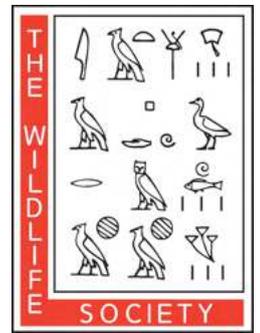




# The Wildlife Society Nebraska Chapter Newsletter - Spring 2021



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## Message from Our New President

Greetings Nebraska Chapter Members,

My name is Will Inselman and I am the current President of The Wildlife Society - Nebraska Chapter (Nebraska Chapter or NETWS) and work for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission as the Assistant Wildlife Division Administrator of Research. I have been in Nebraska five years, having come from South Dakota where I began my wildlife career. I appreciate the opportunity to address all of you and thought I would provide you with a few words to chew on...

As I sit here in my sunroom on this gorgeous late-March morning, I am quickly reminded why, early in life, I became so fascinated with the natural world. Currently, there are five different species of birds at the feeder, peacefully coexisting, attempting to bulk up for their continued migration, or their annual responsibility of raising a family here in my yard. Birds have taught us so many things over the years, from migration to adaptation and everything in between. And though they have taught us so much, we still have much to learn.

Today, as I stare at these birds foraging on the buffet of grains, I consider yet another lesson. I wonder how these five species of birds, with different shapes, sizes, colors, ages, and backgrounds can peacefully coexist, yet in our advanced, modern era of mankind, we struggle to get along. Granted the leap from today's society to that of these few birds, dancing around each other while eating at my feeder, is likely a stretch, I still wonder why we struggle with inclusivity. Within our own society, or even within our own wildlife bubble for that matter, why do we still have folks who feel as though they are not welcome? Alas I believe that times are changing and striving for inclusivity is finally becoming the norm. Our parent society, The Wildlife Society (TWS) has taken this pledge head-on, and their efforts are not going unnoticed.

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## Message from Our New President continued...

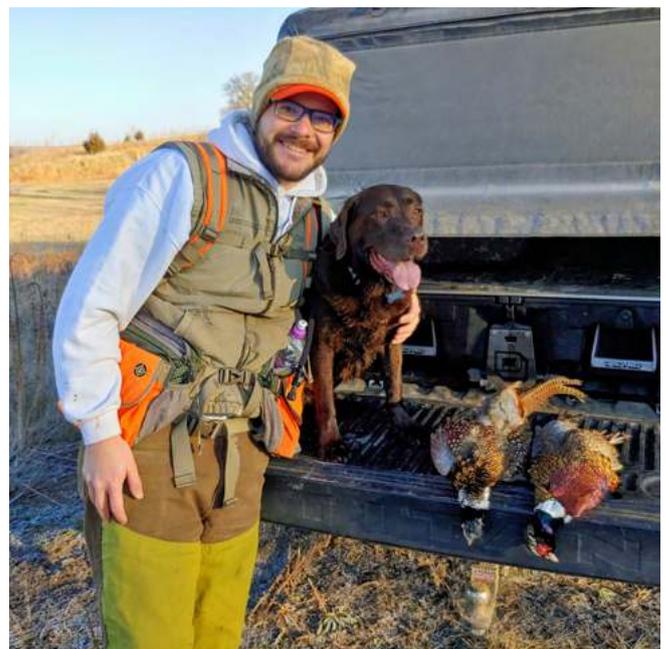
I hope that you all had a chance to attend our Nebraska Chapter's TWS conference in February. We brought in folks, specifically Dr. Carol Chambers, to talk about issues on diversity, equity, and inclusion. A lot of that has resonated with me, and while I always felt like these terms were part of my everyday life, I feel more empowered to speak up and speak out. I encourage everyone to read the ["I Am One of You"](#) article written by Travis Booms, a biologist in Alaska. From that article in 2019, and a follow-up in [2020](#), TWS created an [Out in the Field Initiative](#) to help empower our TWS LGBTQIA+ members. This is a huge step in the right direction, and while it took until 2019 to do this, it is a huge step in the right direction.

