



North Central Section of The Wildlife Society

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Spring 2019 Newsletter

AT A GLANCE...

Gary Roloff, Section President, challenges you to offer your service to the section and recruit one new member in the next six months (Page 2).

John Moriarty, Section Representative, shares more about the TWS Strategic Plan and policy priorities for this year (Page 3).

Kyle Daly, Treasurer, runs the numbers (Page 4).

Kudos to our fellow wildlifers David Andersen, John Moriarty, McKenna Hammons, and Melissa Starking (Page 5)!

Learn about great, low-cost trainings for NCS members and volunteer to support a 2020 training! (Page 6)

Learn about conferences, trainings and upcoming events in the state chapter reports (Pages 7-8)

Check out early career professionals in service and learning (Pages 9-15)

Don't miss nomination deadlines, training opportunities, and resources (Page 16-17)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gary Roloff

Hello fellow North Central Section Wildlifers. It honors and humbles me to serve the Section this year as your President. I have a list of intended accomplishments for the year, and I will do my best to deliver. High on the list is to finish updating our Section bylaws and Operations Manual, host a few webinars for our membership, and, by working with our Student Chapters, facilitate progress on getting a more consistent and predictable schedule in place for Student Conclave. I also want to continue making progress on initiatives from past Presidents, like providing professional development value to our members, increasing Section membership and relevancy, and coordinating student involvement opportunities. I am excited about the positive momentum we have and will strive to continue that momentum.



Recently our past Treasurer, Jim Schneider, updated our list serve addresses and sent me some summary statistics on our current membership. Our membership stood at 308 at the time of Jim's work, but more interesting to me was the demographic breakdown. Jim found that we had 169 regular members, 69 retired (that's a lot, approaching 25%), 33 students, 28 new professional, and 7 family memberships, among a couple of other minor categories. Our Membership Committee (co-chaired by Jodie Provost and Gary Potts) worked hard last year to demonstrate the value of Section membership, and I am hoping that their efforts will increase our student and young professional members. After all, you are the future of our profession! I am challenging each current member to recruit one new member to the Section over the next six months. In conversations with individuals I recruit (often students) many do not know what the Section does, or in some instances that it even exists! Our web site has some talking points to help explain the value of the Section to prospective members (<https://wildlife.org/ncs/>).

Given that I asked you to recruit a new member, I am compelled to describe how your membership dues are used. Our Section runs on an annual spending [plan](#) based on \$4,750 of income annually. About 78% of that amount is used to recognize individual and group accomplishments within the Section through awards. Another 11% supports the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (Midwest), and the remaining 11% is available for Executive Board travel to attend the Midwest or State Chapter meeting(s). Any income beyond \$4,750 (if we have \$2,500 in our Savings as a "rainy day" amount), goes into our Professional Development account to support our members. This year, some of that money paid for Section member participation in the TWS Certification Workshop, and covered \$50 of the \$60 cost for members to participate in the Climate Adaptation Workshop (regrettably cancelled because of the government shutdown). The Executive Board looks to make more of these opportunities available to our membership in the future so please take advantage of this benefit.

I will conclude by encouraging anyone interested in getting involved at the Section level to contact a member of the Executive Board. I have been involved in various Officer and Chair positions with TWS throughout my career and can truly say that the working relationships, friendships, and professional development gains are invaluable and highly rewarding. This year we will elect a President-elect, Secretary, Graduate Student Rep, and Undergraduate Student Rep so if you are interested in getting involved please contact a member of the Executive Board. We also need help on some of our committees, including Awards and Program (i.e., identifying and coordinating professional development activities for our members) Committees. Lastly, your Section stands ready to support you in responding to regional wildlife issues of importance. Any member can bring an issue forward for consideration by the Executive Board. After vetting by the Executive Board, our responses can include position statements, letters, advice on alternative forms of engagement, or no action.

Once again thank you for trusting me with Presidential responsibilities for our Section. I look forward to serving you and TWS. Enjoy your summer (if it ever arrives here in the Midwest) and I will connect again this fall.

SECTION REPRESENTATIVE

John Moriarty

The Wildlife Society Council held its spring board meeting in Denver on March 3 and 4, 2019. There have been some staff changes at the national office with the resignation of Nancy Sasavage as Editor of the Wildlife Professional. The changes have not effected the staff contacts or section and chapter activities.

