

The Wildlife Society Pennsylvania Chapter



Newsletter — Fall 2024

President's Message

Fall has arrived and it is hard to believe almost 7 months have passed since our chapter conference. Time seems to fly by these days and I think most of us have watched the lines blur between “busy season” and “slow season” in the wildlife profession. Despite the busyness, I hope you take the time to relax and enjoy everything Pennsylvania has to offer during our fall season.

The board has been busy making plans for 2025 and discussing ways to improve how PA TWS serves its membership. After many discussions, we have decided to try something different next year. We will be hosting a condensed version of our annual conference at a field location and will hold a full conference again in 2026. Moving forward, we hope to alternate between a field location and our traditional conference every other year. The 2025 conference will be held on March 21st and 22nd at Fort Indiantown Gap in Annville, PA. We will host an informal optional mixer Friday evening with details announced at a later date. On Saturday, participants will have the option of attending workshops in the morning followed by lunch and an afternoon of presentations. The day will wrap up with a chapter business meeting, aiming to have folks on the road before 6pm. We are excited about the change of venue and the opportunity to offer some unique workshops to our members. Workshop details are currently underway and will focus on prescribed fire (with potential demo) at Fort Indiantown Gap and a variety of topics at the Hershey Zoo. More details to come!

In closing, I would like to take a moment to encourage our members to play a greater role in the success of our chapter. We are always open to new ideas and welcome feedback from our members. If you are interested in becoming more involved, I encourage you to reach out to the board. Several of our board members will be finishing their terms and a call for nominations to fill their positions will be coming after the new year. Please watch for the announcement and consider running for seat on the board or nomi-

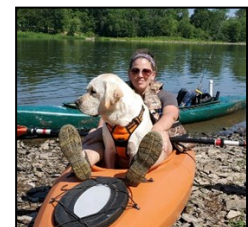
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someone who can positively contribute to our chapter. The old cliché “it takes a village” rings true for our chapter so please be mindful of how you can help further the mission of PA TWS.

Best,

Chris Voorhees
President, PA TWS





SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 21-22, 2025

Keystone Conference Center
Fort Indiantown Gap, PA

Potential Topics:

Grassland Management, Prescribed Fire, Wildlife Diseases,
Successful Partnerships and Collaborative Efforts
in Wildlife Management

MARCH 21ST

MARCH 22ND

(Optional)

Student/Professional

Networking Mixer

**location tbd*

Workshops

Prescribed Fire Demo at Fort
Indiantown Gap

ZooAmerica: stations plus
explore on your own

Lunch

Afternoon Sessions

PA TWS

Annual Business Meeting



Registration details TBA -

Cost: \$15/workshops, \$25/lunch and sessions, \$40/whole day

**Student travel grants will be available
to cover full cost*

Lodging at Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey

Book at www.stayholiday.com

**Select "Group Code" under rate preference, and enter
the code "BIA" - or call 717-469-0661 by 2/19/2025**



Treasurer's Report

Tammy Colt, Treasurer

Citizens Bank has \$7,736.39.

INCOME	Actual	Proposed
Membership Dues		2200
<i>from TWS</i>	1215	
<i>from Jotform</i>	604	
<i>checks</i>		
<i>with registration</i>	284	
Donations	1500	1000
Fundraising	2275	1500
Meeting/Conference Registration	12300	6000
Workshop Registration	495	200
Field Days Registration		
Merchandise	1495	500
TOTAL INCOME	20,168	11400

Pa Chapter Of the Wildlife Society Account

\$15,430.32

More account information ⓘ Registration details ⓘ Definitions ⓘ

Transact ⓘ

Reset sorting

Symbol ▲	Name ⇅	Fund & account ⇅	As of 9/10/2024 04:00 PM, ET Price ⇅	As of 9/10/2024 04:00 PM, ET \$ Change ⇅	As of 9/10/2024 04:00 PM, ET % Change ⇅	Quantity ⇅	Current balance ⇅
Mutual funds							
VGSTX	Vanguard STAR Fund	0056-09946274506	\$28.78	↑ +\$0.04	↑ +0.14%	306.800	\$8,829.70
VWINX	Vanguard Wellesley Income Fund Investor Shares	0027-09946274506	\$26.28	↑ +\$0.03	↑ +0.11%	251.165	\$6,600.62
Total							\$15,430.32

