

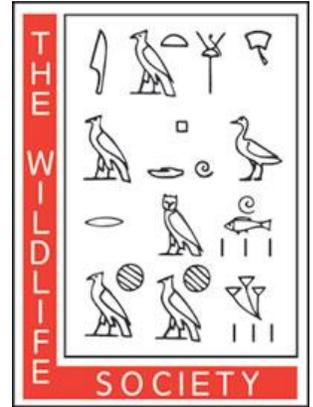


North Central Section of The Wildlife Society

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

Together, as a community, we are stronger.

Fall 2020 Newsletter



AT A GLANCE...

Encouragement from President LeDee on page 2

Updates from Section Representative Lederle on page 3

Budget status from Treasurer Meister on page 4

Dr. Elizabeth Flaherty wins the 2020 Student Chapter Advisor of the Year on page 5

Important NCS events at the 2021 Midwest on page 6

Meet the Candidates on page 7 and don't forget to vote at:
http://twselection.org/election_ncs_2021/index.cfm

State Chapter updates starting on page 13

Check out all the inspiring Student Chapter updates starting on page 15

Great wildlife art on page 23!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*Olivia LeDee*

First and foremost, I hope that this message finds you and your family in good health. Our professional work is important, but without physical and mental well-being, we can offer little to wildlife management and conservation. I hope you find moments of solace in nature, exploring new parks, adding to your life list, and taking up a new outdoor hobby.

As you have concerns about careers, professional development, and navigating the Zoom landscape, The North Central Section is here to offer support. In October, we launched a monthly webinar series (October-February) to address common concerns: resumes and interviewing, effective online meetings, partnerships in conservation, and analytical skills. Thank you to the volunteers, sharing their skills and expertise! We look forward to seeing you in the next session!

To reduce barriers to conference participation, we worked with the American Fisheries Society, North Central Division and the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to design a travel award program. The program will supplement travel, not only for students as initially proposed, but also early career professionals to attend the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. We hope this reduces one of the barriers to agency professionals and furthers continuing education and skill development, benefiting individuals and organizations.

Finally, we hope to see you (virtually!) at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. In addition to our annual member meeting, please join us for a NCS-hosted workshop! Keep an eye out for more information!

SECTION REPRESENTATIVE

Pat Lederle

The Wildlife Society held its Annual Conference (September 28 – October 2) virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The decision to hold a virtual conference was made in early June 2020 and TWS staff spent the ensuing months scrambling to conduct a virtual meeting; something they had never done before. Nearly 2,500 attended the meeting after TWS had originally budgeted for about 900. Despite early connection challenges, there were hundreds of opportunities to watch presentations on the latest developments in wildlife science and policy, an engaging plenary session, and many additional times to “meet” and interact with fellow wildlifers. This has resulted in Council discussions regarding how should future conferences be held; virtually, in person, or a mix? If you have ideas what would work best for you and your colleagues, please let me know and I’ll pass on the rationale.

Since the Spring newsletter, the Wildlife Society Council met (again virtually) six times to conduct business on behalf of members (May 22 and 29, July 2 and 6, and September 26 and 27). In addition, I took part in numerous virtual meetings as part of the Group Achievement, Fellows, Standing Position Statements, and Diversity committees. Beginning this year, I’ll also be serving on the Publications Committee and an ad hoc Committee on the use of non-lead ammunition.

- Congratulations to Drs. Gary Roloff and Tim VanDeelen for becoming TWS Fellows. The Section had a very strong showing and we would have had three Fellows, yet only two per Section are allowed.
- The Executive Committee on behalf of Council approved the Section’s Bylaws revision in April.
- Council approved the establishment of a TWS Office of the Ombuds, with a mission and purpose to serve as an independent, confidential, neutral and informal resource for Wildlife Society members and staff to seek assistance, discuss concerns, and identify available options to help prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts. The draft Charter of the Office is being reviewed by TWS legal counsel and I should be able to report more progress soon.
- Issues surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) have been getting a lot of press lately and Council has been made aware through emails and letters how many members feel about the issues. As part of the TWS response, we have initiated development of a DEI strategic plan.
- The fiscal status of TWS is very good and we are running a surplus, yet the pandemic still looms large and creates uncertainties related to future years. We are taking a dynamic budgeting approach, revisiting the budget every several months and making adjustments if needed.
- Over the years, funds have been allocated to the Council Action Fund and it has grown large enough that Council is working on mechanisms to make funds available to Sections and Chapters through a granting program. Stay tuned!
- The Bylaws Committee has been busy and proposed changes will be presented to the Sections and Chapters for review and revision before they go to the general membership for a vote.
- Because of banking and tax laws, there is renewed interest to incorporate all of the Sections and Chapters. Currently, the Western and Canadian Sections and about a dozen Chapters are incorporated. I have been working with Cameron Kovach, TWS Chief of Staff, discussing the logistics and implications of such a move for the North Central Section.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT
Scott Meister

