



MISSOURI CHAPTER Of **THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY** **NEWSLETTER**

April 2022 Issue No. 52, Vol. 1

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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2022 MOTWS Committees

Audit-----Kevin Hedgpeth/Rhonda Rimer
Education/Graduate Fellowship-----VACANT
Farmer/Conservationist-----Jeff Powelson
MNRC Steering-----Josh Wisdom
Membership----- VACANT
Nominating/Elections-----Andrew White
Professional Development-----Charles Anderson
Resolutions/Public Statements-----Tom Kulowiec
Runge Award-----VACANT
Raffle/Auction-----VACANT
Operations Manual-----Margie Mitchell
Stephens Award-----President's Choice

Challenging Times!

I think we can all agree that the last couple of years have been a challenging time for everyone. That has been true for our Chapter as well. This is the first newsletter to be put out in over a year, and many traditional Chapter activities have not occurred. A perfect storm of Covid, MDC re-organization, and personal situations impacted our executive board and stalled much of our Chapter's functions. However, just as we seem to be emerging from the pandemic and things are starting to return back to normal, so too our Chapter is looking to get back on the rails and return back to normal operations. As you read this, a special election is underway for President, President-Elect, and Secretary to fill positions that are currently vacant or way overdue. We are planning a Fall workshop, and the Chapter will be hosting the next MNRC in 2023. You can find more information about all these things in this issue of our newsletter. Below, you will find a flyer that was made available at this year's MNRC. It gives a very good overview of the current status of the Chapter and where we hope to go from here. We have had a great group of members step up to run for our currently open executive board positions. You can see their biographies in this newsletter as well. If you have paid your 2021 and/or 2022 dues, you will be receiving an email invitation to participate in the current executive board election.

We wish you and yours all the best, that things will return to normal as quickly as possible, and that you will be able to get out and enjoy the outdoors as much as possible this summer.

MoTWS Executive Board

Missouri Chapter of the Wildlife Society – Election Update 1 February 2022

The Missouri Chapter was one of the first state chapters of The Wildlife Society in the Midwest. **We have an illustrious history of some of the best biologists and conservationists filling our ranks as members, committee chairs, and Executive Board officers.** These individuals have been influential with legislative issues and bills at the

local, state, as well as national level. The Chapter created an annual conference that became a model which other states envied. It developed student workshops that state colleges found incredibly useful to their wildlife clubs for hands-on education and professional networking. Not that many years ago, Missouri was awarded the national Chapter of the Year Award. **Accomplishments have been many and are something of which we should all be proud of.**

But now, as you may well know, memberships have been declining for several years. Chapter activity and individual involvement has slowed. Fundraising has fallen to a very low level. It has become extremely difficult to find candidates to run for the Executive Board. Commitment has lagged and communication has suffered. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated these trends, and the Executive Board has struggled in recent years. **The Chapter is at a critical juncture and needs help from all its members. Our actions will decide whether the Missouri Chapter survives or potentially faces dissolution by the parent Society.**

The Executive Board is currently soliciting names for the upcoming election that will be held this spring. Vacant positions include President, President-elect, and Secretary. **With Executive Board members terms ending, it is critical that these positions are filled.** Enthusiastic, qualified, candidates are desperately needed to help the Chapter regain its footing. **If you are interested in running for one of the vacant positions on the Executive Board, please contact Jason Isabelle (Jason.Isabelle@mdc.mo.gov; 573-815-7901) by March 1.** If you have questions about what the commitment entails, please let us know. Please also reach out to any members that you know that might be interested and urge them to consider running.

The Chapter's Spring Newsletter will include the names and bios of those running for the election along with an election ballot. The election will be open until May 15 with newly elected Executive Board members beginning their terms by June 1 of this year. This election schedule has been submitted to TWS National and we have received approval. **We, now, are in desperate need of members willing to run in the upcoming election. Your candidacy can make the difference!**

MoTWS members, you all have many items on your plates and finding the extra time to serve in leadership roles like this can be challenging. However, please strongly consider running for the Executive Board. It is not an overstatement to say that the viability of the Chapter depends on the upcoming election. **Will you be one of the driving forces that helps to get the Chapter back on its feet?**

Treasurer's Report 1/1/2021 – 2/28/2022

By Thomas Kulowiec, Treasurer

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance 1/1/21: \$ 10,464.72
Ending Balance 2/28/22: \$ 12,110.11

Credits

Membership **\$ 2,272.00**

2022 Membership
Regular dues: 38 @ \$15 \$ 570.00
Student dues: 9 @ \$8 \$ 72.00
2021 Membership
Regular dues: 98 @ \$15 \$ 1,470.00
Student dues: 20 @ \$8 \$160.00

Other **\$ 13.39**

Dividends – 2022 \$1.95
Dividends – 2021 \$11.44

Total Income **\$2,285.39**

Debits

MO Cons. Fed. Dues – 2022 \$300.00
MO Cons. Fed. Dues – 2021 \$192.00
Post Office Box Rental – 2021 \$148.00

Total Expenses **\$ 640.00**

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance 1/1/21: \$ 55.58
Ending Balance 2/28/22: \$ 55.72

Credits

Dividends – 2022 \$0.02
Dividends – 2021 \$0.12

Total Income **\$0.14**

Debits

No withdrawals

Total Expenses **\$0.00**

Travel Grant Deadline is August 15! Get your requests in today!