It's not just our LGBTQIA+ community that needs to be empowered, but any and every individual interested in a career in wildlife conservation. Here in Nebraska, we need to make it a point as members of this chapter to be as inclusive and welcoming as we possibly can. We are seeing our membership slowly aging, and very few of the younger crowd joining our ranks. Why is that? What has happened that we have to work so hard to convince our future biologists to join this great organization? No matter the issue, this is something that I will continue to pursue over the next year, attempting to make TWS in Nebraska relevant again to our next generation of biologist.

It is obvious that there are a lot of challenges ahead of us in the many years to come. Whether it's a disease pandemic (those of zoonotic potential are of great interest to us!) or diversity and inclusion, we have a lot of responsibility on our shoulders, as biologists, and as human beings. While I sit in my sunroom admiring the birds in my yard, I feel this responsibility, so that our children and grandchildren can not only hear the words of Leopold, but see them as I do right now.



Will Inselman  
NETWS President  
will.inselman@nebraska.gov



## Message from Our Past-President

Hi, my name is Shelly McPherron, I am Biologist and Missouri River Emergent Sandbar Habitat Project Manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Nebraska Chapter's Past-President. I first want to say a special thanks to everyone who participated and to the members who dedicated time and energy to help make our first virtual annual meeting a success. I hope you found the annual meeting valuable professionally and personally. If you have suggestions for future years, please reach out to the Board and let us know.

Although this past year as President had its challenges given the circumstances, it brought about some unique opportunities. For example, holding a virtual meeting allowed us the opportunity to have speakers from outside of our state to present on a variety of important topics during our annual meeting. I did miss seeing everyone's faces and being able to engage with friends, members, colleagues, and student chapters throughout the year, but I'm hopeful that we will be able to meet in person in 2022. It has been a pleasure to serve as your President over the past year. I encourage anyone interested in being more involved with the Nebraska Chapter and wanting to be a part of the legacy to step up and consider putting your name in or nominating someone who you think would be a great fit when board nominations open next year.

Take care and have a great summer!

Shelly McPherron

NETWS Past-President

michelle.m.mcpherron@usace.army.mil



## Congratulations to Our Newest Board Members

This year, four Nebraska Chapter officers were up for re-election including the President-Elect, Secretary, and two At-Large Board Members. In addition to these officer roles, the chapter was also seeking candidates for a Newsletter Editor. Nominations for these positions were accepted Monday December 28, 2020, through Friday January 15, 2021; and a total of six nominations were received. The election was held Wednesday February 23, starting after our annual meeting, through Friday April 9, 2021. Thank you to everyone who contributed a nomination(s) and to our newly elected board members.

