



# The Wildlife Society Pennsylvania Chapter



Newsletter — Spring 2025

## President's Message

**Happy Spring PATWS!** I hope you are enjoying the shift in the seasons. May the new life blooming and chirping around us provide one joyous thing to cherish in these complicated times. Wildlifers are some of the most resilient people I have had the pleasure of knowing, and I believe we will stand strong together and lift each other up however possible. Please take time to check in with your friends and colleagues, and with yourself. We could all use a little extra spring and sunshine right now.

Budget cuts and layoffs are impacting wildlife conservation work in PA. The Wildlife Society is here to support us and bring us together. For wildlife professionals impacted by federal layoffs, TWS has compiled resources on membership extensions, career opportunities, policy engagement and more. Find them [here](#). This site has a great section on **HOW TO TAKE ACTION**, by contacting your Congressional representative (including a simple Instagram reel tutorial and a call script). Let our voices be heard!

Another bright spot this spring was our annual conference at Fort Indiantown Gap. While State College is a great gathering location, many members expressed an interest in changing locations, so we listened! Switching venues and planning a conference in less than a year is no small task, we were excited to use the 2025 meeting as a chance to test a single day, shorthand model. A conference feed back survey will be coming out shortly, and we would love to hear your thoughts if you attended (or why you opted not to attend) and if you have any suggestions for repeating this model in a new location in 2027 and beyond. Our low registration cost was possible thanks to very low venue cost and LOTS of inside coordination and execution. Future locations would require lodging near a large gathering space for presentation and meals, with workshop and/or field trip options nearby. Partnering with a college/university or state facility would likely be necessary to keep the cost sustainable.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement with our PATWS community. I leave you with a quote to ponder and a gentle reminder (thanks Tom Keller) that how you share the story and connect with people first, will affect their willingness to listen.

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*"The problem, then, is how to bring about a striving for harmony with land among a people many of whom have forgotten there is any such thing as land, among whom education and culture have become almost synonymous with landlessness. This is the problem of conservation education."*

— Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac

Sincerely,

**Virginia Tilden**  
**President, PA TWS**



## ACTION CALL

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service are proposing to rescind the regulatory definition of "harm" in their Endangered Species Act regulations. The change would mean that only direct threats would constitute harm, taking away habitat protections. In plain language, that means clear-cutting a forest does not harm the animals living in that forest.

The PA TWS board has submitted comment, authored by Aaron Haines of the PA TWS Conservation Affairs Committee. Many thanks to him and others who provided support and input.

Now...PLEASE consider submitting YOUR comments! Let your voice be heard!

*Here is the direct link to the proposal, which is open on the federal register until May 19, 2025:*

**[CLICK HERE](#)**

To read the Conservation Affairs Committee's Comment, click [here](#)

# Treasurer's Report

*Tammy Colt, Treasurer*

*3/22/2025*

*Vanguard account (3/10): \$15,355.73*

*Citizens account (3/19): \$6,210.88*

INCOME	Actual	Budget
Dues	\$804.00	\$2,500.00
Donations	\$575.00	\$1,000.00
Fundraising	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Conference Registration	\$2,925.00	\$6,000.00
Workshop Registration	\$900.00	\$500.00
Merchandise	\$665.00	\$750.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$5,869.00</b>	<b>\$11750</b>

EXPENSES	Actual	Budget
Jotform	\$0.00	\$200.00
PayPal	\$0.00	\$300.00
Insurance	\$0.00	\$280.00
Postage, Office Supplies	\$60.90	\$100.00
Fundraising	\$0.00	\$50.00
Conference	3609.46	6000
Workshops	\$727.45	\$200.00
NE Field Course Scholarship	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
Professional Dev't Grant	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Schaadt Hardisky Grad Student Travel	\$0.00	\$0.00
Felbaum Scholarship	\$500.00	\$500.00
Kirkland Award	\$0.00	\$0.00
Student Travel Grants	\$185.00	\$300.00
Best Student Presentation/Poster	\$250.00	\$370.00
Travel Support TWS or NEAFWA	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Wildlife Leadership Academy	\$600.00	\$600.00
NE Conclave	\$250.00	\$250.00
Board discretionary support	\$0.00	\$200.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$8,582.00</b>	<b>13,750</b>

## Donation to PSC

From Paul Smith's College, Dr. Valorie Titus

Paul Smith's College thanks the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society for Supporting the Northeast Student Conclave.

