



Newsletter of - The Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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No. 1

Presidents Page,

As I write to you, I have just finished some of my yearly reporting. Reports that document the management that has taken place over several wildlife management areas within a calendar year. It is a great time to reflect on the year in general and think about all the trials and tribulations that can take place in a year. This year proved to be a challenging year for wildlife management. Record setting rainfall transpired to record setting flooding across many areas in Kansas and much of the Midwest.

In northeast Kansas, we have several public properties that were inundated with water for much of the year. As the water finally recedes and the local reservoirs return to conservation pool, we are only just starting to uncover some of the maintenance and repairs that will need to take place over the next coming year. Areas that were once covered in vegetation are currently black and void of vegetative cover.

However, not all is lost. As biologists we know that disturbance is a natural part of the ecosystem. Some areas that were choked out with woody vegetation were inundated as well. Flooding may be just what some of those areas needed to kill some of that woody vegetation and set back succession. This may be the start of returning some of these areas to the native grasses and forbs that once flourished in these areas.

As we close the chapter on 2019 and welcome in 2020, we start laying out a plan for the things we want to accomplish in this next year. Just like the weather, it's really hard to say what trials and tribulations this next year may bring. It seems the title for this year's Kansas natural resource conference, "Conservation during extremes: Cultivating Ecosystem Resilience" couldn't be more appropriate. Whatever the challenges may be, it will not be our first challenge and undoubtedly it will not be our last. Like the ecosystem, we too are resilient. I have no doubt that we will be ready both as individuals, and as the Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society to face whatever challenges may come our way.

Happy New Year! I hope to see you all in Manhattan at the Kansas Natural Resource Conference and the business meeting of the Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Sincerely,

Justin Hamilton
President, Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Kansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Spring Meeting 2020

KCTWS 2020 Spring Meeting January 30th & 31st, 2019 Manhattan, KS

The KCTWS 2020 annual meeting will be in conjunction with the annual Kansas Natural Resources Conference (KNRC) in Manhattan at the Hilton Garden Inn. The meeting will be held Thursday January 30th, 2020 at 4:30pm.

Registration is NOT required to attend the KCTWS meeting, but those wishing to attend the KNRC meeting or events need to register. The early registration deadline is **January 15th**.

KNRC meeting and registration information can be found at: www.kansasnrc.org. All attendees of the Kansas Natural resource conference must make their own room arrangements. A limited number of rooms has been reserved at the Manhattan Garden Inn at the \$102.00 per night conference rate. For Reservations contact the Hilton Garden Inn by phone 785-532-9116 or online at <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/mangigi-hilton-garden-inn-manhattan/>

This year's Kansas Natural Resource plenary session theme is:

“Conservation during Extremes: Cultivation Ecosystem Resilience”



Speakers for the plenary session will include:

- Dr. Christy Miller Hesed
- Carol Davit

Conservation for the People: Engaging New Stakeholders to Promote Socio- Ecological Resilience



Dr. Miller Hesed is an environmental anthropologist and conservation biologist whose work focuses on engaging underrepresented communities in climate change adaptation planning. As post-doctoral researcher at the University of Maryland, she was the director of [Engaging Faith Communities for Coastal Resilience](#), an applied research project that brought together rural church communities with county and state government employees and environmental NGOs to address climate change on the Chesapeake Bay. Her doctoral research focused on rural African American communities on the Chesapeake Bay in order to understand environmental justice, vulnerability, adaptation, and resilience to sea-level rise. Miller Hesed is a former EPA STAR Fellow. She is currently living in Hesston, Kansas.

Guardians of Flyover Country

Carol Davit is the executive director of the Missouri Prairie Foundation (MPF), a 53-year-old conservation organization and land trust whose mission is to protect and restore original, unplowed prairie and other native grassland communities. MPF owns and manages 22 prairie properties, including original, unplowed prairie and some prairie reconstructions, and carries out a robust outreach, education, and advocacy program. For MPF, Davit oversees fundraising, strategic planning, communications, advocacy,

MPF's Grow Native! program, and administration, and has edited the *Missouri Prairie Journal* since 1996.



Davit has worked for more than 20 years in the conservation and environmental fields in communications, development, administration, and leadership capacities. She has worked for private, nonprofit conservation groups and at the municipal and state government levels. She has been the editor of field guides and written on a wide variety of natural history and conservation topics for the *Missouri Conservationist* and other publications. Davit also is a member of several statewide groups and collaborates in Missouri, including serving as chair of the Missouri Invasive Plant Task Force (administered by MPF and its Grow Native! program), and as chair of the Prairies and Grasslands Resource Committee of the Conservation Federation of Missouri. Davit speaks to many groups on the importance of prairie conservation and the many benefits of native plants, and in June 2019 was the opening keynote speaker at the North American Prairie Conference, Houston, TX.

