



CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

Spring 2019 Volume 69

CMPS Officers

President:

Adam Ahlers

Vice-President:

Stephanie Ferrero

President-Elect:

VACANT

Past-President

Andrea Orabona

Secretary/Treasurer:

Ty Werdel

TWS Council Representative:

Bob Lanka

Members At-large:

Adam Behney

Kyle McLean

Tara Wertz

Krysten Zummo-Strong

Newsletter Editor:

Aleshia Rummel

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
CMPS Business	3
TWS Business	5
TWS Council Update	8
State and Student Chapter Updates	11
Upcoming Events	22
Executive Board Meeting Minutes	23
CMPS Directory	26



CMPS website:
<http://wildlife.org/cmp>

Message from the President

It is officially spring in Kansas! Most of the tallgrass prairie is on fire right now and prairie chickens are visiting their leks. Sandhill cranes and snow geese have already passed through, and our wetlands are alive with chorus frogs. We have had a long, cold winter (though not as cold as some of our membership in North Dakota!) and I am ready to put it all behind me and look forward to the warm days ahead.

The beginning of spring usually means that our time in the field will be ramping up. We have members all across our Section who are busy doing important work such as tracking mule deer fawns, improving grassland bird habitat, translocating bighorn sheep, frog-call surveys, and managing wetlands. Others are likely banding waterfowl, doing timber stand improvements, or counting sharp-tailed grouse. For those of us who begrudgingly sit in our offices writing reports or sifting through legislation, there are quick trips to the field to get our hands dirty while pretending we are field biologists again.

The start of spring can also be chaotic for those of us in the wildlife profession. Often times we are racing to make sure projects are started in a timely manner and that all of our equipment and personnel ready to work. This can be especially challenging as budgets get tighter and as many of us are expected to do more with less. Even worse, the recent government shutdown has put extra stress on many of our Federal colleagues who are still scrambling to get projects moving again.

Although this can be a particularly stressful time for many of us, we all must remember that our work is essential. As wildlife professionals, we are focused on enhancing



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 2

President's Message (continued)

our natural resources. Whether it be monitoring northern long-eared bats, creating nesting habitat for grasshopper sparrows, or managing feral pig populations, our work is critically important. Given the many challenges that currently face wildlife populations across our Section (e.g., habitat loss, climate change, invasive species) we all have our work cut out for us.

I challenge all of you to take some time this spring to enjoy our natural resources. Go trout fishing, birding, mushroom hunting, or kayaking. Take some time to remember why we all chose to become wildlife professionals. Thank you for all of your hard work and devotion to our profession. I hope you all have a fun and productive spring!





Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 3

Section Business

Seeking Nominations for Officers to CMPS Board

CMPS is seeking candidates to fill the President-elect position and two Member At-large positions (see below for position descriptions). All positions are 2-year terms. Nominations are due by June 15, 2019. If you are interested in running for a position, please contact Adam Behney (adam.behney@state.co.us). Please strongly consider serving at the Section level for TWS.

PRESIDENT-ELECT. The President-Elect shall assist the President in administration of Section affairs and shall perform any duties assigned by the President. The President-Elect shall chair the Mission and Strategic Plan Review Committee.

MEMBERS AT-LARGE. Members At-large shall assist in the general administration of Section business affairs.

Seeking Nominations for CMPS Awards (Due June 28, 2019)

Each of us knows people who are doing outstanding work for wildlife whether they are wildlife professionals or citizen conservationists. To acknowledge and celebrate these achievements, you can nominate the deserving people for an honorary award from The Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society.

The Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society offers two prestigious awards once a year to honor the accomplishments of worthy groups or individuals. The Professional Award is given to a professional individual or group, and the Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award is given to an individual or group of citizens. Both awards recognize outstanding contributions towards the enhancement of wildlife endeavors within the Section. Award recipients receive a personalized wooden plaque at the annual CMPS conference and are featured in the CMPS newsletter.

Nomination criteria for each award can be found on the CMPS website (<https://wildlife.org/cmps/awards/>). Nominations or questions about the awards should be e-mailed to the CMPS Vice President, Stephanie Ferrero (sferrero.tws@gmail.com) and must be received by June 28th, 2019 to be considered.

Don't miss this special chance to thank the people you know who are making a difference for wildlife. Take just a little bit of time now to share what these heroes do and to inspire other people in conserving wildlife. Nominations can be made anytime between now and June 28th.

Section Business

Student Travel Grant Deadline

The deadline for the 2018 Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant is September 1, 2019.

The Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society (TWS) announces the availability of travel grants for students who plan to attend TWS' 2019 Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada. Travel grants of up to \$500 each will be awarded to a limited number of Student Chapters of TWS to assist with expenses incurred while attending the Annual Conference. Students may apply through their college or university Student Chapter of TWS or individually to CMPS. Applications must be submitted electronically by September 1, 2019 to CMPS President, Adam Ahlers (aahlers2@ksu.edu).

Preference will be given to the following (but all applications will be considered):

- Current undergraduate students.
- Students who are currently or who have recently been involved in activities of TWS, CMPS, or a local TWS Chapter.
- Group applications of three or more individuals.
- Students who have pursued additional sources of funding.

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a member of the State or Student Chapter.
- Be a member of the Central Mountains and Plains Section.
- Be a member of The Wildlife Society.

Be a recent Baccalaureate graduate or enrolled at least half time in a program leading to a degree in wildlife biology or a closely related field at a college or university within the geographic boundary of CMPS.

For more information and an application packet, please visit <https://wildlife.org/cmp/student-travel-grant/>.





Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 5

TWS Business

Seeking Nominations for Awards

The Wildlife Society is seeking nominations for two prestigious awards, including an Honorary Membership and a Special Recognition Award. Please consider nominating a colleague for consideration!

Honorary Membership

An Honorary Membership recognizes continuous outstanding service to any area of concern to The Wildlife Society by a TWS member who is a practicing or retired wildlife professional. The Society awarded the first Honorary Membership to J.N. (Ding) Darling in 1938, and gave an Honorary Membership to Aldo Leopold in 1946.

In the Central Mountains and Plains Section, we have had several members that have received this prestigious award since 2000, including Gary White in 2000, Rollin Sparrowe in 2002, Lewis M. Cowardin in 2002, David R. Anderson in 2004, R. J. Gutierrez in 2007, Harry E. Hodgdon in 2008, and most recently Terry Kreeger in 2016.

To nominate an individual for consideration, nomination forms must be submitted by May 1, 2019 at 11:59 pm. For more information please visit <https://wildlife.org/honorary-membership-award/>.

Special Recognition Award

The Special Recognition Award honors a person or group who has made an outstanding contribution over the short or long term to one or more of the following areas:

- The Wildlife Profession
- The general areas of wildlife conservation, management, or science
- A specific area of endeavor, species, community, ecosystem, region, etc.

To nominate an individual for consideration, nomination forms must be submitted by May 1, 2019 at 11:59 pm. For more information please visit <https://wildlife.org/special-recognition-service-award/>.

Aldo Leopold Award

The Wildlife Society's highest honor is the Aldo Leopold Award. The 2019 Aldo Leopold Award is open for nominations until May 1st. More information about how to nominate someone can be found at <https://wildlife.org/engage/awards/aldo-leopold-award/>. There have been noteworthy Aldo Leopold Award recipients from the Central Mountains and Plains Section, but it has been over 7 years since the last one. You have a unique opportunity to nominate a deserving wildlife leader who has significantly influenced the wildlife field in a positive way.



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 6

TWS Business

New TWS Award for Wildlife Restoration Seeking Nominations

I am representing our Wildlife Society Section on a new national award committee, the Wildlife Restoration Awards Committee. Two awards will be given each year, one for Wildlife Management and one for Wildlife Research and Surveys. **Nominations are due by May 1, 2019.** There are many worthy candidate projects in states represented by our section, and it would be great to see one or more recognized. If anyone needs my assistance in submitting a nomination, please let me know.

The following description comes from the TWS website:

The Wildlife Society's Wildlife Restoration Awards recognize outstanding projects supported by Wildlife Restoration funds (also known as Pittman-Robertson funds) and associated non-federal matching funds. Established in 2018, the annual awards highlight the importance and effectiveness of the United States' Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program and recognize excellence in wildlife management and research.

Two Wildlife Restoration Awards will be given each year, one in each of the following categories:

- ✦ Wildlife Management (restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild bird and mammal populations)
- ✦ Wildlife Research and Surveys

The Wildlife Restoration program, also known as the Pittman-Robertson program after its primary Congressional sponsors, is funded by manufacturer excise taxes collected on pistols, handguns, revolvers, other firearms, ammunition, bows, quivers, broadheads and points, which are apportioned to State fish and wildlife agencies for wildlife conservation and hunter education. It was first created in 1937 and has provided over \$11 billion since its inception. TWS recognizes the critical importance of this program for state wildlife agencies, but also realizes that the program is subject to ongoing scrutiny from the users who pay the excise tax. This annual awards program identifies and showcases outstanding projects from across the continent to generate continued support for the Wildlife Restoration program.

AWARD NOMINATIONS PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Completed projects or current projects with defined completion dates are eligible. To nominate a project [click here](#) to learn about the criteria and the nomination process.

Nominations must be submitted by May 1, 2019 at 11:59 PM EST.

Eileen Dowd Stukel CWB®

Pierre, SD

eileen.dowdstukel@state.sd.us

Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 7

TWS Business

Horse Rich & Dirt Poor—TWS Documentary

The Wildlife Society has released a new documentary on the ecological impacts of wild horse and burro overpopulation on western rangelands. The goal of the film is to create greater public awareness of how continued growth of free-roaming horse and burro populations will be harmful to native wildlife and their habitats, and ultimately, promote changes in policy to improve management.

You can check out the film here: www.wildlife.org/horse-rich-dirt-poor

Further, associated with the film is an Action Center where individuals can send a message directly to their members of Congress to encourage them to improve wild horse and burro management:

www.wildlife.org/take-action-wild-horses-and-burros.





Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 8

TWS Business

TWS Council Report

By Bob Lanka, CMPS TWS Representative to the Council

TWS Council met March 3-4, 2019 in Denver, Colorado in association with the 84th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.

Odds and Ends

The Colorado State University Pueblo Student Chapter was approved effective October 18, 2018. Join me in welcoming the newest student chapter in the TWS family. There are now 17 student chapters within our section.

Council passed the FY20 TWS budget of \$2.866 million. This budget included funding for staff merit increases and professional development.

Now that the Permanent Reserve Fund (Council controlled “Rainy Day Fund”) has reached its target of 50% of the current fiscal year budget, Council decided to change the fund’s asset allocation from a growth strategy to more of a capital preservation one. So the investment mix is now weighted toward bonds and cash rather than equities.

Council selected Dallas as the 2021 Annual Conference site. The 2020 Annual Conference will be in Louisville, KY September 27 – October 1. The 2019 joint TWS/AFS Conference will be held in Reno, NV September 29 – October 3. Mark your calendars. FYI, TWS is making every effort to get the Annual Conference within the closing federal fiscal year. Unfortunately, we are at the mercy of facility availability and the calendar.