The MOTWS Travel Grant is available to all MOTWS members for travel to conferences. The Grant was developed to assist members in travel costs to conferences and workshops. The travel grant funds can be used toward travel to not only Wildlife Society Events (such as the National Conference), but also other professional workshops and conferences throughout the country. In these days of tight budgets for all agencies, additional funds such as the MOTWS travel grant could be just what you need to convince your boss to let you make that trip! Remember, the Travel Grant has been split into two granting periods – winter and spring. The deadline is August 15. If you have questions, you can contact Secretary, Jason Isabelle or Treasurer, Tom Kulowiec.

Fall Workshop in the Works

We are tentatively planning on having a combined Student and Professional Workshop this Fall, sometime in late September. We are looking at Knob Noster State Park as a possible location. Arrival would be on Friday afternoon, with some field demonstrations followed by camp set-up and a BBQ. We are planning a few nighttime demos that evening. Wake up for Saturday morning birding trip and more field demos, grill some Lunch, and stick around for some outdoor skills activities during the afternoon. If you are willing to volunteer to present, please contact Luke Miller at Luke.Miller@usda.gov.

Mark Your Calendars 2023 MNRC

Our Chapter will be hosting the 2023 MNRC, which will be held February 7 - 9, 2023 at Tan-Tar-A. The theme is "New Frontiers on Old Landscapes". Mark your calendars and watch for up-coming announcements. You can also go to the conference's website, <https://mnrc.org>, for up-to-date information. If you would like to volunteer to help with the conferece, contact Josh Wisdom at Joshua.Wisdom@mdc.mo.gov.

PLEASE Don't Forget to Pay your Dues!

State Chapter dues (\$15.00 regular, \$8.00 students) are important to maintain our funds towards projects, the website, scholarships, workshops, and travel reimbursements. Please remember to pay your dues. You can contact Treasurer, Tom Kulowiec (kulowiec@centurytel.net) or mail your payment to:

**Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society
PO Box 743
Columbia, MO 65205 – 0743**

Websites to Know

Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society
<https://wildlife.org/missouri-chapter>

The Wildlife Society
<https://wildlife.org>

Missouri Department of Conservation
<https://mdc.mo.gov>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<https://www.fws.gov>

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
<https://www.fishwildlife.org>

MO DNR
<https://dnr.mo.gov>

USDA/NRCS
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

USDA/APHIS
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/>

Conservation Federation of Missouri
<https://confedmo.org/>

U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance
<https://sportsmensalliance.org>

Wildlife Management Institute
<https://wildlifemanagement.institute>

Missouri Natural Resources Conference
<https://mnrc.org>



Missouri Western State University

By Ethan Bennie

The past fall and spring semesters have presented many new obstacles and challenges for our chapter. Nevertheless, with such a dedicated student chapter, we were able to overcome all the challenges and succeed far past expectations! We were able to achieve over 800 hours of volunteer work, cumulatively as a student chapter, by working with our partners: MDC, USFWS, Missouri State Parks, and many more. We were able to add a new event this last fall, in partnership with MDC. We were able to complete their furbearer surveys during the fall semester in Andrew county. Another big event that was finally back after the Covid-19 pandemic, was the Eagle Days Event at Loess Bluffs NWR. The opportunity to have this event in person again and also being able to interact with the public, was a great opportunity for our members to gain experience. The spring semester didn't hold back, and we were able to expand our horizons even further by doing CWD sampling for MDC from mid-January through

mid-March. In addition, our members also attended both MNRC and the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, as they were both in person events. All things said and done, we had a very productive year and we were able to make the best of every situation and every challenge given to us!

Biographies for Candidates for MOTWS Executive Board Positions

Candidate for President

Cary D. Chevalier

Personal Information:

I was born in Tempe Arizona. I grew up in the Sonoran Desert habitat, and became interested in the outdoors at an early age. My father helped me join the Boy Scouts and the troop I was in was very active. I thrived under this atmosphere and ultimately achieved Eagle Scout and Order of the Arrow. As I grew up, I spent nearly all my free time out in the country hiking, camping, birding, or hunting. Following high school I went a year to college, then joined the air force. I served for two years in the Air Force. I then transferred to the Navy in which I served 4 years. Following my stents in the service, I went to work in my first professional career as an auto mechanic for 15 years. I then realized one day it was a good profession, but not my “dream job”. I started back to school part time until I started graduate school. Following my Ph.D., I took a job with the Arizona Game & Fish Department as the Biostatistician in the Research Branch. I worked in this position for 3 years, then transferred to a position in the Game Branch for 2 years. I then returned to academia to start a Wildlife Conservation and Management B. S. program at Grand Canyon University. After 3 years, I moved to Missouri in 1996 where I took a position at Missouri Western State University to start the Wildlife Conservation and Management Degree Program which I currently direct and have for the past 26 years.

Education:

A.S., Phoenix Community College, AZ; B.S., Wildlife Management, Arizona State University, Tempe; M.S., Zoology (Physiology Ecology) Arizona State University; Ph.D. Biological Sciences (Evolutionary Physiology Ecology), University of California, Irvine, CA.