Paul Smith's College would like to sincerely thank the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society for their generous donation supporting the 2025 Northeast Student Conclave. Their contribution played a vital role in making the event a success and enriching the experience for all participants.

With their support, students from across the Northeast came together for a weekend filled with professional development workshops, hands-on field activities, and networking opportunities. Participants engaged in sessions on wildlife tracking, habitat management, telemetry, and bird banding, led by experienced professionals in the field. These activities provided valuable skills, fostered mentorship connections, and helped prepare students for their future careers in wildlife conservation.

Thanks to the Pennsylvania Chapter's generosity, the students left the Conclave more confident, better equipped, and inspired to take the next steps in their professional journeys.

On behalf of Paul Smith's College and all the students who benefited, thank you for investing in the future of wildlife science!



# 2025 Award Recipients

A huge **THANK YOU** to all who attended the 2025 PATWS meeting at Fort Indiantown Gap.

## Best Student Presentation

***Kyle Smelter***

***Pennsylvania State University***

*Multi-level modeling of factors influencing wild turkey reproductive success in Pennsylvania*

## Best Student Poster

***Jesse Lewis***

***Penn West Clarion Campus***

*Surveillance for the snake fungal disease pathogen (*Ophidiomyces ophidiicola*) in northwestern Pennsylvania timber rattlesnakes (*Crotalus horridus*) and associated non-venomous snake species*

## Award Recipients

### Northeast Section Field Course Scholarships

Ava Merced, Logan Togle

### Frank Felbaum Scholarship

Makenzi Reed

### Annual Chapter Student Meeting Grants

Terra Haines, Adam Rea, Ashley Moll, Paige Fino

### Hoagy Schaadt & Tom Hardisky

### Graduate Student Travel Grant

Terra Haines

# 2025 Meeting Highlights



Prescribed fire workshop participants

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Great example of the effectiveness of prescribed fire for habitat management and improvement

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# 2025 Meeting Highlights



Participants at the ZooAmerica tour

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Feeding an elk at the ZooAmerica workshop

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# 2025 Meeting Highlights



Student/Professional Mixer on Friday night

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PGC Biologist Tom Keller gives a presentation

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## The Wildlife Society - Pennsylvania Chapter

For 2025, we decided to switch things up with a new venue location and shortened meeting duration. Let us know your thoughts, and if we should explore the one-day option elsewhere in PA for 2027 (and if you have any locations in mind and/or would like to be involved with planning).

The 2025 PATWS conference was hosted by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG). The conference kicked off with a mixer Friday night at the Holiday Inn Hershey/Grantville. Students were incentivized to mingle with professionals through BINGO cards. There were lots of lively discussions, connections with old friends and new, and many continued the festivities after the mixer concluded.

On Saturday morning, attendees had the choice of two workshops: ZooAmerica or a Prescribed Fire Demo. Both workshops filled up quickly and were well received.

The trip to ZooAmerica provided attendees with a private experience prior to public opening. The event started with a presentation from USDA technician John Wilt, which included an informative Q&A on avian flu and other topics. Next, Ann Holzman (ZooAmerica Lead Conservationist) told us about current and past conservation projects such as the peregrine falcon reintroduction, potential woodrat captive breeding, and regal fritillary butterfly conservation. After presentations, we headed out to the zoo and had the opportunity to witness animal training and enrichment. While the mountain lions had stage fright in front of our large group, John Henry (the bull elk) was in rare form and totally compliant with his trainer. We ended this whole group event with an enrichment activity with the wolves. We then split into three groups and rotated between stations: black footed ferrets and domestic ferrets, regal fritillary butterfly captive rearing lab, and feeding otters! The trip ended with attendees exploring the North American zoo on their own.

**“We [professor and students] felt very fortunate to get a behind the scenes look at ZooAmerica. Zoos have come such a long way from being a menagerie of different species, to places that participate in serious conservation, education, and scientific research. Whether it was the opportunity to see their caterpillar rearing work or see the different behaviors exhibited during training, we were grateful for a unique and exciting experience...plus, who wouldn’t want the opportunity to see mountain lions with their vastly different personalities and to feed an otter pair ‘meatballs.’”** ~Keely Roen, Associate Teaching Professor of Wildlife Technology and Wildlife Students at Penn State DuBois

Attendees of the Prescribed Fire Workshop were transported into the training corridor at FIG. Once in the field, Wildlife staff provided an introduction to prescribed fire and discussed its role on the installation in terms of fuels reduction, ecosystem management, and support of military training needs. Next, staff demonstrated some of the equipment and PPE typically used on a prescribed burn, including a brush truck and UTV with pumps, a drip torch and other ignitions devices, a fire shelter, and a drone. Attendees observed a pre-burn brief, in which staff discussed the objectives for the burn unit, fuel and weather considerations, and the communication and logistical aspects of the burn. Attendees then watched as Wildlife staff burned an approx. 10-acre portion of the C-04 range, which was followed by an after-action review (AAR). Prior to returning to the KCC, attendees made a quick stop in Range 23 to view areas burned in a previous wildfire.