Council has long struggled to find the proper way forward for all the wonderful Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH) Project materials gathered over the years by members. This program strives to capture the history of our profession by interviewing those who have helped make that history. Thanks to the efforts of Northcentral Section Representative John Moriarity, existing and future COWCH videos will be transferred to the Forest History Society Special Collections and Archive (<https://foresthistory.org/>). Money was made available in the FY20 budget to help the Forest History Society begin cataloging and getting our COWCH interviews in shape so that they can be preserved and shared. If your Chapter has yet to transfer all your COWCH interviews to TWS, please do so, so that they can be made part of our collection.

Associate Member Pilot Program

Some of you may have seen the announcement shown below through your state chapter or our Section. TWS launched its Associate Member pilot program, which is designed to reach out to those who are members of the chapter or section but not a member of TWS. A monthly edition of the *eWildlifer* is provided

TWS Business

TWS Council Report (continued)

to all that sign up for this program. The Associate Member program should not be confused with the Give Back program, which is another outreach effort by TWS but one that provides full member benefits for 6 months.

Are you a member of your state chapter but not [The Wildlife Society](#) (aka an Associate Member of TWS)? Are you interested in staying up to date on the latest wildlife news and happenings from across North America and beyond? Then The Wildlife Society is excited to offer you free access to a new, monthly edition of the *eWildlifer*. The *eWildlifer* is the Society's regular e-newsletter, which serves as a one-stop shop for all the latest wildlife news, Section and Chapter activities, TWS announcements, and more. Sign up [here](#). The first *eWildlifer* will be sent on Friday, March 29. Please contact Mariah Simmons, TWS Unit Services Manager, with any questions at MSimmons@wildlife.org. You can opt out at any time.

Considering a Donation to TWS, You Have Choices

As I have stated in previous newsletter columns, most TWS annual income is derived from membership dues, conference income, and publishing royalties. So by being a member of TWS you are making a huge contribution to the vigor of our Society as well as its financial health. To all members, TWS sends a heartfelt thank you.

Over the years, many of you have chosen to donate more of your hard-earned income to The Wildlife Society. Recently there has been focused strategic outreach regarding The 1,000 (<https://wildlife.org/the-1000/>). This fund was launched in 2014 with the goal of generating an ongoing additional annual revenue stream. The key word in the previous sentence is "annual." If you choose to donate at least \$100 to The 1,000 each year or simply when you can, your dollars are used as part of the annual TWS budget to fund strategic initiatives that might otherwise be delayed or unfunded.

TWS has several other ways for you to donate if you choose. See <https://wildlife.org/donate/> for more information. One option is The Endowment Fund for Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship. The key word in the previous sentence is "Endowment." Your donations to this fund cannot be spent. They stay in the fund earning dividends and interest. Earnings on your donations can be used by Council to help promote sci-



TWS Business

TWS Council Report (continued)

ence-based wildlife conservation through outreach, education and advocacy. The Endowment Fund is a long-term investment in The Wildlife Society.

Both these options as well as others shown on the TWS website are important though both serve very different purposes. Whatever you may decide to do in whatever amount, please know that TWS greatly appreciates your membership and financial support.

Closing Thoughts

My term on Council will end in 2020 at the Annual Meeting in Louisville, KY. I can say without hesitation that serving as your representative to Council has been one of the high points of my wildlife career. I truly appreciate the hospitality shown to me by officers and hundreds of members at our section and chapter meetings. You are all amazing and I am better off for knowing you! The Central Mountains and Plains Section will be searching for individuals willing to run for CMPS Section Representative over the next several months. If you are even a little interested and want to know more about what being Section Representative entails, feel free to contact me. Even if now is not the time, but you are interested in this position for some time in the future and want to know more, I am available to talk to you if you want. I will not lie to you, being Section Representative involves work, time, and travel. But it is incredibly rewarding work and in doing it, you will be making a real contribution to our professional society, The Wildlife Society.

Thanks for all you do.

Please contact Bob Lanka with questions, comments, or concerns at boblanka5839@gmail.com



State and Student Chapter Updates

Chadron State College Student Chapter

This semester, the Chadron State Wildlife Club was able to engage in several exciting opportunities. In February, the club had the privilege of working with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission with their annual bighorn sheep capture in the Pine Ridge of Nebraska. At this event, bighorn sheep ewes were captured from the Fort Robinson and Wildcat Hills populations in the Nebraska panhandle. Ewes were monitored for health, and pregnant ewes were implanted with vaginal implant transmitters (VITs) which are used to monitor when the ewes give birth. This was a very rewarding and memorable experience for many members of the club. Looking into the remainder of the spring semester, the club is hoping to help with volunteer projects as soon as the snow melts. Club members are also looking forward to an End-of-the-Year barbeque is also scheduled for April.



Members of the CSC Wildlife Club attending the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Bighorn Sheep Capture in February of 2019.

State and Student Chapter Updates

Colorado State University Student Chapter

The Wildlife Society's student chapter at CSU has started 2019 off strong! Our calendar has been filled with amazing speakers and great opportunities for students to get off campus. At the end of December, we attended a bighorn sheep count with Colorado Parks and Wildlife where we took 24 students up the Cache la Poudre River Canyon, with teams stopping to survey at pre-determined locations. This was a great way for students to identify wildlife and meet CPW staff.

