



# WILDLIFE TRACKS

*The Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society*

Summer, 2019



## Chapter Officers

### President:

Jesse McCarty

### Past President:

Pat Magee

### President Elect:

Nathan Galloway

### Treasurer:

Nate Seward

### Secretary:

Mark Fletcher

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## President's Column

Summer is in full swing as we find ourselves in one of the wettest years in quite some time; changing our viewsheds and bringing smiles to those in drier places. Be sure to look for the Jim Olterman plaque later this year as



we are currently in the exciting design and placement phase of the project. We have also received a request for financial assistance in the Associate Wildlife Biologist Certification. This is one of the many ways the chapter supports its members.

Our chapter also finds itself in a year of change. The Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society (CCTWS) Board is developing an investment strategy to ethically and responsibly invest the funds raised during last year's Jim Olterman Scholarship Campaign as well as funds endowed by the Candace Taylor estate. This strategy will allow CCTWS to financially support more programs for the membership. The value of a solid budget with current and future financial security coupled with a keen investment strategy cannot be understated. The Board recognizes the volatility of the markets, thus desires to keep the reserve fund in a more stable and liquid financial product enabling the chapter to respond to unforeseen events quickly. The future may hold more opportunities to fundraise to reach our goals through corporate sponsorships in the form of true partnerships. This method is likely to be more lucrative and mutually beneficial by increasing involvement and recognition of CCTWS and our members.

I am proud to be part of the Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society as we look to the future. What do you desire of your chapter? Who among you sees a need for change? Do you wish to get more involved?

Feel free to email me at [jesse.mccarty@usda.gov](mailto:jesse.mccarty@usda.gov)

# Treasurer's Report

## *CCTWS Treasurer's Report*

### **Current Balances as of 12 June, 2019:**

Checking: \$16,626.29

Savings: \$20,008.46

Money Market: \$56,646.03

### **Further Explanation of the funds that CCTWS currently holds:**

2019-2020 Annual operating budget - \$10,000

Reserve Fund\* - \$35,853

Investments\*\* - \$47,427

Total - \$93,280

\*Reserve Fund - In 2010, the Board identified a target level of total assets necessary for long-term financial security. An original amount of \$30,000 was identified in 2010 with an inflation factor based on that year's Consumer Price Index average estimate of inflation plus 2% buffer for security be added to the recommended reserve fund to maintain stability over time. Now in 2019, that target amount, including the 2% estimated inflation over time resulted in \$35,852.78. The Board is mindful that this reserve fund is a guideline, not in the by-laws, and was set aside for protection against an "unfortunate event" such as annual meeting financial losses.

\*\* Investments – The Jim Olterman Fund Campaign and the Candace Taylor estate giftings will be invested to harvest the annual net interest to increase CCTWS generosity with the Jim Olterman Scholarships and, potentially, other actions to further the relevance of CCTWS to current and future biologists in Colorado.

# CCTWS Meeting Minutes

## **CCTWS Meeting Minutes**

To reduce the overall volume of the newsletter we will not be including minutes from our monthly board meetings. CCTWS members who would like to review board meeting minutes are encouraged to visit our website:

<http://wildlife.org/colorado/meetings/>

# Travel Grant Announcement

## Travel Grant Announcement CCTWS Travel Grant Announcement

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The Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society is now accepting applications for its Fall Travel Grant Program. The purpose of the CCTWS Travel Grants Program is to assist with travel costs for CCTWS members attending meetings or workshops that further their professional knowledge and benefit management and conservation of wildlife in Colorado. CCTWS will award two travel grants in the amount of \$500 each. The applications guidelines are as follows:

- Identify the training opportunity, meeting, or conference that would be helpful for your occupation or education as a wildlife professional or student CCTWS member.
- Type up a ½ to 1-page description of the meeting, telling the CCTWS Board the goals of the conference or training and describing how you would like to use this experience for your occupation or education. Be sure to explain how this meeting would be a valuable contribution to your employment or education as a Wildlife Professional.
- Include your name and contact information (phone number and email).
- Only current members of the Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society are eligible for these grants.
- Applications for Fall Travel grants are due by **August 1st**. Winners will be notified by **September 1st**.

