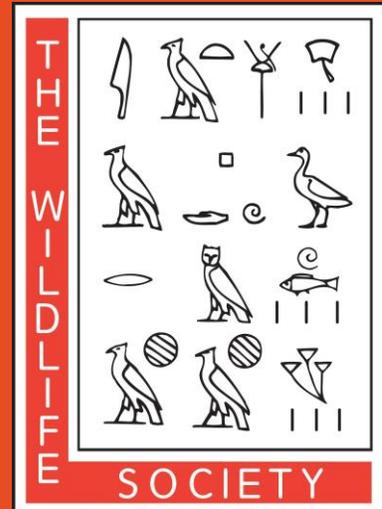


# NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2022



**AT A GLANCE...**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Page 2**

**UPDATES FROM SECTION REPRESENTATIVE TO COUNCIL, PAT LEDERLE**

**Page 3**

**MIDWEST FISH & WILDLIFE CONFERENCE TRAVEL GRANTS**

**Page 4**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Page 5**

**STUDENT CORNER- PURDUE CHAPTER UPDATE**

**Page 6**

**CONCLAVE! 2023 PLANNING.**

**Page 6**



Tyler Harms, President of the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society is shown with six past presidents of the NCS who attended a networking event at the 2022 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Des Moines, IA. From left to right with the year they started their term in office and state of residence are John Loegering (2012, MN), Jason Riddle (2021, WI), Katy Reeder (2017, IA), Gary Potts (1995, IL), Tyler Harms (2022, IA), Pat Lederle (2014, MI), and Gary Roloff (2019, MI).

## President's Message

Happy spring NCS TWS members and friends! I hope this newsletter finds you doing well. Some field notes from my central Iowa yard include the return of Eastern Bluebirds to the neighborhood, our daffodils emerging from their winter dormancy, and the first Eastern Chipmunk pilfering the ground under our bird feeders. This is an exciting time of year!



Speaking of exciting, what an exciting past year it has been for the NCS TWS. We're coming off the heels of a fun few days in Des Moines, Iowa for the 82nd Annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. How great it was to interact with one another and kudos to our Iowa colleagues for executing a very successful, first-ever hybrid Midwest conference. One of the most exciting events at the Conference each year is the awards ceremony, a time when we recognize outstanding NCS TWS students and professionals. This year, we were pleased to recognize students of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as our Student Chapter of the Year as well as University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point students Brilyn Brecka and Hannah Butkiewicz as our Outstanding Undergraduate and Graduate Students, respectively. And thanks to funding from the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, we were able to provide up to \$500 in travel support to each of 37 students and early-career professionals to attend the Conference! Late last year, we initiated a pilot program to offer free NCS TWS memberships to interested students. On March 16, we closed registration with a whopping 233 students receiving free memberships until May 2023. We're eager to learn from these students how the NCS TWS can best support them and future student members. Finally, numerous NCS TWS members have participated in webinars already this year as part of our newly-created professional development webinar series hosted by fellow NCS TWS members. I'm excited to keep this momentum rolling but recognize that none of the above would have been possible without the many great leaders in our Section. Therefore, I encourage you to get involved, share your ideas, and take advantage of the many opportunities the Section and the Society at large has to offer. Together, we can make the next year just as exciting!

Take care,  
**Tyler**

## UPDATES FROM SECTION REPRESENTATIVE TO COUNCIL, PAT LEDERLE

TWS COUNCIL MET ON FEBRUARY 15, 2022 (VIRTUALLY) AND AT THE NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE IN SPOKANE, WA, MARCH 13 AND 14, 2022 (IN PERSON).



