



INTELLIGENT TINKERING

Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society Newsletter

To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of Intelligent Tinkering. – Aldo Leopold

Inside This Issue

Chapter Membership Renewal Online.....	1
Issue Committee Members Needed.....	1
President’s Soapbox	2
TWS Award Summaries.....	3
Leopold Memorial Scholarship Recipients...	7
Jeremy Holtz Special Recognition.....	8
Scott Craven - Conservation Hall of Fame...	9
McKenna Hammons – NCS Recognition.....	10
WCTWS Winter Meeting Minutes, 2/13/19	11
Winter Meeting Finance Summary.....	15
Exec. Board Meeting Minutes, 1/10/19.....	16
Exec. Board Meeting Minutes, 4/4/19.....	17
National TWS Conference experience.....	22
Financial Report, 4/25/19.....	24
Truisms.....	24
Issue Committee Updates.....	25
Student Chapter Corner.....	27
Student Leadership Workshop.....	28
Great Lakes Native American Conference...	29
Intelligent Tinkering Summer Submissions...	29
Officers/Issue Committee Contacts.....	30
Appendix A.....	31

Renew Your Chapter Membership Online Today

Too busy to renew your chapter membership by writing a check and mailing it to our treasurer? Perhaps you didn’t attend the annual winter meeting? Did you know you could renew your chapter (as well as section and national) TWS membership online?

If you are already a national TWS member, go to the TWS webpage - <http://wildlife.org/> and select the “Renew” link on the top of the page. If you aren’t a national member, select the “Join” link to set up an online account.

You can even elect to have automatic annual membership renewal, so you don’t have to remember if you’re current (and receive a discount on your national membership at the same time).

<http://wildlife.org/join/>

Issue Committee Members Needed

Interested in becoming more active in chapter activities? Consider utilizing your expertise as a member of one of our chapter’s issue committees. As a committee member, you will assist in providing chapter members with newsletter issue updates, as well as draft issue statements and respond to information requests from the board

If interested in serving as deer committee chair, please contact either President Scott Hygnstrom or President-Elect Bob Holsman (contact information on page 30).

*A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community.
It is wrong when it tends to do otherwise. – Aldo Leopold*

President's Soapbox

By Scott Hynstrom

It truly is an honor to serve you this year as President of WCTWS. I have been committed to serving TWS in various ways throughout my professional career and this is about as good as it gets. In this article, I would like to recap some recent events, thank those who have contributed greatly, and provide some insights as to where I hope we can lead the Chapter.

Our Executive Board met a couple of weeks ago (find the minutes elsewhere in this IT) and we got the ball rolling on several new initiatives, such as a Bylaws review, development of an Operations Manual, development of a Student Professional Workshop, and planning for next year's Annual Meeting. I appreciate the efforts of our current Board (Bob Holsman, Jeremy Holtz, Becky Brathal, Shawn Crimmins, Lacey Hill-Kastern, Lesa Kardash, and McKenna Hammons) for providing ideas and effort and our previous Board (Jeremy Holtz, Derek Johnson, Kelly VanBeek, Shawn Crimmins, Lesa Kardash, and Althea Hefko) for the foundation they provided. I would like to thank Lesa Kardash, Jamie Nack, Jeremy Holtz, and other members of the Communication Committee for their steadfast support of WCTWS through the regular editing, production, and delivery of "Intelligent Tinkering," the website, Facebook, and other media. Communication is key to our success. Special thanks is in order to our outgoing President Jeremy Holtz (the plaque is in the mail!) who unselfishly provided steady leadership and hundreds of hours to the cause. As a group, we moved the needle to a new norm and I look forward to seeing where we can go from here.



Our most recent big event was the 2019 Annual Meeting of WCTWS in Rothschild. Even with a severe winter storm, looming federal shutdown, and busy personal schedules, we managed to achieve near all-time highs in registration (185). We must be doing something right to get over 80% of our total membership (225) to participate in the Annual Meeting! We laid out the white carpet for our Plenary Session speakers, Jeremy Holtz, Jodie Provost, Darren Miller, and Ollie Torgerson, who did a great job reflecting on our theme, "Building on Strength from Within." Bob Holsman and the Program Committee did a remarkable job developing a program that was attractive and informative. We had 22 papers on wildlife techniques, big game management, predator dynamics, social science, habitat management, partnerships, and professional development. Thanks to all of the speakers, moderators, poster presenters, and sponsors who contributed significantly to the meeting. I counted 115 members at the Annual Business Meeting, which I think is another all-time high. We rushed through the agenda in 45 minutes (find the minutes elsewhere in this IT) so that we could carve time out of the schedule for our Issues Committees to meet (Climate Change, Deer, Farm Wildlife, Forestry, Furbearers, Government Affairs, Wildlife Damage Management, and Wolf Management) and have face-to-face discussions on objectives and needed activities. We heard a lot of positive feedback about the Committee meetings and also realized that we need more time to address all of the business of the Chapter. Adjustments will be made next year. Derek Johnson and the Facilities Committee saw to it that the meeting ran smoothly, which is a challenge as little foibles always arise (too hot, too cold, AV glitches) that must be overcome. Derek also procured items for and ran the bucket raffle and fundraiser event. As usual, I didn't win anything, but heard that we were successful in raising over \$1,000. Kelly VanBeek handled all of the pre-registration (which is a major pain and effort) and accounting. Without her efforts and patience, the inevitable crises would have

been much more numerable and significant. Becky Brathal helped with on-site registration and Shawn Crimmins coordinated the judging of student papers. At the Awards Banquet, we recognized some special members, including Mike Foy, Scott Walter, Tim Eisele, McKenna Hammons, and Brendan Hobart, who have contributed greatly to wildlife, our Society, and the people of Wisconsin (find detailed acknowledgments elsewhere in this IT). Overall, I feel that the Annual Meeting was a huge success and I look forward to seeing everyone at the next one. Please let us know if you have any suggestions or would like to get involved.

I see great things for the Chapter in the future, which can only be built upon the strong foundation laid by those who have contributed in the past. My personal mission this year is to inspire, enable, and empower our membership. While a champion of networking and external collaborations, I sincerely believe in the concept of building on strength from within. During the next year, I plan to increase member engagement through reinvigorating our committee structure and process. We need to keep the balls rolling by generating more responsibilities and activities through our committees. Any activities perceived by the Board will be run through a “Committee Filter” to identify ways in which committees and members can be more active in the day-to-day function of the Chapter. In addition, we will strive to increase participation of our members at annual meetings, technical trainings, student-professional workshops, and social opportunities. I plan to increase student engagement through all of the above and by revising the process of student representation on our Board. I plan to improve our organizational structure by working with others to revise the bylaws, revisit the strategic planning process that we conducted a few years ago, and by finalizing our Operations Manual. I pledge to exercise fiscal and financial responsibility through sustainable use of our Bjerke, Leopold Scholarship, Midwest, and cash funds to enhance member experiences and continue fundraising efforts. With increased activities comes a need for increased communication and I am committed to effective communication through Intelligent Tinkering, and our website, Facebook, email, and other media. To achieve all of this, our membership must be engaged. Say “Yes” to getting involved. No doubt, you will get back more than what you give.

Mike Foy, Scott Walter, and Tim Eisele Receive WCTWS 2018 Awards

Submitted by Scott Hynstrom, WCTWS President

The Wisconsin Award, The Don Rusch Memorial Award, and a Special Service Award were presented to **Mike Foy, Scott Walter, and Tim Eisele**, respectively during an awards reception at the WCTWS Annual Meeting on February 13, 2019. These awards are the Chapter’s highest honors and we congratulate each of the award recipients. Below is a summary of the nomination and presentation of each of the awards.

The Wisconsin Award is our Chapter’s highest recognition of a person that exemplifies the wildlife profession in our state. This year’s recipient is **Mr. Mike Foy**. Mike’s encyclopedic knowledge of current and historic Wisconsin administrative code and statute as they pertain to natural resources rivals that of any career natural resources legal professional. His expertise with the Public Trust Doctrine is national in scope; he organized and chaired a symposium on this topic at the 63rd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Madison. For countless nights early in his career, he could be found in the UW-Madison law library scouring case law surrounding this Doctrine late into the evening. His lifelong pursuit of and devotion to understanding and recognizing the importance of natural resources law and policy are among his most admirable traits.

Mike is a career Wisconsin DNR wildlife biologist, who grew up in Madison and decided to pursue an education in wildlife conservation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, followed by a master's degree in Texas studying otters. His soon-to-be wife brought him back to his home state. Mike's full-time career with the Department of Natural Resources began in 1987 in Green Bay, serving as a private lands biologist on the first Wildlife Management Bureau private lands team. In 1992, Mike moved back to Madison, and worked in the Wildlife Management Bureau's Southern District for the duration of his career. Mike has an uncanny ability to forge relationships with those who hold the same underlying values as his own, as well as finding common ground with those who don't. His private lands work is a prime example of navigating the complex sociology of rural and suburban Wisconsin in order to successfully administer many Conservation Reserve Program contracts, dating as far back as the original CRP signup in 1985, along with multitudes of other restoration projects.



The relationships Mike built with neighboring landowners continue to aid current DNR property managers with productive and successful sharecrop agreements, assistance with mowing, tree removal, and access lane maintenance as well as the all-important Friday afternoon stuck equipment rescue. One of the most notable career jewels in Mike's crown is the development of Brooklyn Wildlife Area. Mike's efforts facilitated significant growth of the property and the adjacent Story Creek Stream Bank Protection Project, which combined currently includes over 3500 acres of fee title, easement, and leased lands.

Mike's mentorship of new natural resources professionals is near the top of his career accomplishments. His mentorship of LTEs resulted in at least half a dozen current permanent DNR employees and several permanent Pheasants Forever employees. He actively worked to give his LTEs experiences to help them elevate their careers and assigned them important tasks including applying for grants and permits, not only to get them valuable experience but give them a foothold in the DNR network. Mike would regularly lobby supervisors and encourage LTEs themselves to attend conferences (including TWS) and trainings.

One of the most challenging times in Mike's career was his involvement on the front lines of Chronic Wasting Disease, originally discovered in Mike's work area and a discovery that would permanently alter Mike's career endeavors. He has been praised by many for his work as a CWD township captain in Vermont Township, ground zero in the fight against the disease. Mike was the principal contact for many landowners in a challenging area, becoming intimately familiar with hundreds of landowner's properties, livelihoods, and their relationships to deer hunting culture.