Dues Notice

Annual membership dues expire December 31. If you haven't renewed your membership recently, it's likely past due. Dues are \$10 for regular members and \$2 for students. Dues should be sent to KCTWS Secretary Kent Fricke. Members will also be able to renew at the KCTWS business meeting at KNRC, or TWS members can renew through National at: www.wildlife.org.

KCTWS to offer wildlife awards

KCTWS will also offer a \$150 Best Student Paper award and a \$100 Best Student Poster award again this year at the KNRC. Student presenters addressing wildlife related subjects were asked to state their intent to compete for the awards along with their abstract submission. For additional information about student travel grants or wildlife awards contact Brad Rueschoff at brad.rueschhoff@ks.gov

The Robert J. Robel Memorial Award



Each year the Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society offers a \$500 dollar scholarship to an undergraduate student studying wildlife biology/management or equivalent degree from a university in Kansas. This year will be no different. However we will also be having a gun raffle to help raise money to contribute to future Robert J. Robel Memorial Award Scholarships. Details below:

CZ 612 Magnum Turkey 12 Gauge Pump Action Shotgun

- 4 + 1 magazine capacity
- 3 1/2" max shell length
- 26" barrel
- Extra Full and Modified Choke Tubes
- Camouflage Synthetic Stock



RAFFLE DRAWING

- 1 ticket for \$5
- 5 tickets for \$20
- January 30th at KNRC Social

Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Minutes of Spring Meeting
January 31, 2019

Kansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society
2018 Financial Report
Annual Spring Meeting (January 31, 2019)

Balance on January 1, 2018: \$7,112.42

KCTWS Spring 2019 Business Meeting
Minutes

Kansas Natural Resources Conference,
Manhattan, KS January 31, 2019

President Brad Rueschoff called meeting to order
at 4:36 pm

Board Members present:

- President: Brad Rueschoff
- President-Elect: Justin Hamilton
- Past President: Bill Jensen
- Secretary/Treasurer: Kent Fricke
- Board Member: Dave Haukos, Megan Smith
- Approximately 45 members in attendance

Treasurer's Report – Kent Fricke

- Minutes from 2018 meeting provided by Kent Fricke
- Financial Report for 2018 provided by Kent Fricke

Expenses

Student Travel Award, L. Berigan \$450.00
Student Travel Award, C. Aulicky \$450.00
Robel Award-, R. McNemec \$500.00
Best Presentation Award, M. Wilcox \$150.00
Best Poster Award, M. Larreur \$100.00
Kansas Envirothon \$350.00
Total Expenses \$2,000.00

Deposits

Dues: Direct from Members \$60.00
Dues: 2017, Q4 from TWS \$272.00
Dues: 2018, Q1 from TWS \$184.00
Dues: 2018, Q2 from TWS \$60.00
Dues: 2018, Q3 from TWS \$22.00
Total Deposits \$598.00

Balance on December 31, 2018: \$5,710.42

Committee Reports

Student Awards and Travel Grant
Committee – Bill Jensen

1. 2018 Travel Grant Recipients (TWS Annual Conf.)
 - a. Awards presented to Liam Berigan and Carly Aulicky, both attending TWS Annual Conference in the amount of \$450 each
2. 2018 KNRC Best Student Paper and Poster
 - a. Last year's recipients were: Oral- Mary Kate Wilcox, and Poster- Max Laruer
3. 2019 Robert J. Robel Memorial Award
 - a. Four applications were received this year
 - b. Awarded to Dylan Osterhaus (SPELLING) from Emporia State University

Resolutions and Public Statements – Brad Rueschhoff

1. Kansas Legislature
 - a. Bill to decrease power of conservation easements- no action taken by legislature
2. 2018 Farm Bill
 - a. Drafted a letter of support, initially drafted by Matt Smith, and submitted letter to 4 representatives and 2 senators that represent Kansas in Congress
 - b. Matt Smith provided verbal update on what was included in 2018 Farm Bill, as well as process for finalizing final rules
3. Recovering America's Wildlife Act
 - a. Introduced in December 2017
 - b. Drafted a letter on behalf of chapter in support of Act in April 2018—received two acknowledgements from representatives.
 - c. Caroline Murphy is lead on TWS response and information provided by National TWS
 - d. Hoping to get 110 co-sponsors before introducing to House
 - e. Introduced to both House and Senate, but no action taken
 - f. Further description and update by Chris Berens
4. Additional comments from membership

- a. Ron Klataske brought up concerns about potential changes to water law, specifically about wetlands and streams

Snipe Award Presentation – Brad Rueschhoff

- One nomination received this year.
- 2019 Snipe Award was presented to Matt Smith.

