

The Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society

NOR'EASTER NEWSLETTER

FALL 2024



President's Message

Northeast Section President – Budd Veverka, CWB®

What makes a wildlife professional? Are there specific employment requirements to be considered a wildlife professional? Do you have to be actively working with wildlife? I hear these statements from students and new professionals all the time. Many do not believe they can be in TWS because it is for wildlife professionals.

Surprisingly, I know how they feel. I have degrees in wildlife management and biology. I worked on wildlife research projects seasonally for nearly a decade and then was a state wildlife biologist for nearly another decade. I have been a certified AWB or CWB since 2005. My current position is in land management, but the position also allows me to conduct deer management to improve habitat, give public presentations on bears, bats, birds, and more, and finally, work with and mentor students – high school research students, undergraduate interns, and post-graduate researchers – on various wildlife and ecology projects. The latter was a major factor in my decision to take this non-typical position. Having the opportunity to work with and mentor the future of our profession is very important to me.

However, even with all this “wildlife work” I do, my organization does not fund my participation in The Wildlife Society. My Executive Director always says, “Wildlife biology is not in your job description,” and “The Wildlife Society is not something you need to participate in for your job”. They will cover some expenses and allow me to use some work time for the conference, but I usually pay my own way and use vacation time to participate in all the TWS meetings I attend – five meetings this past year. And though I am currently researching black bears, flying squirrels, songbirds, and deer, my supervisor does not consider me a wildlife professional.

So, as TWS looks to “engage and evolve an inclusive community of diverse wildlife professionals to conserve wildlife and their habitats” in their strategic plan, we must think about this issue. We must not only reach out and recruit folks on the edge of our field – those doing the work but not in traditional organizations and those who want to work in our field – and let them know they belong, but also engage the employers and organizations who employ these professionals and ensure that they support participation in The Wildlife Society...because a wildlife professional is more than just their job description.

See you in Baltimore, at a state chapter meeting, or at the Northeast Fish and Wildlife meeting...if my wife continues to support my habit, ur-uh, my participation.

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The Wildlife Society's 31st Annual Conference October 19-23, 2024, Baltimore, MD

[Conference Registration is Open!](#)

Click [here](#) for the schedule and other information

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:



Movie and Game Night: Oct 19th, Featuring the movie Flyways. View the official trailer [here](#). Holiday Ballroom & Foyer, Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor, 7-9 p.m.

Opening Plenary: October 20th, Merging Science, Policy, and Culture to Advance Conservation. 8:30-9:30 a.m. The TWS awards presentations featuring the Aldo Leopold Address and Caesar Kleberg Keynote speaker will be directly after the plenary.

Student Professional Networking Event:

Part 1, Oct. 21st: Ducks Unlimited Networking Reception, Holiday Ballroom, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Part 2, Oct. 21st: USFS Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. Baltimore, MD 21230, 7-9 p.m.

TWS Community Night @ Patagonia: Oct. 22nd, 700 S. Caroline St. Baltimore, MD, 6-8 p.m.

Aquarium Night: Oct. 23rd, Pier 3, 501 E. Pratt St, Baltimore, MD 21202, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Vouchers for one entree and drink will be available to all conference attendees and may be redeemed at two of the aquarium's cafes. No alcohol will be served at this event.



Out in the Field initiative wins the 2024 Group Achievement Award!



The TWS Out in the Field initiative was recognized recently for its efforts to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for LGTQIA+ people in the wildlife field. The Group Achievement Award recognizes organizations and groups whose achievement benefits both wildlife and the mission of TWS.

Four LGBTQIA+ members started the Out in the Field (OiTF) in 2019 at the joint TWS and American Fisheries Society conference.

Their goal was simple—to make LGBTQIA+ TWS members more visible and to build a supportive environment among wildlife professionals.

“TWS has come a long way in a short time due to the efforts of OiTF,” said TWS Past President Carol Chambers in a nomination letter for the award, which will be presented in October at TWS’ 2024 Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. “We have more often focused on wildlife populations and habitats, our science and management, and OiTF helps us realize the importance of empowering and enabling *all* wildlife professionals to do this important work. “ Among the group’s many steps to create a safe and understanding community of LGBTQIA+ TWS members, OiTF has assisted Colorado State University researchers with inclusivity research in the wildlife profession. The group holds regular virtual socials to bring together members throughout the country and has presented at multiple conferences, including the TWS annual conference, the Southwestern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies annual conference and the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies annual conference. If you are interested in learning more about the OiTF initiative, visit the [TWS](#) website. There is no formal membership to join the initiative.