Today, in retirement, Mike is influencing policy for CWD management in Wisconsin more than ever. His recent "road show" outlining his proposal for a state-funded incentive payment program that targets harvest of CWD-positive deer is gaining traction across the state. And while Mike knows his proposal is not a perfect solution, he both welcomes and challenges others to "one-up" him by developing their own innovative solutions. "Payment4Positives" not only has its own Facebook page, but will appear as a statewide Conservation Congress advisory question at the Wisconsin spring hearings in 2019, as a result of Mike's efforts.

The Wisconsin Award is the highest recognition provided by the WCTWS. Mike Foy truly is emblematic of the spirit of this Award. Mike's cumulative contributions to Wisconsin wildlife, both as a dedicated public servant and now as a private citizen, deserve the utmost recognition and thanks.

The Don Rusch Memorial Award is presented by the Chapter annually to a nominee who has made an outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation. This year's recipient is **Dr. Scott Walter**.

As a dedicated wildlife professional, Scott has made significant contributions to the field of wildlife management, research AND education in Wisconsin. He is a member in good standing of the Wisconsin Chapter of TWS, serving a term as past President, executive board member, and serving on a number of committees over the years. He is an avid hunter and is not only a strong supporter of the role of hunting in conservation, but is highly valued for his ability to work with hunting and non-hunting stakeholders on the management of some of the state's most prominent wildlife.



Scott grew up in Marshal, Wisconsin and attended the Beloit Community College where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. After exploring a few career options, he focused his goals on continuing education and eventually a job in the field of wildlife management. As the story goes, our recipient was on break from processing venison at the local butcher shop when he received a call from Dr. Don Rusch with an offer to conduct research on migratory Canada Geese in the Hudson Bay lowlands. He accepted the offer which launched his career and set the course for his future. He received his Master's and PhD degrees in Wildlife Ecology under the tutelage and mentorship of Dr. Don Rusch and keeps a picture of Don on his desk to this day.

Since those early years Scott has dedicated his time and effort to educating students and citizens on the principles of wildlife management, working mostly on game species that play an important role in our hunting community. Scott was a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at UW-Richland and was a mentor to numerous students pursuing degrees in natural resource management. His outgoing personality, communication skills, and ability to think creatively has contributed to the success of many of the students that he taught. Scott was the WI DNR Upland Wildlife & Farm Bill Specialist for four years where he worked tirelessly to promote and advance game bird hunting and habitat conservation programs in the state. During his tenure he wrote the Wisconsin wild turkey management plan and represented the Wisconsin DNR on national committees discussing Farm Bill programs and initiatives.

Scott worked two years as the Regional Biologist and Director of Conservation Programs for the Ruffed Grouse Society. As the Regional Biologist, Scott was the RGS liaison with resource management agencies and policy makers. He coordinated advocacy by RGS members to engender grassroots support for forestry. As the Director of Conservation his region of responsibility extended from the Midwest to the eastern states. In this position, Scott supervised regional biologists and coordinated forest management planning with federal, state, and local agencies. In

these positions he was able to demonstrate his innovative thinking and passion for wildlife management and upland bird hunting.

Currently, Scott is the WI DNR Large Carnivore Specialist leading the states work on bear, wolf, and cougar management and issues. These species generate a lot of interest from Wisconsin citizens and the hunting community. Scott's professional dedication, energy, and excitement for the work he does is evident in this position.

Similar to their shared professional interests, Scott shares one of Don's most noteworthy traits...his story-telling ability. Prior to graduate school Scott was a shy and reserved young man. If you know Scott now, it's obvious that Don's ability to "spin a thread" is alive and well. Scott's colorful background, unique experiences, and outgoing personality make his lunchtime stories in room 608 not only entertaining but strengthens relationships among his work "family." Speaking of family, Scott is a dedicated family man and will quickly share stories about his kids and their adventures on their six-generation family farm in Richland County. Scott and his wife Erica have made a commitment to ensure the kids understand and appreciate the historical significance of the farm and the state's natural resources found there.

Scott's professional experience, interests, and dedication to wildlife management along with his outgoing personality and communication skills make him an excellent candidate for the 2018 Don Rush Award. Without a doubt, Don would be proud of Scott's many professional accomplishments, his passion for wildlife management and conservation, and his ability to bring people together.

The Special Service Award is presented by the Chapter only occasionally and as needed to provide special recognition to individuals who have gone far beyond the call of duty representing wildlife, wildlife, habitat, and our outdoor heritage. This year's recipient is **Mr. Tim Eisele**.

Tim is a native of Madison, WI and received his B.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin- Madison in 1969 followed with a Master's in Conservation Journalism from the UW-Madison in 1971. Tim worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Information and Education as an information specialist for resource management issues in Madison beginning in 1971 and was transferred to the Eau Claire District where he worked until 1978. Wanting to return to his town of Madison, he began working as an I&E specialist for CUNA Mutual Insurance Company from 1978 To 1997. After leaving CUNA, he became a full-time free-lance writer and photographer. Tim has served as an independent "stringer" for several Wisconsin newspapers including the Wisconsin State Journal, Capital Times and Milwaukee Journal as well as several outdoor periodicals. He currently writes for Wisconsin Outdoor News. He has reported and informed the public on a host of natural resources issues, such as the results of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Board meetings, proposed hunting rule and law changes and many issues related to hunting, forestry and the environment. He has been a tireless advocate of hunting as a recreational and wildlife management tool. For 12 years



Tim was editor of Woodland Management, the magazine of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association. He was also a charter member of the Wisconsin Outdoor Communicators Association.

Tim is a lifelong waterfowl hunter first as a teenager hunting with his father, uncle and brothers. With a passion for the Mississippi River, for 30 years he and a group of old friends got together to hunt ducks along the River in SW Wisconsin. Eisele served as a judge for the federal waterfowl stamp contest in Washington DC in 1994 and has closely monitored the results of the contest for many years. As a strong supporter of the benefits of the Duck Stamp and the heritage of Ding Darling, the creator of the duck stamp, he has given many presentations to educate and inform hunters and non-hunters about the environmental and conservation legacy of Ding Darling.

True to his love of the land, Tim owns 100 acres of land in Crawford County that he and his wife manage for wildlife. In addition to managing the woods, he established a small prairie in 2001. He has hosted several field days to promote the management of prairies and woodlands. He has given numerous presentations throughout the state to promote prairie restoration. Tim has participated in the educational programs at the Max McGraw Center for Conservation Education and has assisted with several of the courses offered by Wildlife Ecology to educate and introduce non-hunters to hunting from an ethical and conservation philosophy. He served on the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Arboretum, The Wetlands Association, the Board of Directors for the Natural Resources Foundation and Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Board of Governors. He was on the Advisory Council for Trees for Tomorrow and takes an active role in many conservation organizations. Tim is a lifelong champion for wildlife stewardship in Wisconsin.

In closing, we acknowledge the efforts of the **WCTWS Awards Committee** in selecting these highly deserving recipients. Committee members include: Kris Johansen (Chair), Jim Evrard, Robert Lonsinger, and Jim Ruwaldt. Congratulations and thanks to all!

Hammons and Hobart Receive 2019 Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarships

Submitted by Scott Hynstrom, President of The Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society

The **Undergraduate and Graduate Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarships** were presented to **McKenna Hammons and Brendan Hobart**, respectively at an awards reception at the WCTWS Annual Meeting on February 13, 2019. The Scholarships provide support and recognition for an undergraduate and graduate student who are continuing their academic and professional training, and in so doing, honor the memory of Aldo Leopold.

McKenna Hammons is an undergraduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. She will be graduating in May 2019 with a Bachelor of Science degree and major in Wildlife Ecology and Management and a minor in Conservation Biology. She maintains a high cumulative GPA and has received Honors or



High Honors every semester at UW-Stevens Point. McKenna served as Treasurer for the Student Chapter, which is an especially daunting position as it entails managing an annual budget of about \$20,000 for the Chapter and 20 Projects. As a senior, McKenna was elected to serve as President of the Student Chapter. She has done an incredible job of leading the 200+ student members. She understands the importance of getting students engaged in professional meetings and led details of 10 to 15 students to the Annual Meeting of TWS, the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, and the Wisconsin Chapter of TWS. McKenna was recognized by the North Central Section of TWS with the 2018 Outstanding Student Award.

Brendan Hobart is pursuing a Master of Science degree in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He excelled in his coursework as an undergraduate, receiving several prestigious scholarships. In his research, he uses occupancy modeling and stable isotope analysis to provide ecological explanations for observed responses of wildlife to land management. His research has played a key role in guiding specific recommendations of the forthcoming US Forest Service California Spotted Owl Conservation Strategy that will, in part, dictate the future of the Sierra Nevada's forest ecosystem. Professionally, he strives to become a wildlife ecologist who managers and academics alike seek for advice and feedback. He aims to perform reliable, quantitative research while acknowledging that often a striking disconnect exists between scientific results and effective on-the-ground management. His overarching goal is to apply science in a way that meaningfully contributes to wildlife conservation efforts.



As closing, we acknowledge the efforts of the **WCTWS Scholarship Committee** in selecting these highly deserving recipients. Committee members include: Lesa Kardash (Chair), Gary Zimmer, Randy Jurewicz, Patrick Kaiser, and Julie VanStappen. Congratulations and thanks to all!

Special Recognition and Thank You to Jeremy Holtz

Jeremy Holtz, our outgoing Chapter President, was recognized during our Chapter winter meeting for his contributions.



Jeremy is a wildlife biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. In addition to managing wildlife species and state wildlife properties in Oneida County, he is also the Facilitator for the Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership. Prior to coming to work for Wisconsin DNR thirteen years ago, Jeremy worked as an Assistant Area Wildlife Manager for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, as well as working various part time and seasonal positions in Colorado, Kansas, and Wisconsin.

Jeremy has been involved with The Wildlife Society since participating in student chapter activities while attending Colorado State University, where he earned his B.S. in Wildlife Biology in 1998. Jeremy worked to become increasingly involved with the Society to expand his personal and professional horizons. In 2015 Jeremy became a Certified Wildlife Biologist® because he wanted to hold himself to the highest standards in our profession. He wrote an article on the Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership for the TWS Wildlife Professional which was published in February 2017. While serving as President-Elect of the chapter in 2017, he also served on the program committee and chaired the plenary session subcommittee for the 2018 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference hosted here in Milwaukee Wisconsin. Since that time, in his year as President, Jeremy led a small committee that assembled and put on our Fall Technical Training session that focused on our elk herd as well as other Northwoods wildlife species. Last month he represented not only the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources but also the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society at the 2019 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Cleveland Ohio.

