



MISSOURI CHAPTER
OF
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
Newsletter

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2023 MOTWS Committees

Audit-----Tony Elliott
Education/MU Fellowship-----Josh Millsbaugh
Farmer/Conservationist-----Vacant
MNRC Steering-----Josh Wisdom
Membership----- Vacant
Nominating/Elections-----Vacant
Professional Development-----Jennifer Mittelhauser
Resolutions/Public Statements-----Tom Kulowiec
Runge Award-----Vacant
Raffle/Auction----- Vacant
Operations Manual-----Margie Mitchell
Stephens Award-----President's choice
Cons. Heritage Scholarship----Tom Kulowiec
Technology -----Tom Kulowiec (web) & Jennifer Mittelhauser (listserv)
Raffle/Auctions — Vacant
Operations Manual Editor — Margie Mitchell
Historical Committee — Margie Mitchell



Missouri Natural Resources Conference

New Frontiers on Old Landscapes

February 7 - February 9, 2023

Margaritaville Lake Resort

Osage Beach, MO

Visit MNRC website www.mnrc.org for updates,
agenda and registration.

President's Corner

by Jordan Meyer



I would like to begin with thanking you, our newsletter readers for taking the time to learn more about our Missouri State Chapter of The Wildlife Society. I know as well as anyone the time and responsibility our passion and profession of Wildlife Conservation can take and I am truly appreciative that you are setting aside a moment for our chapter.

In the spring of this year, the MOTWS executive board made clear the challenging times that the chapter is facing. The chapter struggled against the challenges of the pandemic, MDC's reorganization, and personal situations amongst the previous executive board.

Through a special election myself, President-elect Ted Seiler, and Secretary Jennifer Mittelhauser, joined the executive board with Tom Kulowiec reprising his role as Treasurer and Dave Hoover lending his guidance as Past-President. Shortly after, Alison Bleich joined the board as our Board Member at Large. Additionally, Margie Mitchell has been pivotal in providing her experience and knowledge of MOTWS history. I am truly thankful for all of them, as well as our competing candidates, for answering the past board's call to action.

As a result of the pandemic, the state chapter experienced an excess of funds as expenses typically associated with the fall and spring workshops were canceled. An early focus of the executive board was how to apply these funds effectively to provide an opportunity for our members and maintain our non-profit status. To solve this issue, the executive board has initiated a plan to host a student professional luncheon taking place on Wednesday February 8th at the Missouri Natural Resource Conference (MNRC). During the typical lunch break taco bar in Windgate Hall, we will be sponsoring all student lunches to be complimentary and a panel to answer student questions about early professional development & graduate school considerations while sparking conversation with the professionals in attendance. We strongly encourage all members at the conference to participate in this event. If you would like to assist more directly, please contact myself or Alison Bleich.

On the subject of MNRC, I would like to extend thanks to Josh Wisdom and the rest of this year's MNRC Planning Committee. They have collectively taken the responsibilities of MOTWS serving as the hosting chapter in stride despite the chapter's hardships. I have greatly appreciated their tremendous effort and self-sufficiency this year.

MOTWS still strives to reinstate our spring and fall workshops to provide enriching professional development opportunities for our professional and student members. The executive board has coordinated with MDC's Resource Management Training Coordinator, Chris Riggert, to generate a Qualtrics survey on the timing and subject matter of our next workshop. Expect an email announcement through our MOTWS listserv in the next few weeks. Additionally, a physical copy of the survey will be available to complete at the MOTWS booth at MNRC. Please complete the survey and reach out to me for any additional feedback or suggestions.

Additionally, I will be participating in this year's Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Overland Park Kansas. There I will be contributing to a symposium on the topic of how state chapters of the Wildlife Society can contribute to the success of our student chapters. If you plan to attend this conference, please consider attending this symposium and contributing your ideas to the conversation.

I would like to take this opportunity to challenge you, our reader of this newsletter. I ask that you do not let your extra commitment to our state chapter end here after you finish reading this document, but to step forward and become a resource for the betterment of our fantastic profession. I would be truly honored if you reach out to me or any of our executive board members to pursue the responsibility of serving our chapter. Help us grow, help us adapt, and help us continue to be a relevant resource for our fellow professionals. Our executive board is committed to serve you and our wildlifer community, come alongside us and let's work together to make a difference.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL

- The Wildlife Society's 29th Annual Conference in Spokane, WA was our 3rd largest in-person conference with a total of 2,034 attendees.
- TWS' 30th Annual Conference will take place Nov. 5-9, 2023 at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, KY.
- UNCW graduate student Brandy Wible has been selected as TWS' Spring 2023 Joe Burns Memorial Wildlife Policy Intern. Brandy is the current president of the UNCW Student Chapter of TWS where she is a graduate student studying the efficacy of different sampling techniques on the pygmy rattlesnake. Brandy will be engaging with TWS HQ staff, members and partners on



Internet photo

Please attend the Missouri Natural Resources Conference (MNRC) February 7-9th, at the beautiful Margartaville resort in Osage Beach. This year's theme is "New Frontiers On Old Landscapes." Our special guest plenary speakers are author and scientist Dr. Craig Stephen and Dr. Robbie Kroger from the Blood Origins podcast.

