



Spring 2023 Newsletter

Illinois · Indiana · Iowa · Michigan · Minnesota · Missouri · Ohio · Wisconsin | Together, as a community, we are stronger

Announcements

Student chapter of the year application deadline moved to September 6th – read about the process, and this year's winning chapter, on page 6

Don't forget to renew and pay your membership dues. Payments can be made online. Also, please recommend membership to your colleagues who want to take their professional development to the next level!

We are trying out the proposed new logo in this newsletter – we hope you like it as much as we do!

Consider attending this year's Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference hosted for the first time in Sioux Falls SD. See more on Page 3.

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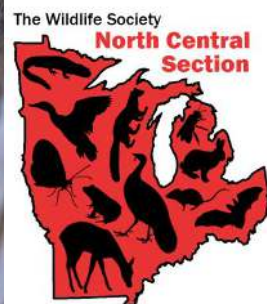
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Parting Thoughts from the Editor



President's Message

Hello NCS TWS members! Happy spring! Spring is undoubtedly one of the most awesome seasons of the year. After the long, dark, and cold winter, the arrival of spring brings with it a sense of renewed energy, hope, and joy. The trees start to bud, flowers begin to bloom, the salamanders and frogs emerge, and the air is filled with the sweet scent of nature awakening from its slumber. The weather becomes milder, allowing for outdoor activities and adventures, such as picnics, hikes, and bike rides- and the start of many of our field seasons! We have spring wildcrafting as ramps and morels are starting to pop up in even the coldest of climates, and many of us are harvesting turkeys and trout during spring seasons. The longer days and brighter sunshine boost



our mood and provide a sense of optimism and positivity. It's truly amazing to witness the transformation that takes place during this time of year, making spring a season to be cherished and appreciated.

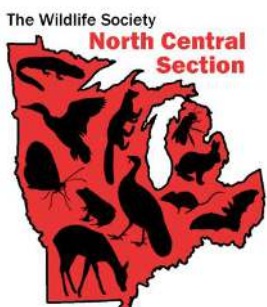
I'd like to take the rest of my time here to talk about my vision to restore our section's annual student conclave. For many of us professionals, conclave was one the major highlights of our collegiate TWS experiences, and for some, the gateway into becoming more involved in TWS at other levels. The event provides an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students interested in wildlife biology and related fields to come together, learn from experts, and engage in a variety of activities. Conclave offers many benefits to the students who attend including professional development, networking opportunities, leadership

experience, and personal growth. Conclave offers a wide range of workshops, seminars, and training sessions that provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their future careers. They get to learn about the

latest research, techniques, and technologies used in wildlife management and conservation. Conclave also brings together students from different universities and backgrounds, allowing them to meet and network with peers, professors, and professionals in their field. These connections can be invaluable when seeking internships, jobs, or graduate programs. There are many opportunities for students to develop leadership skills through participation in student-led events and activities. They get to interact with other students and take on responsibilities that will help them in their future careers. TWS provides a supportive environment where students can grow personally and professionally. They get to explore their interests, challenge themselves, and gain a sense of accomplishment. The Wildlife Society Student Conclave plays an important role in preparing the next generation of wildlife professionals by providing them with the skills, knowledge, and connections they need to succeed. It helps students to become more engaged and passionate about wildlife conservation, and equips them with the tools they need to make a positive impact in their field.

We thankfully have a school that has volunteered to host next spring, and we will provide more information at a later date- so stay tuned! What I would like from all of you is your input. During my presidency, my goal is to create an official NCS TWS Conclave Committee and I am looking for any volunteers- students, faculty AND professionals- to meet a few times a year via zoom to make sure we have all our ducks in a row. Please email me by June 30 if you are interested in serving.

Happy Spring,
Val Titus
President, NCS TWS
vtitus@paulsmiths.edu



Section Representative's Update

Council met again in person at our regular Spring meeting, concurrent with the 88th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in St.



Louis. Specifically, Council convened on March 19 and 20 for all day meetings. Minutes will be available later this year, but here are some of the highlights:

- We are currently engaged in a strategic planning process at the parent-organization level. If you receive an email from TWS about getting your opinion on the future of our organization, then please be sure to reply and participate. Your voice matters! In our section, I'm especially interested in the vision that each state and our student chapters have for the parent organization.
- The [Policy Toolkit](#) and [Policy Library](#) are available for state and student chapters to access!
- Please consider publishing in our TWS outlets. These include [The Wildlife Professional](#), [The Wildlife Society Bulletin](#), [The Journal of Wildlife Management](#), and [Wildlife Monographs](#). Each outlet considers articles of varying length, but all of them are primary sources of wildlife research and management in our field.
- Please consider nominating folks in our section as Fellows. The next call won't go out for a while, but now is the time to start thinking about who to nominate and get materials together. Up to two people/section can be recognized as Fellows each year. The criteria for Fellows nominations can be found [here](#). In general, these should be folks who have a demonstrated history of service to both our profession as well as our professional organization.

On other fronts, Section Representatives are supposed to visit with each state in their section at least once during their term. So far this year, I was able to attend the 50th Anniversary Meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society. TWS CEO Ed Arnett was there to join in our celebration. Happy 50th anniversary Wisconsin!

I also was able to attend part of the Annual Meeting of the Ohio State Chapter via Zoom. It was great to see folks virtually and I appreciate the hard work folks are doing there to get "back to normal" now that Covid isn't keeping us from in-person meetings. Former Council Representative, Pat Lederle, attended the Michigan Chapter Meeting in my place in March as well. Thanks Pat! I will do my best to visit as many State Chapter Meetings in person or virtually as possible over the next year. I'm also more than happy to meet with Student Chapters too. Please feel free to reach out and let me know how I can help you directly, or help make your voice heard!

