

FALL 2023

NEWSLETTER

THE NORTHEAST SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



Photo Credit: Sarah Lyons

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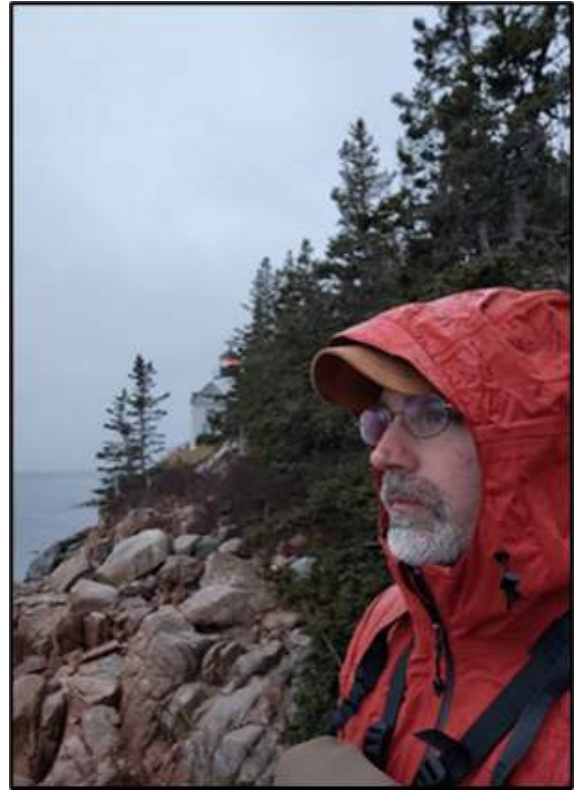
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Message from the President:

Greetings Northeast Section Members and Friends, I want to thank you all for electing me to serve as your Northeast Section President for the next two years. Megan Linske has now stepped into the role of Past-President and I want to really thank her for leading our Section during the difficult COVID-19 era. Thank you, Megan, for your past and continued service to the Section! I also want to thank Emily Boyd and Andrea Feldpausch-Parker for their service to the Executive Committee. With Megan, Scott Williams, Bridget Sousa, Angela Fuller, Jessica Brown, Duane Diefenbach, and all the dedicated Committee Chairs and Chapter Representatives, I feel we have a great leadership team for the coming year. With that said, we are looking for help with Conservation Affairs and Student Affairs if anyone is interested. Moving on...

For those of you who may not know me yet, I have been an active member of The Wildlife Society since 2002, and a CWB® since 2015. My first experience with The Wildlife Society was attending Maine State Chapter events in the late 90s as president of the then-unaffiliated Unity College Wildlife Club. I became a student member while with the Eastern Kentucky University Chapter in 2002, and a regular member in 2005 while still in Kentucky. In 2007, I joined the Indiana Chapter and served as the Chapter President for 2014. In 2016, I became a member of the New York Chapter, serving as their President from 2019 until early 2022. I have also served as Awards Chair of both the Northeast and North-Central Sections.



I have been the Director of Land Management for Mianus River Gorge Inc, an independent, non-profit conservation and education organization in Westchester County, NY for the past seven years. Prior to New York, I spent eight years as the Small Game Biologist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. I have also worked seasonally with peregrine falcons and passerines in Kentucky, northern bobwhite and passerines in Georgia, and trumpeter swans in Nebraska. I have a BS in Wildlife from Unity College in Maine and a MS in Biology from Eastern Kentucky University.

In the next year, I am looking forward to great upcoming meetings in Louisville and Cape Cod, the NE Student Conclave, the collaborative SE Section Field Course, the return of the NE Section Field Course, various workshops, and all the State Chapter meetings I hope to visit. To everyone, keep up the great work for wildlife! -- Budd

Award Nominations

THE JOHN PEARCE MEMORIAL AWARD

The John Pearce Memorial Award is awarded by the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society to Society members in the Northeast for outstanding professional accomplishments in wildlife conservation in the Northeast.

Criteria

The John Pearce Memorial Award shall be made by the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society to Society members in the Northeast for outstanding professional accomplishments in wildlife conservation in the Northeast. The basic criteria for judging professional accomplishment of nominees shall be (1) contribution of knowledge and (2) leadership over a period of several years in any areas of wildlife work, including research, management, administration, or education – as evidence by publications, skillful development, and/or application of effective management or educational programs or methods. Any member of The Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society may nominate persons to be considered by the Awards Committee. The award may be made to an individual, or jointly to individuals who have worked together for several years.

Submit candidate's name, justifications, resumes, and letters of support to the awards.twsnortheast@gmail.com by 15 February each year.



