



CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

Winter 2022 Volume 80

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CMPS website:
<https://wildlife.org/cmp/>

CMPS President's Message

What Your CMPS Membership Accomplishes

Thank you CMPS for helping us be at The Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Spokane, Washington, to present our research." Student recipients of the 2022 Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant went out of their way to personally express gratitude for the support that our Section gave them toward professional experience and networking opportunities. This thank-you goes to all CMPS members. Sometimes people ask, what is the purpose of our Section? Why do we exist? Moments such as when these students came up with excitement on their faces and shared how much the funding made a difference, highlights one of CMPS' vital functions.

You help make that happen for wildlife students! A significant portion of membership dues CMPS collects from state chapters and through the TWS portal go to our Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant fund. Approximately 1/3 of our annual budget helps students gain professional experience at the annual TWS conference. **We've offered these scholarships for 28 years, providing over \$20,000 in funding students, not including this year's recipients.** Even during the pandemic, we continued assisting students in offsetting conference registration costs. This year we had a record number of 17 student applicants to the program. We met as many requests as possible. **There's still more we can do.**

That brings us to the heart of The Central Mountains and Plain Section. What is our vision for the future? How are we going to get



CMPS President Stephanie Ferrero holding an immature Yellow Rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*) wintering in Eastern Kansas.

CMPS President Stephanie Ferrero holding an immature Yellow Rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*) wintering in Eastern Kansas.

Section Business

CMPS President's Message Continued

there? CMPS provides a voice for science within and beyond our Section. We have 7 of the some of the best state chapters in TWS. State chapters keep TWS active and alive. **CMPS is here to support our state chapters, to cheer on their amazing wildlife conservation initiatives, to assist with meeting their goals, and to encourage relationships between state and student chapters.** We all are connected. We can accomplish more and increase success through collective effort.

The ecosystems within our Section are diverse, ranging from tall grass prairies to mixed forests to montane alpine. Wildlife species that inhabit these landscapes also are diverse and intricately interdependent. Wildlife do not know governmental boundaries. Just as the State Chapters of CMPS share wildlife populations, so CMPS shares many wildlife species with our 6 neighboring Sections (see map later in newsletter). Accordingly, we must ally with each other and with our neighbors. **To function effectively, we need everyone involved. Active engagement of each person is necessary for successful wildlife conservation.**

We're in the process of reviewing essential questions for CMPS about who we are and where we want to see CMPS in subsequent years. This is *your* Section. You are invited to be in on this journey. Let's inventory the work we already do and discover where we want to grow. **Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts about CMPS (president@cmps-tws.org).** Our situation is unique in that CMPS spans over 594,000 square miles and consists of approximately 1,400 members; around 400 of whom, we have limited communication capabilities. Your CMPS Board want to be here for you! We have a phenomenal team of wildlifers, who volunteer their time to benefit our Section. **You can find out more about how each Board member is available to serve you at <https://wildlife.org/cmp/officers/>.**

We can continue moving forward. We can acknowledge the successes and failures of the past, the importance of the present, and the hopefulness for the future. Our Section sets the example in many ways. Let's continue leading by collaborating with each other, inviting diverse people to join us, and keeping our focus on what matters most. **Thank you for all you do for wildlife! You are making a difference through your Central Mountains and Plains Section membership!**