Council has been operating virtually for the past two years; the last time we met in person was at the North American in Omaha, NE in March of 2020, a time when Covid-19 was increasing rapidly across the country. There were many factors that led to virtual meetings, including government and health department mandates and guidelines, travel restrictions of members, uncertainties surrounding emerging variants, and the increased logistics of holding in-person meetings safely. On a personal note, I'm glad to see a new normal being established, and it was great to see Council together in person. The dialogue and interactions were excellent and it was very gratifying to gauge body language and the tone of the discussions; factors that are far more difficult to judge in the virtual world. Some notable topics of discussion and decisions follow:

- TWS Membership: Membership is strong with over 11,000 members. There was continued discussion of the concept of “unified membership.” Currently, you can be a member of a state chapter, or a student chapter, or a Section, without being a member of TWS. I think it would be good for the organization if you were a member of one, you were a member of all, yet dues structures are an issue for some folks.
- Strategic Planning: TWS Strategic Plan is due for renewal in the next year or so and discussions ensued regarding how to best gather input from TWS members regarding what interests they view as most important and whether those interests warrant specific inclusion in a strategic plan. Members of the Human Dimensions Working Group took part in that discussion.
- Increasing capacity in the policy arena: Several staff continue to work on policy including a fellow and an intern. In addition to policy priorities to focus on (e.g., RAWA), TWS has to look to the future and evaluate what new priorities will need addressing. Where do we have the capacity and who can we strategically partner with to be most effective? One very important component of the policy arena is the Conservation Affairs Network that leverages efforts and the expertise of members of state chapters and Sections.

## UPDATES FROM SECTION REPRESENTATIVE TO COUNCIL, PAT LEDERLE, CONTINUED

- TWS Policy Positions: Five position statements are being reviewed this year, including the federal Endangered Species Act, Use of Firearms in Wildlife Management, Global Climate Change and Wildlife, Lead in Ammunition and Fishing Tackle, and Livestock Grazing on Rangelands in the Western U.S. These position statements, based on the best science available, are important documents that let our partners and decision makers know where TWS stands on particular issues and why we are taking that stance.
- TWS Professional Webinar Series: Is going strong, hosted by our great Working Groups. More to come! Check them out at <https://wildlife.org/webinars/>
- Publications: TWS is working toward finalizing a contract with the Wiley publishing group, the long-time publisher of TWS journals. The publishing world is changing rapidly and changes are coming to the journals as a result. For example, you may have noticed new layout designs. Also in the publications arena, you will see advertisements for a new Editor-in-Chief of Wildlife Monographs.
- TWS Annual Conference: Staff are working on the logistics for the upcoming annual conference, scheduled as an in person meeting in Spokane, WA, November 6-10, 2022.

### Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference Travel Grants

For the past two years, the North Central Section (NCS TWS) has received funds from the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) to administer travel grants for attendance at the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference. Grants, up to a maximum \$500, are available to students and early-career professionals. This year, 37 recipients from 7 states were awarded a total of \$15,506 to attend the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Des Moines, IA from February 13-16, 2022. Twenty-five recipients (68%) attended the hybrid conference in person, while 12 recipients (32%) attended virtually. NCS TWS maintains a travel grant balance of \$6,406. These funds combined with incoming proceeds from the recent conference will be offered to support travel to the 2023 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference. NCS TWS is grateful to MAFWA for providing these funds.

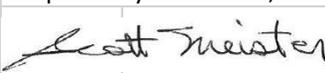


Photo: Twenty-six travel grant recipients attended the NCS TWS annual Member's Meeting on February 14, 2022, in Des Moines, IA.