Employment History:

As I briefly described in my personal data, I served as an auto mechanic for 15 years, then held several Teaching Assistantships while in graduate schools. I then started my career in wildlife conservation and management as Biostatistician in Research Branch, AZ Game & Fish Department, then habitat manager in Game Branch. I then returned to academia as a Professor to start and run the wildlife management program at Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ. In 1996, I moved to St. Joseph, MO where I took a position as professor at Missouri Western State University where I instituted and currently direct the Wildlife Conservation and Management Degree program.

Wildlife Society Activities:

I am a Certified Wildlife Biologist. I have served on the State Chapter’s Professional Development Committee, and this year I have accepted the position of Public Relations Committee Chair. I have served on the State TWS organizational committees for the organization of 3 Student Chapter Workshops. I currently am a member of the organization committee for the Student Chapter Workshop for 2022. I have brought students to the MO Nat. Res. Conf., every year the weather permitted since 1998. I helped our students organize a Student Chapter of TWS in 2002 and serve as the Faculty Advisor. Our Student Chapter has been recognized as the Northcentral Section of TWS Student Chapter of the Year 8 times, and the International Student Chapter of the Year 3 times. I have accompanied our Student Chapter to almost every State Sponsored Student Chapter Workshop, and made sure they could attend the MNRC, including the State Chapter Business Meeting to participate.

Professional Affiliations:

I am currently a member of TWS, American Society of Mammalogy, and The Wildlife Society. I am a Certified Wildlife Biologist. I am a Trimble Certified Trainer in Mapping GPS Systems. I am also a certified Wildlife Chemical Capture and Restraint (by Safe Capture International). I have served as Vice President, President-Elect, and President of the Missouri Academy of Sciences (MAS), and as the Chair of the Conservation Section of MAS.

Candidate for President

Jordan Meyer

Personal Information:

I grew up in Grain Valley, Missouri. That is where a passion for fishing, float trips, and hiking were coupled with an outdoor classroom and an empowering environmental science teacher to kick start my career in wildlife conservation. I have always had a passion for the intricacies of ecology and biological communities, which has drawn me to pursue diverse experiences culminating in a career focused on bats. Outside of work I spend my time with my amazing wife, Angelina, and our two young children Barbara and Gideon. Every day with them is an adventure, whether it is getting muddy in a suburban creek or hiking on public land.

Education:

M.S. Natural Resources - Wildlife Ecology. Thesis: Community Dynamics and Occupancy for Bat Species within the Great Lakes Region following White-nose Syndrome Exposure. University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, 2019
B.S. Wildlife Conservation and Management – Missouri Western State University, 2015
A.A. Metropolitan Community College – Kansas City, MO, 2012

Employment History:

As an undergraduate my professional career began as a volunteer at Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge in

Mound City, Missouri, conducting radio telemetry surveys of Blanding's turtle, emergence surveys of prairie massasauga rattlesnake, and acoustic surveys for bat species. My time at the refuge progressed into an AmeriCorps internship and later a position as a biotech. From there, I pursued graduate school earning my Master of Science in Natural Resources – Wildlife Ecology. As a graduate research assistant I conducted mist net surveys and radio telemetry tracking of northern long-eared bat and dynamic multi-species Bayesian modelling of bat acoustic data gathered as part of a long-term study in Wisconsin and as a habitat selection study across the Great Lakes region. After graduation, I worked for a semester as an associate lecturer for the university teaching wildlife management techniques and labs for the introduction to fisheries, forestry, and wildlife. To return to Missouri I accepted a position as a biotech for Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Booneville. There I conducted invasive plant management, prairie biodiversity surveys, geospatial data reporting, easement inspections, and bat acoustic monitoring. I joined the Missouri Department of Conservation in November of 2019 as the environmental review coordinator. In that role I compiled MDC's comments, provided recommendations, and best management practices to external development interests across the state. My current role as MDC's bat ecologist began in September of 2020 where I work with passionate department staff, partner agencies, and non-government organizations to best conserve and protect some of our state's most imperiled and vitally beneficial species.

Wildlife Society Activities:

My experience with The Wildlife Society began as a member of the student chapter at Missouri Western State University, in which I personally logged nearly 700 hours of volunteer time over my two years there. As a member of the Missouri Chapter I received the student travel grant in 2013 in order to present 2 posters at the International Conference in Pittsburgh, PA that year. As I traveled north, I added the North Central Section, Wisconsin State Chapter, and the student chapter of the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point to my memberships. As a result of my mentorship roles in my new state and my continued support of my home in Missouri, I was awarded the Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award for Outstanding Students by the Wisconsin and Michigan Chapters in 2018. Now that I am back in my home state, I am eager to contribute back to the chapter that greatly influenced my early professional development and provide that same opportunity to others.

Professional Affiliations:

- Midwest Bat Working Group
- North American Society for Bat Research
- Conservation Federation of Missouri

Candidate for President-Elect

Sybill Amelon

Personal Information:

I was born in Muscatine, Iowa, but soon moved to Missouri, where my parents grew up. I lived between Chilhowee and Hickman Mills, depending on whether school was in session. I have always been fascinated by nature and spent much of my early years exploring my grandparents' farm. I started bird-watching when I was seven and started volunteering at the Burroughs Audubon Library, where I was mentored by the original librarian, Esther O'Connor; what an inspiring person! I particularly enjoy being in the mountains. When I am not working, I enjoy bird and bat watching, canoeing, managing our oak woodland, and hiking with our dogs (rescued rat terriers and a coonhound/lab mix).