**“The prescribed fire demonstration was one of the best workshops that I have ever been to. The crew was extremely thorough as they explained all of the equipment, how they decide when and what to burn, and everything that they do to ensure the safety of their team. Prescribed fire is such a valuable habitat management tool, so the opportunity to learn about everything that goes into it and see a burn firsthand was extremely beneficial to the professionals and students who attended the workshop.”** ~Emily Thomas Pellock, Associate Teaching Professor of Wildlife Technology at Penn State DuBois

The PM venue was FIG’s Keystone Conference Center. Attendees arrived for a self-catered lunch (go Avery Corondi!), a poster session, and a chance to network. Jesse Lewis of Pennsylvania Western University Clarion Campus, won the award for Best Student Poster titled *“Surveillance for the snake fungal disease pathogen (Ophidiomyces ophidiicola) in northwestern Pennsylvania timber rattlesnakes (Crotalus horridus) and associated non-venomous snake species.”* Best Student Presentation went to Kyle Smelter of Penn State University with his oral presentation titled *“Multi-level modeling of factors influencing wild turkey reproductive success in Pennsylvania.”* Full audience presentations gave participants a unique opportunity to learn about a variety of topics they might have missed when typically debating between concurrent sessions. After presentations, attendees were very helpful breaking down the venue set up, as the Board had a brief business meeting.

We exceeded our expectations with 120 registrants. Thank you to everyone who attended and special thanks to all of our presenters, and the professors who brought their students (half of the attendees were students!) Also, many thanks to the PATWS board, the conference committee, workshop helpers, student presentation judges, and everyone else who helped make this possible. We hope you enjoyed the event, the change in format, and gathering to promote wildlife conservation in Pennsylvania.

***We hope to see you back in State College in 2026 at the Penn Stater!***

***Chris Hauer & Virginia Tilden***

# Reflections on TWS National 2024

## *Reflections on the Annual National Wildlife Society Meeting in Baltimore*

*Dr. Aaron Haines, Millersville University*

Attending the Annual National Wildlife Society Meeting in Baltimore was a great experience, made possible in large part by the generous \$1,000 professional development grant I received from the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society. This funding allowed me to travel, engage with fellow professionals, and share my research alongside my students. The conference provided a platform for us to present our work, network with experts, and gain valuable insights into the latest developments in wildlife conservation.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the conference was the opportunity for my students and me to showcase our research. Our presentations highlighted various aspects of wildlife ecology, from urban bat conservation to small mammal habitat analysis.

- **Urban Planning for Bats: Green Roofs and The Surrounding Environment** – Darian Hauf delivered an engaging talk on how green roofs impact bat populations in urban settings. This research is critical as cities continue to expand, and sustainable planning becomes essential for preserving biodiversity.
- **Land Cover Analysis of Small Mammal Presence Based on Barn Owl Pellets** – Evelyn Orłowski and Mary Weiss presented their poster analyzing how land cover influences small mammal presence, using barn owl pellets as an indicator. Their study provided valuable insights into habitat preferences and the role of owls in ecosystem monitoring.
- **Camera Trapping Techniques for Small Mammal Communities** – Orion Groff and Claire Rohrer shared their findings on the effectiveness of different camera trapping techniques in monitoring small mammal populations. Their work emphasized the importance of methodological advancements in ecological research.

**Quantifying the Invasion: What Efforts Are Needed to Conserve Rare Species from Invasive Species in Mainland and Island Habitats** – I had the privilege of delivering a talk on the ongoing challenges of invasive species management and its impact on rare species. My presentation explored conservation strategies required to mitigate these threats across different ecosystems.