Treasurer's Report

Tammy Colt, Treasurer

EXPENSES	Actual	Proposed
Jotform	\$201.40	190
PayPal		60
Insurance	\$277.00	280
Postage and Office Supplies	\$2.07	100
Software		
Fundraising	\$40.79	200
Meetings/Conferences	\$8,359.70	6000
Merchandise		
Workshops		200
Field Days		
Webinars (Zoom)	\$127.92	0
NE Field Course Scholarship	\$0.00	950
Professional Development Grant	\$630.00	1000
Schaadt/Hardisky Graduate Student Travel Grant	\$0.00	1000
Felbaum Scholarship	\$581.00	500
Kirkland Award	\$97.50	500
Student Conference Travel Grants	\$350.00	500
Best Student Presentation Award	\$362.90	350
Donations/Support		
Wildlife Leadership Academy	\$600.00	600
NE Student Conclave		250
TOTAL EXPENSES	11,630.28	12680

Noteworthy: We've brought in \$2,103 in dues so far this year, so we've almost met the \$2,200 in the proposed budget already. I thought I canceled our Zoom account back in January or February, but we're still being charged. I'm working on that issue.

3 Things I wish I knew about going into the Environmental Workforce.

By Kala Davis, *Wildlife Leadership Academy*

As I start my 12th year within the environmental workforce, I decided to reflect on the things that caught me off guard as I advanced through my career. Working for multiple consulting firms, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and a mitigation banking company has given me a slightly unique perspective of what many young graduates go through in their job searches. I found three things that stood out in my experiences the most.

1: How niche environmental workforce is.

The environmental workforce is a very small subset of the overall job opportunities with an overwhelmingly high job demand. Each year, it grows more prominent due to changes in regulations, innovative technologies, and a general acknowledgment of need and appreciation that hasn't always been the standard opinion. While there is job security and a future of growth, it can be a formidable workforce to break into. Historically, once you got an environmental job with a company or government agency, you stayed with them throughout your career; you see that with the older generations who have held their positions for 20-30+ years. Many government positions allow you to build a career (and pension) with just one agency to this day. Consulting work is much faster paced and you are less likely to develop your career with one company because there is almost too much work to go around. However, there is a high bar of entry for those positions. Long field hours with minimal pay, unpaid internships without housing for research opportunities, traveling far and wide for weeks at a time, living out of horror story motels, and not knowing the right person to talk to or when can delay your advancement in the environmental industry. Everyone in the game knows someone else, and networking is critical in this field of work because the market is saturated with new graduates seeking the same jobs as you. Unfortunately, a passion for the environment and good grades normally aren't enough to get you a job outside of college or high school; that's your foundation. You need a strong foundation, an understanding of science and a love or curiosity for it. Still, it would be best if you also did outreach to build the framework of your career. The framework is where things can get complicated because these are your internships, clubs, community events, Wildlife Leadership Academy (WLA) outreach, and mentorships that help you build that network of people you need to know to find jobs. You will always stand out more with a handshake at a youth fishing mentorship event than on a sheet of paper on their desk.

2: Fieldwork

Maybe it was my naivete, but there were some aspects of fieldwork I didn't anticipate, but they ended up being my favorite reasons for being in the field. First and foremost, unless you have done some backcountry camping/backpacking/hiking, most people have not experienced true wilderness or had to depend on themselves for survival. You must be prepared for anything, whether you are minutes from home or

hundreds of miles away when conducting fieldwork. Not only do you need to pack in the gear you need to perform your work, but you also need everything to survive the day. That can lead to a heavy pack. I've worked with unfortunate souls who thought a Snickers bar and bottle of Mt. Dew was enough to keep them going for a job that was two miles of bushwhacking before we even got to the survey site in the middle of summer. By lunch, I was sharing my water with them, creating a dangerous situation for us due to the heat. I've fallen off cliffs while walking a survey line, tore my MCL, and was 'stuck' in a valley bottom. My choice was to attempt to crawl a mile uphill to the parked truck or walk three miles out of the stream bed to the nearest road intersection; luckily, my co-workers helped by going and getting the truck and driving around the mountain to where the stream met the road. I was able to limp my way out. But if I didn't have the spare bandanas with me, I wouldn't have been able to splint my leg to stabilize it. Access isn't always an option for fieldwork; dirt roads don't reach that far into the woods, and in many cases, the old roads are impassable. Your work vehicle often becomes your lifeline, holding spare equipment, a storm shelter, and your favorite nap spot. But usually, your vehicle is far away, and it quickly becomes your favorite thing to see after a long day of work (that sweet, sweet AC).

