



INTELLIGENT TINKERING

Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society Newsletter

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

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Stronger Together – Annual Winter Meeting Highlights

We had a great turn out for our annual winter meeting in February in Wisconsin Rapids. We hope many of you were able to attend. Be sure to check out meeting highlights in this issue.



Membership Renewal

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 and receive a discount on your national membership at the same time).

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

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 Robert Holsman



What an absolutely strange time?!?

As our days of social distancing and telework stretch from days into weeks with no clear indication of a finish line, I have become much more appreciative of the power of community that our professional society provides. Every day it seems, my inbox registers a fresh slate of meeting cancellations—both personal and professional—that have now stretched into and past May. With each planned gathering that gets cut, I am so thankful we were able to squeeze off our annual meeting in Wisconsin Rapids just before the proverbial fecal material struck the bladed, rotating air propulsion device.

I very much enjoy the chance to renew friendships and spark my intellectual curiosity that our meeting provides. We had 278 individuals attend the conference. Participation in the opening day symposia on herps and ruffed grouse greatly exceeded our expectations, and also drew high praise from those in attendance. Our regular session presentations were the strongest I recall from any conference I have attended in a long time. The student talks in particular were outstanding from start to finish. And I think everyone in attendance will make good on Tim VanDeelen's call to "remember this plenary session". Tim, Carol Chambers, and Erika Marin-Spiotta teamed up to start a long-overdue conversation about how we think about gender identity, equity, kindness, and decency in the workplace, classroom, and the field. Kudos to the team at UW-Madison for having the vision and the courage to engineer that conversation in such a thoughtful and productive way. This is an example of the professional—and personal—development that lies at the very heart of what being a Wildlife Society member is all about.

Thanks to all who provided feedback on the annual meeting. For as many highlights as were generated, we also recognize that we have areas we can do better. While the program and presentations were high points of the meeting, we ran into glitches with the Mead Hotel, some of which may have been a function of bad luck and unfortunate timing. The facility was sold and management turned over the month before our meeting. It was clear they had not fully figured out their transition. Issues ranged from lights that malfunctioned in the rooms to trouble with food and bar service. Some of the issues were also, frankly, the fault of our board. We did a poor job providing decent vegetarian options and rightly heard a lot about that in the conference evaluation forms. We will not repeat that mistake next year.

Our executive board has already begun conversations for how we can make next year's event even better. Survey results pointed to La Crosse as the favored choice for next year's location and we'll be looking into that as a possibility. You can also expect that we will again organize and offer special topic symposia next year. It will be the 50th anniversary of our state chapter and a great opportunity to reflect upon how the profession has changed and adapted to meet the challenges of wildlife conservation and science.

There is no finer example of adaptation than the present pandemic that forced so many of us to reimagine our work or our schooling. I think daily about my old chums at UW-Stevens Point who had to reinvent whole college courses as online curriculum in a short window as have faculty everywhere. How about the next generation of wildlife professionals whose internships, field courses, and summer jobs just got thrown into uncertainty? Meanwhile at

DNR, the whole way we conduct public involvement was switched over to a virtual format to conduct the annual spring deer quota setting process through County Deer Advisory Committees. The annual Conservation Congress hearings went “all-online” for the first time in history as well. I think about all of those NGO’s like Ruffed Grouse Society and Ducks Unlimited who are moving ahead to perform critical habitat conservation projects with uncertain budgets that will certainly take a significant hit now that their fundraising banquet season has been lost for the year. So, while things are different, if not challenging, our profession is filled with the brightest, most resourceful, and team-oriented people around. So, continue to take pride in your work as you innovate and lead.

With no March Madness or baseball this spring, and restaurants and bars shuttered for now, the silver lining in this whole experience might be that the Outdoors may never be more popular. I have noticed a significant uptick in the traffic in local parks and state wildlife properties during the past few weeks, even on those raw, chilly days when few typically venture out. It is great to see parents out hiking with kids that normally would be at swim meet or on a soccer pitch. The draw of outdoors became too much for some properties leading to closure of some popular state parks and nature areas. Perhaps, this increase in demand for nature-based experiences will reap benefits that our collective work will enjoy long after this public health crisis subsides.

Don’t forget to take time to enjoy spring yourself. I find nothing provides me greater comfort in times of stress than the certainty and predictability of annual phenological events. In spring that means the return of the first robin (check), watching a Tom Turkey all fanned out (check), chorus and wood frogs calling (check) and the popping of morels (on the horizon). Whatever floats your boat, make sure you spend some time paddling it... six feet away from others.

Stronger Together

Submitted by Robert Holsman, Chapter President

The annual winter at the Mead Hotel in Wisconsin Rapids saw the largest turn-out for the event in years with 278 registrants. The conference theme, Stronger Together, kicked off in a keynote session which challenged norms related to gender treatment.

Tim Van Deelen opened with a very personal and passionate appeal for each of us to make a commitment to addressing issues of discrimination--, both overt and unconscious-- in our places of work. Carol Chambers who is the incoming President of National TWS described the lack of women in leadership roles within the profession. The morning ended with a workshop led by Erika Marin-Spiotta who led participants in discussion-based scenario training on real world examples of discrimination and bias.