Please email applications to Awards Coordinator Emily Latta as a Word or PDF document to: [elatta@blm.gov](mailto:elatta@blm.gov) or by mail to: BLM-Royal Gorge Field Office, Attn: Emily Latta, 3028 E Main Street, Canon City, CO 81212

# Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act

## Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act Introduced in Congress

The Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2019 was introduced to Congress on May 16, 2019. Proposed by Senators Udall (D- NM) and Beyers (D-VA), the bill has bi-partisan sponsorship and support. If passed, the Act would:

- Grant authority to key federal agencies to designate National Wildlife Corridors, which would be managed to contribute to connectivity, persistence, resilience and adaptability of native species.
- Create a Wildlife Connectivity Database to support decision makers that will be available top states, tribes, federal agencies and the public.
- Create Regional Wildlife Movement Councils to develop regional plans and identify priority areas on non-federal lands.
- Create a Wildlife Movement Grant Program to fund priority projects on state, tribal and private lands.
- Establish a National Coordination Committee to administer the Wildlife Movement Grant Program and facilitate collaboration between National Wildlife Corridors on public lands and regional wildlife connectivity efforts.
- Promote public safety and mitigate species damage where corridors cross roadways.
- Provide incentives for private landowners to protect wildlife corridors using funds from USDA conservation programs.
- Establish a Wildlife Corridors Stewardship and Protection Fund to provide the funding necessary to sustain this system.

This is an important Bill that could have significant positive impacts on many wildlife species. Keep your eyes and ears open for more information as this legislation moves forward. You can find useful background information on the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act online at the Wildlands Network – [www.wildlandsnetwork.org](http://www.wildlandsnetwork.org).

# Recovering America's Wildlife Act

## The Bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act in the 116th Congress

*We are excited about the pending re-introduction of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act with the following changes. The focus of the bill remains to provide dedicated funding for proactive, collaborative conservation actions to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered.*

### New Title -- Tribal Funding

- ☐ Tribal nations have many responsibilities and programs for the conservation and management of fish and wildlife species. Tribal lands and waters provide essential habitat for more than 525 federally threatened and endangered fish, wildlife, and plants.
- ☐ In this version of the bill, tribal nations would receive \$97.5 million annually to fund proactive wildlife conservation efforts.
- ☐ This new title increases the funding to \$1.397 billion. The state fish and wildlife agencies would still receive \$1.3 billion.
- ☐ Tribal Nations are proven leaders in the protection of landscapes and fish and wildlife conservation. Increased funding to Tribal Nations is essential to prevent species from becoming endangered and for the recovery of species that are already listed as threatened and endangered.

### Change to Funding Source

- ☐ The bill continues to provide dedicated funding for wildlife conservation. The funding is still permanent and will not be subject to annual appropriations.
- ☐ Instead of the funding coming specifically from energy development revenues and fees, it will come from the general U.S. Treasury fund. This revision simply eliminates the restriction on the source of revenue, but not the need for dedicated funding. Funding will still be authorized and directed to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program account.

### Plants -- Funding Allowed When Connected to Wildlife Recovery

- ☐ The bill clarifies that plants are crucial to healthy habitats for fish and wildlife. It provides flexibility for state fish and wildlife agencies to fund conservation efforts for these species when working towards implementation of their State Wildlife Action Plans.

### Federally Threatened or Endangered Species

- ☐ States have committed to continuing their work on recovering species already listed as federally threatened or endangered. Through proactive conservation and implementation of states' proven science-based plans, risks to wildlife and their habitats will be reduced, resulting in species either not needing to be on the federal endangered species list, or already-listed species being downlisted or delisted.

