



# CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

Winter 2021 Volume 77

## CMPS Officers

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Shelly Deisch

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Embre Hall

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**TWS Council Representative:**  
Andrea Orabona

**Members At-large:**  
Carl Bowden  
Daly Edmunds  
Heidi Plank

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Aleshia Rummel

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CMPS website:  
<https://wildlife.org/cmp/>

## Message from the President

Listen For Your Place In It All

Hidden within this newsletter, we've placed (with permission from thecrew@storypeople.com) a delightful artistic message from Story People. See if you can find it! This particular art piece struck a chord with me as a career wildlifer and someone who embraces the conservation of our only home. The words reminded me that the "song of raindrops" beckons me to be grateful for this wildlife career. I get to be out in nature, hear and absorb its cacophony of sounds, and bring home an income.

Compared to when I was a budding wildlife biologist 1,000 years ago, there are now numerous avenues we can create, follow, or move away from to find our way to contribute to natural resource conservation and appreciation. I find it impressive that today's opportunities allow for the combination of multiple disciplines and multiple human diversity to shape natural resource vocations and avocations. Our profession, and the people who partake, are becoming more and more like the ecosystems we study – a network of seemingly unconnected thingamajigs, actually functioning together as a whole!

Gaining deeper understandings of our place in the ecosystem includes human networks. One avenue to "drink in the sky" is to connect with professional, non-governmental, and/or community-based organizations dedicated to the conservation and perpetuation of natural resources.

Whether we are new to or deeply rooted into our natural resource career, we can find that "rhythm in things", that "heartbeat" which enables us to respect, study, observe, honor, and interact with nature and each other. I encourage all of you to "listen for your place in it all" and find an organization, or several, or invent one, that triggers your enthusiasm and engages your talents. Volunteer, learn new things, absorb, participate, and you will be rewarded by the "stretch of the trees".

- Shelly Deisch, CMPS President



## Section Business

### **CMPS Executive Board Changes**

CMPS thanks outgoing Board Members At-large Andrew Little and Julia Nawrocki for their service, time, and effort on the CMPS Board! With our elections completed at the end of July, the CMPS Executive Board now welcomes new Board Members At-large Heidi Plank and Carl Bowden, and President-Elect Stephanie Ferrero. For more information on Heidi, Carl, and Stephanie please see the Summer 2021 CMPS Newsletter for their biographies. Tara Wertz, another Board Member At-large, has moved on to a new job outside of the CMPS borders, and her position on the Board is now vacant. CMPS also appreciates Embre Hall for moving from a Board Member At-large position to become the Vice-President of CMPS. Daly Edmunds is a newly appointed Board Member At-large.

### **Daly Edmunds, New Board Member At-large**

Daly Edmunds is the policy and outreach director for Audubon Rockies, a regional office of National Audubon Society that serves CO, UT, and WY. Daly is based in Fort Collins, Colorado. She works extensively with government representatives, conservation organizations, and community leaders in regards to conservation of Greater Sage-grouse and public land management decisions that impact the sagebrush ecosystem. Daly received her master's in Zoology and Physiology from the University of Wyoming, which centered on pronghorn movement patterns. Prior to joining Audubon in 2009, she worked for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, National Wildlife Federation, and Wyoming Wildlife Federation. In addition to feathered creatures, she's been involved in extensive field work that includes black bears, white-tailed deer, grey wolves, and island foxes. She served on the WY-TWS board from 2014-2020.