Education:

B.S., Wildlife Biology/Soils (double major), University of Central Missouri, 1978. M.S.; Forest Ecology, University of Missouri (UMC), 1991; Ph.D. Wildlife Ecology, University of Missouri (UMC), 2007.

Employment History:

Over the years, I have worked as a research assistant (UCM), cooperative student (NRCS), Soil Scientist (USFS), Wildlife Biologist (USFS), and Research Wildlife Biologist (USFS). I have conducted soil surveys, restored natural communities using prescribed fire, managed district wildlife, range, T&E, soil, and cultural resource programs for the Mark Twain National Forest, and served as Regional Biologist for Region 9. My most recent employment has been with the USFS Northern Research Station in Columbia, Missouri. I conduct research evaluating the ecology of forest bats, physiological responses to environmental conditions, genomics, and metabolomics.

Wildlife Society Activities:

I have been a member of the Wildlife Society and the Missouri Chapter TWS since 1985 and have been a Certified Wildlife Biologist since 2000. I have presented at numerous Annual Conferences and have assisted with training workshops for professionals and students. I routinely attend the annual business meetings.

Professional Affiliations:

I have served on local committees of Quail Forever and National Wild Turkey Federation chapters. I am a life member of Missouri Association of Professional Soil Scientists and have served as vice-president and president. I am an active participant with North American Society for Bat Research and served on its board of directors from 2008 to 2015. I am a member of Bat Conservation Trust and Bat Conservation International (BCI) since 1988. I have been an instructor for BCI on several North American and International bat research workshops. I have served as Secretary/Treasurer and Newsletter Editor for the Society of Range Management. I

regularly mentor Veterinary Research Scholars and introduce them to research options available to Veterinarians.

Candidate for President-Elect

Ted Seiler

Personal Information:

I grew up in northwest Missouri in a rural area, where I developed a passion for the outdoors. I have lived and worked in Macon for the past 19 years. When I'm not at work helping landowners improve their land, I am either improving habitat on my farm, hunting, fishing, or chasing my 3 active children for some event. My favorite activity is teaching those 3 kids to appreciate the outdoors through hunting, fishing, mushroom hunting, prescribed burning, etc. I also spend a lot of time teaching other people's kids about the outdoors through the local 4H club, and other opportunities.

Education:

B.S., Wildlife Management and Ecology, Northwest Missouri State University, 1997

M.S., Wildlife Management working with northern bobwhites, University of Missouri, 2002

Employment History:

I started with the Missouri Department of Conservation as a Wildlife Technician at Whetstone Creek Conservation Area in 2002. My main responsibility as a wildlife technician was to help manage public land, though I also was responsible for some student education at Prairie Fork Conservation Area. In 2003, I moved to Macon and started as a Private Land Conservationist, where I have been ever since. As a PLC, I help landowners in Macon, Randolph, and Shelby Counties manage their land, ponds, and wildlife. Between my B.S. and M.S. Degrees, I worked a variety of temporary research assistant positions.

Wildlife Society Activities:

I was the MNRC chair for the 2011 conference, and served as MOTWS president-elect, president, and past president between 2013 and 2015.

Professional Affiliations:

I serve on local NWTF, Quail Forever, and Knights of Columbus chapters in the Macon area.

Candidate for Secretary

Lauren Hildreth

Personal Information:

I was raised in a military home, Go Army, so I moved around a fair amount until 3rd grade when my dad retired. When folks ask where I'm from, it's a tough question to answer. I end up just saying Georgia, because that is where we settled when my

dad retired, and my grandparents lived in Augusta my whole life.

My husband and I met at a Wildlife Damage Management conference while we were both in grad school. During our first two years of marriage, we lived in two different states: Idaho and Georgia. And for our third year of marriage, we moved to Missouri and haven't looked back since. We love living in Missouri and I'm so thankful we were both able to find jobs in our field here. We have two children, our three-year-old (Benjamin) and our one-year-old (Elizabeth), and Rocky our 12-year-old dog (who acts like he's still two).

Education:

B.S.F.R., Fisheries and Wildlife Management (Wildlife Emphasis), University of Georgia, Athens, 2012

M.N.R., Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, 2013

Employment History:

In Idaho, I was a contract wildlife biologist with the USFS for 6 months. When my contract was over, I found employment as an admissions counselor with College of Southern Idaho.

After that, I accepted the recruitment position with the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia. It was great talking to and recruiting the next generation of natural resource professionals. After a year or so in that position, my husband accepted a position here in Missouri. Once we were both settled in Missouri, I started looking for positions with MDC. My first position was a GIS Specialist position with Fisheries Division. My largest project in that position was to digitize the Paddler's Guide to Missouri. I was next able to get on with the Wildlife Division as an hourly Assistant Natural History Biologist for a few months. I then transitioned to the Wildlife Program Supervisor position where I oversaw the managed hunt program (deer, turkey, waterfowl) as well as outreach for the Wildlife Division. While in this position, I volunteered to be part of the process improvement team. I found that I excel with helping groups with process work and general meeting facilitation. Starting in February of 2020, I was offered a 6-month detail position as the department reorganization was being implemented, to help lead groups to find solutions to processes that reorg "broke."