We started the semester with a Wildlife ID workshop where officers of the CSU TWS team put together a presentation of ID skills that are useful in the field. There was an activity that followed where students were able to see an assortment of wildlife scat, tree clipping, wildlife bones, and tracks that were on display. The workshop was a big hit, bringing in a large crowd of more than 50 students that were ready to learn how to identify common wildlife in the area by the signs they leave behind. Further, we gave an opportunity for students to go to Running Deer Natural Area to put this new tracking and identification knowledge to the test after a snowstorm in Fort Collins.

Another big highlight of the semester was sending 8 of our members to the Colorado Chapter TWS Conference in Pueblo in February. Here, our members were able to make connections with many professionals in the wildlife field and had the op-



Students participating in the wildlife identification workshop put on by officers of the club, testing their skills!

State and Student Chapter Updates

Colorado State University Student Chapter

portunity to learn about current wildlife research.

Our Raptor Monitoring Program is still going strong and is attracting a steady group of participants every time we go to Boyd Lake to count raptors, another surveying program associated with CPW. Recently, a group had the rare opportunity to view a Harrisons Hawk!

Our other bimonthly meetings have been filled with amazing speakers. Dr. Brett Seymoure gave a presentation on light pollution and its effects on wildlife. Graduate student, Emma Hanslowe, gave a talk on her research about Tegu Lizards in the Everglades. These were both excellent presentations that members of the club were able to enjoy.



Some members on the Bighorn Sheep Survey in December 2018 were fortunate enough to capture two rams fighting in the canyon. Photo credit: Luke Rader.

State and Student Chapter Updates

Kansas State Student Chapter

The weather has been canceling a lot of our plans. However we were able to have some amazing speakers so far. We had one graduate student studying stream ecology come and talk about her graduate work and start the planning of getting the club out for an electroshocking workshop. We also had Andy Friesen, a Kansas Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism employee come and talk about how to get into this particular field and any volunteer/job opportunities for undergraduates this summer or semesters. A group of us will be assisting in the fish spawning project out in the Hillsdale area this month.

We had a group of members attend the Kansas Natural Resources Conference at the end of January. Rachel McNemee, President, was able to attend the Kansas State Chapter meeting and give an update on the student chapter involvement and goals. Student chapter members were able to attend lectures and network with wildlife professionals.

Coming up this semester, we will be hosting our Annual Banquet on April 13th out at Konza, tabling at the K-State Open House April 6th, and at Topeka Zoo Earth Day Celebration. At these tabling events, we will be interacting with students, parents, and children to recruit new members and increase the involvement with conservation outside of the club. We are also hosting a BioBlitz/



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 15

State and Student Chapter Updates

Kansas State Student Chapter (continued)



iNaturalist competition out at Konza from April 26th through April 30th. Members will compete for prizes and international recognition by identifying as many species as they can through the 4 day period.

We are planning bonfire events for the end of the year, more professional speakers, and new officer elections in the next few weeks.



State and Student Chapter Updates

North Dakota Chapter

The North Dakota State Chapter Award recipient was Dr. Bill Jensen (more information in sub-section below). Jay Fuhrer (NRCS) was the North Dakota Habitat Award Winner. He was not at the Banquet to receive his award.

The 2019 Bill Bicknell Legacy Scholarship recipient was The University of North Dakota Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society Leadership Board. This award is not an academic award, but a scholarship that seeks to recognize and reward a student or group of students who have gone above and beyond in participating in and promoting wildlife conservation and the wildlife profession.



2019 Bill Bicknell Legacy Scholarship Award winners: University of North Dakota Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society Leadership Board. Left to right: Sue Bicknell, Hunter Beckert, Allicyn Nelson, Emmalee Woods, Collin Riley, Ayla Morehouse, Stephanie Honcherenko, and President Patsy Crooke.

These six students on the Student Chapter Board were nominated by university faculty based on their participation in and promotion of professional wildlife and conservation related organizations, volunteering, mentoring programs, and work toward strengthening relations between students and resource professionals.

Warden Andrew Dahlgren received the 2019 Charles V. Pulver Case-of-the-Year (Law Enforcement) Award for the Chapter. Warden Dahlgren was not present at the banquet to receive the award.

The new North Dakota Chapter Executive Board Members are listed below:

Patsy Crooke, President
 Jesse Beckers, President-Elect
 Rick Warhurst, Past-President
 Elisha Mueller, Secretary
 Chad Parent, Treasurer
 Curtis Bradbury, Board member
 Kathy Baer, Board member
 RJ Gross, Board Member
 Kristine Askerooth, Board Member
 Megan Zopfi, Student Liaison

State and Student Chapter Updates

North Dakota Chapter—The North Dakota Award

The North Dakota Award is the highest award presented by the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society. The award is presented to an individual or group that has made an outstanding contribution toward the aims of professional wildlife endeavors in North Dakota.

This year's recipient, Dr. Bill Jensen, has earned the title of Certified Wildlife Biologist by The Wildlife Society, authored or co-authored over 30 peer-reviewed journal articles, countless popular articles, agency reports, professional presentations, and one book.

Bill has served as principle investigator on 15 research projects with universities across the country, as an Adjunct Professor at 2 universities in North Dakota and one in South Dakota, and an Advisory Board member at 2 colleges across the state.

Prior to a 27-year career with the North Dakota Game & Fish Department, Bill worked for the U.S.

Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota DNR, Wisconsin DNR, and the National Park Service. Throughout a distinguished career, Bill has strived to use the best available science to help guide wildlife management. He has been identified by peers and colleagues as the "go to" source of information about the ecology and history of big game management in North Dakota.