“I loved the plenary sessions and am very satisfied with the content and responses from others who attended. I think it made a lot of people more comfortable during the conference after seeing people’s positive reactions to changing attitudes and stigma of minorities in the field” commented one attendee.

The conference drew such a large crowd in part because of a change in format that added an extra day dedicated to special symposium topics. One of the special sessions featured herptile research and was co-organized by Jennifer Summers from the Wisconsin Center for Wildlife at UWSP and Andrew Badje of Wisconsin DNR. The origin of the session grew out a recognized need to be more proactive in covering a topic that often takes a back seat in wildlife circles.



“Jennifer and Andrew saw a need, had the enthusiasm to act on it, and did a great job,” said Bob Holsman. “The Wildlife Society is not just about game species and you can expect to see more attention paid to nongame topics going forward, especially since we drew 70-some people to the special session”, he said.

The other session featured ruffed grouse research and management and was the brainchild of Jason Riddle (UWSP). Ruffed Grouse Society CEO Ben Jones provided a keynote that documented the decline of grouse populations across much of their historic range. The symposium culminated with participants identifying priority research and management needed for ruffed grouse in the Great Lakes Region. Proceedings of the Grouse symposium are being published in an upcoming issue of the Passenger Pigeon thanks support received by the Wisconsin Ornithological Society.



Another positive change implemented for this year’s meeting was the move to electronic registration as opposed to paper and Pay-Pal accounts of more recent years. The on-line registration system was hosted by UW-Stevens Point’s Continuing Education program and allowed people to register for all or parts of the conference, which was also a new feature. “We learned a lot this year. Some people experienced a few bugs but those were quickly resolved by the support staff and for the most part, people liked the new arrangement” said Jennifer Summers, who was recently elected Treasurer of the state chapter.

The high turnout certainly helped the bottom line for the Chapter. After all of the meeting expenses, we finished \$6555 in the black. At the annual business meeting, the Executive board approved an operating budget for 2020 that will include increases in chapter spending on student scholarships and as well as grants available for members to attend professional trainings.

The student scholarship discussion generated a lot of member opinion that basically centered on the dual desires to support more students financially while maintaining the singular prestige of Leopold scholar recipients each year. Toward that end, the Executive board will be working with the Scholarship committee to introduce new scholarships. Tentative plans are already moving forward to create scholarships in honor of Fran Hamerstrom and Jim Hardin. The next issue of the IT will provide more details on this development.

Kevin Wallenfang and Tami Ryan Receive WCTWS 2019 Awards

Submitted by Derek Johnson, Awards Committee Chair

The **Don Rusch Memorial Award** and **The Wisconsin Award** were presented to **Kevin Wallenfang** and **Tami Ryan**, respectively during the awards reception at the WCTWS Annual Meeting on February 26, 2020. 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 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 was Kevin Wallenfang. Kevin Wallenfang exemplifies the spirit of a working wildlife professional that is a staunch advocate for hunting as a conservation tool. Thusly, Kevin was selected as the 2019 Don Rusch Memorial Award recipient. Kevin has a true zest for life and hunting, with the excellent ability to "take you there" during



his tales of the field. Kevin generates a greater appreciation for wildlife by expanding his knowledge through unconventional hunts and not shying away from difficult responsibilities.

Kevin received his degree from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. After graduating, he has worked with the Wisconsin DNR, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Pheasants Forever in various roles. He has

been instrumental in many efforts such as Deer 2000, the reintroduction of elk to the Clam Lake Elk Range, more recent elk translocations from Kentucky, and has orchestrated numerous conservation easements. There isn't enough ink to list out all of Kevin's accomplishment and contributions to conservation in Wisconsin. Please join me in congratulating Kevin on receiving the 2019 Don Rusch Memorial Award.



The Wisconsin Award is our Chapter's highest recognition of a person that exemplifies the wildlife profession in our state. This year's recipient was Tami Ryan. Tami Ryan in a model example of unwavering service to the wildlife profession. This and many other reasons are why Tami was awarded the 2019 Wisconsin Award at our last winter meeting. Tami has often provided many opportunities for others to shine and generate fanfare while she worked and supported them in the background. She has supported staff by being an unwavering champion for them, providing them opportunities for career development, helping



them enter leadership roles and mentoring and supporting women in the wildlife management profession.

Since graduating from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point with her Master's Degree in Natural Resources, Tami has held many LTE, FTE and supervisory roles within the Wisconsin DNR. Tami was on the front lines when Chronic Wasting Disease first hit Wisconsin. During that time, as the Southeast Region Supervisor, Tami didn't shy away from the difficult task of fighting the disease. This led to her more recent role as the Wildlife Health Section Chief where Tami has led many efforts to update our state's ideas, objectives and policies on healthy wildlife. Most recently Tami has helped shepherd the Wildlife Management Program through a time of flux as the Interim Bureau Director. This and many other reasons are why I want you to join me in congratulating Tami on receiving the 2019 Wisconsin Award.

Thank you to everyone who nominated someone for the 2019 awards. Please keep those people in mind for next year as there are many deserving people still out there to be recognized.



Joseph Quehl and Jade Arneson Receive 2020 Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarships

Submitted by Lesa Kardash, Scholarship Committee Chair

The **Undergraduate and Graduate Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarships** were presented to **Joseph Quehl and Jade Arneson**, respectively at the awards banquet at the WCTWS Annual Meeting on February 26, 2020. 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.

