

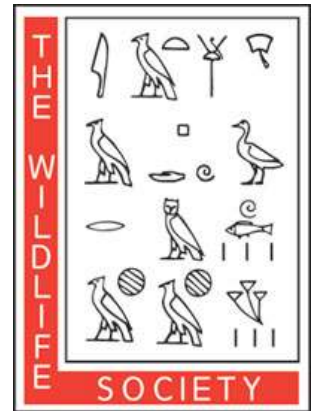


North Central Section of The Wildlife Society

Illinois · Indiana · Iowa · Michigan ·
Minnesota · Missouri · Ohio · Wisconsin

Together, as a community, we are stronger.

Spring 2020 Newsletter



AT A GLANCE...

An inspiring message from President LeDee on page 2

Plenty of news from Section Representative Lederle on page 3

Important budget update from Treasurer Meister on page 4

See who's winning awards on page 5

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Check out all the inspiring Student Chapter updates starting on page 9

A little extra inspiration on page 14

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*Olivia LeDee*

As a wildlife professional, under mounting challenges, you work in service to Nature and society. Yet, now at the forefront of our lives is health, safety, economic security, and emotional well-being. If you are reading this, I applaud your perseverance and dedication to the profession; if you are not, I understand why your priorities may reside fully in the personal sphere.

We have many unanswered questions before us: can I get into the field this summer, will I get an internship, will we experience furloughs and layoffs, will my workplace protect my health, will I ever be able to retire? If I may offer unsolicited advice, do not suffer in silence. As a society, composed of hundreds of unique individuals with knowledge, skills, and experience, we have the ability and responsibility to support each other. Where you can, offer your services to other professionals (e.g., workshop, training, mentoring, internship); if you need help, pause and ask for advice. For our part, the North Central Section will provide a monthly professional development webinar series this summer and fall. Our wildlife colleagues will share tools, techniques, and stories to support our education, employment, and performance. More to come.

Finally, though travel and conferences may seem far off, we will eventually return to normal. I hope that conferences, like the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, are vibrant forums for knowledge exchange--across sectors, systems, and geographies. Yet, even when conferences resume, we expect participation barriers to persist, particularly for state and federal agency professionals. Over the course of the next year, we will identify and work to reduce obstacles to conference attendance. We believe this effort will benefit individuals, professional societies, and employers.

May you find peace and comfort working in and exploring the great outdoors.

SECTION REPRESENTATIVE

Pat Lederle

The Wildlife Society Council held its Spring 2020 meeting in Omaha, Nebraska on Sunday and Monday, March 8 and 9, prior to the annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. All members of the Council were in attendance, yet the overall mood was definitely impacted by the uncertainty (now fully realized) surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak. How things have changed in the last several months!

Some brief updates on overall TWS operations:

- The financial health of the organization is very strong following a record setting attendance (nearly 2,300 attendees!) at the annual meeting last Fall in Reno, NV that was a joint meeting with the American Fisheries Society.
- TWS membership is also strong (nearly 11,000 members) with the strongest gains in the “New Professional” and “Student” categories. As such there is increasing discussion at Council meetings regarding how to provide additional member benefits to these categories to help ensure continued participation in the organization.
- The Council discussed and approved proposed 2020 and 2021 operational plans for the organization.
- The Conservation Affairs Network continues to expand and capacity was increased with a new intern position. Advocating for programs that advance wildlife conservation at the Federal, Regional and State levels is an important part of the TWS mission.
- Council also voted on and approved Group Achievement and Fellows awards to be given at the annual meeting in Louisville in September. I’m pleased to say the North Central Section fielded a very impressive group of candidates for Fellows Awards!
- The Council also discussed downsizing the Headquarters office space in Bethesda, MD. Most of the staff work very effectively remotely and will continue to do so, reducing the need to the amount of office space TWS currently owns.
- In response to stay-at-home orders and the tremendous increase in remote learning, TWS has responded by granting educators free access to the Live Learning Center, providing videos and other materials educators can use during these challenging times. The Center went live early in April and nearly 200 educators quickly jumped on board.

The TWS annual meeting is scheduled for September 27 through October 1 in Louisville, Kentucky. Because of the COVID-19 situation, TWS staff, the Executive Committee and Council are discussing all potential scenarios and decisions will likely be made in early summer regarding potential changes that may be necessary. Stay tuned! There will be regular updates on the TWS website (<https://wildlife.org/2020-conference/>).