# Recovering America's Wildlife Act

## Competitive Grants Program

- This bill recognizes the ingenuity of state fish and wildlife agencies and their ability to foster new, collaborative projects that benefit fish and wildlife on the ground.
- 10% of the total funding apportioned to states will be allocated through a competitive grants program. Grants will be awarded to state and U.S. territory fish and wildlife agencies, or regional fish and wildlife associations implementing the most effective and innovative projects for conservation of fish and wildlife in their states. These grants will advance the creative work being done at the state level and invest in the resourceful efforts needed to prevent our nation's fish and wildlife from becoming endangered.

## Reporting and Accountability

- The bill now also requires reporting by states on how the funds are spent. The first report will be submitted five years after the bill is passed into law and every five years after that. State fish and wildlife agencies would submit a progress report to the House Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

## Recreation and Education

- The bill allows for up to 15 percent of funds to be spent to support wildlife-related education and recreation.
- These wildlife conservation education programs and projects are designed to foster natural resource stewardship and help state agencies provide valuable outreach and education activities including, but not limited to:
  - Nature center programming for children and the public, educational displays, interpretive trails, community-based engagement and collaboration with a variety of stakeholders, including NGOs.
  - Programming for natural resource users to better understand the importance of conservation and the positive impacts of wildlife conservation and management to communities.
  - Interacting with wildlife-associated recreational users to minimize conflicts, provide conservation education and promote sound stewardship of our shared resources.

## Diverse Base of Support

- Like last year with 116 bipartisan cosponsors, we expect to see this bill gain strong bipartisan support.
- We believe there will continue to be a broad base of support--from hunter/angler groups to environmental groups to garden clubs to businesses. With control of Congress split, a broad range of conservation interests supporting the bill will be helpful.

# Corporate Sponsorship

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## *Corporate Partnership*

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### **Sponsorship Opportunities**

**The Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society is proud of our mission to promote wise conservation and management of all wildlife resources in Colorado by serving and representing wildlife professionals. We are interested in cultivating partnerships and seeking sponsors to help further the work we are doing to benefit wildlife and wildlife professionals in Colorado. New alliances help connect wildlife professionals with the agencies, institutions, companies and non-profits with the products and services they deliver.**

We have opportunities for partners to advertise in our newsletter, on our webpage, on our Facebook page or at our annual meeting. We would appreciate the opportunity to explore a mutually beneficial relationship with your organization to further wildlife conservation in Colorado together.

If you're interested in participating in a new partnership opportunity or if you have ideas about potential partnerships, contact Emily Latta at 970-581-0559 or [elatta@blm.gov](mailto:elatta@blm.gov); or Kendra Cross at 303-328-9048 or [Kendra.b.cross@usda.gov](mailto:Kendra.b.cross@usda.gov)