Daly Edmunds, new Board Member At-large



Andrew Little, outgoing



Julia Nawrocki, outgoing

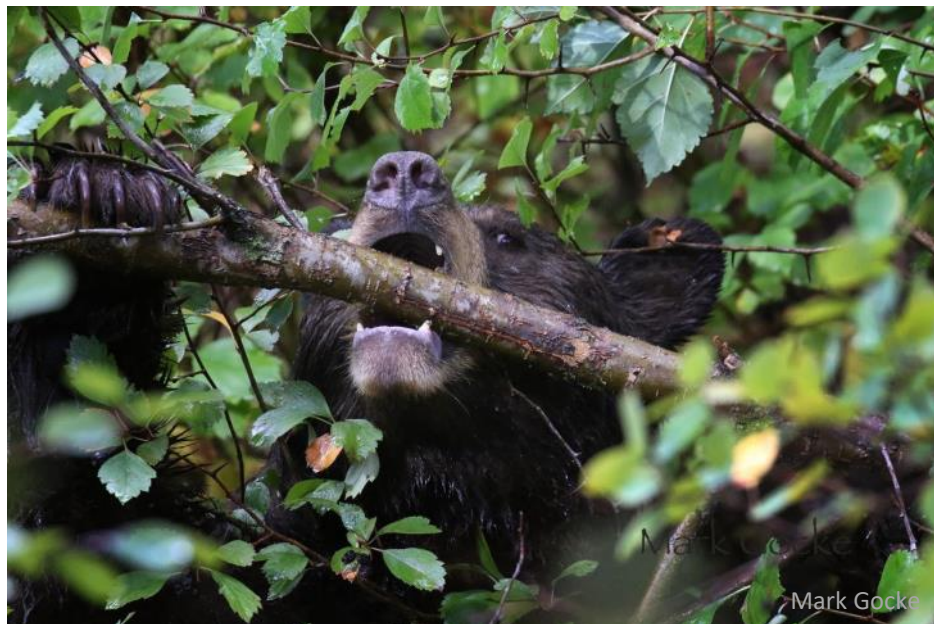


## Section Business (continued)

### CMPS Annual Meeting at Kansas Natural Resources Conference



CMPS will join the Kansas TWS Chapter to co-host the Kansas Natural Resources Conference. The 2022 conference will take place February 3-4, 2022 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan, Kansas. Registration for the in-person meeting is open, and you can submit an abstract or book a hotel room by visiting the conference website at <http://www.kansasnrc.org/>. Check back for more updates!



## Section Business (continued)

### CMPS 2021 Summary of Awards



Kent Montei and his wife, Beth Montei, received an award from Ducks Unlimited

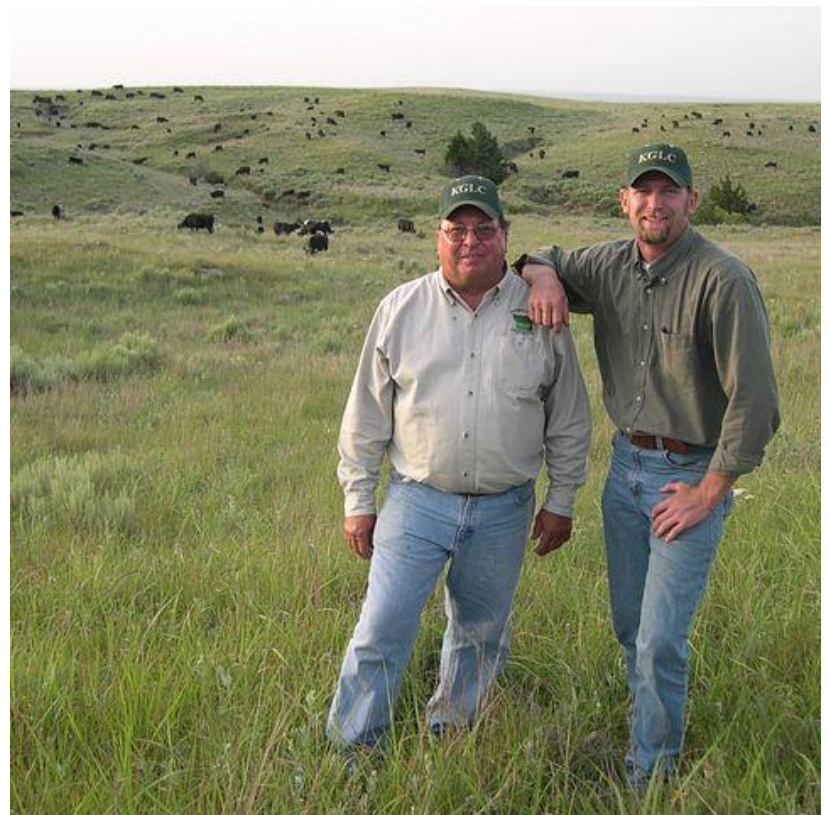


Kent Montei

The Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society (TWS) received and voted on nominations for the 2021 Professional Award, Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award, and CMPS Executive Group Achievement Award. The following award recipients were named:

Kent Montei received the Professional Award for his significant contributions to the wildlife conservation. During his resilient wildlife management career, Kent has been consulted as a wildlife expert for a number of federal technical reports and an ecological textbook. He became an important leader with partner conservation organization Ducks Unlimited in Kansas. Kent has been involved in key conversations about professional certification and co-authored a paper in The Wildlife Society Bulletin regarding this topic. He served as Secretary and Treasurer for CMPS in the mid-1990s.