Site access can also impact your job times. Say you are conducting migratory bird surveys for clients who need to know where they can and can't work due to the nesting birds. Bird surveys start thirty minutes after sunrise (to make it easy, we will say 5:30am). Your motel is an hour away from your access to the site, but you need to check a portion of the project that takes you forty minutes to hike into from your vehicle. That's not accounting for breakfast or other morning rituals, so that means your workday starts at the very latest 3:30am. Your entire workday could be done by noon! A counter to this point is mist netting for bats; those surveys start at sundown and can go until 3-4am, depending on the effort needed. What if you are working for a company that does both types of surveys, and one week you are assigned bat work, and the next you are on birds? Those are long, exhausting hours many people struggle to keep up with. Unfortunately, recent graduates are not always paid their fair share for this type of work. But this type of work is where I got to experience some of the most incredible days (or nights) of my life, seeing true wilderness and experiencing wildlife and their mannerisms that you might have only read about in textbooks. It's hard work, and you need passion to do it, but you can see many things that most people could never experience.

3 Things I wish I knew about going into the Environmental Workforce.

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3: Regulation Changes/Recovery Permits

For those who have experienced my Conservation History lecture during WLA summer camps, know I am passionate about environmental regulation and what it means to the public. Before entering the environmental workforce, I didn't realize how often regulations change!

My first real 'big girl job' in the ecological field started in 2013. Since then, the definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS) has changed six times (2015, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2023). Six times, the definition of my job duties has changed! Six times, I have had to re-learn how to permit projects and how to best mitigate impacts to help my company and clients. If I hadn't adapted to keep up with the changes in regulations, being stubborn and refusing to change, I would have worked my way out of my job. Additionally, almost 300 species have been added to the Endangered Species List since 2013. That's 300 new survey techniques, regulations, permitting, and mitigation requirements that may impact my day-to-day job. I mentioned previously that the environmental field is growing because of changes in rules, and this is a small example of that job security. As we as a nation hopefully become more environmentally conscious, we will desperately need people who understand the regulations and how they impact current and future industries on the consulting side. On the other hand, the government needs people to study these essential changes to regulation and help draft new regulations to protect the public interests. There is not a shortage of work, but currently, there is a shortage of positions compared to the number of recent graduates.

You may also need to be permitted to survey for a specific species. If you have been on the job boards, you might have seen qualification requests for a US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Section 10 Recovery Permit. USFWS Section 10 allows a project or person to have the ability to take an endangered species. Take is defined as handling or, in some instances, harming/harvesting the endangered individual. A Section 10 Recovery permit defines you to USFWS as a person trained to identify, process, and monitor endangered species listed on your permit. Well, how do you get one of those? You need to know people who already have them! Here is that pesky networking because to apply for a Section 10 Recovery Permit, you must have been listed on survey permits previously led by other permitted biologists. You need to put your time working in teams led by the permitted biologists, make sure your name is always included in the paperwork, and keep track of all the permits you have been named on and species handled. Not only do you need to be trained by a permitted biologist, but you will also need to have at least one, preferably two or more, permitted biologists submit letters of recommendation to USFWS with your application. So, you are tasked with finding a permitted biologist who does the work you are interested in, conducting the fieldwork to find the endangered or threatened species (which, if they were easy to find, the species wouldn't be endangered) to a satisfactory degree showing competence, then apply to USFWS with multiple letters of recommendation, to get one recovery permit. It's a lot; you can see how some people dedicate their careers to one species. You may

need to reflect on whether that is the path for you.

Overall, there is job security and future growth in the environmental workforce. I have high hopes that additional job opportunities will continue to open. This article isn't meant to scare anyone away from aspects of environmental work but to help shine a light on some elements that often get overlooked in college. I wasn't prepared for the long field days or the constant rule changes, but they made my career exciting. I wish all of you the best in your future endeavors!

Notes From the Field

Emily Sandly, Naturalist
Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory
esandly@keystone.edu

Every fall at Hawk Ridge in Duluth, MN, 60-70,000 migratory raptors take to the skies and funnel down the shoreline of Lake Superior to reach their southerly destinations. The non-profit organization, Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, was founded in 2004, however, the count of migratory birds at Hawk Ridge has been ongoing since 1972.