Joseph Quehl is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point majoring in Wildlife Ecology. He is an active member of the UWSP Student Chapter of TWS, having served as webmaster, treasurer, co-leader for two projects and currently as the President. During his tenure, the Chapter was recognized as Student Chapter of the Year at the National TWS meeting. Further, he helped promote the first WI Chapter TWS Student-Professional workshop.

Joe is engaged in research and the classroom, having presented at several TWS National meetings and UWSP symposia. He recently received the "Outstanding Student" award from the UWSP College of Natural Resources. In addition to school, he has assisted in cover crop research in



Kansas, managed wetland and upland habitat in Iowa, and assisted with habitat and survey work in Wisconsin.

Jade Arneson is pursuing her Master of Science degree in Environmental Science and Policy at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Her research focus is the ecology and restoration of wild rice on priority coastal wetlands along Green Bay's west shore. During her time as a graduate student, she was a founding member of the Green Bay Audubon Student Conservation Chapter, the first student chapter of its kind in the country. As a member of this chapter, Jade serves as a mentor to undergraduate students, assisting them in bird conservation efforts. Additionally, she is the newsletter coordinator and social media/outreach specialist for the Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society.

Prior to her graduate research, she worked for the Nature Conservancy assisting in land management on private lands in Door County. She also worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service in several capacities, including monitoring California Spotted Owls in the Sierra Nevadas, and as a Biological Science Technician in Green Bay collecting and recording data on sport-caught salmon and trout.



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!

Best Student Presentations and Poster Recognitions

By Christine Anhalt-Depies, President-Elect

The Best Graduate and Undergraduate Presentations and Best Student Poster was presented during the awards banquet at the WCTWS Annual Meeting on February 26, 2020.

Best Graduate Presentation:

Neil Gilbert

Integrating Harvest and Citizen-Science Camera Trap Data to Predict Species Distributions.



Best Undergraduate Presentation:

Nora Hargett

Unique Characteristics of Greater Sandhill Crane (*Antigone canadensis tabida*) Nest Sites in Horicon Marsh, Wisconsin.



Best Student Poster:

Logan Cutler, Rachel Martin, Brady Roberts, Joe Quehl

Relationship between Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) Seasonal Movement Patterns and Cover Types in Northern Wisconsin.



From left to right: Logan Cutler, Jason Riddle, Rachel Martin, Brady Roberts, and Joe Quehl.

WCTWS Bylaws Update

By Scott Hygnstrom, Past President

The WCTWS Bylaws Committee, including Alan Crossley, Jeremy Holtz, John Olson, and I took on the task of reviewing our bylaws and making recommendations to the Executive Board for approval in 2019. The Board forwarded the revised bylaws to the membership for a vote of approval in October and they were accepted with a near unanimous vote. Our new bylaws were submitted to the Bylaws Committee of TWS Council to confirm accordance with the TWS bylaws. They were returned with one required revision that deals with the annual dues structure (Article IV, Section 5). We will make the necessary revision and resubmit the bylaws for final review. I know the above isn't exactly front-page news or stimulating reading, but the bylaws are incredibly important to the management of the WCTWS, now and in the future. Thanks to all for your support.

2020 Student Leaders Breakfast

By Scott Hygnstrom, Past President

One of the activities of the Annual Meeting that I look forward to each year is the long-standing tradition of sharing a breakfast and discussing issues with leaders of the Wisconsin Student Chapters and members of the WCTWS Executive Board. It is a great opportunity match names to faces and meet some of our up and coming superstars. On the morning of the last day of the Annual Meeting, five leaders of the Northland College Student Chapter and their advisor, three leaders of the UW-Stevens Point Student Chapter, and three members of the WCTWS Executive Board met to break bread and share ideas. After introductions, we talked about opportunities for the upcoming year. Conversation immediately went to the first-ever Student-Professional Workshop that we conducted in October 2019 at the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge. Thanks again to Brad Strobel and Mark Pfof for putting on a great program. We kicked around ideas for upcoming S-P Workshops. Conversation ebbed and flowed among topics (intersectionality, forest management, Native people and traditions, bird banding, farmland wildlife) and locations (Sandhill, Kemp, Treehaven, Crex Meadows, Apostle Islands). We will work together to facilitate more S-P Workshops in the future.

Students also suggested different ways of improving communication among Student Chapters and the Board, including an email list, advisors contact information, GoogleDrive, the SLACK communication platform, better connectivity with the Student Representative, and finalizing Chapter Operating Guides. In addition, students encouraged that we conduct another face-to-face meeting before the next Annual Meeting. We look forward to following up on several of these opportunities.

Financial Report

By Jennifer Summers, Treasurer

Note: This financial report is current as of 4-1-2020. Revenue and payment invoices for the WCTWS meeting and the donation to Maggie Stewart Memorial Fund are being processed.

Account	1-1-2020	4-1-2020	Projected after meeting payments/ revenue:
Checking	8023.40	19865.25	1923.87
Savings	56352.14	45361.38	74233.69
Bjerke Account	73624.42	64641.40	
Principal	65.024.28	55597.45	
Available	8599.77	9043.96	
Leopold fund	16448.11	14450.82	
Paypal	40.22	207.62	
Total Assets		144526.69	155457.4

WCTWS Winter Meeting Financial Report

By Jennifer Summers, Treasurer

Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society earned income from the annual meeting this year – thank you to everyone who attended! A total of 278 people registered for the conference this year. Between revenue from registration fees, membership dues paid during registration, sponsorships, and the raffle, WCTWS made \$6,555.08 profit at the 2020 annual meeting.

