



Minnesota Chapter

Newsletter

The Wildlife Society

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 4
DECEMBER 2005

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MN Chapter TWS Regions

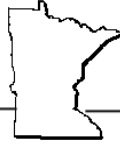


Attention!
Next Newsletter
deadline changed.

Next deadline:
March 6, 2006.

Deadline changed
to accommodate
the Annual
meeting.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The big news item hanging on the horizon is the upcoming Minnesota Natural Resource Conference on March 1 & 2. This will include the Chapter's annual meeting and awards. Dave Trauba is representing our Chapter on the planning committee. This should be a good opportunity to mix with other resource professionals from the fields of forestry, fisheries, and conservation biology.

At our Annual Meeting, I will review the Chapter's activity over the past year but you get a preview. We had a very successful 2005 Annual Meeting with a large attendance and good presentations. The Chapter is in a stable financial position, due in part to the success of the Annual Meeting. The summer Glacial Ridge Project workshop was also very well attended and highlighted what is billed as the largest grassland and wetland restoration effort in the country. The Chapter is represented on two MN Environmental Quality Board advisory committees related to EAW/EIS thresholds for lakeshore development and important natural areas. The Chapter submitted comments to MN DNR on the Nongame Wildlife Program and our desire to see this Program continue to be a national leader in its field. We are continuing the process, started last year, to clearly identify the membership of our various committees and to keep the committees engaged in their fields of expertise.

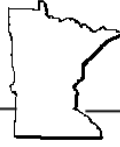
Come to the annual meeting to learn more, to ask questions, submit ideas for the next annual or summer meeting, and to vote for the next slate of officers. Hope to see you there.

This will be my final column as President of the MN Chapter. I have stayed involved with MN TWS over the years because I enjoy gaining a wider perspective of resource issues across the state, I get to meet and work with a variety of wildlife professionals, and I feel that I need to continue to learn about resource management. Serving the Chapter has indeed been a learning experience, and I expect that I will be able to apply the lessons learned in other aspects of my professional and personal life. I would encourage you, as a TWS member, to serve as an officer or committee member at some point in your professional career.



-Doug Wells,
MNTWS Chapter President

Artwork in this issue created by Tom Kelley and Bob Hines, USFWS.



TREASURER'S REPORT

**MN Chapter TWS
Quarterly Report
25 August 2005 – 15 November 2005**

Savings Account **\$ 484.69**

Beginning Balance \$ 483.87
Change (\$ 0.82)

Checking Account **\$5644.70**

Beginning Balance \$5,647.56
Change (\$ 2.86)

Debits:

Northland Inn Banquet \$ 532.93
Sheldon Myerchin (summer meeting) \$ 168.60
Printing Plus (newsletter) \$ 356.00
Crookston Public Schools (bus) \$ 129.50

Subtotal **\$1,187.03**

Credits:

July interest \$ 0.67
August interest \$ 0.53
T-shirt purchase \$ 7.00
Summer meeting registration \$1,080.00
TWS rebate (national) \$ 95.00
September interest \$ 0.48
October interest \$ 0.49

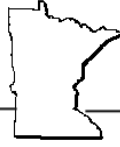
Subtotal **\$ 1184.17**

12 Month CD (Life membership, matures Aug. '06) \$ 1,951.43

60 month CD (Moose conference, matures 2010) \$ 2,819.54

Total Chapter Assets \$10,900.36

(Total Chapter Assets 12 April 2005 \$10,864.95)



MNTWS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MN-TWS Board Meeting 17 November 2005 Brainerd, Minnesota

Meeting called to order at 11:30 a.m. Board members in attendance: Doug Wells, Wayne Brininger, Mike Larson, Martha Minchak, Curt Vacek, Bruce Hawkinson, Dave Trauba, Bill Faber, Mike North, Stacy Salvevold, Tim Quincer, and Laura Bonneau.

Correspondence: A thank you note from the UMN-Crookston Chapter for helping fund their “Nature Nook” was passed around, as well as an invitation to a dedication of the Oxcart Crossing WMA. (Myerchin attended on behalf of MN-TWS). Both projects were funded, in part, by donations from our Chapter using proceeds from past annual meeting fundraisers. The third project funded was acquisition of a WMA in Otter Tail County.

Minutes from August meeting reviewed; **motion** by Salvevold to approve; second by Larson. Passed.

Treasurer’s report presented by Bonneau (see newsletter for details). **Motion** by Minchak to approve; second by Trauba. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS

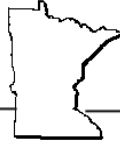
Summer Meeting Review: Great attendance at the workshop despite the inclement weather. Thanks to Wayne Brininger, Emily Hutchins, and Sheldon Myerchin for organizing meeting. Wells reminded Board that the summer meeting is the responsibility of second year regional representatives (Larson, Hawkinson, Vacek), and that continuing education is one of the more important aspects of our chapter.

Lakeshore Development: Mike North represents the Chapter on an advisory committee related to possible proposed revisions to state EAW/EIS thresholds of lakeshore development. North reported that the advisory committee had met twice to discuss EAW/EIS thresholds, and the goal is a new thresholds proposal by February 6th. DNR will write statement and develop new categories.

Thank you to Mike North and the Wetlands Committee for their work.

Pattern Tiling White Paper: Trauba has received draft of literature review and will forward to Board members. Wells noted that the intention of the white paper is to provide a formal statement of our position and an opportunity to influence policymakers. See newsletter for details.

Liaison with Student Chapters: Wells reported that Hanson plans to meet with UMN-Twin Cities and UMN-Crookston student chapters this winter.



Herbicide Impacts: Vacek mentioned letter by Kurt Haroldson in a recent issue of Outdoor News suggesting that impacts of soybean herbicides on wildlife were not a major issue. DNR stance is that there is a limited effect (based on relatively high pheasant numbers), and it is not a priority issue. This is an issue that could be referred to the Farmland Committee for guidance and a possible literature search. Vacek will forward information/summary to Board and general membership (see newsletter for details).

Tribal Liaison Subcommittee: Bringer suggested MN-TWS tribal liaison should have membership in Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. **Motion** by Bringer to pay membership to NAFWS for liaison this year; second by Minchak. Passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Wells asked Tim Quincer to chair Forest Issues Committee. Farmland Committee Chair slot is open.