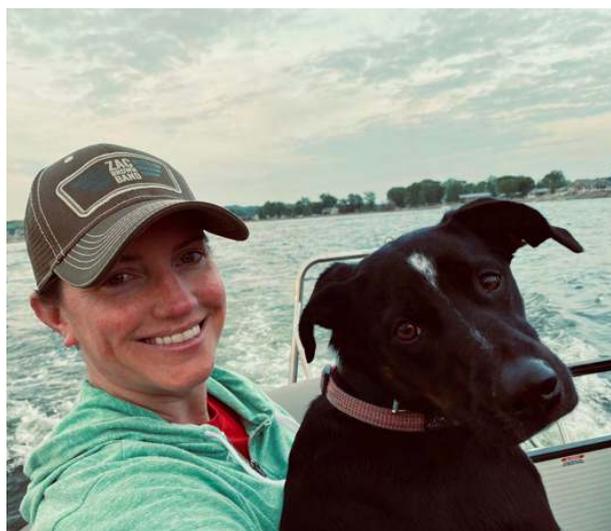
### - Our Board Members -



**Andy Little, President-Elect**  
alittle6@unl.edu



**Will Inselman, President**  
will.inselman@nebraska.gov



**Shelly McPherron, Past-President**  
michelle.m.mcpherron@usace.army.mil

## Congratulations to Our Newest Board Members continued...



**Jennifer Corman**  
Secretary  
[jen.corman@nebraska.gov](mailto:jen.corman@nebraska.gov)



**Matthew Gruntorad**  
Treasurer  
[mgruntorad2@unl.edu](mailto:mgruntorad2@unl.edu)



**Larkin Powell**  
At-Large Member (2021-2025)  
[lpowell3@unl.edu](mailto:lpowell3@unl.edu)



**Sarah Nevison**  
At-Large Member (2020-2022)  
[sarah.nevison@nebraska.gov](mailto:sarah.nevison@nebraska.gov)

## Congratulations to Our Newest Board Members continued...



**Chelsea Forehead**  
**At-Large Member (2021-2025)**  
[chelsea.forehead@usda.gov](mailto:chelsea.forehead@usda.gov)



**Jenny Prenosil**  
**At-Large Member (2020-2022)**  
[jprenosil@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:jprenosil@pheasantsforever.org)