Treasurer's Report
 October 30, 2020

GENERAL FUND (Checking & Savings)

General Fund Balance as of April 28, 2020 \$8,544.33

Checking Starting Balance	\$6,946.49
Checking Income	
Deposit verification	\$0.01
Membership dues: 2nd Qtr 2020	\$450.00
Membership dues: 3rd Qtr 2020	\$480.00
Subtotal	\$930.01
Checking Expenses	
Transfer to Professional Development Fund	\$1,246.50
Transfer to Professional Development Fund	\$250.00
Subtotal	\$1,496.50

CHECKING BALANCE as of October 30, 2020 \$6,380.00

Savings Starting Balance	\$1,597.84
Savings Income	
Interest (4/1/20 - 9/30/20)	\$0.61
Subtotal	\$0.61
Savings Expenses	
None	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$0.00

SAVINGS BALANCE as of October 30, 2020 \$1,598.45

GENERAL FUND Balance as of October 30, 2020 \$7,978.45

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

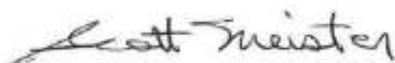
Balance as of April 28, 2020 \$43,873.94

PD Income	
Interest (4/1/20 - 9/30/20)	\$55.80
Transfer from Checking	\$1,246.50
Transfer from Checking	\$250.00
Subtotal	\$1,552.30
PD Expenses	
none	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$0.00

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Balance as of October 30, 2020 \$45,426.24

TOTAL FUNDS as of October 30, 2020 \$53,404.69

Respectfully submitted by the Treasurer of the North Central Section:



Scott Meister

AWARDS

The Purdue Student Chapter would like to recognize and congratulate our advisor, Dr. Elizabeth Flaherty, for receiving the 2020 Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award from The Wildlife Society. Dr. Flaherty supports our chapter tremendously and has played an integral role in ensuring that members gain an array of knowledge and experiences relevant to the wildlife profession. We are grateful for the work and care that she puts into serving as our advisor and as a mentor to students.



Dr. Flaherty demonstrates measuring DBH in a wildlife techniques course.

NCS EVENTS AT THE MIDWEST FISH AND WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

Annual Member Meeting - North Central Section of The Wildlife Society. February 5, Noon-2:00PM Central Time

Self-Care for Conservationists

Thursday, February 4th in the AM (exact hours TBD)

Fee: Free for TWS NCS members (must be a TWS NCS member to attend)

Overview: This workshop is for everyone from early professionals to all levels of leadership and authority who are struggling with self-care during these uncertain times. Michelle Doerr with Anavah Consultants, LLC will be presenting.

For questions regarding this workshop contact: Gary Potts, gary.potts@sbcglobal.net

What's Next? Steps on the Pathway to Finding the Right Graduate Position or Job

Thursday, February 4th in the AM (exact hours TBD)

Fee: Free for students

Overview: Determining the next career move can be daunting even during “normal” times. How do I find the right job? Do I go to graduate school first? If so, how do I get into the right position, with the right advisor(s), in the right program? We will begin to answer some of these questions in a morning, modular workshop. We will devote about an hour to short presentations and some discussion on tips for getting into graduate school. Then, after a short break, we will devote about an hour to short presentations and some discussion on tips for employment. We will wrap up our time with closing remarks on the importance of TWS and AFS in helping you achieve your goals.

For questions regarding this workshop contact: Jason Riddle, Jason.Riddle@uwsp.edu

CANDIDATES: *PRESIDENT-ELECT*

Tyler Harms

I've been a proud member of The Wildlife Society since 2007, and can vividly remember attending my first Iowa Chapter meeting to present my graduate research. My anxiety over presenting to a room full of seasoned wildlife professionals was quickly diminished by the welcoming and relaxed atmosphere created by 120 folks who truly loved their jobs. It's an honor to be asked to serve these folks and the many others throughout the North Central Section as President-Elect.

I've served in leadership roles at nearly all levels of the Society throughout my membership. I currently chair the Awards Committee for the North Central Section as well as the Honorary Membership and Special Recognition Awards Committee at the national level. I also served as chair of the national Jim McDonough Award Committee from 2017-2018 and the Iowa Chapter Education and Information Committee from 2012-2014. From 2013-2016, I served as President-Elect, President, and Past President of the Iowa Chapter, a time during which I assisted with the update of our chapter website and newsletter. I earned my Associate Wildlife Biologist certification in 2012 and had the great opportunity to participate in the Society's Leadership Institute in 2015.



I'm currently the Wildlife Biometrician and Deer Program Leader for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, a position I've held since 2017. In this role, I provide technical support on all things "wildlife math" to our Wildlife Bureau and provide guidance and leadership on population management of white-tailed deer. I earned a B.S. in Animal Ecology, an M.S. in Wildlife Ecology, and am currently finishing up a Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology and Statistics, all from Iowa State University (yes, I am a Cyclone fan).