Annual Meeting: Trauba will draft call for papers from all 4 participating organizations (MN-TWS, SCB, AFS, SAF) - focus is on sustainability and interdisciplinary work. Speaker suggestions should be sent to Trauba. **Motion** by Minchak to provide no more than \$500 to fundraising committee as “seed money” for auction items; second by Faber. Passed.

Student Travel Awards: At last year’s annual meeting, student travel awards were limited to covering registration. In other years, a budget was allocated that could cover lodging, meals, and/or registration. Wells and Trauba will review the need for student travel awards and make recommendations to the Board if funding is required. Recipients would be expected to help at annual meeting.

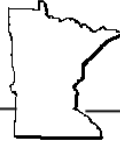
Review of MCF/FWLA Membership: Board will request reports from MN-TWS representatives (R. Norgard and S. Kittelson) and from each organization. Discussed percentage of budget dedicated to lobbying. Issue will be re-visited at next meeting.

Canada Lynx: North reported that as a result of a court settlement, the FWS is proposing the listing of 3,545 square miles in MN as critical habitat. Forest Issues Committee will review issue and make recommendations. Minchak will attend public hearing in Duluth on 12/7 and provide information to MN-TWS membership.

DNR Nongame Program: Discussed sending letter re: DNR Nongame Program to DNR Commission (see newsletter for details). Wells will draft letter for Board review.

Wetland Loan Act: More information coming from Myerchin; no action at this time.

Forest Issues Committee: Discussed ATV issue. Discussed developing a Chapter position on ATV use in the forested part of the state; factors could include density of roads,



disturbance to breeding birds, etc. The Committee will discuss and present their recommendations to the Board.

DNR Private Land Program Survey: Wells will fill out on behalf of MN-TWS.

Isolated Wetlands: GAO report to Sen. Lieberman stated that Corps of Engineers is not using all its authorities to regulate isolated wetlands. North suggested report/white paper showing that isolated wetlands are used for interstate and foreign commerce; will work with Wetland Committee to collect data.

Wild Rice Initiative: Discussed White Earth Land Recovery Project to keep wild rice strain native. UMN working on gene mapping and modification. Bringer suggested topic should be a break-out session at annual meeting.

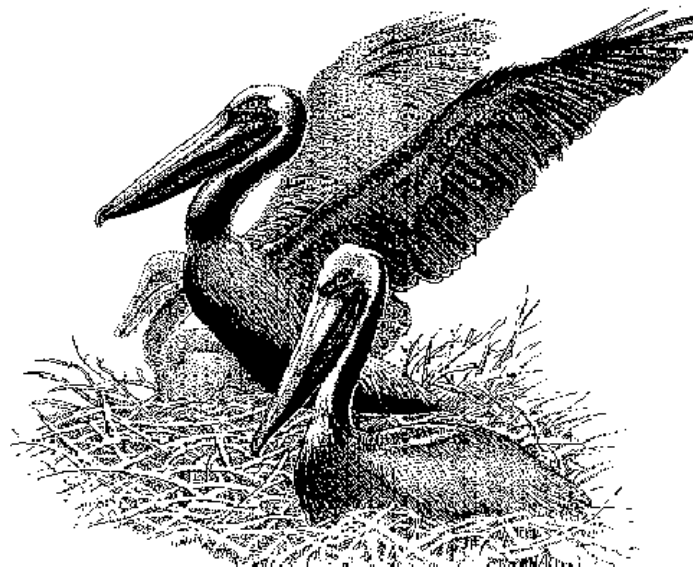
Professional Enhancement: Pam Deerwood is working on a poster tracking continuing education credits from past meetings.

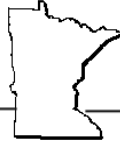
Enforcement Issues Committee: Discussed need for committee. North suggested that Committee weigh in on ATV issue.

Shallow Lakes Forum: Salvevold will represent MN-TWS on planning committee. Meeting is scheduled for April 5-6, 2006 in Willmar.

COWCH: North provided tape and transcript of Cal Lensink interview. Salvevold has contacted national TWS to get copies of all interviews.

Motion by Trauba to adjourn; second by Bringer. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.





REGIONAL REPORTS

Region 1

Wayne Brininger

Restoration: The Natural Resources Department at the UM-Crookston just initiated a 2-year cooperative program with the Natural Resources Conservation Service for a Restoration Ecologist. The individual would develop plans and conduct monitoring of wetland and prairie restoration projects in northwest Minnesota that have been enrolled in NRCS's Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). Many of these projects are located on the Glacial Ridge project near Crookston, the largest wetland and prairie restoration project in North America. The person would also provide instruction in the Department in the area of wetlands ecology and ecosystem restoration along with providing outreach information in land and water topics. The Restoration Ecologist will commence in January of 2006.

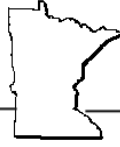
The Detroit Lakes WMD established a cooperative weed management area in Clay County with over 13 partners "pulling together" to leverage each other's efforts in controlling invasive species. In addition, over 300 wetlands were restored on the WMD this year (200 on WPA's and 100 on private lands) and one oak savanna restoration was completed on the Nelson WPA in Clay County.

Waterfowl: Agassiz NWR was visited by a neck collared Tundra Swan in October. The band return reported that it was banded as a juvenile in North Carolina in 1999. There were respectable numbers of ducks around throughout most of the waterfowl season in the Morris WMD this year, with only a minor lull lasting a week in mid-October. In general, more ducks for more days than we have had in recent years. Swan migration was noted in the district on following the first serious cold spell (Nov 15 – 17). The district had heavy pheasant hunting pressure and lots of pheasants.

Fire: During the last week of August, three summer burns (840 acres) were completed at Agassiz NWR in cattail marsh areas that were in drawdown. Two of these areas will be left in drawdown to see if they will convert to sedge as outlined in the CCP. Fall burning was completed in five units for a total of 2,087 acres.

Banding: Agassiz NWR easily met the banding quota on immature mallards this fall, but fell short on adult males. This is in contrast to last year, when the immatures were hard to find and the quota was not reached on immature males.

Moose & Deer: The moose classification flight was done on November 17, 2005 for Agassiz NWR and the adjacent WMAs. The population estimate was only 44, which corresponds with the decrease in population indicated by last winter's big game transect survey estimate of 47. Population estimates had been hovering around 70 to 80 moose since 1998. Bull/cow ratio was high at 1.28 and the calf/cow ratio was average at .429. Moose population in Northwest Minnesota shows no signs of increase.