Jeremy has been married to his wife Carol for 26 years, and with three boys and a chocolate lab, Jeremy spends any time when he is not working or volunteering on hunting, fishing, camping, and enjoying time with his family.

Dr. Scott Craven, Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame, 2019 Inductee

Article reprinted with by permission from the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame

Scott Craven is an ambassador for Wisconsin's wildlife, with a gift of sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm for Wisconsin's natural resources. As a popular UW- Madison Wildlife Professor, he reached hundreds of thousands through his UW-Extension presentations, publications, and programs on wildlife, natural resources and the land ethic.

He also found a niche in public education through public radio and other prominent media outlets. As a gifted speaker, he has a unique way of captivating his audience with facts, stories and humor.

Scott provided service and leadership to hundreds of agencies and organizations and thousands of private home and land owners through his selfless contributions of time and effort. As a leader in Wildlife Damage Management, he helped educate the public on ways to attract wildlife and how to thoughtfully deal with nuisance wildlife and wildlife damage.

Craven was born in Manchester, New Hampshire in 1948. After receiving his B.S. degree in Zoology in 1970, he taught high school biology for two years. His time in Wisconsin started in 1972 as a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Department of Wildlife Ecology. Finding a niche, his association with UW-Madison has continued for more than 40 years as a Professor, UW-Extension Wildlife and 4-H Specialist, and Department Chair.



Photo credit: Patrick Durkin

He was an advisor and mentor to hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students through classes, internships and independent study projects. He also advanced Youth Education in Wisconsin through his 4-H leadership efforts and his Hunter Education and Shooting Sports programs.

As one of Wisconsin's most influential Extension Specialists, he used a variety of tools to reach Wisconsin citizens and to further the Wisconsin Idea, including UW- Extension bulletins, public lectures and workshops, and mass media, including newspaper, television and public radio programs. He was also a prolific author, writing or co-authoring over 60 technical, 30 popular and 25 peer-reviewed research publications.

When Scott began his career, wildlife damage control/management was not recognized as a key issue. His sustained work in this new area helped to educate the public and to build support for his programs while also cementing his reputation as a leader in the field, both in Wisconsin and nationally.

Scott also helped private landowners improve wildlife habitat on their property and developed, in 1994, the very successful Wisconsin Coverts Project, reaching landowners who together manage over 500,000 acres statewide.

Since his retirement he has continued to be a committed conservationist and prolific ambassador for wildlife through lecturing and writing, leading field trips, serving on advisory committees and non- profit organization boards and his regular ever-popular guest appearances on public radio.

Known and respected in virtually every corner of Wisconsin, Scott Craven has received prestigious awards for his contributions to conservation from many organizations, agencies, and universities, including the Pound Award from the University of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Award from the Wildlife Society, and the 2017 Youth Development Hall of Fame Award from Wisconsin 4-H.

Congratulations McKenna Hammons

Submitted by Scott Hynstrom, President

McKenna Hammons, UW-Stevens Point (left) was recognized as the *Wildlife Undergraduate Student of the Year* by the North Central Section of TWS.

The award was presented by NCS Past-president Jodie Provost at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Cleveland, Ohio in January 2019. Congratulations to McKenna!



***WCTWS Winter Meeting Minutes
Conference Call Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2019***

By Kelly VanBeek, Former WCTWS Secretary/Treasurer

- I. Call to Order and agenda repair
 - a. Meeting called to order at 1:02 PM by President Jeremy Holtz
 - b. 107 individuals present
- II. Secretary's Minutes – review and approval
 - a. 2018 Business meeting minutes were previously approved by the board and are available in the IT
- III. Treasurer's report
 - a. Please see report in the IT
 - b. Motion by Ollie T to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Bob H; motion approved
- IV. President's report
 - a. 2018 Midwest report
 - a. Transition year from having the states being solely responsible to MAFWA stepping in to help direct/fund the seed money/hold proceeds for the event
 - i. Discussion needs to happen about how WCTWS should spend these proceeds (~\$21k)
 - b. 2018 Fall technical training
 - a. Elk habitat focus
 - b. No fee for attendees
 - c. Nice accomplishment for the chapter
 - c. North-central Section updates
 - a. Jeremy (or the current president) represents us at the NCS board meetings
 - b. Opportunity for us to be involved in big picture discussions
 - c. Potential for change in Midwest proceeds distribution – might be used to fund scholarships for students to attend or better fund other events at future conferences rather than dispersing out to hosting chapters
 - d. 2018 WCTWS update
- V. Old/Unfinished Business – none
- VI. Reports (**2 minutes each**)
 - a. Standing Committee reports
 - i. Nominating and elections – Derek Johnson
 - 1. Derek more formally used this committee to help recruit nominees for elections
 - 2. Had better success this year than in recent years to get interest from nominees
 - 3. Committee mostly consists of past presidents
 - 4. Will update mode of elections; ballot bin was a trial
 - a. Potentially can use national TWS system for voting
 - ii. Membership – Jeremy Holtz
 - 1. Concerned with how to get people engaged and involved
 - 2. Increased presence on Facebook

- a. Limited comments; did see some posts with 100+ shares
 - b. Limited impact – social media is hit or miss in our audience
 - iii. Information and education – Jeremy Holtz
 - 1. Fell behind a little bit on IT issues
 - 2. Lesa is still managing the IT
 - 3. Jeremy still needs to provide a Midwest report on the website
 - iv. Audit – Kelly VanBeek
 - 1. Will be tapping past-treasurers to help
 - 2. We haven't done any audits in the past 2 years, and it has likely been longer
 - v. Public Comment – Chuck Pils
 - 1. Same as government affairs – will touch on later in the business meeting
 - vi. Fundraising and investments – Scott Hygnstrom
 - 1. Small fundraiser occurs annually (raffle and silent auction) \$1-\$2k generally
 - 2. Bjerke did not do well due to the stock market; fluctuations are to be expected
 - a. Pretty safe mutual fund, need to ride this out for long term
 - 3. Leopold fund – need to decide how we will continue to fund these scholarships
- b. Issue subcommittee reports
 - i. Deer management: Keith McCaffery
 - 1. Remission for most of the last 8 years
 - a. Variety of issues have come up over the years that we have been able to address
 - 2. Hoping to find a new person that can really lead the charge for this committee
 - 3. Curt Rollman is helping Keith facilitate the break-out
 - 4. Check the IT for more details
 - ii. Farmland wildlife: Mark Witecha
 - 1. Focused on Farm Bill reauthorization process
 - a. We got a good Farm Bill for conservation
 - b. Come to the break-out committee to discuss the FB in more depth
 - 2. Written report will be distributed to the membership in the IT
 - 3. Looking for an additional facilitator for this committee
 - iii. Forestry: Ron Eckstein
 - 1. Seat on silviculture guidance team for WI, representing TWS
 - a. Variety of stakeholders on this team
 - b. Review a lot of policy documents
 - 2. Written report will be submitted and distributed to membership in the IT
 - iv. Furbearers: John Olson
 - 1. Furbearer committee written report has been submitted and will be in the IT
 - a. Variety of issues in WI and across the nation
 - b. A lot of activity on BMPs
 - c. National effort on outreach, from materials to trapping matters workshop (WCTWS sponsored)
 - 2. Hunting trapping working group
 - a. Revising a position paper on predator harvest
 - b. Auctioned off a wild rice experience in Cleveland
 - 3. John went to the national meeting in Cleveland – gave report to Lesa for IT
 - a. Give back membership program – only 13% nominated someone through their give back opportunity

- v. Government affairs: Chuck Pils
 - 1. Written report will appear in IT
 - 2. League of Conservation Voters – should we give a donation? \$500 annually?
 - 3. WCTWS has signed on in support to increase license fees
 - 4. WCTWS has signed on in support of RAWA
 - a. Dedicated funding for nongame management/state action plan implementation
 - 5. LWCF is very close to being authorized
 - a. Potential for permanent authorization
- vi. Wildlife damage management: Daniel Hirschert
 - 1. No report
 - 2. Come to the break-out session
- vii. Wolf management: Randy Jurewicz
 - 1. Quiet year in 2018, might be a big year in 2019
 - 2. Adrian is a review member of the next delisting package
 - 3. Invited Pete Fasbender to sit in on meeting
 - 4. Check the IT for more details
- viii. Climate change: Robert Holsman
 - 1. Come to the break-out session for more details
- c. Student representative's report
 - i. Aletha Hefko will transition off the board, McKenna Hammons will be the new student rep from UWSP
- d. Student chapter president's report
 - i. Northland Chapter
 - 1. Inviting speakers to come talk to students
 - 2. Watch educational documentaries
 - 3. Skills workshop was held
 - 4. Involved with snapshot WI
 - ii. UWSP
 - 1. 45% of the wildlife majors on campus are a part of the chapter
 - 2. New logo for marketing
 - 3. 19 projects, 17 research focused
 - 4. Adopt a wildlife area initiative at Buena Vista
 - 5. Hosted several workshops
 - 6. Have funding with a variety of organizations to provide student opportunities
 - iii. No one present from UW-Madison

New Business

- 1. Election results/new executive board members
 - a. President-elect – Robert Holsman
 - b. At-large board member – Lacey Hill-Kastern
 - c. Secretary Treasurer – Becky Brathal
 - d. 2019 executive board Student representative – McKenna Hammons
 - i. Couple discussions happening with students at Green Mill in the morning
 - e. Vote to transition new officers to the Vanguard account
 - i. Board will address at their next meeting
- 2. Midwest proceeds report and recommendation

- a. Brought in ~\$21k
 - i. 50-year anniversary of WCTWS in 2 years – could be used for that recognition
 - ii. Use for Leopold Scholarships
 - 1. This is a way to invest in the future and provide more scholarships
 - iii. Workshop opportunities, in particular ones about public communications
 - iv. Could incorporate all these suggestions into a larger 50th anniversary celebration
 - v. Student conclave fund
 - vi. 50th anniversary is also a fundraiser potential
 - vii. Encourage re-engagement of members that have lapsed
 - viii. More scholarships
 - ix. Rainy day fund to protect us from unforeseen circumstances like losing money on the winter meeting due to weather
- 3. Draft operating budget (20 min)
 - a. Will be available online
 - b. Long term planning is important; we generally receive random pulses of money
 - c. Randy J moved to double Leopold scholarship funds available per year, to \$4000, with individual allotments (scholarship amounts and numbers) being left up to the committee and/or executive board to decide
 - i. Seconded by Alan C
 - 1. May need to look at changing qualifications, or creating a different scholarship/variable scholarship amounts to keep the prestige of the Leopold scholarship
 - ii. Motion approved by the membership
 - d. Is the investment in fall tech training paying off?
 - i. Certain workshops might attract more participation
- 4. Bylaws review (last updated in 2016) for potential updates by 2020 meeting
 - a. Change how we set chapter dues?
 - i. Would need a bylaws change, \$20 seems appropriate
 - ii. Alan C has offered to help, John O, Tim A
 - b. Change student rep selection process?
 - c. Do we have the right numbers/types of sub/committees?
- 5. Tom Hauge – should a standing committee participate in the upcoming DNR WM strategic plan? The board will consider
- 6. Adjourn
 - a. Jeremy H moved to adjourn, Chuck M seconded
 - b. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM

Winter Meeting Finance and Attendance Summary

By Kelly VanBeek, Forer WCTWS Secretary/Treasurer

	Credits	Debits	
Registration	\$18,046.76		
Sponsors/Exhibitors	\$2,663.40		
Stoney Creek Master Bill		\$16,566.08	
Stoney Creek Hotel (Jodie & Darren)		\$586.45	
Programs (+ pickup parking fee)		\$762.87	
Miscellaneous Supplies		\$45.13	
Student Breakfast		\$150.00	
			Net meeting income subtotal (w/o fundraisers)
Subtotals	\$20,710.16	\$18,110.53	\$2,599.63
Fundraisers - Income	\$1,285.00		
Fundraisers – expense (items)		\$282.02	
Fundraisers – supplies		\$66.42	
Subtotals	\$1,285.00	\$348.44	
			Net meeting income subtotal (incl. fundraisers)
Net for Raffle	\$936.56		\$3,536.19
Awards - supplies	\$857.17		
Awards – hotels	\$258.45		
Presentation/Poster Awards	\$75.00		
Scholarships	\$2,000.00		
Scholarship Supplies	\$7.99		
Subtotals	\$3,198.61		
Subtotal (no scholarships)	\$1,190.62		
			Net meeting income w/ fundraisers/scholarships/awards
			\$337.58
			Net meeting income w/ fundraisers/awards included
			\$2,345.57

***WCTWS Executive Board Meeting
Conference Call Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2019***

By Kelly VanBeek, Former WCTWS Secretary/Treasurer

Meeting brought to order at 1:02 PM by Jeremy Holtz

Board members present: Jeremy, Bob, Derek, Kelly, Aletha, Scott, Shawn, Lesa

1. Agenda repair and minute approval
 - a) Bob moved to approve minutes from November and December. Seconded by Aletha. Motion approved unanimously
2. Finance Report (Kelly)
 - a) See attached financial report
3. Newsletter (on hold until after winter meeting)

Old Business

1. Elections final
 - a. Results of elections: Lacey Hill-Kastern is the new board rep; Becky Brathal is the new secretary/treasurer; Bob Holsman is the new president elect
 - b. 88 participants
 - c. Derek sent results to the membership
2. 2019 winter meeting updates
 - a. Technical sessions (Bob)
 - i. Program includes all sessions and times
 - ii. Bob/Derek has a list of people to volunteer to be moderators
 - b. Printed program (Derek)
 - i. Derek sent out a draft for review
 - c. Sponsors/Vendors/exhibitors (Bob)
 - i. Scott will send Derek an official logo for Wisconsin Center for Wildlife for the program
 - ii. Drop dead date for program is 2.5 weeks away, so we can still accept some other vendors/sponsors
 - iii. Jeremy requested NCS help fund Jodie's trip to WI, but due to budgetary constraints and their support of the elk workshop, they declined at this time
 - d. Banquet/awards (Derek)
 - i. Banquet speakers are not very common anymore since dinner conversation is important, so Ollie will not be speaking during the banquet; Ollie will speak during the plenary
 - ii. Still need to make sure that Darren will give Lowell his TWS Fellow award
 - e. Business meeting 1-2 pm Feb 13
 - f. Committee meetings 2:15-3
 - i. Inform chairs of meeting time and help facilitate participation

- ii. Identify facilitators
 - 1. Jeremy is planning on reaching out to chairs to help set up logistics
- g. Plenary (Scott)
 - i. Ollie is going to give a talk, there will be a break during the plenary, and there will be a panel discussion at the end
 - ii. Shawn will check out a couple laptops from UWSP IT to bring, Derek will tell Bob and make sure Bob is working with moderators
- h. Registration
 - i. Derek has a few volunteers lined up for registration table
- i. Raffle/Silent Auction
 - i. Student chapters were being offered to host the auction themselves, but it does not seem this was communicated well this year and thus we likely won't have a silent auction. Need to start the conversation earlier next year with student chapters
 - ii. Derek is doing well on raffle items and likely won't accept silent auction items given how unlikely the auction is to happen
- 3. 2019 technical training– tabled
- 4. Try to set a regular day of the week/month for board meetings – tabled
- 5. Chapter operations document – Derek continues to work on this and model Minnesota's document. Kelly has her own document for the Secretary/Treasurer
- 6. Membership recruitment ideas and fundraising for future stability – tabled
 - a. Raise chapter dues?
 - b. Swag/goodies for enrollment? (stickers, hats, etc.)
 - c. Most effective ways to stay in touch (e-blasts? Social media? Website?)
- 7. Student rep – will be UWSP in 2019 and changes may be considered at the student breakfast

New Business

- 1. **January 10 deadline** 2018 WCTWS Awards and Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarship applications
- 2. Budget
 - a. Kelly will prepare the 2019 budget proposal and send around for review
- 3. Other items not addressed or brought up during agenda repair

Meeting adjourned at 2:14 PM

***WCTWS Executive Board Meeting
Conference Call Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2019***

By Becky Brathal, WCTWS Secretary/Treasurer

Meeting started 10:00am

- 1. Agenda review (All)

2. Minutes approval (Becky, All)
 - a) Verbal approval
3. Treasurer's Report (Becky)-given at a later date
 - a) Vanguard
 - b) PayPal
4. Newsletter (Lesa, Articles due April 12)
 - a) Lesa on maternal leave
 - b) Submit to Lesa by April 12th
 - i. Need:
 1. Treasurer's Report- Becky
 2. Leopold award- Scott report, Pictures from Kelly
 3. Soapbox- Scott with picture
 4. Committee reports: in IT.
 - a. Jeremy bylaws on website
 - b. Jeremy gives Jamie the reports to put on the website
 - c. We need a chair for that
 - d. New things from the last it on put on website and it
 - e. Summarizations from committees
 5. Awards:
 - a. Pictures, announcements
 - i. Kris Johanson final copies to Scott- electronic
 6. Student chapter updates
 - a. Keep trying to get them to participate
 7. Conservation hall of fame
 - a. Scott Craven
 - b. Jamie will be attending, should be easy to get pictures from her
 8. Annual Business meeting min.
 - a. Alumni email

Old Business

1. 2019 Winter Meeting (All) – recap
 - a. Went well, comments, best run. Derek and Kelly did an amazing job
 - b. Break out for committees, well received, more formal?
 - c. Comment about single use plastic.
 - d. Venue change? Stoney creek not as workable anymore.
 - e. Committee meeting and break outs too short.
 - f. Board meeting should be longer
 - g. Student chapters
 - i. No Madison representation, a lot from northland, Weather maybe a factor
 - ii. Breakfast, 2-3 rep from student chapter, smoother conversation, Scott took notes
 - iii. Ashland: Can't get numbers to make it financially feasible, ie rent a vehicle

1. Ask questions of why not?
- h. Next Meeting time frame:
 - i. 'Time of year:'
 1. Same, travel
 2. Central WI
 - a. Rapids
 - b. Point
 - c. Marshfield
 - d. Dells- expensive
 - ii. Native American fish and wildlife society
 1. Hayward, Sept. 2019
2. 2019 technical training (Scott) – Fall, goose banding, duck banding
 - a. Duck and goose banding:
 - i. Narrow scope not interests from older folks
 - b. Need a leader to take it on
 - c. Elk: not as well as attended as hoped
 - i. Not communicated enough that is wasn't just about elk
 - d. Climate change committee comments
 - i. Technical: climate adaptions models Madison, Haley will be there.
 - e. Doing a poll of possible options that people want to participate in
 - i. Package it in a way that keeps people engaged
 - ii. Committee driven workshops
 - iii. Human dimensions
 - iv. Stream bank or shoreline
3. Set a regular day of the week/month for board meetings (All)
 - a. Doodle poll vs Set week/ month
 - b. Agreed on Doodle poll, Scott will send out 3 weeks in advance.
4. Student Board Rep (Scott) – coordination, bylaws change
 - a. Change in bylaws
 - i. Article 6 section 3 G. Scott read out.
 - I. Represent shall be president
 - a. Students elect their rep. of chapter
 - b. Rotate alphabetically – between students
 - c. Elected position needs to hear from Madison
 - i. Hoping for better communication with student chapters
 - ii. Next meeting: Proposal to make the changes by next meeting in May
 - I. Bob is assigned to take the lead
5. Chapter operations document (Derek) –TWS template, finalize
 - a. No report
6. Membership recruitment ideas and fundraising for future stability (Jeremy)
 - a. Seed money to start doing
 - b. Raise chapter dues?