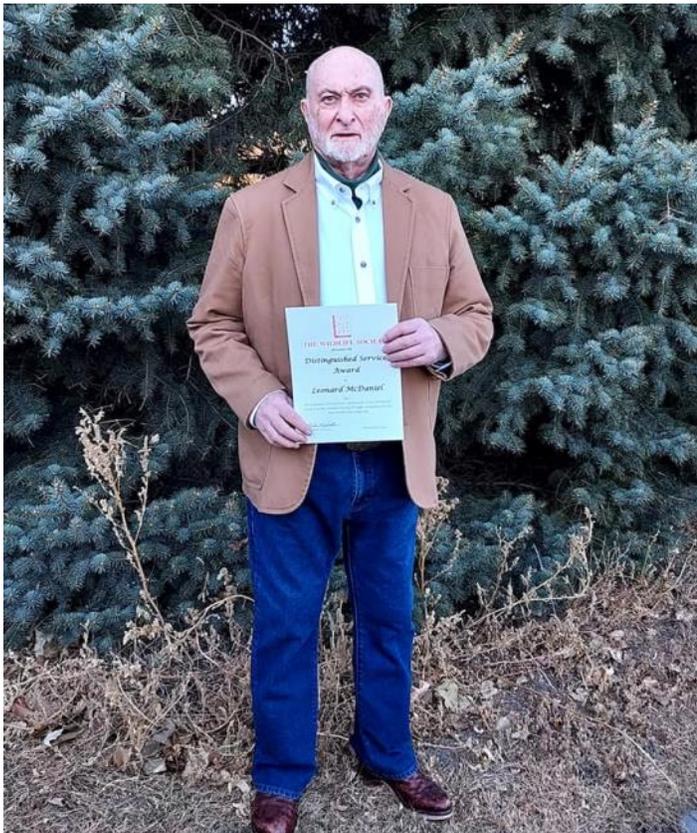
CMPS President
Stephanie Ferrero
(president@cmps-tws.org)



Section Business

Leonard McDaniel Received 2022 TWS Distinguished Service Award

CMPS member Leonard (Len) McDaniel received the 2022 TWS Distinguished Service Award. Len has been a TWS member for 45 years, and has been committed to prairie grasslands conservation and management throughout his career. Len received degrees from University of Montana and Chadron State College, and shortly thereafter began working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge in 1962. He served as the refuge manager from 1977 until his retirement in 2001. Len was instrumental in facilitating interagency prairie grouse wing surveys on Nebraska federal lands, monitoring and assessing wildlife cover, and coordinating graduate and refuge research projects on management activities for nesting upland birds. Additionally, Len has been active in especially CMPS and the Nebraska chapter, consistently attending meetings, and Len and his brother Arne were instrumental in updating and modernizing the CMPS banner.





Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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Section Business

CMPS Awards

Professional Award

The Professional Award is presented annually to an individual or group that has made outstanding contributions towards furthering the enhancement of wildlife endeavors within the Section. Nominating materials must be submitted to the executive committee (emberehall@gmail.com) as a single pdf by **January 22, 2023**.

- Individual must be a member of a state, regional, or national affiliate of The Wildlife Society in good standing.
- Individual must have completed at least one unique, important contribution towards wildlife conservation or wildlife conservation education within CMPS
- Nominating person must submit one letter of nomination and at least one letter of support for the nominee. The letter of nomination should include information on the nominee's personal, educational, and professional background; details regarding the individual's involvement in wildlife conservation; and a description of their outstanding efforts. Other supporting information is preferred but not required; for example: resume or CV, published papers, environmental activities, etc. Please include the nominee's name, address, telephone, and email in addition to the name, address, and contact information of the nominating individual.

Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award

The Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award may be presented annually to a lay individual(s) or groups(s) that has made outstanding contributions towards enhancement of wildlife endeavors within the Section. Nominating materials must be submitted to the executive committee (emberehall@gmail.com) as a single pdf by **January 22, 2023**.

- Individual or group has demonstrated outstanding achievement or effort towards conservation of wildlife or wildlife education within CMPS.
- Individual(s) need not be a member of The Wildlife Society. Individual(s) need not be an established wildlife professional.
- Nominating person must submit one letter of nomination and at least one letter of support for the nominee. The letter of nomination should include information on the individual(s) background, details regarding the individual(s) involvement in wildlife conservation, and a description of their outstanding efforts. Other supporting information is preferred but not required, for example: resume or CV, photographs, newspaper or magazine articles, etc. Please include the nominee's name, address, telephone, and email in addition to the name, address, and contact information of the nominating individual.

Executive Group Achievement Award

The Executive Group Achievement Award recognizes a professional organization or group that accomplishes outstanding achievements to benefit wildlife consistent with advancing the objectives of CMPS. The organization or group selected for the award can be a private, state, or federal institution. Accomplishments, while they may be long-term, should be of significant importance within the last three years. Submit these materials via email to emberehall@gmail.com. The nomination and complete supporting documentation should be sent as a single PDF file by **January 22, 2023**.

- Nominations, with no more than 3 letters of support attached, should describe the group, its objectives, number of members, and provide a concise statement of accomplishments within the past 3 years.

