

Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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President's Message

MN TWS 2016 Governing Board, Committee Chairs, and Chapter Representatives

Greetings Minnesota Wildlifers! It is with pleasure that I present the chapter's 2016 Governing Board:

Past-president – Rich Olsen
President – Steve Winter
President-elect – Laurie Fairchild
Treasurer – Kyle Daly
Secretary – Matt Stasica
Region 1 Representative – Kyle Arola
Region 2 Representative – Bruce Anderson
Region 3 Representative – Mandy Uhrich
Region 4 Representative – Lisa Gelvin-Innvaer
Region 5 Representative – Michelle Barrett
Region 6 Representative – Bill Severud

If you have concerns or questions about chapter activities please contact any member of the governing board to inquire or to have them pass information on to the board as a whole (contact information is available at the chapter's website: <http://wildlife.org/mn/governing-board/>). Also, when you have a chance be sure to let them know you appreciate they're giving their time to keep our chapter strong and to continue providing benefits to you, the membership, which helps you become more effective in wildlife conservation.

In addition to the governing board, many individuals contribute substantial amounts of their time to the chapter by serving as committee chairs or chapter representatives. Again, please let these people

know you appreciate their hard but rewarding work and let them know if you'd like to help them with that work:

2017 Annual Meeting – Laurie Fairchild
Archivist – John Moriarty
Audit – Gretchen Mehmel
Awards – Thom Soule
Conserving Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage – Andy Tri
Forest Issues – Norm Moody
Fundraising – Dawn Plattner and Sheldon Myerchin
Membership – Mandy Uhrich
Nominations and Elections – Rich Olsen
Prairie and Farmland Issues – Jillian Fejszes
Statewide Issues – Bill Faber
Student Relations – Jennifer DuBay
Wetland Issues – Laurie Fairchild
Beltrami Island Land Utilization Project
Citizen Input Panel – Margaret Anderson
Board of Water and Soil Resources
Drainage Workgroup – Ray Norrgard
Google Group Administration – Steve Windels and Mandy Uhrich
Minnesota Conservation Federation Representative – Bill Faber
Newsletter Editor – Bailey Petersen
Non-toxic Ammunition Workgroup – Tony Hewitt and Brian Hiller
USDA State Technical Committee Representative – Jodie Provost
Webmaster – Lindsey Shartell

MN TWS 2016 Annual Meeting

The 2016 annual meeting was held in Mankato February 9th-10th and was in many ways a great success. Our registration records indicate more than 240 people attended and ample feedback has indi-

President's Message (continued)

cated attendees enjoyed it immensely and thought it was well worth their time. The meeting featured a plenary session, a welcome reception and fundraiser, 40 oral presentations in the general sessions, more than 20 poster presentations in a poster session, a student-professional meet-and-greet, a student quiz bowl, a membership meeting, an awards banquet, and a non-toxic ammunition workshop. Financially, the meeting was a success with the fundraiser generating at least \$3,600 and the meeting as a whole generating a profit of approximately \$7,500. These funds can be used in the following year in a manner similar to how the chapter has used funds in previous years: to support student attendance at the MN TWS annual meeting or other meetings, to support non-toxic ammunition demonstration workshops, to send a MN TWS representative to events such as the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference or the Teaming With Wildlife Fly-in, and to provide financial support to other conservation organizations.

Graphic depictions of the post-meeting survey results are provided below (a big thank-you to Kyle Arola for setting up the post-meeting survey, compiling the results, and generating the graphs). While many components of the meeting received favorable ratings, survey responses indicate a few components deserve attention and could be improved in future meetings. Send me an email if you'd like to receive the full set of results and material from the post-meeting survey, including the comments that were submitted by survey respondents.

Pulling off an annual meeting each year is a collaborative effort and many people have devoted a substantial amount of their time to providing chapter members with a valuable experience. The successful aspects of the 2016 annual meeting were due to the hard work of numerous chapter members including the following:

Conference Program – Rich Olsen and Ross Hier
Registration and Treasurer – Lindsey Shartell
Sponsorships and Vendors – Steve Windels, Lindsey Shartell, Richard Olsen, and Tony Hewitt
MN DNR/USFWS Coordination Meeting – Annie DuFrensne, Bob Welsh, and Jim Leach

Plenary Session – Greg Corace, Jack McGowan-Stinski, and Craig Maier

Fundraiser – Sheldon Myerchin, Ann Geisen, Dawn Plattner

Laptops – John Loegering and UM-Crookston

Student Quiz Bowl – Elizabeth Rave, Brian Hiller, and John Loegering

Student/Professional Meet-and-Greet – Jodie Provost

Awards Banquet Program – Thom Soule

Student Chapter Leaders Breakfast – Richard Olsen

Non-toxic Ammunition Workshop – MN TWS Non-toxic Working Group

Web Support – Lindsey Shartell, Kyle Arola

Our 2016 President-elect, Laurie Fairchild, will play the lead role in organizing and executing the 2017 annual meeting, feel free to share your thoughts with her about how the 2017 annual meeting would best meet your needs as a chapter member. And please let her know if you'd like to assist in any way with the 2017 annual meeting.

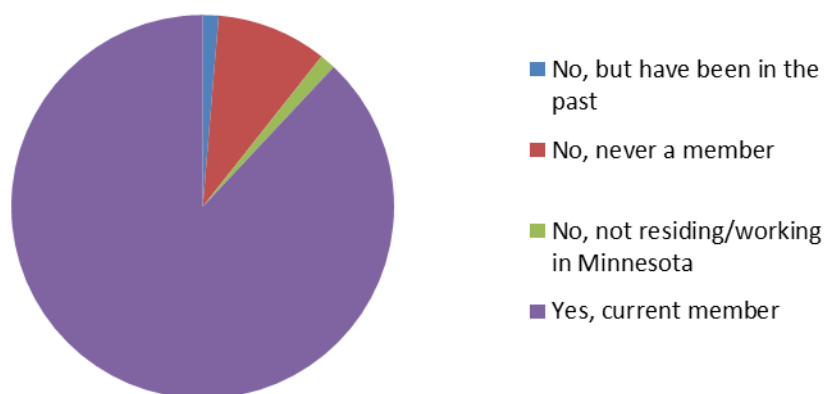
Stephen Winter - stephen.winter@okstate.edu



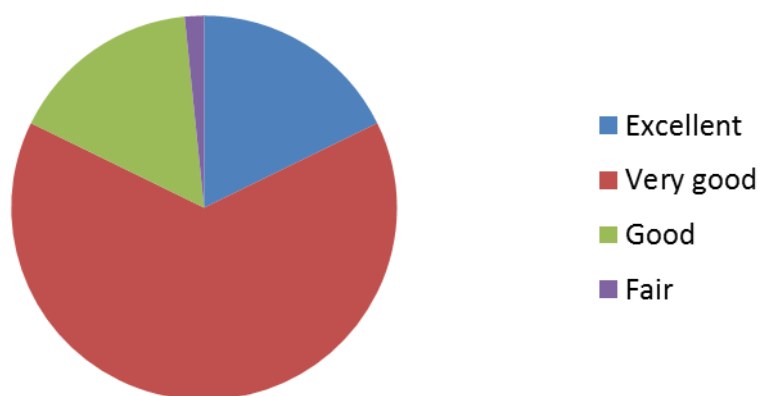
MINNESOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

RESULTS OF THE POST-MEETING SURVEY

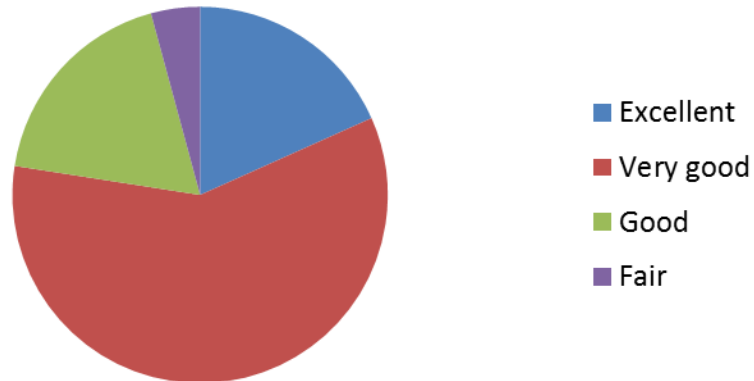
Are you a member of the Minnesota
Chapter of The Wildlife Society?



