The Wildlife Society - Pennsylvania Chapter

The Wildlife Society Pennsylvania Chapter

Newsletter — Spring/Summer 2022

President's Message

Hello everyone. My name is Aaron Haines and I am the new President for PA TWS. I have been an active member of PA TWS for nearly 10 years, and I am looking forward to working with all of you this year in exploring new opportunities for our chapter.

Last year was very productive for PA TWS, considering we were still under the shadow of the COVID pandemic. Some of last year's highlights include 1) Successfully implementing a Virtual Annual Conference with 23 presentations and nearly 100 participants. 2) Hosting a year-round virtual webinar speaker series open to all PA TWS members and the general public. 3) Sending letters to our state representatives and leaders to support the Recovery of America's Wildlife Act and support state listing of the Northern Goshawk. 4) Helping establish a new student chapter of the wildlife society at Gove City College. Based on last year's accomplishments, we applied to National TWS for Chapter of the Year. Fingers crossed as our application is reviewed.

This year, we have a couple of goals in our sights. First, we plan to partner with the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA) to merge our annual conferences. The meeting will take place on April 30th-May 2nd, 2023 in Hershey, Pennsylvania. This event will be a great opportunity to work and communicate with other wildlife professionals from around the northeast region. We also plan to host more professional development workshops for students and wildlife folks just starting their careers. Workshop dates will be shared in the coming months.

Another goal this year is to discuss opportunities to expand the diversity of our chapter. I believe this is something we can all play a part in. Spring is here and the weather is getting warmer. The art of amplexus is well underway, migrants have arrived, and many burrows have hungry yearlings wanting to explore the world around them. We all wish to do the same, be it trout fishing, bird watching, searching for herps, getting that Tom turkey, or simply getting lost in the woods with our thoughts. I ask a favor from all of you this spring; as you plan your outdoor activities, think of others who may wish to join you. Maybe someone who does not get a chance to hunt, fish, hike or simply watch wildlife. Who can you include in your experiences that will help diversify the wildlife field?

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The more we can diversify the people we take out with us; the more different types of people get to know wildlife. I plan to reach out and invite others to join me this year. For example, I will be contacting our Biology Mentoring Program here at Millersville University to invite underrepresented students to come out with me to check remote audio and cameras traps when I survey for bats and weasels. Maybe the experiences we provide may inspire a greater diversity of young people to become wildlife professionals.

Enjoy the Spring and Summer seasons. I wish you safe travels in your wildlife excursions and remember, who can you invite to join you?

Sincerely,

Dr. Aaron Haines
President, PA TWS

Treasurer's Report

2021

2021 Income		2021 Expenses	
Membership Dues	$2,828.00	Scholarships/Grants/Awards	$845.72
Donations	$510.00	Donations/Support	$600.00
Total	$3,338.00	Webinars (Zoom)	$679.80
		Administrative Costs	$1,153.55
		Total	$3,279.07

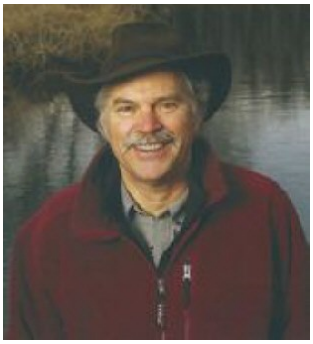
2022

2022 Income *(to date)*		2022 Expenses *(to date)*	
Membership Dues	$598.00	Scholarships/Grants/Awards	$2,539.90
Donations	$500.00	Donations/Support	$700.00
Conference Registration	$630.00	Webinars (Zoom)	$60.00
Total	$1,728.00	Administrative Costs	$156.00
		Conference (Ramada)	$2,800.00
		Total	$6,255.90

Comments: Conference cancellation fee in 2022 Expenses will be applied to the 2024 PA TWS Conference

2022 Award Recipients

Gordon Kirkland Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient: Dr. Robert P. Brooks



Dr. Robert P. Brooks had a long and distinguished career focusing on wildlife and wetlands conservation. His early educational background includes a BS in Biology and Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania and MS and PhD degrees in Wildlife Biology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Rob's graduate research demonstrated an early devotion to wetland wildlife, resulting in a MS thesis and PhD dissertation respectively focused on American beavers and muskrats. Soon after completing his PhD, Rob began his academic career at The Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) in 1980, first at the DuBois campus, and then at University Park, where he retired to professor emeritus status in 2018 after 38 years of dedicated academic service. At Penn State, Rob contributed in various capacities, including Professor of Wildlife and Wetlands; Professor of Geography and Ecology; and the Director of "Riparia," an interdisciplinary program that he conceived, developed, and made prominent at the University.