Section Business

TWS Conservation Affairs Network (CAN)

Have you thought about getting engaged in the TWS Conservation Affairs Network (CAN)? Here are some useful tools to get started! Take a look at the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife [action alert center](#). You can use this tool to ask your Senators to advance and pass the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. If you want to call offices of your congressional delegation and share your support for the legislation, you can reference TWS' [phone call script](#). Call activities can be logged and shared with TWS staff using this [google form](#). You can also work with your CMPS Section to ask our Senators to bring the legislation to the Senate floor using TWS' [letter template](#).

North Dakota Virtual Lunch Sessions on Policy Issues

North Dakota has been hosting virtual lunch sessions covering key policy issues. The final one is coming up on December 7th on State Policy Case Studies. For more information, visit <https://ndctws.org/events-and-announcements>.



Section Business

Nurturing Trauma-informed Conservation Communities Workshop

CMPS supported the Nurturing Trauma-Informed Conservation Communities Workshop at the TWS conference in Spokane this fall by providing a \$200 donation for the workshop. The workshop took place on November 9, and was led by Michelle Doerr, Bre Hiivala Cahoy, and Christine Park. There were 21 attendees for the workshop, including a high proportion of students and new professionals compared to overall conference attendance.

The overall objectives to the workshop were to learn to identify and recognize different types of trauma, especially in the workplace. Workshop participants were expected to learn implications and practices for leadership and wildlife organizations. Facilitators explained how to nurture a culture of compassion, wellness, and inclusivity in order to develop safety, belonging, and significance for wildlife employees at work. The workshop organizers incorporated indigenous historical trauma, native Hawaiian wellness practices, and examined practices such as breathing, storytelling, nature-based meditation, reflection, group sharing, etc.

The workshop received positive feedback. One participant said, "Attending the Trauma-Informed Conservation Communities Workshop was one of the highlights of my TWS conference experience. The facilitators brought impressive expertise, insights, and vulnerabilities to the conversation and guided the participants through several important concepts that I wish took more center stage in our profession. Thank you to those who sponsored, funded, or otherwise saw value in this workshop."

A summary on trauma will also appear in the January/February issue of The Wildlife Professional. If you missed this workshop and have interest, the next workshop will be during the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference February 12, 2022. Registration is required, but the event will be available to virtual attendance. If you have a group interested in this workshop outside of the conference, please contact Michelle Doerr at michelle@anavahconsulting.com to discuss details and prices.





Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Section Business

CMPS, CO, and UT TWS Joint Annual Meeting March 8—10, 2023

The tentative agenda includes workshops and an opening reception on Wednesday March 8. Thursday March 9 will include student networking breakfast, plenary session, contributed papers, business meetings, IGNITE session, poster session, and a reception with banquet, auction, and awards. Friday March 10 will include a contributed papers session.

Abstracts are being accepted now, through February 1. More information is available at <http://wildlife.org/colorado/meetings/annual-meeting/>.

Workshop topics will include a Federal Employment and Application Workshop, TWS Certification Workshop, Bird Conservancy Avian Point Count Workshop, Safety in the Field Workshop, Women in Wildlife Workshop and Panel Discussion, Q GIS and R Program Workshops, and a Wildlife Acoustics Workshop.

If you would like to volunteer for the 2023 annual meeting, email Nate Jones (Nathan.jones@hdrinc.com). You could receive 50% off registration as a volunteer.

Registration will open soon, and current registration information is available at uttws.com.



SAVE THE DATE!

Combined Annual Meeting:

Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Utah Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

“Tails & Trails: Wildlife-Human Dynamics in a Changing West”

March 8-10, 2023

Grand Junction Convention Center
Grand Junction, Colorado

Abstracts Now Accepted: wildlife.org/colorado

Section Business

Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grants Recipient Summaries

The Central Mountains and Plains Section allocated \$3,100 in total for 13 student travel grants for the 2022 TWS meeting in Spokane. Travel grant recipients included: Cailey Isaacson (University of North Dakota [UND]), Chloe Beaupre (The State University of New York), Jaylin Solberg (Utah State University [USU]), Corrine Ryan (Western Colorado University [WCU]), Taylor Linder (UND), Amalie Jørgensen (UND), Melissa Chelak (USU), Timothy Andrews (WCU), Amanda Aulenbach (WCU), Camryn Uetz (WCU), Liam Duggan (WCU), Erik Rathmann (WCU), and Derek Schleicher (Colorado State University—Pueblo). Travel grant recipients are required to submit a summary of their experience at the conference. Although we normally publish these summaries in full, the length would be prohibitive this year with the number of recipients, so we have selected some highlights from the students.