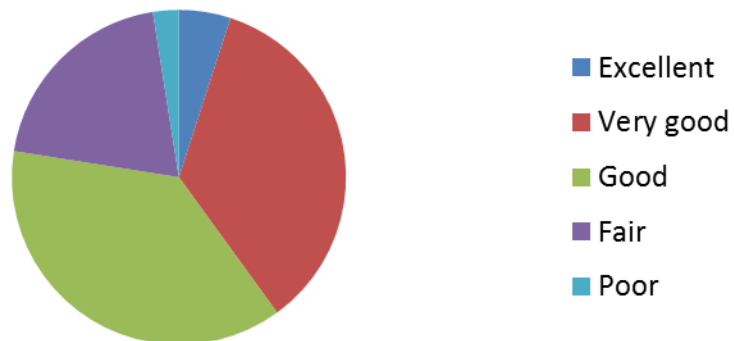
How would you rate the Fire Ecology
Plenary Session on February 9th?



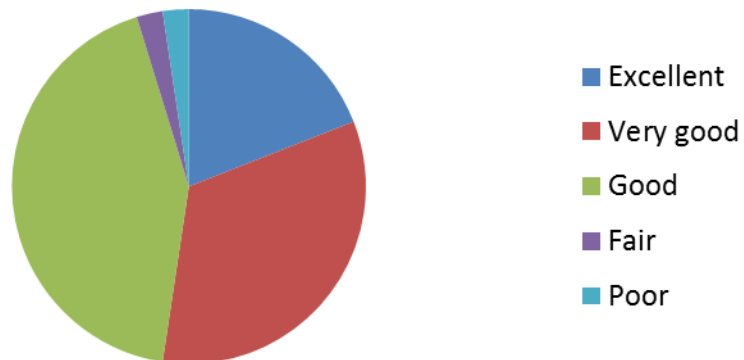
How would you rate the General Sessions
on February 10th and 11th?



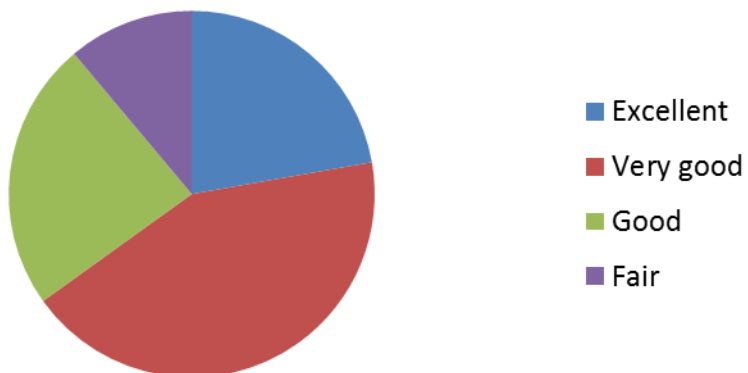
How would you rate the Chapter's
February 10th Membership Meeting?



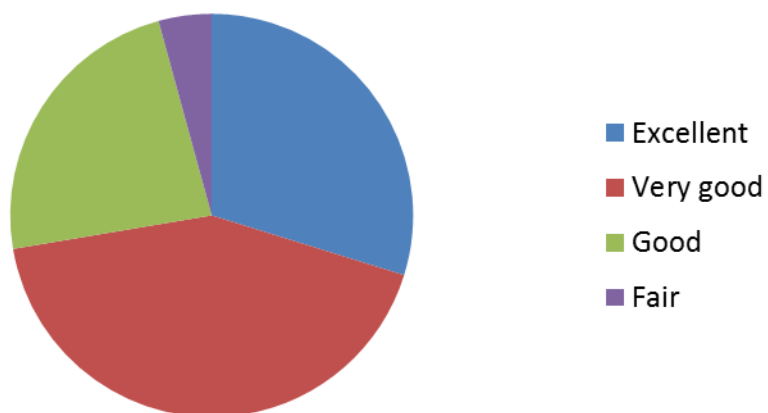
How would you rate the
Student/Professional Meet-and-Greet on
February 9th?



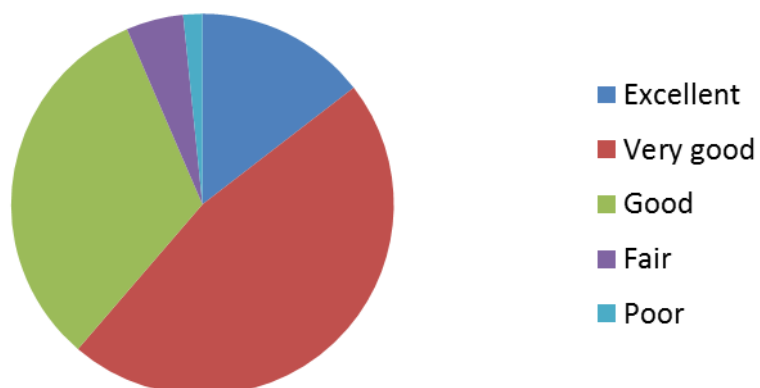
How would you rate the Welcome Reception and Fundraiser on February 9th?



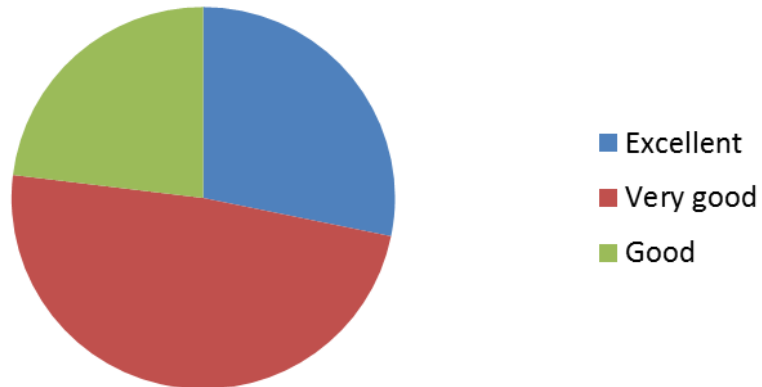
How would you rate the Student Quiz Bowl on February 10th?



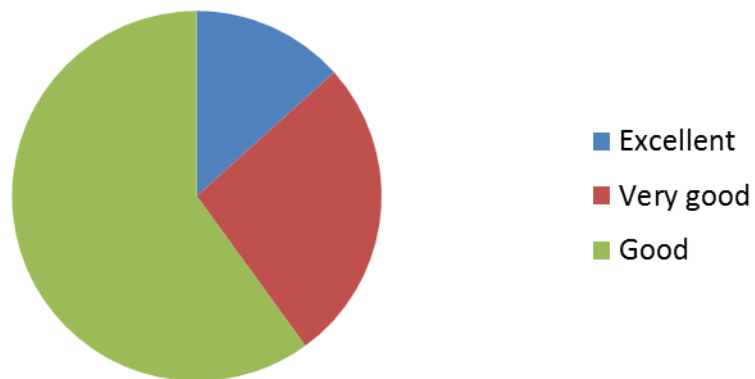
How would you rate the Poster Session on February 10th?



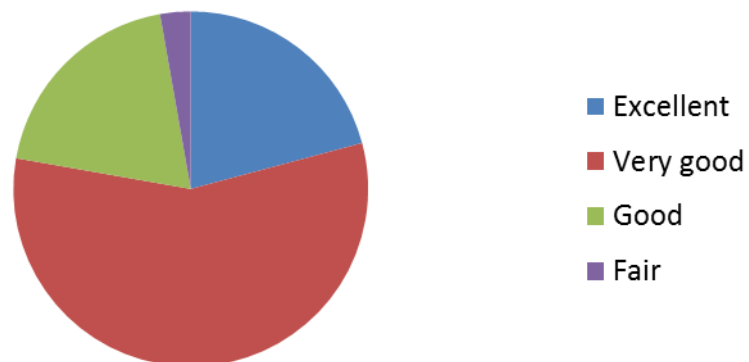
How would you rate the Awards Banquet
on February 10th?