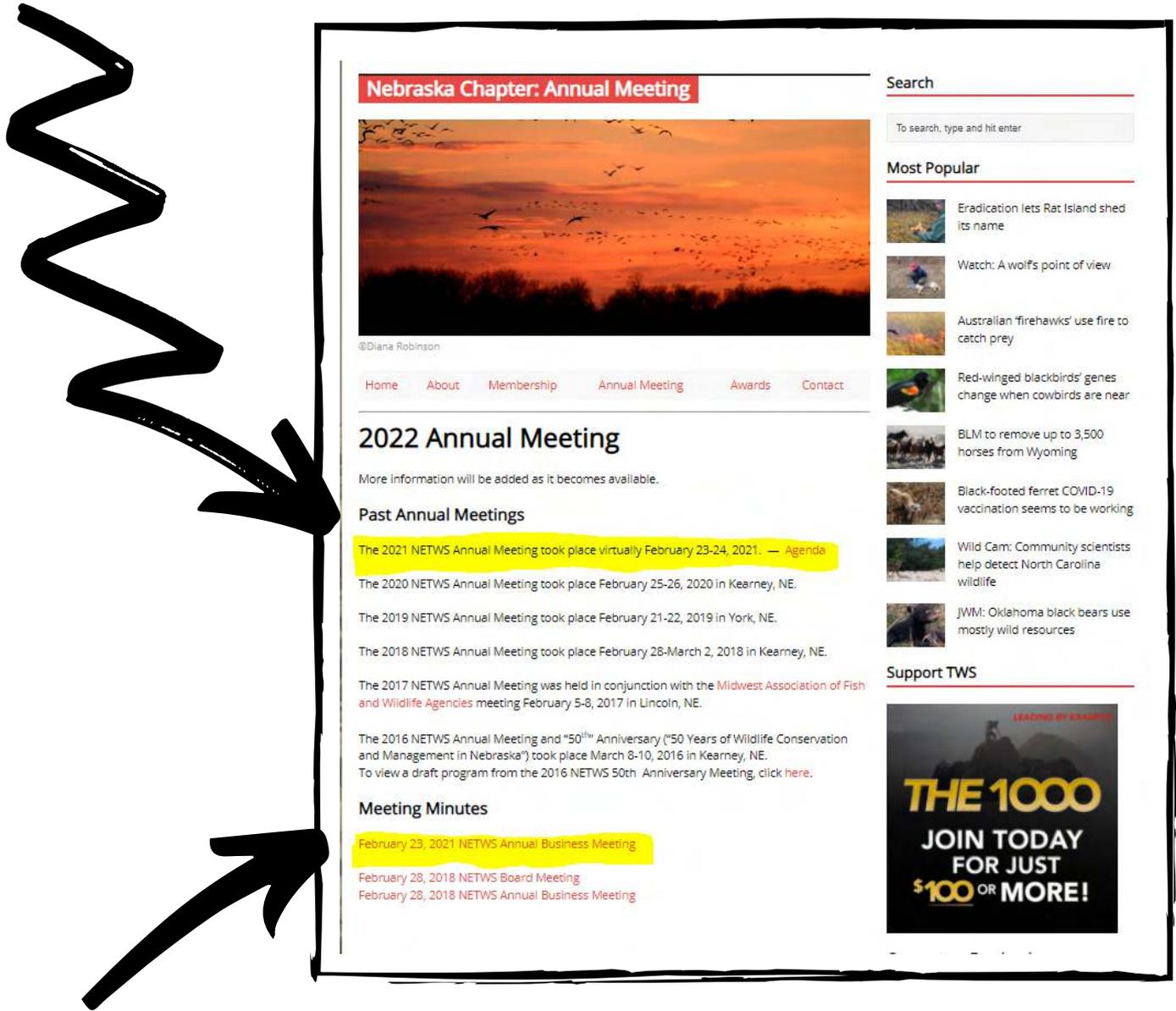


**Amanda Ciurej, Newsletter Editor**  
[amanda\\_ciurej@fws.gov](mailto:amanda_ciurej@fws.gov)

## **Congratulations to our new members!**

## The 2021 Annual Nebraska Chapter Meeting

We held the Nebraska Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting from Tuesday, February 23 through Wednesday, February 24, 2021, virtually, over Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our theme this year was "Current Issues in Wildlife." A copy of the agenda with the scheduled presentations, meetings, and social events is available for viewing on the Nebraska Chapter website at <https://wildlife.org/nebraska/annual-meeting/>. See the image below to locate the agenda on the website.



## NETWS Annual Business Meeting

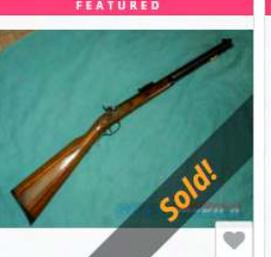
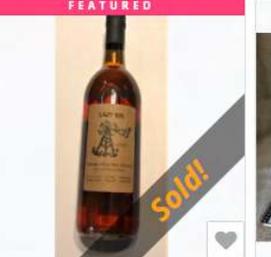
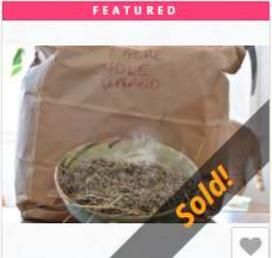
Our annual business meeting was held in conjunction with the annual Nebraska Chapter meeting virtually over Zoom. Want to know what our board and committee members are planning? Want to know what was discussed? To view a copy of the meeting minutes recording during the Annual Business Meeting, visit our the Nebraska Chapter website at <https://wildlife.org/nebraska/annual-meeting/>. See the image above to locate the meeting minutes on the website.

## Our Main Fundraiser - The Silent Auction

The Nebraska Chapter held our main fundraising event of the year, our silent auction! Like our annual meeting, our silent auction was held virtually over Zoom and it came without Gerry Steinauer's humor and antics. While we were unable to experience Gerry's humor and antics in person (hopefully next year!), he along with Scott Wessel collected and featured a wonderful array of locally sourced products from across the state of Nebraska at this year's event. Our auction this year brought in a total of \$1,203 dollars.

Thank you to our auction item donors, our generous bidders, and our lucky winners!

Below are pictures of the 15 items that were available for bid during the auction.