The early days at Hawk Ridge were dismal for migrating birds. Sportsmen used the ridge for target practice for the upcoming waterfowl seasons, and would shoot birds of prey from the ridge. By 1950, the Duluth Audubon Society (then the Duluth Bird Club) worked in conjunction with the City of Duluth to prohibit shooting within city limits. The first “early” counts began then, but formal counting (and banding!) of migratory birds began later.

Today, Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory employs naturalists, visitor service staff, counters, banders, trainees, apprentices, and administration to help continue it’s mission. At the ridge, visitors from around the globe flock to witness the vast and diverse migration of songbirds, waterfowl, birds of prey and more. The count season at the ridge is from August 15-November 30, and banding typically begins in early August. By mid-September, the banding station is running almost 24 hours a day, between passerines, raptors, and owls!

Although the banding station remains behind the scenes to the public, the ridge does public owl programs and small group owl programs to hopefully get people up close with nocturnal raptors! In addition, the ridge brings raptors from the banding station to the ridge for short demonstrations to explain how we catch birds of prey, collect data, and how to identify them, giving people the chance to see a live bird up close.

On great flight days, over 1,000 raptors can be seen from the ridge throughout the season. During peak migration, thousands of Broad-winged hawks use the ridge in mid-September! You can follow the count and see banding reports everyday using this link: [Trektellen](https://www.trektellen.com)

Find more out about Hawk Ridge at: [Hawkridge.org](https://www.hawkridge.org)

Emily conducts a live bird demonstration with a Sharp-shinned hawk for visitors at Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory.



PA TWS Board Members

President

Chris Voorhees

Christina Voorhees is a Certified Wildlife Biologist® with over 20 years of experience in wildlife management, natural resource planning, and endangered species consultation. Her educational journey started with an A.S. in Wildlife Technology from Penn State DuBois followed by a B.S. in Wildlife Science from Virginia Tech. Upon returning to Pennsylvania, she completed her M.S. and PhD at Penn State where she focused on human dimensions of natural resources. She is currently located in central Pennsylvania where she works as a Senior Wildlife Biologist and Terrestrial Operations Manager for EnviroScience, Inc. In this role, she is responsible for project management, client relations, and business development in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. In addition to being a member of the PA and national chapters of The Wildlife Society, Christina is also involved with the PA Society for Ornithology and the PA Association of Environmental Professionals. Christina has past experience serving on the PA TWS board and held the role of President in 2014 when Pennsylvania hosted the annual TWS conference in Pittsburgh.



Past President

Kyle Van Why

Kyle Van Why is originally from the Pocono Mountains, and attended California Univ. of PA receiving a BS in Wildlife Biology. After graduation he worked as a wildlife technician for a number of agencies and universities across the eastern US. He obtained a MS in Wildlife Ecology from LSU in 2003 working on black bear restoration. Kyle has worked as a Wildlife Biologist for USDA-Wildlife Services since 2003 starting in Mississippi. In 2007 he returned to Pennsylvania as the Wildlife Disease Biologist. His current work focuses on wildlife disease issues (management, surveillance, control, research, and education) which include working with State and Federal agencies and numerous institutions. In this position Kyle works statewide on various disease issues and in a first responder for USDA and has been deployed out of state multiple times. He serves on a number of multi-agency wildlife related working groups as well. He has been a member of TWS since 1995, and a founding member of the California Univ of PA Student Chapter. Kyle is a Certified Wildlife Biologist with TWS. He has served on the PA TWS board multiple times as President, board-member at large, NE Section Representative, assisted with the state conference on multiple other occasions, and worked with numerous TWS student chapters.



PA TWS Board Members

Vice President

Virginia Tilden

Virginia has a BS in Biology (concentration in Ecology and Environmental Biology) from Shippensburg University and a MS in Environmental Biology from Hood College. She is a Wildlife Biologist at Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG) National Guard Training Center, Annville, PA. In this role, she supports the military mission by managing flora and fauna and their associated habitats, working to keep common species common, and reducing the potential impacts of military training on rare species. While Virginia assists with a variety of wildlife management projects, her focus is conservation of the only remaining population of the eastern regal fritillary butterfly and the grassland habitat on which it relies. Virginia has been working on these efforts at FIG since 2006. Some of her primary duties including managing butterfly surveys, assisting with habitat monitoring and management, coordinating the annual public butterfly tours at FIG, developing and maintaining partnerships, and extensive work on rearing and reintroduction efforts. Virginia believes in the importance of collaboration and integration of multiple disciplines into wildlife management. One of the ways she executes this is through her commitment to scientific organizations. She served as PATWS VP-P-PP and Treasurer from 2010-2017 and as an Entomological Society of Pennsylvania Board Member at large and VP-P-PP from 2013-2018. In her free time, Virginia likes to hike and do all things outdoors, and spend time with her kids, family, and friend.