As your representative to TWS Council, I’ve been working on a number of committee assignments, including helping with the revision of the standing position on trapping and furbearer management. I’m also serving on the Diversity Subcommittee which is tackling a number of charges assigned to us by President Gary White. One charge is to investigate the potential for development and implementation of an ombudsperson position for TWS. An organizational ombudsperson serves as a clearing house and sounding board for members that have concerns over issues such as discrimination, sexual harassment, intimidation, and ethics violations. The Subcommittee has conducted a number of meetings on the issue and met with several other organization’s ombudspersons to help us formulate a recommendation that will be presented at the next Council meeting in September.

If you have any questions for me, please don’t hesitate to reach out.

Thanks and stay safe everyone,

Pat

Pat Lederle, Michigan, lederle1@msu.edu, 517-243-0700

TREASURER'S REPORT

Scott Meister

Treasurer's Report
April 28, 2020

GENERAL FUND (Checking & Savings)

General Fund Balance as of November 15, 2019 \$6,587.70

Checking Starting Balance	\$4,990.54
Checking Income	
Membership Dues: 4th Qtr. 2019	\$2,510.00
Transfer from Professional Development Fund	\$954.72
MAFWA: 50% Midwest F&W workshop expenses	\$954.72
Membership Dues: 1st Qtr 2020	\$1,490.00
Subtotal	\$5,909.44
Checking Expenses	
Midwest F&W Conference Sponsor	\$500.00
Jodie Provost: tablecloth & banner	\$367.50
Graduate Student of the Year award	\$500.00
Undergraduate Student of the Year award	\$500.00
Award plaques	\$176.55
MN DNR: Grant Wilson workshop reimbursement (Prof. Dev. Fund)	\$658.43
Grant Wilson: workshop reimbursement (Prof. Dev. Fund)	\$356.67
Doug Austen: workshop reimbursement (Prof. Dev. Fund)	\$718.34
Midwest F&W Conf: meal (Prof. Dev. Fund)	\$176.00
Subtotal	\$3,953.49

CHECKING BALANCE as of April 28, 2020

\$6,946.49

Savings Starting Balance	\$1,597.16
Savings Income	
Interest (11/1/19 - 3/31/20)	\$0.68
Subtotal	\$0.68
Savings Expenses	
None	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$0.00

SAVINGS BALANCE as of April 28, 2020

\$1,597.84

GENERAL FUND Balance as of April 28, 2020

\$8,544.33

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Balance as of November 15, 2019 \$44,652.13

PD Income	
Interest (11/1/19 - 3/31/20)	\$176.53
Subtotal	\$176.53
PD Expenses	
Transfer to checking: workshop expenses	\$954.72
Subtotal	\$954.72

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Balance as of April 28, 2020

\$43,873.94

TOTAL FUNDS as of April 28, 2020

\$52,418.27

Respectfully submitted by the Treasurer of the North Central Section:



Scott Meister

AWARDS



Larry J. Wilson received the Iowa TWS Hall of Fame award for his strong, professional leadership of the Iowa DNR which led to a golden period of wildlife research and management in Iowa.



Scott Moats received the Iowa TWS Award of Merit for his contributions over the last 25 years to habitat management and stewardship in Iowa and beyond.



Kevin Wallenfang (right) received the Don Rusch Memorial Award from the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society for outstanding contributions to wildlife conservation.



Dr. Tami Ryan (left) received the Wisconsin Award from the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society. It is the highest honor the chapter gives to a wildlife professional.