When the full-time position within Operational Excellence came open, I put my name in the hat and was selected. I am currently the Continuous Improvement Coordinator based out of Jefferson City. As part of this role, I work with processes and finding efficiencies, but I am also able to help with other Operational Excellence projects like strategic planning and governance (i.e., program objectives, etc.) It is tough work but very interesting to see how our work in Operational Excellence will make the department function better.

Wildlife Society Activities:

I have been a TWS national member since 2013 and was an active member of my student chapter in undergrad and grad school. After graduation I maintained my national membership and working group affiliations. Several years ago, I joined the Conservation Education and Outreach Working Group as a board member. Starting in November 2019, I was elected as chair elect for the working group. I served as chair

from November 2020 to November 2021 and I am now serving as the past chair. Through my work with this group, I have organized a symposium for the 2018 national TWS conference as well as assisted in proposing other symposia and workshops. This year, we launched a webinar series entitled "Faces of Outreach" and it shows the different paths outreach professionals can take- academia, non-profit, and state agency work.

Professional Affiliations:

I am a member of the Human Dimensions Working Group, Wildlife Damage Working Group, Early Career Professional Working Group but have not served a leadership role in any of these groups. I have been a member of the Missouri Chapter of TWS since 2017 and when I lived in Georgia, I was a member of that Georgia Chapter.

Candidate for Secretary

Jen Mittelhauser

Personal Information:

I was born and raised in Texas, but I have lived in Missouri for the past 19 years. I spent most of my childhood days dirty as I chased snakes and insects. When I first moved to Missouri, I worked for MDC in seasonal positions including the stream branch in Sedalia and as a botany crew member out of the grassland field station in Clinton. My husband and I now own a small piece of my parent's farm that was originally my father's parent's farm west of Sedalia in Pettis County. We are the proud parents of a perpetually dirty border collie (Hamish) and two cats (Vivian and Chairman). I enjoy camping, hiking, herping, spinning wool, the Royals, the Chiefs, veggie gardening, and virtual escape rooms.

Education:

B.S., Botany, Texas State University, 1999 (minor: biochemistry)
M.S. Biology, Texas State University, 2003
PhD Biology, University of North Texas (exp. 2023)

Employment History:

When I first moved to Missouri, I worked for MDC in seasonal positions including the stream branch in Sedalia, the grassland field station in Clinton (as a resource assistant, and later as a Natural History Biologist and supervisor of the botany field team), and as the summer Youth Conservation Corps leader in Sedalia. For almost 18 years I have been a Biology Instructor at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, where I have served as one of the faculty advisors for the UCM chapter of TWS for 15 years; I teach such wildlife offerings as Wildlife Management, Wildlife Policy and Law, Zoology, and Herpetology. I am currently working on a PhD in Biology out of the University of North Texas in Denton (exp. Spring 2023); my project focuses on the effects of cattle disturbance on aquatic macroinvertebrates in Missouri farm ponds in the Osage Plains ecoregion.

Wildlife Society Activities:

I have been a member of the Missouri chapter of TWS and the North Central Section for about 15 years. I served as Chair of the MOTWS Professional Development Committee from 2011 to 2013 and currently serve as the main administrator of the MOTWS listserv. I have planned and participated in some of the MOTWS professional development workshops including Bear and Savannah/Woodlands. I attend MNRC regularly (weather and pandemics permitting), where I also attend the MOTWS business meeting each year. Over the years I have participated in countless UCM TWS student activities, including helping to plan and run the 2012 NCS TWS student conclave held at Duck Creek Conservation Area in Puxico, MO.

Professional Affiliations:

I have been a member of MOTWS, NCS TWS, and the national chapter of TWS for about 15 years. I am also a current member of the Society for Freshwater Science (SFS) and the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM). For several years I was also a member of the Ecological Society of America (ESA), the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR), the American Society of Ichthyologist and Herpetologists (ASIH), and the Herpetologist League.

Candidate for Secretary

Rachel Settle

Personal Information:

I was raised in Fredericktown, Missouri where I developed a passion for wildlife early on while exploring our local conservation areas and fishing with my grandparents. I currently reside in Desloge with my wife, our Alaskan malamute, Ronan, and cat, Dudley. We are expecting a new baby boy into our family in early April. We love to travel, especially to different National Parks as we have a checklist to hike in as many in our lifetimes as possible. Aside from hunting and fishing, my other interests include Blues hockey, Cardinals baseball, cooking, gardening, woodworking, and native plant landscaping.

Education:

B.S., Wildlife Biology, Missouri State University, 2013
M.S., Biology, Missouri State University, 2017

Employment History:

I conducted undergraduate research on southern red-backed salamanders in the Behavioral Ecology Lab at Missouri State University. In 2012, I had the opportunity to work at the Saint Louis Zoo's Goellner Center for Hellbender Conservation as an intern which led me to pursue hellbender research as a graduate student at MSU. My graduate research on hellbender reproductive behavior was a collaboration between the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Saint Louis Zoo. While working on my graduate research, I was employed as a Research Assistant and served as the Ecology and Conservation Director at Camp Arrowhead in Marshfield. In 2015, I was a graduate intern for MDC fisheries in Kansas City. This led to a permanent position as Fisheries Specialist at Chesapeake Fish Hatchery in the southwest region. Desiring a

more wildlife-focused career, I moved to Florida in 2017 to work for Florida Fish and Wildlife as the Fisheries and Biological Scientist III in Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area. Due to family health issues, I left Florida in 2019 to work in my current role as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II with Quail Forever serving Ste. Genevieve, St. Francois, and Madison counties.