The Thief River Fall Office notes deer harvest appears to be down about 15% from last year. While the Bemidji Area Wildlife office experienced a slow start to the deer harvest, “final” returns show the 3rd highest record harvest close behind last year. Registration is about 6% below last year.

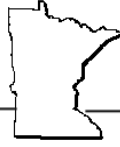
Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, University of Minnesota, Crookston: Post-spring semester activities began this summer out of necessity as our advisor, Dr. John Loegering, and myself were called to assist a family of Merlins (*Falco columbarius*) residing on campus. Two of the three young were thrown from the nest by high winds. Only one of the fallen birds survived but thankfully we sought aid from a construction company working on campus and we were able to return the terrestrial youngster back to the treetop where the parents could rear it more easily. Next we answered a call for assistance from the TWS-Listserv and joined the Teaming With Wildlife Coalition in support of higher appropriations for the State Wildlife Grants Program.

We helped the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band ducks at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in early September. Later that month a few of our members assisted area resource professionals during an Environmental Education Day at the University’s Red River Valley Natural History Area (RRVNHA). We have plans to monitor Wood Duck boxes and Bluebird houses at the RRVNHA. Also scheduled is a day at Rydell NWR helping with their Bluebird monitoring project. A site evaluation of our “Nature Nook” project will begin this month and further implementation of plant materials on site are scheduled before the ground freezes. Also this October, UMC is hosting a Sustainable Development Conference which has many implications for the region in terms of natural and human resources.

Lou Cornicelli, MN DNR Big Game Coordinator, will present the basics of modeling big game on October 17 and Dr. Jim Grier, Professor of Zoology at North Dakota State University, will present his work on eagles on November 1. Other speakers are tentatively scheduled to build on our practical experiences by learning about what others are doing in the region.

The Student Chapter is always looking for new projects and activities. If you have any suggestions or concerns please contact us and we will do our best to facilitate your needs. Submitted by Nathaniel G. Emery, President (emer0098@umn.edu)

Personnel: Mike Vivion, long-time pilot-biologist with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska will be joining the Natural Resources Department at the UM-Crookston as Chief Pilot and instructor. Four aviation programs are offered in the Department; Natural Resources Aviation (the only one in the nation), Law Enforcement Aviation, Agricultural Aviation, and Business Aviation. "We are delighted with the experience and enthusiasm that Viivion brings to the Department," notes Department Head, Dan Svedarsky. "Not only can Mike assist in providing program direction to prepare future pilots but he will also be developing programs in recurrency training and outreach for agency and organization pilots."



Eric Nelson was hired as new Lead Range Technician-Career Seasonal for the USFWS. Eric worked at Agassiz this past year. He has worked on the Carolina Sandhills NWR and for the NPS and USFS.

Region 2

Mike Larson

Ed Lindquist, Forest Wildlife Biologist, Superior National Forest (SNF), announces his retirement from Federal Service on January 1, 2006. Ed has been on the SNF and a member of the MN chapter of TWS for 24 years. His professional activities and awards include: Minnesota Lynx Project 1999–2005, Northern Minnesota Coordinator for Peregrine Falcon 1984–1988. Board of Directors, North Central Caribou Corporation 1990–1999, Certificate of Merit and Cash Award, SNF 1990, -92, -94, -96, President, MN-TWS 1984, Board of Directors, MN-TWS 1983, -85, Board of Directors, TWS North Central Section 1984, Who's Who in America, Science and Engineering, Marquis Corp. 1995, Civil rights Award, USDA-FS Regional Foresters 1991, TWS Professional Development Certificate 1991, Order of Alces & Co-Chair, North American Moose Conference 1987, Chair, North American Moose Workshop 1987, Conservation award, Field and Stream Magazine 1972, and Jaycee of the Year, Maryland Jaycees 1972.

John Hart, USDA-Wildlife Services
Wolf Depredation Control Summary through October 2005

<u>Year to date comparison of 2005 and 2004</u>	<u>2005 (thru Oct)</u>	<u>2004</u>
# Complaints received	150	39
# Complaints involving livestock	129	118
# Complaints verified	88	62
# Complaints involving livestock that were verified	84	57
# Complainants	131	124
# Farms where livestock confirmed or wounded	66	51
# Complaints trapped	72	57
# Wolves captured/killed	145/131	106/96

Up from last year but on track with 5 year average.

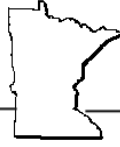
Sarcoptic mange continues to be present in the MN wolf population, with 13% of wolves captured during depredation control activities showing signs of mange.

Region 3

Sheldon Myerchin

Planning meetings for the “**Wetland Summit**” continue at the IWLA Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter House in Brooklyn Park. The “Summit”, an activity proposed from the “Ducks, Wetlands, and Clean Water” Rally is scheduled for Saturday, February 4, 2006 at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, MN. **Please mark your calendars to attend this event. (See the “EVENTS” section in this newsletter for more details.)**

The Wildlife Society has completed development of a literature review document entitled: *Fish and Wildlife Benefits of Farm Bill Conservation Programs: 2000 – 2005 Update*. **For**



more information see the “PUBLICATIONS” section. Another synthesis product currently in development under this partnership is a review of the literature on the effects of various agricultural conservation PRACTICES on fish and wildlife. That product is expected to be completed in early 2006.

(From WWA Wetland News) In September 2005, the U.S. General Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled, *Wetlands Protection: Corps of Engineers Does Not Have An Effective Oversight Approach to Ensure That Compensatory Mitigation is Occurring*. The GAO found compliance oversight for individual permits nationwide to be poor and the St. Paul District was no exception. Of the 31 St. Paul District permit files reviewed, only one showed evidence of a compliance inspection, and monitoring reports were found in only 10% of the files for which they should have been submitted. Oversight of mitigation banks was also found to be lacking. The report cited inconsistent and vague guidance and limited resources as two factors contributing to these implementation shortfalls. A lack of detail in permit conditions and monitoring report requirements were also found to limit the Corp's ability to take enforcement actions. The full report can be viewed at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05898.pdf> .

The USFWS' Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, with a multitude of partners, completed 3571 acres of wetland and 1705 acres of upland restoration projects on private land throughout Minnesota in fiscal year 2005.

From Fred Bengtson , DNR Area Wildlife Manager: The Pelican Lake (Wright County) restoration feasibility study continues. Results of this study should be released this coming spring in the form of an EAW.