“I also enjoyed the Spatial Ecology and Modeling sessions and came away with a lot of ideas about movement behavior, analyses, and literature to incorporate and try... Even though I presented in the 8:30AM time slot on the final day of the conference, there was a solid turn out in the audience with a mix of wildlifers including the TWS student chapter from my alma mater (Western Colorado University), CPW colleagues, Western corridor mapping researchers, animal movement statisticians, and students from my new university (SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry). Last year I video recorded my presentation for the virtual TWS conference, and it was a wonderful experience to present at a scientific conference live and in-person. Given the many rooms and interesting presentations happening simultaneously, it was invigorating to know that the folks who joined my presentation were there because they were interested in my research.”—Chloe Beaupre, The State University of New York

“As my graduate research is focused on wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVC) and mitigation methods for them, I wanted to make sure I made it to most of the oral presentations under this theme. As far as I know, there were three oral presentations that fell within this topic... It was fascinating to listen in on these talks, not only to see how others have executed their research, but also to get some ideas on how I can do a better job with my own research. Additionally, there were several posters focusing on WVCs as well and I was lucky to have some interesting conversations with the presenters... One area where I would like to get more involved is with TWS Stu-



Chloe Beaupre thought one conference highlight was honoring Dr. Pat Magee as Student Chapter Advisor of the Year, as she had been part of the group of students that had nominated Pat for the award.

Section Business

Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grants Recipient Summaries (continued)

dent Development and I therefore participated in the Student Development Working Group meeting and their Student Chapter Leaders Lunch. This was an eyeopener and I had a great time discussing topics such as state support and how to increase the number of students in our university chapter. I am hoping to become involved with Student Development moving forward, especially with a focus on graduate students or international involvement.” —Amalie Jørgensen , University of North Dakota

“One of my favorite evening activities during the conference was attending the quiz bowl finals. I had never seen or participated in a quiz bowl before, but I enjoy trivia and a little friendly competition so the quiz bowl was right up my alley. The council bowl also proved to be very entertaining and an unexpected surprise. Other evening activities included walking around Riverfront park to search for birds and going out to dinner with other conference attendees. My overall impression of this conference is that there was so much going on! So much so that for a first time conference attender, it was a bit overwhelming. I do mean this in a positive way as there were so many opportunities for learning and professional growth that it was hard to select what sessions, working group meetings, and events to attend. In addition, I found this conference to have so much variety compared to the state chapter meetings that I was used to.” — Cailey Isaacson, University of North Dakota



All University of North Dakota conference attendees at Sunday evenings networking event. Left to right: Dr. Robert Newman, Taylor Linder, Brianna Ashworth, Amalie Victoria Jørgensen, Cailey Isaacson, and Dr. Susan Ellis-Felege.