# Committees and Chairs

Committee	Chair	Chair Contact
<b>Standing Committees</b>		
Conservation and Land Use Review	Randy Ghormley	<a href="mailto:rghormley@fs.fed.us">rghormley@fs.fed.us</a>
Information and Education	Joel Humphries	<a href="mailto:jhumphries@blm.gov">jhumphries@blm.gov</a>
Annual Meeting Program	CCTWS Board	
<b>Finance and Fund Raising (Auction)</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	
<b>Audit</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	
<b>Legislative Review</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	
<b>Wildlife Management</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	
Newsletter	Aran Johnson Greg Davidson	<a href="mailto:ajohnson@southernute-nsn.gov">ajohnson@southernute-nsn.gov</a> <a href="mailto:greg@finditdetectiondogs.com">greg@finditdetectiondogs.com</a>
Nomination/elections	Nathan Galloway	<a href="mailto:Nathan_galloway@nps.gov">Nathan_galloway@nps.gov</a>
Policy/Resolutions	Nathan Galloway	<a href="mailto:Nathan_galloway@nps.gov">Nathan_galloway@nps.gov</a>
Professional Awards	Michelle Cowardin	<a href="mailto:Michelle.cowardin@state.co.us">Michelle.cowardin@state.co.us</a>
Student Awards	Nick Kaczor	<a href="mailto:nick_kaczor@fws.gov">nick_kaczor@fws.gov</a>
Membership	Mindy Rice	<a href="mailto:rice1min@gmail.com">rice1min@gmail.com</a>
<b>Ad Hoc Committees</b>		
Certification	Rob Schorr	<a href="mailto:rschorr@lamar.colostate.edu">rschorr@lamar.colostate.edu</a>
Historian	Dangoule Bockus	<a href="mailto:Dangoule_bockus@nps.gov">Dangoule_bockus@nps.gov</a>
Photographer	Max Canestorp	<a href="mailto:Kmax1350@mesanetworks.net">Kmax1350@mesanetworks.net</a>
<b>Small Grants and Travel Grants</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	
Web Page, Social Media (Marketing)	Aleshia Fremgen	<a href="mailto:Aleshia.fremgen@westernalum.org">Aleshia.fremgen@westernalum.org</a>
<b>Professional Development Programs</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	
Student Affairs and Mentoring	Katie Gray	<a href="mailto:katieegray789@gmail.com">katieegray789@gmail.com</a>
<b>Representatives</b>		
CSU Student Chapter	Kaley Egan Liaison: Andrew Don Carlos Advisor: Larissa Bailey	<a href="mailto:kaleyegan@gmail.com">kaleyegan@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:Andrew.don_carlos@colostate.edu">Andrew.don_carlos@colostate.edu</a> <a href="mailto:Larissa.bailey@colostate.edu">Larissa.bailey@colostate.edu</a>
Western Student Chapter	Erin Blair Liaison: Nathan Seward Advisor: Pat Magee!	<a href="mailto:erin.blair@western.edu">erin.blair@western.edu</a> <a href="mailto:Nathan.seward@state.co.us">Nathan.seward@state.co.us</a> <a href="mailto:pmagee@western.edu">pmagee@western.edu</a>
CSU Pueblo Chapter	Rocky Spencer Liaison: April Estep Advisor: Claire Ramos	<a href="mailto:Rlspencer2018@gmail.com">Rlspencer2018@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:April.estep@state.co.us">April.estep@state.co.us</a> <a href="mailto:claire.ramos@csupueblo.edu">claire.ramos@csupueblo.edu</a>
CMPS President	Andrea Orabona	<a href="mailto:Andrea.orabona@wyo.gov">Andrea.orabona@wyo.gov</a>
CMPS Representative to TWS	Bob Lanka	<a href="mailto:Bob.lanka@wyo.gov">Bob.lanka@wyo.gov</a>
CCTWS Representative to CMPS	Jesse McCarty	<a href="mailto:Jesse.mccarty@usda.gov">Jesse.mccarty@usda.gov</a>

**Are you interested in being more involved with the society?  
We currently have openings for 6 committee chairs!**

Please contact Jesse McCarty [jesse.mccarty@usda.gov](mailto:jesse.mccarty@usda.gov)

# Student Chapter Updates

## Colorado State University Pueblo

Students went on two ice fishing trips at different areas in south east Colorado with good turn-out. They also taught people how to fly fish along with a BBQ. A group of students attended the Sand-crane festival by Alamosa and stayed over night observing a variety of birds that some students may not have seen. They had their first big group of students graduate with their B.S. in wildlife and natural resource management.



CSU Pueblo Students on an ice fishing



CSU Pueblo Students on their birding trip in Alamosa



Congratulations to the graduating students!



# Student Chapter Updates

## Colorado State University

The Wildlife Society at Colorado State University had a fun filled semester! There were many opportunities for students to get involved and get outdoors! To start, our bimonthly meetings were jam-packed with great speakers teaching us about the many avenues that wildlife research can take. A few examples include research done in the arctic circle, the effects of light pollution on birds and other wildlife, and we hosted Gary White, the President elect for The Wildlife Society, and heard his perspective on the club and he gave us insight on the opportunities that present themselves through participation in the club.