We've been lucky to have several great leaders serve as President of our Section for the past many years, and my goal as President-Elect will be to not only continue to build upon the solid foundation of those leaders in making our Section more relevant and appealing to members and non-members alike, but to also advance the ability and opportunity for our Section to serve as a voice for wildlife conservation and management issues in our member states during a time when individual states are facing challenges voicing positions on these issues. I'm excited and grateful for the opportunity to lead our great Section!

Tony Hewitt

I have been an active member of the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (Chapter) and have been engaged with the North Central Section (NCS) and The Wildlife Society (TWS) since 2008. Like many, I became a member as an undergrad, while at Concordia College - Moorhead, MN. Greg Hoch, Wayne Brininger, and John Loegering were all my mentors early on and, all being Past Presidents, emphasized the importance of TWS. TWS was my whole network and it created the opportunity for my first USFWS position. After finishing my Masters in Natural Resource Management from North Dakota State University, I continued on with the USFWS to start my career as the Wildlife Biologist for Sherburne NWR. I became more connected with the conservation community and it made my work more efficient because of my contacts in the Chapter. I wanted to continue to build those relationships, so in 2014 I decided to step-up for a role as a Region Representative and took over as Chair of the Non-Toxic Ammunition Committee, a topic that is very important to me.



Building my network and getting to know our community was the most important thing for me at the time. As I have progressed in my personal career, the relevancy of TWS has changed for me. The next step in my life created a whole new insight to conservation to me. I was looking for a new role that would allow me to observe conservation at the larger scale and provide the opportunities to work on specific issues. A position with the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program (Midwest Region) of the USFWS was my chance. It was eye-opening to me to see how wildlife decisions were being made at the state and regional levels. I do not always agree with all of those decisions and the Chapter became more important as an avenue to get involved with the discussions. In 2018, I was honored to be elected to the position of

President-elect for the Chapter and we held a fantastic annual meeting with our partners in conservation from the MN Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. As Minnesota Chapter President in 2019, the membership had an extraordinary year and we made sure the voices of MN wildlife biologists were heard. Our Governing Board provided a well-rounded year of activities in which we tried to provide all of our members with the help they needed to be successful. I could not be prouder to say that we won TWS Chapter of the Year for the team's accomplishments.

As we all progress through our careers, it's clear we will not all have the same desires, but each of us will continue to have needs that are dynamic. As needs change, TWS should continue to support you. In my experience, TWS has always provided opportunities in each of those stages. I have seen the information, training, and support TWS provides to students and professionals grow and improve but we can do even better for our membership and our partners in the community that haven't yet joined us. I would like to help everyone receive the support they need, whatever it may be. Although membership in the NCS has declined from the past, it is exciting to see the ideas, like the webinar series, generated by the Executive Board. Those efforts improve the relevancy of the Section for our membership. I will push NCS for relevancy. Not just NCS to the Chapters, but a relevancy for members of all ages, experiences, colors, religions, and genders. That's why I would like to serve the membership of The Wildlife Society, as President-Elect of the North Central Section. Thank you for your consideration.

CANDIDATES: *Treasurer*

Scott Meister

I have been a member of TWS since 2001 and have been serving the North Central Section as Treasurer since 2018. I am also active in the Illinois Chapter and currently serve as Conservation Affairs Representative where I strive to inform our members on important policy and act on the Chapter's behalf by contacting our elected officials. I have formerly served the Illinois Chapter as Councilperson and President. I feel fortunate to have attended many TWS conferences where I have met a wealth of diverse professionals from whom I continue to learn. I look forward to continuing engagement within TWS by staying involved at the local levels and by maintaining certification as a Certified Wildlife Biologist®.

My current role is Manager of Natural Resources for the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, a suburban Chicago agency tasked with managing 26,000 acres of woodlands, prairies, and wetlands in public trust. After receiving an M.S. in Zoology from Southern Illinois University, I began my career at my agency 18 years ago as a Wildlife Ecologist managing an over-abundant white-tailed population. I now work with and manage incredible staff who are propagating freshwater mussels, head-starting state endangered Blanding's turtles, and rearing federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonflies. Working for a land management agency with a goal of improving wildlife habitat, I also lead prescription burns and serve as project manager for stream restoration projects. During my most recent project, we removed a dam on an impaired, channelized stream and re-built nearly a mile of that stream to provide quality habitat for fish and wildlife. Seeing the on-the-ground, positive impact land managers can have to improve wildlife habitat makes my "job" incredibly fulfilling. I hope to have a similar positive impact on TWS by continuing to serve and continuing to make our organization as strong as possible.



Stephanie Shepherd

I am grateful for the opportunity to run for treasurer of the North Central Section of TWS.