Programs/Meetings (KNRC) – Justin Hamilton

- Duties as President-Elect is to help coordinate KNRC, logistics, event, etc. Justin requests input from membership to share ideas for helping shape future KNRCs. Overall cost of KNRC is higher by holding meeting in Manhattan as compared to Wichita.

Education and Information (Publicity) – Justin Hamilton

- Justin did start a Facebook page a few years ago, but hasn't been able to keep updated. Requests any assistance from membership.
- Leadership Institute: Stephanie and Pamela Moore gave summaries of Leadership Institute and experiences.

Other Reports

- Report from TWS Council – Bob Lanka Financial report is currently very good. Far exceeded FY2018 surplus goal (\$265k).
- Created Permanent Reserve Fund, used \$15k to support Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow program
- 2019 Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada
 - Held in conjunction with American Fisheries Society
- 2020 Annual Conference will be in Louisville, Kentucky
- Encouraged early career professionals to apply to the Leadership Institute
- Updated ethics policy for TWS members
- New Wildlife Restoration Awards (management and research)
- TWS letter to President Trump and House and Senate leadership on January 29, 2019

Student Chapter Updates – KSU and ESU officers

Kansas State University: Rachel McNemee

- Did additional fundraising this year. Added responsibility to Research Chair. Partnering with Student Chapter of

American Fisheries Society. New workshops.

Emporia State University:

- President. Activities at Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. Upcoming timber stand improvement activity. Several guest speakers at chapter meetings.

Old Business

Farm Bill Update – Matt Smith

2019 Election Results – Brad Rueschhoff

- New officers:
 - President: Justin Hamilton
 - President-elect: J.R. Glenn
 - Secretary / Treasurer: Kent Fricke
 - Board Member: Pamela Moore
 - Board Member: Levi Jaster
- Justin presented Brad with plaque in recognition of service, recognized new board members and off-going members

New Business -Justin Hamilton

- CMPS Annual Meeting North Dakota 2019 (Adam Ahlers)
 - Upcoming awards for CMPS, namely Professional Achievement Award, Citizen's Conservation Award.
 - Student Travel grants available for national TWS conference
- The Wildlife Professional (Elmer Finck)
 - Looking for more articles and ideas for publication in The Wildlife Professional
- Nebraska Chapter Meeting (Shaun Dunn)
 - February 21 with workshop on February 22 in York, Nebraska
 - Workshop to become CWB and AWB

Membership Questions/Comments

- Roger Wells expressed appreciation and congratulations for almost 50 years of Kansas Chapter. Roger helped start Kansas chapter in 1972.
- Adjourn
 - Motion to adjourn: Brad Rueschhoff
 - Seconded: Jim Hays
 - Adjourned at 6:15 pm

TWS News

On October 2, 2019, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) was presented the Wildlife Restoration Award (Wildlife Research category) from The Wildlife Society (TWS) at their annual conference in Reno, Nev. The Wildlife Restoration Award recognizes outstanding projects supported by federal Wildlife Restoration funds — also known as Pittman-Robertson funds — and associated non-federal matching funds.

KDWP Wildlife Division staff received the award for their research project, “Lesser Prairie-Chicken Habitat Use, Survival, and Recruitment.” Kent Fricke, KDWP small game coordinator, accepted the award on behalf of the department.

“The Lesser Prairie-Chicken Project has been one of the most productive research projects ever funded by our department,” said Fricke, “and it exemplifies the success that can be attained when state wildlife agencies, researchers, and landowners work together. The findings of this research will continue to influence lesser prairie-chicken management for decades to come.”

The project has generated new information and helped establish common methodologies that will help researchers better understand the factors affecting habitat use and life history traits of lesser prairie-chickens. Research efforts were led by Dr. Dave Haukos, Unit Leader of the Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Kansas State University.

According to Fricke, none of this would have been possible without the cooperation of landowners.

“Because the vast majority of lesser prairie-chickens occur on private property in Kansas, it was imperative that relationships were developed between researchers and landowners to make this project successful,” said Fricke. “Landowner access was key.”