The strategic plan for 2019 to 2024 was passed and will be the guide to annual plans and budgets over the next 5 years. The plan includes new initiatives for member recruitment, conference participation and publications. One initiative is a new special monthly edition of the *eWildlifer!*



This special edition is only available to Associate Members of The Wildlife Society – members of a Section or Chapter of TWS that are not members of the main organization of TWS. You can sign up [here](#). There was also a shift in funding for staff and council to better fund participation in Section and Chapter meetings. This will allow better communication across all the units of TWS. The policy intern positions were reinstated as part of the strategic plan. This positions greatly increase TWS's ability to stay informed on important national and regional conservation policy issues. These interns also provide support to the Conservation Affairs Network (CAN). The policy priorities for this current congress have been set and include:

1. Advance the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources recommendations to fund state efforts to conserve the full array of fish and wildlife species. This is the Recovering Americas Wildlife Act (RAWA)
2. Work to ensure the Endangered Species Act retains science as the foundation for decision making while advancing meaningful legislative and regulatory modifications that enhance its effectiveness in conserving at-risk native wildlife and ecosystems.
3. Work to pass streamlined regulatory mechanisms that will provide the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state partners with the tools necessary to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species and wildlife disease.
4. Support robust annual appropriations for the U.S. Geological Survey's Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units program as well as other U.S. conservation programs that promote federal, state, and private partnership in wildlife conservation and management.
5. Support chapter and section efforts through continued enhancements to the Conservation Affairs Network and engagement of the Network and TWS working groups.
6. The council had a discussion on Partnerships and Sponsorships and the need for those organizations to align with the TWS mission. We talked about how almost all partners, including government agencies have some conflicts and baggage. Staff will work to minimize those conflicts and discuss contentious issues with Council and Executive Committee prior to signing up new partners.
7. The 2019 Conference will be a joint meeting with the American Fisheries Society in Reno, NV from Sept 29th to Oct 3rd. This will be the largest conference to date. Conference info can be found [here](#). The 2020 conference will be in Louisville, KY.
8. The Code of Ethics of TWS and The Certified Wildlife Biologist have been merged to streamline to complaint and review process.
9. Jim Schneider, Michigan State, has been appointed to the Certified Wildlife Biologist Review Committee.
10. The COWCH video archives have been deposited with the Forest History Society. The current COWCH format and questions will now be updated in partnership with the Forest History Society.
11. TWS recently released a new video about the wild horse and burro problem in the west. While this does not directly affect the North Central Section, it is an important issue that influences the policies of BLM, USFWS, USFS, and many state agencies to the detriment of other wildlife efforts. The video can be viewed [here](#).

I am always interested receiving Section and Chapter member comments on TWS. Feel free to contact me at john.moriarty@threeriversparks.org

TREASURER'S REPORT*Kyle Daly***GENERAL FUND (Checking & Savings)**

General Fund Balance as of November 20, 2018..... \$3,426.45

Checking Starting Balance	\$1,830.91
Checking Income	
4 th Quarter 2018 TWS Dues	\$2,380.00
Transfer from PD account for CWB Workshop	\$150.00
Subtotal	\$2,530.00
Checking Expenses	
Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award	\$500.00
Outstanding Graduate Student Award	\$500.00
Midwest F&W Conference plaques	\$234.50
Midwest F&W Conference – CWB Workshop	\$150.00
Indiana Chapter of TWS – Annual meeting Grant	\$250.00
Michigan Chapter of TWS – Annual Meeting Grant	\$250.00
Subtotal	\$1,884.50
CHECKING TOTAL as of April 10, 2019	\$2,476.41
Savings Starting Balance	\$1,595.54
Savings Income	
Interest (November 2018 to March 2019)	\$0.67
Subtotal	\$1,596.21
Savings Expenses	
None	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$0.00
SAVINGS TOTAL as of April 10, 2019	\$1,596.21

General Fund Balance as of April 10, 2019 \$4,072.62

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Balance as of November 20, 2018 \$44,355.66

<i>Professional Development Fund Income</i>	
Interest (November 2018 to March 2019)	\$168.41
Subtotal	\$168.41
<i>Professional Development Fund Expenses</i>	
Transfer to Checking for CWB Workshop	\$150.00
Subtotal	\$150.00

Professional Development Fund Balance as of April 10, 2019 \$44,374.07

TOTAL FUNDS as of April 10, 2019 \$48,446.69

Respectfully submitted by the Treasurer of the North Central Section:

Kyle Daly, kyle.okeefe.daly@gmail.com

AWARDS

**2018 TWS NCS Professional Award of Merit
David Andersen**



**2018 TWS NCS Undergraduate Student of the Year
McKenna Hammons**



**2018 TWS NCS Graduate Student of the Year
Melissa Starking**



**2018 TWS NCS Student Chapter of the Year
Missouri Western State University**



The Indiana Chapter Celebrates 50 Years in Service



**William T. Hornaday
Gold Medal
John Moriarty**

Read more [here](#).