 <p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p><b>Sold!</b></p>	 <p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p><b>Sold!</b></p>	 <p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p><b>Sold!</b></p>	 <p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p><b>Sold!</b></p>	 <p><b>Sold!</b></p>
<p><b>Beaver Pelt Painting</b> \$80.00 value: Priceless bids: 7</p>	<p><b>Hammer Double Reed Cuckoo</b> \$85.00 value: Priceless bids: 8</p>	<p><b>Muzzleloader (.54 Caliber)</b> \$225.00 value: Priceless bids: 7</p>	<p><b>Nebraska Whiskey</b> \$60.00 value: Priceless bids: 6</p>	<p><b>The Classic Botany Book ...</b> \$24.00 value: Priceless bids: 5</p>
 <p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p><b>Sold!</b></p>	 <p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p><b>Sold!</b></p>	 <p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p><b>Sold!</b></p>	 <p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p><b>Sold!</b></p>	 <p><b>Sold!</b></p>
<p><b>Prairie Plains Tallgrass Prairie</b> \$170.00 value: Priceless bids: 8</p>	<p><b>Cardinal Drawing</b> \$65.00 value: Priceless bids: 10</p>	<p><b>Grain Place Organic Product</b> \$95.00 value: Priceless bids: 14</p>	<p><b>Great Plains Book Collect...</b> \$57.00 value: Priceless bids: 3</p>	<p><b>The Classic Waterfowl Bo...</b> \$27.00 value: Priceless bids: 4</p>
 <p><b>Sold!</b></p>	 <p><b>Sold!</b></p>	 <p><b>Sold!</b></p>	 <p><b>Sold!</b></p>	 <p><b>Sold!</b></p>
<p><b>Iridescent Wild Turkey Feather</b> \$95.00 value: Priceless bids: 3</p>	<p><b>Northern Squall Snow Goose</b> \$35.00 value: Priceless bids: 3</p>	<p><b>Sharp-tailed Grouse Decoy</b> \$75.00 value: Priceless bids: 9</p>	<p><b>Shirley Snyder Jam Collec...</b> \$90.00 value: Priceless bids: 16</p>	<p><b>The Easy Chair Reader</b> \$20.00 bids: 5</p>

## Virtual Trivia Night Was a Kahoot!

Yes, we misused the word kahoot! The title has a ring to it though, does it?

On Tuesday night of the Annual Meeting, from 7:00 pm to 9:00pm, members gathered online for a virtual game night using Kahoot. Kahoot is a free interactive online quiz/ gaming platform. In order to win the most points, players must answer quickly. The quicker a player answers a question, the more points the player receives. Members who joined in on the fun were asked to create a unique identity and challenged to answer, at a rapid fire pace, 99 questions covering topics in Animal Anatomy and Physiology, Plant Physiology, Zoology, Biogeography, Biology, Science, Ecology, and Genetics. Thank you to all of the players for making our virtual game night a success. Out of 12 total players/ teams, only three could place. In first place was Halle Lambeau, second place was team Kelly & Jenn Corman, and third place was team Bees (Cassidy and Scott Wessel). Congratulations to our winners! And a special thanks to Shaun Dunn for creating and moderating the virtual trivia night.

## Photo Contest Winners by Category

### **Wildlife (non-captive)**

*Love Bugs taken by Jenn Corman*

### **Wildlife (captive or trail camera)**

*Top Knot taken by Ben Wheeler*

### **Plants and Scenery**

*Soldier Creek Sunrise taken by Ben Wheeler*

### **Human and Wildlife Interaction**

*Evening Embers taken by Ben Wheeler*

### **Best in Show**

*Peek taken by Ben Wheeler*

*(Continues on Next Page)*



The Wildlife Society  
NEBRASKA CHAPTER

Nebraska Chapter  
The Wildlife Society

# 2021 PHOTO CONTEST

**SHOW YOUR BEST PHOTOWORKS  
AND GET A CHANCE TO WIN \$50 (per category)**

(1) Wildlife (non-captive), (2) Wildlife (captive or trail camera),  
(3) Plants/Scenery, (4) Human/Wildlife Interaction