- i. Increase dues to \$20.00
 - ii. Bylaws change for due changes
 - c. Swag/goodies for enrollment? (stickers, hats, etc.)
 - i. Stickers
 - ii. Bumper stickers
 - iii. Shirts- Bonfire people go to the website workload
 - iv. Part of the increased fees?
 - d. Hat sales were approved in concept by executive board November 2018
 - e. Most effective ways to stay in touch (e-blasts? Social media? Website?)
 - i. Membership committee? Who takes it over,
 - ii. \$250 example budget
 - f. Action Item: Free vs buying
 - g. Jeremy will continue to do Facebook posts
- 7. Committee follow-up (Scott)
 - a. Structure, personnel, Board representation
 - i. Scott, Bob, Jeremy will meet to make this happen
- 8. Bylaws revision (Scott) - Crosley, Olson
 - a. Process started, have a report in May meeting, send out to members June
 - b. 4-5-month timeline
 - c. Jeremy willing to assist with revisions
- 9. Student's Leadership Workshop (Scott) – March 30, 2019, UWSP, Hammons
 - a. Overview of workshop March 30th
 - i. 2015 leadership
 - ii. 2016 teamwork
 - iii. 2017 conflict resolution
 - iv. 2018 skip
 - v. 2019 Leadership
 - 1. UW extension
 - 2. Dean
 - 3. UW student service
 - a. Strengths and weakness interpretations
 - vi. Would like to have it in the fall vs spring
 - 1. Write up and photo to Lesa for IT
- 10. Moved to Jeremy, 2nd Lacey, to put Becky and Scott to put on the Vanguard
 - a. Call to question my Jeremy
 - i. Roll call
 - 1. 4 ayes carry
- 11. Plaque to Jeremy
 - a. Young forest Partnership, presentation to Jeremy

New Business

- 1. 2019 Student-Professional Workshop (Scott) – Necedah NWR, Strobel, Pfof
 - a. Develop a new workshop “mixer”, for students and professionals
 - b. Site based at the Necedah Wildlife Refuge
 - i. Fall

- ii. Provided transportation, cost.
 - iii. Northland student chapter concerned about location
 - iv. More than one location and topics
- 2. 2020 Winter Meeting (All) – dates, location, program, symposia
 - a. Hosting symposia on non-game species
 - v. Before or after the annual meeting
 - b. Governor “year of clean water”,
 - c. Possible host meeting with other nonprofit conservation organizations
 - 1. WWA
 - d. Submission topics
 - i. Clean water
 - ii. Non-game species
 - iii. GLRI
 - iv. Agriculture connection
 - v. Farm Bill
- 3. Website (Jamie) - update WCTWS chapter officers, minutes, IT, other
 - a. Chapter officers to Mariah, updated
 - b. Membership list,
 - i. Lesa needs members list
- 4. WDNR Strat Plan review (Scott) – Crosley, Olson
 - a. TWS Provide comments on the plan
 - i. TWS be more involved with DNR for potential partnerships
- 5. Government (Conservation) Affairs-RAWA (All) – Chuck Pils
 - a. No comments
 - b. Other chapters creating committees i.e. our issue committee
- 6. Retirees involvement (Scott) – Summer social, game feed, donations, 50th anniversary
 - a. 2022 50th anniversary table for now.
 - b. Game feed
 - c. Generate funds through donations?
 - d. Retirees form a committee
 - e. At the shack?
- 7. Other items not addressed or brought up during agenda repair (All)
 - a. Awards
- 8. Membership committee: handout on getting more members
- 9. Move to adjourn, 1st by Becky send

Adjourn 12:03pm

National TWS Conference

By John Olson, WCTWS Member

The Wildlife Society's annual conference was held at the Huntington Conference Center in Cleveland, Ohio October 7 – 11, 2019. Approximate attendance was over 1,000(!). Twenty main topics included 564 presentations, besides the keynote and plenary talks! Great conference.

Way too much to digest, but attended dozens of presentations, in addition to representing our chapter at the Hunting, Trapping, Conservation Working Group meeting. Am also a member of the Board of Directors of this group.

But if I were to highlight something of significance (besides the social at the 6-story Jazz Hall of Fame), it would be the keynote presentation by Mike Phillips. Mr. Phillips, in concert with Ted Turner, developed the Turner Endangered Species Fund in 1995 and is the Executive Director of the same. In addition, he built the Turner Biodiversity Division which has done remarkable things for a wide variety of species across the 2.2 million "Turner Acres".

Because he saw a need, ran for a seat in their state legislator over 15 years ago and now is a state Senator for District 31, Bozeman, MT. The basic theme of his talk was "political activism", and most of what follows is a summary of Mr. Phillips thoughts, ideas, and direct quotes:

Vaclav Havel, President of the Czechoslovakian nation from 1989 – 1992 once said: "Genuine politics are a noble endeavor. Genuine politics – even politics worthy of the name – the only politics I am willing to devote myself to, is simply a matter of serving those around us – serving the community and serving those who will come after us. Its deepest roots are moral because it is a responsibility expressed through action, to, and for the whole."

And we as wildlife biologists must maintain our objectivity by working from a foundation of reliable science that is presented honestly.

Mike goes on to state that "there's a profound need to assure science is a regular part of the decision-making process. If we do not insert conservation science into the decision process, then someone else will introduce their science into the process." But who in their right mind (or their left mind), wants to get involved in an irrational business?! Why us?!

Mr. Phillips suggests our political system is tailor made for folks like us...the political system favors those that believe facts & knowledge, and scholarship & determination matter.

A great example he used, goes way back to 1786-1788 when our founding fathers saw there was no way to form a republic that resolves the problems related to the rights of: federal vs. state governments; women's rights; native American rights; and even the rights of slaves. So, they created political parties that allowed for ongoing debate that permitted dissent – not seen as a treasonable act, but rather a legitimate voice in an endless argument. (Huh. What wildlife issues might fit this description?!) The enduring genius of our constitution provides a framework for debate, endlessly if need be. (Once again, much of wildlife management here in WI!)

Historians consider our 4th president, James Madison as a giant among giants in our nations' history. Yet he was less than 5'4" and weighed less than 130 pounds. Had no noticeable physical demeanor; was shy and retiring and didn't have a notable personality. But he possessed a commanding intellect and a resolute belief in the power of preparation, facts, and logic.

Back in those days key folks were having a major debate over whether to ratify the draft Constitution or not. So, in June 1787 Patrick Henry, the most famous and formidable orator in the country, who was not in favor of the constitution as written, took on James Madison (who most definitely was). Henry had the greatest power to persuade; but Madison had the power to convince, and it was ratified.

As Conservationists we understand the power of being prepared, the power of data – collected fairly and interpreted honestly. We understand and embrace the power of logic, facts, and debate. These were the greatest traits of Madison, a highly successful politician. We in wildlife conservation can succeed in politics, and it favors our training, favors our tendencies, and needs our expertise. Knowledge of biology is foundational to understanding the world around us, and understanding our world is foundational to serving it well.

Our active involvement in electoral politics would lead to a greater citizen awareness and importance of protecting natural resources, leading to a new source of funding, new state and federal dollars that could improve conditions for all creatures great and small. Albert Einstein's simple admonition should be considered: "Those who have the privilege to know, have the duty to act." Mr. Phillips suggests: "Our duty is clear – we need to think anew, and act anew."

Another great example Mike used: In 1990, after 27 years of imprisonment, Nelson Mandela spoke eleven words that eventually ended Apartheid: "We can't win a war, but we can win an election." In 1994 he became the first black president of South Africa and officially ended the policy of Apartheid. We can win elections and by so doing can develop new sources of funding for wildlife conservation and do more to advance the prospects for the greater diversity of wildlife that continue to grace this planet.

Mr. Phillips then summed up his entire talk with: "I hope you will someday put your name on a ballot."

My hat's off to folks like Ron Eckstein, Keith McCaffery, Fred Strand, Tom Hauge and George Meyer who have made this often-times thankless commitment to doing what they can to "make things right" with our natural resources and how we use, view, protect, and enhance the same.

Oh, and by-the-way WCIWS members and officers, thanks for offsetting some of the costs to allow me to attend! See you in Reno, Nevada in September-October!

PS. As a fund raiser for our Hunting, Trapping & Conservation Working Group offered a wild rice harvesting experience in northern Minnesota (nonresidents can't rice in WI) which ended up generating \$1,500.00 for the cause. In Reno we'll have a couple of (donated back), Leopold Commemorative shotguns on our raffle or silent auction.

Financial Report for 4/25/19

Submitted by Becky Brathal, Secretary/Treasurer

<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CHECKING	\$6,267.82
SAVINGS 1	\$5,630.87
Leopold Account (SAVINGS 2)	\$16,434.27
Bjerke (VANGUARD)	\$66,976.39
PayPal	\$ 0.22
Total Assets	\$95,309.57

Truisms - Contributed by Tom Bahti

Shamelessly borrowed, stolen and plagiarized from other sources

I hate it when you open the fridge and can't find what you're looking for. Like happiness and perfect abs.

Anything done in moderation shows a lack of interest.

If a man is really intelligent, there's practically nothing a good dog can't teach him.

A wife and a steady job have ruined many a good duck hunter.

Advice is what older men give to younger men when they no longer can set them a bad example.

I God didn't want me to hunt, He wouldn't have given me plaid shirts.

If you borrow a friend's dog to take woodcock hunting, blindfold it coming and going.

My favorite sharptailed grouse hunting spot sits in the Missouri couteau in central North Dakota. That's as much as I'm saying.

Issue Committee Updates

Climate Change Vacant Chair

Bob Holsman convened a group of 17 chapter members during the winter meeting to discuss where to take the committee going forward. Many members expressed an interest in getting more technical training especially as it related to mitigation strategies for management. Lacey-Hill Kastern, also the newest board member has agreed to co-chair the Climate Change committee going forward. Recently she and Jeremy Holtz both participated in a two-day workshop on Climate adaptation presented by Ben Zuckerberg at UW-Madison.

Deer: Keith McCaffery

The UW-Madison Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has had a busy Spring semester! We ended our fall semester with our Annual Wild Game Dinner, where we served a variety of foods, like bear meat tacos, venison stew, and elk Swedish meatballs. More recently, we hosted a book sale, where we sold hundreds of ecologically themed books. This semester, we also had a radio telemetry workshop with Sarah Garza, who taught students about the importance of radio telemetry and how to locate radio-collared animals. The second part of this workshop will be happening in early May. We also hosted a graduate student panel that answered our members' questions about what being a graduate student is like and how to get into graduate school. In addition, a couple of our officers gave a presentation about our local wildlife at a nearby elementary school.

In partnership with the Henry Vilas zoo, we had a joint crafting event with the Undergraduate Zoological Society and the UW Society of Conservation Biology, where students created ornaments to benefit koala conservation. Our student chapter recently lost to the UW Forestry Club in our annual kickball game, but we still had fun and ate plenty of venison burgers. In April, we had our first birding trip at the UW-Lakeshore Preserve and we will be having several more before the end of the semester at various places across campus. We are also starting up our Wisconsin DNR Frog and Toad surveys, which will continue into the summer. Additionally, one of our members, Ethan Plumier, has been leading weekly trips to monitor eagle nests for a citizen science project.

Later this week, we will be facing the UW Forestry Club in our annual kickball game. After that, we will be hosting another Snap-a-thon event, where students will compete to identify wildlife in camera trap photos with Snapshot Wisconsin. We are also taking a group of students to a Wisconsin DNR CWD station to learn more about chronic wasting disease and how to extract lymph nodes in order to test deer for this disease and in May, we will be having a highway clean-up event in May. Soon, our TWS chapter will also set-up a booth at the Allen Centennial Gardens Family Day event. Finally, we are happy to announce that we elected our new officers this April. We look forward to an eventful end of the semester and another successful year in 2020!