TRAININGS

North Central Section's Leadership Training Series

Gary Potts

The North Central Section of TWS continued with our Leadership Training series at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference by sponsoring a workshop on TWS Certification on January 27, 2019. Dr. Tim Van Deelen, past chair of TWS's Certification Review Board conducted the workshop for eleven participants including 8 students and 3 professionals. The workshop included a presentation about the certification program and useful information and aid in filling out the application. NCS members received a discount for the workshop. The NCS Professional Development Committee will be planning more workshops for future conferences.



Midwest Fish and Wildlife Leadership Series

Pat Lederle

As a service to members of the North Central Section we provided leadership training workshops for the past four years at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Recognizing that everyone can be a leader wherever they are in an organization, this annual workshop series emphasized developing leadership skills, tools, and experiences that are practical and applicable. One of our goals was to make this opportunity accessible and useful for natural resource students and professionals by charging only modest registration fees and partnering with the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to offset program costs. In addition to contributing to professional growth, the workshops have provided a venue to expand professional contacts and allow participants to earn continuing educational credits for the Wildlife Society's certification program. The first training workshop was held in 2016 in Grand Rapids, Michigan and focused on leadership issues and challenges from the perspectives of early-, mid-, and late-career conservation professionals. Speakers shared thoughts, success stories, and effective tools for use in real-life situations. Based on a short survey following the workshop, participants were very positive on the content and approach, and provided valuable feedback for future workshops. The 2017 workshop was held in Lincoln, Nebraska, and was a full day affair based on feedback from 2016. This workshop continued the philosophy that everyone can be a leader by modeling certain behaviors and the focus was on the concepts of trust and some of the traits and practices that can help build trust, both in the individual and collectively as an agency. Milwaukee, Wisconsin provided the venue for the 2018 workshop and participants explored some of the key concepts of adaptive leadership. In addition, three panelists that were alumni of the National Conservation Leadership Institute shared some of their stories and lessons learned as they developed in leadership roles in their respective organizations. The 2019 workshop in Cleveland, Ohio focused on the Wildlife Society certification program and the steps needed to fulfill the requirements to become an Associate or Certified Wildlife Biologist. As leaders, we recognize that exploration of new ideas, diversity of thoughts, and continual learning is critical to keep us vibrant in our profession. Engagement in Wildlife Society activities, including becoming certified and maintaining that certification through continuing education, are effective ways to be exposed to new ideas and continue to expand our capacity as leaders and professional natural resource managers. Overall, these workshops were a success and received very high marks by the participants. Fresh ideas are always welcome, and we are looking for some new folks to help continue this effort in 2020. Just reach out to anyone on the Executive Board to volunteer! None of these workshops would have been possible without the vision and leadership from John Schulz (TWS Fellow) and Gary Potts (former TWS President) who initiated the discussions regarding the importance of leadership training, provided continuing encouragement and got the program off the ground. Many others helped along the way, including Mike Larson, Gary Roloff, Tracy Melvin, Karl Malcom, Doug Reeves, Janet Haslerig, Chris Newbold, Ann Forstchen, Bettina Fiery, Karl Martin, Mark Porath, David Zebro, Jodie Provost, Tim Van Deelen and Pat Lederle.

STATE CHAPTER REPORTS

Missouri

The Missouri Chapter finished a busy winter season planning the annual joint conference for Missouri. The Missouri Natural Resources Conference (MNRC) is a joint conference sponsored by TWS, Society of American Foresters, American Fisheries Society, and Soil and Water Conservation Society. Attendance and support for the conference was great in 2019 with good amounts of networking and information sharing happening at the Lake of the Ozarks. Please make plans to join us in Feb 4-6, 2020. You're your eyes on www.mnrc.org for up to date info. During the conference we elected new executive board officers. Congratulations to our President Elect Dave Hoover and our new Secretary Jason Isabelle. Both are proving to be extremely valuable members of the Missouri Executive Board. For 2020, we are planning a professional workshop to be announced in the late summer or fall and a second joint student workshop for October with the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. This proved to be successful in 2019, so we plan to continue the model and transition the workshop around the state to provide topics and experiences as diverse as Missouri.