Thank you to all of this year’s meeting sponsors. In addition to those listed in the table below, special thanks go to two additional gold-level sponsors. The Bascom-Beers Professorship in Conservation provided travel expenses for Carol Chambers, our keynote speaker, and The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is publishing proceedings of the Ruffed Grouse Symposium.

2020 Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society Meeting Financial Report			
Revenue:		Expenses:	
Registration/Member dues	\$25197.31	Hotel Mead Banquet Services	\$15974.38
Sponsors*		Hotel Rooms (keynotes)	\$492.00
Ruffed Grouse Society	\$1500	Raffle Items	\$305.00
Wisconsin Center for Wildlife	\$500	Student Awards	\$261.56
Gerald and Helen Stephens Wildlife Professorship at UWSP	\$500	Other Awards	\$152.17
Wisconsin’s Greenfire	\$250	Continuing Education	\$3542.12
Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission	\$150	Registration Fees	
Chequamegon Bay Audubon	\$100	Maggie Stewart Memorial Donation	\$1478.00
Meeting Raffle		Total Expenditures:	\$22317.23
Maggie Stewart Memorial Fund	\$475		
WCTWS General	\$550		
Total Revenue:			
	\$28872.31		
Total Expenditures:			
	\$22317.23		
Total Income:			
	6555.08		

WCTWS Donates to Maggie Stewart Birding Exhibit

By Robert Holsman, President

The Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest is a big sprawling property located between Madison and Milwaukee that is as multi-use as recreation properties come. Where else can you ride mountain bikes, pheasant hunt, ride a horse, forage for mushroom and camp in the same day?

Starting this fall, you can add visiting the Maggie Stewart Memorial Bird Exhibit to that list, thanks in part to the support of our Chapter.

Maggie Stewart and her family used to hike along the Scuppernong Nature Trail serenaded by Eastern Wood Pewees and Scarlet Tanagers. Maggie was the assistant big game biologist at the Wisconsin DNR and part of the TWS family when she died from brain cancer in July of 2019.

Following motions from Tim Van Deelen and Derek Johnson during the annual business meeting, members voted to contribute 1,000 dollars from our operating budget to the Maggie Stewart memorial fund. Later that evening, members added an additional 475 dollars in raffle ticket donations.



“Maggie wore joy like a favorite shirt. She radiated happiness and enthusiasm and that was never more apparent than when she was talking about, thinking about or learning about wildlife. Our profession is diminished by her loss but enriched by the short time that we were privileged to know her” said Van Deelen, remembering her time at UW-Madison where she completed her bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

Our donation will go to support the construction of a bird watching exhibit in the Museum at Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest. Ann Korman, the DNR’s Property Supervisor there, has been working with staff naturalists and Maggie’s family to develop the birding exhibit that will include interactive bird calls, a wingspan display, an observation window, and an outdoor deck overlooking feeding stations. Of course, a plaque will pay tribute to Maggie.

Korman says that Covid-19 might slow completion of the project, but she hopes to see it finished no later than Labor Day of this year. The construction of the birding exhibit is one of several renovation projects at the Museum and follows a relocation of existing pioneer relics to another building on the state forest. “The window and the observation deck will give visitors a view right into the forest and the birdlife there”, said Korman.

Maggie’s mom Julie expressed her gratitude on behalf of their family when she received word of the donation. “The news of the generous donation from The Wildlife Society has humbled us all. She had such a gift for making us appreciate nature and reminding us to take the time to notice small things. Please extend our gratitude to the group”.

Meet Wisconsin TWS Members

By Carissa Freeh, Board Member

Anna Brose

Born and raised in Alaska, Wisconsin TWS member Anna Brose grew up in a family that hunted and fished for subsistence and taught her the value of wildlife at a young age. While countless passionate people have provided mentorship and guidance to Anna throughout her life no one will replace the mentorship provided by her dad—as an avid outdoorsman, Alaska State Wildlife Trooper, and an all-around stand-up-guy, he taught Anna how to see the signs of wildlife all around us and the little details that lead to the bigger picture.

As a teenager and undergraduate student, Anna volunteered and worked on several projects with the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife which further solidified

her focus on the wildlife profession. She received her BS in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University and has since worked as a biological technician at Isle Royale and Yellowstone National Parks and as the Assistant Deer and Elk Ecologist for the Wisconsin DNR. Currently, Anna is a master's student in the Van Deelen lab at UW-Madison. Her research is focused on the value of managed wildlife openings to elk in Wisconsin. Anna is fascinated by how much wildlife shape the habitat around them.



Anna never could have anticipated that life would bring her to Wisconsin, but she is so glad it did! Thanks to the generous and genuine life-long friends she has made here, Anna has found 'home' in Wisconsin. The hunting opportunities and old fashioned definitely sweeten the pot too. Anna chose to be a member of Wisconsin TWS because of the support it provides to young professionals and the great opportunities for networking and professional development. She always feels welcome at WCTWS state meetings and enjoys seeing so many agency and academic professionals mingling!