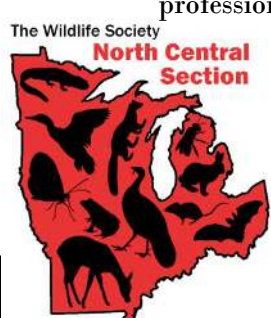


Sincerely, Jason Riddle

Looking ahead: 84th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

Save These Dates! January 28 - 31, 2024

The Midwest attracts up to 1,000 biologists and students from state, federal, and tribal natural resources agencies and universities from the Midwest, Great Plains and Canadian provinces for the purposes of sharing technical presentations, poster displays, plenary sessions, and networking opportunities for wildlife professionals. Attendees include professionals in the field of fisheries and wildlife—directors, assistant directors, program managers, wildlife and fisheries biologists, as well as college students. This year's conference will be held in Sioux Falls, SD for the first time. More details are available at the website: <https://www.midwestfw.org/>

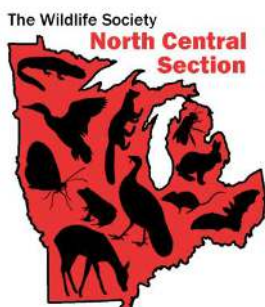


North Central Section TWS Treasurer's Report - 05/09/2023

CHECKING				
Beginning Balance as of 01/04/2023			\$6,895.00	
Date	Description	Expense	Income	
1/30/23	Membership dues 4th Qt		\$2,650.00	
2/21/23	travel Gapinski	\$207.78		
2/21/23	grad student award Whipple	\$500.00		
2/22/23	travel Grudens	\$357.50		
2/27/23	travel Proudman	\$224.70		
2/27/23	Student Chapter of Year UWSP	\$1,000.00		
2/28/23	Plaques	\$235.40		
2/28/23	travel Crème	\$358.55		
2/28/23	travel Pietruni	\$380.08		
2/28/23	travel Verheijen	\$400.00		
3/1/23	travel Ranta	\$400.00		
3/1/23	Dudley	\$715.56		
3/7/23	undergrad award Luoma	\$500.00		
3/8/23	travel Nahorney	\$211.68		
3/9/23	travel Podoliak	\$255.46		
3/13/23	Professional award Svedarsky	\$500.00		
3/14/23	travel Bergstrom	\$400.00		
3/24/23	transfer MAFWA travel grant		\$4,113.53	
3/24/23	travel Whipple	\$373.71		
4/25/23	travel Gapinski	\$144.07		
4/28/23	Membership dues 1st Qtr		\$1,400.00	
5/2/23	Moose conference sponsorship	\$300.00		
	Subtotal	\$7,464.49	\$8,163.53	
Ending Balance as of 5/9/2023				\$7,594.04
SAVINGS				
Beginning Balance as of 01/04/2023			\$1,600.32	
Date	Description	Expense	Income	
1/31/23	January dividend		\$0.07	
2/28/23	February dividend		\$0.06	
3/31/23	March dividend		\$0.07	
4/30/23	April dividend		\$0.07	
	Subtotal	\$0.00	\$0.27	
Ending Balance as of 1/4/2023				\$1,600.59
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT				
Beginning Balance as of 01/04/2023			\$47,790.40	
Date	Description	Expense	Income	
1/31/23	January dividend		\$59.17	
2/28/23	February dividend		\$56.30	
3/31/23	March dividend		\$63.07	
4/30/23	April dividend		\$64.12	
	Subtotal	\$0.00	\$242.66	
Ending Balance as of 04/xx/2023				\$48,033.06
MAFWA/CEF TRAVEL GRANT				
Beginning Balance as of 12/7/2022			\$6,429.66	
Date	Description	Expense	Income	
1/31/23	January dividend		\$5.97	
2/28/23	February dividend		\$5.62	
3/24/23	Transfer to Checking	\$4,113.53		
3/31/23	March dividend		\$5.25	
4/30/23	April dividend		\$2.36	
	Subtotal	\$4,113.53	\$19.20	
Ending Balance as of 4/xx/2023				\$2,335.33

TOTAL FUNDS as of 5/9/2023
Submitted by Geriann Albers Treasurer

\$59,563.02



TWS NORTH CENTRAL SECTION OFFICERS

You can find our full executive board on our [website](#)

President



President: Valorie Titus
Paul Smith's College
Email: vtitus@paulsmiths.edu

President-Elect



President-Elect: Jeremy Holtz
Wisconsin Department of Natural
Resources
Email: Jeremy.holtz@wisconsin.gov

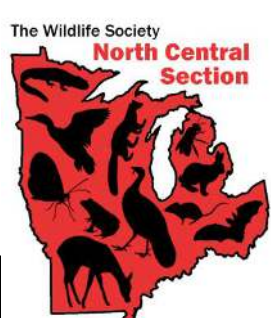
Treasurer



Treasurer: Geriann Albers
Indiana Department of Natural
Resources
Email: galbers@dnr.in.gov

Secretary

Secretary: Krysten Zummo
Mississippi Valley Conservancy
Email: tws.ncs@gmail.com



Section Awards

Awards Presented by the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society

Each year, the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society recognizes Outstanding Undergraduate and Graduate students within the Section, selected based on their demonstrated academic and scholarly achievement, work experience, letters of reference, and extra-curricular activities in The Wildlife Society.