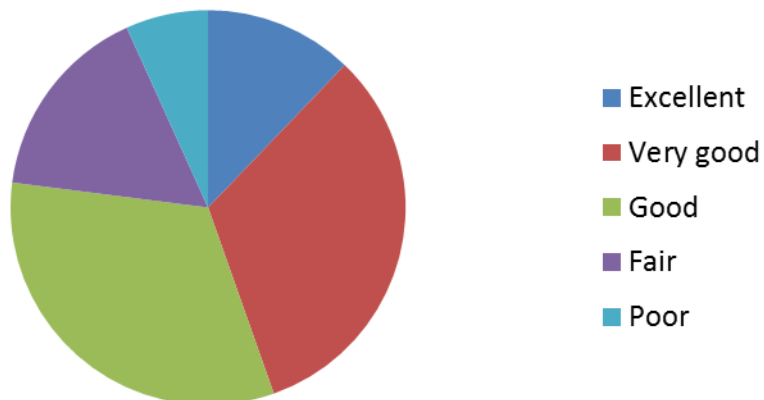
How would you rate the Non-toxic
Ammunition Workshop on February 11th?



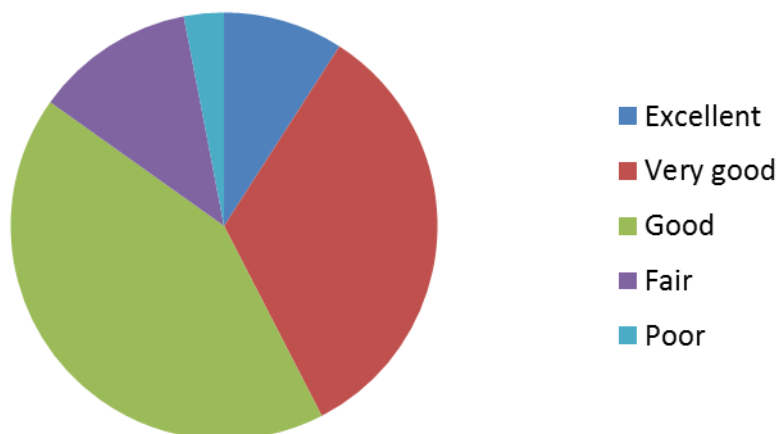
How would you rate the 2016 Annual
Meeting as a whole?



How would you rate the venue/location?



How would you rate the vendors?



The Wildlife Society



Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education

Award Recipients

2015 MNTWS Award Recipients

Dr. Janet S. Boe Memorial Award- Nicole Hansel-Welch, Shallow Lakes Program Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR).

Dr. Janet S. Boe Memorial Award- Established in 2008 to recognize a professional woman or outstanding female graduate or undergraduate student who exemplifies the consummate natural resource scientist. The purpose of this award is to recognize women who are making a significant difference in natural resource science in Minnesota and to encourage increased recruitment of women into this profession. Janet was a MNTWS leader for many years and was a role model for many female natural resources scientists. This is the first time the MN Chapter will present this award.

Nicole is a graduate of North Dakota State University; B.S. Zoology, Fish and Wildlife Emphasis, 1995, and M.S. Zoology, Aquatic Ecology Emphasis, 1999. Her graduate work refined and continued limnological investigations for the restoration of Lake Christina that began in 1965.

She joined the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in March of 1999 as an Aquatic Biologist working within the Invasive Species Program. In July, 2001 Nicky accepted the lead position for the DNR Section of Wildlife's Shallow Lakes Program.

As the first Shallow Lakes Program limnologist specializing in shallow lake ecology Nicole's technical and personal skills and understanding of these unique ecological systems have been instrumental in the success and accomplishments of the Program and its recognition as a leader nationally in shallow lakes management and protection.

Nicole is a recognized expert on shallow lake ecology, shallow lake management techniques, and aquatic plants. As one nominator stated, "most training and knowledge of shallow lakes management in Minnesota comes from her tutelage".

The complexity of restoring shallow lake systems includes essential baseline information, engaging local wildlife professionals, identifying potential management solutions, building local public support, securing funding, and a gauntlet of applicable regulations. Nicole has led the way in addressing these challenges through her expertise, her project site work, and public relations and by assuring a well-trained and prepared staff.



Ray Norrgard presents the MNTWS 2016
D. Janet S. Boe Memorial Award to Nicole Hansel-Welch

Awards (continued)

Conservation Award- The US Fish & Wildlife Service's Prairie Wetlands Learning Center (PWLC)

The Conservation Award, first presented in 1985, recognizes an organization or institution that has shown outstanding unwavering commitment to Minnesota's natural resources and her people.

Established in 1997 as a partnership between the City of Fergus Falls and the US Fish & Wildlife Service, with the mission of providing environmental education to students, private landowners and the public, and to foster stewardship by demonstrating methods for protection, enhancement and restoration of the prairie pot-hole ecosystem.

The center is staffed by six very dedicated and talented employees that excel in their duty to inform and teach the next generation about conservation and how every person can make a difference.

The partnership expanded in 2003 with the Fergus Falls School District ISD 544 and the introduction of the Prairie Science Class (PSC). With this partnership two classes of fourth grade students attended the PWLC in the morning and another two classes in the afternoon, about 100 students, were able to use the classroom (both indoor and outdoor) on a daily basis throughout the entire school year.

The PWLC partnership expanded again in 2008 with addition of a new education wing that now provides around 100 4th and 100 5th grade students the opportunity to learn in this outdoor classroom setting and add our environmental education program to many other area schools.

Now embarking on its 12th year, the PSC partnership continues to provide daily outdoor classroom experiences immersed in the local prairie wetlands ecosystem learning to integrate science, applied math, language arts, health, and art for over 200 Fergus Falls school district 4th and 5th graders per year.

In an effort to articulate and share this PSC approach with other educators, the partners developed a model self-described as the Compass. Just like a magnetic compass for navigation and orientation, this model helps educators navigate a way back into nature so clearly needed for children today.

The four points of the Compass inform instructional practice and include the repeated use of field journals, recurring study of naturalists, phenology, and place-based education. The magnetic force that binds these four points together is the natural sense of wonder that all children have. This model has been exported and applied to environmental education practice at six National Wildlife Refuges in five Midwestern states through 29 mentored site visits and via 13 workshops for 159 educators.

Since 2006 PSC partners have trained 115 educators from eight states at sessions held concurrently with the in Annual PWLC Summer Explorers Biology Camp. They have also mentored 27 post-secondary interns/fellows/trainees in the Compass model who have brought that experience with them into multiple states and subsequent jobs.

PWLC staff continues to work with area educators to develop outdoor classrooms at or near their schools in order for them to take advantage of the natural areas located in their backyard, helping to reduce travel costs and introducing students to the natural areas near where they live.

PWLC staff is also responsible for reaching out to develop partnerships with community organizations such as garden clubs, girl scouts, boy scouts and sportsmen's clubs. One staff member has a weekly radio show she began in 1998. Every program includes communication about PWLC but the gem of every show is a well-crafted, accurate piece called a "Nature Nugget". Nuggets are rich with information about wildlife and most gently dispel myths about nature. Listeners learn how nature works which fosters an interest in nature for all

Awards (continued)

listeners.

Additional outreach programs that have been developed are the annual construction of the PWLC Burrow and The Stick and String Naturalist Program. The Burrow highlights a nature theme that teaches children about the unseen mysteries of the natural world. The 2015 theme was “Things That Lay Eggs Under-ground”. More than 1,300 children and adults were connected with nature this year just through this program. The Stick and String Naturalist Program combined the challenges and delights of archery with a connection to the natural world through binoculars and cameras (ABCs). This combination of activities that require skill and concentration provides hands-on opportunities for pre-teen and teenaged youth to learn outdoor skills and activities that can last a lifetime.

The Stick and String Naturalist Program is designed for the 12 – 17 age group. These kids have been chronically under-represented in environmental education programs in West Central Minnesota. In addition to teaching archery and photography skills, the students use journals, participate in Seton watches (as in Ernest Thompson Seton), and explore the prairies and wetlands of Minnesota. Using archery, binoculars and cameras as the introductory tools, students learn to explore the world around them. In addition to learning an outdoor skill, they learn to look for beetles and wildflowers, discover tracks, explore wetlands, and sit quietly outdoors.

For over nineteen years the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center staff and partners have provided exceptional contributions in time, perseverance, and leadership in environmental education. In 2015 alone they had 58,000 student visits, conducted 2,500 education programs, hosted 76,000 total visits, 60 biology campers, 15 teaching in the outdoor classroom educators, 492 monarchs tagged, and over 7,300 native prairie plants grown in the greenhouse by area students and planted at the PWLC or other FWS/DNR properties.