I've been a biologist for the Iowa DNR's Wildlife Diversity Program since 2005, after working in Missouri and Virginia and receiving my M.S. from Iowa State University. My main professional interests are restoration ecology and prairies so Iowa has been a great place to settle down in my career. Some highlights in the first 15 years include being in a blind on a prairie chicken lek as the sun rose, hiking the Loess Hills looking for skipper butterflies and finding a number of sites with Rusty-patched Bumblebees including my own yard! I've recently bought a small acreage and am really excited to have my own land to steward for wildlife.

Another highlight in my career has been my involvement with our state TWS chapter. I served for two years as the chapter's Secretary/Treasurer and another three years as president-elect, president and then past president. For the last several years I've chaired the Awards committee which I love because I can play a part in honoring wildlife professionals and others making a difference for Iowa's wildlife.

Serving as treasurer of the North Central Section would provide a great opportunity to interact with and learn colleagues from across the region while also expanding my service to the professionals TWS represents. Thank you for the opportunity!



CANDIDATES: GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**Anna Brose**

Anna Brose is a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin – Madison under Dr. Tim Van Deelen. Prior to starting her Master's degree in 2019, Anna worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) as the Assistant Deer and Elk Ecologist in Madison. Growing up hunting, fishing, and exploring in Alaska, Anna knew from a young age that she wanted to work with wildlife, and consequently began working for the National Park Service (NPS) research division as a high schooler. Since then, she has worked for various state and federal agencies including the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and Isle Royale, Voyagers, and Yellowstone National Parks. During her employment with NPS, Anna served on the leadership team of the NPS Student Engagement Network, representing the interests of student employees to NPS leadership and communicating resources and training opportunities to student employees and their supervisors. Anna completed her Bachelor's in Wildlife and Conservation Biology at Colorado State University, where she was a member of the Student Chapter of TWS. At UW – Madison Anna studies elk habitat selection in Wisconsin in partnership with the WDNR. Anna lives outside of Madison with her husband, Tyler, and dogs, Gus and Juniper.



Find Anna at albrose@wisc.edu

Web: <https://vandeelen-drake.russell.wisc.edu/current-members/anna-brose/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/alcesanna>

Melissa Starking

I have been an active member in The Wildlife Society since 2015. Currently, I am a Ph.D. candidate in the Applied Forest and Wildlife Ecology Lab, at Michigan State University. I teach wildlife biology at the University of Michigan-Flint and act as the committee chair for the Conservation Affairs Network for the Michigan Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Previously, I attended the University of Michigan-Flint where I completed my B.S. in Wildlife Biology, obtained a Certificate in Geographic Information Systems, and my M.S. in Biology. Since beginning my Ph.D. at Michigan State University, I have completed graduate certificates in College Teaching and Spatial Ecology. I was honored to win both the Janice Lee Fenske Award and Wildlife Graduate Student of the Year in 2018 from the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society. I also served on the executive board for the Michigan Chapter-TWS in 2018.

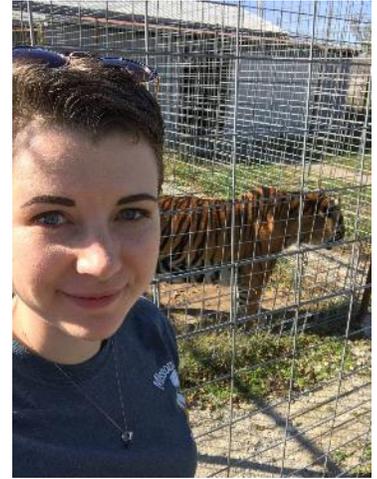
My research experience has focused on a variety of areas including modeling invasive sea lamprey, thermoregulation and habitat use of headstarted Blanding's turtles, and currently white-tailed deer and other wildlife responses to different types of silviculture in northern hardwood forests across Michigan. I have published and presented results from my research to a variety of audiences, both professional and public. These projects have enabled me to work in partnerships with the Detroit Zoological Society, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. These experiences have provided a broad knowledge base across numerous ecosystems throughout Michigan, and have involved invasive species, state species of special concern, and game and non-game species. Part of my passion for wildlife education is to share what I have learned; I have volunteered to teach numerous wildlife workshops to K-12 students and strive to further engage the public in the future. I value my membership in The Wildlife Society, and would like the opportunity to be of service to the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society.