*Nature always wears the colors of the spirit
-Ralph Waldo Emerson*



SUNY Cobleskill Student Chapter of TWS Seeks to Build Membership, Sustain Involvement

By Dr. Roger J. Masse

The start of each academic year brings a certain excitement that is unique to fall semesters. Students are returning from a long summer break, freshman and transfers are eager to find their place in their new home away from home, and for some student chapters of The Wildlife Society (TWS) new student leaders are emerging in their elected officer roles. At SUNY Cobleskill, officers in the student chapter of TWS are eager to hit the ground running as they look to continue long-standing traditions like our Women in Wildlife Campfire Cookout, and refine newer events like our Ice Cream Sandwich Social and Blacklighting night. “The start of Fall 2024 is exciting for me because I am looking forward to see how I can grow from extracurricular activities, but also how I can help student members in TWS grow”, says Garrett Szulewski (President)



TWS Weekly Meeting



Students Socializing

Even before classes started, our TWS officers were busy trying to build membership by engaging with students during campus club involvement fairs. These fairs provide a venue for officers to display club materials, interact with interested students from across campus, and encourage active participation in club events ranging from socials and seminars to fundraising campaigns. This fall, Eowyn Morley (Secretary), Riley Willard (Vice President), Sheldon Clerge (Board Member), and Garrett Szulewski participated in both fairs that were organized by our Student Government Association. They interacted with at least 100 prospective student members. These early efforts paid off as our attendance at the first two weekly meetings of Fall 2024 included 50 students per meeting. “The start of fall semester is always energizing” says Jess Gonzalez (Historian). “It feels like a fresh chapter in my journey, and I hope to strengthen the sense of community within our club.”

All good things are wild and free – Henry David Thoreau



While increasing attendance at weekly meetings is important, our officers know that sustained involvement is key for longevity of the student chapter. To remain relevant and in the forefront of student members minds, we have planned several events during the first few weeks of Fall 2024 to keep students engaged. For example, the aforementioned Ice Cream Sandwich Social and Blacklighting night provided a nice opportunity to welcome new students, get to know peers, and learn about insects with our entomologist Dr. Carmen Greenwood. This event was attended by 60+ students! Student officers are also in the process of planning an Inter-club Game Night for mid-September and a wildlife-themed Movie Night for later this fall. Add in the tradition of Women in Wildlife, seminars by wildlife professionals, and our annual Student Internship Roundtable



Backlight Setup



Horntail Saw Fly

and there is no shortage of opportunity for student members to remain involved. “I hope we can show the new students that having a close-knit community of like-minded people can help improve their college experience”, says Garrett.

In addition, our officers simultaneously try to grow parent society student membership. We do this in two ways. First, we raffle off club-sponsored TWS student memberships at various weekly meetings throughout the academic year. This brings a sense of excitement to club meetings because winners are selected in real-time and student memberships are paid for by the club. Second, we provide club-sponsored TWS student memberships for individuals that exhibit positive growth and

consistent involvement in student chapter activities during the end of fall and spring semesters. In both cases, we try to maximize new TWS student memberships by encouraging new members to take advantage of the TWS Give Back Program by nominating a peer for a free 6-month membership. To date, we have about a dozen dues-paying TWS student members and we hope to double that number by the end of the current academic year.





Save The Date!

Northeast Section TWS Field Course May 18 – 31, 2025

This 3-credit course is taught by professionals in the field and students will learn firsthand what goes on in the day-to-day lives of a wildlife professional. This course will provide hands-on experience in a variety of skills including:

- Trapping of small mammals
- Telemetry
- Use of chemical immobilization equipment
- Map and compass use
- Discussion sessions on careers and current wildlife conservation and management issues with professional biologists
- Wildlife education tools (e.g. Project WILD, Hunter Education)
- Habitat mapping, bird and herptile surveys
- Identification of common trees and plants
- GPS use

“LIVE IN EACH SEASON AS IT PASSES; TASTE THE FRUIT AND RESIGN YOURSELF TO THE INFLUENCE OF THE EARTH.”
-Henry David Thoreau





STATE CHAPTER OFFICERS



Maine

President - Kelby Leary
Past President - Joe Roy
Treasurer/Secretary - Randy Jackson



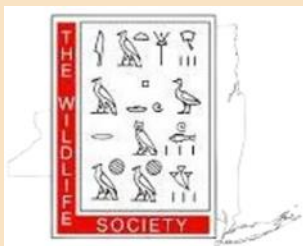
New England

President - David Cowell
President-elect - Chalis Bird
Treasurer/Secretary - Chase Bernier



New Jersey

President - Sharon Petzinger
Vice-president - Morgan Mark
Treasurer - Mim Dunne
Secretary - Heidi Hanlon



New York

President - Garrett Szulewski
Vice President - Riley Willard
Treasurer - George Morales
Secretary - Eowyn Morley

2024 NETWS OFFICERS

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Secretary

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Maryland-Delaware

President - Jennifer Mullinax
President-elect - Joshua Tabora
Vice President - Erin Geibel
Treasurer - Carson Coriell
Secretary - Maddy Ondo



Pennsylvania

President - Chris Vorhees
President-elect - Kyle Van Why
Treasurer - Tammy Colt
Secretary - Franny Buderman
Section Rep. - Hannah Tiffin



West Virginia

President - Colin Carpenter
President-elect - Andrew Ross
Treasurer/Secretary - Elaine Barr

*BRINGING
NATURE INTO
THE CLASSROOM
CAN KINDLE A
FASCINATION
AND PASSION
FOR THE
DIVERSITY OF
LIFE ON EARTH
AND CAN
MOTIVATE A
SENSE OF
RESPONSIBILITY
TO SAFEGUARD
IT.*

*- David
Attenborough*

*“THE PROPER USE OF
SCIENCE IS NOT TO
CONQUER NATURE BUT
TO LIVE IN IT.”*

-Barry Commons



Photo by Justin Bartels