Outstanding Undergraduate Student of the Year – Nicole Luoma

The North Central Section of The Wildlife Society is pleased to recognize Nicole Luoma of the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point as our Outstanding Undergraduate Student of the Year. Nicole is currently the President of the UWSP Student Chapter and serves as the Undergraduate Student Representative for the Wisconsin State Chapter. Nicole co-leads both the Saw-whet Owl and Gray Squirrel undergraduate research projects at UWSP, is a peer mentor at the College of Natural Resources Student Success Center, and has held various volunteer and paid positions for the Wisconsin DNR and other organizations. We're excited to present Nicole with this award. Congratulations Nicole!



Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year – Laura Whipple

For the Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year, the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society is pleased to recognize Laura Whipple. Laura is currently pursuing her M.S. degree in Biology at Northern Michigan University studying camera traps and species distribution modeling as well as working to create an inclusive ecology curriculum. Laura currently serves as the Graduate Student Representative on the North Central Section Executive Board, a position in which she has served on the newly created ad hoc Student Membership Committee and, along with our Undergraduate Student Representative, established the Section's social media presence on Twitter and Instagram. Laura also served as the Student Chapter President as an undergraduate at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She already has 6 scientific publications to her name as an M.S. student and has obtained a variety of experience working with pollinators, reptiles, mammals, and even fish (although we won't hold that against her). Congratulations to Laura, and thank for your work as a wildlifer!

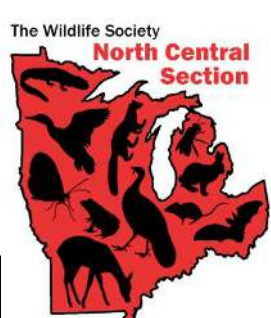


Looking ahead: The Wildlife Society 30th Annual Conference

Save the date! The Wildlife Society's 30th Annual Conference will be held in Louisville, KY this November 5-9, 2023. Meet up with friends and colleagues from around the country, whether you've known them for years or haven't met them before. This is a great opportunity for past, present and future wildlife professionals to hone their professional edge. Watch the [conference website](#) for details and information as it becomes available.

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY'S 30TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

LEARN. NETWORK. ENGAGE.



Section Awards

Student Chapter of the Year – University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point



In addition to recognizing individual students, the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society also recognizes a Student Chapter within the Section for its exceptional achievements and exemplary contributions to the Society's mission and goals. This year, the North Central Section recognizes the student chapter from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point as our Student Chapter of the Year. Over the past year, the 180-member student chapter effectively organized a variety of events and activities that not only benefited local wildlife resources but also provided invaluable experiences to their members. It's very apparent that this student chapter wholeheartedly supports and values the missions and goals of The Wildlife Society and we are happy to present them with this recognition

Important Update – Student Chapter of the Year application deadline extended

Each year, the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society recognizes a student chapter within the Section boundaries for its exemplary contributions to the Society's mission and goals. Student chapters are asked to report on their activities during the past year on the application form and can excel in one or several areas. Applicants should provide a complete and concise description of their chapter's activity in each area on the application form and document the level of member participation in the various activities and initiatives.

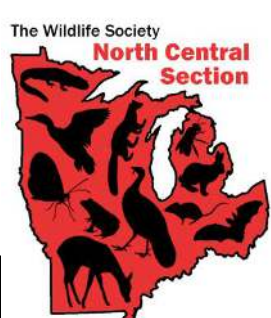
The selected student chapter will be recognized at the 2024 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Sioux Falls, SD. The selected chapter will also receive a travel grant of up to \$1,000 to send a student delegation to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference or the Society's annual conference or both.

To read more about the award and download the application form, visit the NCS TWS website.

The deadline for applications has been extended to Wednesday, September 6, 2023. You can send applications directly to me (Tyler.Harms@dnr.iowa.gov). Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you again to our outstanding students for their amazing contributions to the wildlife profession!

-Tyler Harms, Past President



Professional Award of Merit Winner – Dr. Dan Svedarsky

Each year, the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society solicits nominations for our Professional Award of Merit. This award is bestowed to a member living within the Section for outstanding professional accomplishments in the wildlife profession. Recipients of this award are recognized for their accomplishments in one or more of the following criteria: (1) contribution to knowledge, (2) single outstanding acts, and/or (3) leadership over a period of several years in any area of wildlife work including research, wildlife law enforcement, management, administration or education. Accomplishments are demonstrated by publications, skillful development and/or application of effective management or educational programs or methods.

The North Central Section of The Wildlife Society is pleased to recognize Dr. Dan Svedarsky with our 2022 Professional Award of Merit for his exemplary leadership over his 50-year career in the wildlife profession.



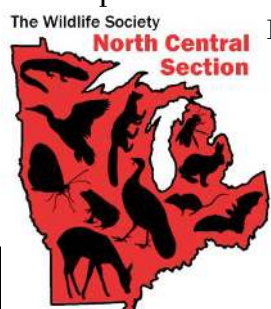
Dr. Svedarsky started his career as an Instructor of Natural Resources at the University of Minnesota Crookston in 1969, and retired in 2018 as Professor and Director of Sustainability after holding nearly every academic position at the institution. He started in the Natural Resources program at the University in 1969 and led development of the Wildlife Management and Natural Resources Aviation majors. He has had nearly a thousand advisees and taught many thousands of students in his career – all on a 25% teaching appointment that was never just 25%. He co-advised 7 MS students as an adjunct at nearby Universities (UMC does not have a graduate program). He acquired the land and created the Red River Valley Natural History Area – a 90-acre parcel near campus that the program uses

as an outdoor laboratory for nearly every class in the Natural Resources Program.