The dedication for the Oxcart Crossing WMA (SW Stearns Co.) was held on Oct. 27, 2005. Fourteen conservation groups including MNCTWS contributed to the establishment of this 210 acre WMA which will provide valuable habitat to a variety of species.

The Sauk Rapids area had an excellent 2005 deer harvest very similar to last year.

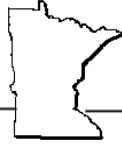
Due to an extremely wet fall, wetland water levels are near or above all time high levels.

Black bear sightings and encounters have recently become more numerous in the area.

Pheasant season should be one of the best in the last 20 – 30 years. Eight consecutive mild winters and better quality and quantity of CRP have been the primary factors in better pheasant recruitment and survival.

Sandhill Crane expansion continues in the area to the point where conflicts with farming operations are occurring.

Accelerated human development and the resulting habitat loss has increased the frequency of wildlife/human incidents.



Region 4

Curt Vacek

Have not heard of any major issues within the region.

The DNR and DU cooperated with installing a temporary siphon system on Frank Lake – a 135 acre shallow lake in northeastern Swift County that has been in dire need of a drawdown. The siphon (consisting of two 12” PVC pipes) has been functioning better than expected. The technique is relatively new to many managers, and is a definite eye-opener for many other possibilities.

Freeze up throughout much of the region occurred November 16, with our first major cold front in some time. The front took many by surprise, as the Fall was very mild, and just three days earlier temps were in the low 70’s. Seemed to take the migratory birds by surprise as well – several large flocks of blackbirds and tundra swans were seen sharing the same cold blue skies.

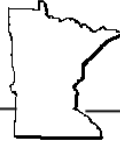
Deer hunter success has been very similar to 2004, meaning a very good harvest, but down slightly from local records in 2003. The DNR (and some Legislators) have been increasingly pressured by special interest groups to manage for larger sized bucks. One push is for antler point restrictions in kill blocks 433, 446, 447, 448 and 449. To determine public acceptance of the idea, the DNR will be surveying 1,000 deer hunters in those areas. Additionally preliminary data, including age, sex and antler size were collected on hunter harvested deer throughout Big Stone, Swift, Lincoln and Lyon Counties during the first weekend of the firearms season.

Dave Trauba – Lac Qui Parle Wildlife Management Area: The 2005 LQP Controlled Goose Hunt rebounded a bit after last years record low. Over the last three weeks of the season, goose numbers on the refuge exceeded 100,000. Harvest was approximately 350.

LQP’s new moist soil management unit was flooded for the first time this summer. Duck numbers peaked at 5,000 on the unit this Fall. This project was a coop between DU and DNR. The site will be named the Killen Waterfowl Refuge during a dedication to Jim and Karen Killen next Spring.

Gerry Sherrick - Windom Wetland Management District: Seed harvest this fall on 60 ac. of FWS lands yielded 5,000 lbs. PLS of native grass & forb seed. The seed will be used on Service lands this winter and spring to convert non-native grasslands to native grasslands.

Work continues on the restoration of Touch-the-Sky Prairie, a 740 ac. parcel in (Mound Twp.) Rock Co. This years activities included seeding and noxious weed and brush control. Plant inventory work by a Student Conservation Association Intern, Annabelle Por, documented 157 upland species on this parcel of former overgrazed pasture and cropland.



A pair of swans released on the Wolf Lake WPA (Cottonwood Co.) in 2003 returned and fledged 3 young this year.

Assistant Refuge Manager Gregg Pattison accepted a position as Assistant State Private Lands Program Coordinator in Lamoni, Iowa. Gregg's work will focus on native grassland and Oak Savannah restoration in southern Iowa.

Range Tech (Fire) Sam Vanourney transferred to the Mark Twain NWR. Sam is now located in Spencer, Iowa, and is assisting with fire management on FWS lands in northwestern Iowa.

Range Tech (Fire) Ryan Schlater and Biologist Gerry Shimek were deployed on Hurricane relief & recovery details. Ryan was deployed immediately after the storm to distribute food and water, and to clear roads. Gerry was deployed later to supervise construction crews installing temporary roofs on repairable homes.

Former District Manager Steve Kallin received the North Heron Lake Game Producers "Man of the Year" award.

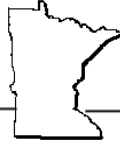
Region 5

Emily Hutchins

Jeanine Vorland—DNR Area Wildlife Manager, Owatonna: South central Minnesota enjoyed a generally mild fall with several Indian Summers. Heavy rains in September brought high water and mixed blessings for wildlife. The good news was there was abundant water for waterfowl and shorebirds during migration. Aquatic furbearers and herps are finding good water conditions for spending the winter. However, flooding conditions caused further damage to shallow lake habitats and can produce good winter conditions for carp - bad news for the lakes.

Initially, wet weather delayed fieldwork. As conditions dried farmers realized they were blessed with record and near-record yields. A tremendous amount of corn is being stored outside on the ground due to lack of storage and outlets for the bumper crop. The prolonged mild conditions did allow most farmers to complete fall tillage. Wildlife managers are hoping winter will cooperate and substantial wildlife depredation problems for piled grain will not develop.

The Department of Natural Resources and Pheasants Forever are finalizing 2 land transactions, adding about 130 acres to the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) system. The Pheasants Forever WMA in Dodge County will grow by 80 acres. The new tract will provide for some wetland restorations and add upland habitat to buffer a wet prairie area. The second tract will protect about 50 acres of marsh, prairie, and bur oak woodlands along the Shell Rock River in Freeborn County.



Shortly after Labor Day, Conservation Officer (MCO) Tom Hutchins of the Albert Lea station (Freeborn Co.) began to receive reports of free roaming elk in Steele County. The animals were sighted in the vicinity of the Straight River Marsh wetland restoration project. The habitat in this area contains a lot of escape cover including corn, dense cattail marshes, shrub swamps, and some timber. The nearest local elk farm reported it had all its stock, and no one reported or claimed the escaped cervids. Upon further investigation, we determined the animals were actually red deer, not elk.

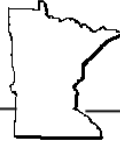
It is the policy and the responsibility of the Department of Natural Resources to destroy escaped cervids to protect the health of our wild deer and elk. Due to the difficulty of terrain and quality of cover, we utilized a helicopter to locate and get a count on the animals from the air. On September 23, MCO Pilots Tom Buker and Mike Trenholm counted 12 red deer. We received a report from the public the herd may number up to 17. We decided to be prepared to shoot the deer if they could be located and/or moved to an area where they could be readily removed from the wild. MCOs Hutchins and Joe Frear (Waseca) stood by on the ground. Unfortunately for us, the good quality of wildlife cover in the area made for difficult hunting (even with the aid of aircraft and radios).