STATE CHAPTER REPORTS

Iowa

The Iowa TWS chapter hosted their winter meeting in Ames, IA on February 11-12, 2020. We had a great turn out with over 170 attendees! The meeting started out with a presentation, *20/20 Vision for Wildlife Conservation in Iowa*, which was presented by past and current Iowa TWS leadership who highlighted conservation accomplishments in Iowa over the past 20 years as well as emphasized the top priorities for the next 20 years. The information for this presentation was compiled from a survey sent out to all Iowa TWS membership regarding the accomplishments and priorities for wildlife conservation in Iowa. We were honored to have Jamila Blake, The Wildlife Society, come talk about TWS' Wildlife Biologist Certification Program. Additionally, various wildlife professionals from academia, Iowa DNR, USDA and USGS, and the private sector gave presentations throughout the agenda. Naomi Edelson, National Wildlife Federation, was our keynote and presented on Recovering America's Wildlife Act. We were also able to honor Larry Wilson with the Iowa TWS Hall of Fame award as well as Scott Moats with the Iowa TWS Award of Merit. Planning is now underway in Iowa for the fall field day which is tentatively planned to be at Iowa DNR Prairie Resource Center to coincide with its 20th anniversary! For more information about Iowa TWS, check out our website: www.iowatws.org and follow us on facebook @IowaTWS.



General session at the 2020 Iowa TWS winter meeting on February 11-12th, 2020 in Ames, Iowa.



Naomi Edelson, National Wildlife Federation, gave the keynote presentation about Recovering America's Wildlife in Iowa and in the Nation.

Wisconsin

We were fortunate to host our annual winter meeting --themed “Stronger Together” – in February prior to all of the travel and social distancing restrictions. Our plenary focused on issues of gender bias and gender identity in the wildlife profession. We were honored to have Dr. Carol Chambers, President-elect of TWS national give our keynote address where she provided a very positive to call to arms about the need to support more women in leadership positions. Dr.Erika Marin-Spiotta followed up with an interactive scenario based training that generated some amazing and productive conversations that spilled into the hallways and carried over through the meeting. Our meeting also featured two day-long symposia- one focused on the Ruffed Grouse (see photo below) and the other on herptiles. We seated our newly executive board and have already begun strategizing on ways we may utilize technology to provide our members with training and other services in 2020.



Upper Midwest Grouse Symposium held as part of the Wisconsin TWS Winter Meeting.

STUDENT CHAPTER REPORTS

Ball State

Written by Kalee Snorden, BSU Student Chapter President

This spring semester for the Ball State Wildlife Society has been odd and full of surprises! Before having to become virtual, we started the semester off with engaging speakers and professional development opportunities! We had 13 members attend the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Springfield this January, where we spent a lot of time networking and supporting other Ball State students who were presenting. In February, three members attended the Indiana Chapter's Spring Meeting and ran a joint raffle with the Purdue Student Chapter. The night was a success! Over the months of January and February, the Ball State Wildlife Society has hosted two CV and Cover Letter Working Hours for members to peer review and create these documents. As things became virtual, we still offered help peer-reviewing cover letters for internships as members were applying. Our meetings had a strong start, with Pet Night bringing all kinds of pets from skinks to dogs! We also had an amazing speaker from the International Crane Foundation present on their conservation work with the Whooping Crane. Once we could no longer meet in person, we did not have speakers for the rest of the semester. However, we made sure to keep the Ball State Wildlife Society going by holding elections online this year for next year's officers and sharing professional development or job opportunities on our social media.

Missouri Western State University

MWSU's Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society took full advantage of the time we had with each other this spring. We were able to work at Super Science Saturday. This is an outreach event held annually on Missouri Western's campus. The student chapter runs their own display titled "Tools of a Wildlife Biologist" at this event. Six students presented research at the Missouri Natural Resources Conference in February. Our chapter also had a workday in February to clear vegetation from the savannah unit of the MWSU Campus Prairie Restoration project. The pride of our semester however, was the beginning of our student chapter's involvement in a very important restoration project. Missouri Western has a long relationship with the owner of the Ozark Underground Lab and Tumbling Creek Cave, Tom Aley. Biology students have long assisted with surveys and studies on Tumbling Creek Cave, home of the endangered Tumbling Creek Cave Snail. When Tom Aley recently purchased more land within the cave's watershed that needed work, he asked our student chapter to help with the manpower. Twelve students took the first weekend of their spring break-turned-summer break to help cut, pile, and burn encroaching vegetation on a six-acre glade on the new property. Students gained great experience, made connections, and had fun working on this project. We feel that we made a good impression and that our services will be requested again. Anything students missed out on due to COVID-19 will be fit in next semester. There is work to be done.



Northland College

By Ella Shively, NC Chapter 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 beaver ecology 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 are eager and prepared to delve into wildlife experiences again next semester.