Dan is perhaps best known in the research area by his work on Greater Prairie-Chickens. He was a founding member of the Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society, has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for research and conservation of prairies, and has found the drive to publish dozens of articles and scores of presentations on the topic. And every spring he invites the local community to his 20-person mobile blind on a Prairie Chicken lek near his house. It is hard to spend a morning with Dan in a blind and not understand his passion for chickens and open landscapes.

His service to The Wildlife Society during his career has been immense and impactful. He has held officer positions at all levels of the organization, including Vice President, President-elect, President, and Past President of the parent organization from 2006-2010, North Central Section representative to Council from 1998-2001, Chair of the College and University Education Working Group, President and Secretary of the North Central Section, and various Committee Chair roles for the Minnesota Chapter will also maintaining membership these as well as the North Dakota, Manitoba, and Wisconsin chapters for several decades. As his nominator stated, “Few professionals have had such a broad impact on so many different components of the profession as well as students and professionals in their learning and skill development.” Congratulations

Dan, and thank you for your amazing and lasting impact on our profession.



Illinois Chapter Update

We updated by-laws and operations manual of ICTWS. Thanks to past and present board members of ICTWS who ushered efforts. Thanks to staff at TWS who checked changes to make sure we were doing things according to the book of Hoyle.

We created an e-newsletter that was rich in content and visual appeal. Thanks to Justin Shew, who provided enthusiasm, skills, and creativity.

Members volunteered to monitor conservation affairs (political actions that might affect our profession) and expand outreach through social media. Thanks Andrew Wilk and Jessica Mohlman!

We investigated incorporation under the parent organization of TWS. A work in progress, but getting closer.

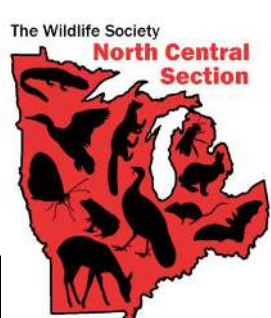
We raised ~\$1700 at our annual conference through a raffle and silent auction to support travel by students to future meetings hosted by ICTWS.



ICTWS hosted Save the Frogs Day this year at the Meredosia NWR on April 27-28 and we built a liner wetland from start to finish. The event was free and open

to the public. Events like this can serve as a good training opportunity for people, and a good way for students to meet people in the conservation field. Go to

<https://savethefrogs.com/wetlands-illinois/> for more information.



Drone workshop at ICTWS annual meeting

The Illinois Chapter held its recent annual meeting in Champaign, IL from April 16-18 and offered a virtual option. We had 116 people register for the meeting which included 44 students. Up from last year! A 1st place graduate student oral presentation was awarded along with 1st and 2nd place poster presentations in both the graduate and undergraduate student category. In addition, Aaron Yetter, retired from the Illinois Natural History Survey and long-time Illinois Chapter member, who has taken on chapter leadership roles, was awarded The Professional Award of Merit by our chapter at the meeting.



Unique to past Illinois chapter meetings was a focused symposium on drones organized and initiated by council member at large, Bob Bluett. The morning presentations covered topics ranging from drone rules and regulations to application in the wildlife field (e.g. habitat restoration, wildlife nuisance, and research). The symposia culminated with field demonstration, where students and professionals got hands on experience operating a small drone. Ahead of the annual meeting the Illinois chapter board approved to reimburse a certain number of students and professionals who complete their drone certification (FAA Part 107). Our end of conference survey showed that the drone symposium received the most positive feedback and the Illinois Chapter hopes to continue hosting relevant symposia for future annual meetings.

Michigan Chapter Update



We held our 2022 Conference and Chapter business meeting virtually on March 24-25, 2022. Highlights included plenaries by psychologist Dr. Ian Evan, speaking about interpersonal well-being, self-compassion, and work-life harmony and Dr. Alexa Warwick, who spoke about stakeholder partnership and engagement. The conference also featured a free workshop about TWS Certification as well as scientific presentations from multiple organizations. The chapter also presented its Legacy Award posthumously to Dr. David Luukkonen and its inaugural Conservation Award to the Natural Resource Trust Council for its response to the 2011 Enbridge Oil Spill in Michigan.

Our 2023 Annual Conference was held March 22-23, 2023, as a joint conference with the Michigan Chapter of AFS. This was our first in-person conference in three years. Highlights included plenaries by Chris Garrock, Conservation Director of Stewardship for the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy and staff from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, a workshop on Field Safety Planning, and research presentations.

The chapter also hosted a record number of socials and workshops for its members this year and reinstituted a biannual newsletter for the Chapter. We sent a fall newsletter to our membership (shorturl.at/zTZ28) and plan to send another in April. Our events this year included five



field trip-socials located throughout the state, including visits to wood turtle habitat restoration sites, trapping technique demonstrations, mushroom identification, and tick research surveillance methods. We also hosted an online Time Management Workshop for early career and

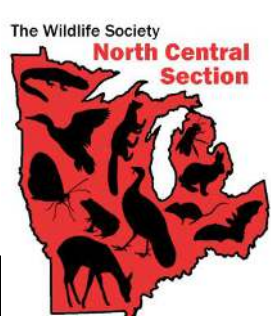
professional members and a Writing Effective Cover Letters Workshop for our student members.

Across our sponsored events this past reporting year, we had 111 participants and received consistent positive responses on our post-event surveys.