Janet Brehm

Wisconsin TWS member Janet Brehm grew up in the Mt. Calvary area of Fond du Lac County, WI where she spent so much time exploring and enjoying the outdoors that she lacks years of memories of her house! Janet's dedication to the wildlife profession began when she transferred from UW-Oshkosh to UW-Stevens Point to pursue a degree in wildlife management. She joined the Student Chapter of TWS in 1999, and as the co-leader for the small mammal trapping project quickly learned and was unpleasantly surprised to find out what a bot fly was. Janet recalls her countless student memories with TWS like it was yesterday and accredits those experiences to helping her secure her first wildlife job as a seasonal employee in Idaho.



Following graduation, Janet worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey in North Dakota; and then returned home to work for the Wisconsin DNR in Rhinelander. In 2008, Janet received her master's degree from UW-Stevens Point studying red-shouldered hawk distribution and forest habitat preference in Marinette County, WI. Following graduate school, Janet expanded her skill set for several years by teaching environmental science classes at UW-Marshfield, working at an environmental laboratory, and as a conservation specialist for Langlade County. Most recently, Janet returned to the Wisconsin DNR and devoted 6 years as wildlife biologist in northern Wisconsin. As of December 2019, Janet accepted an area wildlife supervisor position within the agency in Peshtigo for NE WI. As evidenced by her experiences--a piece of advice that Janet shared is: "Take whatever opportunity comes your way, you won't regret it. It is amazing how it all works out, just keep pushing yourself."

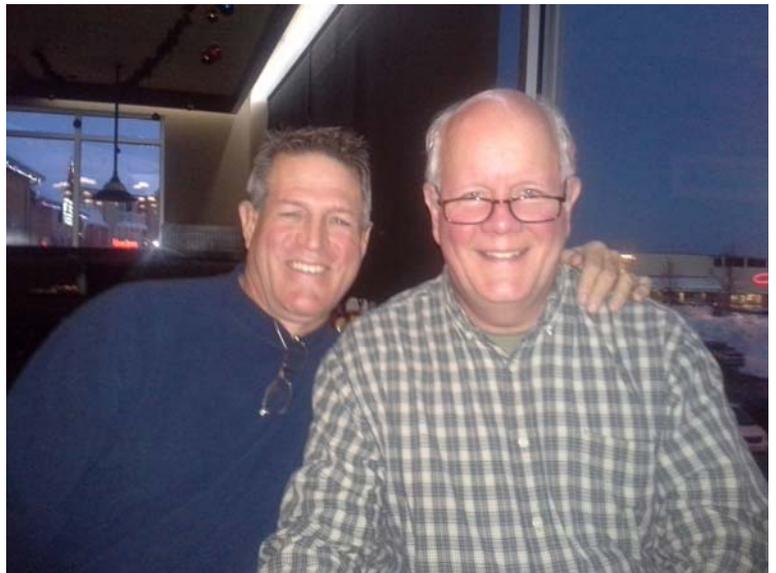
When not at work, Janet enjoys spending time with her husband Josh. You can find them mountain biking in Wisconsin and northern Michigan or on adventure motorcycle rides together throughout WI (and extreme

motorcycling trips in Ecuador and Nicaragua). When not on wheels, she especially appreciates time hunting, camping, kayaking, and hiking.

Mike Foy

As a high school sophomore, Wisconsin TWS member Mike Foy had his sights set on attending UW-Marinette because the 'DNR book' said Marinette County had more trout streams than anywhere else in Wisconsin. However, Mike ended up in the wildlife ecology department at UW-Madison because his farm-raised practical dad advised a bigger school would provide more opportunity even though he continued to ask the skeptical question, "Can you get a job in that?"

There were several things that drew Mike to the wildlife profession; including, hunting, fishing, the scouts, earth day, and the kids he grew up with. Yet Mike gives much of the credit to his mom—she loved camping, fishing, and volunteering for the Madison School Forest; she infected Mike with her enthusiasm for the outdoors and was thrilled with his choice to pursue a wildlife degree.



Mike Foy (left) with Dave Sample (right)

Mike proved that, yes, "you can get a job in that," paying his way through school as a \$2.35/hour wildlife work-study student. One of his undergraduate highlights was the time he spent at the Clam Lake Field Station assisting with a coyote telemetry study. Post-graduation Mike worked for UW graduate students and then headed to Texas A&M for

his master's degree--studying otters in coastal marshes and bayous. Along the way, Mike worked stints as a lifeguard, window washer, camp counselor, engineering lab tech, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist aide, and UW-Wildlife Extension assistant. In 2017, Mike retired after serving 31 years as a wildlife biologist for the Wisconsin DNR.

Mike resides in Madison, WI with his wife Carrie and spoiled retriever, Nellie. In his retirement he enjoys hunting, mentoring new hunters, and time spent regaining some angling proficiency. Much of Mike's dedication is working to advance the 'Payment4Positives' proposal to reward landowners and hunters for harvesting chronic wasting disease positive deer. Along with this endeavor he also hopes to learn more about epidemiological modeling.