Wildlife Society Activities:

My Wildlife Society roots go back to my days as an undergraduate at Missouri State University and I have been a

member since 2014. Since moving back to Missouri, I have been a member of the Missouri Chapter and have attended business meetings at MNRC. Currently, my application for TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist is under review. My hope for running as secretary is to help bring life back to our Missouri Chapter.

Professional Affiliations:

I am a Life Member of Quail Forever and a member of the National Deer Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the Conservation Federation of Missouri.

All Chapter members in good standing will soon receive an email from address **RSD.Survey@mdc.mo.gov** with a link to the on-line Voting site. On-line voting will be open until midnight Sunday May 15th, 2022. You can also vote by using the ballot included with this newsletter.

BALLOT

Vote for only one in each category:

President

_____ Cary D. Chevalier
_____ Jordan Meyer

President-Elect

_____ Sybill Amelon
_____ Ted Seiler

Secretary

_____ Lauren Hildreth
_____ Jen Mittlehauser
_____ Rachel Settle

***Your Name**

***Signature**

***Date**

Mailed Ballots must be **received** by close of business on Friday May 13, 2022.

***Note:** Submitted ballots without printed name, signature and date **WILL NOT** be accepted.

We need this information to validate sent in votes.

Send completed ballot to:
MOTWS-Nominations
PO Box 743
Columbia, MO 65205-0743

Below are copies of the 2021 and 2022 Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting Minutes from the 2021 virtual meeting and the 2022 meeting during the MNRC. We are providing them here, in the newsletter, for the members to review because you may not have been able to attend either of the last two meetings. Please take a moment to review these Minutes to catch up on what has been going on with the Chapter. If you have any edits or changes, please contact either Jason Isabelle, MOTWS Secretary or Treasurer, Tom Kulowiec.

Thank You.

MOTWS Executive Board

MOTWS Business Meeting Minutes

28 April 2021 Virtual Meeting

Recorded by: Jason Isabelle

Call to Order

Meeting began at 3:09 PM.

Dave Hoover provided meeting attendees with an overview of how to use the online platform.

Review of Minutes from 2020 Annual Business Meeting

Dave Hoover asked if there were comments about last year's Business Meeting minutes. No comments were made. Alan Leary motioned to accept minutes; Tom Kulowiec seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Kulowiec presented Treasurer's Report. Started year 2020 with \$25,822.77 in checking account. Total credits were \$3,195.98; total debits were \$18,148.37. Ending balance was \$10,870.38. Most credits were dues. Had \$16,856.39 that we had received as seed money for MDC's Black Bear Workshop; remaining monies were passed on to the next Black Bear Workshop host state (Wisconsin). Also had P.O. box renewal payment and payments to the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) for membership.

Started year 2020 with \$55.46 in savings account. Total credits were \$0.15; there were no debits. Ending balance was \$55.61.

Completed transfer of signature authority to Tom Kulowiec and Dave Hoover. The Chapter's tax-free number has expired; Tom will be working to get the number re-instated. Tony Elliott motioned to accept Treasurer's Report; Deb Burns seconded; motion carried.

Scholarships

The Farmer Conservationist Award was not presented this year because no candidates were submitted. The James D. Chambers Memorial Scholarship was not presented either. The Ed Stegner Scholarship and the Carl Morrow Scholarship were presented to Kile Gray and Kristen Hirst, respectively, at this year's CFM Convention. Brett Leach was the recipient of the MU Graduate Student Fellowship Award.

Audit Committee Report

Julie Fleming and Suzanne Johnston met with Tom Kulowiec to conduct the audit. Found all was in order. Motion by Margie Mitchell to accept the Audit Committee Report; Tony Elliott seconded; motion carried.

Student Chapter Reports

Dr. Jay McGhee indicated that it was a slow year at Northwest Missouri State University for the Chapter given the pandemic, but the Chapter was still able to participate in several activities, including a recent picnic that involved kayaking and climbing. The students did well this year, but it was a difficult year. Dr. Sean Maher indicated that the Chapter at Missouri State University was active last fall, but all meetings were virtual; the Chapter is planning on doing more as a group this fall.

Dave Hoover indicated that he had previously mentioned trying to engage the student chapters more, but these efforts were affected by the pandemic. Dave indicated that he would still like to see the state Chapter enhance the student chapters' experience. Dave also indicated that he is hopeful that there can be an in-person student workshop this fall, and that the state Chapter will be reaching out to the universities to learn of potential workshop topics of interest.

Old Business

Dave Hoover indicated that workshops (student or professional) were not held in 2020. The President-Elect position on the Executive Board became vacant during the summer of 2020. Thus far, elections have not been held to fill the vacant positions (President, President-Elect, Secretary). Dave indicated that there were two candidates for Secretary and that an electronic election was going to be held (bios will be sent ahead of the election). Dave indicated that we need candidates for the other vacant positions. Tom Kulowiec is working on the electronic election along with Tom Treiman.