Molly Stoddard (c) and Dave Ellis (r) receive the 2015 MNTWS Conservation Award for the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center from Larry Martin, Fergus Falls Wetland Mgt District Supervisor.

Awards (continued)

Law Enforcement Award- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Conservation Officer Scott Pariseau.

The Law Enforcement Award presented since 1992, to an individual who has demonstrated exceptional dedication and service to the protection of Minnesota's natural resources and her people.

Officer Scott Pariseau primary office is the 14,000-acre Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Scott's enforcement area includes the surrounding 14-county Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District (MVWMD). He is also currently a motor and airboat operation Instructor for all Fish and Wildlife Service employees for the Midwest Region. Scott is one of 10 federal wildlife officers with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stationed throughout Minnesota. Previously he was stationed at Sherburne NWR where the enforcement area included Crane Meadows and Rice Lake NWR. Scott has also worked as a Law Enforcement Park Ranger at Denali, Yellowstone, Apostle Islands, Badlands, Mt. Rushmore, and Wind Caves National Parks, the St. Louis Arch National Historic Landmark, the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and with the Forest Service in the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area.

Scott has a two-year associate degree in wilderness management from Vermilion Community College in Ely and a bachelor's degree in resource recreation and tourism from the University of Idaho.

Scott is responsible for the protection of wildlife, wildlife habitat, and the public who use the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and MVWMD. Scott brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his current position. Scott's patrol methods, investigative dedication and tenacity and partnership with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has resulted in a recorded 641 incidents in which he has dealt with suicides, poaching, search and rescues, drugs, and a multitude of other violations.

Constantly looking for ways to improve himself he regularly takes on additional challenges as he did by helping with a Wisconsin Wounded Warriors deer hunt and assisting youth hunters during the youth waterfowl hunts on Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Scott is a dedicated officer who consistently steps up to any task. He handles himself with a consistent and enthusiastic professional manner. Due to his skills, integrity and compassion Scott has become a leader and role model to his friends and colleagues. Scott is also the 2015 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Midwest Region Federal Wildlife Officer of the Year.



Officer Scott Pariseau (l) receives the 2015 MNTWS Law Enforcement Award from Minnesota Valley NWR Supervisor Tim Bodeen

Awards (continued)

Minnesota Award- Mark A. Hanson, Research Scientist, Wetland Wildlife Populations & Research Group Bemidji Mn.

The Minnesota Award is the Chapter's highest award. It has been presented annually since 1958 to an individual who has made exceptional unequivocal contributions to Minnesota's wildlife and natural resources.

Mark is a graduate of Cedarville College (OH), B.A. Biology, 1979; Bemidji State University (MN), M.A. Biology, 1982; and North Dakota State University, PhD Zoology 1990. Mark has been a Research Scientist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Section of Wildlife's Wetland Wildlife Populations & Research Group in Bemidji Mn. since March 1991.

Mark's career work on the effects of native and nonnative fish on wetland ecology has been groundbreaking. Mark's research over the past 25 years has been directed towards developing ecologically based frameworks for management of wetlands and shallow lakes. Focused on wetland ecology, relationships among wetland-dependent wildlife species, and interactions between wetland and shallow lake communities and associated landscape features this body of work forms the backbone of modern wetland and shallow lake management strategies in Minnesota and elsewhere.

Even more lasting is Mark's commitment to students and fellow professionals. Always available to answer questions and provide support as advisor and mentor for undergraduate and graduate students, serving as board member and President of the Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and chairing the wildlife paper sessions for two Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conferences.

Mark provides an enduring legacy for all of us not just with a passion for wetlands and waterfowl but for what is possible through dedication and commitment to scientific integrity and supporting and helping others. Mark is most worthy of this distinctive honor.



Mark A. Hanson (l) receives the 2015 MNTWS Minnesota Award from Kyle Zimmer.

Awards (continued)

Bob Fedeler Memorial Award- Michael Joyce- Michael is a Ph.D. candidate in the Integrated Biosciences Graduate Program University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD).

The Bob Fedeler Memorial Award- The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (MNTWS) established this Award in honor of Bob Fedeler. Bob was a popular and longtime biology and natural resources instructor at Staples Technical College and in the Natural Resources Department and at Central Lakes College in Brainerd, MN. He served as Chapter President in 1997 and Membership Chair in 1998. Bob died of cancer in March 1999 after teaching for nearly two decades.

The Award is presented to an undergraduate student and a graduate student who has a 3.0 or better GPA, a strong interest in a career in wildlife biology, are active in extracurricular activities, have a strong sense of public service and have demonstrated good communication skills. The Award consists of two full memberships (one undergraduate student, one graduate student) in The Wildlife Society (TWS) including all publications.

Michael is a 2008 graduate, B.S. Molecular Biology University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW); 2013 graduate, MS, Integrated Biosciences UMD. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate, Integrated Biosciences / Wildlife Ecology at UMD and will graduate in May 2016. Michael credits his myriad of volunteer experiences to expand my professional network, gain valuable experience with a variety of field research techniques, and take part in many wildlife management activities in Minnesota.

Michael's M.S. and Ph.D. research projects have focused on spatial and habitat ecology of American marten (*Martes americana*) in Minnesota. A teaching assistant for six semesters Michael has presented his research at professional conferences including MNTWS meetings (2013-2015), National TWS meetings in Milwaukee (2013) and Winnipeg (2015), MN Society for Conservation Biology meetings (2013-2014), American Society of Mammalogists national meeting (2012), and an international 6th International Martes Symposium in Krakow, Poland (2014). He is a member of The Wildlife Society and the American Society of Mammalogists, has been a peer reviewer for the Journal of Mammalogy, and managed UMD's mammal specimen collection. He is currently on the organizing committee of the 7th International Martes Symposium to be held in Duluth in 2018. A dedicated conscientious student with a strong desire to do public service Michael helps other graduate students without question, is looked at as leader and throughout his graduate studies has maintained a GPA of 4.0.

Michael is an exceptional student exceeds the criteria for this Award and has a bright future in wildlife regardless of what his choice is.

Michael Joyce (l) receives the 2016 Bob Fedeler Memorial Award from his advisor Dr. Ron Moen.



Awards (continued)

2015 MNTWS Service to Chapter Recipients

Service to Chapter Awards are presented annually to individuals who through their outstanding sustained involvements, perseverance and grit contributed to Chapter operations resulting in positive improvements and a better functioning Chapter.

1. **Anthony Hewitt-** Tony has been the Wildlife Biologist for the Sherburne, Rice Lake, Mille Lacs, and Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Complex since 2012. His is at Sherburne NWR.

Tony served as Region 3 Chapter Representative in 2014 & 2015. He helped organize our 2014 summer workshop, “Minnesota’s Forest Habitats: Managing Across the Forest Continuum” and has played a leadership role in the Chapters Non-toxic Alternatives to Lead Ammunition and Tackle advocacy through the Copper Bullet Demonstrations.



2. **Maria Fosado-** Maria has been a Wildlife Refuge Specialist, USFWS, Fergus Falls Wetland Management District, Fergus Falls, MN since 2010. A Chapter member since 2012 she served as Chapter Secretary from 2013 -2016.



3. **Emily Hutchins-** Emily is the Assistant Wildlife Area Supervisor in Crookston. She has been a Chapter Member since 1999 and served the board for 6 years as a Regional Representative. For the last three years she has artfully guided and nurtured the Annual Meeting Student Paper Poster Session.



4. **Rich Olsen-** Rich has been the Assistant Wildlife Area Supervisor in Glenwood since 2006. He served as Chapter Secretary from 2007 -2011 before becoming President Elect in 2014. He has been a member of TWS since early 90's.



Awards (continued)

Student Conservationist Award- Lynda LaFond. Lynda is a Masters student at Bemidji State University (BSU).

The Student Conservationist Award, given since 1992 is presented to a wildlife major at a Minnesota college who has made a significant contribution as a student to wildlife conservation, demonstrated high scholastic achievement, and shows promise as a future wildlife professional.

After serving in the US Air Force for 10 years, Lynda received a B.S. degree in Biology (Wildlife Management Emphasis) and a minor in Chemistry from BSU in 2014. Lynda is now in her second year as a graduate teaching assistant teaching from 2 to 4 Introductory Biology labs each semester. Her graduate project is studying the effects of three land management regimes on small mammal abundance at Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota.