The following day, MCO Frear and local law enforcement officers dispatched 5 animals. An additional 3 red deer were mistakenly shot during the 4A regular firearms season and turned in by hunters. During the first week of December, MCO Frear dispatched an additional 3 red deer, which had dispersed about 6 miles northeast of their original location. All red deer recovered to date are being tested for chronic wasting disease (CWD). As far as we know, there are between 1 and 6 animals remaining at large.

Once again fall hunting seasons have proven to be useful tools to get folks outside. Waterfowl hunting participation and success seemed to be improved from a rather dismal season in 2004. Another mild fall allowed for open water hunting during the majority of the regular season. Deer season results are still coming in, but harvest is expected to be down some from 2004. The small game seasons have generally met expectations, although upland birds (game and nongame alike) still suffered some from heavy storms in late spring and early summer.

As fall transitions to winter, we seem to be on the receiving end of an early invasion of snowy owls. Several have been spotted in southeast Minnesota. Time will tell . . .





Jon Cole—DNR Wildlife Manager, Whitewater WMA: Whitewater WMA (WWMA) staff in conjunction with Jaime Edwards of our Non-game Wildlife program in Rochester has been working on renovating 5 oak savanna sites, totaling 66.6 ac. A contractor has been "brush-busting" with a tracked mower to mulch invading honeysuckle and smaller trees to open the canopy on these 5 sites. Follow-up management will probably include prescribed burning and selective chemical application to treat any resprouting to reduce exotic species competition and canopy cover, increase prairie species distribution and abundance, and improve habitat quality in these savanna remnants in Whitewater Valley. WWMA has 16 remnant oak savanna sites of good quality.

Exotic species reduction/removal continues at Beaver Creek WMA in Fillmore County. This site, too, had been brush-busted to reduce invading buckthorn and create a litter layer to allow future controlled burns.

Gerry Shimek—USFWS Wildlife Biologist, Windom Wetland Mgmt. District: The US Fish & Wildlife Service completed the restoration of a 160-ac. addition to the Goose Creek Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) in Nunda Twp. in Freeborn Co. The additional land acquisition was facilitated by the local Minnesota Deer Hunters Association and Pheasants Forever chapters and expanded the WPA to 396 acres.

Region 6

Bruce Hawkinson

No Report

EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS – MEET THE CANDIDATES

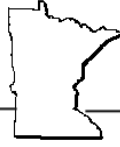
Thank you to all of the candidates for offering to serve our chapter. A big “thank you” goes out to our outgoing executive board members for their dedicated service to our chapter and natural resources.

Candidates for President-Elect:

Steve Kittelson

"Currently, I am a Nongame Wildlife Specialist working in St. Paul for the MN DNR. I work on general Nongame Program projects and surveys in east-central Minnesota. I also coordinate three activities statewide - the trumpeter swan restoration, and falconry and raptor propagation permitting. I have been with the Nongame Wildlife Program for nearly 20 years.

Prior to that, I worked with DNR Wildlife and a couple years in DNR Parks, and with the USFWS at Morris Wetlands and MN Valley Refuge. I grew up in the Lac Qui Parle area and worked at LQP Refuge for portions of 7 years, through college at Moorhead State



(MN State now) and after graduation. I completed the graduate level course work for Wildlife at the U of MN, St. Paul.

I have been active in TWS as a regional representative and most recently as the TWS board member on the Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance."

Stacy L. Salvevold

Education: B.S. Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, with highest honors South Dakota State University, December 2000

Work Experience: Refuge Operation Specialist, Fergus Falls Wetland Management District, Dec. 2000 – Present. Biological Science Student Trainee, Fergus Falls Wetland Management District, April 2000 - Dec 2000. Work Experience Student, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, May 1999 - Aug 1999. Biological Science Technician, South Dakota State University Wildlife Coop. Unit, Oct 1997 – May 1999.

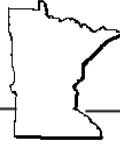
Areas of Professional Interest and Expertise: In my current position as a Refuge Operations Specialist, I am responsible for water level and water rights management, biological control of noxious weeds, management of the geographical information system (GIS), administering the office computer network, and numerous biological surveys and reports. My professional expertise is in waterfowl biology and wetland management, invasive species biological control, GIS and computer support.

Job Related Memberships and Activities: Golden Key National Honor Society (Life) Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society (2002-2005). The Wildlife Society Member (1998-2005), TWS Minnesota Chapter COWCH Coordinator (2003-2005), TWS Professional Certification as Associate Wildlife Biologist (April 2002), TWS Professional Development Certificate (February 2002), Fergus Falls Ducks Unlimited (2004-2005), Business and Professional Women (2002-2003), Fergus Falls Young Career Women (2003).

Areas of Personal Interest: I enjoy cooking and gardening. I love adventure travel and avidly participate in outdoor activities like hiking, canoeing, skiing, and rollerblading. I enjoy waterfowl and upland bird hunting and ice fishing, and I am very lucky to enjoy these activities with my husband, Mike, and my Labrador Retriever, Dakota.

Personal Statement: I believe strongly in The Wildlife Society as a means for professional communication and development for Wildlife Professionals. I have been active with the MN chapter of TWS for the past two years as the Conserving Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage project coordinator and in the past year as the MN TWS representative on the Shallow Lakes Forum planning team.

As a chapter leader I will try to improve involvement in the chapter and encourage new membership. We will be seeing many changes as the “baby-boomer” generation begins to retire in the next few years. We will need to keep our retirees active and bring newcomers



to the table to deal with the wildlife issues we face in the near future. I will work hard on the issues and challenges our natural resources will face in the coming years.

Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer:

Laura A. Bonneau

Education: Master of Science in Forestry, Forest Recreation, Stephen F. Austin State University (August 2003), Bachelor of Science, Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, Summa Cum Laude (December 1999).

Work Experience: Park Ranger, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, July 2003 – present. Conservation Education Fellow, Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation, September 2000 – July 2003. Environmental Education and Interpretation Intern, USFWS, Patuxent Research Refuge, January – June 2000. Wildlife Intern, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, May – August 1998. Wildlife/Teacher Assistant, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Summers 1991 – 1996.