Rob's research program has contributed over 150 publications in peer-reviewed journals and proceedings, book chapters, books, and non-refereed journal articles. Topics of these writings range from wetland hydrology, factors influencing wetland plant communities, and numerous wetland-dependent vertebrates – Rob was active in the Pennsylvania River Otter and Fisher Reintroduction Projects and these species were the focus of over 20 of these writings. Rob was particularly proud of his recent book (co-edited with his former PhD student, Denice Wardrop), *Mid-Atlantic Freshwater Wetlands: Advances in Wetlands Science, Management, Policy, and Practice.* Rob supported his research program (primarily comprised of graduate students) by obtaining over 110 grants totaling over $30M USD.

Among Rob's greatest personal fulfillments and for which he derived the most professional pride and pleasure was the opportunity to mentor graduate students – over 40 graduate students completed MS or PhD degrees under his guidance. Rob's smile would always grow especially wide, and his eyes would have a special glow when talking about the graduate students that had worked with him.

Rob was also an active member of PA-TWS and regular attendee and participant of the Chapter's annual conference since arriving at Penn State in 1980. Many of his students have gone on to serve on the Board.

Shortly after retiring from Penn State, Rob was diagnosed with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and he passed in May of 2021. Because of Rob's passion and contribution to wildlife and wetland science, his years of teaching at Penn State, and his tireless mentoring of over 40 plus graduate students, the PA Chapter of the Wildlife Society is posthumously honoring Dr. Robert P. Brooks as this year's recipient the Gordan Kirkland Lifetime Achievement Award. Accepting the award on behalf of Rob are his wife Emily and his children Ben and Emily.

2022 Award Recipients

Hoagy Schaadt and Tom Hardisky Graduate Student Travel Grant Recipient: Joe Elias

I am Joe Elias, a graduate student from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. My interests lie in wildlife conservation, mainly focusing on ornithology. While acquiring my undergraduate, I was active in The Wildlife Society, attending conferences, and volunteering with those professionals I connected with. I gained experience interning for the U.S Forest Service Northeast Research Lab as an ornithological technician, and later worked as a point count and vegetation technician for Indiana University of Pennsylvania before returning to Keystone College as an adjunct lab instructor.

Recently, I started my master's in biology at Bloomsburg University under Dr. Clay Corbin. Through the Corbin Lab, I am continuing my appreciation for Northern Saw-whet Owls as a collaborator on a joint project between Bloomsburg University and The University of Scranton. In addition to NSWOs, my thesis research will investigate the infiltration of microplastics in terrestrial passerines and the factors which may contribute to exposure. I hope to supply a sound, scientific study which will be used as a driving force for avian conservation and safer contiguity between wildlife and anthropogenic influence. I plan to present this thesis proposal at The Wildlife Society National Conference in Spokane, Washington. Of course, this would not be possible without the gracious help of PATWS, who awarded me the Hoagy Schaadt and Tom Hardisky Graduate Student Travel Grant.

Currently, my graduate assistantship position is strengthening my skills in study skin preparation for educational use, undergraduate mentoring, and teaching skills. I look ahead to the bird banding season, analyzing preliminary data for my thesis research, and possibly pursuing supplementary interests with my lab. I hope to continue my education into a doctoral program where I can continue the passion for wildlife conservation which my mentors, whom I met one way or another through TWS, have instilled in me.

2022 Award Recipients

A huge ***THANK YOU*** to all who attended the 2022 virtual conference on Zoom. We had a total of 96 participants. Another thank you goes to the wonderful students and professionals who submitted abstracts and research—you are all rockstars!

