

# The Wildlife Society Pennsylvania Chapter



Newsletter — Spring 2024

## President's Message

Greetings PA TWS Members! My name is Christina (Chris) Voorhees and I am honored to serve you as our chapter president. It is hard to believe our annual conference was almost a month ago. The conference was well attended, and it was a much needed opportunity to re-engage with everyone after not holding an in-person conference for several years. We are truly grateful for everyone who volunteered their time and talents to make this event a success. A special thanks to the PA Biological Survey (PABS) for co-hosting this year's conference and collaborating with us throughout the planning process. The board has already started discussing plans for 2025 so stay tuned as information regarding dates and location will be announced very soon.

During the conference, we welcomed new board members at our annual business meeting. It is always hard to say goodbye to outgoing board members but if you have been involved in PA TWS for any length of time, you know most of them end up back on the board for another term at some point in the future. They can't seem to stay away for long which is a testament to the dedication of our membership and their desire to continue moving our chapter forward. Our new board is excited to set goals for the next year and we hope to increase engagement within our membership. We are always seeking volunteers to serve on committees so please reach out to someone on the board if you would like to increase your involvement in PA TWS. If you don't know who is on the current board, continue reading this newsletter and you will find a section highlighting each of them and how they are serving the chapter.

Newsletter tradition suggests I take the time in my first president's message to tell you a little about myself. I am a Certified Wildlife Biologist® and have worked as a private consultant for nearly 18 years. My career has led me down many paths including human dimensions, threatened and endangered species management, energy development, and the super exciting (cue the sarcasm) side of natural resources- leadership and business development. I know most everyone starts their wildlife career thinking they will go to work every day immersed in the field and experiencing all of those "National Geographic" moments. In fact, most of us go into this field to get away from people. But as most seasoned biologists have discovered, people management is a major component of any natural resources career. I have certainly done my fair share of fieldwork but now I spend most of my days with people rather than wildlife and I wouldn't trade it for the world. As a senior scientist at EnviroScience, Inc., most of my time is spent in the office managing clients, coordinating large projects, and leading our terrestrial team. Do I miss the field? Sometimes, but I make up for it by spending my spare time outdoors birding, hiking with my dogs, kayaking, and chasing after lepidoptera.

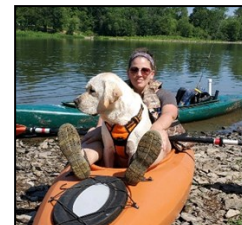
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In terms of my involvement with PA TWS, I have been active in the chapter throughout my career either as a member or serving on the board in various capacities. I served as chapter president once before in 2014 and that experience was quite memorable as it was the year Pennsylvania hosted the national TWS meeting in Pittsburgh. Although PA did not hold our own annual conference that year, our entire board was on the national conference planning committee and our officers and members volunteered countless hours that week to ensure everything went smoothly. It was an exhausting yet rewarding experience to help host a conference of that magnitude in our home state. Fast forward 10 years and the 2024 Annual TWS Conference is being held October 19 – 23 right next door in Baltimore, MD. If you have never experienced a national conference, I would encourage you to take advantage of the proximity and make plans to attend. The opportunities to engage and network with other wildlife professionals are well worth it and I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

**Chris Voorhees**  
President, PA TWS



# Treasurer's Report

*Tammy Colt, Treasurer*

PATWS Treasurer's Report		
10-Apr-24		
Citizens Bank Balance:	\$17,260.44	
Vanguard Investments Balance:	\$14,758.70	
INCOME	Actual	Budgeted
Dues	1,110.00	2,200.00
Fundraising	3,775.00	2,500.00
Merch	1,495.00	500.00
Conference	12,795.00	6,200.00
TOTAL INCOME as of 4/10/2024	19,175.00	
EXPENSES		
Awards and Scholarships	1,391.40	4,800.00
Donations	600.00	850.00
Fundraising	40.79	200.00
Conference*	8,456.27	6,000.00
Postage, Zoom fees, office supplies	18.06	100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES as of 4/10/2024	\$10,506.52	
*We had \$2800 credit with Ramada from 2022		