Farm Wildlife: Mark Witecha, Chair

See update in Appendix A (page 37)

Forestry Issues Committee: Ron Eckstein, Chair

October 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019

Silviculture Guidance Team (SGT) and ad hoc meetings attended:

- October 3 SGT Northern Hardwood ad hoc team meeting at Tomahawk
- November 7 SGT Chapter 24 Tree Marking ad hoc team meeting at Merrill
- November 15 SGT Northern Hardwood ad hoc team conference call
- December 4 SGT Chapter 24 Tree Marking ad hoc team conference call
- December 12 SGT meeting at Stevens Point
- January 30 conference call on guidance handbook reorganization
- February 15 conference call on guidance handbook reorganization
- February 20 Governor’s Council on Forestry meeting in Madison
- March 01 conference call on guidance handbook reorganization
- March 13 SGT meeting in Stevens Point

Draft DNR forest management guidance documents reviewed:

- Heterobasidion Root Disease Management Guidance
- Ash Harvesting Guidelines
- MFL Administrative Rules

After two years of literature research, meetings, and conference calls the Silviculture Handbook will have the elements of the Aspen, Red Pine, Tree Marking, and Northern Hardwood Chapters revised. Final documents are currently out for internal and external review. The reason for the Silviculture Handbook update was the state legislature funded an extensive \$625,000 Forest Practices Study designed to determine factors limiting investments in Wisconsin’s forest products industry. In addition, the December 2018 state legislature’s extraordinary session passed a law that requires legislative review of all state agency guidance documents. It is currently unknown how this legislation and subsequent court action will impact DNR Forestry’s guidance documents.

Furbearer & Trapping Issues: John Olson

See update in Appendix A (page 25)

Government Affairs: Chuck Pils No report.

Wildlife Damage: Daniel Hirchert No report.

Wolves: Randy Jurewicz No report.

Student Chapter Corner

University of Wisconsin-Madison



By Megan Kruse, President

The UW-Madison Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has had a busy Spring semester! We ended our fall semester with our Annual Wild Game Dinner, where we served a variety of foods, like bear meat tacos, venison stew, and elk Swedish meatballs. More recently, we hosted a book sale, where we sold hundreds of ecologically themed books. This semester, we also had a radio telemetry workshop with Sarah Garza, who taught students about the importance of radio telemetry and how to locate radio-collared animals. The second part of this workshop will be happening in early May. We also hosted a graduate student panel that answered our members' questions about what being a graduate student is like and how to get into graduate school. In addition, a couple of our officers gave a presentation about our local wildlife at a nearby elementary school.

In partnership with the Henry Vilas zoo, we had a joint crafting event with the Undergraduate Zoological Society and the UW Society of Conservation Biology, where students created ornaments to benefit soala conservation. Our student chapter recently lost to the UW Forestry Club in our annual kickball game, but we still had fun and ate plenty of venison burgers. In April, we had our first birding trip at the UW-Lakeshore Preserve and we will be having several more before the end of the semester at various places across campus. We are also starting up our Wisconsin DNR Frog and Toad surveys, which will continue into the summer. Additionally, one of our members, Ethan Plumier, has been leading weekly trips to monitor eagle nests for a citizen science project.

Later this week, we will be facing the UW Forestry Club in our annual kickball game. After that, we will be hosting another Snap-a-thon event, where students will compete to identify wildlife in camera trap photos with Snapshot Wisconsin. We are also taking a group of students to a Wisconsin DNR CWD station to learn more about chronic wasting disease and how to extract lymph nodes in order to test deer for this disease and in May, we will be having a highway clean-up event in May. Soon, our TWS chapter will also set-up a booth at the Allen Centennial Gardens Family Day event. Finally, we are happy to announce that we elected our new officers this April. We look forward to an eventful end of the semester and another successful year in 2020!

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point



By McKenna Hammons, President

Our chapter is in full swing this spring semester, with many activities to beat those winter blues. We are proud to announce we have reached 175 members in our chapter!

Our Woodpecker project has been banding woodpeckers and nuthatches at the Sandhill Wildlife Area during one of their best field seasons in years, our Lagomorph project has been trapping Eastern cottontail rabbits and collecting

parasites, and our Waterfowl project is out checking wood duck nest boxes at the Mead Wildlife Area. Our Wild Bird Project is collaborating with the USFWS to monitor whippoorwills at Necedah NWF while our Woodcock Project is working with the American Woodcock/Ruffed Grouse Society to create habitat for American Woodcock.



Lizzie, our social coordinator planned an Ice Skating social and a Skiing social for members to hang out and have a good time. We've also held an archery shoot for beginners and advanced archers to practice their skills,



brought in the American Red Cross to certify 21 members in First Aid/CPR/AED, and worked with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and John Olson to host a Trapping Matters Workshop.

Miranda, our education coordinator has planned a variety of education events for kids. These include running a touch and feel table at the STEAM Day for Girls held on campus and assisting the parents of a local elementary school with an 'Owl Prowl' program.

Check out our Facebook page for Fauna Friday updates. This is a weekly post made by our Web Designer, Conner, featuring fun facts about wildlife species, with pictures of these animals taken by our members!

Northland College

No report.

Successful Student Leadership Workshop Held at UWSP

Submitted by Scott Hygnstrom, President of WCTWS & Director, Wisconsin Center for Wildlife

The UWSP Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) and Wisconsin Center for Wildlife (WCW) have hosted a series of rotating workshops on Student Leadership Development since 2015, including specific workshops on Teamwork (1), Conflict Resolution (3), Working with the Media (2), and Leadership (2).

On Saturday, March 30, 2019, we hosted a workshop on Leadership, with a program of notable speakers, including UWSP Chancellor, Bernie Patterson; Dean and Director of UW-Madison Extension, Karl Martin; and UWSP Student



Services staff Sue Kissinger, Kami Weis, and Martha Yonke. The program included definitions and examples of leadership, a dissection of the various styles of leadership, and an interpretation and application of the popular CliftonStrengths personality assessment.

On a 4-point scale, responding students (15) indicated that they would be more aware of their own strengths (3.87), value good leadership more than before (3.64), be more skilled at developing effective teams (3.47), and use their knowledge of leadership to improve their organization (3.67). Several very positive comments, such as “eye-opening,” “very helpful,” “valuable,” “energetic and interactive,” and “great!” were provided about the overall workshop. I would like to thank our



presenters and McKenna Hammons, Ben Tjepkes, Sabrina Claeys, Sean Mason, Connor Ties, and Jennifer Summers for their efforts in putting on another successful Student Leadership Workshop.

2019 Great Lakes Native American Fish & Wildlife Society Conference

Submitted by Lacey Hill-Kastern, WCTWS Board Member

The 2019 Great Lakes Native American Fish & Wildlife Society conference will be hosted by the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians during the week of September 22-27, 2019 at the Seven Winds Casino, Lodge & Conference Center, 13767 County Hwy B, Hayward, Wisconsin 54843. The first planning meeting was just last week and I was not able to be there so I do not have any additional information. I will see if I can get something from Don Reiter for the IT deadline next week.

INTELLIGENT TINKERING

Published by Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society. TWS is an international nonprofit organization of wildlife professionals. Subscriptions available with Chapter membership. The editor invites comments and articles for possible publication. Email submissions to: skuldt@uwalumni.com

Submission Deadline: Summer Issue: 7/31/19

General Mail: Wisconsin Chapter of TWS,
P.O. Box 696, Stoughton, WI 53589

WCTWS Executive Board

Scott Hygnstrom, President
Scott.Hygnstrom@uwsp.edu

Robert Holsman, President-Elect
Robert.Holsman@wi.gov

Jeremy Holtz, Past President
Jeremy.Holtz@wi.gov

Becky Brathal, Sec/Treasurer
WCTWS.secretary@gmail.com

Shawn Crimmins, Board Member
Shawn.Crimmin@uwsp.edu

Lacey Hill-Kastern, Board Member
Lacey.s.hill@live.com

Lesa Kardash, Newsletter Editor
skuldt@uwalumni.com

Aletha Hefko, Student Rep.
Hefkoa821@myemail.northland.edu

WCTWS Issue Committees

Climate Change

Vacant
Keith.McCaffery@wisconsin.gov

Deer

Vacant

Farm Wildlife

Mark Witecha
markjwitecha@yahoo.com

Forestry

Ron Eckstein
roneckstein@charter.net

Furbearer

John Olson
Johnfolson51@gmail.com

Government Affairs

Chuck Pils
cmpils@sbcglobal.net

Wildlife Damage

Daniel Hirschert
Daniel.L.Hirschert@aphis.usda.gov

Wolves

Randy Jurewicz
jurewrb@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Jamie Nack
jlnack@wisc.edu

Facebook Administrators

Jeremy Holtz, Lesa Kardash

Website: <http://wildlife.org/wisconsin>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wisconsin-Chapter-of-The-Wildlife-Society/963763133656811>

Appendix A.

Issue Committee Updates

Farm Wildlife: Mark Witecha, Chair

H.R. 2 – Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018
Summary of key wildlife conservation provisions

The Managers recognize the benefits of native vegetation to improve water and air quality and enhance soil health. By encouraging the adoption of native vegetation seed blends, USDA programs are supporting habitat restoration for the northern bobwhite, lesser prairie-chicken, greater sage-grouse, other upland game birds, songbirds, monarch butterflies and pollinators. The Managers encourage the use of native vegetation where practicable.

Furthermore, the Managers are concerned that the complexity and expenses associated with seed mixes under CRP have led to frustration on the part of landowners, a waste of taxpayer dollars, and in some cases inferior cover on the ground if the mix fails to take root. The Managers hope that USDA will consider the hardiness and suitability of seed mixtures when recommending multiple species blends, and consider seed mixtures that contain fewer, hardier species and provide adequate cover for wildlife and pollinators on sites where cover is difficult to establish or maintain.

Conservation Compliance and Sodsaver

Provision	Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018
Swampbuster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifies that no person shall become ineligible for farm programs if the Secretary determines an exemption under 1222(b) applies; and requires that an on-site inspection occur in the presence of the affected person, as long as they are available for such inspection. • Authorizes a report from NRCS on small wetlands (under 1 acre in size) delineated in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa between 2014 and 2018.
Sodsaver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closes the perennial crop loophole that would allow producers to avoid Sodsaver violations by planting a perennial crop instead of an annual crop on native sod that has been tilled. • Clarifies that native sod acreage that has been tilled would be subject to a reduction in benefits not more than 4 cumulative years during the first 10 years after initial tillage after date of enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill. • Requires USDA to annually report native sod acres converted to cropland beginning on January 1, 2020 and each January 1st thereafter.