Michigan TWS has also been developing a MITWS Code of Conduct, and received a TWS DEI Grant to support that work. Our chapter is developing our Code in two parts: (1) establishing clear expectations for professional behavior and (2) clarifying reporting and responses to violations of those expectations. We sent a survey to our membership to receive their input on Part 1 (Expectations), and the chapter's Executive Board is in the process of integrating that feedback. We have also drafted Part 2 (Reporting and Response) and have received preliminary feedback from staff at TWS Headquarters. We also had discussions with our chapter membership during our annual business meeting, which was held in March at the annual conference.

Submitted by Gael Sanchez



North Central Section State Chapter Updates

Indiana Chapter Update

The Indiana Chapter of TWS met for their first in-person annual meeting since 2020 on March 21 & 22 in Nashville, Indiana. Dr. Stan Gehrt gave a well-received keynote address on the Urban Coyote Research Project. The theme of the plenary session was applied wildlife science. Newly elected officers began their term at this meeting and include Zach Voyles (President); Dawn Johnson (President-elect); Joe Caudell (Past-president); Emily McCallen (Treasurer/Secretary); and Geriann Albers (Member-at-Large). The chapter updated its bylaws in April, and major changes include extending all officer terms to two years, revising the nominations timeline, streamlining the roles and responsibilities of the conservation affairs committee, and removing defunct committees. The chapter was able to acquire liability insurance through Acuity Insurance in March, and they are currently working on incorporating as an independent non-profit entity in the State of Indiana. The Indiana Chapter will next meet at its continuing education meeting in the fall.

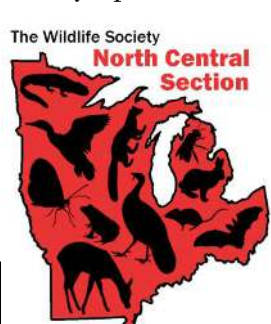
Ohio Chapter Update

Student Wildlife Research Symposium – The Ohio State University



On March 31st students presented at the research symposium at Hueston Woods State Park Lodge. Ohio

TWS sponsored a donation to this event.



Fall Workshop



On November 2nd OCTWS hosted a bird banding and resume building workshop at Vinton Furnace Experimental Forest. We are grateful for Dr. Matt Shumar for leading the bird banding component. There were 24 students in attendance from Hocking College and The Ohio State University. OCTWS looks forward to hosting career development workshops in both spring and summer for students and professionals.

3-Minute Thesis Competition

On December 10th Five Rivers MetroParks hosted a Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT). Students presented from 4 local Universities (Wright State, University of Dayton, Air Force Institute of Tech., and Miami University) about their environmental research projects. Awards were sponsored by Ohio TWS and recipients included:

Abby Hay – Director’s Award - Miami University
“Individual and interactive effects of white-tailed deer and woody invasives on native tree seedlings in an early successional forest”

Stephanie Murrie – Best Research Proposal – University of Dayton
“Making solar power work for all: How insects are colonizing novel habitats”

Sam Urquidez – People’s Choice Award – University of Dayton
“Do farmers’ perceptions impact pollinator recruitment methods in urban agriculture?”

Submitted by Erin Hazelton, Chapter President

During the winter meeting, we celebrated our award and student scholarship winners. Scholarship winners included

Wisconsin Chapter Update

The Wisconsin Chapter has been busy with mundane tasks like incorporation and acquiring insurance, but we have made great accomplishments and had a lot of fun to boot.

In the summer of 2022, the chapter hosted a technical training workshop at the Aldo Leopold Foundation. This two-day training contained three modules on the topics of meeting facilitation, communicating with the public, and writing for professional audiences.

In early 2023, we submitted our first position statement to the Wisconsin DNR for their Draft Wolf Management Plan, which was developed by the WCTWS Wolf Issues Committee.

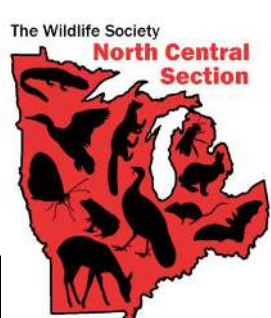
In January 2023, we got back together—in person—for our annual winter meeting. Technically it was our 53rd meeting, but due to COVID restrictions, we were unable to celebrate our 50th anniversary. So, what better time than now? Our past president, Scott Hygnstrom, took the lead in planning this celebration with over 200 members, five decades of board members present, and two huge cakes! We were joined by some special guests: Ed Frank, WCTWS 2nd president, who served in 1973; John Kubisiak, a founding member who served on the executive board in 1974; Keith McCaffery, WCTWS 5th president, who served in 1976; and James March, WCTWS 6th president, who served in 1977. If you are interested in learning more about WCTWS history, click [here](#). The current CEO of TWS, Ed Arnett, attended our celebration and delivered the TWS Certificate of Appreciation to our 2022 president, Lacey Hill Kastern.

undergraduates Aneli Zetino, Nicole Luoma, Amber Smith, and graduate student Matthew Smith. Our 2022 Donald H. Rusch Memorial Award was awarded to Chris Pollentier. In addition, we said goodbye to our fabulous members who were leaving the board and welcomed our new volunteers: Emma Hansen, treasurer; Darren Ladwig, president elect; and Madeline Kelly, student chapter representative.