Best Undergraduate Presentation

Cameala Freed & Gina Salerni, Millersville University

Stop the Invasion: An Analysis of Invasive Species Impacts on Threatened and Endangered Species

Best Graduate Presentation

Logan Stenger, Penn State University

Water Mite Potential as Bioindicators for Water Quality Conditions

Northeast Field Course Scholarship

Marilyn Ogof, Juniata College

Frank Felbaum Scholarship

Peter Livengood, California University of PA

PA TWS Professional Development Grant

Virginia Tilden

For those members who may want to contribute to the otter statue to be placed in the Penn State Arboretum in honor of our Kirkland winner Robert Brooks, here is the information. PATWS made a $500 donation in lieu of a gift of artwork to the Kirkland winner this year.

Link to Arboretum Online Giving (Click "This gift is in honor or memory of someone"):
GiveNow.psu.edu/PennStateArboretum

Or the mailing address for checks is below (include Rob Brooks in the memo line):

The Arboretum at Penn State
302 Forest Resources Building
University Park, PA 16802

PA TWS Board Members

President

Dr. Aaron Haines

Dr. Aaron Haines is an Associate Professor of Biology at Millersville University and a Certified Wildlife Biologist. He teaches courses in Zoology, Mammalogy, Ornithology, Conservation Biology and Wildlife Ecology and Management. He is the Director of the Millersville Applied Conservation Lab where he involves undergraduate students in research and service-learning. Aaron's professional interests involve identifying effective approaches to implement successful conservation strategies. He has been involved in a diversity of research projects including satellite tracking of migratory raptors and gamebirds, population and habitat modeling for ocelots, developing strategies to mitigate poaching, using remote camera and acoustic recording devices to survey for wildlife, and conducting policy analysis of the Endangered Species Act. Aaron has been a member of the National Chapter of the Wildlife Society for 20 years. He became a member of PATWS in 2012. He previously served most recently as the Vice President of PA TWS. He is also a member of the Society of Conservation Biologists, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania University Biologists and the Pennsylvania Mammal Technical Committee. Recently, Aaron has been working with college students to get them involved in outdoor sports and activities. He is the faculty mentor of the Millersville Outdoor Conestoga Club and the Millersville University Outdoor Sporting Club. He has also been involved in Delta Waterfowl's University Hunting Program and with Pennsylvania's Master Naturalist Program. In his free time, Aaron likes to go hiking, camping, birdwatching, and hunting with his family.

Past President

Craig Hicks

Craig Hicks holds an associate's degree in Wildlife Management and a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from The Pennsylvania State University. He is a Certified Wildlife Biologist with The Wildlife Society and has worked in several states with threatened and endangered species, and environmental issues prior to his employment with USDA, Wildlife Services. Craig began his career with Wildlife Services in 2001 in South Carolina as a technician mitigating beaver damage. In 2004, he transferred to the Ohio Program to serve as an Airport Wildlife Biologist at both of Cleveland's airports. From 2007 to 2017, he served as the Ohio Wildlife Disease Biologist conducting disease surveillance and management activities in a number of wildlife species in Ohio, as well as responding to emergency outbreaks in many other states. Also during that time, he served as the Ohio Feral Swine Coordinator, working towards eliminating this highly destructive, invasive species from the state. In February of 2017, Craig accepted the role of District Supervisor for the Western District of the Pennsylvania Wildlife Services Program and now leads a team of highly trained staff, covering a wide range of projects including; Rabies, Airports, Deer, Goose, and Starling Damage Management. Craig lives in Cambria County with his wife and two young boys.

PA TWS Board Members

Vice President

Kyle Van Why

Kyle Van Why is originally from the Pocono Mountains, and attended California Univ. of PA receiving a BS in Wildlife Biology. After graduation he worked as a wildlife technician for a number of agencies and universities across the eastern US. He obtained a MS in Wildlife Ecology from LSU in 2003 working on black bear restoration.
Kyle has worked as a Wildlife Biologist for USDA-Wildlife Services since 2003 starting in Mississippi. In 2007 he returned to Pennsylvania as the Wildlife Disease Biologist. His current work focuses on wildlife disease issues (management, surveillance, control, research, and education) which include working with State and Federal agencies and numerous institutions. In this position Kyle works statewide on various disease issues and in a first responder for USDA and has been deployed out of state multiple times. He serves on a number of multi-agency wildlife related working groups as well. He has been a member of TWS since 1995, and a founding member of the California Univ of PA Student Chapter. Kyle is a Certified Wildlife Biologist with TWS. He has served on the PA TWS board multiple times as a board-member at large, NE Section Representative, assisted with the state conference on multiple other occasions, and worked with numerous TWS student chapters.