Treasurer

Tammy Colt

Tammy Colt has been a Regional Wildlife Diversity Biologist for the Pennsylvania Game Commission since 2005, covering the ten counties of PA's Southwest Region. As an RWDB, her primary duties involve the management of Pennsylvania's bird and mammal species of greatest conservation need—approximately 100 species. She works with public and private landowners to develop habitat management plans and provide guidance for habitat improvements that benefit declining species. Tammy has a B.S. in Animal Bioscience from Pennsylvania State University and an M.S. in Biology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She studied temporal changes in herpetofaunal populations at Powdermill Nature Reserve (Carnegie Museum of Natural History's biological field station) for her Master's thesis. Before graduate school, she worked as an environmental educator at Powdermill Nature Reserve for five years. During that time she was Project Coordinator and co-author of *Pennsylvania Amphibians and Reptiles: A Curriculum Guide* (PA Fish and Boat Commission, 2001). A Loyalhanna Watershed Association volunteer since 2003 and a current member of the board of directors, Tammy serves as project coordinator for *Loyalhanna Turtle Watch* and coordinates hellbender e-DNA monitoring within the Loyalhanna Watershed, while also serving as the Land Committee Chair. With a passion for land conservation, she also serves on the board of the Westmoreland Land Trust and chairs their Stewardship Committee. Tammy has served as President of the PA Chapter of The Wildlife Society and Treasurer for the Northeast Section of TWS; she is serving her first term as treasurer for PATWS. Having held multiple board positions in the PA Chapter and NE Section, Tammy understands the importance of subunit governance and coordination with our parent organization, The Wildlife Society. Outside of work, she enjoys hiking, kayaking, owning and riding horses (including an adopted American Mustang), and growing vegetables on her family farm.



PA TWS Board Members

Secretary

Makayla Groshek

Makayla Whaling has been the Elk Biologist Aide for the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) since 2021. Her role in this position is to help manage Pennsylvania's elk population. She fulfills this role through assisting with capturing and collaring elk for collection of population and survival data, collecting samples at the elk check station, and monitoring collared elk. Makayla began her career with the PGC as a Forestry Intern, where she helped implement wildlife habitat improvement projects on State Game Lands. She also helped with a variety of wildlife research projects as a Wildlife Intern for the PGC. This research included acoustic surveys for northern flying squirrels, bear trapping, and surveying American kestrel nest boxes. She also had the opportunity to get certified as a Wildlife Firefighter Type 2 and assist with prescribed fires. Makayla received her B.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from the Pennsylvania State University in 2020. After graduating, she began working on the PGC deer crew where she helped capture white-tailed deer using clover traps and rocket nets. Prior to becoming the Elk Biologist Aide, she worked as a Wildlife Habitat Technician on the Boundary-Smith Creek WMA for Idaho Fish and Game. She assisted with habitat management projects, conducted noxious weed control, monitored bear hair snares, and conducted pollinator and amphibian surveys.



Makayla joined the Wildlife Society in 2017 when she began college. She was a member of the Penn State DuBois Chapter and attended many of the conferences, including the National TWS meeting in Cleveland. Makayla welcomes the opportunity to help serve the Pennsylvania Chapter and to learn more about the role of PA TWS in the conservation of wildlife and habitats. She is also looking forward to meeting and working with other wildlife professionals.

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Membership Coordinator

Dr. Justin Brown

Justin Brown is an Assistant Teaching Professor in the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences at Penn State University. He received his D.V.M. from Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine in 2004 and his Ph.D. in Pathology from the University of Georgia in 2008. From 2008-2013, he was a wildlife disease diagnostician and researcher at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study. Justin then served as the veterinarian for the Pennsylvania Game Commission from 2013-2018. His career interests include understanding the impacts of diseases on wildlife populations and the potential for wildlife species involvement in diseases of agricultural or public health importance. He has worked with a wide diversity of birds, mammals, and reptiles, and has extensive experience with avian influenza virus and other viral diseases of birds and mammals.