CANDIDATES: UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Emily Barnett

My interest in conservation started early in my childhood. I regularly played in the creek and explored the woods behind our house growing up – always curious about what kind of animals made their homes there, how they lived their lives, and what I could do to help. Today, I am a Junior at the University of Missouri (Mizzou) in Columbia, MO. I am pursuing a BS in Natural Resources Science and Management with an emphasis in Fisheries and Wildlife. Taking full advantage of my time in school, I am also earning a certificate in GIS and a minor in Biology. I serve as the Events Officer of my school's chapter of Tigers for Tigers, a student run, volunteer organization promoting tiger conservation, as well as President for Mizzou's student chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Society for Undergraduate Researchers in Life Sciences. These were all clubs that I felt passionate about as a member so I chose to adopt a more hands on role in their development while continuing to learn about how I could expand their influence. As a non-traditional student at Mizzou, I feel that my time away from the academic world has been crucial to my success and offers me a unique perspective as a student. I often reflect back on how intimidating networking and student involvement were to me immediately after high school. This is what motivates me today to help other students get involved and discover the vast opportunities for learning outside of the classroom. I attended Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) first Student Leadership Breakfast and Conservation Partners Round Table event last year and was one of about 25 students able to place my input on how MDC could more successfully reach and engage younger individuals. I would like to build on this experience and assist the North Central Section in connecting with its student chapters, while providing my fellow students a way to share their input with The Wildlife Society professionals. If afforded the Undergraduate Student Representative position, I look forward to networking with the North Central Section as well as communicating with the schools within it and forming a solid foundation both for ourselves as budding professionals and for future students to build on further. I am passionate about wildlife conservation and there is nothing more fulfilling than seeing that same passion reflected in others. I ran for President of my school's student chapter of The Wildlife Society to make a difference for our members, and I am running for the Undergraduate Student Representative position for the North Central Section to reach even further and create a strong network of upcoming conservation professionals. I look forward to continuing and growing my involvement in The Wildlife Society through my college career and beyond.



Brilyn Brecka

Growing up in the Driftless Area of Wisconsin, I had the opportunity to experience the wonders of its rocky bluffs and the beauties of its deep valleys. Consequently, my adventures exploring, recreating, and enjoying the outdoors led me on a path to acquiring a greater understanding of the land and what is needed to manage, conserve, and preserve our natural resources for future generations. From hunting and fishing for food, to hiking and exploring the outdoors, these activities quickly became second nature, and my respect and admiration for wild things inspired me to discover a way to make a career out of my passions.

I am currently a Junior at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point (UWSP), majoring in Wildlife Ecology and Management and minoring in Biology. While my first two years of college classes have provided a conceptual foundation for being a natural resource professional, one of the most influential opportunities has been my involvement in the UWSP Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society. After getting involved during my first semester, I have volunteered my time for several research projects including the Flying Squirrel Project, Wild Bird Project, and Adopt-a-Wildlife Area Project. During my Sophomore year, I served as the Web Designer and promptly revamped our website and developed our social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat. This year, I am currently serving as Treasurer, managing funds through challenging times. In addition to these officer positions, I am also a co-leader for the Adopt-a-Wildlife Area Project, and work closely with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff to improve grassland habitat on nearly 12,500 acres at the Buena Vista Wildlife Area for greater-prairie chickens and other grassland-dependent species. These experiences have taught me valuable leadership, organization, and hands-on research and management skills. I have also had the opportunity to be a teaching assistant for a class called Living with Wildlife and develop content to expose the public to a wide variety of wildlife topics for the Wisconsin Center for Wildlife as a Project Assistant. Opportunities provided by UWSP and The Wildlife Society have shaped me into a well-rounded, young, soon-to-be natural



resource professional; not only has my involvement in college so far shown me the importance of responsible management practices to restore and manipulate habitat for the benefit of wildlife, but it has also allowed me to sharpen my leadership skills and attain a greater appreciation for the resource.

I want to further my involvement with The Wildlife Society because I strongly believe this organization is valuable for both students and professionals, and also the wildlife we know and love. With future involvement, I will be able to network with professionals and express and communicate ideas from a student's point of view. This connection is vital to the continuation and evolution of the fundamental mission and values of The Wildlife Society to ensure sustainable wildlife populations and healthy ecosystems through science-based management and conservation. After college, I plan to further my education and receive a graduate degree in a natural resource field. My goal of one day becoming a Certified Wildlife Biologist® with the intention of managing and conserving natural resources and the environment would only be propelled by the unique opportunity to serve as an Undergraduate Student Representative for the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society.

**Members, be sure to cast your votes by
January 29th at http://twselection.org/election_ncs_2021/index.cfm**

STATE CHAPTER REPORTS

Indiana

The Indiana Chapter of the Wildlife Society was fortunate enough to be able to hold their Annual Spring Meeting in February just prior to COVID-19. The theme of the meeting was *Technology, Data, and Wildlife Conservation*. We had a strong showing 70+ attendees and great presentations about the applications of UAVs, precision agriculture, analyzing trail camera data, and more. Hind-sight being 20/20, we should have included a session on how to use Zoom! Traditionally, in the fall we host a 1-2 day in-person continuing education workshop for members. But this year, we conducted the training virtually with 4, 1-hour sessions held weekly from mid-September to early-October. We had sessions on *Video Tips and Smartphone Apps for Biologists*, *Methods for Assessing Deer Herbivory*, *Using Collector for ArcGIS*, and *Social Science Insights on Landowners' Wildlife Habitat Conservation Behavior*. We had 53 people registered for the virtual events and those that couldn't make it live had the opportunity to watch the recordings of the webinars for up to 30 days. We are in the planning stages for our 2021 Annual Spring Meeting, which will likely be held virtually.