Wildlife Society Affiliation:

The Wildlife Society (national organization)

Southwest Section Representative, Student Affairs Committee, 1999

Member, 1995-present

The Wildlife Society, Minnesota Chapter (Member 2004 - present)

Interim Secretary/Treasurer (August 2005 – present)

The Wildlife Society, Texas Chapter (Member 1995-2003)

The Wildlife Society, Texas A&M University Student Chapter (Member 1995-1999)

President 1998-1999

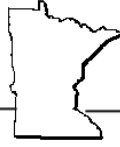
Quiz Bowl Team Member 1998-1999

Vice-President 1997-1998

Education Committee Chair 1996-1997

Activities and Interests: I enjoy outdoor activities, wildlife watching, fishing (ice and open water!), reading, swimming, dancing, and card making. I plan to try cross-country skiing this winter – a new sport for a girl from Texas!

Personal Statement: As a wildlife professional, my focus is on public outreach and conservation education. The Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society is the voice of wildlife professionals in our state, and I believe that we as an organization have both the opportunity and the responsibility to educate the public about natural resource conservation and the need for resource management. I became involved in the Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society after moving from Texas to Minnesota in July 2003, and have served as Interim Secretary/Treasurer of the organization since August 2005. I look forward to continuing to support the organization.



Candidate for Region 1 Representative:

Mike Zicus

Education: Ph.D. Wildlife Management, University of Minnesota, 1976
M.S. Wildlife Management, University of Minnesota, 1974
B.S. Wildlife Science, University of Maine, 1970

Work Experience: Current Position: Waterfowl research scientist with the Wetland Wildlife Populations and Research Group in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Activities and Interests: Hunting, fishing, gardening, traveling, and cross-country skiing

Personal Statement: I believe that a well-informed, active membership is essential to an effective Chapter, and I would be happy to serve as regional representative with the purpose of helping keep the membership apprised of natural resource issues throughout the state.



MN TWS CHapter T-shirts are on sale for only \$10 each. Get yours now! Contact Janet Boe at 218-224-3173 or boesoule@uslink.net

Candidate for Region 3 Representative:

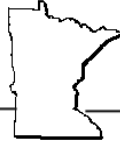
Sheldon M. Myerchin

History: I grew up (the youngest of 10 kids) on our family farm in Polk County, Minnesota near Crookston, where we raised at least one of everything. After traveling around the country, working in the construction trades for several years, it was time for a career change. Upon receiving my degree, I have worked for USFWS for the past 18 years.

Family: wife, Diana; 13-year-old son, Jose'; 4-year-old son (black lab), Gus;

Education: B.S. Degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology, University of North Dakota

Present Position: USFWS, Minnesota State Coordinator, Private Lands Program (since April 2003)



Past Positions: Volunteer, Bio. Aid, and Biological Technician, USFWS – Tewaukon NWR, ND (1987-1992); Refuge Operations Specialist, USFWS – Horicon NWR, WI (1992-1995); Supervisory ROS, USFWS – Leopold Wetland Management District, WI (1995-2003)

Hobbies: Hunting, Fishing, Woodworking, Gardening, and general tinkering with things that don't work until frustration sets in, then my wife makes me throw them away.

Statement: The natural resources of our state and country are under constant threats from a variety of interests. Our society in general exhibits apathy towards these threats as they have no direct connection and there is little understanding of the long term consequences as habitat is destroyed, species disappear, and pollution of our air, water, and soil continues unabated. Involvement with professional conservation organizations such as TWS and grassroots conservation organizations at the local level, provide the driving force to educate the general public and influence the decision-makers to conserve our natural resources. Collaboration amongst these conservation groups can provide an even stronger voice in the political arena to protect our natural resources for future generations.

Candidate for Region 5 Representative:

Emily Hutchins

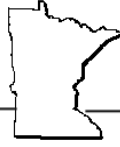
Education: B.S. University of MN-Crookston – 2001

Major: Wildlife Management (with High Distinction)

Work Experience: Private Lands Specialist, MN DNR, Section of Wildlife (current). My previous work experience includes several seasons of avian field research. I worked on a Mexican Spotted Owl demography study in Arizona on 2000 and a California Spotted Owl demography study in the Sierra Nevada in 2001. In 1999, I served my internship on a grassland bird research project in NW MN through the USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center/Northwest Experiment Station. U of M –Crookston. Additionally, I was employed as a parks worker for one season at Rice Lake State Park near Owatonna in 1998.

Activities: I have many hobbies and interests that keep me busy in my spare time. I enjoy horseback riding, birding, caring for my pets, camping, canoeing, hiking, fishing, drawing, and making crafts. I have been a member of the Wildlife Society since 2000. In 2001, I became the founding president of the University of Minnesota-Crookston's Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society. I am a member of the American Ornithologists' Union, as well as the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union.

Personal Statement: As a regional representative, I hope to contribute to the Chapter for the benefit of wildlife and wildlife professionals.



APHID SPRAYING

Kurt Haroldson (Biologist, MN DNR Farmland Research Group, Madelia, MN) wrote: I have also been getting questions about aphid spraying. Attached is a response that I recently sent to a Lakefield man

“We share your concern about the use of insecticides and their potential effects on wildlife. However, the effects of spraying for soybean aphids on pheasants and other birds appear to be minimal, so DNR is not planning specific studies on this issue.

Soybean aphids were first detected in Minnesota in 2000. Because soybean aphids do not live outside of soybean fields during the growing season, insecticides are targeted only on soybean fields that are infested with the aphid (i.e., there is no reason to spray CRP fields, roadsides, or other grass habitats). The preferred insecticides (Lorsban and Warrior) can be toxic to birds if enough is ingested, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin. However, the insecticides are applied in a manner that should dry quickly on the soybean leaves and limit penetration of the chemical past the soybean leaf canopy. Thus, opportunity for birds to drink droplets of the chemicals or be directly sprayed are reduced. Also, soybean aphids are too small to be a significant food source for birds.

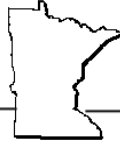
The primary threat to birds is probably through ingestion of large (nontarget) insects killed or injured by spray that drifted into habitats adjacent to soybean fields. We do not know the magnitude of this threat, but above-average pheasant populations during the past few years of widespread aphid spraying suggests a very limited effect. As a result, we have decided to continue to focus our time and energy on improving habitat for pheasants and other birds in Minnesota's farmland region rather than initiate a study on soybean aphids.

