives from Long Standing Natural Resource  
Professionals**

*Featuring Presentations By:*

Bill Berg

Carrol Henderson

Norm Moody

Doug Norris Dan Svedarsky

**August 29, 2019**

**Cragun's Resort, Brainerd, MN**

**Tentative Registration Cost \$40 (includes lunch)**

**Save the Date – More Details to Follow**

## **A Case for developing the power of community and local relationships to further conservation statewide**

***By Stacy Salvevold***

How engaged in local government are you?

Do you know who your state representatives are? How about the county commissioner or city council member that represents you? Have you ever shared your thoughts about natural resource conservation with your state rep or county commissioner? Do you consider yourself knowledgeable about local natural resources issues? Are you wondering where I'm going with this yet?

As I graduated college, I was driven to change the world and thought I could impact the world at national and international levels by being active in the politics, policies and happenings at the national and international level. As I have aged, I have learned valuable lessons in life. Change happens faster and easier at the local level. Relationships can be built with your neighbors. Leading or participating in the boards of local organizations, clubs and non-profits results in name and face recognition, trust and relationships with other local organizers.

As finances to do conservation work in MN have grown in the past ten years, the conservation workforce has shrunk. We work diligently to expand conservation in Minnesota, but we are seeing our conservation mission appreciated less locally and, in some cases, challenged by local government.

We conservation professionals are all super passionate about what we do. We believe and try to convince others that our goals and objectives to change the world are noble and the right thing to do for natural resources, wildlife and the earth. We proudly tell our stories and are disappointed when our message is not received with the same excitement with which it was delivered.

So where is this going, you ask? Many of us volunteer for our local conservation organizations and chapters, but how many of us are Kiwanis, Jaycees or Chamber of Commerce members? How often do we attend county and city government meetings for business that is not directly related to our mission? How many of us would be challenged by our supervisors or feel guilty for "wasting" time not actively working directly on our mission, but rather investing in building relationships in our local community in atypical ways.

We can build more trust and understanding with people we have relationships with. We all need to stretch ourselves and start conversations about conservation and community needs. We need to participate in local government and organizations, and above all we need to listen, not just preach our mission. In order to further our mission, we need to invest the time to have good local relationships with people who will support us when we need it most.

The old adage, "Slow down to speed up," applies to what I think we need most to further the conservation mission the most in Minnesota. Rather than asking for support from our local government for our conservation projects, we need to invest time asking our local government what they need, how can we help, where can we meet mutual goals and objectives for our community? We can and we should invest time, energy and money in our local community and local government. We need to personally and professionally act to help our local government colleagues in ways that will benefit all.

It's easy to dismiss projects that benefit us the least but might benefit our local partners the most. We tell ourselves we don't have time to spread the message that Federal Highway money is available to local government to work adjacent to our National Wildlife Refuges, or grant funds are available from the state or federal government to help local fire departments buy equipment or train their firefighters. What about the multitude of grants available to help deal with Aquatic or Terrestrial Invasive Species? What about working with our local Watershed and Soil and Water Districts to overlap our focus or priority areas to locate places we can work together to meet local, state, and federal goals and objectives. Can we as individuals work with our elected officials to request the full funding of PILT and Refuge Revenue Sharing or challenge our state representatives to make sure they allocate more Local Government Aid to rural counties and school districts where we know it is needed?

The most important thing we as conservation professionals can do to further our conservation mission in Minnesota, is to get more active in our local government and our local communities. If the only thing our local government hears from us are requests to support our needs, and they never hear us ask, what can we do for you? We won't be relevant or heard. If we have local relationships with the business people, community organizers, tourism staff, and local government employees, we will have people that will support us when we need it most.

Never dismiss the power of your community and relationships!