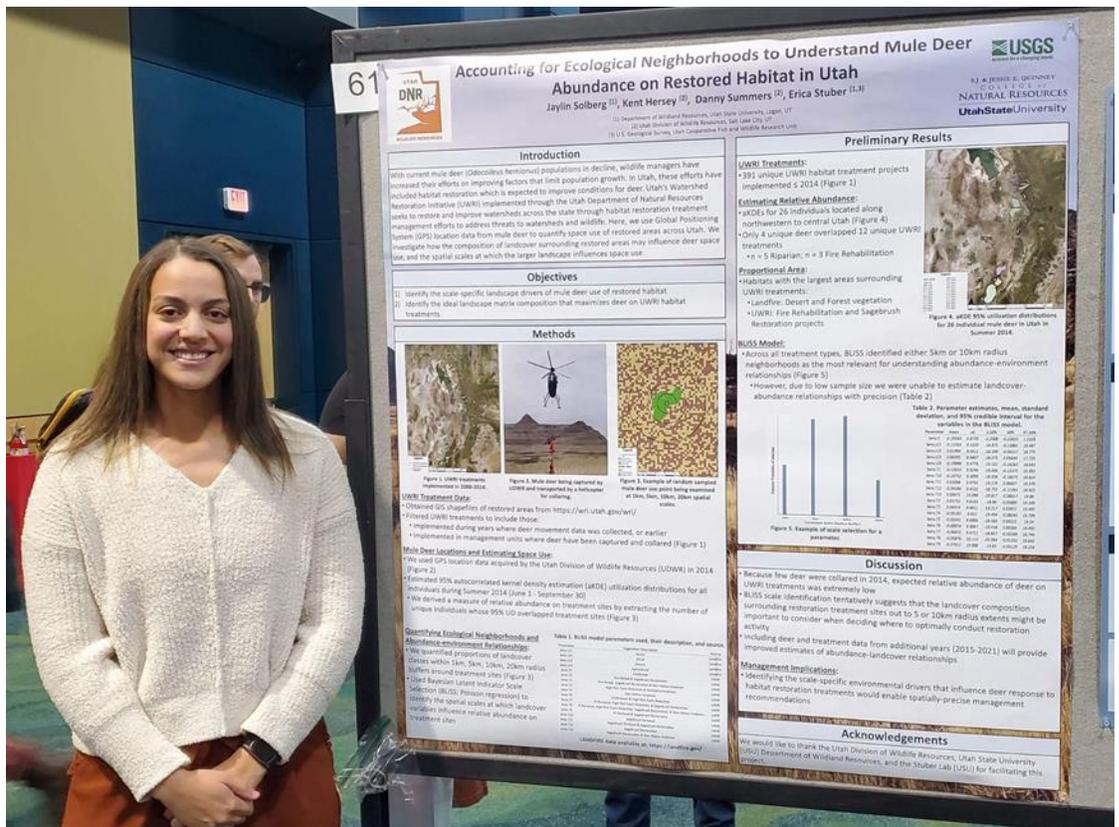
Representing the University of North Dakota at the student chapter officers lunch. Left to right: Amalie Jørgensen, Brianna Ashworth, and Cailey Isaacson.

Section Business

Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grants Recipient Summaries (continued)

“In addition to the session experiences that I had, I was able to attend several networking sessions, where I met other graduate students, undergraduate students, academics, and professionals from around the country (and others from around the world!). I even helped connect some of my fellow graduate students meet others who are in the same field to swap tips and tricks for fieldwork. I met up with previous students from my time at my Master’s Degree at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, and reconnected with them, sharing stories of our time at UAM, and sharing more recent experiences as well as tips as we move through our PhD’s. I was able to meet up with my former advisor, whom I had not seen in 3 years, and reconnected with them about future avenues for career paths, and other career-related information. We were able to share similar research interests, and they encouraged me to pursue personal interest publications.” —Taylor Linder, University of North Dakota

“This year's conference was a fantastic opportunity to expand on friendships, networking, science communication, and learning about other crucial wildlife studies that are happening all around the country. The opening plenary was such a moving experience with multiple indigenous speakers from the Washington area speaking about wildlife. It was touching to see other cultural experiences in wildlife being brought to light. I saw multiple people whom I had either graduated with from undergrad or worked with during this conference. It was amazing to be able to see them again and catch up on our time away from each other.” — Jaylin Solberg, Utah State University



Jaylin Solberg with her poster presentation.

Section Business

Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grants Recipient Summaries (continued)

“The conference was very overwhelming for me because I never attended such a large conference before. However, I found it easy to have small conversations with fellow attendees. I wish there were less presentations, but longer times allotted. It was hard to ask questions in such a constrained timeframe and to have discussions afterwards. I wrote down the names of all the presentations I went to and what sessions they were in, and I went to over 50 different presentations and panel discussions. That is a lot of science constrained into four days—I am still synthesizing everything I learned and was exposed to. I am thankful for the opportunity to attend this year’s conference and anticipate going to future conferences as well!” — Amanda Aulenbach, Western Colorado University