# 2024 Award Recipients

**Gordon Kirkland Lifetime  
Achievement Award Recipient:  
*Charles Bier***



# 2024 Award Recipients

## Professional Development Grant: Dr. Aaron Haines



My name is Aaron Haines and I am a Professor of Biology at Millersville University as well as a Certified Wildlife Biologist®. I have been a member of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Wildlife Society for 10 years. I have served as Member-At-Large, Vice-President, and President. I am also a member of the PATWS Conservation Affairs Committee and a member of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey Mammal Technical Committee. I have been a member of the National Chapter of the Wildlife Society since 1997. My professional research interests involve identifying more effective approaches to implement on the ground conservation strategies to benefit species of conservation concern. Conservation strategies may include the use of spatial models to identify priority areas in need of protection, mitigation of poaching activity, evaluation of field techniques for conservation research, and evaluation of recovery efforts for threatened and endangered species.

I will be using funds from the PATWS Professional Development Grant to attend the National Wildlife Society 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD. I plan to present my research work on the impacts of invasive species on endangered species and I plan to have 3 of my undergraduate research students from my Applied Conservation Lab present their work. Their research topics include 1) Urban Planning for Green Roofs to Improve Bat Habitat, 2) Land Cover Analysis of Small Mammal Presence Based on Barn Owl Pellets, and 3) Noninvasive Survey Techniques to Evaluate Presence-Absence and Activity of Small Mammal Communities. In addition to presenting research, I am a member of the National Wildlife Society College and University Education Working Group. At the TWS Conference, I plan to attend this working group meeting and discuss efforts to survey wildlife professionals as a strategy to improve recruitment of underrepresented students into the wildlife field.

# 2024 Award Recipients

A huge **THANK YOU** to all who attended the 2024 PATWS/PABS meeting in State College.

## Best Student Presentation

**1<sup>st</sup> place: Karter Witmer,**

**Penn State University DuBois**

**Examination of Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) release behavior following banding in red light verses white light**



**2<sup>nd</sup> place: Amanda Zak, Penn State University**  
**Hare today, gone tomorrow: recent snowshoe hare range contraction in Pennsylvania**

# 2024 Award Recipients

A huge **THANK YOU** to all who attended the 2024 PATWS/PABS meeting in State College.

## Best Poster Presentation

### Veronica Winter, Penn State University

Modeling population demographics in a game species: a case study for wild turkey  
in Pennsylvania



## Frank Felbaum Award

### Makayla Holleran, Penn State University



## Student Travel Grants

Orion Groff  
Terra Haines  
Samantha Miron  
Mary Weiss  
Claire Rohrer



# 2024 Meeting Highlights



Student Professional Mixer on Friday night

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Amber Wiewel gives a plenary talk about the PA Breeding Bird Atlas

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Students and professionals gather for the poster session

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# 2024 Meeting Highlights



Wildlife forensic workshop participants examine a coyote

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Wildlife forensic workshop participants examine a duck

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Jay N. “Ding” Darling Memorial Award for  
Wildlife Stewardship Through Art—Erika Coover

Erika Coover, biologist with the PA Game Commission, was awarded the 2023 Jay N. “Ding” Darling Memorial Award for Wildlife Stewardship Through Art. Her artwork has been used as the cover for the American marten reintroduction plan in Pennsylvania. The artwork for this award was raffled off at our silent auction at the spring meeting this year.

Read the article [here](#)



# 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 Whaling*

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](mailto:stemad@vet.upenn.edu) / [madisonstevens93@gmail.com](mailto: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. Most recently, she has worked as a Deer Biologist Aide with the Pennsylvania Game Commission for the winter 2024 trapping season. This summer, she will be working to monitor American goshawks in the Sierra Nevada mountains with the Institute for Bird Populations. 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***

