



## Fall Newsletter

October 2023

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ◇ **Elections: Candidate Bios**
- ◇ **Membership Corner: Sporting Lead-Free**
- ◇ **Annual Conference: TWS2023 Events**
- ◇ **Tracking America's Outdoor Pursuits**



TWS Hunting, Trapping, and Conservation Working Group



@htcwg\_tws



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### Note from the Chair

Dear HTCWG,

Fall is my favorite time of year because of football. Period. Full stop.

Okay, there is also cooler weather (I crochet and can finally wear some of my scarves and cowls), the leaves changing, and of course the approaching regulated hunting and trapping seasons. Fall is always a busy time in my calendar being a furbearer biologist. There's a lot of football to watch, regulated hunting and trapping seasons to think about, trapper rendezvous to attend, football to watch, fall surveys kicking in like our Archer's Index that I administer for my state. Also football to watch.

Fall is also a busy time for our working group. We have elections (please read the bios in the newsletter and get ready to vote!) and our big meeting for the year is approaching, coinciding with TWS Annual Conference. I hope many of you reading this will be able to join us in Louisville, Kentucky this year. Louisville is practically my backyard as far as conferences go, and it's a great city. Churchill Downs, Louisville Slugger, distilleries, twilight wagon tour of Cave Hill Cemetery, paddlefish skimming through the Ohio River. There's a lot to offer both at the conference and in the local area if you want to explore yourself or with friends or family. I love to explore on my own so no one thwarts my desire to go to the tiniest, obscurest museums and historic sites possible, because why wouldn't you want to go to the Louisville WaterWorks Museum and learn about Louisville's drinking water history?! While there's a lot to do both in and around the conference. But make sure you put on your calendar our Working Group Meeting. We will be meeting on Tuesday from 4:30-6 p.m. during the conference this year. We're going to have a great speaker about some hot off the presses data after we get through our business meeting, so you'll want to join us.

The board has also been busy reviewing our bylaws. When TWS became our "bank" it necessitated some wording changes to the Secretary/Treasurer position, and we figured it was a good time to see if any other wording needing updating at the same time. I hope you've taken time to review the edits and are ready to vote on the changes, which are included with our elections this year. We also formed two subcommittees, one to draft a potential issue statement related to recovering wildlife with the aid of dogs and another to review TWS's issue statement on wildlife contests. Finally, I hope some of you had the chance to sign up for the workshop our President-elect, John McDonald is putting on this year at TWS about New Media Communication Skills. You can see more about it elsewhere in this newsletter and it should be a good one! Hopefully see some of you in Louisville at the WaterWorks Museum, I mean the Annual Conference, and I hope you have a great fall!

Gerriann Albers



## 2024-2025 Election Information

Below are nominees for officer positions for the 2024-2025 Hunting, Trapping, and Conservation Working Group. You will find detailed **candidate bios** on the next few pages.

Elections and Nominations Committee is chaired by Michael Cherry. Thank you to all those who put their name forward for a candidate position this year. In order to follow our Charter, we only have a max of 2 candidates per position.

You can find more detailed description of what each officer position entails in our past newsletters: [https://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/HTC\\_Summer20-Newsletter.pdf](https://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/HTC_Summer20-Newsletter.pdf)

You can vote through the link we will be sending out via our listserv soon.  
**Elections will open in early October.**

You will also be able to vote on some updates to our **Charter**. Please spend time to review them.

1. Better clarify how to remove a board member that is no longer participating.
2. Clarify the duties of Secretary//Treasurer and add TWS as banking option (TWS is now our “bank” so this is a necessary change).
3. Adjusting the fiscal year to match the practical fiscal year we’ve been using (Jan-Dec)
4. Cleaning up the Standing Committees list to the ones we actively use.

You can find the proposed changes to our bylaws in our recent email from Chair Geriann Albers. Our current charter can be found on our working group’s page on TWS’s website:

[https://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Hunting-Trapping-Working-Group\\_Approved.pdf](https://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Hunting-Trapping-Working-Group_Approved.pdf)



## HTC Elections 2024-2025

### Secretary/Treasurer Candidates

#### Val Titus



Val is currently serving her first term as Secretary/Treasurer for the HTCWG and has been a member since the working group was chartered. Val is the Program Coordinator for Natural Resources Conservation and Management at Paul Smith's College in Paul Smiths, NY. She has been hunting and fishing her entire life. She's a certified hunter safety instructor, as well as a Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow instructor. Her research has focused mainly on the conservation and management of reptiles and amphibians and wildlife health, but she has recently started to dabble in game species and human dimensions work. She is an active

member of TWS, having held a number of positions at the state, section, and working group level. She is an alum of the Leadership Institute and is a TWS Fellow. Val completed her PhD in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior at Binghamton University in 2013.