***You might have noticed that **annual membership dues** were not included in the registration fee package this year at the annual meeting....see the next page for an easy way to get your dues paid and off the to-do list!***

## 2019 MN TWS Membership Drive



### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Three ways to renew your membership:

- 1) Sign up or renew your National, Section, and State Chapter membership all at once at <https://wildlife.org/join/>
- 2) Fill out, scan, and email this form to Bill Severud: [billseverud@gmail.com](mailto:billseverud@gmail.com). Bill will send you a payment link and you can pay online with a credit card via PayPal.
- 3) Fill out and mail this form and payment to Bill Severud: 1503 Saint Albans St N, Saint Paul, MN 55117. Cash or checks payable to MN TWS.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Organization and Title:

#### MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

Regular Member	\$25/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student Member	\$10/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Retiree Member	\$15/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life Member	\$400	<input type="checkbox"/>

## *What we've been working on lately:*

### Forest Committee- Bruce Anderson, Chair and Chris Smith

- Attended Sand Dunes State Forest Public Stakeholder Meeting.
- Met (conference calls) with MN Native Plant Society (MNNPS), Minnesota Herpetological Society (MHS), and Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas (FMSNA) on issues related to Sand Dunes State Forest and Uncas Dunes SNA.
- In collaboration with MNNPS, MHS, and FMSNA met with MNDNR leadership to discuss pressing matters related to the management of habitat and rare resources within Sand Dunes State Forest.
- Attended Minnesota Forest Habitat Collaborative annual meeting (Chris Smith).
- Submitted comments on the DNR's Sustainable Timber Harvest Determination (STHD) which was a follow up to our earlier comments to the Sustainable Timber Harvest Analysis (STHA). In our STHD comments we recommended that at least minimum MFRC Leave Tree guidelines be fulfilled on DNR School Trust lands (STL) and exceeded on STL within WMA's. We demonstrated that monitoring of prior year STL timber sales had indeed exceeded MFRC leave tree guidelines over 50% of sales monitored. We also showed that both STL timber harvest volume and revenue contributed very little to the state's overall volume and school funding.
- Provided a wide range of comments to the Draft Lake States Bat Conservation Plan. We commented on the 1st three chapters of the Plan. We recently heard back from the Bat planning team indicating that many of our comments were captured in the draft.
  
- And, under specific wildlife news, H.F. 749 was heard in committee on March 5. The bill is being held for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill. Chris Smith was there as a representative for the Herpatological Society, in support of the bill. The bill modifies existing state statute and would prohibit the harvest and sale of turtles in MN. Currently three species, the painted turtle, snapping turtles, and spiny softshell can be harvested by those with Turtle Seller Licenses and sold. There is no limit, and numbers have varied year to year, but have been in the tens of thousands in recent years. The bill also prohibits the use of commercial equipment by individuals harvesting turtles for personal use, and adds a Recreational Turtle License requirement in addition to a Fishing License for those harvesting turtles for personal use.



Prairie and Farmland Committee – Jill Fejszes, Chair

The Prairie Farmland Committee has continued to put out the monthly newsletter with articles of interest from the previous month. Recently, Stacy Salvevold has been leading an effort to engage in the topic of land acquisition for MNTWS. This has become a contested topic in some counties where local authorities are unhappy with public land acquisitions. The Committee is also interested in looking more closely at the recent Farm Bill this year and we plan to get more information out on it. If you have any topics you are more interested in working on for our Chapter or would like to help out with the committee please email Jill Fejszes at [jillian.fejszes@gmail.com](mailto:jillian.fejszes@gmail.com).

## **A Quick Recap of Student Chapter work in 2018**

### U of M Crookston

- o Fundraising at the Ralph Engelstad in Grand Forks
- o Duck banding
- o Waterfowl bag checks
- o Goshawks surveys
- o Bud capping in the Chippewa and the Itasca
- o Itasca snowshoeing
- o Joint camping trip MN SD ND
- o Grant work

### Bemidji State University

- o Bobcat and Grouse surveys
- o Brush cut Crookston
- o Multiple surveys: prairie grouse sand hill cranes at Agassiz and Glacial Ridge
- o Capture and band purple martin on lake Bemidji Fall duck banding at lake Agassiz over 300 birds in one shoot
- o Wood duck and blue birds houses on WMAs around town
- o Local DNR help with deer spot light surveys (deer counts)
- o 6 students attend the national TWS meeting in Cleveland, 13 students take place in CWD testing
- o Camp Norris doing bird banding



- o Sphagnum moss uptake
- o 2 people with posters and a student who did a presentation
- o Lake clean up on Lake Bemidji
- o Many fundraising events

#### Vermillion Community College

- o 25 students in the club
- o Fall – ruffed grouse drum survey
- o Hunter walking trails maintained with DNR
- o 1854 treaty cultural transects and trapping
- o Winter fuels reduction with local land owners in Ely and showing what they can do to reduce fuels or create wildlife habitat
- o Sharp-tail and DNR brush cut
- o USFS with a grouse survey
- o DNR sharp tail grouse pellet count and census.