We had a big change in the leadership position of our chapter newsletter, Intelligent Tinkering. After 16 years of service, Lesa Kardash stepped down from her position as a non-voting member of the WCTWS board as newsletter editor. The dedication and knowledge she brought to the board over that time were invaluable. The chapter cannot thank her enough! Luckily, Lesa inspired a new volunteer to take over that position, bringing a new, updated look while respecting the great traditions Lesa created during her time. If you would like to stay up-to-date with what is going on within the WCTWS, check out our [newsletter](#).



As WCTWS continues moving forward in 2023 and beyond, we are working hard to keep DEI at the forefront, including the recruitment and retention of diverse voices. We continue to strengthen our tribal relations, highlight diverse members, and create opportunities for growth, professional development, and experience for everyone in wildlife. Submitted by Jen Merems, Secretary





Purdue Student Chapter

The Purdue Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has had a busy 2023 spring semester. We have a total of 87 dues paying members with over 30 students regularly attending our biweekly meetings. This spring, we had some great guest speakers including Gary Potts, the International Crane Foundation, Dr. Michel Kohl, and representatives from the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment. We participated in multiple outreach events such as Purdue's Ag Week, Spring Fest, Community Nature Day, and Detrash the Wabash. Our working groups were also very active, placing camera traps at the local Wolf Park, installing and repairing wood duck nest boxes, bird banding, and assisting with herp surveys. Additionally, the club hosted a career fair prep session for students in the department, planted over 500 trees, and learned to prepare specimens with Purdue's specimen collection. Finally, we hosted a book club this semester and read *A Life on Our Planet* by David Attenborough. In the coming year, we plan to participate in (and hopefully win!) the national quiz bowl, host the NCS conclave, and provide many more opportunities for our members.



Northwest Missouri State University Student Chapter

We started the year strong with our local chapter members bonding through kayaking and ropes course during our first meeting at MOERA recreational area. During the first semester, the chapter got the opportunity to learn and participate in monarch butterfly tagging, learning about bat boxes that had been put up in previous years, and volunteering at Eagle Days, a large-scale educational event for the northwest Missouri community. We also learned about research being done on campus with bullfrog population genetics. Club members were taught how to collect bullfrogs in the wild followed by a live demonstration on taking a blood sample. We also carried out a plant fundraiser where students participated in a booth selling plants and attended a few meetings separating and replanting plants.

During the second half of the year, students attended the Missouri Natural Resource Conference and did a lot of career networking with students receiving internship opportunities. The club was honored to have wildlife education specialist T.J. Preacher from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) talk to us about different programs that MDC was putting on and explained a little bit about his job and the education branch of MDC. We had a meeting where we discussed where to find job and internship opportunities related to the conservation field and did a resume workshop. We had several students attend Massasauga Rattlesnake surveys at Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge. Our final meeting of the semester concluded with a BBQ by the lake where officer elections held in the results included Abigail Manners as the president, Zachary Freeman as the Vice President, Logan Carter as the Treasurer, Katherine Roseman as our public relations, and Sydney Bogue as the Secretary. While most of the officers are from the previous year, we are proud to have a new member on the officer team and look forward to planning next year's meetings!

-Submitted by Sydney Bogue, Secretary

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Student Chapter

As the spring semester quickly draws to an end, the University of Minnesota's Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology (FWCB) Club looks back to an eventful and fulfilling past few months. While the cold weather may have made it difficult to arrange field activities, several of our events managed to take full advantage of it. Over the winter break, we sent 16 of our members to participate in a Canada Lynx tracking event in northern Minnesota's Superior National Forest. There they spent about 5 days following tracks and collecting scat and hair for the US Forest Service to aid their genetic surveillance of the lynx population, and they even managed to capture some amazing lynx photos! More local winter activities included ice fishing on Lake Nokomis and the Minnesota Tracking Club's annual Winter Wildlife Survey at the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve.

Tracking animals is one thing, but actually physically interacting with them is another experience entirely. Several club members attended a private program at Snake Discovery, a reptile zoo and education facility where they handled various reptile species and learned more about herpetology-related careers.

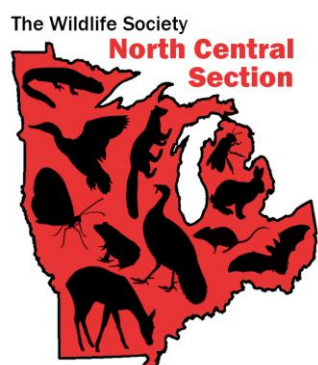


Those who weren't able to come to the event still got to see a few live native Minnesota herps thanks to a presentation from the Minnesota Herpetological Society at one of our club meetings. Of course, reptiles and



amphibians weren't the only animals we got up close and personal with. A couple of curators and graduate students were happy to give us a tour of Bell Museum's diverse bird and mammal specimen collections. We also enjoyed the opportunity to observe and interact with a wide variety of wildlife at a behind-the-scenes tour of the Lake Superior Zoo and Great Lakes Aquarium in Duluth.

When the FWCB club isn't organizing any big excursions, we often invite faculty members or other local specialists to talk about their fields of expertise as guest speakers at our biweekly meetings. Professors and community members have come to present all sorts of fascinating topics from the protection of native non-game fishes, to invasive aquatic plants in lakes, to an outdoor nature journaling workshop. And, as always, with the end of an academic year comes the beginning of a new club officer team. This spring saw our freshly elected officers gradually taking over club responsibilities after learning the ropes from last semester's club leaders over the course of a few online meetings. With this new team, we're proud to have ended the semester on a high note, and we look forward to carrying this momentum on into Fall 2023 and beyond. -Submitted by Ethan Lie, Secretary



Ball State University Student Chapter Update



The 2022-23 Academic Year has been a very successful year for the Ball State Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Our first meeting of the Fall semester, New Member Trivia Night, had one of the largest turnouts of any meeting, with 81 people attending. This past semester, we had a variety of speakers for our meetings including an Indy Zoo orangutan keeper, an INDOT Ecologist, and the DNR non-game ornithologist. Additionally, we hosted two workshops, CV Night and Internship Night, which taught students how to write a CV, as well how to search and apply for internships.