A member of The Wildlife Society (TWS) for many years she was a founding member of the BSU Student Chapter, serving as both its president and vice president. During her tenure as president, Lynda was instrumental in organizing (along with co-hosts U of M-Crookston) the TWS Midwest Student Conclave in Sandstone, MN in March 2014. This was the first time this event had been held in Minnesota in 28 years.

Not one to stand on her laurels, she is helping the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) establish a management plan for Bemidji Slough Wildlife Management Area and is the organizing force behind numerous volunteer opportunities for wildlife students with MNDNR researchers and managers.

Lynda plans to complete her Master of Science degree in summer 2016, and then continue her education as a doctoral student in wildlife biology. Her professional goal is to work as a natural resources specialist for the Department of Defense, studying and managing wildlife species on military installations. According to Lynda's advisor Dr. Elizabeth Rave, *"Given her exemplary work ethic, I have no doubt that she will succeed in this goal and excel in the wildlife profession."*



Dr Elizabeth Rave (l) presents Lynda LaFond with the 2016 MNTWS Student Conservationist Award

Student Awards

This year in Mankato, we had the largest-ever showing of student poster and paper presentations for a Minnesota-only meeting. We had 15 presentations in each category, totaling 30 student presenters! Fourteen graduate students and one undergraduate student gave oral presentations, whereas five graduate and ten undergraduate students presented posters. With this breakdown of students, we had awards for Best Graduate Student Poster, Best Undergraduate Student Poster, and Best Student Paper. Award recipients received a \$75 check and a certificate signed by the Chapter President. Award winners are as follows:

- Best Graduate Student Poster: Spencer Rettler, U of M St. Paul; "Cardiac response of American black bears to roadways"
- Best Undergraduate Student Poster: Molly Tuma, U of M St. Paul; "Seasonal Survival in a Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) Population in Central Minnesota 1969-2012"
- Best Student Paper: Hans Martin, U of M St. Paul; "Factors Affecting Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) Encounter Rate by Gray Wolves (*Canis lupus*) in Yellowstone National Park"

Congratulations, students!

Each poster and paper was evaluated by a panel of three judges. Overall, 19 judges assisted with the evaluations. Thanks to them all for their efforts!

Emily Hutchins,
Chair of Student Poster and Paper Judging



Regional Reports - News from the Field

Region I— Kyle Arola

Hi Region I members! I was recently re-elected to the Region I Representative position. If you have any news from your area or ideas for what the Chapter could be doing don't hesitate to let me know. Thanks! Kyle Arola



News from the Northwest

Elk collaring project- The MNDNR wrapped up its elk collaring project in northwestern Minnesota several weeks ago reaching its goal of capturing 20 adult female elk and fitting them with collars that can precisely track their locations. Seventeen adult female elk were collared in Kittson County - fourteen in the Kittson Central group near Lancaster and three in the Caribou-Vita group along the Minnesota-Canada border. Three elk were also collared in Marshall County near Grygla. The entire operation was completed in just three days.

Prior to this project, research on Minnesota's small elk herd has not been conducted. "The collaring effort is a first of its kind research project on free-ranging, wild elk of northwestern Minnesota. What we learn will help us develop a basic understanding of elk movements and habitat use by combining the volume of information from the radio collars with field surveys that identify what habitats are important to elk", said Gino D'Angelo, deer project leader.

"Our goal is to improve understanding of the species and ultimately develop management programs that benefit elk, their habitat, and increase public support both locally and statewide," said D'Angelo.

The GPS collars will collect locations of the elk every 4 to 6 hours during most of the study. During key biological periods, such as when calves are born, locations of the elk will



be taken every hour. The locations will be uploaded to satellites, and the researchers can track elk locations in near real-time via computer. The collars will also send a text message to researchers if the animal dies. The study runs through June 2018 and the collars are programmed to automatically drop off.

Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) and approved by the state Legislature. The DNR and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation are also providing funding.

Elk Survey Results Each year the MNDNR conducts aerial surveys to count elk in the three herds in Minnesota. The large swing in the count for the Caribou-Vita herd is likely attributed to the elk being in Manitoba at the time of the survey; this herd is known to cross back and forth regularly between Minnesota and Manitoba. The Grygla herd continues to be below the population goal of 30-38.

Table 1. Comparison of elk observations between 2014 and 2016 for the Caribou, Lancaster, and Grygla herds.

	Lancaster			Caribou-Vita			Grygla		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
Spike bull	3	2	6	10	5	0	2	3	2
Raghorn bull	7	8	2	5	9	4	1	5	5
Mature Bull	7	8	10	2	8	2	3	1	4
Total Bulls	17	18	18	17	22	6	6	9	11
Antlerless	20	16	34	34	57	4	14	9	10
Total Elk	37	34	52	51	79	10	20	18	21

NW MN Brush Cut Day On March 5 the Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society (MSGs) hosted a brush cut day on Palmville WMA in Roseau County. Participants spent the afternoon clearing tamarack that had been invading an open area. Participants included MSGS members along with staff and students from the University of Minnesota Crookston and Bemidji State University. A big thank you to John Loegering for taking and providing photos!

Sharp-tailed grouse require early successional grassland and brushland habitats. The site at Palmville had actually been hayed many years ago but since that time had not experienced any disturbance (with the exception of a possible wildfire in the late 1980s). MSGS members and students cleared approximately 16 acres of tamarack in order to make the site more attractive to sharp-tails. These grouse will benefit from this project for years to come.

Everyone enjoyed bog burgers for lunch and, in honor of

Regional Reports - News from the Field

30 years of conservation by MSGS, we celebrated with bog cake. To top it off, all students received a free one-year MSGS membership!

Other early successional habitat projects

Staff at Thief Lake WMA actively manage early successional habitat for a variety of species including American woodcock, ruffed grouse, white-tailed deer, elk, ovenbirds, eastern whip-poor-wills, and scarlet tanagers. During the winter of 2015-16 staff mowed 300+ acres of willow with tractors to mimic natural disturbance. In a typical winter, we also shear large willow using a bulldozer but this year we were unable to due to a minimal layer of frost in the ground. Recently we partnered with the American Bird Conservancy to shear for Golden-winged warbler habitat enhancement. The treated areas will provide important cover for nesting, brood rearing and foraging.

NW CRP Update- Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever

Many acres, in fact thousands, of CRP are currently being enrolled in NW Minnesota. In the past few weeks 1,500 acres have been enrolled in Pennington County alone. These acres will benefit a number of resources including groundwater, lakes, rivers, streams, and countless species of wildlife.

Crookston Update- Ross Hier, Crookston Area Wildlife Manager

The Crookston Office has had a winter of too much office work but it was needed. We (mostly Pam and Emily) have done substantial record keeping updates. We are trying to become more electronic. We have had a large brush-mowing project done at Tympanuchus WMA that wrapped up a couple weeks ago. That was done in coordination with The Nature Conservancy who had brush work done on an adjacent quarter section. We have a couple acquisitions moving along. We are working with Tammy Baden of the Shallow Lakes program to get water back into a couple basins. Nearly all burn breaks are in and burn plans are at the ready. We are organizing to run the annual prairie chicken booming counts. It appears an early spring is more likely than not. The MN Prairie Society's Annual Meeting will be held in Fertile this year on April 16th.

USFWS and MNDNR - Comings and Goings

Matt Morin has accepted the vacant Thief River Falls

Assistant Wildlife Manager position. Matt was promoted from his NR Technician position with the Region 1 Roving Crew in Mentor—where he had worked for almost 5 years.

Matt graduated from the University of Minnesota-Crookston in 2008 with a B.S in Natural Resources Management. Prior to working for the Roving Crew, he worked as a Preserve Management Assistant for The Nature Conservancy out of the Glacial Ridge office. He also spent time working for the Utah DNR, the Red Lake DNR, and as a contractor for the USGS and Bureau of Reclamation. Matt also volunteers on the board for the Friends group at Rydell and Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuges.

In his free time Matt enjoys hunting, fishing, birding, playing baseball (he played baseball while attending college at Crookston) and hockey, traveling, camping, and gardening. He especially loves spending time with his 3 year old son Dean! Matt lives in Erskine with his son and cat Teddy.

Jason Wollin has accepted the position of Karlstad Assistant Area Wildlife Manager. Along with his regular management duties, Jason will be the primary DNR contact for the northwest Minnesota elk herd. He will be working with landowners, producers, private non-profit groups, and DNR staff on all elk-related matters.