Beyond our presentations, the conference provided a wealth of opportunities to engage with fellow wildlife professionals. Attending panel discussions, networking sessions, and workshops allowed us to exchange ideas, learn from leading experts, and gain inspiration for future research endeavors. I also attended the **College and University Working Group meeting** to discuss my professional development survey. This discussion was a pivotal moment, as I am now in talks with The Wildlife Society (TWS) to expand my survey into a national effort. This potential collaboration could have a significant impact on shaping professional development initiatives in the wildlife profession.

The support from the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society played a crucial role in making this experience possible. Professional development grants like these are invaluable for early-career professionals, students, and researchers who strive to contribute to the field of wildlife conservation. Without this funding, the ability to attend, present, and engage in meaningful discussions at national conferences would be far more challenging.

# PA TWS Board Members

## **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.



## **Past 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.



# PA TWS Board Members

## Vice President

### 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.



## Treasurer

### Shania Miller

Currently, Shania is the Pennsylvania Game Commissions Southwest Region Bear Technician. Prior to this position, she was a Bio Aide for two years on the wild turkey research project, and before that a biology intern with PGC. Shania attended Penn State Beaver, where she founded the Biology Club and served as President until graduation in 2022. She currently resides in Kittanning; however, she is originally from Bellwood, PA. Shania enjoys exploring the outdoors and meeting others with a passion for wildlife and conservation!





# PA TWS Board Members

## **Secretary**

Madison (Madi) Davis grew up in a rural town in Saskatchewan, Canada but came to the USA for college. She attended the University of Wyoming, where she received a BS in Microbiology in 2022. With a passion for disease ecology and One Health, Madi decided to pursue her MS in Animal & Veterinary Sciences at the University of Wyoming. Her research focused on the role bobcats may play in CWD ecology – determining whether they contribute to the spread of CWD by shedding CWD prions across the landscape in their feces after consumption of an infected cervid or if they can limit the spread through consumption. Throughout her academic career, Madi had a passion for teaching and was a teaching assistant for General Microbiology, Pathogenic Microbiology, and Medical Virology courses. Besides research and teaching, Madi was involved in many involved with several trips to South Dakota where she helped wrangle bison for bacterial pneumonia testing and research.

Currently, Madi is a Chronic Wasting Disease research scientist at the Wildlife Futures Program since July 2024. Her role in this position has primarily focused on optimizing and validating various cervid tissues for CWD diagnostics. In her free time, Madi enjoys the outdoors, crafting, and nerding out about wildlife disease.

## **Madison Davis**



## **Membership Coordinator**

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.

## **Dr. Justin Brown**



# PA TWS Board Members

## Digital Media Manager

## Terra Haines

Terra is a graduate of the Wildlife Technology program at Penn State DuBois and is currently pursuing her Master of Wildlife & Fisheries Resources degree through Clemson University's award-winning remote program.

Before she transitioned into a career in wildlife, Terra built a successful career as a Registered Nurse. Throughout Terra's nursing career, she volunteered with various agencies to contribute to wildlife conservation and worked as a seasonal timber rattlesnake construction monitor for two environmental consulting firms.

Currently, Terra works full-time as a Biological Science Technician with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, focusing on management of the rabies virus. In addition to her professional role, she is a permitted educator of timber rattlesnakes, delivering engaging presentations to diverse audiences across Pennsylvania to foster awareness and appreciation for this often misunderstood species.



## 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 hawk-watches. She has worked as a Deer Biologist Aide with the Pennsylvania Game Commission for the winter 2024 trapping season. Most recently, she was employed as a Naturalist with Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in Duluth, MN during the fall migration season of 2024. Currently, she works part-time for Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Visitor Services, and plans to hawk count again this fall. Otherwise, she is employed at Cigars International in Hamburg, PA as a retail associate.

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 birding, hunting, fishing, hiking or camping in Penn's woods in her free time with her partner around Berks county, and at her hunting cabin in Pleasant Mount.



# PA TWS Board Members

## **Board Member At-Large**

Growing up, the fields, forests, and Appalachian ridges of eastern Pennsylvania composed the landscapes Grace called home. In more recent years, she has lived in central Pennsylvania, Alaska, and central New York. Her undergraduate degree is in wildlife conservation from Juniata College, and since then she has gone on to work with the PA Game Commission, Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, and Lime Hollow Nature Center in various roles. This year, she returned to Penn's Woods, where she has started the pursuit of a dual master's degree in Forest Resources and Transdisciplinary Research on Environment and Society through a research assistantship at Penn State. Hiking, biking, birding, backpacking, hunting, skiing, and taking photos are some of her most favorite things to do in her free time, and she is so excited to be reconnecting with her connections here in Pennsylvania (PATWS included)!