Treasurer

Tammy Colt

Tammy Colt has been a Regional Wildlife Diversity Biologist for the Pennsylvania Game Commission since 2005, covering the ten counties of PA's Southwest Region. As an RWDB, her primary duties involve the management of Pennsylvania's bird and mammal species of greatest conservation need—approximately 100 species. She works with public and private landowners to develop habitat management plans and provide guidance for habitat improvements that benefit declining species. Tammy has a B.S. in Animal Bioscience from Pennsylvania State University and an M.S. in Biology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She studied temporal changes in herpetofaunal populations at Powdermill Nature Reserve (Carnegie Museum of Natural History's biological field station) for her Master's thesis. Before graduate school, she worked as an environmental educator at Powdermill Nature Reserve for five years. During that time she was Project Coordinator and co-author of *Pennsylvania Amphibians and Reptiles: A Curriculum Guide* (PA Fish and Boat Commission, 2001). A Loyalhanna Watershed Association volunteer since 2003 and a current member of the board of directors, Tammy serves as project coordinator for *Loyalhanna Turtle Watch* and coordinates hellbender e-DNA monitoring within the Loyalhanna Watershed, while also serving as the Land Committee Chair. With a passion for land conservation, she also serves on the board of the Westmoreland Land Trust and chairs their Stewardship Committee. Tammy has served as President of the PA Chapter of The Wildlife Society and Treasurer for the Northeast Section of TWS; she is serving her first term as treasurer for PATWS. Having held multiple board positions in the PA Chapter and NE Section, Tammy understands the importance of subunit governance and coordination with our parent organization, The Wildlife Society. Outside of work, she enjoys hiking, kayaking, owning and riding horses (including an adopted American Mustang), and growing vegetables on her family farm.

PA TWS Board Members

Secretary

Franny Buderman

Frances (Franny) Buderman is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Ecosystem Science & Management at the Pennsylvania State University. She received a B.Sc. in Natural Resources from Cornell University, a M.Sc. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Pennsylvania State University, and a Ph.D. in Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology from Colorado State University. She is a quantitative ecologist and focuses on animal movement and population dynamics. Franny has worked on a variety of organisms including white-tailed deer, cougars, Canada lynx, and waterfowl; current projects are focused on ungulates, wild turkeys, and Canada geese. She has been a member of the national chapter of The Wildlife Society since 2011, was a member of the Colorado chapter from 2013-2020, and re-joined the Pennsylvania chapter in 2021. Franny has also been a member of the Biometrics Working Group since 2015 and served on the board from 2017-2019. Franny has consistently presented her research at state and national meetings and has provided workshops at both regional and national meetings. At Pennsylvania State University, Franny teaches undergraduate mammalogy classes, an undergraduate course in data analysis for wildlife and fisheries scientists, and a graduate course in statistics for ecologists. She is currently serving her second year as the Secretary for the PA Chapter.

Membership Coordinator

Lillie Langlois

Lillie Langlois is a lecturer in the Forestry and Environmental Conservation Department at Clemson University. She teaches graduate courses for the online Master of Wildlife and Fisheries Resources program, including GIS for Natural Resources, Mammalogy, Ornithology, Wildlife Behavior, and Wildlife Conservation Policy. She received her PhD from Penn State University and previously taught at PSU and the University of Pittsburgh. Her current research interests focus on landscape changes associated with shale gas development and in particular the effects on forest bird populations. Her research intertwines ecology, ornithology, and GIS. Her previous research investigated avian exercise physiology by simulating migration in wind tunnels at the Max Plank Institute for Ornithology, Germany and Advanced Facility for Avian Research, Canada. She has conducted field work on birds and mammals in diverse ecosystems including the tundra of Alaska, temperate forests of New Zealand, and landscapes across central Europe. Outside of academia, she enjoys traveling, biking, hiking, birding, and gardening. She lives in central Pennsylvania with her husband and two adorable children, 3 and 6 years old, who keep them very busy.