## North Central Section of The Wildlife Society

## Treasurer's Report

9/17/21 - 3/24/22

CHECKING				
Beginning Balance as of 9/17/2021			\$15,023.91	
Date	Description	Expense	Income	
9/21/21	MAFWA/CEF travel grant funds from MF&WC		\$13,191.17	
10/18/21	transfer to MAFWA/CEF TRAVEL GRANT	\$21,905.08		
10/29/21	Membership Dues: 3rd Qtr 2021		\$600.00	
1/7/22	Midwest F&W Conference exhibitor	\$600.00		
1/31/22	Membership dues: 4th Qtr 2021		\$2,940.00	
2/2/22	Award plaques	\$176.55		
2/2/22	Award plaque shipping	\$72.02		
2/2/22	Graduate Student of the Year: H. Butkiewicz	\$500.00		
2/14/22	Undergraduate Student of the Year: B. Brecka	\$500.00		
3/14/22	Exec Board Travel: S. Meister	\$500.00		
multiple	37 travel grants	\$15,506.52		
multiple	transfer from MAFWA/CEF TRAVEL GRANT		\$15,506.52	
	Subtotal	\$39,760.17	\$32,237.69	
Ending Balance as of 3/24/2022				\$7,501.43
SAVINGS				
Beginning Balance as of 9/17/2021			\$1,599.21	
Date	Description	Expense	Income	
multiple	monthly interest dividends		\$0.41	
	Subtotal	\$0.00	\$0.41	
Ending Balance as of 3/24/2022				\$1,599.62
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT				
Beginning Balance as of 9/17/2021			\$47,356.02	
Date	Description	Expense	Income	
multiple	monthly interest dividends		\$23.47	
	Subtotal	\$0.00	\$23.47	
Ending Balance as of 3/24/2022				\$47,379.49
MAFWA/CEF TRAVEL GRANT				
Beginning Balance as of 9/17/2021			\$0.00	
Date	Description	Expense	Income	
10/18/21	transfer from Checking		\$21,905.08	
multiple	transfers to Checking	\$15,506.52		
multiple	monthly interest dividends		\$7.82	
	Subtotal	\$15,506.52	\$21,912.90	
Ending Balance as of 3/24/2022				\$6,406.38
<b>TOTAL FUNDS as of 3/24/2022</b>				<b>\$62,886.92</b>
Respectfully submitted,				
				
Scott Meister				
Treasurer, North Central Section				

## STUDENT CORNER: PURDUE STUDENT CHAPTER SPRING NEWSLETTER UPDATE



As we gradually return to normal, we have hosted numerous working group and club events besides our usual biweekly meetings. We continue to have strong attendance at our regular meetings and working group events with roughly 40 students attending each meeting.

We began the semester with a representative from the International Crane Foundation speaking to members about crane conservation, specifically Whooping Cranes. Dr. Ani Belsare from Emory University spoke about disease ecology and human-wildlife conflicts. Dr. Safia Janjua, a postdoctoral researcher in Purdue's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, spoke at our most recent regular meeting about her research on snow leopard genetics and conservation. Our club also will be hosting an upcoming taxidermy demonstration and a volunteer event to repair traps and nest boxes at a Purdue property.

Our working groups have also organized numerous events. The mammals working group had a track identification event where students met at one of our departmental properties to scout for animal sign. Our herps working group hosted a movie night about chytrid fungus and traveled to Clifty Falls in southern Indiana for springtime herping. Our hunting working group hosted a shed antler hike and a wood duck nest box construction event. Our birds working group went birding in numerous locations around northern Indiana. - Russell Duke, Student Chapter President

---

## STUDENT CORNER: 2023 NCS STUDENT CONCLAVE!

### CALLING ALL STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS! CONCLAVE IS COMING BACK!

Back by popular demand, the NCS Student Conclave is coming back! Hocking College, headed up by your very own Section President-Elect, Dr. Val Titus, has volunteered to host in Ohio in April of 2023. More details to come, but we do need to get an idea of who will plan to attend. We are in the process of seeking out sponsorships to provide scholarships to attendees that might need a little extra fundraising to be able to attend. Keep checking your email, as some surveys and calls for volunteers will be appearing soon as we start the planning process.

We would like to hold a meeting of interested parties while in Spokane at the Annual Meeting immediately following the annual advisors meeting. If you would like to be included in Conclave planning (this year or in the future), please contact Val Titus ([titusv@hocking.edu](mailto:titusv@hocking.edu)) to join the fun!