Conservation Reserve Program

Provision	Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018
Acreage Cap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steps up acreage cap to 27M by fiscal year 2023, and instructs the Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, to enroll and maintain 8.6 million acres in continuous CRP by FY2023, with following step up:

and Soil Rental Rates	2018 Farm Bill CRP Acreage Cap Schedule (Millions)				
	FY	General and Continuous CRP	Continuous Enrollment	Minimum Grassland CRP	Total
	2019	23	8	1	24
	2020	23	8.25	1.5	24.5
	2021	23	8.5	2	25
	2022	23.5	8.6	2	25.5
	2023	25	8.6	2	27
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil rental rates for general and continuous enrollment are limited to 85% and 90% of the county average, respectively (before any adjustments relating to specific practices, wellhead protection, or soil productivity), with secretarial requirement to account for potential impact on local farmland rental market. Reductions maybe waived under CREP. • Directs Secretary to update SRR annually, drops 3-year average 				
CRP Grasslands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets a floor for acres in CRP Grasslands, stepping up to 2 million for FY2021 through 2023. • Changed from a continuous to annual enrollment. • In enrolling land in CRP Grasslands, the Secretary may give priority to land (i) with expiring contracts, (ii) at risk of conversion or development, and (iii) of ecological significance (i.e. restoring or preventing threatened and endangered species and improving/creating wildlife habitat corridors). 				
Enrollment and Contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directs Secretary to have a general signup not less than once each year. • Directs Secretary to allocate 60% of all CRP acres available each year through a comparison with a 2007 - 2016 acreage based State and National CRP enrollment chart. • Provides opportunity for 15-year contracts not extended in 2017 or 2018 to be re-enrolled if practice cover was maintained. • Limits hardwood trees to one re-enrollment (riparian forest buffers, CREP, and shelterbelts exempt from this limitation) 				
Incentive Payments and Cost-share	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adds limitation that total amount paid for cost-share payments cannot exceed 100% of total actual cost of establishing those measures and practices. Limits cost-share for seed component of cover establishment to 50% of the actual cost of the seed mixture. Does not provide cost-share when grazing is used as a mid-contract management activity. • Authorizes cost-share for fencing and water distribution practices. • Directs the Secretary to make PIP for continuous practices in an amount not to exceed 50% of the actual cost of establishing measures and practices, including seed costs. • Directs the Secretary to make SIP for continuous practices equal to 32.5% of the first annual rental payment, new enrollments only. • Provides \$12 million total for tree thinning incentive payments; reduces payments to 100% of the total practice cost (was 150%). 				
CLEAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes CLEAR initiative (Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers) to give priority to practices that will have a positive impact on water quality and sediment and nutrient issues (includes buffers, filter strips, wetlands and wetland buffers, saturated buffers, bioreactors, and other similar water quality practices). • Directs the Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, to maintain at least 40% of continuous CRP in CLEAR practices. 				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a CLEAR 30 pilot program to enroll land in 30-year contracts. Eligible land is limited to expiring land enrolled under CLEAR (or its predecessor practices). USDA may enter into contracts or agreements with states and NGOs to carry out necessary maintenance of CLEAR 30 contracts and may delegate management responsibilities to conservation organizations.
FWP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reauthorizes Farmable Wetlands Program through 2023 with no other changes.
CREP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adds NGO as eligible partners and requires 30% minimum contribution from NGO partners, does not apply to existing agreements. Encourages forested riparian buffers by providing 100% cost-share for buffer maintenance. Allows Agroforestry - Only native plants can be planted within 35ft of the watercourse
Soil Health and Income Protection Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a pilot program in the Prairie Pothole Region to enroll land enrollment in 3, 4, or 5-year contracts to assist landowners with conserving and improving soil, water, and wildlife resources. Landowners are limited to enrolling no more than 15% of the verified least productive land on a farm. Annual rental payment is equal to 50% of the average rental rate for the applicable county. Total land enrolled in SHIPP is limited to no more than 50,000 acres in CRP and must be enrolled by 31 Dec 2020. Landowners must establish the lowest practicable cost perennial conserving use cover crop on the land, with no cost-share provided. Land may be hayed or grazed outside the primary nesting season (with adequate stubble height maintained to protect the soil on enrolled land), with a 25% reduction in the rental payment. Beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, or veteran farmers and ranchers may receive up to 50% cost-share for cover establishment and an annual rental payment equal to 75% of the average rental rate for the applicable county. The Secretary is to submit a report to Congress described the estimated conservation value of enrolled land, as well as estimated savings from reduced commodity payments, crop insurance, and crop insurance premium subsidies.
Soil Health and Income Protection Program (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rewrites statute for haying and grazing activities permitted on CRP land to permit certain activities and commercial use of established cover on land in CRP if those activities or uses: are consistent with conservation of soil, water quality, and wildlife habitat; contribute to the health and vigor of the established cover; are consistent with a site-specific plan and contribute to the health and vigor of the established cover; and are subject to appropriate restrictions during the primary nesting season (PNS) for birds in the area. Commercial use and activities are allowed under the following guidelines: Activities with no rental rate reduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency haying or grazing in response to drought, flooding, wildfire, or other emergency, <u>on all practices</u>, outside the PNS when any of the following criteria are met: 1) the county is designated as D2 (severe drought) or greater; 2) there is at least a 40% loss in forage production in the county; or 3) the Secretary, in coordination with the state technical committee, determines that the program can assist in the disaster response without permanent damage to the established cover.

Haying and Grazing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emergency grazing on <u>all practices</u> during the PNS if payments are authorized for a county under the Livestock Forage Program (LFP). Grazing is limited to 50% of the normal carrying capacity under LFP, adjusted to the site-specific plan. ○ Emergency haying on <u>certain practices</u> outside the PNS if payments are authorized for a county under the Livestock Forage Program. Haying is limited to not more than 50% of contract acres. ○ Grazing on <u>all practices</u> outside the PNS if included as MCM practice in the site-specific plan. No MCM cost-share authorized for grazing. ○ Intermittent and seasonal use of vegetative buffer practices that are incidental to agricultural production on adjacent land, under certain conditions outside the PNS. ○ Grazing on all practices outside the PNS by a beginning farmer or rancher. ● Activities with 25% rental rate reduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grazing not more frequently than every other year on the same land. Grazing during the PNS is allowed with a 50% reduction in the stocking rate in the site-specific plan. ○ Haying outside the PNS no more than once every 3 years, with 25% of the total contract acres unharvested to provide for wildlife cover and shelter. ○ Annual grazing outside the PNS if consistent with a site-specific plan authorized for control of invasive species. ○ Installation of wind turbines under certain conditions, taking into account wildlife habitat and other purposes of the program. ● The Secretary may permit haying or grazing on any land or practice in CRP unless haying or grazing under a particular practice would cause long-term damage to the vegetative cover on that land. ● Emergency or other Haying/Grazing on SAFE or CREP is only allowed if included in the applicable SAFE or CREP agreement.
---------------------------	--

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Provision	Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Livestock: 50% (reduced from 60%) of the funds under the program shall be targeted at practices relating to livestock production and grazing management practices ● Provides mandatory funding at the following levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$1.75 billion for FY 2019 and 2020 ○ \$1.80 billion for FY 2021 ○ \$1.85 billion for FY 2022 ○ \$2.025 billion for FY 2023
Wildlife Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increases wildlife set-aside to 10% (up from 5%). ● Clarifies that contracts entered into solely for wildlife practices can be up to 10 years in length. These practices may include carrying out post-harvest flooding or maintaining hydrology of temporary and seasonal wetlands of not more than 2 acres to maintain waterfowl and migratory bird habitat on working cropland.
Payment Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Allows states to designate 10 high-priority practices to be eligible for 90% cost-share (otherwise capped at 75%).
	Incorporation of CSP-like program policy

<p>Conservation Incentive Contracts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of not more than 3 eligible priority resource concerns for watersheds, or other appropriate regions or areas within a state • Producers must address at least 1 priority resource concern • Provides annual payments for certain incentive practices to attain increased levels of conservation • Provides practice payments to implement an incentive practice • Contract length: Not less than 5, no more than 10yr
<p>Conservation Innovation Grants CIG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added urban agriculture and edge-of-field monitoring as priorities • Increased funding for air-quality projects from \$25 million to \$37.5 million • New: On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials: \$25 million <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Purpose is to support development of new or innovative conservation approaches such as: Precision ag, enhanced nutrient management, soil health management systems, and cover crops ○ Provides financial and technical assistance to producers for implementation ○ Secretary will select geographic regions for eligibility • New: Soil Health Demonstration Trials (included in \$25 million dedicated to Innovation Trials) • Provides incentives to producers to implement practices that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ improve soil health and increase carbon levels in soil

Conservation Stewardship Program

Provision	Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018
<p>Funding and Authorization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary shall provide for streamlined and coordinated procedures for CSP and EQIP including operations, contracting, conservation planning, conservation practices, and related administrative procedures • Removed requirement to manage the program to achieve a national average rate \$18/ac • Reauthorizes CSP as stand-alone program with mandatory funding provided at the following levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$700 million for FY 2019 ○ \$725 million for FY 2020 ○ \$750 million for FY 2021 ○ \$800 million for FY 2022 ○ \$1 billion for FY 2023
<p>Contracts and Eligible Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adds development of a comprehensive conservation plan to the definition of conservation activities. • Adds advanced grazing management to eligibility for supplemental payments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Definition of Advanced Grazing Management: use of a combination of grazing practices which may include management-intensive rotational grazing that provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved soil health and carbon sequestration ▪ Drought resilience ▪ Wildlife habitat ▪ Wildfire mitigation ▪ Control of invasive plants

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water quality improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Management-intensive rotational grazing – includes objective to: improve the quality and quantity of cover for wildlife • Gives special payment rates to cover crop activities (125% of normal rate) and resource conserving crop rotations and advanced grazing management (150% of normal rate).
Grasslands Conservation Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a Grassland Conservation Initiative within CSP, with 5-year non-renewable contracts that will receive \$18/ac for the purpose of assisting producers in protecting grazing uses, conserving and improving soil, water, and wildlife resources, and achieving related conservation values on land with unplanted base acres no longer eligible for ARC-PLC payments.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