### Board Member At-Large Candidates

#### Pat Jackson

Pat Jackson is currently the Predator Management Staff Specialist for Nevada Department of Wildlife. His professional interests include wildlife damage management, animal capture techniques, Best Management Practices for furbearer trapping, public outreach, and predator management. Some of his new professional interests include R3 efforts, lead free hunting ammunition, and helping to solve landscape scale management challenges. Pat is an avid trapper, fisherman, and hunter; primarily focusing on big game in the west. One of his favorite aspects involves teaching others to big game hunt and trap. He also thoroughly enjoys sharing and teaching others to butcher and prepare wild game.



# HTC Elections 2024-2025

## Board Member At-Large Candidates

### Amanda Veals Dutt

I am a postdoctoral research scientist with Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University in Texas. I received my B.S. from University of Arizona and M.S. from the same institution studying gray fox ecology and rabies management. I defended my Ph.D. in October 2021 with a dissertation focused on spatial ecology of the endangered ocelot to inform road mitigation efforts. I started my first post-doc position in January 2022 where I lead research focused on carnivores and mentor graduate students.

I have been involved with The Wildlife Society since I was an undergraduate (~10 years). I have been an active member of the Arizona and Texas state chapters as well as the Southwest Section and Women of Wildlife for the last decade. I have served on the communication boards of three different TWS working groups during my graduate career. I have served as the newsletter chair for the Hunting, Trapping, and Conservation working group for the last 2 years.

I started hunting later in life, thanks to my involvement in my undergraduate student chapter of TWS. I have a passion for helping others who did not grow up hunting to get into the sport. I have always seen the value of traditional forms of use for wildlife as key for the continuation of conservation and management of game & non-game species. As a board member of the Hunting, Trapping, and Conservation working group, I aim to continue producing our biannual newsletter and provide opportunities for more within our society to see the continued value & role of hunting and trapping in our profession.



### Membership Corner

Check out a member's story about The Sporting Lead-Free (SLF) group in the article on page 5!

*Do you have a hunting, trapping, or general field work story you want to share with fellow HTC members? Send them to Amanda Veals Dutt at [amveals@gmail.com](mailto:amveals@gmail.com) with subject line "HTC Membership Corner" to have your story featured in our next newsletter.*

## Membership Corner

### Sporting Lead-Free

By Sarah Pruden

Hunters are the backbone of wildlife conservation in North America. Our traditions, connection to the outdoors, and the funding we provide for conservation help maintain wildlife and their habitat. Overwhelming scientific data has linked lead-based ammunition and tackle to continued lead ingestion in wildlife across the globe. A clear,



tangible solution exists: using superior performing non-toxic alternatives. Sporting Lead-Free is a group of hunters and anglers dedicated to maintaining our sporting heritage, wildlife populations, and ethics. Our mission is to encourage the voluntary use of lead-free ammunition and tackle in the field and promote the conservation ethics of our sporting communities.



The Sporting Lead-Free (SLF) team travels throughout the West to bring awareness to this issue and the solutions, build a

community of like minded hunters and anglers, and increase access to lead-free products for our sporting activities. Recently, the SLF team traveled to Rock Springs, Wyoming for the inaugural Mule Deer Days event co-hosted by the Muley Fanatic Foundation and Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The team spoke with countless community members and other organizations about the importance of making the lead-free switch not only for wildlife health, but also human health, and the continuation of our hunting and angling heritage.

Check out [sportingleadfree.org](http://sportingleadfree.org) to learn more about this issue, find resources on how to switch, and see how you can get involved!



## About Us

Webpage: <https://wildlife.org/htcwg/>

Officers 2023–2024

Chair: Geriann Albers  
(galbers@dnr.in.gov)

Chair-Elect: John McDonald  
(twsmcdonald@gmail.com)

Past Chair: Tom Decker  
(thomas\_decker@fws.gov)

Secretary/Treasurer: Valorie Titus  
(vtitus@paulsmiths.edu)

Board Member: Pat Jackson  
(pjackson@ndow.org)

Board Member: Bryant White  
(BWhite@fishwildlife.org)

Membership: 280



TWS Hunting,  
Trapping, and  
Conservation  
Working Group



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## Annual Conference Information

### TWS 30th Annual Conference

**November 5-10, 2023 Louisville, Kentucky**



**Working Group Meeting**

**Tuesday November 7th 4:30-6pm EST**

**Guest Speaker: Richard Aiken**, Natural Resources Economist with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Our guest will be discussing results from the 2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation.

To learn more about Richard & the Survey, check out this article: <https://partnerwithapayer.org/tracking-americas-outdoor-pursuits/>

### Sponsored Workshop

**Tuesday November 7th 8am-12pm EST**

### **New Media Communication Skills and Strategies for Wildlife Professionals**

Wildlife professionals can use a wide range of media and platforms to communicate with the public about science, policy, and management. These new media provide both tremendous opportunities and perilous pitfalls. This workshop will provide perspectives from experienced communicators and training on techniques for effective use of new media.

Pre-registration is required. Over 50% of currently registered participants are students or early career professionals.