Wood Thrush Nest
Photo credit: Bridget Sousa

Award Nominations

THE P.F. ENGLISH MEMORIAL AWARD

The P.F. English Memorial Award is presented annually by the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society to the outstanding undergraduate senior student of wildlife biology or wildlife management within the region. Its purpose is to acknowledge and to encourage students, and to perpetuate the name of the late P.F. English, an outstanding educator, sportsman, and inspiration to youth.

Background

Dr. P. F. English was an outstanding educator in the field of wildlife management. He published approximately 50 papers and directed the graduate program of over 60 students. In a classroom or on a field trip, his personal philosophy had an impact that carried far beyond the scope of his courses. He staked his professional reputation and ability as a teacher on the competence of his students. Over the years he stuck by the conviction that his students' accomplishments had not betrayed his trust. He was a charter member of The Wildlife Society and was President from 1946 to 1947.

Criteria

- Student must be a senior.
- Student must be enrolled in a wildlife biology or wildlife management curriculum including forest science programs with a major in wildlife.
- The student must show evidence of promise and/or achievement in scholarship, work experience and professional activities.
- Additional information is available online: <https://wildlife.org/northeast/about/awards>

Nominating Procedures

- Submit student's name, transcripts, GRE scores if available, evidence of work experience, and a personal letter of recommendation to the awards.twsnortheast@gmail.com by 15 February each year.



Photo credit: Bridget Sousa

Upcoming Events



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
FALL CHAPTER MEETING
Join biologists throughout New Jersey to discuss new and untouchable methods for wildlife monitoring.
9:30 - 2:30 Assumpink WMA Office Building
1 Eldridge Road, Robbinsville NJ

**OCT 11
2023**



The Wildlife Society Annual Conference

Join us at our Board Meeting at the TWS conference in Louisville!

When: Tuesday, November 7
4:30 to 6:00 pm

Where: Wilkinson Room, Louisville, KY
Meet your representatives, learn about the NE Section, and learn how to get involved with your Section!



Elections

**Want to contribute to NETWS?
Join the Section Board!**

Upcoming Board Elections

Member at Large

Secretary

President Elect

Contact **Tim Green** if interested!

tgreen@bnl.gov

The Executive Board meets in person twice per year: once at The Wildlife Society annual meeting, and once at the North East Fish and Wildlife Association meeting. Virtual meetings are held as needed. Membership in both the Northeast Section and TWS are required to hold Section office. Nominations are due

Member At Large

The Member at Large serves a two-year term. Members at Large serve in a non-voting, advisory role on the Executive Committee.

Secretary

The Secretary issues notices of the annual meeting and of all proposed amendments to the Bylaws, records the minutes of the annual meeting and distributes them to the membership, keeps the minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee, maintains the membership rolls, conducts general correspondence and acts as custodian of the Section's records. The Secretary is a voting member of the Executive Committee and serves two-year term.

President Elect

The President elect serves for three years: one year as president elect, one year as president, and one year as past president.

Conservation Highlight

BiodiversityWorks, in partnership with The Trustees of Reservations, received a MassWildlife Habitat Restoration Grant to improve habitat for black racers at Long Point Wildlife Refuge (a property of the Trustees). In the spring of 2023 BiodiversityWorks implemented their habitat improvement plans, which were to construct two hibernacula on the refuge and a road underpass to keep racers off the busy summer beach entrance road. In some ways, this was a proof of concept project as no one was certain whether black racers would follow the drift fence and use the underpass.



The drift fence also needed to withstand prescribed burns, so galvanized window screening was tested to see if it could function in this capacity. Biodiversity Works has been monitoring for racer use of the underpass and responses to the drift fence with camera traps; including bucket camera traps along the fence.

The team was thrilled to see the first black racers using the underpass in mid-June and some racer activity in the bucket traps. With validation of their design, they hope to install underpasses in other areas of Martha's Vineyard where black racers have suffered road mortality along the south shore of the island.



Want to contribute to NETWS? Interested in getting involved in NETWS? We're looking for volunteers!

Operations

Student Affairs

Newsletter Editor (\$250/newsletter)

Contact **Tim Green** if interested!

tgreen@bnl.gov

Operations

The Operations Committee Chair maintains the Section Bylaws, helps outreach to members and membership retention, and fulfills nominating responsibilities for elected Section offices (e.g., vets nominees, solicits nominations, etc.)

Newsletter Editor

The Newsletter editor solicits newsletter content, compiles the newsletter, and distributes it to membership. The newsletter editor is compensated \$250 per published issue of the Newsletter, with four newsletters prepared per year.