Oct 2018 Student Workshop in Sweet Springs, MO. Photo Credit to Charles Anderson



Congratulations to Dr. Cary Chevalier from Missouri Western State University on being awarded the E. Sydney Stephens award from the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Photo Credit to Jon Skinner

Michigan

The Michigan Chapter of the Wildlife Society held a successful joint 2019 annual meeting with the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society on March 13th-15th. Over 200 members of both chapters participated in this meeting. The Chapters offered two well-attended workshops on Fish and Wildlife Disease and Technical Writing. There were three symposia offered titled; "connecting Channels", "Beavers and Trout", and "Michigan Bird Conservation". The Michigan Chapter would like to congratulate Genelle Uhrig of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for winning the best student wildlife presentation titled, "Assessing demographic and genetic consequences of snowshoe hare decline in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan." The Chapter awarded three Student Travel Scholarships to Mark Hamlyn, Andrew Carlson, and Garrett Knowlton. We also would like to congratulate Phil Huber who received the inaugural Legacy Award as well as Sonja Christensen who was presented with the inaugural President's Award offered through the Michigan Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The Legacy Award awarded to a Chapter member who has made significant career-long contributions to wildlife management in Michigan. The President's Award is to recognize the three-year contribution to the Chapter by the out-going past President.



2018 Michigan Chapter President Matt Ihnken and Past President Sonja Christensen and the inaugural Presidents award

Ohio

The Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society is excited to welcome aboard new officers Renee Buck (Incoming President) and Thomas Butler (Treasurer) for 2019. Cleveland hosted its second major wildlife conference of the year in January - the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference - and the Wild Jobs Cafe for students and young professionals was organized by Geoffrey Westerfield as part of the Ohio Chapter's contribution. A week prior to the Midwest, the annual Ohio Wildlife Management Association was attended by ~300 people with a well-attended social / annual business meeting the night prior. We are stepping up our partnership with the Student Wildlife Research Symposium, an exciting new venue for middle and high school students to showcase their work in conservation. Planning is in progress for student and professional workshops with focal topics including invasive plant species management, chainsaw safety training and certification, and a field workshop hosted in collaboration with Davey Resource Group. OCTWS President Grace Dietsch is working with partner organizations to host a Women in Wildlife signature event in June. Like we said, we're busy!

Indiana

The Indiana Chapter of The Wildlife Society held its 50th annual spring meeting on February 27-28th in Indianapolis. The meeting celebrated 50 years of accomplishments not only by the chapter, but by wildlife professionals across the state. The program was highlighted by talks from Phil Seng of DJ Case and Associates, Dr. Harmon Weeks of Purdue University, and John Goss, retired director of the Indiana DNR. We were also honored to have current TWS president Darren Miller join us to share his experiences in TWS and to recognize our chapter for our 50th anniversary. The meeting saw a total of 92 attendees, which was a very good turnout for a wildlife only meeting in Indiana. We were also happy to have 17 students from 3 different colleges and universities. On day two of the conference the chapter hosted a "student & young professional luncheon", which allowed 30 students and new professionals the opportunity to meet and network with wildlife professionals from various agencies and backgrounds. The main theme of the conference was recognizing those who have help build and shape the chapter. We were very happy to have 20 past-presidents of the chapter in attendance to recognize their service. The 50th annual spring meeting was a huge success and very well received by all in attendance. The chapter was also able to do very well financially, while also being able to offer a significant registration discount to students and retired professionals.

Past-presidents of the Indiana Chapter of The Wildlife Society



STUDENT CHAPTER REPORTS

University of Rio Grande

The Rio Student Chapter again had two successful fall fund-raising events. We worked the sorghum syrup booth at the 48th annual Bob Evans Farm Festival. Using the labor-intensive method, sorghum cane was crushed to produce the juice using a mill that was literally driven by horsepower (as in one horse). We then boiled down the juice down—about a 2 hour process--to make the sorghum syrup (7 gallons of juice produce 1 gallon of syrup). Our other fund-raiser was selling wildlife calendars for the 4th year in-a-row. Photos (over 70) submitted by faculty and chapter members were voted on by chapter members for inclusion in the calendar. Funds raised were, in part, used to pay for registrations and gas stipends for chapter members to attend the Ohio Wildlife Management Conference (Jan) and Ohio Natural History Conference (Feb). Many chapter members participated in a September salamander survey on newly acquired university property. The chapter also hosted the OCTWS Student Workshop that concluded with a check of southern flying squirrel boxes at the Rio site in September. Spring invasive shrub clearing is underway at local farm where last year 50 bluebird boxes were installed and monitored. The chapter has field trips planned to visit The Wilds (Apr) and observe spring emergence of timber rattlesnakes outfitted with radio transmitters (May).



