

Conference
Theme:
"Advocacy"



2025 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA WITH CENTRAL MOUNTAINS & PLAINS SECTION

Tuesday, February $25^{\hbox{\scriptsize th}}$ – Thursday, February $27^{\hbox{\scriptsize th}},\,2025$

Holiday Inn & Convention Center – $110 2^{\text{nd}}$ Ave, Kearney, NE 68847

NETWS Board Members:

 $Sarah\ Nevison-President\ |\ Matthew\ Gruntorad-President-Elect\ |\ Erin\ Considine-Past\ President\ |\ Katherine\ Graham-Treasurer\ |\ Chelsea\ Forehead-Secretary$

Members At Large: Jessi Tapp (23–25) | Larkin Powell (23–25)

Ben Wheeler ('24-'26) | Amelia Baker ('24-'26)

Planning Committee Members: Matt Steffl | Shelley Steffl | Shaun Dunn | Jessica Jurzenski

	Tuesday, February 25 th
Time	Item
10:30 – 11:30 am	Late Registration and Check-In (Stateroom D)
11:30 – 1:30 pm	 Lunch (included; Ballroom 1) Presidents Welcome NETWS Members Meeting Student Chapter Presentations
1:30 – 2:00 pm	Break (Stateroom DEF)
2:00 – 4:30 pm	Plenary: Wetland Advocacy (Stateroom DEF)
	Ted LaGrange — Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Wetland Program Manager Andy Bishop — Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, Coordinator Jeremy Grauf — U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nebraska Section Chief Ian Ghanavati — Papio Missouri NRD, Water Resources Engineer
4:30 – 6:30 pm	Dinner (on your own or make a new friend!)
7:00 – 9:00 pm	Social & Team Trivia Limited seats for Team Trivia – sign-up will be provided Chicken Coop Sports Bar & Grill 2115 Avenue A, Kearney, NE 68847











Wednesday, February 26 th		
Time	Item	
7:45 – 8:00 am	Late Registration and Check-In (Stateroom D)	
8:00 – 8:50 am	Breakfast (included; Ballroom 1)	
	 Welcome and Plan for the Day Central Mountains & Plains Section Business Meeting 	
9:00 – 10:00 am	Session 1 Contributed Talks (Stateroom DEF)	
9:00 – 9:20 am	First-Time Hunters: Key to Revitalizing Waterfowl Hunting Participation	
	Madelynn K. Vasquez, Matthew P. Gruntorad, Christopher J. Chizinski, and Mark P. Vrtiska (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)	
9:20 – 9:40 am	Exploring Satisfaction Levels of Tier II Duck Hunters: The Role of Hunting Partners	
	Ava M. Britton, Matthew P. Gruntorad, Christopher J. Chizinski, and Mark P. Vrtiska (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)	
9:40 – 10:00 am	Becoming an Outdoors Woman Julia Plugge (Nebraska Game and Parks Commission)	
10:00 – 10:30 am	Break (Stateroom DEF)	
10:30 – 11:30 am	Session 2 Contributed Talks (Stateroom DEF)	
10:30 – 10:50 am	Producer's Views on Conservation Programs in the Rainwater Basin Region of Nebraska Natalia L. Hagen, Matthew P. Gruntorad, Sarah E. Ulrichsen, and Christopher J. Chizinski (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)	
10:50 – 11:10 am	Habitat Considerations and Management Challenges of Public Land Prairie Grouse in an Ever-changing Conservation Landscape Greg Wright (US Forest Service)	
11:10 – 11:30 am	Habitat Heterogeneity in Space and Time Chris Helzer (The Nature Conservancy)	
11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Break for Lunch (on your own or Ballroom 1 with pre-registration)	