Our group also participated in multiple volunteering events, including the local White River Clean Up in Muncie and Pulling for Bats. During the White River Clean Up, we removed trash from the riverbank, while also getting the opportunity to kayak and enjoy the scenery along the river. At Pulling for Bats, we worked with other volunteers at the Red-tail Land Conservancy property, Munsee Woods, to remove invasive plants, such as autumn olive and honeysuckle, to restore native habitat for bats.

This semester, we have maintained a consistent attendance of 30 or more students at speaker meetings and have 54 members overall. Some of the speakers we hosted at our biweekly meetings include the Indiana DNR Private Lands

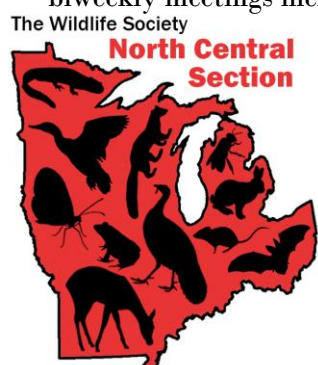
Biologist, a professor using genetic tools for turtle conservation, and an ornithologist who talked about past undergrad student bird conservation research.

In addition to our regular speaker meetings, our chapter hosted another workshop in February titled “Career Readiness Night”, which covered different aspects of the interview process including proper interview etiquette and attire, how to prepare for interviews, and practice questions. Also in February, we took 21 members to Overland Park, Kansas for the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. This experience proved to be enriching for our members’ education, and beneficial for future development of our chapter. Year. During April, we held our Guided Nature Walk Workshop and participated in two campus education events. For the workshop, we took the members to Christy Woods, one of the properties that makes up the Ball State Field Station, to learn more about the educational resources available at the facility and to work on plant identification skills. One of the educational events we participated in was an Earth Day Fair, where we talked to other Ball State students about native wildflowers and native pollinator diversity. For the other educational event, we participated in Science Day, an event hosted by Ball State’s Chemistry Club in which different science clubs on campus create demonstrations for kids. Our demonstration was titled “How to be a Bat Biologist” and was used to show kids how to collect data from bats in a mist net using fake bats. Also in April, one of our advisors, Dr. Tim Carter, won the Advisor of the Year award for student organizations at Ball State. Finally, to wrap up the year we had a bonfire and cookout on April 28th to celebrate with everyone in our TWS chapter before finals began. The new officers, which were elected



in March are Skylar Moore (President), Ashley Fitch (Vice President), Riley Flockhart (Secretary), and Carlie Richardson (Treasurer).

Submitted by Steve Doll, Chapter President



Missouri Western State University Student Chapter Update

Changes in leadership:

President: Tyson Cook

Vice President: Grace Allen

Secretary: Sonja Weber

Treasurer: Kyla Spradlin

Executive Board Members: Boaz Evans, Terence Mercado

This year, the **Get It Curve** award winner was Katy Stafford. This award is reserved for a student who has shown an incredible degree of reliability and desire to get the most out of his or her experience in The Wildlife Society. Katy is the



person who has contributed the highest amount of volunteer hours and service to TWS throughout the course of the past academic year. She achieved more than was required of her. During this academic year, Katy has attended almost every event our chapter of TWS has held and has dedicated over 45 hours of her time to our chapter.

This year, the **Conservation Honors Award** was presented to our student chapter President Ethan Bennie. This award goes to a Junior or Senior at Missouri Western who is a high-achieving member of TWS. It is given to the student who has been highly involved and active in our student chapter not just in their past academic year but through their entire tenure at MWSU, demonstrating a high degree of reliability and leadership skills. While at MWSU, Ethan has been heavily involved in TWS activities over the past years. During his four years in the society, Ethan has achieved over 300 hours of volunteer hours through TWS Student Chapter events. He has also been certified as a Type II Wild-lands Firefighter through the BIA and is currently a certified Hunters ED instructor with MDC.



Student chapter member Kyla Spradlin is the recipient of this year's **Young Conservationist Award** which is given to a Sophomore or Junior year member who has gone above and beyond what is expected and required of first or second-year students.

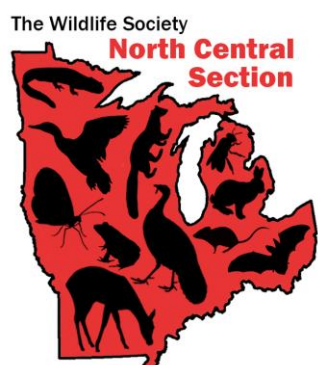
Kyla has been heavily involved in our chapter this past year and has attended almost all of the weekly meetings and events we have participated in this year. This award is mainly focused on participation and involvement during this past academic year.



Prescribed Fire- John Rushin Teaching Prairie

Our student chapter worked with the local St. Joseph Fire Department to burn the John Rushin Prairie, which is co-managed by MDC and MWSU, using a burn plan put together by faculty members of Missouri Western State University. This was a historic event for the prairie and the university. Running two burn teams, we managed to burn approximately 32 acres. This was a high-profile burn with multiple media presences and drones.