Student Affairs

The Student Affairs Committee Chair serves as the Section's liaison to the Student Chapters, represents student chapter concerns to the Executive Committee, and helps with student outreach and event coordination.

SUNY Cobleskill Continues Outreach Tradition with 26th Fisheries and Wildlife Festival

Student clubs in the Fisheries, Wildlife, and Environmental Science department at SUNY Cobleskill, led by the SUNY Cobleskill Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS), continued their tradition of public outreach and education by delivering the 26th Fisheries and Wildlife Festival on 29 April 2023. This annual event brings together local vendors, exhibitors, and conservation agencies to Veterans Memorial Centre Park in Cobleskill, NY for a day of environmental outreach and engagement. The 26th Fisheries and Wildlife Festival featured 6 vendors, 14 exhibitors, 10 student clubs, and was supported by 70 student volunteers.



During the event, the ca. 400 community members that attended were able to participate in a youth fishing derby, complete conservation-themed activities and games, learn about local natural resources, and meet natural resources professionals including wildlife biologists, forest rangers, and state park managers among others. The youth fishing derby is a particularly popular activity and is supported by trout that are raised by students and staff on campus in our 40,000-gallon cold water hatchery. Youth participants were also treated to wildlife-themed face painting and balloon twisting.



Planning for the Fisheries and Wildlife Festival starts during January with the formation of the Festival Planning Committee. By default, the President and Treasurer of the Student Chapter of TWS serve initial leadership roles in planning. Other officers of the student chapter also serve on the planning committee along with appointed representatives from other student clubs (e.g., American

Fisheries Society) on campus. In recent years, the planning committee has been composed of 8-12 members representing a collaborative effort among students with diverse interests. By early-April, local vendors and exhibitors have been secured, festival layout has been planned, and local advertising strategies have been developed.

(continued)

From 2020-2021, the Fisheries and Wildlife Festival was paused due to limitations on in-person events as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. During this time, students with previous experience planning the festival graduated leaving behind a new crop of green students to take the reins on festival planning. In 2022, our students delivered a successful 25th festival “reboot” and we carried this momentum into our 26th festival. Looking forward, consistent student involvement and strategic incorporation of Freshmen-Senior volunteers will help to ensure the annual Fisheries and Wildlife Festival remains a staple outreach event that community members look forward to each year.

-Article contributed by Dr. Roger J. Masse, CWB, Associate Professor SUNY Cobleskill



Who's Who in the NE Section - Introductions

Member At Large - Jessica Brown is a 5th year PhD candidate in Ecology at Penn State, and her work focuses on tick control and host interactions. She was elected to the NETWS board as a member at large, and later also began serving as the Northeastern Conservation Affairs Committee Lead. Jessica has been a TWS member since 2018, and previously served on the executive board of the student TWS chapter at Penn State. She was motivated to get more involved in the organization after participating in national and branch meetings of TWS, which showed her the importance of student voices being heard in professional settings.



Interim Secretary and Newsletter Editor - Bridget Sousa is a biological consultant with Western EcoSystems Technology in Pennsylvania. She has ten years of experience in biological consulting and has served on TWS Committees or the Western Section Board since 2008. Bridget served for several years as Chair of the Western Wildlife, the Western Section's peer reviewed journal. She served as Secretary for the Western Section for six years before relocating to the NE Section. In her free time, Bridget enjoys birding, reading sci-fi, and sewing endangered species plushies.

Who's Who in the NE Section

Name	Position	Email
Executive Board		
President	Budd Veverka, CWB	Budd@mianus.org
Past President	Megan Linske, PhD	Megan.Linske@ct.gov
Treasurer	Scott Williams, PhD, CWB	Scott.Williams@ct.gov
Secretary (interim)	Bridget Sousa, PhD, CWB	NETWSnewsletter@gmail.com
NE Section Representative to TWS	Angela Fuller, PhD	angela.fuller@cornell.edu
Member at Large	<i>Vacant</i>	
Member at Large	Jessica Brown	jebrown1519@gmail.com
Committees		
Audit	Megan Linske, PhD	Megan.Linske@ct.gov
Awards	Budd Veverka, CWB	Budd@mianus.org
Newsletter	Bridget Sousa, PhD, CWB	NETWS.newsletter@gmail.com
Webmaster	Ken MacKenzie	
Conservation Affairs	Jessica Brown	jebrown1519@gmail.com
Operations	Tim Green, PhD, CWB	tgreen@bnl.gov
Student Affairs	<i>Vacant</i>	
Student Development Working Group	<i>Vacant</i>	
Field Course Representative	John McDonald, PhD	twsmdonald@gmail.com