For the last two years, Jason has been part of the DNR northwest region roving crew, headquartered in Mentor. Prior to that, Jason worked for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for nearly 5 years as a range technician and wildland firefighter, at Rydell and Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuges. Early career experience includes time on a CCM crew and several seasons as a general parks worker at Lake Bronson State Park. In addition to Jason's extensive equipment, land management, and fire knowledge, he is a Kittson county native, having graduated from Tri County High School in Karlstad. In 2004, Jason obtained a B.S. in Zoology (fish and wildlife management emphasis) from North Dakota State University.

Jason resides in Viking with his wife Vanessa and three beautiful children. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his family, waterfowl and deer hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling. He is also the assistant chief of the Viking Fire Department.

Regional Reports (continued)

Amy Westmark has accepted the Assistant Area Wildlife Manager in Bemidji. Amy was previously the assistant in Park Rapids. Amy grew up in Brooklyn Park and most recently lived in St. Michael. She received her B.S. in Environmental Science from Bethel University in 2007 and has since taken graduate-level natural resource courses at the University of Minnesota.

Amy held a couple of other DNR St. Paul positions providing support for the EWR regional office and the Regional Operations Division. Prior to that, she worked as a biological science technician at Cape Lookout National Seashore, Yellowstone National Park, and Padre Island National Seashore. Amy was also a field biologist at Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and a wetland restoration technician out of Chicago.

David Dragon has accepted the Baudette Area Assistant Wildlife Manager position. David started work there on April 2.

His experience includes:

- Wildlife Technician in Crystal Falls Michigan
 - Game Warden/Wildlife Manager in Casper Wyoming
 - Backcountry Ranger at Olympia National Park
 - Wildlife Technician at Arrowhead National Wildlife Refuge
 - Wildlife Technician at Superior National Forest
 - Forestry Technician at Voyageur's National Park
- His volunteer experience includes wolves, waterfowl, fisher, small mammals, and songbirds.

David's hobbies include fishing, hunting, Nordic skiing, canoeing, reading, and carpentry. He has a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology from Wisconsin Stevens Point and is from International Falls. David is glad to be back in Minnesota and Scott Laudenslager is happy to have a new assistant.

Rich Olson has accepted the new Prairie Plan Local Technical Team Support Specialist position in Glenwood. This is a new position within the agency and will help staff and partners coordinate conservation efforts in the prairie region of the state. This position provides leadership, strategic direction and technical information to Local Technical Teams to elevate the awareness of grassland conservation and target high priority habitat parcels using current, relevant data and other key factors.

Rich began work with DNR in 2006 as Assistant Area Wildlife Manager in Glenwood. He moonlights raising sheep and quality lamb for the dinner table, as well as high quality savory produce, meat chickens, eggs, and pork. But the lamb is the centerpiece of his operation, and the garden. Rich is also currently Past President of MN TWS.

Region 2 – Bruce D. Anderson

Personnel

Martha Minchak came back in early January to her old position as the Duluth Assistant Area Wildlife Manager within the DNR Cloquet Wildlife Area. Martha previously held this position for 14 years. The last couple of years she has worked for Ecological and Water Resources as the Habitat Restoration Project Manager in the Duluth Harbor/St. Louis River Estuary. Martha is a long-time Section of Wildlife employee and we are happy to have her back.



Invasive Species Training

Staff from the DNR Cloquet Wildlife Area attended Invasive Species training hosted by the Stewardship Network this past January. The Stewardship Network facilitates collaborative conservation programs and projects for a variety of resource issues across multiple scales and states. They have been enabling such projects for over 10 years. The primary issue of interest for the Cloquet Area is cooperatively managing terrestrial invasive species particularly buckthorn. We intend to incorporate tools and approaches practiced by the Network within our Area during the next 6 months.

Wildlife Response to Timber Harvest

The DNR Cloquet Wildlife Area and Cloquet Forestry Center hosted an interdisciplinary meeting in early February to discuss and develop strategies to monitor/research how selected wildlife respond to various post-harvest residual tree densities and arrangement. This effort would attempt to expand upon an existing proposal put forth by the University of Minnesota Duluth Natural Resource Research Institute (NRRI) and other similar proposed or ongoing projects. We hope to fine tune the proposal within the next month.

Regional Reports (continued)

Innovative Silviculture-Nemadji State Forest

In early March DNR Assistant WL manager Josh Koelsch and Forester Mike Dahl organized a field trip to visit an ongoing timber sale where gap cuts (string of pearls) prescriptions were being implemented. We met with the logger on site to seek his perspective from an operational and economic standpoint. From a wildlife habitat perspective such treatments are beneficial; creating a mosaic of younger age classes amongst extensive areas of mature habitat. Such prescriptions emulate conditions created by small wind downbursts within hardwood forests. From a logger's perspective these treatments were operationally and economically feasible. We intend to work with Forestry and where feasible recommend Gap cuts on other stands.

Wolf Trapping-Fond du Lac Resource Management Division

The Fond du Lac Resource Management Division has been working closely with DNR Wildlife Research since January to capture and collar wolves in and around the FDL Reservation. FDL Natural Resource techs Lance Overland and Terry Perrault worked closely with DNR biologists Barry Sampson and Carolin Humpal to capture and collar 5 wolves in 4 different packs. Information from this study will add the FDL Band in understanding how many wolves are using the Reservation and their local movements, reproduction and causes of mortality. The data will also aid the DNR in estimating statewide wolf populations. All 5 wolves were caught in a 2 week period during January. The ease at which the local FDL wolves were baited and trapped led to some rude comments during the trapping effort about the local tribal biologist's poor deer management such that all the wolves must be starving.

Since trapping concluded efforts have been focused on using camera traps to supplement aerial tracking in order to get estimates of pack numbers. Taking pictures of wolves has been a lot of effort to keep the sites baited and working to get the money shot with the whole pack present and one or both cameras working. Thousands and thousands of pictures of eagles and ravens to sort through to find the wolf pictures too.

Photo Caption.... The six members of the Marshall Pack gather for a group photo...finally.



Region 3— No Report

Region 4—Lisa Gelvin-Innvaer

Joe Stangel receives MWA Award

In February 2016, Joe Stangel received the Conservationist of the Year-Professional Award from the Minnesota Waterfowl Association. Some of the accomplishments mentioned included acquiring more than 2,000 acres of land in the Nicollet work area since 2010, and making numerous improvements on WMAs. Joe was recognized establishing great partnerships with numerous conservation groups in the area to get the work done, having a strong work ethic, and leading by example.

Kurt Haroldson, Assistant Regional Wildlife manager (DNR R4 Southern Region) and formerly with MNDNR Farmland Wildlife Research retired on Feb 25 after a distinguished career.

Grasshopper Sparrow Research Project Completed

The grasshopper sparrow is a state Species in Greatest Conservation Need that is experiencing significant long-term declines and is considered as a surrogate species by USFWS. MNDNR & University of Minnesota teamed up for a graduate project funded by the Nongame Wildlife Program and the State Wildlife Grants Program that addressed 4 objectives: 1) To survey birds and measure habitat characteristics at a minimum of 40 discrete habitat patches in each of the two field seasons (2013, 2014) to identify, justify and map priority areas for breeding GRSPs within the Prairie Pothole portion of the DNR Southern Region ; 2) To use the data collected in this study to evaluate existing models of grassland bird habitat, such as those developed by USFWS-HAPET and recommend potential improvements, if indicated; 3) To assess the extent to which GRSP might serve as an indicator or umbrella species for other grassland birds in the project area; and 4) To clarify the relative abundance and distribution of GRSP across a range of habitat characteristics at several scales. Last month, Lisa Harn Elliott successfully defended her thesis, Grasshopper Sparrow Distribution, Habitat Associations, and Use as an Indicator

Species for Grassland Birds in Southwestern Minnesota which will be submitted along with other deliverables to the USFWS in fulfillment of the grant. The DNR anticipates making the thesis, key recommendations and GIS predictive habitat maps/ layers available in the near future. Preliminary data

Regional Reports (continued)

have already helped to guide revision of the State Wildlife Action Plan and MN Prairie Conservation Plan cores, corridors and strategic habitat complexes. We anticipate that the final results and recommendations will provide additional guidance for targeting sites and developing site-level management. For more details, contact Lisa Gelvin-Innvaer, MNDNR lisa.gelvin-innvaer@state.mn.us

2015 Annual DNR Commissioner's Awards

Among the recipients- Mission Excellence – Team Awards Minneopa Bison Team Kathy Dummer (team leader), Edward Quinn, Stacy Smith, Elizabeth Murray, Paul Hansen, Gregg Soupir, Alexander Watson, Molly Tranel, Scott Kudelka, Jared DeMaster, Gary Teipel, Todd Dailey, Chris Ingebretsen, Leroy Gonsier, Thomas Sawtelle, Dan McGuire, Craig Beckman, Scott Roemhildt, Jade Templin, Dave Radford, Jacob Foss, Greg Willson The cross-divisional team, along with the Minnesota Zoo and others, reintroduced a herd of genetically significant bison to Minneopa State Park. The team coordinated countless moving parts to create an opportunity for the public to experience bison, once abundant in the state, in a safe and educational state park setting.