Sincerely,

Kurt Haroldson
Wildlife Research Biologist
Minnesota DNR
35365 800th Avenue
Madelia, MN 56062
507-642-8478 ext. 26

INSECTICIDES LORSBAN AND WARRIOR USE IN PHEASANT HABITAT

Minnesota's soybean production was on a record producing level until the drought and aphid showed up. The fast producing aphid migrated from eastern Asia. This aphid came to the US before 1999, first appeared in Minnesota in 2000. The aphid and the bean leaf beetle have the potential to cause serious losses to the soybean crop.



Insecticides: Two insecticides **Lorsban** and **Warrior** are currently being used to combat the soybean aphid in Minnesota. Spraying began in early July in southeastern Minnesota and spread westward. The heaviest spraying has occurred in the last three weeks.

Lorsban is an organophosphate in the chlorpyrifos family and is extremely toxic to birds (ingestion toxicity studies). LD50 levels are 8.4 to 17.7 mg/kg with males being more susceptible. Attached are pathology reports of avian mortality associated with Lorsban use (Patuxent Wildlife Research Center). Pathology is easily confirmed by decreased brain cholinesterase activity and detection of the insecticide in gizzard, crop or stomach contents. Lorsban has a 28-day holding time, which means after spraying the farm cannot harvest this product for 28 days. As the growing season draws to an end farm operators will go to this chemical because it has a lower holding time than Warrior. Material safety data sheets are at the end of this packet.

Warrior is less toxic to avian species and is in the family lambda-Cyhalothrin, which is in the class of pyrethroids. This product is highly toxic to fish. Warrior has a 45day withholding time. So its use was popular in early summer but less likely to be used at the end of the growing season. Material safety data sheets are at the end of this packet.

Chemical Selection and Acreage Treated: John Sierck from the Mn Department of Agriculture stated that the Mn Dept. of Agriculture considered numerous chemicals and felt Warrior was the best for treating the aphid with Lorsban second. Ken Ostalie with Ag extension told me there was no way to predict the amount of chemical being used and the acreage being covered. He said it is a very local thing. The farmers are using what their local suppliers are handling and taking into consideration the growing season and the time left till market.

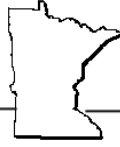
These two chemicals are being used in their liquid form and are being applied to the canopy of the plant by aerial application. Aerial applicators from all over the country are in the state assisting with the operation. These chemicals dry quickly and little or none make it to the ground. The aphids do not hide in the foliage in ditches either so there is no need for spraying insecticide into or around ditches.

Risks to Pheasants: Taking into consideration the information above I feel pheasant exposure should be minimal. Drug can only get into a pheasant in a few ways:

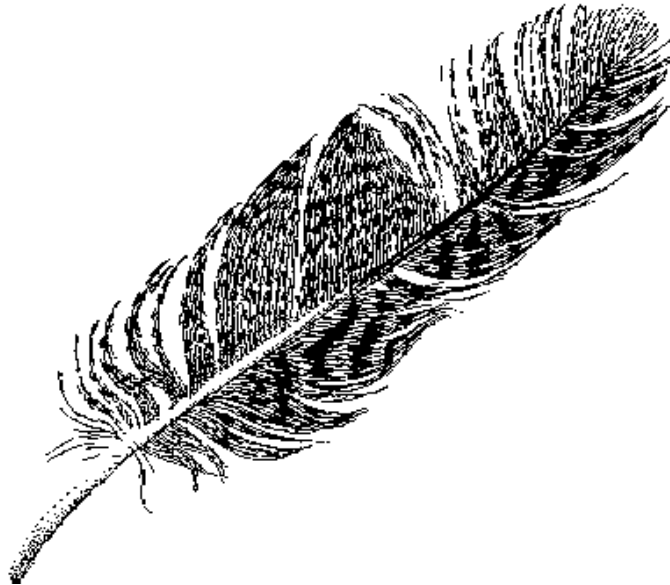
Ingested: no granules in this case. Dead insects in this dry heat and being so small (smaller than a grain of rice) should desiccate and not be visible. Drinking droplets of the liquid insecticide also seems unlikely since it adsorbs onto the leaf quickly.

Direct Inhalation: Since the canopies of the plants are thick, little to no liquid should reach the ground protecting the birds if they are in cover.

Skin adsorption: Little to no chemical should make it to the birds. I am also not aware of any toxicity studies looking at adsorption rates in avian species.



There is the possibility of drift to adjacent fields. Applicators are supposed to minimize drift but it still will happen. A loss of insects in the adjacent fields is a possibility and may reduce the number of invertebrates available to use as food. The affects of the spraying on



grasshoppers and other terrestrial invertebrates are unknown at this time. The overall affect would have to take into account the amount of land being sprayed, the habitat affected, drift, amount of chemical present and number of insects in the potential kill area and the number of pheasants using the habitat.

--Joe Marcino
Fish and Wildlife Pathologist
Ecological Services
MN DNR

PATTERN TILING WHITE PAPER UPDATE

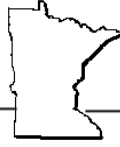
By: David Trauba

I am pleased to announce that the white paper on the *Effects of Pattern Tiling on Wetland and Receiving Waters* is completed and will be circulated shortly for review by TWS Board Members. Once the Board endorses this paper, discussion will need to take place on how best disseminate this information – web site, mailing to legislative offices and policy makers, U of MN Ag extension, etc. Certainly a discussion item at the 2006 Annual Meeting at Cragun's in March. Remember this white paper came about as a result of a MN- TWS sponsored summer workshop that explored intensive agricultural drainage.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Tim Yager and the rest of the committee for all their hard work in completing this paper.

EVENTS

February 4, 2006. *First Annual Wetlands Summit*. Normandale Community College, Bloomington, MN. 8a-5:30p. Theme: Critically Reviewing our Wetland Heritage – Reclaiming our Wetlands Future. The Wetlands Summit is an outgrowth of the Rally for Ducks, Wetlands and Clean Water, attended by more than 5000 people on the Capitol grounds in April 2005. The Rally called for holding a Wetlands Summit to review current



programs and problems, and identify corrective measures needed. There will be a registration fee of \$20.00 per person, with a reduced fee of \$10.00 for certified students. Call (651-221-0215) or (E-mail: ikes@minnesotaiikes.org) for further assistance. Pre-registration required. Co-chairs for Wetlands Summit: Bill Henke, IWLA: 218-847-4004 (H), 218-844-2300 (W) wchenke@djam.com and Harvey Nelson, MWA, MOHA, LLAWF: 952-831-8333 harvnel@msn.com.