Bill was born and raised in Balsam, Wisconsin and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from The University of Wisconsin – River Falls, in River Falls, Wisconsin and a Master's degree from Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan. Bill was awarded several teaching and research assistantships, a Ph.D. from The University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, and a doctoral fellowship from UND Graduate School.

As if his professional accomplishments aren't enough, Bill Jensen is a respected mentor throughout the wildlife community. Bill takes a personal interest in the success of the people he mentors and shares his knowledge and expertise without ego. Bill is a conduit to the ecology of North Dakota's wild places



Dr. Bill Jensen, 2019 North Dakota Award, North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 18

State and Student Chapter Updates

North Dakota Chapter—The North Dakota Award (continued)

through his activity in his church and the Boy Scouts of America where Bill continues to teach the conservation merit badge every 2 years for any scouts that are interested. He revamped the Scout trail at Papa's Pumpkin Patch and helps every year with its upkeep. He also started the Teddy Roosevelt Family Day that is held every year at McDowell Dam and continues to coordinate this event. Bill is involved with the First Presbyterian Church and has served as a youth leader, a Deacon, and an Elder. He is currently a mentor for one of the confirmation students. Bill's wife Laura is working with the Furry Friends Rockin Rescue to foster animals and encourage pet owners to spay or neuter their pets, and Bill helps with dog walking and kennel clean-up. He's not afraid to get his hands dirty!!

Bill has mentored a variety of graduate and post-doctoral students, many of which have chosen to stay and work as wildlife professionals in North Dakota. Bill's impact as a mentor is further emphasized by personal comments made by some of his colleagues and peers. For example one colleague writes: "When I started at Game & Fish, I struggled to transition from an academic environment to a state agency. I asked a lot of questions that I didn't realize rubbed others the wrong way. Bill was one of the few people patient enough to listen and offer perspective. His presence is one of the many reasons I love going in to work every day."

Another says: "It has been a pleasure working alongside Bill for the past decade. His professionalism, integrity, attitude, and work ethic are second to none. I cherish his friendship and thoughtful insights. He has been a sounding board and voice of reason for me in countless times of need."

Any wildlife professional among us would be happy to look back on our careers and be satisfied if we left such a positive impact on our profession.

Bill enjoys hunting, woodworking (he built a cedar strip canoe with his son), wine making, painting and drawing, reading historical books, and traveling. He enjoyed canoeing in the Boundary Waters with his sons and their Scout troops and backpacking trips with them.

Perhaps the most prominent service work by Bill has occurred in our own Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Bill has served in a variety of formal capacities that include Committee Chairs, Executive Board Member, and President. Bill has been instrumental in drafting comment letters for our Chapter on various issues and singlehandedly planned the agenda for last year's Annual Meeting.

By any measure of success, Bill's accomplishments throughout his career are beyond admirable. Yet, Bill never seeks credit for the work he does, and instead, is content with the personal knowledge that **his** success is success for all of us. All this being said, we are proud to give Bill the recognition he deserves for the many ways in which he has shaped the wildlife profession across our state.



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 19

State and Student Chapter Updates

North Dakota Chapter—The Habitat Award

The North Dakota Habitat Award is presented to an individual, or group that has made an outstanding contribution toward preserving, improving and/or establishing high quality wildlife habitats on the lands of North Dakota.

Jay Fuhrer is this year's ND Habitat award recipient. Jay graduated from North Dakota State University with a B.S. in Agricultural Economics. Jay began his professional career as a Soil Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), working in several small towns throughout North Dakota before arriving in Burleigh County in 1983 as the NRCS District Conservationist.

Jay has had his boots on the ground for over 38 years working with cropping systems, grazing systems, cover crops, and gardens. Jay has an extensive background working with groups and entities such as Soil and Water Conservation Districts, national and international no-till organizations, watershed districts, farm organizations, urban groups and many more. Jay has focused on how to improve soil health across the North Dakota landscape and has spent significant time at the Burleigh County Soil Conservation District's Menoken farm minimizing soil disturbance, adding soil armor, maximizing plant diversity, maintaining living roots in the soil and integrating livestock on these acres.

Jay's interest in soil health has resulted in numerous speaking engagements in the U.S., but he is also well-known internationally. His soil health expertise has led to give presentations in Argentina, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Russia and South Africa. This past summer, Jay and his colleagues conducted a Soils Health/Pollinator Workshop for the ND Chapter of The Wildlife Society where attendees witnessed Jay's expertise in soils health, sustainable agriculture, and grassland management. Jay's influence will continue to improve soil health, agriculture production and wildlife habitats in future years.

Jay is also a great educator and continues to train hundreds of people annually about soil health and facilitates a network of producers, researchers, and conservationists. Because of Jay's enthusiasm for what he does, North Dakota is a better place for it and the ND Chapter of The Wildlife Society was pleased to present this award to Jay.

State and Student Chapter Updates

Utah State University Student Chapter

This year, our officers are Rylee Jensen (president), Kenen Goodwin (vice president), Briana Henke (secretary), Cheyne Warren (treasurer), Natalie D'Souza (historian), Daniel Kimball (public relations), Sierra Bailey (honorary board member), and Tara Larkin (honorary board member). One of our main focuses this year has been inclusion of students with diverse interests, so we've created three main working groups to more effectively cater to their wants/needs: Herp WG, Mammal WG, and Bird WG.