#### Minnesota State University Moorhead

- o 14 students and 5 posters
- o volunteered at River zoo
- o International wolf center in Ely with plans for another visit in the spring
- o Research on small mammal trapping
- o Painted turtle research
- o Canada goose nesting and monitoring project
- o New addition to the campus have a raptor center – did banding

#### Central Lakes College

- o Banquets for MN Muskies Inc., Camp Ripley archery hunt, Brush cuts at Hinckley, Garbage cleanup 371, Field trips TWS, Raptors for ID.
- o Conservation volunteer, Crane Meadows.

- o Owl research institute 2 acres of Saskatoon bog
- o Hides for habitat over 1,000 hides.

University of Minnesota Twin Cities

- o Ice fishing with DNR in the west
- o Raptor banding at 2 harbors
- o CWD in SE portion of state
- o Deer aging workshop
- o WOW panel over 100 students attending
- o External review done to find out that our club needs to be more of a point of contact between the students and staff
- o Fostering USFWS cedar creek facilities,
- o Cedar Creek to develop small mammal traps (herps and mammals)

## 2019 1st Quarter Treasurer's Report - Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

1 January, 2019 to 31 March, 2019 (as of March 25th)

Checking		0.100% interest				
Date	Description	Details	Debits	Credits	Balance	
1/1/2019	Beginning Balance				\$	26,414.66
1/17/2019	MCF Dues	Ch1372- MCF	\$ 250.00		\$	26,164.66
1/22/2019	Membership Dues	Transfer from National TWS		\$ 1,175.00	\$	27,339.66
1/28/2019	2018 Student Prof Dev. Grant	Ch1372 - Walberg	\$ 250.00		\$	27,089.66
1/31/2019	2018 Student Prof Dev. Grant	Ch1369- Tillery UMTC (SPD grant and Travel grant)	\$ 475.00		\$	26,614.66
1/31/2019	Dividend			\$ 2.79	\$	26,617.45
2/2/2019	Non-toxic WG	ODN Deer & Turkey Show	\$ 65.00		\$	26,552.45
2/5/2019	Non-toxic WG	ODN Deer & Turkey Show	\$ 620.00		\$	25,932.45
2/6/2019	2018 Student Prof Dev. Grant	Ch1371- MSUM (SPD grant and Travel grant)	\$ 475.00		\$	25,457.45
2/11/2019	2018 Student Prof Dev. Grant	Ch1370- UMC (SPD grant and Travel grant)	\$ 350.00		\$	25,107.45
2/14/2019	2019 AM	Audio Visual Resource	\$ 568.90		\$	24,538.55
2/26/2019	2019 AM	Printing cost	\$ 1,519.96		\$	23,018.59
2/27/2019	2018 Student Prof Dev. Grant	Ch1374- CLC (student travel grant)	\$ 100.00		\$	22,918.59
2/28/2019	Dividend			\$ 2.38	\$	22,920.97
3/1/2019	2018 Student Prof Dev. Grant	Ch1378- VCC (student travel grant)	\$ 100.00		\$	22,820.97
3/5/2019	2019 AM	Ch1377- Hier expenses	\$ 14.88		\$	22,806.09
3/6/2019	2019 AM	Ch1381- Bracey presentation award	\$ 100.00		\$	22,706.09
3/6/2019	2018 Board travel reimbursement	Ch1384- Andersen travel reimbursement	\$ 134.00		\$	22,572.09
3/6/2019	2018 Awards	Ch1383- Silver Bell Trophies	\$ 680.00		\$	21,892.09
3/7/2019	2018 Student Prof Dev. Grant	Ch1379- BSU travel grant	\$ 100.00		\$	21,792.09
3/12/2019	2019 AM	Ch1376- Myerchin fundraiser expense	\$ 295.50		\$	21,496.59
			\$ 6,098.24	\$ 1,180.17		