Issue Committee Updates

Forestry Issues Committee: Ron Eckstein, Chair

August 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020

Silviculture Guidance Team meetings attended:

- September 10, 2019 at Rhinelander
- January 14, 2020 at Stevens Point
- March 31, 2020 Zoom Conference

Governor's Council on Forestry meetings attended:

- September 11, 2019 at Forest Lodge on Lake Namekagon
- November 20, 2019 GEF II Madison
- January 23, 2020 GEF II Madison

Comments and Recommendations:

- Sent a second letter to DNR supporting the Department's Northeast Sands Regional Master Plan
- Testified at the October 23, 2019 and at the January 22, 2020 Natural Resources Board meetings in Madison in support of the Northeast Sands Regional Master Plan.
- Reviewed and sent a letter to DNR Forestry supporting the latest draft of DNR Forestry's 2020 - 2030 statewide Forest Action Plan.
- Reviewed and sent a letter to Oneida County with wildlife habitat recommendations for the draft Oneida County Forest's 15-year forest management plan.

Other meetings:

- WCTWS is a member of DNR Forestry's "Operational Partner Group". I attended the October 31, 2019 and January 07, 2020 DNR working meetings in Wisconsin Rapids. We developed goals and strategies to implement DNR's draft 2020 Forest Action Plan.

Forestry Issues deals primarily with forest habitat and forest biodiversity. If you wish to serve or discuss these issues, contact roneckstein@charter.net.

Government Affairs: Chuck Pils

Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) Update as of April 9, 2020

RAWA apportionment estimates – The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies released a table of estimated annual apportionments for each state and territory provided by the RAWA (H.R. 3742) as currently proposed. Funding for each state is based 50% on proportion of its land and water, 25% on its human population, and 25% on its proportion of federally listed threatened and endangered fish, wildlife and invertebrate species. Also included in the table are the associated match funds that would be leveraged from each state/territory. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act was passed by the House Natural Resources Committee in December and is currently awaiting full House consideration.

The RAWA will redirect \$1.3 billion from the general fund of the Treasury to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to support state-led conservation of a full array of fish and wildlife.

STATE- WISCONSIN

State Wildlife Grants Apportionment (FY 2019)-	\$ 913,250
H.R. 3742 ANS Apportionment (Estimate)-	\$ 19,074,581*
H.R. 3742 ANS state match needed (estimated)-	\$ 6,358,194 **

* H.R. 3742 ANS: The amendment in the nature of a substitute for H.R. 3742 as passed by the House Committee on Natural Resources. Estimated funds are allocated to states using a formula based on 1/2 proportion of land and water, 1/4 proportion of human population and 1/4 proportion of T/E fish, wildlife, and invertebrates.

**This is the estimated 25% non-federal match required by the state based on the H.R. 3742 ANS

Student Chapter Corner

University of Wisconsin-Madison

By Shelby Weidenkopf, President



Although this spring semester has had its fair share of challenges and uncertainty, the UW-Madison Chapter of the Wildlife Society had the pleasure of hosting numerous fun and engaging events for our club participants. After classes began in late January, TWS began hosting weekly Friday morning birding field trips at the Lakeshore Preserve here on campus. Though a few had to be cancelled due to a few chilly mornings, the members and officers who engaged in the activity had a great time sharpening their skills before the spring migration. In mid-February, TWS viewed the

Birds of Prey screening held by the Madison Audubon Society. Another fun event that the Wildlife Society hosted was a tracking exercise at Governor Dodge State Park. Our most recent event held by the student chapter was at the UW-Madison Arboretum, where we attended the annual Madison Reads Leopold Event.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

By Joe Quehl, President



The 2019-2020 school year has been a wild one for the UWSP Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society! Our projects have been hard at work conducting research all throughout the fall and winter. The grey squirrel project just started up again after a small hiatus and has caught over 30 squirrels! The wood duck project just wrapped up their 31st year of checking wood duck nesting boxes at the George W. Mead Wildlife Area! Many other projects have been doing great research as well, but these are just some of the highlights.



Our chapter of the Wildlife Society has always been looking for more ways to get involved with outside organizations, whether that be

helping the DNR manage grasslands down on the Buena Vista Grasslands or helping winterize enclosures at the Raptor Education Group Inc. This year, we started a new program in conjunction with UWSP's Student Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, where we adopted a CWD monitoring kiosk in Portage County! We helped construct, organize, and check the kiosk throughout the rifle and muzzleloader seasons. As part of this partnership Sara Fischer, the CWD Biologist for Central WI, hosted a CWD sampling demonstration/workshop for our members. It was an awesome experience!

Students learned how to remove lymph node samples

for CWD testing and aged deer using dental wear. We had 15 students from our chapter participate in this workshop.

Another program that we got involved with this year was Snapshot Wisconsin. We held a Snap-a-thon after one of our weekly meetings. Students competed against one another on who could accurately identify the most photos! Lastly, we also worked with Brad Strobel, the Wildlife Biologist at the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, to host an Introduction to R Studio Workshop. We used eastern whip-poor-will point count data collected on the



refuge by our Wild Bird Project to conduct the workshop. Members learned some of the basics behind R Studio as well as the do's and don'ts of R. All of these workshops and partnerships provided our members with a ton of opportunities to learn new skills and gain new experiences. So, a BIG thank you to everyone who helped out with these events!