Dr. Ashley Dayer from Virginia Tech University presents about Landowners' Wildlife Habitat Conservation Behavior as part of the 2020 INTWS Virtual Continuing Education Series.



Attendees at the 2020 INTWS Spring Meeting viewing posters as part of the Student Poster Session. The meeting was held in-person in February just prior to COVID-19.

Ohio

The Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society co-hosted our annual business meeting with the Ohio Wildlife Management Association at its annual conference in late January. Following the business meeting, both organizations joined forces with the Ohio Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers for a pint night at a local brewery. Little did we know that event – which was great by the way – would be the last in-person OCTWS event before COVID-19 turned 2020 on its head.

Our annual professional's workshop, scheduled for July, had to be postponed for obvious reasons. This was unfortunate as the itinerary was the result of a lot of hard work. The workshop focused on weaving in Integrated Vegetation Management cycles into early successional habitat and invasive species management, and we are hopeful we can recycle the great idea into an event in 2021 or beyond.

Though the student workshop was pushed back 6 months from its original date, the Ohio Chapter was able to sponsor a group of undergraduate students to complete the Level I CSAW Certification course in November. CSAW stands for Chainsaw Safety

Awareness That Works. Attendees were exposed to a full day of chainsaw safety and best practice education before getting a chance to cut down trees under close supervision by the instructor.

Many thanks to the Ohio Forestry Association and the students who committed to the training amidst the difficulty of social-distancing protocols – all things considered, the workshop was a huge success!



Currently, we are entering our annual business meeting cycle (which is planned remotely) and look forward to welcoming a couple new officers to the Board to lead our state chapter into 2021.

Gabriel Karns, Secretary

Wisconsin

As we approach the 50th anniversary of the Wisconsin Chapter next year, the board has been busy despite the on-going Covid pandemic. We recently subscribed to a member management platform from Wild Apricot that we hope will enhance our ability to communicate more efficiently. We created two new undergraduate scholarships that will be awarded annually. The scholarships are named in honor of Fran Hamerstrom, a spirited ornithologist who studied under Aldo Leopold, and James Hardin, a UW-Stevens Point professor who mentored a generation of wildlifers. This summer we also started a Diversity and Inclusion committee within the chapter after approving a change to our by-laws. The committee has begun work to identify strategies for addressing ways to attract and support underrepresented groups within the wildlife profession. We also sponsored a student-professional workshop on chemical immobilization offered through UW-Stevens Point. Finally, much of our attention in the coming weeks has turned toward planning our annual winter meeting, which will be held virtually. Our conference theme is "WCTWS@50: Reflecting on the past, building an inclusive future". The conference will also feature two special symposia on climate change and private land management. The first call for abstracts has gone out.

Submitted by

Robert Holsman, Chapter President

STUDENT CHAPTER REPORTS

Ball State University

Caitlin May
BSU TWS President

Things at Ball State have gotten off to an interesting start this semester! Our chapter of TWS is working to tackle the challenges associated with being a student organization during a time when person-to-person contact is extremely limited. All of our general body meetings are now hosted via Zoom. However, we have still been working hard to engage our members and gain more members!

At the beginning of the semester, we worked to engage with incoming freshman by participating in Ball State's virtual activity fair and hosting our own breakout information session. We also hosted a new member trivia night where we played a Kahoot quiz about animal trivia over Zoom—we saw close to 30 new faces! Recently, Stephanie Schuck, a restoration ecologist at Marian University, spoke about her journey in the field of zoology and wildlife, as well as her experiences working at Marian.

On October 11, we hosted a socially-distanced volunteer day with Red-Tail Land Conservancy here in Muncie. Twelve volunteers, in conjunction with the land manager, worked to remove large rocks from a field that is set to be turned into a prairie. The removal of these rocks will allow for the prairie seeds to be more easily planted. We had great weather and the volunteers had a great time working outside! (see pictures below)



Michigan State University

This semester, the Michigan State University Chapter of The Wildlife Society has focused on bringing our members together during a difficult time, providing our members with meaningful learning experiences, and community service. With campus closed, our Chapter has hosted several social events, such as a Fisheries and Wildlife Quiz night, over Zoom to foster relationships among our students at a distance. We have recently established a Peer Mentoring Program, in which students that are new to the Fisheries and Wildlife Club are paired with more experienced students that can provide them with useful advice and camaraderie. To provide our members with valuable professional experiences, we have hosted a

variety of guests over Zoom to speak with our members about different fields of study. One such guest was Olivia Utley, who works at the Wildside Rehabilitation Clinic in Eaton Rapids, MI. Olivia introduced our club members to the principles of wildlife rehabilitation and the training of educational ambassador animals, and even introduced some of her feathered friends on camera! To engage with and give back to our community, our club members took part in our annual Red Cedar River Cleanup. We organized the event so that our club members could be safe while cleaning up the river, and club members wore masks in groups of ten. We removed trash and recyclable materials from the Red Cedar River, cleaning our campus environment and the river ecosystem.