**Purdue University**

The Purdue Student Chapter has had a busy spring semester, providing many opportunities for members to interact with wildlife and professionals. We started out strong with over 50 students in attendance at our callout meeting where we introduced our student chapter to new members and had fun dissecting owl pellets. We also enjoyed meetings preparing students for the career fair, holding a quiz bowl competition, and hosting a speaker from the International Crane Foundation. Our Hunting Working Group took a trip to learn how to shoot recurved and compound bows, and members even got to practice firing a crossbow. The Birds Working Group spent a day birding on their annual waterfowl trip to Willow Slough, Kankakee Sands, and Kankakee FWA. Our Mammals Working Group members set up remote cameras this semester at Purdue properties to monitor beavers.

The highlights of our spring semester included attending the Indiana TWS spring meeting and our annual trip to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC). In February, our chapter sent 9 members to attend the Indiana TWS meeting at Spring Mill State Park where we enjoyed learning about wildlife research and management and got to network with professionals. We also sent 18 members to Chicago for a weekend of field work with FPDCC. We enjoyed learning hands-on how to capture, immobilize, and work up white-tailed deer

and coyote, and recognized their senior wildlife biologist, Chris Anchor, as the first recipient of our Exemplary Service Award for his service to our chapter.



Attending the Indiana TWS spring meeting



Honoring Chris Anchor during our annual trip to Cook County

University of Minnesota, Crookston

By: Chris Call, President

Returning student members found themselves quite busy in the beginning of the new year with school and club events. Members volunteered at the Candlelight Ski & Owl Prowl at the Rydell National Wildlife Refuge helping set up and calling in owls. A few students also got to unwind by having an afternoon of fishing on the Red Lake River. Twenty-one students gathered for pizza and a work party of assembling 49 Peterson Bluebird Boxes for the Glacial Ridge and Rydell National Wildlife Refuges! We also raided funds by cleaning a local sport's arena. Students also went curling, many for the first time, with a UMC alumnus at the Grand Forks Curling Club. Four student members gained valuable experience by attending the Minnesota Chapter TWS meeting in Willmar. There they learned about conservation practices in agricultural systems, how to communicate with private landowners, and saw many graduate student research projects. The students also got a tour of the DNR Glenwood Hatchery on the drive home. As students across the country have experienced, our classes were delivered exclusively online after spring break and we are all sad to miss out on the brush cut with the Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society and the owl & goshawk surveys at Beltrami Island State Forest. However, we are all optimistic and excited for the upcoming events this fall.

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

The Wildlife Society - Student Chapter at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign started off the spring semester by taking eight undergraduate students to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. We hosted a general meeting in February to debrief on the last fall semester and come up with ideas for activities for the spring semester. The student chapter also took seven students to the University of Wisconsin Madison campus to help with the Urban Canid Project. Students had opportunities to check cable traps, practice setting up their own cable traps, and track a fox using telemetry. Unfortunately, other planned fieldwork experiences were cancelled due to COVID-19. Had the chapter been able to operate normally, the chapter would have hosted a presentation by Dr. T.J. Benson on the history of The Wildlife Society, participated in spotlight surveys with the Illinois Natural History Survey, and conducted golden plovers surveys with INHS and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Instead, the chapter has started a project on iNaturalist to encourage members to explore nature while at home. We also hosted several Zoom meetings, including a discussion on big cat conservation and a presentation by Dr. Jeff Brawn on wildlife and climate change. The chapter will host a wildlife graduate

school panel and discussion on interesting animal behaviors before the spring semester wraps up. We hope that the chapter can make up for the field activities that we missed in March and April, and that members can attend The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting this fall.



A TWS - Student Chapter at UIUC member setting up a red fox cable trap in Madison, Wisconsin.



TWS - Student Chapter at UIUC members who attended the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference.

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

The University of Minnesota Twin Cities student chapter of MN TWS, the Fisheries and Wildlife Club, organized multiple events this spring. The largest event was the club's annual Canada lynx tracking event in the Superior National Forest. This event held over winter break had students lodge in U.S. Forest Service bunkhouses, develop field skills while tracking lynx and build their professional networks with U.S. Forest Service biologists. 14 students participated over the two-week period resulting in over 400 hours in the field. In addition to lynx tracking, the club sent students to both the MN AFS and MN TWS Annual meetings. Some students travelled to Illinois and banded Lesser Scaup on

Mississippi Pool 19 in early March. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our late spring field plans were cancelled, but we have stayed connected via email and other forms of personal communication. In addition, the club recently held elections and chose officers for the 2020-2021 school year.