“The networking events hosted by conference organizers were incredibly effective in creating a welcoming atmosphere than facilitated these connections. In particular, I found the events the emphasized students and early professionals to be the ones that I benefited from the most. Through these sessions I was able to connect with others who were in a similar position to myself, as well as those who seek to support these individuals. It was also incredibly helpful to talk with members more established in their careers to learn the paths they took to get there and the different opportunities that are available within the field. Their insight into which skill sets are most needed within their respective fields was also great insight to receive, especially while I am still in a position to more easily acquire these skills through my coursework.” — Tim Andrews, Western Colorado University

“This grant aided my ability to attend the conference in Spokane, WA all the way from Gunnison, CO. The Wildlife Society Annual Conference was an unbelievable experience, where I learned, explored, and networked. Over the five-day conference, I attended over 130 presentations about research conducted by wildlife enthusiasts from all over the world.” — Camryn Uetz, Western Colorado University



Trivia hosted by Backcountry Hunters and Anglers at Black Label Brewing Co. Western Colorado University’s Team Gunnison Sage-Grouse came in 4th place.

Section Business

Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grants Recipient Summaries (continued)

“Attending the TWS Annual Conference in Spokane, WA was one of the highlights of my year. I feel so lucky to have witnessed some of the most technologically advanced and beautifully designed research in wildlife science, likely of anywhere in the world. It was equal parts inspiring, humbling, entertaining and informative. In fact, weeks after the conference, I still find myself reflecting on the experiences I had there. Throughout the 4 days we attended the conference, I attended over 50 different presentations.” - Liam Duggan, Western Colorado University

“The overarching theme of many of these presentations, discussion panels, and speeches was that the wildlife field is changing in significant ways. We are learning how to new technology and techniques, while also incorporating the wisdom of indigenous peoples. We are continuing to do our work with utmost scientific rigor, while also learning how to communicate science to everyone who wants to listen. We are heeding the advice of older conservationists who have seen the world change before their eyes, while also recognizing that we need to make room for a new generation of wildlifers who more accurately represent the makeup of our world. These lessons make me excited for the future of the wildlife field and finding my place in it.” - Corrine Ryan, Western Colorado University



Western Colorado University group photo (including 6 travel grant recipients)



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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TWS Business

TWS Awards

TWS Fellow

This award recognizes current TWS members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to the wildlife profession and have been members for at least 10 years. TWS Fellows serve as ambassadors of The Wildlife Society and are encouraged to engage in outreach and other activities that will benefit both TWS and the wildlife profession. Fellows are appointed for life. A maximum of two TWS Fellows per Section may be appointed annually. Nominations may come from Sections, Chapters or individual TWS members. For more information, visit wildlife.org/engage/awards/tws-fellows-award-nominations/.

Nominations are due by Feb 1, 2023. Please mail materials as a single pdf to awards@wildlife.org.

TWS Group Achievement Award

The Group Achievement Award recognizes an organization's outstanding wildlife achievement that is consistent with and/or assists in advancing the objectives of The Wildlife Society. The organization selected can be private or governmental. The activity of past recipients has been primarily regional, national, or international in scope. Accomplishments, while they may be long-term, should be of significant importance within the last three years. For more information, visit wildlife.org/group-achievement-award/.

Nominations are due by Feb 1, 2023. Please mail materials as a single pdf to awards@wildlife.org

TWS Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes TWS members who have made a long-term commitment to the Society based on at least 20 years of membership and their actions to further the mission of the Society. The member is someone who is/was "always there" and could be counted on to serve the chapter, section, or international organization. Since recipients are selected by the Sections, the Distinguished Service Award provides an opportunity to recognize dedicated individuals who have provided exceptional service primarily to Chapters and/or Sections. For more information, visit wildlife.org/distinguished-service-award/.

Nominations must be submitted to the executive committee of the nominee's Section (emberehall@gmail.com) by April 1, 2023.

Section Business

TWS Council Update

The Wildlife Society's 29th Annual Conference was held in November in Spokane, WA - the first in-person conference in 3 years! Council met the weekend before the conference began, starting with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training Friday evening, followed by 2 days of discussions, presentations, and deliberations. Below is a summary of our Council meeting and highlights from the Annual Conference.