Provision	Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides annual funding at \$450 million per year (increase of \$225M).
Ag Land Easements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows any combination of cash, charitable donation, and costs associated with securing the deed to the easement to satisfy non-federal share of the easement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New: Non-federal match may include the costs associated with securing deed, including the cost of appraisal, survey, inspection and title • Removes requirement of 50% cash match associated with charitable donations • Makes eligible for ALE land owned by an eligible entity on a transitional basis, provided that the land be transitioned to farmer/rancher ownership within 3 years (“buy-protect-sell”). • Removes requirement for conservation plan, except for highly erodible land. • Allows subsurface mineral development under certain conditions.
Wetland Reserve Easements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases county cap for WRE acreage from 10 to 15% • Removed requirement for consultation with USFWS. • Adds a grazing management plan as a qualifying criterion for reservation of grazing rights if the plan is consistent with the wetland reserve easement plan and has been reviewed, and modified as necessary, at least every 5 years. • Authorizes the Secretary to establish or restore alternative plant communities on WRE land to enhance wetland functions and migratory bird habitat values and contribute to goals of state, regional, and local conservation initiatives; report language directs NRCS to eliminate the current 30% restriction on restoration of alternative plant communities. • Added ‘or improving water quality’ in addition to protecting and enhancing habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife as WRE acquisition priority. • Included water management as an eligible compatible use • Allows ‘Alternative Plant Communities’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Must be: hydrologically appropriate native community or alternative naturalized vegetative community. ○ Managers intend for the agency to eliminate the 30% restriction on restoration of alternative plant communities

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Provision	Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018
------------------	--

<p>Funding and Covered Programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides mandatory funding at \$300 million per year (from \$100M yr). • Removes 7% funding sweep from covered programs. Removes national funding pool, allocates 50% of funds to state or multistate projects and 50% to projects for critical conservation areas. Adds CRP and programs under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL-566) as covered programs, in addition to EQIP, CSP, ACEP, and HFRP. • Modifies the purposes of the program so that the program does not “use covered programs” but rather “carries out eligible activities to accomplish purposes and functions similar to those of the covered programs.” Modifies the definition of an eligible activity to mean a “practice, activity, agreement, easement, or related conservation measure that is available under the statutory authority for a covered program.” • Authorizes a program contract, meaning producers will be signing RCPP contracts, as opposed to contracts under the covered programs.
<p>Partnerships and Agreements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directs the Secretary to develop a simplified application process for partnership agreements. Directs the Secretary to identify a program coordinator in each state. Clarifies that the Secretary shall identify up front the amount to be used for technical assistance. • Allows for renewals of existing partnerships through an expedited process and one-time 12-month project extensions. • Emphasizes outcome quantification of conservation benefits. Clarifies that partner contributions can be in-kind or direct (cash) funding. Modifies eligible contributions to include activities during the period from the date the Secretary announces project approval to the effective date of the partnership agreement. • Authorizes the Secretary to enter into “alternative funding arrangements or grant agreements,” capped at 15 projects/agreements per year.

Other programs/provisions

Provision	Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018
<p>Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides \$50 million total in mandatory funding. • Modifies language so states may apply for funding (rather than grants), simplifying the application/reporting process. • Directs the Secretary to use \$3 million to encourage public access on Wetland Reserve Easements. Report language clarifies that remaining funds are to be available for other purposes of VPA-HIP if unable to utilize the full \$3 million for access on land in WRE.
<p>Adjusted Gross Income limitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides AGI waiver authority to Ag Secretary for all conservation programs to “protect environmentally-sensitive lands of special significance.”
<p>Wildlife Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Codifies the Working Lands for Wildlife partnership between USDA and the Department of the Interior to continue as currently being implemented, in accordance with the existing Partnership Agreement between NRCS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, signed on August 4, 2016, and the USFWS Director’s Order No. 217, dated August 9, 2016. • Expands WLFW to include FSA and the Conservation Reserve Program.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, to revise agency regulations clarifying that certain practices for rice producers, when carried

Baiting of Migratory Birds	out as part of a normal agricultural operation, do not constitute baiting. The provision provides definitions for normal agricultural operation, post-disaster flooding, and certain agricultural practices related to rice production.
Feral Swine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Secretary shall establish a feral swine eradication and control pilot program to respond to the threat feral swine pose to agriculture, native ecosystems, and human and animal health, funded at \$75 million for life of Farmbill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 50% of funding directed to NRCS and 50% of funding directed to APHIS • Duties of Secretary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Study and access the nature and extent of damage to the pilot area ○ Develop methods to eradicate or control feral swine ○ Develop methods to restore damage caused by feral swine ○ Provide financial assistance to agricultural producers in pilot areas ○ FA can be used to implement methods to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ eradicate or control feral swine and restore damage caused by feral swine • Cost-share: Federal share may not exceed 75% of total costs, non-federal share may be provided in the form of in-kind contributions of materials or services

Furbearer & Trapping Issues: John Olson

Wisconsin furbearers and their management have been doing well. From canid research on Apostle Islands to following felines in the southwest, things are good, mostly...but with a few challenges and opportunities here and across the U.S. So, what’s good?

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) continues amazing work relative to humane trap research through the project of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Trapping. Currently all Wisconsin furbearers have a completed BMP product which identifies traps that pass International humane standards, as well as self-imposed national standards on selectivity, efficiency, practicality, and safety. Nationally we have completed initial BMPs for twenty-two of our twenty-three furbearers, leaving only wolverine partially complete. The Technical Working Group, comprised of state furbearer specialists from across the U.S., will continue this important effort.

AFWA is also ramping up efforts on education and training relative to regulated trapping and furbearer management. These activities include: building popular articles for agencies and the public; peer-reviewed research publications; and one-day training workshops called **Trapping Matters** (for any state or TWS chapter). In addition, AFWA is co-sponsoring regional five-day **Fur Schools**, as well as support of Wisconsin’s three-day **Fur School for “U”** programs at institutions with TWS student chapters (Madison, Stevens Point, and Northland College). Way to go WI student chapters! In 2018 members of this committee were involved in ten such state or national workshops with goals in 2019 of repeating this same level of involvement.

One special note! Under the guidance and patience of our own Lacey Hill-Kastern, wildlife biologist for the Bad River nation, as well as Jonathan Gilbert, fish and wildlife supervisor of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), several of us came together to conduct the first ever Indigenous Trapper Education program - most likely the first in the U.S. This included over a dozen instructors molding together rules and regulations from three jurisdictions (reservation, ceded territory, and state), addressing spiritual and traditional ecological knowledge, and respectful handling and use of furbearers.

So, what are the challenges out there and what else is of importance to our furbearer resource?

In Wisconsin LRB 1453/1 is in draft form, looking for a Senate sponsor, which is intended to stop all wildlife hunting contests. Newspaper articles and television “spots” have reported on this activity, primarily focused on organized canine contests as well as others (i.e. squirrels). Will continue to monitor.

Beaver. Also coming up in 2020 the Beaver Task Force will convene to review and possibly revamp the WDNR Beaver Management Plan. Hopefully the WCTWS will have a representative on the task force.

Across the U.S. in 2018:

CITES. Montana. This federally directed effort is attempting to shut down state accessibility to CITES tags for category II(b) species such as bobcat, river otter and gray wolf. Ongoing.

Maine. Although the USFWS is proposing to delist lynx, the state is still under the Incidental Take Provision (ITP). Technically they are only allowed one additional incidental take (road kill, trap, found dead) over the next thirteen years (and it may take that long to litigate this delisting?).

Wisconsin (and several other key states). Black bear is a category II(b) species requiring a USFWS CITES tag for any part (hair, tissue, skin, bone) moving out of the U.S. Although the Service quickly processed the Federal Register changes necessary to allow tagging of (a handful of) wolves, they are totally reluctant to do the same for (hundreds if not thousands of) black bear articles. However, the Service says permits are available on a case-by-case basis at a cost of \$100 with a one to three-month lag time in issuance. For agencies and researchers using genetics labs elsewhere (Canada), and for inclusion of bear pelts in the fur industry, this cost and delay is problematic. The AFWA CITES committee has been requested to approach the Service regarding changes to the US CITES implementation policies/statutes (possibly change to no detriment policy for II(b) species). Ongoing.

National Wildlife Refuges (NWR), in 2017 were required to put up signs if/where regulated trapping is to occur. Because they did not comply readily, \$2 million was withheld from the FWS budget in 2018. An AFWA team assisted in “sign language” as well as an associated web link, with a positive outcome. However, there is a need to further engage/education FWS staff due to a hesitancy to talk about regulated trapping.

Green Fur. Wild Fur Certification, or “traceability” is an effort by the fur industry to dispel misinformation about their products through the use of a marketing campaign. Similar to “green boards”, cage-free chicken, or grass-fed beef, the fur industry, especially North American Fur Auctions (NAFA), is pursuing this concept, highlighting humane trap systems. Several questions and hurdles have to be worked through, but the fur industry is working closely with NAFA to ensure a fair and balanced approach.

Colorado. Regulated trapping, as we know it, came to a halt in Colorado a few years ago, only allowing landowners to use specific traps after all other alternatives have not worked. Recently their law has been relaxed to allow foothold traps with BMP-type modifications (padded, laminated, offset, and center anchor points).

Utah. Trap check interval has been shortened to 48 hours.

North Dakota. Trap check legislation (going to a 48-hour trap check) was defeated in mid-January 2019.

Nevada. Legislation now requires signage and registration (trap tag) on any traps on public lands. Law also allows anyone to move a trap that poses a risk to a pet.

Kentucky. Due to human/beaver conflicts may consider a bounty.

Carolinas. “Coyote frenzy!” South Carolina has allotted an annual budget of \$230,000 for the development of a coyote management program. North Carolina is now required to develop a coyote management plan.

Midwest FWS Listing Petitions. Roughly four years ago there was a petition to list the prairie gray fox and the plains spotted skunk as federally protected. Results of recent genetics work suggests there is no such thing as a distinct prairie gray fox specie (gray fox is a gray fox). Same type of work suggests there are levels of differentiation within the spotted skunk. The Service has made no decision on either petition.

Department of the Interior (DOI). A recent (Zinke) initiative established a Hunting & Fishing Chief in Washington D.C. as well as regional chiefs. Effort is to focus on evaluating refuge hunting, (trapping) and fishing regulations for alignment with state regulations. This is part of the national effort toward recruitment and retention with Chris Dwyer (past furbearer specialist from Ohio) Chief in Region 5 (and he gave one of the keynote speeches regarding river otter restoration at our annual conference in Cleveland last September).