Ball State University

We have provided our members with several hands-on workshops. We hosted a telemetry workshop for members and we have an orienteering workshop and traps/tracks workshop planned for the coming weeks. We cover a variety of topics for our guest speakers from a zookeeper to Indiana's nongame state herpetologist. We wanted to have a variety of speakers to cover a variety of career paths. This gives students the ability to explore many options for lines of work working with wildlife. We have also implemented a point system to further encourage member involvement. Their points will pay off when they are allowed to attend a trip at the end of the semester. Our chapter also had several students attend the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. We encourage our members to attend so Ball State can continue to be well represented at the conference. We are also offering several volunteer opportunities to our members. We work closely with the Red-tail Land Conservancy and with Ball State's Field Station. Our chapter is also planning on taking trips to animal rehabilitation centers and animal sanctuaries.





Ohio State University

The Ohio State University Chapter had a great semester. Our members attended a boating license certification class, a chainsaw use certification class, and CPR training. At our meetings this semester, we had a resume building workshop, hosted an ODNR wildlife officer to talk about his career pathway, and had a presentation on Hellbenders from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee. Our club gained many new members and added to our revenue stream through a bake sale fundraiser. We collaborated with the Forestry Forum, another Ohio State student organization by going camping in Monticello, Kentucky and hiking in Daniel Boone National Forest. Our members had the opportunity to go behind the scenes at the Columbus Zoo Aquarium and we even got to pet a koala! We had an aquatics day at the Ohio State wetlands facility where we went seine netting for darters and hogsuckers, and learned about the different stations for our upcoming Passport to Fishing Event.



Missouri Western State University

By Kaitlyn Atkins

We had another great fall and spring semesters for our Student Chapter at Missouri Western State University. At the start of this fall semester, the number of new members has increased greatly and has led to many great opportunities that we have had to help with in the spring. We were also given the opportunity to assist several of our partners with numerous events. We help out with Deer ageing with the Missouri Department of Conservation and we go to local and distant counties to get the data. This is one of our main events that we do and encourage many students to go and help out. Our work with Losses Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge has been very steady compared to last spring. Here we do a variety of workdays and surveys around the refuge. At our workdays this spring we have done invasive species control, seed collecting and monarch tagging. This year we were able to send several groups to conferences such as the Mid-West Fish and Wildlife Conference to which we received an award for National Student Chapter of the year for 2018. This is a great accomplishment with our wildlife program. We were also able to send a group to the Missouri state workshop to further our professional skills within this area of study.

Workday at Losses Bluffs National Wildlife refuge

University of Wisconsin, Madison

This year, we hosted numerous activities for our membership to promote career growth and inspire involvement. Some of the more career-oriented activities included a telemetry workshop with the coyote and fox tracking project on campus, the annual conference in Cleveland, Ohio, Sandhill Crane migration viewing, and Saw-whet Owl banding. We also hosted a few fundraisers, our annual wild game dinner and a book sale of donated wildlife books from one of the emeritus professors



at the University. Our outreach events for the year included attending the Madison Harvest Moon Festival, the Family Garden Day at the Allen Centennial Garden on campus, and presenting to several local first grade classes about animals that are found in our neighborhoods for their science class. Some of our members also participated in some citizen science projects including eagle nest monitoring and volunteer crafting to support soala conservation. A few of our upcoming events include frog and toad surveys in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, our annual kickball game against the UW-Madison Forestry Club, and our annual Earth Day highway cleanup day.

Bemidji State University

- We took part in Bobcat Necropsies in Grand Rapids last year with the DNR.
- Several students were at the annual brush cut up in Crookston last year, helping cut Tamarack trees to improve Sharp-tailed grouse habitat.
- Last Spring, we took part in Sharp-tailed grouse, Ruffed grouse, Prairie chicken and Sandhill crane surveys at Agassiz and Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuges.
- Capturing and banding of Purple Martins for monitoring purposes along Lake Bemidji.
- Early this fall we had several groups of students participate in duck banding up at Agassiz, including a group that assisted during community banding day.
- We put up a wood duck box and several Bluebird houses at a local Bemidji WMA
- We help the local DNR set harvest guidelines for the inner-city deer archery hunt by conducting deer spotlight surveys every October.
- Six students and a faculty member were able to attend The Wildlife Society national conference in Cleveland, and we also competed in quizbowl at the conference.
- We had 13 students help out the DNR this deer season, removing lymph nodes from deer for CWD testing in North-central Minnesota.
- A group of students went up to camp Norris North of Red Lake and mist netted Chickadees, Nuthatches and Grosbeaks.
- Two of our students attended The Wildlife Society Midwest conference in Cleveland and presented their research on the water uptake capabilities of sphagnum moss
- This year we have 17 total students attending the state conference with three of them presenting their research.