- DEI training for Council members was led by Jamila Blake, TWS' Professional Development and Inclusion Manager. A few key takeaways are to give each other grace; we are all learning and are likely to make mistakes. DEI can seem overwhelming (e.g., using preferred terminology, overcoming ingrained references) but it is not insurmountable. If you make a mistake, recognize the mistake and apologize. Give each other grace for unintentional mistakes or missteps.
- As of October 2022, TWS has 11,548 members.
- The annual audit is taking place. Finances are robust and on track.
- The Wildlife Society Bulletin will change to a fully open-access journal in January 2023. The Journal of Wildlife Management (JWM) and Wildlife Monographs will no longer be in print starting in 2023, but a new JWM design will be launched that will increase readability on electronic devices.
- A website redesign was started in spring 2022 and will be launched in January 2023. This redesign will better showcase who we are, and will provide better access to resources.
- The current Strategic Plan is good through 2023. Council will start updating it with our vision for the future and chart that path starting with the leadership of current President Don Yasuda.
- TWS reported a budget surplus at the end of the fiscal year (6/30/2022). The majority came from the Ronald F. Labisky Graduate Fellowship in Wildlife Policy. We also received more sponsor contributions and in-kind donations from Vortex.
- Five Position Statements expired October 2022. The Position Statements Committee updated these as needed and brought them to Council for a vote. Visit <<https://wildlife.org/position-statements/>> to view all Position Statements.
- Council received reports from 3 groups of Leadership Institute graduates. Project recommendations included a mentorship program, incentives for leadership involvement, discussing a hybrid conference, increasing and expanding member services, and integrating the DEI vision into strategic planning.
- In cooperation with the Bird Strike Committee, USA, a Qualified Airport Wildlife Biologist option will be up and running in 2023.
- Council started discussing an update/revision of the Certification Program process.
- TWS CEO Ed Arnett shared a statement we can all get behind: "Serve wildlife. Invest in wildlife professionals."





Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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Section Business

TWS Council Update

- TWS Immediate Past-President Gordon Batcheller shared a statement to ponder: "Be quick to listen, and slow to respond."
- Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) is making progress in the 117th Congress! Please call your US Senators and ask them to support this legislation that will provide \$1.4 billion annually to State and Tribal agencies to ensure the full suite of at-risk species is adequately monitored and managed.
- The Conservation Affairs Network (CAN) reported an updated CAN Policy Toolkit, engagement in TWS federal policy priorities, efforts to build capacity for engagement within Sections and Chapters, support for a Canadian Section CAN effort, and building a process for engaging students in the CAN.
- International engagement - TWS is an International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) member; Deb Hahn is the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) representative; TWS will need strategic staff involvement.
- DEI Network - monthly calls (email Jamila Blake to be added jblake@wildlife.org). PowerPoint is available from Jamila for DEI training. Webinar coming up in December hosted by Women of Wildlife (WOW). National Post-Doctoral Association is also hosting a webinar. Green 2.0 accountability workshop in December. Seeing the Forest Through the Queers in December. Three Women of Color in STEM scholarships available in spring. The next DEI Network meeting is January 24, 2023.
- Conservation Affairs Network (CAN) - Daly Edmunds is the new CMPS CAN Chair; thank you, Daly! ND-TWS is sending RAWA letters, sending a survey to members regarding involvement, tracking legislation, and providing webinars on policy (recorded and on their website for members). WY-TWS is engaging with RAWA and will have a conversation on policy at the spring Annual Meeting.
- The 2022 Annual Conference had 2,000 attendees from across the globe.
- \$200,000 was brought to the Annual Conference by our Sponsors.
- We hired an Ombuds person to be available at the Annual Conference.
- The Plenary focused on Indigenous ecological knowledge, speakers, and topics, and was incredibly powerful and inspirational. I encourage you to view the videos on our website. Here is one link <https://wildlife.org/tws2022-speakers-hail-need-for-salmon-restoration-at-plenary/>.
- Several CMPS members received awards! Len McDaniel received The Wildlife Society Distinguished Service Award. New TWS Fellows from our Section include Adam Ahlers, Ed Arnett, and Larkin Powell. Please congratulate these deserving recipients!
- During the Annual Conference, I sat in on several Working Group and Committee meetings - IDEA, Heritage and Retirees, Early Career Professional, DEI Network, and CAN Network; attended the opening reception, 1000 reception, CSU and UW receptions, and Student-Professional reception; participated in Council Bowl; and visited with long-time and new friends and colleagues.
- 40% of TWS Annual Conference attendees are students. What can Council do to best represent students and early career professionals?
- The Annual Conference ended Thursday evening with an incredible Storytelling event. It was so powerful and engaging that many suggested opening and closing each Annual Conference in this way.