Left: Three of our FW Club members are shown bringing trash (including a bicycle!) out from the Red Cedar River.

Right: Our FW Club members attend a Zoom session hosted by Olivia Utley, who is shown on the bottom interacting with an ambassador Red-tailed Hawk!



Missouri Western State University

This fall semester has been more difficult than previous, having to follow social distancing requirements. However we have maintained a steady amount of field experience for our chapter in spite of any troubles. Examples are as follows:

Planting Trees: Campus Prairie

- Students participated in the planting of over 100 trees to create and restore prairie habitat on campus for educational and environmental purposes.

Multiple Quail Covey Counts : Pony Express Lake Conservation Area

- Done in cooperation with MDC to survey the local population for potential management of the species

Deer Aging Workshop with MDC

- To (re)educate students, making them eligible to participate in our annual aging event in cooperation with MDC. This event allows for MDC to get population estimates for deer throughout Missouri.

Otoe Creek Trail Workdays : Campus MDC

- Undertaken by our state chapter to conserve and improve the trail provided by MDC on our Missouri Western campus. This work includes clearing and mulching the trails.

Seed Collection: Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge

- Our chapter collected seeds of 4 different prairie plants within the refuge to store and plant as needed in later seasons.

Hunters Education

- Our chapter has been given an opportunity for everyone to become certified in hunter's education to further our knowledge in the field.

Wildland Fire Certification

- We have made it a priority for each society member to achieve their S190/130 certifications online.

These events have allowed members of our chapter to remain active and continue gaining field experience throughout the fall semester.



Deer Aging Workshop (top left), Trail Work Day (top right)
Seed Collection (bottom left) Tree Planting (bottom right)



Northland College

By Ella Shively, NC Chapter President



This semester, the Northland College chapter of The Wildlife Society has been holding small, physically-distanced meetings with the option of tuning in virtually. So far this year, members have participated in a plant identification workshop, macroinvertebrate monitoring, the TWS pen pal program, the Great Lakes Wolf Symposium, and webinars by the International Wolf Center. We are planning a visit to the local Moquah Barrens, a virtual lecture on wolf ecology, and an owl survey. We are also putting together a student BioBlitz similar to the one conducted this summer, which will take place during the month of November. All in-person gatherings will be held with COVID-19 precautions in place. We wish everyone a safe and healthy year.

Purdue University

Despite the challenges that this fall semester has handed us, the Purdue Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has continued to provide many opportunities for our members. Our chapter has thrived during this time, growing from just under 60 members in the spring to our current membership of 100 undergraduate students



who are all passionate about wildlife! Five of our members attended the virtual annual conference for the national chapter at the end of September and 2 of our members presented their research at the conference.

So far this semester we have hosted a Citizen Science and BioBlitz meeting, a quiz bowl, a virtual career fairs workshop, and a Halloween social. Our members also enjoyed presentations from Dr. Hayley Lanier (University of Oklahoma) and Dr. Maureen Murray (Lincoln Park Zoo). We have several other workshops and guest speakers lined up for this semester and a wildlife book club planned for winter break. Our working groups have also been busy this semester, providing several opportunities for members to gain hands-on field experience ranging from bird banding to telemetry. Check us out on Facebook and Instagram at @twspurdue to keep up with our chapter!



University of Central Missouri

President: Karlee Szympruch
Vice President: Evelyn Kirtley
Treasurer: Kieran Payne
Secretary: Danielle Bussiere
Reporter: Robert Breeding

Meetings: The UCM TWS Chapter has had body meetings every month, with executive board meetings bi-weekly.

Fall Events:

Migratory Bird Survey - On September 19th, 2020 TWS participated in a migratory bird survey at Knob Noster State Park. Confirmed sightings will be logged using eBird with only 1 list being submitted. The list can be shared among eBird users, though. The data will later be transferred to the park's database.



Prairie Day - The Citizens for Environmental Action (CEA) hosted a small Prairie Day event on Turkey Foot Prairie on Saturday, October 24. The event was a collaboration of partnerships in sustainability, environmental action, and public education. The event consisted of small groups of guided tours through the restored prairie and presentations/talks/discussions from partnership-type organizations that work with the CEA. UCM TWS also conducted a presentation and how we interact with CEA and what our club is about.

Future Events - In the future, TWS plans to help conduct prescribed fires with the CEA at Turkey Foot Prairie. Due to COVID, this semester has resulted in fewer activities planned for the safety of our members. We hope to get more out of next semester.

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign student chapter is stronger than ever - with 50 active members! Our most significant accomplishment was providing travel grants for undergraduate members to attend the Wildlife Society's Annual Conference to present their research.

Last semester, our chapter worked with one of our advisors, Dr. Max Allen, to create and design an eight week field technique course focused on mammals. It ran this fall, and 12 chapter members enrolled. Students learned to set-up game cameras, track collars via radio telemetry, trap mammals, and monitor echolocation calls of bats. Students also practiced writing abstracts and project proposals. A highlight of the course was that wildlife biologists from the Illinois Natural History Survey and Army Corps of Engineers guest-lectured. These professionals provided professional advice and networked with students.