PA TWS Board Members

Digital Media Manager

Courtney LaCivita

Baba Dioum said it best, "In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand and we will understand only what we are taught." This quote has been a guiding principle in Courtney's personal and professional life for years, reminding her that wildlife conservation starts with communication and inspiring her o support wildlife conservation through education and communication. Since earning her Master of Science from Shippensburg University in 2015, Courtney has worked as the head of education for the Keystone Elk Country Alliance, learned how to communicate controversial topics as the CWD Communications Specialist and gained invaluable customer service skills as Social Media and Communications Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Game Commission. She is happy to be the new Hunter-Trapper Education and R3 Division Chief for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, where she can help support funding for wildlife conservation in the state by creating and implementing innovative initiatives to expand participation in hunting and trapping.

Newsletter Editor

Emily Sandly

Emily Sandly is a 2020 graduate of Keystone College with a Bachelor's in Wildlife Biology. She has held a variety of seasonal positions, from a songbird field technician with the University of Montana, to a seabird research assistant with the National Audubon Society's Seabird Restoration Program. Last year, she was awarded the Associate Wildlife Biologist certificate by National TWS. Currently, she is working as a member of the Visitor Services team at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Kempton, PA, which is the first raptor migration count site in North America. She has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 2016, and has served on the Pennsylvania Chapter board as a Board Member At-Large for the year 2021-22. Emily is an avid outdoorswoman and can always be found hunting, fishing, hiking or camping in Penn's woods.

PA TWS Board Members

Board Member At-Large

Samantha DiLorenzo

Samantha DiLorenzo graduated from Juniata College in 2014 with a degree in Wildlife Conservation. She has been a member of The Wildlife Society for 8 years and is a Certified Wildlife Biologist. Samantha worked for USDA Wildlife Services for 6 years as a wildlife specialist with experience carrying out projects managing a variety of species including; feral swine, European starlings, Canada geese, white-tailed deer and other nuisance wildlife species. She has worked with national programs assisting with the management of rabies and other wildlife diseases, as well as, primarily working with wildlife hazards on airports. Samantha is currently a Soil Conservationist with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and a Certified Conservation Planner since 2020. There she helps producers utilized the best management practices for their agricultural uses to 'help people help the land'. Samantha has been on the PA TWS chapter board since 2018.

Board Member At-Large

Nokota Harpster

Nokota Harpster graduated from Juniata College with a BS in Wildlife Conservation. She has been a member of The Wildlife Society for seven years and is an Associate Wildlife Biologist. Nokota began working for USDA Wildlife Services in 2015 as a specialist in northeast Pennsylvania. In 2018, she transferred to the state office in Harrisburg, working as an admin/field specialist, then became the Pennsylvania Wildlife Staff Biologist in 2021. She resolves wildlife damage in urban and rural areas. As a wildlife biologist for the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, she is required to abide by depredation permits issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and the Pennsylvania Game Commission. She assists the public with the Wildlife Services Form 37 and their application for a USFWS and PGC depredation permit. She is a board of director for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau in Mifflin County. She also belongs to other conservation groups such as the PA Trapper's Association and is a committee member for Ducks Unlimited. She is an avid hunter and enjoys anything outdoors.

PA TWS Board Members

Board Member At-Large

Clayton Lutz

Clayton Lutz has worked as a wildlife biologist for over two decades. Clayton is currently the Wildlife Diversity Biologist for the PA Game Commission's Southcentral region. His primary responsibility is research, monitoring, and habitat management for Species of Greatest Conservation Need. He also previously worked in the Game Commission's Deer and Elk Section. He was also a biologist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, where he worked on the management and research of Nongame species, such as the desert tortoise, Sonoran tiger salamander, and the Kanab ambersnail. He has also worked for a private environmental consultant, primarily performing research on Indiana bat migration and habitat use, as well as conducting presence/absence surveys.

Clayton received a bachelor's degree from Juniata College with a dual major in Ecology and Environmental Science, and a master's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science for the Pennsylvania State University. Clayton is a lifelong outdoorsman and particularly enjoys fly fishing, skiing, hunting, and gardening. He lives in Mifflin County with his wife, two daughters, and a sassy Labrador that doesn't retrieve.