PA TWS Board Members

Digital Media Manager

Madison Stevens

Originally from Buffalo, NY, Madison attended the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. In 2022 she obtained a B.S. in Wildlife Science, with a minor in Recreation Resources and Protected Area Management, and a minor focus in Marine Science.

Following her undergraduate career working as a laboratory technician at SUNY ESF, and both a Conservation Steward and an Education Program Assistant with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Madison worked as a Forest Health Monitoring Technician for the National Park Service and The Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park. She assisted with Acadia bat and Mid-Atlantic Network songbird monitoring projects. She currently works as a Wildlife Prosector / Necropsy Technician at the Wildlife Futures Program, a partnership between The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and the Pennsylvania Game Commission. There she works on wild animal pathological diagnostic cases and assists both the PennVet large-animal domestic and PGC field services where she can. This season she assisted with wild turkey trapping and attended bear den visits.

Madison has been a member of TWS since 2020, serving as treasurer of ESF's student chapter of The Wildlife Society from 2020-2022, and as the 2022 NY TWS Student Representative. She currently serves the Student Development Working Group as treasurer. She also assists with the SDWG Award and Finance Committee, organizing grants, scholarships, and communicating fellowship opportunities for students. She really enjoys photography, camping, and baking. Madison lives in southeast PA with her partner Jamison and their cat Monty.

Please connect with her through Instagram @maddi.stevens or by email stemad@vet.upenn.edu / madisonstevens93@gmail.com.



Newsletter Editor

Emily Sandly

Emily Sandly is a 2020 graduate of Keystone College with a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Biology and is an Associate Wildlife Biologist. She has held a variety of seasonal positions, from a songbird field technician with the University of Montana, to seabird research assistant with the National Audubon Society's Seabird Restoration Program. She was a member of the Visitor Services team at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary from 2021-2023 in Kempton, PA, which is the first raptor migration count site in North America. In the fall of 2023, she was a seasonal Hawk Counter for the Sanctuary at Little Gap and Route 183 hawkwatches. In the winter of 2024, she worked as a Deer Biologist Aide with the Pennsylvania Game Commission for the trapping season. This fall, she is employed as a Naturalist by Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in Duluth, MN. She has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 2016, and has served on the Pennsylvania Chapter board since 2021 as both a board member at-large and the Newsletter Editor for her third year. Emily is an avid outdoorswoman and can always be found hunting, fishing, hiking or camping in Penn's woods in her free time.



PA TWS Board Members

Board Member At-Large

Dr. Joe Duchamp is a Professor of Biology and Assistant Chair at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He teaches courses in Mammalogy, Anatomy, Epidemiology, and Biostatistics. Joe's professional interests involve assessing and monitoring wildlife population response to habitat management. He has worked on research projects involving a variety of organisms including bats, fisher, elk, insect pollinators, songbirds, and brook trout. Currently, his research lab is focused on the response of Allegheny woodrat and Appalachian Cottontail populations to conservation strategies in Pennsylvania. In addition to being a member of PATWS, he is also a member of the American Society of Mammalogists, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania University Biologists, and the Pennsylvania Mammal Technical Committee. In his free time, Joe likes coaching sports, axe throwing, disc golf, and gardening.