**ENTRY** →

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- Limited to 2 photo entries per category.
- Must be member of NE TWS & a conference registrant.
- No manipulation of photographs is permitted except for cropping, adjustment of contrast and brightness, and color correction.
- Entries cannot include photographs submitted at a previous NE TWS meeting.
- 4 Category winners will be selected by judges, based on technical excellence, composition, and artistic merit.  
1 Best of Show winner will be selected by registered attendees of the Annual Meeting.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**  
**February 19th**

**Winners will be announced:**  
**February 24th during Awards**

**TO PARTICIPATE:**  
**Email: ERIN.CONSIDINE@USDA.GOV | Subject Line: 'NETWS Photo'**  
**Include (per photo): which category & photo title**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

## Photo Contest Winners by Category continued...

Congratulations to our winners and thank you Erin Considine for organizing the contest. Below are the winning photos.



*Love Bugs by Jenn Corman*



*Peek by Ben Wheeler*



*Evening Embers by Ben Wheeler*



*Top Knot by Ben Wheeler*



*Soldier Creek Sunrise by Ben Wheeler*

## Staying Connected with Wildlife Professionals

### Upcoming TWS Organizational Unit Virtual Events and Resources

Stay connected within The Wildlife Society organization during the pandemic. Many TWS organization units (Sections, Chapters, Student Chapters, and Working Groups) are holding annual meetings and other events virtually as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. These events are free or low in cost and open to everyone. New events are added regularly at this link: <https://wildlife.org/org-units-virtual-resources/>.

### TWS Women of Wildlife

Women of Wildlife is a professional group within The Wildlife Society intended to promote and support women in the wildlife profession and to provide mentoring opportunities and advice. For more information about this group, check them out on their home page at <https://wildlife.org/wow/>. You can also follow this group on Facebook (TWS Women of Wildlife) and Instagram (twswow).



## Time to Renew Your Membership

Most members renew their membership with the Nebraska Chapter at our annual meeting. Typically members have been able to renew their membership at our annual chapter meeting. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the group did not meet in person this year so the opportunity to pay in person was not available. To renew your membership, please go online to <https://wildlife.org/nebraska/membership>.

Membership benefits and opportunities include:

- Attendance at the Annual Meeting and participation in its associated symposia, workshops, technical papers, banquet, association with professionals and more.
- Receipt of the quarterly chapter newsletter.
- The chapter offers research grants, committee activities, fund-raising events, and awards for members and non-members who excel in wildlife conservation/management.
- Development of public policy statements based on scientific research to govern management of Nebraska's wildlife resources.
- Opportunities to meet and discuss contemporary wildlife management and conservation issues with other wildlife professionals.

## Letter from the Editor - A Call for Submissions

Hello Nebraska Chapter,

My name is Amanda Ciurej and I am a Fish and Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I am also the new Newsletter Editor for the Nebraska Chapter. I really hope you enjoyed reading this spring issue of our newsletter as much as I enjoyed writing it. Our newsletter is intended to serve as a communication tool across the Nebraska Chapter. It is intended to provide members (professionals and students) with the latest comings and goings and to relay important information from discussions occurring across and between our board and committee chairs and members. My vision for our newsletter is to provide a forum for members to share experiences, tell stories, provide advice and useful resources, and share in our commonalities for wildlife. In being a forum for our members, I hope that we can have healthy debates over wildlife issues as well.