Dave Hoover indicated that member involvement has been a challenge and that last year was a struggle. Margie Mitchell indicated that when vacancies on the Executive Board occur, the President can appoint someone to fill that role. The Executive Board could make a request to National TWS for guidance on this issue to determine if they would allow Dave to remain President for remainder of the year. Dave asked if there was anyone that would be interested in running for any of the vacant positions; no one indicated interest. Dave indicated that he hoped to have a full state of candidates by December for the coming year. Margie indicated that Chris Newbold had previously been on the Executive Board for four years; TWS National had approved this, so if the Executive Board members are willing to stay for remainder of year, the Chapter can request approval. Dave indicated that he would reach out to TWS National to inquire about this possibility. Dave indicated that he would be willing to continue to serve as President for remainder of the year and that he hopes to get increased membership and student involvement now that things have calmed down a bit in terms of the pandemic. Dave will also look to appoint a President-Elect; he asked for any comments and there were none.

President's Final Remarks

There were no official final remarks given an election has not been held yet and the President-Elect position is currently vacant.

Election Results

No election has been held. Dave Hoover indicated that an election would occur soon by electronic ballot.

Presidential Authority Passed to New President

A new President has not been named yet because the President-Elect position is currently vacant.

New Business

Dave Hoover indicated that a new student Chapter has formed (Missouri Southern State University). The Chapter has just elected their Board Members.

Dave Hoover indicated that he would like to have a student workshop this fall. After the Executive Board election occurs, Dave is going to reach out to the Student Chapter Presidents and their advisors to inquire about ideas for the workshop. Dr. Jay McGhee indicated that his students are interested in obtaining certifications, so that would be something to consider for the workshop. A comment was made that it will be important for Dave to engage the advisors to ensure the fall workshop does not occur during school breaks or other scheduling conflicts. Dave indicated that the workshop should be centrally located for ease of travel. Discussion about overnight arrangements. Dr. McGhee indicated that his students liked camping during the last student workshop. Comment that advanced notice would be important and that some students might not have camping gear, so some other type of lodging might be necessary.

Dave Hoover encouraged everyone to be thinking about people that might want to serve on the Executive Board. Dave also indicated that some of the committee positions need to be filled as well.

Dave Hoover indicated that a professional development workshop was not held last year. Dave asked if anyone had thoughts on what types of professional development opportunities they might be interested in; there were no comments.

Tom Kulowiec said he recognized that last year was difficult for folks. For those that did not pay their dues through National, please mail dues to Tom or send him an e-mail. Voting for the upcoming election will include members who have paid dues for 2020 and 2021. If folks do not get an electronic ballot in next couple weeks, let Tom know. Tom is going to send an e-mail in next few days to remind folks about this.

Dave Hoover indicated that he will be working on the spring/summer newsletter soon, and that we could include membership payment directions in the newsletter.

Josh Wisdom indicated that fisheries is hosting MNRC next year. MOTWS will be hosting in 2023. Josh already has a team working on things and is shadowing the 2022 team. Josh indicated that if people want to help, let him know. Dave Hoover thanked Josh for his work on this.

Dave Hoover thanked everyone, and let the group know that there will be more Chapter engagement and interaction moving forward.

Motion to adjourn was made by Alan Leary; seconded by David Thorne; no comments or discussion; motion carried, and meeting adjourned at 4:07 PM.

MOTWS Annual Business Meeting Minutes 2 February 2022 In-Person at MNRC

Recorded by: Luke Miller

Call to Order

Tom Kulowiec called the meeting to order at 3:33 PM. There were 51 people in attendance and the meeting was recorded for reference. A quorum of 11 paid members were identified among those that were attending.

Review of Minutes from 2021 Virtual Annual Business Meeting

After review of last year's meeting minutes, Joel Porath suggested to add text within the meeting minutes to show that the meeting was held virtually in April 2021 via Zoom. Motion from Bree McMurry to accept minutes as amended and seconded by Joel Porath.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Kulowiec provided credits/debts and checking account balance of \$12,318.16 and savings account balance of \$55.70. Motion to accept report by Lauren Hildreth and seconded by Jordan Meyer.

Audit Committee Report

Audit Committee has a signed statement Jan 27, 2022, by Lonnie Hansen and Julie Fleming and found all items in order.

Scholarships

Tom Kulowiec presented the group with an update that no awards are being issued this year. The MoTWS Executive Board will review candidates provided by CFM for those few scholarships shared between the groups.

Student Chapter Reports

Missouri Western University, Ethan Bennie (current President)

Student members have over 800 hours of volunteer work this past year. Most notable activities included: Loess Bluffs savanna restoration, completing their first stream team, radio-telemetry workshops, Dunn Ranch prairie chicken surveys, cleaned up local shooting range, staffed MDC trunk or treat, College Hunting Program, planted milkweeds on campus for monarchs, CWD sampling, share the harvest with over 2,700 pounds of venison donated, and volunteered with Eagle Days. Also, this past year, the Chapter obtained the 2021 North Central Student Chapter of the Year award. Various MDC personnel came to meetings and presented information about their careers to the students.