We currently have five students participating in a white-tailed deer survey in collaboration with the Illinois DNR. We also have two students running SnapShot USA projects for Champaign-Urbana and Fort Hood, TX. 12 members just received

CPR, AED, and First Aid training and certification through the university too!

Besides career development, the chapter has put a significant emphasis on (safe) social and volunteer opportunities. Several members volunteered to collect deceased birds for a window collision survey on campus. They also have attended online R programming workshops, participated in two BioBlitz, attended a chapter-hosted pumpkin carving contest, and spent hours playing games with their peers during our virtual game nights.



Pictured is our vice president, Izabelle Jaquet, taken during one of our bird surveys.



Pictured is a peromyscus that we trapped during our field technique course.

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

We have had a somewhat slow start to the year, but we have made sure to stay active as a club and as a resource for our members. Over the summer, we participated in Student Chapter BioBlitz and were very pleased with our performance in that; we all enjoyed contributing to it so much, we have an ongoing iNaturalist project for our club. Due to restrictions, we

have not been able to have any in-person events year, however, we have started a series of natural resources panel discussions in collaboration with another club on campus. We also plan to host a number of guest speakers over Zoom. Last Spring, we received funds for and purchased trail cameras that we plan to use to If all goes well, we will also be able to carry on with our yearly Lynx tracking event with the U.S. Forestry Service in the Superior National Forest in January.



University of Wisconsin, Madison

Despite all the uncertainty with the current public health situation, the student chapter of the wildlife society at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has been actively engaging our club members! So far this year, we have been able to meet virtually numerous times, where we have discussed the mission and purpose of our student organization, seasonal job opportunities within the realm of natural resources, hosted virtual wildlife trivia nights, had a club social hour, and we have also been trying to do check ins with our club members about their emotional health. We are looking forward to doing our first socially distance birding excursion this upcoming week at the lakeshore nature preserve on campus! In addition to the upcoming field trip, we are also looking forward to hosting a graduate student panel in November, as well as planning more wildlife trivia nights. In addition to these activities, we are in the process of trying to plan guest speakers from different agencies to speak to our club about their job experience. The wildlife society officers are also looking to help advise underclassmen with registering for classes for spring semester, which will begin in December as students cannot enroll in classes until at least December 24th. In addition to these efforts, we are constantly trying to think of new and exciting ways to keep our members engaged, informed, and happy.

University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point



This semester has looked a lot different for the UWSP Student Chapter of TWS. Our general member meetings that were usually held on campus have now been moved to ZOOM. Though we are not able to meet in person, this online format has allowed us to connect with professionals from farther reaches of the U.S. We have had speakers from Louisiana (Sabrina Claeys), Hawaii (Janel Scharhag), and Minnesota (Michael Joyce) who gave us insights on their journeys navigating the wildlife profession and presented on their current research. We are now at 20 student led research projects, and though there are many hoops to jump through the projects are fighting through the seemingly endless paperwork to continue to give our members excellent in the field hands on

experiences. The flying squirrel project has had a great year capturing 10 new individuals from our very own Schmeckle Reserve. Volunteers were able to handle and process the squirrels for addition into the cumulative data set. Through these tough times our members are still finding amazing ways to stay connected. Our education coordinator Amanda Leeman has launched a video series highlighting our student projects and their research and sharing it with local schools to be used in lesson plans! We also had a group of students attend the first virtual TWS Nationals conference this fall and present on the many different research projects they have been a part of.



We hope that you are all staying safe and wish you a happy and healthy holidays,

MORE INSPIRATION

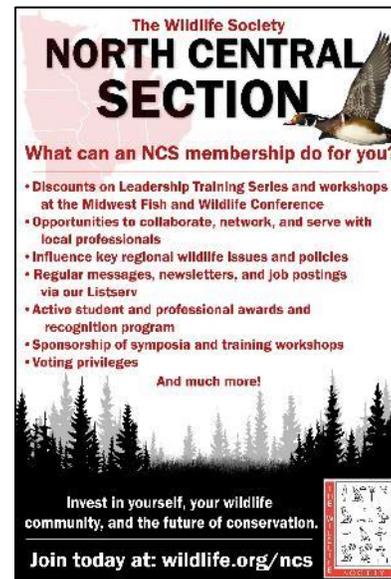


Sunrise on Sandhill Lake by Erin Richards

RESOURCES

North Central Section Membership Presentation, Poster and Business Cards

Your North Central Section (NCS) Membership Team completed development this 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/

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 Jason Wade, [Indiana State Chapter](#)
 Kelsey Fleming, [Iowa State Chapter](#)
 Eric Clark, [Michigan State Chapter](#)
 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, then please notify Jason for a hard copy.