Alexander Ranch in Sun City, Kansas, received the Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award for their innovative approaches to holistic habitat management and inclusion of wildlife education opportunities in their ranching operations. Alexander Ranch leads communities in applying strategies that follow natural processes, which



Ted Alexander (left) and son Brian Alexander (right) from the Alexander Ranch. Photo credit: Environmental Stewardship.



## Section Business (continued)

### CMPS 2021 Summary of Awards (continued)

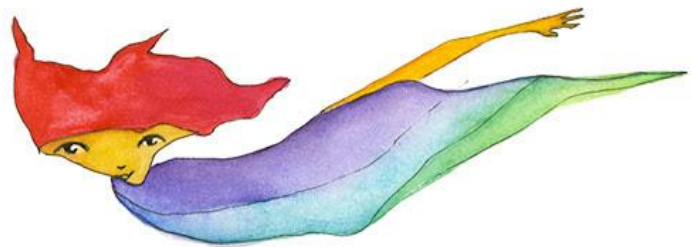
have allowed a diverse array of wildlife species to flourish on their land, including several that are state and federally listed. They focus on soil health and water conservation, as well as following natural disturbances, such as fire regime. Alexander Ranch shares what they have learned about the benefits of caring for the land with a wide audience from neighbors to urban college students.

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture (RWBJV) received the CMPS Executive Group Achievement Award for outstanding contributions to wildlife conservation through collaborative enhancement of agro-ecological habitat. The RWBJV team includes Andy Bishop, Greg Brinkman, Roger Grosse, Niki Messmer, Cortney Schaefer, and Dana Varner. One of their nominators noted “Since 2017, the RWBJV has leveraged \$17.1 million in funding and positively impacted 60,750 acres.” RWBJV partners with landowners, organizations, and agencies to design, implement, and monitor management practices that facilitate resiliency, including wetland restoration, prescribed fire, and sustainable prescribed grazing, across the ecological landscape. RWBJV’s diversified partnership framework and functional agro-ecological vision are exemplary models for effective conservation. More information on RWBJV can be found on their website: <https://www.rwbjv.org/>.

Also, please check our Summer 2021 Newsletter (page 7) or go to <https://wildlife.org/greg-schenbeck-recognized-for-his-service-with-tws/> to read about Greg Schenbeck and his service with TWS. He recently received the Distinguished Service Award from TWS.



There is a rhythm in things.  
A heartbeat.  
Waves in the ocean.  
The stretch of trees  
as they drink in the sky,  
and the song  
of raindrops on your window  
while you listen  
for your place in it all.



finding your place, gabriel andreas  
art, matthew andreas

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# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## TWS Council Report

### **Andrea Orabona, Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative**

Greetings and happy autumn, everyone! Despite all meetings being virtual during my first year as your CMPS Representative to TWS Council, the experience has been engaging, inspiring, and rewarding. Remember that I am your voting voice on Council for CMPS, so please feel free to contact me with any thoughts, comments, questions, or concerns ([Andrea.Orabona@wyo.gov](mailto:Andrea.Orabona@wyo.gov); 307-349-2999 cell).

TWS President Carol Chambers has kept Council active and moving forward; we met virtually at our Regular Meeting on October 24 and 25, and November 5. Here are some notes and news items from The Wildlife Society – our professional scientific and educational organization.

### ***Annual Conferences***

As of the Regular Meeting, registration for the 2021 virtual conference exceeded expectations, with 2,271 registrants (974 professionals, 243 new professionals, 696 students, and 39 retired), which exceeded the Operations Plan goal by 771. While maybe not as socially gratifying as an in-person conference, I applaud TWS staff for their behind-the-scenes work creating a valuable learning and networking experience, including enhancements such as more live engagement opportunities, student engagement initiatives, and federal agency participation. Planning is already underway for an in-person 2022 conference in Spokane, WA on November 6-10, so check TWS's website for conference details as they become available. The 2023 conference is slated for Louisville, KY, and the 2024 conference will be held in Baltimore, MD.

### ***New TWS CEO***

With former CEO Ed Thompson's recent retirement, TWS has hired a new CEO – Dr. Ed Arnett. Ed has a rich and diverse career history, and has already proven to be a perfect fit for TWS. To hire a new CEO, Council formed an 8-member Search Committee. They conducted 3 interviews of 21 applicants, with each interview differing slightly. President Carol Chambers called a Special Meeting of TWS Council to hear the Search Committee's recommendations and make the final selection. I asked Ed to express his vision for his first 100 days in office, and was pleased with the answer. Ed is data-driven, wants to lead by example (he is a new member of The 1000!), plans to keep TWS financially strong, and will review where we are now and what our immediate and future opportunities might be. Ed envisions that TWS will expand student engagement, improve communications, elevate our profile, and roll DEI into our Strategic Plan. We welcome TWS CEO Ed Arnett, and look forward to a long, successful, and enjoyable relationship!