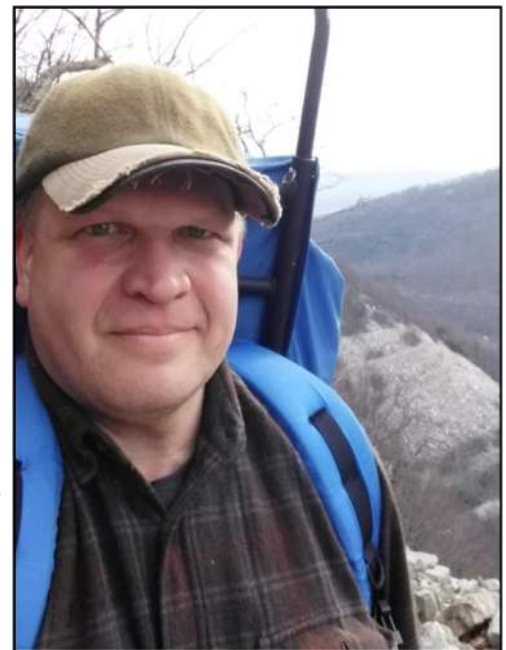


## **Board Member At-Large**

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.



## **Board Member At-Large**

***Avery Corondi***

Avery graduated from Delaware Valley University in 2015 with a BS in biology. At DelVal, 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.



**To our outgoing board members, *THANK YOU* for your dedication and service to PA TWS.**

Dr. Aaron Haines, Past President  
Lillie Langlois, Membership Coordinator  
Samantha DiLorenzo, Board Member At-Large  
Clayton Lutz, Board Member At-Large

## Chapter Spotlight: PennWest Clarion TWS Student Chapter

*Written by Lindsay Wilson*

The Clarion Chapter of the Wildlife Society has been a well-known chapter for many years and has thrived under the supervision of Kurt Regester. Sadly, since the pandemic, participation in clubs has been low and the Wildlife Society took a major hit. But luckily a few enthusiastic students within the Biology Department have worked diligently to revive this organization's morale and involvement in the community. In the fall of 2023, we began re-establishing the chapter and that began with finding a core group of officers and members. The chapter needed leadership that was willing to dedicate themselves to the betterment of the club and use their background experiences as leverage to teach others new to the field; this will ensure the longevity of our mission if we can get a young new group of members excited about wildlife biology and conservation.

The chapter was lucky enough to have an incredibly passionate group of students who were willing to fight for its revival. Our President, Tyler DeRose, took on a crucial role in our chapter's reestablishment and was able to bring us together. The chapter's advisor, Kurt Regester, also worked around the clock to keep the chapter afloat, but he couldn't do it by himself. With the help of our diligent President, as well as the other officers and members, we began to rebuild. Originally, our club consisted of 6 core members but over the last two semesters we have slowly been able to increase our membership. We are pushing for more younger members to ensure the future of the chapter since most of our current officers are juniors and seniors. Our Vice President Nicolette Hine is a sophomore and is learning the ropes of leadership and she has a passion and incredible drive to continue the club's mission. Our goal is to give the chapter a good foundation so that future passionate students are able to continue our mission.



## Chapter Spotlight: Penn State DuBois TWS Student Chapter *Community Event—Woodsy Owl Volunteer Day*

*Written by Terra Haines*

If you've had the pleasure of visiting Parker Dam State Park in northern Clearfield County, you've likely been captivated by its rural entry off scenic PA 153, leading to a paved parking lot nestled against picturesque Parker Lake. But did you know about the "Parker Dam Rocks"? This long-standing landmark, perched high on a hill across Parker Lake, has offered a unique photo opportunity for hikers, campers, and fishermen since approximately 1935. However, it's not the group of park visitors swimming or lounging on the beach that makes this landmark easy to miss.

Saturday, April 20th, The Penn State DuBois student chapter of The Wildlife Society helped to maintain "The Rocks," which were long overdue for a restorative makeover at the annual Woodsy Owl Volunteer Weekend. Over time, the Rocks became concealed by beech brush and displaced by natural shift and erosion. Mike Stein, Maintenance for DCNR, Mariah Dunsmore, a former DCNR Park Resource Ranger, and Jim Beck, Friends of Parker Dam, lead the way to the top of Laurel Run Trail on the other side of Parker Lake, where wheelbarrows, shovels, crowbars, rebar, and shears were provided, and divvied out to the chapter. Once the directions were clear, the plan was set in motion, and the descent to the rocks began down multiple trail switchbacks.