**University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point**

We hope this update finds everyone well and safe during these uncertain times. The chapter finished last semester with a sledding and ice skating social at a local city park. It was a great time and way to end our semester! This spring UWSP's chapter of the Wildlife Society hit the ground running! We held our second annual First Aid/CPR/AED workshop in junction with the American Red Cross and got 20 members certified. For a social event, we held a Snap-a-thon where members raced against one another to correctly classify as many photos as they could on Snapshot Wisconsin. Unfortunately, like many other student chapters a lot of our events were cut short, due to COVID-19. We are also no longer allowed to hold in person meetings in the good ole TNR. But, that did not stop us. We continued to hold weekly meetings via Zoom and have had great attendance and participation from our members! We have had guest speakers zoom in, officer's presentations about their positions, and we even played a Kahoot trivia game one meeting! We have tried to stay connected with our members as best we can by creating a section in our meeting minutes called the Quarantine Corner. Here, students can post about all the fun things they have been doing at home such as birding, hiking, and hunting! We also held a fun game night where members came and played Scattergories over Zoom! While many of our workshops, guest speakers, and project field seasons have been cancelled our members held their heads high and continued to be involved with our chapter.

Follow our Facebook page ([UWSP Wildlife Society](https://www.facebook.com/UWSPWildlifeSociety/)) and join us for our weekly meetings as we live stream them on Facebook!

https://www.facebook.com/UWSPWildlifeSociety/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel&eid=ARCCY0MrmnFTKsNbabVgcNHnbs3dDUM-0IkaXrS0tNCNC6q2ZuchRMVK_HJZe00fqIspFnTB0RWyi890

OF SPECIAL NOTE...

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

The past couple of months have been anything but normal for most of us. However, it has provided an opportunity for many of us to pause and take stock of the things that really matter in our personal and professional lives. So many people are getting some extra time outdoors and encountering nature in ways that they wouldn't otherwise get a chance to do. In this pandemic there may be a window of opportunity like no other to reinforce the connections people are having with nature, and especially wildlife. In case you could use a reminder (or some encouragement) about why wildlife matters, you might check out this recent article and video that focuses on Emily Thoroski's approach to the importance of wildlife:

<https://wildlife.org/tws-members-video-explores-why-wildlife-matters/>

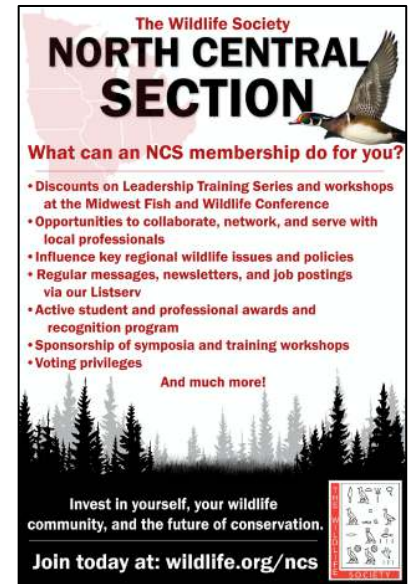


Our future and the future of wildlife is out there. Take hold of it!

RESOURCES

North Central Section Membership Presentation, Poster and Business Cards

Your North Central Section (NCS) Membership Team completed development last 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

Olivia LeDee, President,
 Jason Riddle, President-Elect
 Gary Roloff, Past President
 Krysten Zummo, Secretary
 Scott Meister, Treasurer
 Pat Lederle, Section Representative
 Katherine Rexroad, Graduate Student Representative
 Emily Barnett, Undergraduate Student Representative

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

STATE CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

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 Tony Hewitt, [Minnesota State Chapter](#)
 Adam Jones, [Missouri State Chapter](#)
 Grace Dietsch, [Ohio State Chapter](#)
 Robert Holsman, [Wisconsin State Chapter](#)

Please send corrections to Jason Riddle (Jason.Riddle@uwsp.edu) and Mariah Simmons (MSimmons@wildlife.org). If you know of NCS members that have trouble accessing the electronic newsletter, notify Jason for a hard copy.