Besides the career expo, which is free and a great opportunity for college students, there is a social and poster session Tuesday night. Wednesday Feb 8th will kick off with the plenary followed by workshops and presentations from conservation professionals from every field. Topics are split up into wildlife, fisheries, forestry, soil and water, and general natural resources. A full agenda can be found at MNRC.org

There is an award banquet Wednesday night and more presentations to follow on Thursday. Don't forget to register and we will see you there!



Missouri Natural Resources Conference

Treasurer's Report – 1/10/23

Checking Account as of 12/31/22

Previous Balance: (on 1/1/22)	\$11,766.16
Activity During period:	
Credits:	
Dues Payments	1,510.00
Replace 2021 MNRC Booth Bank	625.00
Dividends	12.43
Total Credits:	2,147.43
Debits:	
Withdrawal 2021 MNRC Booth Bank	625.00
Affiliate Dues Conservation Federation	300.00
PO Box Rental Fee	176.00
Total Debits:	1,101.00
Ending Balance:	\$12,812.59

Saving Account as of 12/31/22

Previous Balance: (on 1/1/22)	\$55.70
Activity During period:	
Credits:	
Dividends	0.12
Total Credits:	0.12
Debits:	
Total Debits:	0.00
Ending Balance:	\$55.82

Compiled on 1/10/23 by:

Thomas Kulowiec, Treasurer

Student Chapter Reports

University of Central Missouri

The members of UCM's Wildlife Society enjoyed yet another successful semester together! This semester we got involved with data collection, education, and plenty of fun bonding moments. TWS took part in the Dove Opener at James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area, where we collected data to be used in setting hunting regulations. We also set out scent stations across Johnson County for MDC's Furbearer Survey to aid in their mammal survey efforts. We saw a lot of cute footprints!

It was also a good semester for education and outreach. TWS had the opportunity to interact with families about wildlife at James A. Reed Family Outdoors day, as well as get 4-H youth interested in birding during their 4-H showcase at UCM. Members also participated in a little friendly competition with our annual Squirrel Selfie Contest. Congrats to Isaak Rasche for taking 1st place with a total of 80 "squelfies"!

Missouri Western State University

With the fall semester of 2022 under our belt, we have again grown as a society and improved on years past. With our dedicated and hard working members, we have been able to keep our relationships strong with MDC and USFWS with great events and field days. For example, to name a few of our big accomplishments we were able to conduct: furbearer surveys for Andrew county and Eagle days was again an amazing event with many people arriving for the event coming from far and wide. Additionally, from experience tagging monarch butterflies at the Loess Bluffs NWR we were able to have our own monarch tagging event on the MWSU campus in our John Russian Teaching Prairie and we were able to tag 32 monarch butterflies and contribute our own data to monarch watch. We are looking forward to doing many new events this spring semester as well as keep doing the work that we have done in the past.

The Northwest Missouri State University chapter of the Wildlife Society has been working hard this past summer/fall in working on projects, volunteering, and participating in internships. Club members recently volunteered at a monarch tagging event and at Eagles Days for Loess Bluffs Wildlife Refuge. Club activities have included DNA sampling in frogs, team building activities at Mazingo Outdoor Education Recreation Area, performing furbearing surveys for Missouri Department of Conservation, and attending TWS information meetings. Many students also had the opportunity to go duck hunting thanks to Delta Waterfowl's program. This past summer many students worked with the Missouri Department of Conservation. Seasonal jobs ranged from fisheries work to vegetation structure technicians and to plant biology technicians. The Northwest Missouri State University chapter of the Wildlife Society is looking forward to another great year!



MOTWS Annual Business Meeting Minutes 2/2/2022

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 Mozingo 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?

(Continued on next page)

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

Winter Travel Grant Deadline is February 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 not only to 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! **There are two application periods for the Travel Grant. The 2023 Winter application deadline for travel grant funds will be February 15. The 2023 summer deadline will be August 15.** Go to the website <https://wildlife.org/missouri-chapter/> for more details.



Please Don't Forget to Pay Your Dues!

State Chapter dues (\$15.00 annually) are important to maintain our funds towards projects, scholarships, workshops, and travel reimbursements. Please remember to pay your dues by mailing your payment to:

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