Despite the unexpected gusts of wind, the chapter persevered. They removed multiple loads of beech brush, making the Rocks visible from the entry side of the park once again. They also readjusted the individual rocks to their original positions. The task was not without its challenges. Some of the rocks were deceptively large, like the saying "just the tip of the iceberg," but the chapter rose to the occasion, demonstrating their creativity and teamwork. It was a challenging task that required the collective effort of the entire team. "We were happy to volunteer by spending our Saturdays at Woodsy Owl Event. Parker Dam is a second classroom for us and is a place where we've applied our skills hands-on for the first time," one member said. Another student said, "Parker Dam State Park was an essential part of dendrology class, and I was happy to give back to the park."



One of the chapter members present for this project will oversee the continuity of care of the Rocks. She was selected from a large pool of applicants to be the park's intern for the summer. We could not be more proud of her, and we know she will ensure the Rocks remain visible to receive new and old visitors to the park and our second classroom. We also want to thank Friends of Parker Dam for the lunch they provided us!



Students from the student chapter at DuBois help maintain the Rocks



## Member Spotlight: Stan Boder, EnviroScience

*\*reprinted from EnviroScience Quarterly Update*

The Bog Turtle (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*), a critically endangered species, has found a champion in our Senior Herpetologist, Stan Boder. Stan is not just passionate about these creatures; he is also a Qualified Bog Turtle Surveyor through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania. This recognition is significant, given the Bog Turtle's precarious status.



Listed as threatened since 1997, the Bog Turtle is among the most imperiled species in North America. Found from Vermont to Georgia and as far west as Ohio, these turtles are particularly vulnerable in Pennsylvania, where their habitat intersects with suburban development.

Bog Turtles are the smallest turtles in North America, easily identifiable by the bright yellow or orange blotches on each side of their head and neck. They thrive in wet meadows and boggy areas, feeding on small invertebrates. However, they face numerous threats, including habitat destruction and invasive species.

To protect these turtles, the USFWS mandates comprehensive surveys within their range. These surveys are critical for assessing habitats and determining the presence of Bog Turtles. They are divided into three phases:

**Phase 1:** Evaluating wetland suitability based on soil, hydrology, and vegetation.

**Phase 2:** Conducting visual surveys in suitable habitats to confirm the presence of Bog Turtles.

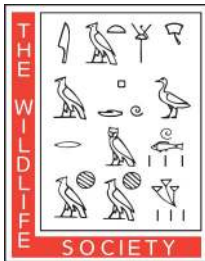
**Phase 3:** Trapping efforts in dense vegetation areas or where visual surveys are inconclusive.

Stan Boder, with his specialized training and permits, is at the forefront of these efforts. He conducts these surveys and plays a pivotal role in on-site construction monitoring to ensure the protection of these habitats.

Stan's dedication exemplifies our commitment to conservation. Through his work, we're not just complying with regulations; we're actively participating in the preservation of a species that is an irreplaceable part of our natural heritage. Join us in celebrating Stan's contribution to the protection of the Bog Turtle. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of these remarkable creatures.

# Job Search

Graduating soon? Looking for spring or summer fieldwork? 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.

# Notes From the Field

**Terra Haines**  
**Qualified Timber Rattlesnake Monitor**  
**Wildlife Technology A.S.**  
**Penn State DuBois**  
[trh5093@psu.edu](mailto:trh5093@psu.edu)

USFWS Richard Novak discusses the implementation of mudsills and cross vanes. (Photo by Clayton Lutz, PGC)

On the fourth weekend in March, for the first time in five long-awaited years, The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society held its first Annual Conference since 2019 at the Ramada Inn in State College. Wildlife professionals of all career stages, from aspiring undergraduates to higher education candidates to esteemed professors and beloved retirees, gathered under one roof to learn, educate, and network. However, on the afternoon of Friday the 22nd, over 30 enthusiastic Conference attendees took to the field for a voluntary, first-hand Stream Habitat Restoration Field Trip. The Field Trip also included a very special guest appearance!