Board Member At-Large

Mario Giazzon

Mario Giazzon has been the Wildlife Diversity Biologist for the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Northcentral Region since 2007. His primary duties are to provide technical assistance to private landowners regarding habitat management for species of greatest conservation need identified in the state's wildlife action plan. He also coordinates several projects in the Northcentral Region ranging from acoustic surveys for bats and northern flying squirrels, monitoring and banding at barn owl, kestrel, and peregrine falcon nests, camera trapping and habitat projects for Allegheny woodrat, waterfowl trapping and banding, and supporting external research for wildlife action plan species. Prior to his current position he worked with private lands programs in Pennsylvania (NRCS), The Nature Conservancy in Kentucky, and the Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife. Mario received his B.S. degree in Biology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1999 and his M.S. in Biological Sciences at Illinois State University in 2002.

PA TWS Board Members

Northeast Section Representative ***Emily Thomas***

Emily holds an Associate degree in Wildlife Technology from Penn State DuBois and Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Penn State University Park. From 2005 through 2015, she worked with the U.S. Forest Service Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Irvine, PA on various projects, including her Master's research, which focused on the effects of shale gas development forest birds. In 2012, she was hired as a faculty in the Wildlife Technology program at Penn State DuBois where she has taught six courses, leads the student chapter of The Wildlife Society, and runs a bird banding station where she does research, trains Wildlife Technology students, and supervises undergraduate research projects. She serves on the boards of the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society, the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. She participates in Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Surveys, monitors an American Kestrel nest box trail, and manages bird banding demonstrations for the public at Jamestown Audubon Sanctuary every spring and summer. She currently lives in DuBois, PA with her husband, Eric, their children, Zoey and Wyatt, and their German shorthair pointers, Maggie, Falcon, and Timber. In her spare time, she enjoys upland bird hunting with her dogs and many other outdoor recreation activities, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

To our outgoing board members, *THANK YOU* for your dedication and service to PA TWS.

Samara Trusso, Past President

Keely Roen, Membership Coordinator

Dr. Justin Brown, Board Member At-Large

Samantha DiLorenzo, Newsletter Editor

Emily Sandly, Board Member At-Large

New Chapter Spotlight: Grove City College TWS Student Chapter

Written by Emilee Henderson, Vice President

The Grove City College TWS Student Chapter has been busy during this spring semester. Starting off we recently applied for our affiliation to become a student chapter of TWS. This was very exciting for us because of the benefits that come with the national affiliation. As a community service project members replaced bedding in Wood Duck boxes along Wolf Creek in Grove City, which will become an annual service project for the club. In the future, the club is looking to place fishing-line recycling containers along this same stream to avoid entanglement of different wildlife species.

Another program we started this spring was our speaker series. Craig Hicks from USDA Wildlife Services served as our first speaker. Craig is a district supervisor for the USDA Wildlife Service's southwestern region of PA and also serves as our TWS liaison for our new chapter. During the visit, Craig presented a trapping workshop to give members a look into the use of trapping in the wildlife profession followed by a more formal presentation introducing members to the service USDA Wildlife Services provides. Our second speaker was Roger Coup from the PA Game Commission. Roger is the Wildlife Management Supervisor for PA's Northwest region. Roger's talk was a Q&A session on what he has done as a wildlife professional and how he got there. Roger also gave members advice on how to become a better wildlife professional and provided us with insight into what a career in wildlife will be like. In the fall, we are looking forward to several speakers that plan on discussing topics including being a woman in wildlife, songbird diversity, and the role of hunting in conservation.

Students learn from Chapter Liaison Craig Hicks

Grove City College TWS Student Chapter Officers

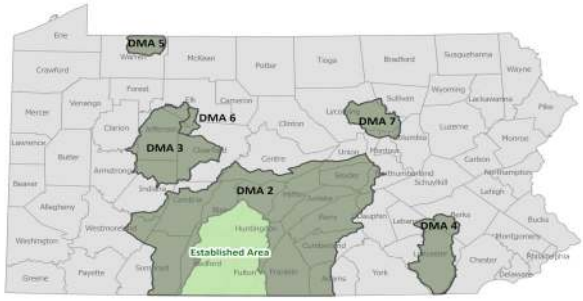
President—Mason Muir
Vice-President—Emilee Henderson
Secretary—Derek Johncour
Treasurer—Matthew Conley