Dr. Joe DuChamp

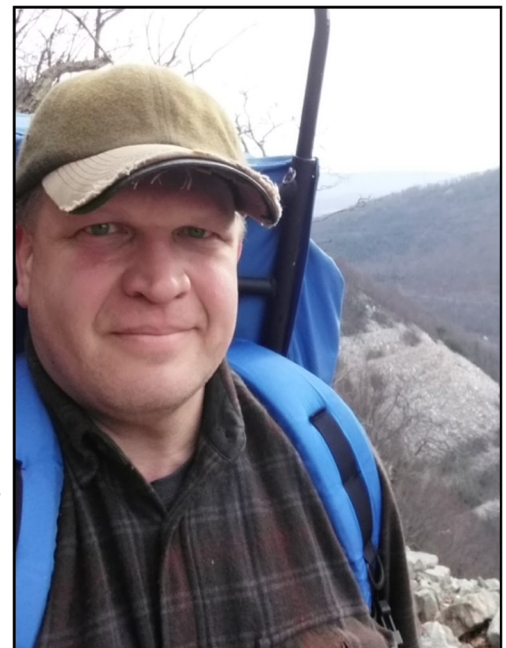


Board Member At-Large

Since 2005, Justin Vreeland has been the regional wildlife management supervisor of the Pennsylvania Game Commission's southcentral region. His duties include conducting and administering numerous wildlife surveys, writing and editing management plans for State Game Lands, leading a team of 8-10 direct reports annually, and managing a program budget and habitat management contracts. Justin's prior positions include research assistant for the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, research associate for the University of California Cooperative Extension, and various wildlife technician positions in Vermont, North Dakota, and Maine. Justin earned bachelor's degrees in forestry and wildlife management from the University of Maine and a master's degree in wildlife science from Penn State. His professional interests are silvicultural applications for wildlife management, landscape ecology, small population management, and restoration ecology.

Justin has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1992 and is a life member of the Pennsylvania Chapter. Justin previously served the Pennsylvania Chapter as newsletter editor, representative to the Northeast Section, and board member at-large. Justin is a long-time instructor at the Northeast Section field course, and served terms as secretary of the Northeast Section, president of the University of Maine student chapter, and as a board member-at-large of the Forestry and Wildlife Working Group. Justin achieved Certified Wildlife Biologist status in 2007 and received the Northeast Section's Distinguished Service Award in 2015.

Justin Vreeland



PA TWS Board Members

Board Member At-Large

Chris Hauer

Chris Hauer is a wildlife biologist with the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at Fort Indiantown Gap National Guard Training Center. In this role, Chris is primarily responsible for research and monitoring of rare, threatened, and endangered species on the installation, with a focus on bats, Allegheny woodrats, and turtles. His current research interests include the response of wildlife populations to habitat management (e.g., prescribed fire, timber harvest) and disease (e.g., white-nose syndrome). Prior to his current position, Chris worked as a bat technician for Wildlife Specialists, LLC. and Temple University. Since 2015, Chris has also been a lecturer in the Department of Science and Mathematics at Alvernia University where he teaches laboratory courses in Human Anatomy and Physiology.



Chris received a B.S. in Biology from Albright College and an M.S. in Biology from East Stroudsburg University where he studied the impacts of white-nose syndrome on bats in the Delaware Water Gap. He has been a member of PATWS since 2017 and is currently working towards his certification as a Certified Wildlife Biologist with The Wildlife Society. In addition to being a member of PATWS, he is also a member of the Pennsylvania Mammal Technical Committee, Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council, Northeast Bat Working Group, and Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation. He is also certified as a Pennsylvania Qualified Bat Surveyor, Wildland Firefighter Type I, and Hunter-Trapper Education Instructor. In his free time, Chris enjoys hunting, fishing, weightlifting, and cooking. He lives in Schuylkill County with his wife and three young children.

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Board Member At-Large

Avery Corondi

Avery graduated from Delaware Valley University in 2015 with a BS in biology. At DeVal, she was first introduced to The Wildlife Society. Since graduating, she held various seasonal positions followed by several years working for the PA Game Commission with a concentration on elk ecology. She completed her MSc at Penn State in 2023 which focused on elk reproduction and calf survival. She recently founded Dark Hollow Wildlife Consulting to provide field services for wildlife research and, currently, she is sampling white-tailed deer for SARS-CoV-2 as part of a nationwide surveillance effort. She spends her free time camping with her horse, flyfishing, and hunting.



PA TWS Board Members

Northeast Section Representative

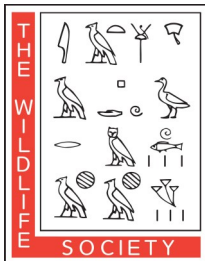
Dr. Hannah Tiffin

With nearly 10 years of experience in wildlife disease research, frequently at the intersection of human-animal health and interactions, Dr. Hannah Tiffin is passionate about reducing the burden of disease. Currently a postdoctoral scholar at Penn State University in the Veterinary Entomology Lab, she is investigating bed bugs in poultry systems and part of an international collaboration to determine cacao farmer vector-borne disease risk. In her previous postdoctoral position at USDA-ARS, she focused on tick control and tick-host behavior on wild mice. Hannah earned her PhD in Entomology at Penn State University evaluating sarcoptic mange and ticks on wildlife species, contributing to changes to state and regional mange management decisions in black bear populations. She earned a MS in Environmental Toxicology from Texas Tech in the Vector-Borne Zoonoses and Bioterrorism Response Labs, fueling her interest in zoonotic and vector-borne disease research at the intersection of human and wildlife health. A Pennsylvania native (#shiphappens), she enjoyed work as a GIS Specialist at PA DCNR before graduate studies. Hannah is particularly passionate about accessible science- engaging with the public through Extension talks, “Science on Tap,” and community science.