Minnesota River Valley Local Technical Team (MN Prairie Conservation Plan)

Much of this team's core area is comprised of prairie rock outcrop habitat. Historically, these outcrops were mostly treeless with some scattered oaks around the base. Today, much of the area is covered by invasive red cedar and buckthorn. Over the years, partners (pre-MPCP) have conducted numerous restoration projects. More recently, in January, the MPCP completed an approximately 41 woody removal project on a key RIM outcrop parcel. The first 6 restoration acres were funded by MNDNR Nongame Wildlife Program in 2013 & 2014. The DNR Working Lands Initiative, via the MPCP process, funded the remaining 35 acres in 2015 & 2016. The site hosts both rare wildlife and plant species and is strategically located adjacent to Swedes Forest SNA where restoration/management also are taking place. Collectively, these areas comprise a large habitat complex supporting species native to prairie rock outcrops. Additionally, the SNA and RIM parcel are part of a larger Minnesota River Reptile Project (a partnership between the Nongame Wildlife Program and Minnesota Biological Survey) to assess Species in Greatest Conservation Need reptiles in this corridor: distribution, habitat use and response to management. This information is valuable because reptiles often are under-represented in habitat management and conservation.

1st case of white-nose syndrome, a disease that kills bats, confirmed in MN

<http://news.dnr.state.mn.us/2016/03/09/white-nose-syndrome-a-disease-that-can-kill-bats-confirmed-in-minnesota/#more-17609>

Region 5 – No Report

Region 6– Bill Severud

Hi, MN wildlifers,

I am Bill Severud, your Region 6 Representative. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help make the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society better.

Student Chapter Reports

Central Lakes College Natural Resources Club

The Natural Resources Club at Central Lakes College is continuing to stay busy this spring semester. Just like last semester, students have been putting in many hours of volunteer service, attending natural resource meetings, and continuing to aid local agencies in their efforts to conserve Minnesota's natural resources.

This semester, the NR Club has helped set up, run and clean up two candlelight ski events. The first took place at Mille Lacs Kathio State Park, and the second was at Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. The Club's involvement was instrumental in helping these two organizations run a safe and fun winter experience for Minnesotans. Central Lakes College Staples Campus held a Career Day for local high school students to meet and talk to college students in different disciplines. The NR Club had students make the short trip from Brainerd to Staples to put on a radio telemetry demonstration for the high school students and talk to them about a career in natural resources. The Brainerd campus held a similar Bridges Career Day event on Friday, March 4, and the Natural Resources Club assisted with that event, which served 2,700 high school students! Still today, students are at Camp Ripley performing telemetry on wolves, bears, and fisher weekly.

In addition to volunteering at Camp Ripley, the Club's students stay active in local environmental groups. This semester, students have been active in attending local Brainerd Area Environmental Learning Network (BAELN) meetings and Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Society (BLAAS) meetings. Some students took part in the Society of American Foresters annual meeting that was held jointly with the American fisheries Society in Duluth, MN. Others attended The Wildlife Society Meeting in Mankato, MN. At these meetings, students not only get to hear current events and cutting edge scientific practices, they have the opportunity to network with natural resource professionals and other NR students.

The rest of the semester promises to keep the Natural Resources Club busy. Coming up quickly are a couple of banquets – one for Muskies Inc. in Brainerd and the other for Ducks Unlimited in Little Falls. The Club is sending students to another professional meeting in April – the annual MN Prairie Chicken Society meeting in Fertile, MN. A couple large events on the schedule for the students are a brush cut in northeast Minnesota with the MN Sharp-tailed Grouse Society and Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Habitat Day in mid-March. Our annual spring road clean-up will be held in April. As the semester progresses, the Natural Resources students at Central Lakes College remain willing and eager to meet the demands and challenges that come their way in the field of natural resources.

University of Minnesota—Crookston

University of Minnesota Crookston's (UMC) student chapter currently has 22 enthusiastic members enrolled. At the beginning of our semester, UMC had eight members representing the chapter at the MN TWS meeting in Mankato, MN. The students had an excellent experience, and all had the opportunity to learn and expand their social network. Recently, chapter members participated in the 1st annual Minnesota Sharp-tail Grouse Society brush cut on Palmville WMA near Strathcona, MN. The 20 students took to the snowy bog with hand tools to cut the encroaching spruce and tamarack trees in an effort to improve breeding habitat. Coming up in April, chapter members are looking forward to the annual tradition of assisting with owl and goshawk surveys in Beltrami Island State Forest. Other events planned for this spring include surveying prairie chicken leks at the peak of the breeding season for blind placement on Rydell NWR as well as an intensive survey to count chickens on their leks throughout the refuge. The annual beast feast will be held the first weekend in May. We look forward to the remainder of a fantastic semester of involvement, learning, and fun.



Student Relations Chair Update

Hello fellow chapter members! For those of you that don't know me, my name is Jenny DuBay and I am our chapter's new chair for the Student Relations Committee. In 2013 I graduated from the University of Minnesota Crookston with a Natural Resources Degree emphasizing in Wildlife Management, and now I work for the MN DNR as a Shallow Lakes Specialist. I'm very excited to be taking on this new role and am hoping to create fun and exciting opportunities for our students.

Currently, I am working on a student professional development grant for our chapter. This project was originally started by Kyle Arola, our NW regional representative. This grant is intended to help students attend professional workshops, conferences, volunteer opportunities, and much more. The details are still being worked out but the Student Relations Committee will determine who will receive the grant on an annual or biannual bases. If you would like to join the Student Relations Committee or have any other fun ideas to better our student relations please contact me via e-mail at dubay013@umn.edu

Thank you and have a great spring everyone!



Voices from the Swamp

Voices from the Swamp 9 – Contributed by Ray Norrgard

John Williams apologized for forwarding this blog to the DNR Wildlife staff in Region 1. He needn't have. It is quite simply a great reminder that life is for living. Paste it to the wall above your computer screen.

Then make yourself a promise that when your eyes began to squint and water from the dizzying array of forms and instructions and demands for response that you will read it again, slowly and carefully and with an open heart. You don't need the Baja or the Sea of Cortez. You just need to disconnect from the grid and your vehicle, close your eyes, take a deep breath and exhale very, very slowly while you think about living the rest of the day. Me, I am heading out to check the wood duck boxes. I am going to take my time, checking each one carefully, removing unwanted debris, fluffing up the shavings and adding some if it is needed. I am not going to record anything or complain in my head if things are not as I intended. I am promising myself that I will keep my eyes open to the world around me and breathe deeply of the smell of spring. See ya in the next issue if not before. Ray



WHEN IS A DAY NOT A DAY?

Originally Published the Week of March 15, 2016 in Western Outdoor News

A French philosopher once penned, "A drunk mind speaks a sober heart." And so it was that I was sitting around with one of our captains that work for us in La Paz.

Stubble-faced leather skin. The "Baja squint" from so many years staring into the glare of the Sea of Cortez. Character lines earned from a lifetime on the water make it hard to tell his age. Maybe 65? Could be 10 year younger. I've never asked. He's never told me.

He's worked for my fleet for 20 of those years. His salt and sweat encrusted Dodgers hat has to be at least that old.

After a sip or two, people often say things prudence might otherwise put the brakes on. And in this case, after a long day of good fishing, a little pyramid of cans was building on the worn plastic Modelo Beer table with the faded logo.

Some small talk. But then...he looked up at me and said thoughtfully, "Do you want to know what I really think of you gringo Americans?"

Oh-oh. Danger. Danger. Little red lights go off in my head.

It wasn't said belligerently. It was said the way one guy at a bar talks to another guy when he wants to let the other guy in on something...or get something off his chest.