## Checking - Midwest Steering Committee Funds

Date	Description	Details	Debits	Credits	Balance
1/1/2019	Beginning Balance				\$ 22,133.90
1/31/2019	Dividend			\$ 0.94	\$ 22,134.84
2/18/2019	Dividend			\$ 0.85	\$ 22,135.69
			\$ -	\$ 1.79	

## Checking - Deer and Turkey Group

Date	Description	Details	Debits	Credits	Balance
1/1/2019	Beginning Balance				\$ 1,520.13
1/31/2019	Dividend			\$ 0.06	\$ 1,520.19
2/18/2019	Dividend			\$ 0.06	\$ 1,520.25
			\$ -	\$ 0.12	

## Savings 0.100% interest

Date	Description	Details	Debits	Credits	Balance
1/1/2019	Beginning Balance				\$ 10,037.80
1/31/2019	Dividend			\$ 1.23	\$ 10,039.03
2/28/2019	Dividend			\$ 1.11	\$ 10,040.14
			\$ -	\$ 2.34	

## Investments

## 60 Month Step-Up CD (Lifetime Membership Funds)

		1.982% interest			
Date	Description	Details	Debits	Credits	Balance
1/1/2019	Beginning Balance				\$ 4,929.20
1/1/3119	Dividend			\$ 8.30	\$ 4,937.50
2/28/2019	Dividend			\$ 7.51	\$ 4,945.01
			\$ -	\$ 15.81	

## Investment History

The 60 Month Step-Up CD (7153652) was opened 24 August 2012 using lifetime membership funds. Annual percentage yield (APY) increases yearly: 0.125%, 0.625%, 1.125%, 2.625%, 3.625%.

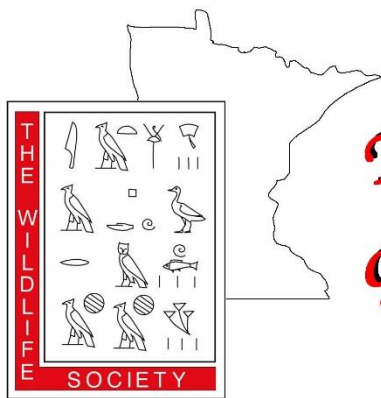


## 2019 MN TWS Governing Board

President	Anthony Hewitt – Bloomington,, MN
President-Elect	Kyle Daly – Minneapolis, MN
Past President	Kyle Arola – Middle River, MN
Secretary	Matt Stasica – Prior Lake, MN
Treasurer	Bill Severud – Minneapolis, MN
Board Member at Large (2019-2020)	Jessica Piispanen – Plymouth, MN
	Nicole Bernd – Gentilly, MN
Board Member at Large (2018-2019)	Lindsey Shartell – Grand Rapids, MN
	Bruce D. Anderson – Chisago City, MN

## Committee Chairs & Representatives

Audit	Gretchen Mehmel – Roosevelt, MN
Awards	Steve Windels – International Falls
COWCH	Andy Tri – Grand Rapids, MN
Communications	Matt Stasica – Prior Lake, MN
Fundraising	Sheldon Myerchin – Waite Park, MN
Dawn Plattner – Nevis, MN	
Forest Issues	Bruce Anderson – Chisago City, MN
Historian/Archivist	John Moriarty – Plymouth, MN
Webmaster	Matt Stasica- Prior Lake, MN
Membership	Mandy Uhrich – Brainerd, MN
Non-Toxic Workgroup	Anthony Hewitt – Zimmerman, MN
Prairie/Farmland Issues	Jillian Fejszes – Thief River Falls, MN
Statewide Issues	Bill Faber – Cushing, MN
Student Relations	Joey Riley – Brainerd, MN
Wetland Issues	Laurie Fairchild – Gary, MN
Minnesota Conservation Federation	Dr. Bill Faber – Cushing, MN
State Technical Committee	Sabin Adams – Todd, MN
Conservation Affairs Network	Styron Bell – Morris, MN
Newsletter Editor	Laurie Fairchild – Gary, MN



# *The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society*

Visit us online at: <http://wildlife.org/minnesota>