TWS is an international organization committed to addressing national and international issues that affect the current and future status of wildlife in North America and throughout the world. TWS annually recognizes professional excellence, outstanding achievement, and highlights contributions to wildlife science and management

through their awards program. For more on The Wildlife Society, visit wildlife.org.

For more on prairie chickens in Kansas, visit ksoutdoors.com/Hunting/Upland-Birds/Greater-Prairie-Chicken.



The Wildlife Society 2020 Annual Conference

The Wildlife Society heads to Louisville, Kentucky, in 2020 for its 27th Annual Conference! Coming off a record attendance at the joint conference in 2019, we’re excited to return to our traditional format at The Galt House Hotel. This one-facility conference will provide attendees with the more intimate wildlife conference our members are used to. So join us September 27-October 1, 2020, for a classic TWS gathering that promises hundreds of educational and training opportunities, dozens of networking events, and plenty of engagement with wildlife students, professionals, exhibitors and more!



The Leadership Institute

Soon TWS will be opening the application process for The Leadership Institute. The Leadership Institute was developed in 2006 for “early career professionals.” This means individuals who are 1-5 years out of school and working in the field of wildlife biology or conservation. The purpose of

the institute is to provide leadership training, mentoring, and networking opportunities to new professionals who are underrepresented in the society due to low membership. These new professionals have an important role in wildlife management and conservation as we begin to see a large turnover of retiring employees throughout the profession (70% within the next 10 years). The goal of the institute is to help prepare new biologists for leadership roles within their profession and within the National society. Each year the institute selects 10-15 participants, nationwide, through a competitive application process. Those selected spend several months engaged in a series of exercises (reading, writing, conference calls, collaborative projects, etc.) to improve a range of leadership skills. The Institute culminates with a paid trip to attend the national meeting. Check the TWS website (www.wildlife.org) for updates on The Leadership Institute and the application process.

CMPS News

2019 Annual Meeting – Connecting Landscapes for Wildlife

The North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society for hosted the CMPS Annual Meeting August 22-24 in Bismarck, ND. The theme was “Connecting Landscapes for Wildlife” which was a relevant and timely topic for all CMPS states. The meeting included a poster session and social, a plenary session, presentations in three categories (prairie potholes, human dimensions, and grasslands), and a CMPS Annual Business Meeting luncheon. Participants also enjoyed a quiz bowl social, banquet, awards presentations, and lively fundraiser. The meeting concluded with a wonderful field trip into the heart of North Dakota’s prairie potholes region.

(<https://wildlife.org/cmp/annual-meeting/>)



Annual Meeting of the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

2020 Annual Meeting to be held in Wyoming

The Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society is pleased to host the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Central Mountains and Plains Section. Stay tuned for meeting details as they become available. (<https://wildlife.org/cmp/annual-meeting/>)



The Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

"Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions in his sphere."

Theodore Roosevelt

President

Justin Hamilton
206 N 1600 Rd,
Lecompton, KS. 66050
785-887-6882
justin.hamilton@ks.gov

President Elect

J.R. Glenn
1724 Thompson
Emporia, KS 66801
JR.glenn@evergy.com

Past President

Brad Rueschoff
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
6635 Kimberly Drive
Ozawkie, KS. 66070
785-273-6740
brad.rueschoff@ks.gov

Secretary/Treasure

Kent Fricke
1356 Road 20
Madison, KS 66860
Kentfricke1@gmail.com

Board Members

Levi Jaster
1830 Merchant St
Emporia, KS 66801
Levi.jaster@ksoutdoors.com

Pamela Moore
24141 KS Hwy 52
Pleasanton KS 66075
pmclain@emporia.edu

Please do not hesitate to contact the KCTWS with Newsletter suggestions, additions, or related comments.

Objectives of the Kansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

- 1. To develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environments upon which wildlife and man depends.**
- 2. To undertake an active role in preventing man induced environmental degradation.**
- 3. To increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values.**
- 4. To seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.**

**Application for Membership
Kansas Chapter TWS**

Membership Dues (Payable April 1)
Regular Member.....\$10.00
Student Member.....\$2.00
(Applicant may pay multiple years)

Total Enclosed \$

Are you a member of THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY?
Yes _____ No _____
Are you willing to be called to help the board?
Yes _____ No _____

If so, what is your phone number?
Home _____
Office _____
Area of Expertise _____

Area of interest _____

Date _____ Signature _____

Make Check Payable to: KS Chapter TWS

Full Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____
Present Position _____

**Mail application with dues to:
Kansas Chapter TWS
Kent Fricke
1356 Road 20
Madison, KS 66860
KCTWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**