Chapter Liaison—Craig Hicks
Chapter Advisor—Dr. Darren Wood

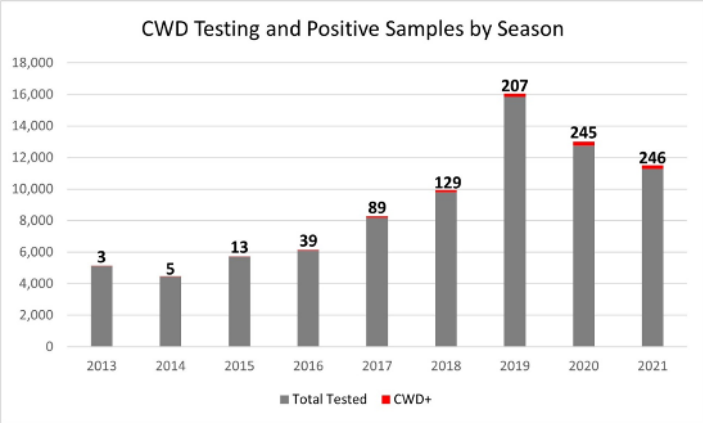
Students filling Wood duck boxes with nesting material

CWD – It's still here

Unless you move in the deer world with regularity, you might have forgotten that chronic wasting disease (CWD) is part of Pennsylvania's landscape. It was found in 2012 in captive and free-ranging deer and has been here ever since. CWD is an incurable, untreatable, always-fatal brain disease of cervids. In Pennsylvania, that means CWD is a threat to both deer and elk.
CWD is contagious and spreads through exposure to contaminated soil, and by direct animal-to-animal contact. Research conducted on CWD has also demonstrated that it can pass through the digestive tract of scavengers and predators and remain infectious; plants can uptake CWD prions and remain infectious; soils retain infectious CWD prions for years; and water sources can be contaminated with CWD prions. And when compared with other prion disease agents, CWD prions are more adaptable to other species in laboratory settings. How these and other yet-to-be-discovered aspects of CWD impact deer, wildlife, and even people are still unknown and why managing this disease is so important.
When it comes to managing wildlife diseases like CWD, we focus on lowering risk. Lowering risk of people spreading disease. Lowering risk of animals spreading disease. Lowering risk of non-infected animals getting disease. Disease Management Areas (DMAs) and Established Areas (EAs) concentrate on human-assisted spread of CWD. That's why you cannot feed deer, use or possess urine-based attractants, remove high-risk cervid parts, or rehab cervids within them.



Pennsylvania currently has 6 active DMAs and 1 EA. The Game Commission just announced the expansion of DMA 2 and the creation of DMA 7 as a result of additional detections in captive and free-ranging deer.
So what is the CWD picture like in 2022, 10 years after its discovery in the Commonwealth?
The bad news is that CWD continues to spread and more deer are testing positive each year.



The good news is the Game Commission continues to address this public threat with the best available science. Responding to wildlife diseases is one of the Game Commission's most important roles. We work to manage CWD not for the sake of the agency but for the benefit of the public.
More information about deer and CWD can be found https://arcg.is/1G4TLr

Jeannine Fleagle, Wildlife Biologist, PA Game Commission

Summer Reading – Top Journal Downloads of 2021

You may have noticed a few changes to the appearance of *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Monographs* and *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. After more than a decade without a change in design, TWS journals have received an updated look. This new contemporary design is intended to improve digital readability of TWS publications while also implementing new industry standards, like eLocators.

One of the most noticeable changes is a switch to a single column format. Over the past several years, TWS has seen a dramatic shift in how its journal content is consumed by members and beyond. In 2021, TWS printed around 2,000 issues of JWM for approximately 200 print subscribers. By comparison, digital article downloads exceeded 425,000 in 2021. Over the past five years, digital downloads of TWS Journal articles have increased by over 85%.

With more people reading TWS publications on computer screens, tablets, or cell phones, a switch to single column means larger text and less scrolling up and down. We're certainly excited about this forward-looking layout and hope you too enjoy the new design. For a timeline of changes to TWS journals dating back to 1937 and some additional discussion on the new journal design, check out this editorial from the editors of all three TWS journals.

Wondering what your fellow wildlifers are reading? The table below includes the top 10 downloaded papers in 2021. Members of TWS receive free access to all TWS publications. To take advantage of this exclusive member benefit, simply log into Your Membership and go to the "Publications" tab.