## **Grace Lewis**



## **Board Member At-Large**

Matthew Williams is a Wildlife Habitat Group Manager with the Pennsylvania Game Commission in the Northeast Region. He received a B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Science from Paul Smith's College, where he also fulfilled the requirements of Associate Wildlife Biologist® from The Wildlife Society. Matthew later went on to receive a M.S. in Biology from Western Illinois University. His career path has been diverse and taken me around the country working in 9 different states including: Black bear in Florida, Fishers and Marten in the Pacific Northwest, Sharp-tailed Grouse in Montana, and waterfowl and fish in Illinois to name a few. These positions had been with Universities, State, and Federal Agencies offering insights into working with and alongside multiple agencies and partners. This has eventually led him back to Pennsylvania where he currently manages approximately 67,000 acres of State Game Lands in Pike and Monroe Counties.

## **Matthew Williams**





# PA TWS Board Members

## **Board Member At-Large**

### **Alissa Serro**

Alissa Serro has been a wildlife biologist aide with the Pennsylvania Game Commission since 2023. She was hired for wild turkey trapping efforts as well as Chronic Wasting Disease management in white-tailed deer in South-central Pennsylvania. Through her time with the Game Commission, Alissa has participated in various projects and has worked with white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, black bears, song birds, ducks, geese, mourning doves, bats, and Alleghany woodrats. She graduated from Shippensburg University with both her B.S. and M.S. in Biology with a concentration in Ecology, Environment, and Conservation. For her Master's Degree, Alissa focused on the ecology of several tick species within Southcentral Pennsylvania. Alissa has been an avid outdoorswoman from a young age and enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, and gardening in her spare time.



## **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, fly-fishing, and hunting.



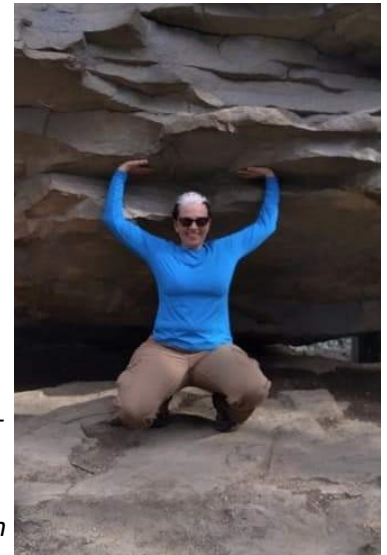


# PA TWS Board Members

## Northeast Section Representative

## 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.



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

Kyle Van Why, Past President

Tammy Colt, Treasurer

*(still here, as NE Section Rep,*

*but thank you Tammy for being awesome!)*

Joe DuChamp, Board Member At-Large

Justin Vreeland, Board Member At-Large

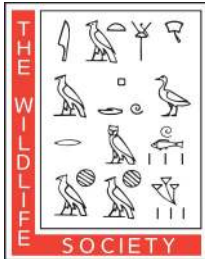
Hannah Tiffin, NE Section Representative

Madison Stevens, Digital Media Manager

Makayla Whaling, Secretary

# 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.

# USAJOBS

## 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+ wildlifers in TWS, (2) to build a community of LGBTQIA+ wildlifers, and (3) to identify ways to support LGBTQIA+ wildlifers, 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.



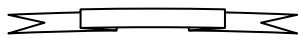
Follow us:  
**@PAchapterTWS**



NEW ON INSTAGRAM!  
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**@PAchapter\_thewildlifesociety**

### **—Who's Who on the Board—**

2025 Executive Board Members



*President*.....Virginia Tilden  
*Vice-President*.....Chris Hauer  
*Past President*.....Chris Voorhees  
*Secretary*.....Madison Davis  
*Treasurer*.....Shania Miller  
*Northeast Section Representative*.....Tammy Colt  
*Digital Media Manager*.....Terra Haines  
*Newsletter Editor*.....Emily Sandly  
*Membership Coordinator*.....Dr. Justin Brown  
*At-Large Members*.....Alissa Serro  
Matthew Williams  
Grace Lewis  
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)





Pennsylvania Chapter

## THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

### 2025 Membership Application

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Join or renew online **HERE***

## Save the Date



### TWS Annual Conference – Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

The PA Chapter of the Wildlife Society hopes to  
see YOU at the Penn Stater on

**March 27-28, 2026**

For our next annual chapter meeting!