Michigan State University

This past year, the Michigan State University subunit conducted many workshops, from the use of camera traps to land navigation and even the USA Jobs website. Outreach events included science nights at the Beagle Elementary School and the Marble Elementary School, as well as Darwin Day at the MSU Museum and a lake assessment alongside a local lake association. We hosted our annual campus-wide Red Cedar River Clean-Up this past fall, removing 31 bikes, an air conditioner unit, and a bench from the river. Also, on April 14th, we will be conducting our Spring Clean-Up at a MSU natural area alongside other student organizations and the community. We sent 8 students to the 2019 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and 9 students to the Joint Conference of the Michigan TWS and AFS.

We were able to keep all of our student's individual costs below \$85 for each trip with our fundraising and support from other organizations, including a very successful raffle we hosted with the LSSU subunit at Michigan Conference. We also had a few meetings just for fun, including owl calling at a local state game area, ice fishing during free fishing weekend, camping at the Manistee National Forest, a bio blitz at a Bird Sanctuary, a trip to the Wildlife Ward of our Veterinary Medical Center, and bird box building at a new MSU ecological research center. In fact, we are now building bird boxes to sell for fundraising. We'll be posting some info on our Facebook page (@MSUFisheriesandWildlifeClub) on how you can purchase those soon. Thank you to everyone who has helped us this past academic year. We look forward to continuing to further conservation and the development of the next generation of Fisheries and Wildlife professionals this coming year!



University of Central Missouri

By Tessa Coster and Chris Call

This Spring Semester - The Student Chapter of the University of Central Missouri's The Wildlife Society has taken advantage of MDC opportunities and community events in 2019. In January we had a faculty member from the university's Career Services Center talk about how to work with and create a resume. In February, 12 student members of our chapter attended the Missouri Natural Resource Conference and had a great time listening to professional and student presentations. Several of our students benefited from the job fair held at MNRC. In late February, two students attended a Pond Workshop hosted by a UCM Alum, William Casner, a Private Lands Conservationist for MDC. A handful of students also attended a Burn Workshop at Blind Pony Hatchery in early March. An annual Bioblitz will be April 27th, 2019, which will involve the community. We are most proud to say that five of our members are participating in a service learning trip with the Konnarock Crew and spending a week out of their summer on the Appalachian Trail performing trail maintenance.



Western Illinois University



The Western Illinois University (WIU) TWS Student Chapter combined with the WIU American Fisheries Society (AFS) Student Subunit this year to create more opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. WIU does not have fisheries or wildlife Bachelor of Science degrees, so membership has been challenging over the past several years on the TWS side. While not large, our combined club is very active with outreach, professional development, and providing field experiences for students at WIU. Our members have had the opportunity to go out with graduate student members and experience tracking paddlefish on the Mississippi River, banding lesser scaup on the Mississippi River, processing bobcats, commercial fishing for Asian carp, electrofishing, and sorting larval fish and macroinvertebrates. Several club members have completed their Firefighter Type 2 trainings and have participated in controlled burns in our local area.

Our club assisted the Illinois Department of Natural Resources with musky spawning, electrofishing several lakes, FYKE net surveys, tagging lake sturgeon, and spotlight surveys. Our club recently provided a graduate student panel for biology undergraduates at WIU as well as a C.V./Resume workshop for those interested in the fisheries and wildlife fields. We had a guest speaker out in November and have helped with many outreach events: Sun Foundation at the Peoria riverfront, several events at Argyle Lake State Park (Kids Talk, Conservation Day, Lake Exploration Day), WIU Biology day, and the YMCA Outdoor Show. Our club has been represented at multiple conferences over the past year: 2018 Illinois Chapter TWS Annual Meeting, 2018 American Society of Mammalogists Annual Meeting, 2018 AFS National Conference, 2018 TWS National Conference, 2019 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, 2019 Illinois Chapter of AFS Annual Conference, and WIU Graduate Student Conference. Our club remains active and have several more exciting activities planned for next semester including an Asian carp cookout!

Purdue University

The Purdue Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has had a busy 2018-2019 year. Our membership continues to remain stable. Over 30 students typically attend our biweekly meetings. Over half of our members are sophomores. We have strived to get students more involved in the profession this year. Last October we sent 15 students to Cleveland, Ohio to attend The Wildlife Society's national conference. This was a great networking opportunity for the members. We graciously received funds from a grant from Purdue University. Because of this, students were able to attend this conference for free. In early February we sent 23 students up to Cook County to attend a workshop sponsored by Cook County's Forest Preserve District. The workshop's goal was to teach students field skills. Students were taught how to work up coyotes, set up traps and nets and perform a necropsy on a deer. In addition, this spring we had a meeting where we discussed with members on how to get involved with policy decisions that affect the profession and wildlife conservation. Members volunteered to write personal letters to Congress showing support for "Recovering America's Wildlife Act." This spring we plan to host a spring picnic at the end of April.