The Herp Working Group has secured permits and gotten permission from the Dean of the College of Natural Resources to construct a tank and natural "spring" in the atrium to fill with native Utah herptiles, including tiger salamanders, lizards, and toads. They will be taking a trip down to southern Utah to catch live herptiles to put in these tanks and learn from a local naturalist about native fauna of the area. Kenen, head of the Herp WG, has also begun a salamander monitoring program near the Logan River as part of the community Logan River Restoration Program.

We have also done several outreach events where we set up booths with skulls, pelts, tracks, and interactive games to educate kids and the general public about wildlife. These events have included Science Unwrapped (on USU's campus), S.T.E.M. night at a local elementary school, and the Elk Festival at Hardware Ranch near Logan, UT. We have invited several guest speakers to talk to our club members, including Justin Julander (an expert in python breeding and raising), Dr. Johan du Toit (a professor at USU who specializes in African carnivore ecology), Utah DNR biologists (to discuss employment expectations and opportunities in an event called "Evening with the Division"), as well as several graduate students.

We like to take several field trips throughout the year to give students the opportunity to see what real field work entails and to see wildlife species apart from those around Logan. In October, the Bird WG helped HawkWatch International biologists trap, measure, and release wild raptors in the Goshute Mountains of Nevada during the fall migration. Upcoming field trips

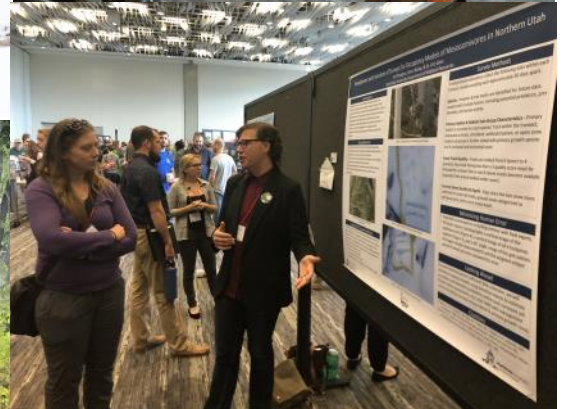
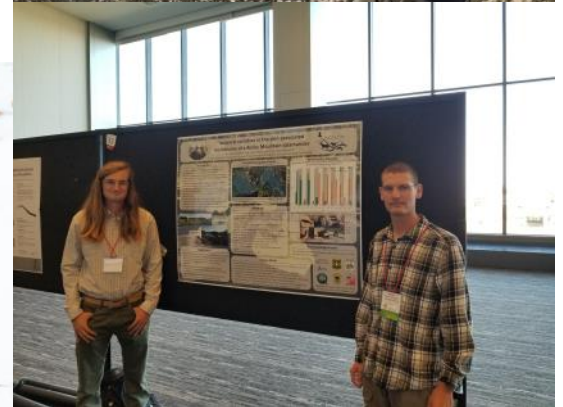


State and Student Chapter Updates

Utah State University Student Chapter (continued)

include the herping trip in April and the Yellowstone trip this weekend. While in Yellowstone, we will be staying in the tracking cabin of Dr. Jim Halfpenny, a renowned naturalist who will show us his collection of skulls and tracks. We will also hear from several park biologists in the evenings about the kind of research that goes on in the park, including work with bears, cougars, and wolves. And of course, there will be plenty of wildlife viewing!

In addition to field work, we also know how important it is for students to see the more "formal" side of wildlife ecology and research. We took a group to the National TWS Conference in October and the State Chapter Meeting in March. Both times, students presented their ongoing undergraduate research projects and got to network with wildlife professionals. One of our students even won Best Student Paper at the state conference!





Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 22

Upcoming Events

Native American Fish and Wildlife Society 37th Annual National Conference

Phoenix, Arizona
May 20 — 23, 2019

VENUE AND LODGING: Wild Horse Pass Hotel and Casino, Phoenix, Arizona

MORE INFORMATION: <https://nafws.org/events/national-conference>

WAFWA Human-Wildlife Conflicts Committee Meeting

Girdwood, Alaska
August 29— May 3, 2019

VENUE AND LODGING: Alyeska Resort, Girdwood, Alaska

MORE INFORMATION: https://www.wafwa.org/workshops/human_wildlife_conflicts/

13th Biennial WAFWA Deer and Elk Workshop

Marfa, Texas
May 28—31, 2019

VENUE AND LODGING: Hotel Saint George, Marfa, Texas

MORE INFORMATION: https://www.wafwa.org/workshops/deer_and_elk_workshop/

CMPS Annual Meeting and Wildlife Federation National Grasslands Conference

Bismarck, North Dakota
August 23—24, 2019

VENUE AND LODGING: Bismarck, North Dakota

MORE INFORMATION: <http://wildlife.org/cmp/annual-meeting/>

American Fisheries Society and TWS Joint Annual Conference

Reno, Nevada
September 29—October 3, 2019

VENUE AND LODGING: Reno, Nevada

MORE INFORMATION: afstws2019.org (launching May 1, 2019)

Wyoming TWS Annual Meeting

Sheridan, Wyoming
November 19—21, 2019

VENUE AND LODGING: Sheridan Inn, Sheridan, Wyoming

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wildlife.org/wyoming-chapter/annual-meeting/>



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 23

Executive Board Meeting Minutes (February 14, 2019)

Calling meeting to order – Adam Ahlers

President Adam Ahlers called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. CST.

Present on the call: Adam Ahlers, Ty Werdel (intermittently), Stephanie Ferrero, Bill Vodehnal, Tara Wertz, Adam Behney, Aleshia Fremgen, Andrea Orabona, Kyle McLean, Bob Lanka (intermittently).

Not present on the call: Krysten Zummo-Strong.