The field trip was led by Clayton Lutz, a Wildlife Biologist with the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC); Richard Novak, a Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); Mark Thomas of Habitat Unlimited and USFWS Partners for Wildlife Program; Bailey Coder, a Watershed Specialist for the Mifflin County Conservation District; Dave Aurand, a Forester, also with the PGC; and Kevin Lutz, the President of Penns Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

We did not know what to expect, except we were to bring waterproof boots or waders for what would be a walk on uneven and muddy terrain. This description was a language that everybody in the group spoke, and fluently! Upon arrival, old and new friends gathered in a large circle in the gravel parking lot as our field trip leaders gave a brief introduction of the journey we would soon embark on.

After our eager crew was fully primed by our diverse group of presenters, to our surprise, we went into individual introductions around our circle. It was during this moment, during my first-ever Conference of the PA Chapter of the Wildlife Society, that I realized just how unique of a scenario this was: a circle comprised of specialties from every “ology” an emerging wildlife professional could think of was about to experience an entire Ecosystem make-over; a product of so many dedicated entities, all together, all at once.

The focal stream for our tour had suffered from disruption of natural processes throughout the course of the past few centuries. Like many streams in the commonwealth, extensive land clearing and farming practices throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century resulted in a floodplain laden with legacy sediment. This resulted in an incised channel with banks so steep that the stream was disconnected from its floodplain. During high water events, the energy of the floodwaters was contained within the incised channel, which led to lateral streambank erosion. This resulted in the channel becoming increasingly wider and shallower, degrading stream and wildlife habitat.



# Notes From the Field

Thoroughly briefed, we ventured from the parking lot while the recently returned red-wing blackbirds sang their iconic tune as the sun made suppressed browned vegetation transform bright white. Many conversations across the spectrum of wildlife, fisheries, and forestry occurred between newly acquainted registrants as we approached our destination. Here, we learned about the methods used to make the project possible, how the stream came to be in the pre-project condition, and all the benefits of seeing the project through to the end. Interestingly, we learned that the stream restoration project had unintentionally done something marvelous for one species in particular... the under review for Federal listing wood turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*). This intriguing factoid spoke volumes to the herpetologists in the group, which my group was. To our surprise, it was then that Richard Novak jumped in the cold stream, protected by his chest-high neoprene waders. You could tell this was not his first time, but rather, his second nature. While still in waist-high water, Richard showcased the muddills placed to reinforce the banks. Then, like music to our ears, Richard explained how the installation of these reinforcements had inadvertently made ideal over-wintering sites for our beloved wood turtle. After a brief synopsis of the wood turtle's biology, we walked on, and if on cue, Travis Russell, an Environmental Science Instructor at Juniata College, said out loud to the crowd, "Does anybody want to see a wood turtle!?"

In the undergraduate classroom of Keely Roen at Penn State DuBois, we are taught of the Eras of Conservation that began in the 1900s and eventually proceeded to protect game animals, to further broadening the scope to include non-game animals and plants, to the Eras of environmental and conservation biology. This day in the field, Ms. Roen's classroom lesson came to life in my mind when Clay Lutz retrieved the torpid wood turtle from its tiny remaining winter habitat. This project has restored 4,200 feet of stream bank that is now suitable over-wintering habitat for wood turtles.

Successful projects like this would be impossible without the collaboration and effort of multiple organizations and individuals. As an undergraduate student, that was a valuable take-home message from the Conference and this day spent in the field. As wildlife professionals, we cannot make a difference alone, and we are undeniably in the effort to advocate for the forest and wildlife together.



Field Trip presenter Clayton Lutz retrieving a wood turtle, spotted by Travis Russell of Juniata College, from its over-winter habitat

***Partners that made this project a success improved habitat for many Species of Greatest Conservation Need were The Pennsylvania Game Commission, USFWS - Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Mifflin County Conservation District, Trout Unlimited, and the Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania.***



## 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.



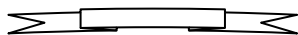
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### —Who’s Who on the Board—

2024 Executive Board Members



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*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](mailto: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  
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Name:  Dr.  Mrs.  Miss  
 Mr.  Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

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