Section Business

TWS Council Update

More TWS Info...

- 2022 marked the 85th anniversary of The Wildlife Society.
- TWS has 16 amazing and hard-working staff members, and some position changes occurred in July. Visit staff members here <<https://wildlife.org/leadership-and-values/>>.
- TWS has 27 Working Groups; click here to learn more <<https://wildlife.org/network/tws-local/working-groups/>>.
- Only 20% of TWS members work for state agencies (we need to increase that number).
- New TWS President Don Yasuda plans to lead through empowerment. His immediate priorities include:
 - 1) Prepare for the update of our Strategic Plan (will hire a contractor to guide the process).
 - 2) Ensure our DEI Vision is embedded within our Strategic Plan.
 - 3) Strengthen our strong relationships with Working Groups.
 - 4) Look at strategic leadership pathways to facilitate skills, diversify leadership, and provide opportunities.
 - 5) Vision for 2023 Annual Conference - build on the momentum from 2022, and continue to grow and enhance partnerships.
 - 6) Review the key governance principles to more consciously adopt behaviors that increase diversity, equity, and inclusivity. Can we do better? Encourage and practice shared leadership on shared issues, where appropriate.
 - 7) Encourage an honest reflection on Council assignments (work/life balance), and share with Working Groups, Sections, and Chapters.
 - 8) Ensure effective communication.
- The Committees I will work on this next year include DEI, Certification Liaison, Fellows, Group Achievement Award, Bylaws, and Strategic Plan.

Please remember that I am your voting representative on Council, so I welcome any thoughts, comments, questions, or concerns you'd like me to bring to Council.

Many thanks for all you do - Andrea

Andrea Orabona

CMPS Representative to TWS Council (acorabona@gmail.com)





Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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Upcoming Events

North Dakota TWS Annual Meeting

February 7—10, 2023

MORE INFORMATION: <https://ndctws.org/information>

Society for Range Management 2023 Annual Meeting

Boise, Idaho

February 12—16, 2023

MORE INFORMATION: <https://rangelands.org/events-abstracts/>

Nebraska TWS Annual Meeting

Kearney, Nebraska

February 28 —March 2, 2023

VENUE : Younes Conference Center, Kearney, Nebraska

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wildlife.org/nebraska/annual-meeting/>

Central Mountains and Plains Section, Colorado TWS, and Utah TWS

2023 Joint Meeting

Grand Junction, Colorado

March 8—10, 2023

VENUE AND LODGING: Grand Junction, CO

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wildlife.org/colorado/meetings/annual-meeting/>

South Dakota TWS Annual Meeting

Chamberlain-Oacoma, South Dakota

March 7—10, 2023

VENUE AND LODGING: Arrowwood Resort, Chamberlain-Oacoma, South Dakota

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wildlife.org/south-dakota-chapter/annual-meeting/>

Western Agencies 14th Western Black Bear Workshop

Jackson, Wyoming

May 2023

VENUE AND LODGING: Snow King Resort, Jackson, WY

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wafwa.org/workshops/western-black-bear-workshop/>

American Ornithological Society Annual Meeting

London, Ontario

August 7—12, 2023

MORE INFORMATION: <https://americanornithology.org/meetings/annual-meeting/>



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS SECTION DIRECTORY

STATE CHAPTERS

COLORADO

President Nate Bickford
President-Elect Nate Jones

KANSAS

President J.R. Glenn
President-Elect Adam Ahlers

NEBRASKA

President Andrew Little
President-Elect Erin Considine

NORTH DAKOTA

President Rachel Bush
President-Elect Robert Newman

SOUTH DAKOTA

President Brady Neiles
President-Elect Daniel Kim

UTAH

President Makeda Trujillo Hanson
President-Elect Barbara Sugarman

WYOMING

President Aly Courtemanch
President-Elect Anna Chalfoun

STUDENT CHAPTERS

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