Northland College

The Northland College Student Chapter has been busy collaborating with the U.S. Forest Service and the WDNR on two separate Sharp-tailed Grouse projects: post-translocation monitoring and a pilot study using trail cameras through Snapshot WI. This spring, students have been participating in trail camera deployments, photo review, and early morning lek surveys on the northwest WI barrens to assist in monitoring this species of Special Concern. In addition to these beneficial, hands-on experiences, USFS and WDNR project leads have graciously presented on the science behind their projects, as well as why this research and monitoring matters on a local and regional scale. This has been an excellent opportunity for Northland College students to learn from wildlife professionals doing meaningful work in the field of wildlife research and management. A great end to a great year for the Northland College Student Chapter!

University of Minnesota, Crookston

After the New Year, the officers planned many opportunities for the student chapter members to enhance their skills and experiences, develop their resume, meet other professionals, and, of course, have some fun along the way! Ten students took a Minnesota Trapper's Education Course taught by retired DNR Area Wildlife Manager Terry Wolfe. Seventeen students participated in the annual brush cut hosted by the Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society (MSGS) in an effort to restore habitat for sharp-tails and other prairie species. Students learned about grouse and habitat management from the event leaders, completed some hand-on brushland management, and as an added bonus, got a physical workout moving through the snow all day. Moreover, UMC brought the greatest number of students and won the coveted Golden Saw Award for the 6th year running. We sharpened our communication skills with a mammal identification demonstration and by answering questions about wildlife at a community "We Are Water" festival in March. In April, we completed surveys with the DNR for owls and goshawks in Beltrami Island State Forest and planted several thousand trees in the Chippewa National Forest. Student chapter members enhanced their networking and professional development skills at the annual meetings of the Minnesota Chapter TWS as well as the MSGS Spring Fling at Lake Bronson State Park. For a bit of fun, students enjoyed a snowshoeing trip to Lake Itasca State Park and developed their curling skills at the Grand Forks Curling Club. Our principal fundraising event was cleaning a local hockey arena after events. We are looking forward to the year-end picnic with the Natural Resources Club.

UMC Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society volunteered with MSGS at the annual brush cut and received the Golden Saw.



University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point

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!



ACTION ITEMS

Student Chapter of the Year Award

Each year, the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society recognizes a student chapter with the Section's boundaries for the Student Chapter of the Year award. The goal of this award is to encourage and recognize exceptional achievements by Section student chapters and their members. Student chapters are critical to strengthening the Society's membership recruitment and retention efforts by providing opportunities for students to engage in the Society activities and network with other wildlife professionals. To be considered for this award, please complete the report and application found [here](#). Applications should be submitted electronically by **May 15, 2019** to both Gary Roloff, Section President (roloff@msu.edu), and Tyler Harms, Awards Committee Chair (Tyler.Harms@dnr.iowa.gov). Questions about the award or application process can be directed to Tyler Harms. Help us recognize our outstanding Student Chapters!

Professional Award of Merit

The Professional Award of Merit is bestowed by the North Central Section to Society members living in the North Central Section for outstanding professional accomplishments in wildlife conservation. The award is restricted to living conservationists who are or have recently been active within the geographic boundaries of the Section. The award is given only in those years in which a truly deserving candidate is available. No more than one such award is made annually. Criteria for judging the professional accomplishments of nominees include: (1) contribution to knowledge (2) single outstanding acts, and/or (3) leadership over a period of several years in any area of wildlife work. Continuous nominations. More [here](#).