This past year, our chapter also attended the National conference, Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, and the Wisconsin State Meeting. Twelve of our members endured the 30-hour car ride and attended the National Conference in Reno, Nevada. Many presented posters and got to attend informative talks ranging from gorillas to grouse. We also got to do some sightseeing on the way to Reno seeing Lake Tahoe, the Bonneville Salt Flats and Badlands National Park! We also received Student Chapter of the Year at this conference and we are truly honored to be selected again for this award! The drive to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference was much more manageable.



The chapter sent 12 students to Springfield, Illinois. We had an amazing time in Illinois. where we accepted the North Central Section's Student Chapter of the Year award! Another amazing honor. Finally, we attended the Wisconsin State meeting this past February. At this conference, we had 8 members give oral presentations on a variety of research topics from elephants in Botswana to sandhill cranes at Horicon Marsh. Nora Hargett, one of our Woodpecker Project co-leaders and active members, won the Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation! We also had two student poster presentations at this conference. Our Ruffed Grouse Project's poster won the Best Undergraduate Poster Presentation award as well! The other 20 or so members who attended this conference had an amazing time at the symposia, social events, and professional talks. Everyone did a stellar job at representing our chapter at these conferences and events.

Overall, this year has been great for our chapter! We have accomplished a lot. Whether that be conducting research, organizing workshops, or attending conferences. Unfortunately, like many schools, this year has been cut short, because of the ever-evolving situation around COVID-19. We have had to cancel a lot of events like our conflict resolution and field skills workshops, annual game feed, and the sequel to our bird camp program, mammal camp. While this is very sad, we hope to get these events up and running for the next school year. We plan on adapting to this situation by creating online weekly meetings for our members and hope this will allow us to stay connected and united as a chapter during this weird time! As a whole though, this year has been a great one for our chapter and more importantly for our members!

Stay safe and healthy everyone!

Northland College

By Ella Shively, President

The Northland College chapter of The Wildlife Society has had an excellent year, with consistent attendance at our bi-weekly meetings and strong interest in our projects and events. During fall semester, we held three separate demonstrations to teach members about three wildlife techniques: radio telemetry, trail cameras, and live trapping.

Northland alum Elyse Mallinger spoke to us about her research on the small mammals of the Apostle Islands. Members also attended the TWS student-professional workshop at the Necedah Wildlife Refuge.

Over winter semester, we continued to have strong attendance at meetings. Members attended a presentation on beavers of the western Great Lakes and traveled to the annual meeting of the Wisconsin chapter of The Wildlife Society in Wisconsin Rapids. Our members particularly enjoyed the plenary session on diversity and gender equity in the wildlife profession at the Wisconsin chapter meeting. We had several events planned for the rest of the semester, including a fundraiser, a presentation by Timber Wolf Alliance director Jordyn O’Gara, and a visit to the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minnesota. These activities, along with all in-person classes at Northland College, were canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. However, we still hope to hold these events in the future. We have a strong selection of candidates for next year’s officer positions, and our elections will take place online at the beginning of April. We are eager and prepared to delve into wildlife experiences again next semester.

Wildlife Rule Summary

Submitted by Scott Karel, Member

The 2019-2020 legislative session is coming to an end and the Bureau of Wildlife Management was active with a variety of new rule proposals during this time. The marten protection and spring hearing rules are already in effect. The remainder of the rule proposals are still in legislative review but are anticipated to be effective prior to the 2020 hunting and trapping seasons.

- Refuge and Closed area rule. This rule removes unnecessary refuge designations and updates the boundaries of others. It also consolidates the number of available refuge designations and updates refuge maps so the boundaries are easier to delineate.
- Bear management rule. This rule implements parts of the 2019-2029 Wisconsin Black Bear Management Plan. Specifically, the rule adjusts bear management zones boundaries and splits previous zone C into three separate zones; C, E and F., The three-day waiting period for licenses purchased during the bear season will also end.
- Wildlife Spring Hearing rule. This rule codifies questions that were on the 2019 Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearing questionnaire. Some items include:
 - Changing the river otter framework from a quota/permit system to a bag limit/quota system
 - Allowing trappers to keep incidental taken raccoons in beaver sets after the close of the raccoon season.
 - Allowing trappers to place traps within fifteen feet of a beaver dam
 - Regulating shooting on DNR lands in Rock County.
 - Moving the close of pheasant season daily shooting hours on stocked public properties from 2 pm to 12 pm.
- Marten Protection Area Rule- This rule created a new pine marten protection area on the islands that make up the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. It also allows additional traps in the Pine River and Clam Lake MPA’s.
- Ruffed Grouse rule. This rule will implement the 2020-2030 Wisconsin Ruffed Grouse Management Plan. The ruffed grouse season for Zone A will now close the Sunday nearest January 6 instead of January 31st. The rule also modifies the management zone boundary between Zone A and B.

- Raccoon rule - Still in governor review. Estimated effective date is late spring 2020. This proposal allows the night hunting of raccoon, fox and coyote during the 9-day deer firearm season statewide. These activities were previously only allowed in the southern part of the state.
- Housekeeping rule. Estimated effective date is late spring 2020. This rule corrects inconsistencies, updates outdated language, and provides clarification for existing provisions of code. This rule also, removes minimum caliber and weapon restrictions for hunting and replaces it with a more flexible framework for future weapon innovations.