One of those situations we all get into. Even if you said, "No", they are going to tell you what they think anyway.

Except, I was his employer. And, although I've been in Mexico two decades, the gringo label on my head still hasn't rubbed off.

But, this wasn't like the guy from the mail room at the Christmas party slobbering over the CEO. I respected this man

Voices from the Swamp (continued)

and considered him a friend.

No matter what you think of yourself, it's often harder to hear what others think about you. Or people like you. Tread lightly.

OK. Bring it on. But, I leaned back a bit defensively. Arms crossed in classic body language.

"I think Americans are good people. Very generous. Mostly very kind and thoughtful."

My anxiety eased a tad, but I could hear a "but" coming.

He took a sip of beer. Swirled and swallowed choosing his words carefully.

"But (here it comes)...they have too much money (he laughed). And they do not understand what a day is."

He paused and let that sink in. I looked curiously and cocked an eyebrow. He had my attention now.

"For example, me and a gringo fisherman are the same age. If we both die at the same time, I will have lived twice as long as him!"

Made no sense. I hoped this wasn't going to be a one-sided rambling of a guy on a buzz.

But he explained slowly and pointed at me.

"The problem with gringo Americans is that they are always in a rush. Go here. Go there. Running. Even on their vacations, they are always in a hurry. Their day is always too short. Too complicated. They do so many things. They have too many things. But, they never really enjoy what they have."

"My day is simple. My day is NEVER too short. My day is twice as long as yours! So, I will live twice as long!" He said with an emphasis and a laugh.

He swallowed a burp. He slapped me on my back; winked at me; and teetered into his house to the call-of-nature. And to think about what he said.

A drunk mind speaks a sober heart.

Left to contemplate, I sat there in that dusty yard under a tree watching him disappear into the house. A bee buzzed the empty beer cans.

With my own beer in hand, I tried to wrap my brain around the logic of a simple Mexican fisherman who plans to live twice as long as me...twice as long as most of us.

Because he lives slower.

It was a hard logic to rebut.

People tell me I'm "living the dream." Don't get me wrong. I'm blessed.

But, I've often wished my day was 2 or 3 times longer so I could get more done. I live with a cell phone in one pocket. Another phone in my hand. A clipboard in the other. Two laptops on my desk and an internal clock in my head that's always ticking.

Voices from the Swamp (continued)

The only reason I happened to be sitting for a few minutes with my captain friend was because I had to pick up some work-related equipment he had fixed for me.

And I think of so many of our friends and clients who come down to La Paz to see us. They eat at our restaurant and all of them are glued to tablets and smart phones as they eat. Every day of their vacation, there's an agenda item that requires a schedule. They live full exciting lives. They talk business, family and obligations even while fishing.

They video everything, but I often wonder how much do they really watch later. Who has the time?

Every now and then it's good to be reminded not to forget the here-and-now. THESE are the "good old days" you'll be talking about tomorrow.

The way that sun rose over the Sea of Cortez...that day the tuna exploded behind the panga...the day your kids swam with the whalesharks...the afternoon the lady at the taco cart became a new friend... the stupid jokes you and your buddies told over the campfire that night...the day in Baja you did absolutely NOTHING and didn't see another person on the beach all day.

These are the days that should be savored and locked in our brains and hearts and not just in our cell phones or stored "on the cloud." Take our lives down a notch. Live slower. Live longer via the logic of a simple country fisherman.

My cell phone rang. I let it go to voice mail. I sighed and pulled another beer from the battered ice chest.

They say the secret to success is to hire people smarter than you. I'm gonna sit for a little longer with my captain friend.

That's my story,

Jonathan

Other Items...

April 6, 2016

Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society Participates in Teaming with Wildlife Fly In



The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (MNTWS) recently participated in the Teaming with Wildlife (TWW) Fly In in Washington D.C. on March 1-2 on behalf of Minnesota's TWW Coalition (www.teaming.com). Partners supporting this advocacy adventure for Minnesota's TWW Coalition included the Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society, Ruffed Grouse Society, The Nature Conservancy, Pheasants Forever, Izaak Walton League, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Minnesota Conservation Federation, and Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

Daren Carlson, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), and Jodie Provost, MNTWS Conservation Affairs Network, met with all ten of their Senator and Representatives' legislative aides, including visiting in person with Representative Rick Nolan and Representative Tom Emmer. Their purpose was to encourage the highest level of funding possible for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (SWG) program in FY 2017 and thus effective implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAP). \$60.6 million was appropriated in FY 2016. The President has requested \$67 million for FY 2017. Minnesota has averaged about \$1 million per year in SWG and received over \$18 million since its inception. The MNDNR SWAP brochure highlighting SWG in action in Minnesota's eight Congressional Districts was shared. Prairie to forest and mussels to monarchs are benefitting from SWG!

At last notification, 154 Representatives and 39 Senators signed on a Dear Colleague Letter to the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, to support SWG. Last year 102 Representatives signed on. From Minnesota, Representatives Ellison, Nolan, and Walz signed on, and McCollum was supportive. Information on how many Senators total had signed on the corresponding Dear Colleague Letter to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies was not available, but it is known that both Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken signed on. Last year, 41 Senators signed on. Please thank our Minnesota Senators and Representatives that are supportive of SWGs.

In addition to SWG, Daren and Jodie encouraged support for recommendations by the "Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources". This panel has recommended long term, dedicated funding of \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program, to complete our system of fish and wildlife funding. A press release was held on March 2 unveiling their recommendation (<http://www.fishwildlife.org/index.php?section=blueribbonpanel>). Over the coming months, there is hope a bill will be sponsored and developed. A brochure on this topic was shared to encourage Minnesota's Senators and Representatives to support this 21st Century conservation funding model.

Finally, Jodie also shared a MNTWS letter with Minnesota's Senators and Representatives asking for their consideration of four wildlife resource issues and Chapter recommendations. They included: 1. Preservation of, access to, and sustainable management of our public lands, 2. Reversal of the continued loss and degradation of grassland and wetland habitats in Minnesota's prairie/farmland region, 3. Support for non-toxic alternatives to lead ammunition and fishing tackle, and 4. Protection of Minnesota's forests and strong support for their conservation and management.

Other TWS State Chapters and MNTWS members are encouraged to attend TWW in future years. The opportunity to support much needed SWG, advocate for our wildlife resources, the professional experience and growth, the relationships and network built among participants, and the pure enjoyment and adventure are well worth it!

Submitted by: Jodie Provost, Conservation Affairs Network, Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society



Other Items... (continued)

GET THE SHELL OUT OF THE ROAD



Road mortality is a significant conservation threat to Minnesota's turtle populations, including the State Threatened Blanding's turtle. Every year thousands of turtles are killed on Minnesota's roadways as they move between essential habitats. Well-designed wildlife underpasses can allow safe migration of these and other species under busy roadways. The idea is starting to catch on in Minnesota but funding can be a challenge. The MN DNR Nongame Wildlife Program has been advising the Lincoln County Highway Department about one of these crossings within a Blanding's turtle priority area. The County agreed to fund and install an over-sized cement box culvert as part of its highway renovation project but additional funds are needed to for a total of 400 feet of chain-link fence (200' on each side of roadway) to funnel turtles and other wildlife to the culvert. The Nongame Program, largely funded by donations itself, doesn't have the capacity to fund this itself. So in a creative partnership, the Minnesota Herpetological Society has initiated a fundraising campaign via GiveMN.Org. By supporting this (and future) "turtle tunnel" projects, contributors show city, county, state, and federal roads departments that Minnesotans want wildlife-friendly crossing structures incorporated into roads projects. For more information on how to make your tax deductible donation, see www.givemn.org/project/lincoln-county-turtle-tunnel-project54de85557e2a3

Spread the word!

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BWSR Drainage Workgroup: Ray Norrgard Ray.norrgard@state.mn.us

Beltrami Island LUP Citizen Input Panel: Margaret Anderson petrel@mncable.net

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Chapter President: Ellie Dittes

Minnesota State University—Moorhead

Chapter Advisor: Donna Stockram stockram@mnstate.edu

Chapter President: Jessica Lindstrom

University of Minnesota—Crookston

Chapter Advisor: John Loegering jloegeri@umn.edu

Chapter President: Michael McMahon

University of Minnesota—Twin Cities

Chapter Advisor: James Forrester jdforest@umn.edu

Chapter President: Mark Hove

Central Lakes College

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