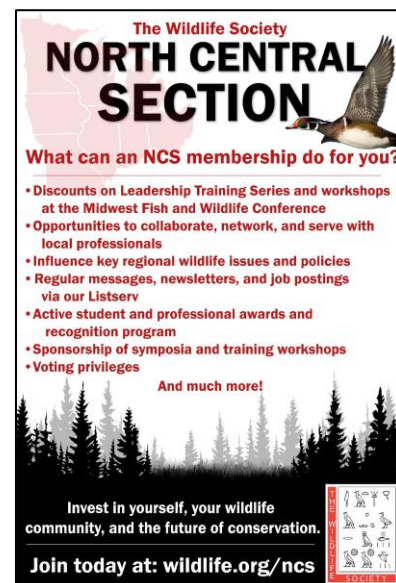
EVENTS

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|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 29-30, 2019 | WI & MN Sharp-tailed grouse research & habitat workshop at Crex Meadows Wildlife Area. Questions & to RSVP, please contact Jodie Provost: jodie.provost@state.mn.us or (218) 429-3052 OR Bob Hanson: Robert.Hanson@wisconsin.gov or (715) 225-8597 |
| June 10-14, 2019 | Collaboration and Conflict Transformation in Multi-Party Processes. National Conservation Training Center. FWS-ALC3199 |
| June 17-20, 2019 | Planning for a Changing Climate. National Conservation Training Center. FWS-ALC3916 |
| June 23-25, 2019 | Midwest Annual Director's Meeting. Oregon, OH. https://www.mafwa.org/?page_id=459 |
| Sept 29 - Oct. 3, 2019 | The Wildlife Society/American Fisheries Society Joint Meeting. Reno, Nevada. https://afstws2019.org/ |
| | Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs): Educational Workshop for Implementing CUREs in Wildlife and Fisheries Courses. September 29, 2019, TWS/AFS Joint Annual Conference, Reno, NV. During this workshop, we will introduce the concept and framework of a course-based undergraduate research experience (CURE) within the context of a set of network-supported CURE modules focused on behavioral ecology currently implemented across multiple course levels and institutions and provide tools and training to instructors who seek to increase opportunities for authentic research engagement in their undergraduate courses. Contact: Liz Flaherty (eflaher@purdue.edu) |
| Dec.9-11, 2019 | Communicating Science - Distilling Your Message. National Conservation Training Center. FWS-CLM 8204 |
| Jan 26-29, 2020 | 80th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference. Springfield, Illinois. http://www.midwestfw.org/ |
| Feb. 4-6, 2020 | Missouri Natural Resources Conference. Lake of the Ozarks. http://www.mnrc.org |

RESOURCES

North Central Section Membership Presentation, Poster and Business Cards

Your North Central Section (NCS) Membership Team completed development this winter of a poster, business card and PowerPoint presentation. The intent of these materials is to encourage membership and involvement in our Section by sharing the value to us as individuals, as a community, and for our future. Posters and business cards were shared with each state at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Cleveland for use at state chapter meetings, workshops, and other activities in the coming year. Images of both can be found on our NCS website home and membership pages. The presentation, "Building a Strong Wildlife Community within our NCS – We are the Cogs and Wheels, We are The Wildlife Society" is available to download from our website on the page. It was shared this winter and spring at some chapter meetings. All state chapter boards are encouraged to use and tailor it to meet their needs. It can be presented in 10-20 minutes, depending on how much explanation and how many examples the speaker would like to give. Notes for each slide explain their intent and how they can be adapted and updated. Please take a look at these communication tools and use them to increase awareness, understanding, appreciation, membership, involvement and support in our Section. Each one of us is truly a cog or wheel in our Section ecosystem, making our web stronger, and our mission more achievable. Our NCS Membership Team thanks you.



NSC Listserv (NCSTWS@list.msu.edu)

Send and receive relevant, appropriate messages that advance our work and mission! Job postings, Funding opportunities, Meeting, Training and Workshop announcements, Problem solving – ask questions, share equipment, etc., Conservation Affairs Network monthly newsletter & Action Alerts, Our NCS Spring and Fall Newsletter.

NORTH CENTRAL SECTION OFFICERS

Gary Roloff, President
Olivia LeDee, President-Elect
Jodie Provost, Past President
Jon Cepek, Secretary
Kyle Daly, Treasurer
John Moriarty, Section Representative
Kali Rush, Graduate Student Representative
Lindsey Figg, Undergraduate Student Representative

Visit us online at www.wildlife.org/NCS/

STATE CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Scott Beckerman, [Illinois State Chapter](#)
Jason Wade, [Indiana State Chapter](#)
Nick Baumgarten, [Iowa State Chapter](#)
Eric Clark, [Michigan State Chapter](#)
Tony Hewitt, [Minnesota State Chapter](#)
Adam Jones, [Missouri State Chapter](#)
Grace Dietsch, [Ohio State Chapter](#)
Scott Hyingstrom, [Wisconsin State Chapter](#)

Please send corrections to Olivia LeDee (olivia.e.ledee@gmail.com) and Mariah Simmons (MSimmons@wildlife.org). If you know of NCS members that have trouble accessing the electronic newsletter, notify Olivia for a hard copy.