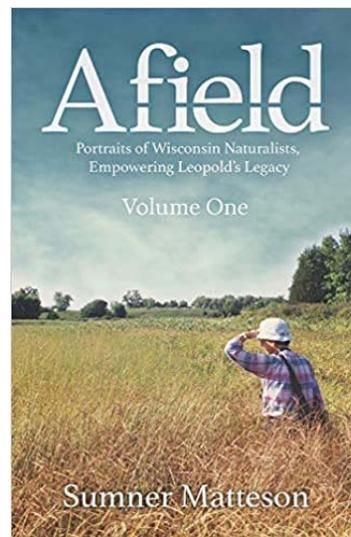
Book Review: AFIELD: Portraits of Wisconsin Naturalists, Empowering Leopold's Legacy.

Submitted by Chuck Pils, Member

AFIELD: Portraits of Wisconsin Naturalists, Empowering Leopold's Legacy. Volume One. 2020 by Sumner Matteson. Little Creek Press, Mineral Point, Wisconsin. 728 pp.

This intriguing book by Sumner Matteson, Avian Ecologist for DNR's Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation, is a thorough account of the philosophies guiding the careers of 18 Wisconsin men and women naturalists from varying backgrounds and professions. All of the naturalists have one common thread: spreading the essence of Leopold's writings. The majority of the book's naturalists describe Leopold's works through the diaries that they kept over the years. Some contributors are gone; some are still spreading the gospel. Each chapter reveals the conditions they experienced, their efforts in natural history and conservation, personnel difficulties (including several examples of blatant sexism), successes and failures. Several of the naturalists mention both Christian and Native-American religions in terms of their observations of the way ecosystems ebb and flow. This book is a powerful teaching instrument for young naturalists and other natural resource workers.

My own career (1966-99) involved interactions with some of the men and women described. We also shared common interests. For example, George Knudson and I both had Benjamin air rifles. Ruth Hine and I both loved watching the old movies of pioneering wildlife cinematographers Martin and Osa Johnson. I had the advantage of working with them and listening to their own words. These naturalists have positively contributed to the understanding of nature.



2020 Wisconsin Drummer Fund

Submitted by Jon Steigerwaldt, Regional Wildlife Biologist, Ruffed Grouse Society

The Ruffed Grouse Society and American Woodcock Society are welcoming proposals for projects related to ruffed grouse and American woodcock habitat creation, restoration, management, outreach, and scientific research throughout Wisconsin. As one of the nation's leading advocates for young forest habitats, wildlife, and conservation ethic, we realize the importance of these funds in assisting our partners in accomplishing habitat, management, and outreach/educational goals. Our members and staff recognize the numerous economic, recreational, and aesthetic values that are generated from Wisconsin's forests. As such, we are making the call with a close date of **May 8th** to ensure that successful applicants can get funding and projects started as soon as possible. I appreciate your time and commitment to helping us meet our goal of healthy, sustainable forest habitats. Please feel free to contact me directly at 412-720-6033 or jons@ruffedgrousesociety.org



2020 WISCONSIN DRUMMER FUND PROJECT APPLICATION*



Project Information	
Project Name: _____	RGs use only Proj. #: _____ State #: _____
County, Township, Range, Section, QQ of project site: _____	
Type of Project (Circle all that apply): Habitat Access Planning Research Outreach Other _____	
Planned Year of Completion: 20 ____	
Project Summary (Attach separate sheet with full details, as necessary): _____ _____ _____	
Project Benefits: _____ _____ _____	
Project Acreage: _____	Project Miles of Trails: _____ Total Project Cost: \$ _____
Requested Funding: \$ _____	Partner Match (Cash): \$ _____ Partner Match (In-Kind): \$ _____
Is Project Within a Designated Cooperative Ruffed Grouse/Woodcock Management Area? Y / N	

Cooperating Agency Information
Lead Agency/Landowner: _____
Main Contact: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: (____) _____ - _____ E-mail: _____
Other Cooperators and Contributions: _____

*Applicant - Please submit this application, maps and other supporting documentation, as a single e-mail file (.pdf or Word format) to RGS/AWS Regional Biologist Jon Steigerwaldt at JonS@ruffedgrousesociety.org. Projects may require a sign be placed on site recognizing RGS/AWS contributions and/or a site visit by an RGS staff biologist. Pre- and post-treatment photos may be required. A One-year progress reports is required for all projects.

Questions can be directed to:
Jon Steigerwaldt, Regional Wildlife Biologist
1700 Pine Dr. Spooner, WI 54801
Phone: 412-720-6033 e-mail: JonS@ruffedgrousesociety.org

Rev. 08/22/2018

Truisms - Contributed by Tom Bahti

Shamelessly borrowed, stolen and plagiarized from other sources

My entire life can be summed up in one sentence..."Well, that didn't go as planned."

The main function of the little toe on your foot is to make sure that all the furniture in the house is in place.

I consider "running late" to be an aerobic exercise.

I sat quietly with my own thoughts today. Remind me never to do that again.

I was born to be wild, but only until around 9:30PM or so.

I meant to behave, but there were too many other options.

Fun parenting drinking game: Take a shot every time your child whines. LOL - Don't do this, you will die.

My muscles and skin tone didn't even pause to wave farewell before they recently deserted me.

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 Deadlines:

Winter Issue: 1/15

Spring Issue: 4/15

Summer Issue: 7/15

Fall Issue: 10/15

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

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