Job Search

Graduating soon? Looking for fieldwork/temp jobs or full-time careers? There are so many great online resources to help you in your job search. From The Wildlife Society, Texas AM, and agency websites, find the perfect position for every step in your career goals!



The Wildlife Society Careers

[Recent Jobs - The Wildlife Society](#)

Find more information on careers and resume building:
[Wildlife Jobs - The Wildlife Society](#)

Natural Resources Job Board

[Natural Resources Job Board \(tamu.edu\)](#)

Search for seasonal employment, graduate assistantships, internships, volunteer positions and more!



Commonwealth of PA Jobs

[Employment Open Jobs \(pa.gov\)](#)

Find open or internal employment opportunities with state agencies. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) post positions here.

Federal Agency Jobs

[USAJOBS - The Federal Government's official employment site](#)

Search for federal agency positions. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), USDA Forest Service, US Geologic Survey (USGS) post vacancies and positions here.



TWS NEWS

Find the latest TWS News and Policy on the website!

[TWS News](#)

Find news from National TWS as well as regional and state chapters, and happenings coming your way.

Keep up with policy and action alerts through the policy library and the Conservation Affairs Network.

[TWS Policy Library](#) [Conservation Affairs Network](#)

Find information about working groups you can get involved in here:

[TWS Working Groups](#)

Interested in The Wildlife Society's mentor program as a potential mentor or looking for a mentor?

Find out more here:

[Mentoring](#)

[Women of Wildlife \(WOW\)](#)

The Women of Wildlife Community was created to promote and support women in the wildlife profession and to provide mentoring opportunities and advice. The community members – composed of volunteers housed within The Wildlife Society's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Awareness Working Group and staff develops symposia and programming, and hosts networking events for local, national, and international meetings.

We are housed under the IDEA Working Group and encourage you to become a member of that working group so you stay informed on all aspects of diversity and inclusion within TWS.

[Out in the Field \(OITF\)](#)

The OITF Initiative was started in 2019 to make LGBTQIA+ TWS members more visible so that we can support and mentor each other, and work with our allies to foster a more inclusive, welcoming culture where diversity of all kinds is clearly embraced. OITF has three simple goals: (1) to increase visibility of LGBTQIA+ wildlifera in TWS, (2) to build a community of LGBTQIA+ wildlifera, and (3) to identify ways to support LGBTQIA+ wildlifera, including students, in the wildlife profession. OITF is housed within the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Awareness Working Group.

Pennsylvania TWS Objectives

1. To develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environments upon which wildlife and humans depend.
2. To undertake an active role in preventing human-induced environmental degradation.
3. To increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values.
4. To seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.
5. To serve the specialized needs of Pennsylvania in wildlife resource management.



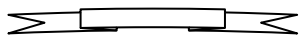
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—Who’s Who on the Board—

2024 Executive Board Members



President.....Christina Voorhees
Vice-President..... Virginia Tilden
Past President.....Kyle Van Why
Secretary.....Makayla Whaling
Treasurer.....Tammy Colt
Northeast Section Representative.....Dr. Hannah Tiffin
Digital Media Manager.....Madison Stevens
Newsletter Editor.....Emily Sandly
Membership Coordinator.....Dr. Justin Brown
At-Large Members.....Dr. Joe DuChamp
 Justin Vreeland
 Chris Hauer
 Avery Corondi

This newsletter is produced at least semi-annually for the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Editor: Emily Sandly

Please email items of interest, comments, questions or corrections to:

esandly@keystone.edu



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

2024 Membership Application

Pennsylvania Chapter

- Check One: Renewal New Member Student Member Lifetime Member Dues Paid through National Headquarters
- Annual Dues: \$10.00
Student Dues: \$6.00
Life Membership: \$200.00

The following information is new, updated, or corrected
 unchanged

Name: Dr. Mrs. Miss
 Mr. Ms. _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Home: (____) ____ - _____
Office: (____) ____ - _____ Ext. _____
Fax: (____) ____ - _____
E-mail: _____

Join or renew online [HERE](#)