Title / Author(s) / Journal
Best Management Practices for Trapping Furbearers in the United States (*open access*) H. Bryant White, Gordon R. Batcheller, Edward K. Boggess, Clifford L. Brown, Joseph W. Butfiloski, Thomas A. Decker, John D. Erb, Michael W. Fall, David A. Hamilton, Tim L. Hiller, George F. Hubert Jr., Matthew J. Lovallo, John F. Olson, Nathan M. Roberts *Wildlife Monographs*
Climate change effects on deer and moose in the Midwest (*open access*) Sarah R. Weiskopf, Olivia E. Ledee, Laura M. Thompson *The Journal of Wildlife Management*
Stakeholder trust in a state wildlife agency *(free access for TWS members)* Shawn J. Riley, J. Kevin Ford, Heather A. Triezenberg, Patrick E. Lederle *The Journal of Wildlife Management*
Effects of Wind Turbine Curtailment on Bird and Bat Fatalities (*open access*) K. Shawn Smallwood, Douglas A. Bell *The Journal of Wildlife Management*

Summer Reading – Top Journal Downloads of 2021

Title / Author(s) / Journal
Sage-Grouse Population Dynamics are Adversely Affected by Overabundant Feral Horses (*open access*) Peter S. Coates, Shawn T. O'neil, Diana A. MuÑoz, Ian A. Dwight, John C. Tull *The Journal of Wildlife Management*
Dynamics, Persistence, and Genetic Management of the Endangered Florida Panther Population (*open access*) Madelon van de Kerk, David P. Onorato, Jeffrey A. Hostetler, Benjamin M. Bolker, Madan K. Oli *Wildlife Monographs*
Preparing Wildlife for Climate Change: How Far Have We Come? (free access for TWS members) Fuller, Olivia E. LeDee, Stephen D. Handler, Christopher L. Hoving, Christopher W. Swanston, Benjamin Zuckerberg *The Journal of Wildlife Management*
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Pennsylvania TWS Objectives

1. To develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environments upon which wildlife and humans depend.

2. To undertake an active role in preventing human-induced environmental degradation.

3. To increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values.

4. To seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.

5. To serve the specialized needs of Pennsylvania in wildlife resource management.

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—Who's Who on the Board—

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This newsletter is produced at least semi-annually for the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Editor: Emily Sandly

Please email items of interest, comments, questions or corrections to: esandly@keystone.edu

How to Renew Your TWS Membership

Written by Tammy Colt, PATWS Treasurer

In my office closet, there are a couple of boxes of PATWS files on paper. These are what's left after I purged them of duplicates and whatever was obsolete. One year into my term as treasurer, I've added nothing new to these boxes, because luckily, we can do almost everything digitally by now—**even paying dues**. Yes, that's right, even paying dues. You no longer have to mail a check to the treasurer to pay your dues—you have two other (better!) options.

If you are a member of The Wildlife Society, our parent organization, the easiest way to renew your PATWS membership is to do it when you renew your TWS membership. Just check the box, and $10 (for professionals) will automatically be added to your bill. One click and you're done. The best thing about this is TWS makes quarterly dues deposits directly into our account, ***with no fee to the chapter****!*

If you're not a TWS member or just don't wish to renew through the national office, you can renew online using Jotform. You'll find a link to the renewal form under the membership tab on the PATWS webpages (included below). While this system uses PayPal, ***you do not need a PayPal account to use it.*** You can pay by credit or debit card. PayPal does charge us a fee, however, on a percentage basis, so your full membership payment does not come to the Chapter.

For even less hassle, consider a lifetime membership in the chapter, so you never have to renew again!

Of course, if you insist on sending an actual check and paper renewal form, we won't rip it up and deny you membership, even if it arrives by Pony Express. Just realize that there are more modern options that are a lot easier to keep track of and are less work for your treasurer.

Thank you,
Tammy Colt

Join online by Jotform: 2022 Membership Payment (jotform.com)

Pennsylvania Chapter

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

2022 Membership Application

Check One:
- ❒ Renewal
- ❒ New Member
- ❒ Student Member
- ❒ Lifetime Member
- ❒ Dues Paid through National Headquarters

Annual Dues:	$10.00
Student Dues:	$6.00
Life Membership:	$200.00

The following information is
- ❒ new, updated, or corrected
- ❒ unchanged

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