11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Student Professional Lunch (provided with pre- registration; Ballroom 1; check-in at door)
1:30 – 3:00 pm	Session 3 Contributed Talks (Stateroom DEF)
1:30 – 1:50 pm	STAR-Trax – Tracking the Lone Star Tick's Seasonality and Impact Brigette King, Victoria Chaplin, Lucy Schermerhorn, Sydney Henry, Meredith Edelmon, Gabby Lorino, and Brian H Herrin (Kansas State University)
1:50 – 2:10 pm	Historic and Current Surveillance of <i>Echinococcus multilocularis</i> in Coyotes in Illinois and Indiana Breck Aguinaga, Kamilyah R. Miller, Briana Raya, Todd M. Kollasch, William Ryan, and Brian H. Herrin (Kansas State University)
2:10 – 2:30 pm	First Detection of <i>Echinococcus multilocularis</i> in Wild Canids in Kansas and Missouri Briana Raya, Kamilyah R. Miller, Julia Miller, Todd M. Kollasch, William Ryan, and Brian H. Herrin (Kansas State University)
2:30 – 2:50 pm	The Hardship of Parasite Diagnostics: Comparing Two Fecal Techniques for the Detection of <i>Echinococcus multilocularis</i> in Wild Canids Kamilyah R. Miller, Briana Raya, Julia Miller, Breck Aguinaga, Todd M. Kollasch, William Ryan, and Brian H. Herrin (Kansas State University)
3:00 – 3:30 pm	Break (Stateroom DEF)
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Session 4 Contributed Talks (Stateroom DEF)
3:30 – 3:50 pm	Community Science: Crowdsourcing Conservation Brianna Nugent (Nebraska Game and Parks Commission)
3:50 – 4:10 pm	Compensatory Mitigation Within the Corps Regulatory Program Katrina Stanek (US Army Corps of Engineers)
4:10 – 4:30 pm	Evolving Motivations in Conservation: How Modern Natural Resource Students Challenge Traditional Models Lindsey Chizinski (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)
4:30 – 5:30 pm	Student Poster Session & Social (Ballroom 1)
6:00 – 10:00 pm	Evening Banquet, Awards, & Auction (Ballroom 1) • Keynote Guest Speaker: Marla Stelk – National Association of Wetland Managers, Executive Director

Thursday, February 27 th		
Time	Item	
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	 TWS Wildlife Biologist Certification Workshop (<u>limit 30 persons</u>) Hosted by: David Haukos –Sign up at registration desk University of Nebraska at Kearney Bruner Hall of Sciences: Room 270 UNK guest parking permits will be available to workshop attendees 	

Poster Presentations		
Number	Title	
1	Novel Metrics to Assess Antler Asymmetry in White-tailed Deer	
	Bryce Sutton, Brian C. Peterson, and David Zorn (University of Nebraska at Kearney)	
2	An Evaluation of Deer Hunting Attributes in Rural and Urban Hunters	
	Paige Miller, Matthew P. Gruntorad, and Mark P. Vrtisksa (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)	
3	Trends in Burrowing Owl Habitat Selection in Northwest Nebraska	
	Katelyn M. Diehl (Chadron State College)	
4	Comparing Pre and Post White-nose Syndrome Distributions of Three Bat Species in Eastern Nebraska	
	Daniel Peacock, Thomas Raad, Amanda Ciurej, Jeremy White, Mark Porath, and Han Li (University of Nebraska at Omaha)	
5	Importance of Harvest and Unretrieved rates for <i>Determining Meleagris</i> Gallopavo Mortality Rate	
	Madison JE. Hein, Matthew P. Gruntorad, and Mark P. Vrtiska (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)	
6	Notes on Natural History of Striped Bark Scorpion in Franklin County, Nebraska	
	Theo Huber and Keith Geluso (University of Nebraska at Kearney)	
7	Small Mammal and Bird Diversity in a Recently Seeded vs. Established Urban Prairie	
	Anna DeGroot, Laura Bettenhausen, and Mark Hammer (Wayne State College)	
8	Submergence Behavior by Female Ornate Box Turtles (<i>Terrapene ornata</i>) in June	
	Dawson Kosmicki, Joseph Paysen, Carter Kruse, and Keith Geluso (University of Nebraska at Kearney)	
9	Notes on reproduction and roost sites for Silver-haired Bats (<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>) in western Nebraska	
	Joseph Paysen, Dawson Kosmicki, and Keith Geluso (University of Nebraska at Kearney)	
10	Importance of Upland Game Attributes in Rural and Urban Hunters	
	Charlie R. Stansbery, Matthew P. Gruntorad, and Mark P. Vrtiska (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)	
11	Importance of Upland Game Hunting Attributes to Nebraska Residents and Non-Residents	
	Josh Bugay, Mathew P. Gruntorad, and Mark Vrtiska (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)	