Introductions (to those new to the Executive Board)

Tara Wertz, Ty Werdel, and Kyle McLean introduced themselves to the Board and described their current positions and recent positions they have held in other TWS sections, working groups, or with the parent Society.

Treasure's update – Ty Werdel

Ty Werdel revealed that the current balance of our CMPS account is \$7493.20. He also stated that he recently deposited checks from the ND-TWS (\$331.00) and WY-TWS (\$240.00).

Andrea Orabona made a motion to accept the Treasure's report, Stephanie Ferrero seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Adam Ahlers then asked for Comments/Discussion on the Treasure's report. Andrea Orabona asked if all Treasurer duties had been officially given to Ty Werdel. Adam Ahlers said that they had not. There were ongoing issues associated with transferring names (from Laurel Badura to Ty Werdel) on our Wells Fargo account and a miscommunication between Wells Fargo branches (Kearney, NE and Olathe, KS) have exacerbated this. Ahlers stated that we would like to keep our account at Wells Fargo to retain some consistency at banking institutions. Additionally, Manhattan, KS does not have a bank with locations over a large geographic area. Ahlers then stated that Ty Werdel and himself are organizing a trip to Kearney, NE to meet with Laurel in person to finalize all duty transfers (including control over the CMPS Wells Fargo account).

Discuss CMPS Executive Board members to committee chairs (Audit, Membership, Nominations and Elections [31 July deadline], Publicity, Resolutions and Statements). Ad hoc committees include: Annual Meeting Program Committee and Arrangements Committee. Photo Contest and Quiz Bowl can be part of the meeting if the host state desires.

Adam Ahlers asked members of the Board to clarify who was chairing the above mentioned committees. If there were no established committee chairs, Ahlers asked for volunteers. The list below indicates who are the current chairs of official CMPS committees:

Aleshia Fremgen – Publicity

Adam Behney – Nominations and Elections

Stephanie Ferrero – Membership

Adam Ahlers – Resolutions and Statements

Tara Wertz – Audit



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 24

Executive Board Meeting Minutes (February 14, 2019), continued

Adam Ahlers mentioned that he would send out our CMPS bylaws to everybody on the Executive Board so members could review their committee duties (sent to the Executive Board on 14 February 2019).

Andrea Orabona suggested inviting volunteers to serve on the ad hoc committees needed to the upcoming annual CMPS meeting in North Dakota. Andrea Orabona and Kyle McLean volunteered to help with the Program Committee. Kyle McLean, Andrea Orabona, and Adam Ahlers volunteered to help with the Arrangements Committee. Adam Ahlers mentioned that he would email ND-TWS, and copy ad hoc committee members, about our willingness to serve on these committees.

Andrea Orabona mentioned that CMPS generally will cover prize money for photo contests at CMPS Annual Meetings (if the hosting state chooses to have a photo contest). The Board also discussed additional financial support for a sponsored break during the meeting. Andrea Orabona mentioned that she was willing to help host a quiz bowl (and provide the equipment) if ND-TWS also agreed to host a quiz bowl.

Bob Lanka, reporting from the ND-TWS meeting, said that the annual CMPS conference would consist of a Friday Business Meeting and presentations. Saturday would be set aside for 2 field trips (one to the Prairie Pothole area, the other to Western, ND).

Adam Ahlers said that he would contact the ND-TWS President to discuss plans for the above mentioned activities and what CMPS might do to help sponsor these things. Andrea Orabona also mentioned that she would also like to be included in those conversations.

Awards and awards deadlines – Stephanie Ferrero

Stephanie Ferrero talked about her transition into Vice President duties and stated that we have established a reputable vendor for award plaques. Our CMPS bylaws state that award nominations (Professional Award, and Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award) have to be submitted 45 days in advance of our Annual Meeting. Last year, our February meeting in NE necessitated an earlier submission deadline. Stephanie proposed an award deadline extension for 21 June 2019.

Andrea Orabona mentioned that we could include the awards announcements in the Spring newsletter (1 April) and Summer newsletter (15 June). Andrea Orabona suggested that we move the submission date another week to 28 June 2019.

Tara Wertz made a motion to move the award submission deadline to 28 June 2019. Andrea seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. We officially moved our 2 award deadlines to 28 June 2019.

Bill Vodehnal mentioned that the Fellows and Distinguished Service Award from TWS are important and we should recommend professionals from CMPS for these awards.

Bob Lanka stated that TWS has 19 awards, most with a 1 May deadline, and 1 February for Fellows. CMPS will need to recommend candidates to TWS for the Distinguished Service Award by 1 May. CMPS will need to receive recommendations and award submissions for potential candidates by 1 April to pass them along to TWS by 1 May. Adam Ahlers will send email reminders to the State Chapter presidents to solicit nominations for these awards.

Adam Ahlers asked for discussion on the deadline for our Student Travel Grant Award and suggested an



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 25

Executive Board Meeting Minutes (February 14, 2019), continued

earlier deadline earlier so students could travel to the annual TWS conference with award money (and not receive the money after the conference was over). Andrea Orabona provided information about why we had a 1 September deadline. Kyle McLean stated that it would be worth the tradeoff (earlier submission of award application to receive money before TWS conference) of the busy field seasons. Andrea Orabona suggested keeping the same 1 September deadline, and making our award process at CMPS a lot faster. We decided to keep the current 1 September 2019 award submission deadline.

Spring newsletter deadline –Aleshia Rummel

Aleshia Rummel stated that 1 April is the deadline for newsletter materials. She would like to see updates from Student and State Chapters to help fill the newsletter. Also, she would like to add more stories for our CMPS Facebook page. Kyle McLean mentioned the need for President-Elect and 2 At-large Board members and asked that these requests be included in the newsletter.