A few of our members were able to participate in viewing the Red-tailed Hawk Migration in Morrison, Colorado. Unfortunately, the weather did not hold out, but the members were able to view a multitude of bird species before the fog rolled back in.

We had the opportunity to join forces with Back Country Hunters and Anglers and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation student chapters at CSU and help in a fencing project at the Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge. We had 26 participants that helped take down  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of barbed wire fence and added wildlife fencing clips to nearly 1.2 miles worth of fence. This was a great time for our members to interact with the professionals that work on the refuge and learn some important fencing skills that are often necessary in our line of work.



Overall, the club had a great semester and we can't wait to see what the next one will hold!



# Student Chapter Updates

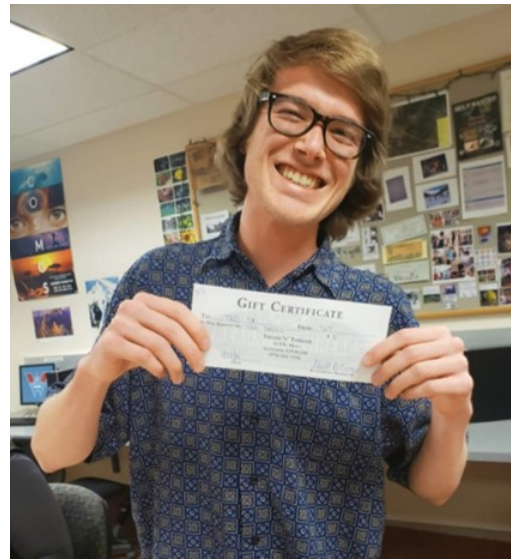
## Western State University

This semester, the students hosted 12 meetings that incorporated many presentation topics including studying biology abroad, ecological photography, TWS certifications, cutthroat trout genetics, and many more!



The student chapter also had the chance to send nine members and a club alumni to the state meeting in Grand Junction. Some other events students attended include; a snow tracking workshop, a hunters safety certification training, sage grouse lekking, and club fairs!

Students at the CCTWS conference



Trivia winners got gift certificates to a local outdoor sports store!



Above: Their last meeting of the year was a telemetry workshop that included playing hide

Right: Students at the snowtracking workshop!





# Membership Form

<b>COLORADO CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION</b>		
Name: _____		
Address		
City: _____	State: _____	Zip Code: _____
Work Phone: _____	Home Phone: _____	
E-Mail: _____		
Today's Date: _____		
Affiliation: _____		
Interested in Committee Work?	Yes	No
Are You a TWS Certified Biologist?	Yes	No
Areas of Expertise/Interest: _____		
Dues: 1 Year: \$15   2 Years: \$27   3 Years: \$35   Student/Retirees: \$10		
MC/Visa: _____	Expiration Date: _____	
Signature: _____		

Mail to: Nathan Seward, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 300 West New York Ave., Gunnison, CO 81230  
Or scan and email to: [nathan.seward@state.co.us](mailto:nathan.seward@state.co.us)

Please visit the Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society web page at [Wildlife.org/Colorado](http://Wildlife.org/Colorado) and the Wildlife Society web page at [Wildlife.org](http://Wildlife.org). Become a member today!

# Council Report

## TWS COUNCIL REPORT

### **Bob Lanka, Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative**

TWS Council met March 3-4, 2019 in Denver, Colorado in association with the 84<sup>th</sup> 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 COWCH 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://foresthstory.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 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](mailto:MSimmons@wildlife.org). You can opt out at any time.

# Council Report

## **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 science-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.

# Conference Announcements



## International Conference on Ecology & Transportation ICOET 2019

September 22 - 26, 2019  
Hyatt Regency Hotel  
Sacramento, California, USA

More information on ICOET can be found at: [www.ICOET.net](http://www.ICOET.net)



More info on TWS 2019 can be found at: [www.afstws2019.org](http://www.afstws2019.org)