Northwest Missouri State University, Gabriel Runyon (current President)

A lot of activities occurred during COVID including the Mazingo Lake cleanup and water quality sampling. Eight students attended University hunting program with Delta Waterfowl, and students assisted in the MDC Protection Branch shadowing, MDC quail surveys at Bilby Lake, and the new installation of bat boxes around campus.

Missouri Southern University – no report

Missouri State University – no report

Southeast Missouri State University – no report

University of Central Missouri – no report

University of Missouri – no report

Lincoln University – no report

*Tom Kulowiec thanked the students for attending and doing such great work and being active.

Old Business

Tom Kulowiec provided a brief overview of Executive Board activities considering the disruptions that COVID has caused. Disruptions over the past few years have hampered elections to refill vacant positions. The Chapter is currently looking for three positions to be filled this year (President, President-Elect, Secretary). Please contact Tom Kulowiec or Jason Isabelle if you are interested in running for one of these positions. Current Executive Board is working to produce a Spring Newsletter and will have a slate of candidates and bios for an online vote in hopes of having a new Executive Board in place by June 1. Then, next year's plan is to elect a new President-Elect, Treasurer, and Board Member At-Large and return to normal scheduling of elections.

Josh Wisdom, MNRC chair for 2023, provided an update of MoTWS hosting MNRC next year. Josh is currently needing help and is a few members short of volunteers to lead on the Arrangements and Registration sub-committees. Current MNRC attendance is about 400-500 due to COVID and a recent winter storm tracking across the state. Need members to start pushing for workshops and presentations for the set dates of February 6-9, 2023; the theme is, "New Frontiers on Old Landscapes." Timeline and planning currently ongoing as volunteers have been shadowing current MNRC sub-committees and will be passed material from outgoing MoAFS members at the MNRC's post conference meeting.

New Business

Bree McMurry asked if we have ever done a separate MoTWS-only conference and Tom Kulowiec mentioned that we had been doing Spring Student Workshops and Professional Workshops each year. Lauren Hildreth mentioned possibly having a weekend at a state park with posters/papers as has been done in Kentucky.

Tom Kulowiec asked how many in attendance were getting informational e-mails from the ListServ as communication has been lacking and no newsletters have been produced over the past few years. Lauren Hildreth mentioned a new style of two-way communication, as this might be a way to interact with members outside of seeing each other in-person at MNRC. Tom Kulowiec mentioned that anyone can post to the ListServ or share item with an officer to send it to the membership. Cary Chevalier mentioned there is no echo on receiving sent e-mails from the Google group. Tom Kulowiec informed him that it is hosted by our National TWS through our own state chapter website. Lauren Hildreth didn't know how to communicate as a new member.

Tom Kulowiec mentioned that the Board Member At-Large is a liaison position to connect students. Student Chapter Presidents are invited to each Executive Board meeting as a non-voting participant.

Alison Bleich asked if there is a set Executive Board meeting schedule and Tom Kulowiec informed everyone that the officers try to meet at least four times a year. Luke Miller mentioned that the Operations Manual plainly states a timeline of tasks for chapter activities.

Bree McMurry brought up that our state Chapter website has not been posting meeting minutes since 2018. Tom Kulowiec informed the group of the tedious process with working with National TWS staff.

Josh Wisdom asked the Chapter what a professional receives for their membership? Tom Kulowiec mentioned such items as: discount on MNRC registration, Professional Workshops, and travel grants. This change might be a philosophical ideal among general society as people feel that they are very busy and are more passionate about completing simple, short-term tasks. Tom Kulowiec also mentioned in the past MDC leaders being active members within MoTWS, which seemed to boost participation. This organization is only as good as its members. Tom Kulowiec read election letter as MO was one of the first state chapter in the Midwest and has recently won National and membership holds between 120-140 paid members and chapter activity has diminished, so now is a critical need for action!

Alison Bleich proposed a question about any events open for all members? Tom Kulowiec again mentioned the student and professional workshops and travel grant could be used. Luke Miller followed up by informing past fundraising events for Chambers Scholarship with limited attendance. Tom Kulowiec brought up the idea of a virtual event with presentations as a way for members to socialize. Josh Wisdom added that there is a need for a presentation to assist those applicants in applying for CWB certification and hopes to have at MNRC next year. Bree McMurry mentioned professional event for use as a network with panel across multiple agencies to increase involvement.

Cary Chevalier provided some comments to increase opportunities for student chapter members. Such as the thought to have student chapter members as honorary members of the state chapter at no cost. Also, to encourage these young professionals to get various certifications, such as MDC level 1 prescribed burn. Bree McMurry asked student chapter officers to send out a note to local working professionals via ListServ inviting local professionals to their events allowing for networking possibilities. For example, a student mentioned that they did not know MoDOT had wildlife biologists until it was mentioned in passing during the chapter's annual business meeting. Bree McMurry volunteered to visit each student chapter and inform them of the 6 biologist positions within MoDOT.

*Tom Kulowiec thanked everyone for the comments on this issue.

The Wildlife Society Conservation Education and Outreach Working Group (CEOWG) is accepting submissions for a new logo. Lauren Hildreth is the main contact for this contest for our national TWS working group and contact her for more information.

Motion to adjourn was provided by Jordan Meyer and seconded by Abigail Meyers (Luke Miller) at 5:08 PM.