That said, I want to hear from you. I want to hear from both professionals, students, and student chapters. I am in need of the following types of stories:

- testimonials about the TWS Certification,
- professional and student spotlights (I will randomly pick someone for each issue)
- wildlife and plant surveys and monitoring (e.g. Sandhill Crane counts on the Platte River),
- habitat restoration or enhancement projects
- accomplishments and awards
- valuable lessons learned in the workplace or at school
- funny stories (e.g. How to not get spray by a skunk)
- activities going on in our student chapters
- career advice and opportunities for our students and professionals
- recently published scientific literature
- coolest, scariest, or deadliest encounters with wildlife or plants
- news from board and committee members

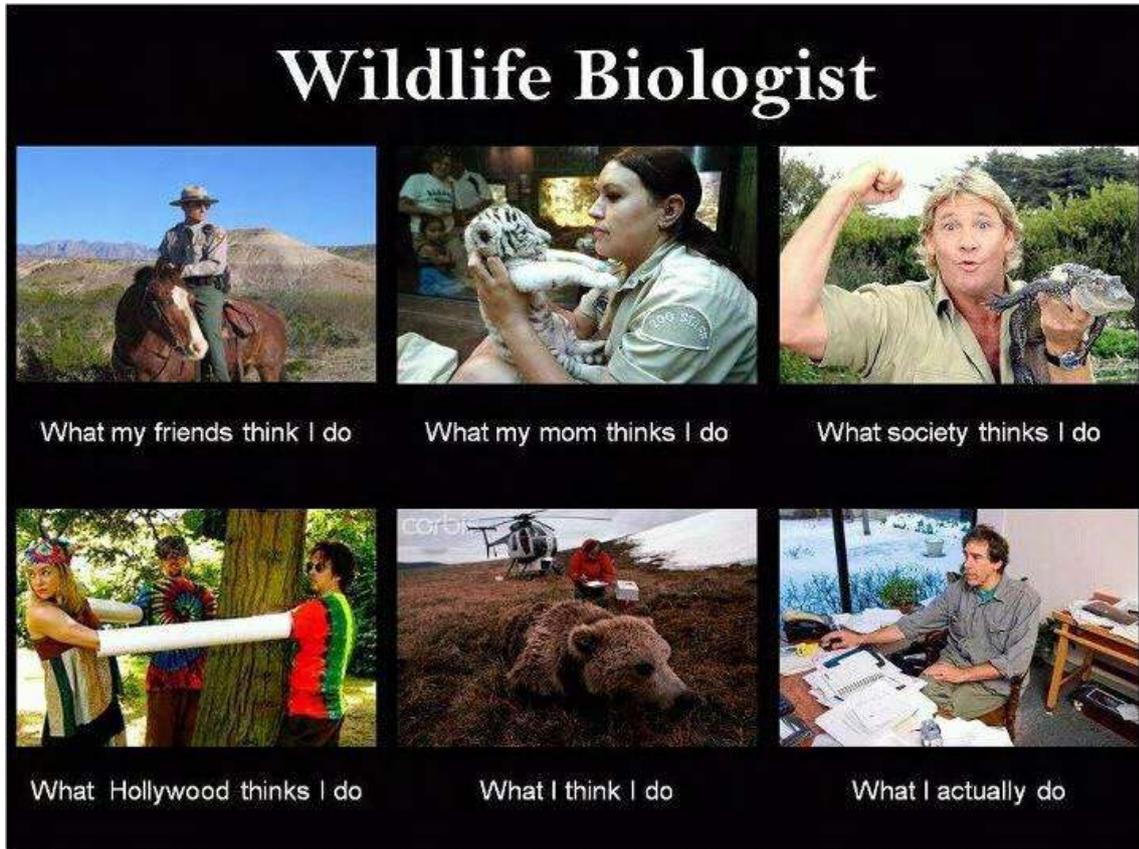
If you have any one type of these stories to tell or another idea for a story not currently on this list that you want to hear, please email those (and any pictures) to me by or before July 1, 2021, for inclusion in our summer issue of the newsletter.



NETWS Newsletter Editor  
amanda\_ciurej@fws.gov



## Wildlife Professions Explained Using Memes



## Follow Us Online



Follow the Nebraska Chapter on Facebook by joining **NETWS - Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society**



Welcome to the Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Visit us on the on the Nebraska Chapter website at <https://wildlife.org/nebraska/>