### ***Awards***

Congratulations to CMPS members Bob Lanka (WY), Pat Magee (CO), and Nicki Frey (UT) for receiving TWS awards in 2021! Bob received TWS's Special Recognition Service Award for his multi-year leadership of the Bylaws Subcommittee and the in-depth revisions and updates that resulted from his guidance. Pat and Nicki each received a Fellow Award for the Central Mountains and Plains Section. As stated on TWS's website, "The Fellows Program recognizes members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to our profession. TWS Fellows serve as ambassadors for the Society and as such are encouraged to engage in outreach and other activities that will benefit and promote both TWS and the wildlife profession." Sincere thanks to our award winners for their dedication to TWS and our profession!

## TWS Council Report (continued)

### ***Budget and Operations***

TWS's net operating income is solid and above budget, our equity continues to grow, and we received a clean annual audit. Our Operations Plan performance is at 90% effectiveness in achieving plan goals, which is on target for this fiscal year. Staff has also launched a government affairs action center, a governance guide for Sections and Chapters, and a free webinar series featuring TWS Working Groups. Within 6 months, 5 webinars were in place, and received views from 44 US states agencies, 18 countries, 12 US federal agencies, and 2 media affiliations (BBC and AP), as well as consultants, non-governmental organizations, universities, and high schools. Check out the webinars at: <https://wildlife.org/webinars/>.

### ***Committees and Working Groups***

TWS President-Elect Gordon Batcheller is currently working on populating committees for his upcoming term as TWS President. Please let Gordon know if you are interested in serving. TWS also has 27 Working Groups that address a diversity of topics; no need to be an expert to join, just be interested! These groups and Council function together, with Committees helping to engage Working Groups into Council in a larger way.

### ***Strategic Plan***

TWS will update our current Strategic Plan for 2024-2028.

### ***International Status and IUCN***

TWS is truly an international organization! TWS is a new voting member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which is the largest conservation organization in the world. And TWS now has Chapters in the United States, Canada, and Norway, with a Mexico Chapter underway and perhaps Japan to follow. So, when referring to our organization, we are no longer "national" or "the parent chapter". In the words of past TWS President Gary Potts, "We Are *The Wildlife Society*"!

I hope to see many of you in person at our State, Section, and TWS meetings in 2022!

Thanks for all you do for our natural resources – Andrea



Photo by Mark Gocke



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## Upcoming Events

### **Kansas Natural Resources Conference (and CMPS Annual Meeting)**

Manhattan, Kansas

February 3 — 4, 2022

VENUE AND LODGING: Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, Kansas

MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.kansasnrc.org/>

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### **TWS CMPS Student Conclave**

Stillwater, Oklahoma

March 17—20, 2022

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wildlife.org/next-generation/annual-conclaves/>

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### **WAFWA Mountain Lion Workshop**

Hood River, Oregon

April 4 — 7, 2022

VENUE AND LODGING: Best Western Plus, Hood River, Oregon

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wafwa.org/workshops/mountain-lion-workshop/>

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### **American Society of Mammalogists Meeting**

Tucson, Arizona

June 17— 21, 2022

MORE INFORMATION: <https://mammalmeetings.org/>

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### **American Ornithological Society Meeting**

San Juan, Puerto Rico

June 27—July 2, 2022

MORE INFORMATION: <https://americanornithology.org/meetings/annual-meeting/>

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### **Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (JMIH)**

Spokane, Washington

July 27— 31, 2022

MORE INFORMATION: <https://asih.org/meetings>

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### **Western Agencies Sage & Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop**

Logan, Utah

August 15 — 18, 2022

VENUE AND LODGING: Best Western Plus, Hood River, Oregon

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wafwa.org/workshops/mountain-lion-workshop/>





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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President-Elect Nate Jones

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President-Elect Adam Ahlers

#### NEBRASKA

President Will Inselman  
President-Elect Andrew Little

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President Jessica Johnson  
President-Elect Rachel Bush

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

President Julie Lindstrom  
President-Elect Brady Neiles

#### UTAH

President Blair Stringham  
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Hanson

#### WYOMING

President Tayler LaSharr  
President-Elect Aly Courtemanch

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