Student conclave (UT may want to host at their Annual Meeting in 2020)

Adam Ahlers said he was approached by a Section member from UT about helping with planning for a CMPS student conclave to be held in March 2020. Bill Vodehnal and Aleshia Fremgen discussed the conclave experience and how they had been organized in the past. Adam Ahlers offered to reach out to the Utah State University Student Chapter and talk to them about the potential conclave.

Change of annual conference venue (WY in 2020 and UT in 2021)

Andrea Orabona stated that she reached out to UT-TWS twice in 2018 about changing the location of our Annual Meeting (UT in 2021 and WY in 2020) but has not heard back. She mentioned that WY-TWS was fine with the change in host year. Bob Lanka will talk to UT-TWS Executive Board about the potential change in venue during their annual meeting in March.

Krysten Zummo-Strong status on the board?

Adam Ahlers stated that Krysten Zummo-Strong was no longer working or living within the CMPS region. This poses an issue since she is currently an At-large Board Member with CMPS (until August 2019). The Board discussed how to approach this, and ultimately decided to contact TWS (Mariah Simmons) directly and ask for guidance. Adam Ahlers offered to contact TWS and seek guidance (emailed Mariah Simons on 14 February 2019).

Other Business?

Andrea Orabona asked about our membership numbers to include on our end-of-the-year tax statement document for TWS. She suggested that if we did not have deposits from particular State Chapters, that we use last year's numbers as they likely haven't changed very much. Adam Ahlers mentioned that he had been in contact with TWS and they would like our estimated membership total by 22 February 2019. There was no other discussion on this topic.

Tara Wertz made motion to close meeting, Andrea Orabona seconded the motion. No discussion. We ended the meeting 4:15 pm CST.

Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 26

CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS SECTION DIRECTORY

Position	Held By				
STATE CHAPTERS					
<u>COLORADO</u>					
President	Jesse McCarty				
President-Elect	Nathan Galloway				
<u>KANSAS</u>					
President	Justin Hamilton				
President-Elect	J.R. Glenn				
<u>NEBRASKA</u>					
President	Matt Steffl				
President-Elect	Shaun Dunn				
<u>NORTH DAKOTA</u>					
President	Patsy Crooke				
President-Elect	Jesse Beckers				
<u>SOUTH DAKOTA</u>					
President	Alex Solem				
President-Elect	Eric Magedanz				
<u>UTAH</u>					
President	Stephanie Graham				
President-Elect	Daniel Olson				
<u>WYOMING</u>					
President	Embre Hall				
President-Elect	Eric Maichek				
STUDENT CHAPTERS					
<u>CO STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Kaley Egan				
President-Elect	Madison MacPhail				
Advisor	Stewart Breck				
Advisor	Larissa Bailey				
<u>CSU-PUEBLO</u>					
President	Rocky Spencer				
President-Elect	John Hobby				
Advisor	Claire Ramos				
<u>WESTERN COLORADO UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	James Antley				
President	Erin Blair				
President-Elect	Haley Barnard				
Advisor	Patrick Magee				
<u>EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY, KS</u>					
President	Cursti Sorell				
President-Elect	Jen Buchanan				
Advisor	William Jensen				
<u>KS STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Rachel McNemee				
President-Elect	Blair Pfeifer				
Advisor	David Haukos				
<u>CHADRON STATE COLLEGE, NE</u>					
President	Travis Millikan				
President-Elect	Kaldon Meininger				
Advisor	Teresa Frink				
<u>UNIVERSITY OF NE - KEARNEY</u>					
President	Michael Rohde				
President-Elect	Kelsey Menke				
Advisor	Dustin Ranglack				
<u>UNIVERSITY OF NE - LINCOLN</u>					
President	Ashley Anderson				
President-Elect	Ally Beard				
Advisor	Dennis Ferraro				
Advisor	Elyse Watson				
Advisor	Dr. Andrew Little				
<u>WAYNE STATE COLLEGE, NE</u>					
President	Diana Danowski				
President-Elect	Jared Glinn				
Advisor	Mark Hammer				
<u>ND STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Hanna Karevold				
President-Elect	Jordan Malchose				
Advisor	Erin Gillam				
Advisor	Matt Smith				
<u>UNIVERSITY OF ND</u>					
President	Stephanie Honcharenko				
President-Elect	Hunter Beckert				
Advisor	Jason Boulanger				
Advisor	Susan Ellis-Felege				
<u>VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY, ND</u>					
President	Morgan Gentzkow				
President-Elect	Dillon Praus				
Advisor	Bob Anderson				
<u>SD STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Nicholas Peterson				
President-Elect	Isaac Johnson				
Advisor	Kent Jensen				
Advisor	Mandy Orth				
<u>BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY, UT</u>					
President	Sydney Lamb				
President-Elect	Ben Hoose				
Advisor	Tom Smith				
Advisor	Steve Petersen				
<u>UT STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Rylee Jensen				
Vice President	Kenen Goodwin				
Advisor	Dave Dahlgren				
Advisor	Frank Howe				
<u>WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY, UT</u>					
President	Chyanne Smith				
President-Elect	Heather O'Donnell				
Advisor	John Cavitt				
TWS Liason	Brock McMillan				
<u>UNIVERSITY OF WY</u>					
President	Andy Walker				
President-Elect	Nicole Collins				
Advisor	Merav Ben-David				
TWS Liason	Kristina Harkins				