Submitted by Tyson Cook, Chapter President



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Student Chapter Update

We proudly hosted our first TWS Inclusivity, Diversity, and Equity (TIDE) Takeover Week. Our TIDE Officer worked on social media posts, hosted a speaker to discuss DEI in natural resources, and held a diversity flowers event. They continue to create and present weekly highlighting diversity slides in general member meetings, while coordinating and leading DEI-focused projects or workshops that will serve our student chapter and UWSP community.

Seventeen students attended the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference with such topics as ruffed grouse sound mapping, urban eastern gray squirrel survival, and mussel propagation. Nicole Luoma was honored with the Outstanding Wildlife Undergraduate Student Award from the North Central Section of the Wildlife Society, and our student chapter was recognized as the student chapter of the year!

Twelve student chapter members attended the Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society's Annual Winter Meeting, with 8 different undergraduate research projects represented in posters and presentations. Amber Smith, Nicole Luoma, and Aneli Zetino were awarded with all state undergraduate awards: the Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarship, the James W. Hardin Memorial Scholarship, Frances "Fran" Hamerstrom Memorial Scholarship, respectively. The 2023 National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) was held April 13th to 15th, 2023 at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire campus. Six of the nine students from the Trainer College of Natural Resources Program were TWS members.

Finally, the 24th annual UWSP College of Natural Resources Student Research Symposium was held on Friday, April 21st, 2023. Fifty-five of the 118 participants were TWS members! We continue to host social events for our members such as judo night, the annual Henry Vilas Zoo trip, and the Great Wisconsin Birdathon with the other student chapters in the state.

-By Nicole Luoma, Student Chapter President

University of Wisconsin-Madison Student Chapter Update

We started the fall semester by bird banding in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, making our annual hike around Devil's Lake, and visiting the International Crane Foundation to observe hundreds of Sandhill Cranes landing on the Wisconsin River for the evening. We also had many amazing guest speakers in the field of wildlife ecology and learned more about wildlife rehabilitation, trout, Sandhill Cranes, and foxes.

We were particularly busy this spring semester with restarting old traditions and making new memories. Our student chapter officers attended the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society Winter Meeting in January. The student leadership team was able to learn more about exciting new research coming out of Wisconsin, gain leadership skills, and make connections with professionals and other students. We will be using the funds generated from the silent auction and the raffle to continue exciting field trips for our members and support events such as The Wild Game Dinner – an annual tradition hosted by The Student Chapter at UW-Madison which was just restarted this year after being postponed due to COVID-19. It is an amazing opportunity for students interested in wildlife ecology or related natural resources fields to come together and celebrate wildlife.

This year was very successful with over 100 people served and asking for seconds!

We have remained pleasantly busy this semester with salamander searching at Shoveler's Sink, participating in a highway clean up, and sending out a team to participate in The Great Wisconsin Birdathon.

-By Kamber Cofta, Student Chapter President



Buffet line of wild game and other food items from The Wild Game Dinner.



*Parting Thoughts from the Editor**

A day late and a dollar short

First, a big THANK YOU to the chapter Presidents and Secretaries who worked to get me the content for this newsletter. I have been in this field since 1990-something and it continually impresses and amazes me to see how far we have come and where we are heading. I never thought we would see the advances in remote sensing, DNA analysis and drone usage that are in the forefront of our field today. The steps in improving equality and embracing diversity equity and inclusion give us hope for a work environment previously unimagined in natural resources. I hope you took the time to read the articles provided, and consider the invitations from our chapters to read their newsletters.

Now for the apology. I owed you this newsletter several weeks ago. I dropped the ball and for that I owe you my sincerest apologies. But it wouldn't have been right to short-change you or the chapters that provided the content for this newsletter, so I took the time to make sure you got a newsletter worth waiting for.

That being said, there is room for improvement and the opportunity is here. Please send me content for the fall newsletter. I have a list, and so do you—in the chapter bylaws.

- Articles on special topics of interest
- Publications available and upcoming
- Future conferences, symposia, workshops, and meetings along with their particulars

Thanks for your patience! Expect to hear from me throughout the coming months as I prepare for the Fall newsletter. And I hope to see you in Louisville and Sioux Falls!



*Contributed by Jeremy Holtz, CWB
2023 President-elect, NCS TWS

Let's not give up gathering together

As we come out of years of pandemic precautions and physical isolation, we will continue to face questions and challenges surrounding returning to the office, working from home, shared workspaces and hybrid work schedules. We all have the shared experience of retreating to work from home and digital meetings and training. For many, this worked well—and for everyone it was a means to an end. However, there is no denying the benefits experienced from meeting and gathering under the umbrella of shared interests and common (or uncommon) backgrounds and experiences. Plan to attend our coming meetings like The Wildlife Society annual meeting in Louisville and the Midwest Fish and Wildlife conference in Sioux Falls. We all have something to gain and something to share while networking and celebrating each other's accomplishments.

Consider the challenge and opportunity to lead your Section

I can't tell you how surprised I was when I answered the phone last winter and heard Gary Potts at the other end. I had offered my services to the Section as a candidate for President-elect in 2019, and after I was not elected, I turned my focus to other matters. It didn't occur to me to run again. Fortunately for me, it occurred to Gary, and he called to ask me if I would consider running again. I agreed, and you elected me to serve. It is a great experience serving in a leadership capacity; if you haven't considered it before, maybe you should! Contact Gary Potts and see if you can help shape the future of our Section:

Gary E. Potts, Chair, Nominations and Elections
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Retired, Wildlife Project Manager, IL DNR