March 1-2, 2006. *MNTWS Annual Meeting: 1st Minnesota Natural Resources Conference*. Cragun's Resort, Brainerd, MN. See additional information following.

March 22-23, 2006. *Vegetation Monitoring For Land Managers*. Concordia Language Villages, Bemidji, MN. In our ever-changing management landscape, there is a growing need to determine the effectiveness of our management practices. *Is the management practice producing the desired results? How is the management practice influencing the target species? Is management having unintended consequences? In this two-day vegetation-monitoring workshop, we will explore how to answer these and other questions by developing a monitoring protocol in an adaptive management context. Issues such as developing management and sampling objectives, determining levels of monitoring, and interpretation of monitoring data will be explored. (Look for a detailed flyer in January)*

April 4-6, 2006. *Shallow Lakes Forum III*. Willmar, MN.

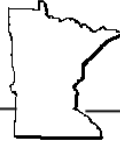
October 3-7, 2006. *The 2006 North American Ornithological Conference* will take place in Veracruz, Mexico. This conference will serve as the 2006 meeting for all OSNA societies. The theme is "Wings Without Borders" and the meeting will feature outstanding plenary speakers, oral and poster sessions, and special symposia. A web site is being created for information (www.naac2006.org).

THE 1st MINNESOTA NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE

*SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT –
DEFINING OUR LEGACY*

**March 1 & 2, 2006
Cragun's Resort & Hotel, Brainerd, MN**

The MN Chapters of The Wildlife Society, American Fisheries Society, Society of American Foresters, and the Society of Conservation Biology are pleased to announce the first ever Minnesota Natural Resources Conference. We invite natural resource professionals from throughout the state to venture to Cragun's Resort & Hotel **March 1 & 2, 2006**. This year's conference is focused on sustainable natural resource management. The stage for this conference will be set on day one with invited speakers that explore large



scale economic, social, and environmental trends in Minnesota and the challenges these changes pose for natural resource management. Registration, lodging, and future meeting updates will be posted on the TWS Chapter web page: <http://www.crk.umn.edu/tws/mn/>.

Please note the **TWS Executive Board meeting** is tentatively planned for late afternoon on Tuesday, February 28th and it is hoped the 2nd annual DNR/FWS coordination meeting will be held that afternoon also. A social mixer is set for Tuesday evening as well with the banquet Wednesday evening. Below is a **tentative** meeting outline:

Tuesday February 28

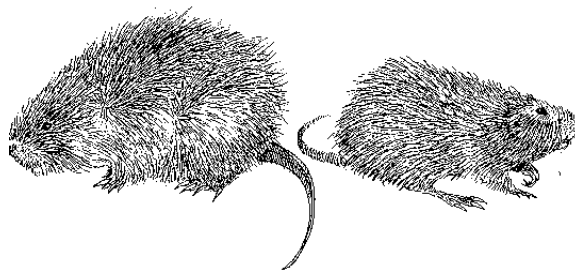
- 1:00 – 4:30 – DNR/FWS Coordination Meeting
- 4:30 – 6:00 – MN TWS Executive Board Meeting
- 5:00 – 7:00 – Registration
- 7:00 – 10:00 – Social Mixer

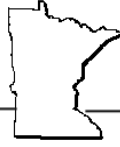
Wednesday, March 1

- 7:00 – 8:00 – Breakfast (included in registration)
- 7:30 – 12:00 – Registration & Poster set-up
- 8:45 – Welcome & Introductions
- 9:00 – Speaker One
- 9:30 – Speaker Two
- 10:00 – Speaker Three
- 10:20 – Break
- 10:45 – 12:00 – Concurrent Paper Sessions
- 12:00 – 1:00 – Lunch (included in registration)
- 1:00 – 4:00 – Concurrent Paper Sessions
- 4:00 – 5:15 – Annual Business Meeting
- 6:00 – Social Mixer
- 7:15 – Banquet & Awards

Thursday, March 2

- 7:00 – 8:30 Breakfast (included in registration)
- 8:55 – Welcome & Introductions
- 9:00 – 10:00 – Invited Speakers or Concurrent Paper Sessions
- 10:00 – 10:30 Break
- 10:30 – 12:00 Concurrent Paper Sessions
- 12:00 – Adjourn





CALL FOR PAPERS
THE 1st MINNESOTA NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE

Abstracts for the 1st Minnesota Natural Resources Conference are now being accepted.
The deadline for receipt of the abstracts is 31 January 2006.

Traditional natural resource management (wildlife, fish, forestry, biodiversity) papers and posters are welcomed but give the cross discipline opportunities of this conference we invite papers on the following subjects:

- Invasive Species Research & Management
- Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)
- Applications of the Ecological Classification System
- Conservation in Agricultural Landscapes
- Riparian & Shoreland Management
- Urban & Regional Planning
- Forest Fragmentation

All contributed papers will be scheduled at 20-minute intervals. Presentations should therefore be limited to 15 minutes to allow time for questions and comments. Posters should be set up for the entire time frame of the meeting on the 1st and 2nd.

Please e-mail abstracts to David Trauba (david.trauba@dnr.state.mn.us) in MS Word or plain text format. If you do not have e-mail available, you may mail or fax the abstract (in the same format) to:

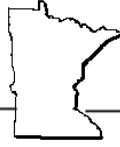
David Trauba
Lac qui Parle WMA
14047 20th ST NW
Watson, MN 56295
Phone: (320) 734-4451
Fax: (320) 734-4452

ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

An example of the abstract format is given below. First give title in caps, double space, then provide author(s) and their affiliation. Capitalize all authors' names and state abbreviations. In cases of two or more authors, place an asterisk after the name of the person presenting the paper. Then double space again and start the abstract. Do not indent any part of the abstract. Abstracts, including authors and title lines, should be no more than 250 words (including title and authors).

Following the abstract, provide the following information:

- 1) E-mail address (if available) for corresponding author
- 2) Full address of corresponding author
- 3) Telephone number of corresponding author



- 4) Type of presentation (LECTURE or POSTER)
- 5) Audio-visual needs (SLIDE PROJECTOR, POWER-POINT PROJECTOR, OVERHEAD PROJECTOR, VIDEOTAPE PLAYER, AUDIO TAPE PLAYER, etc.)
- 6) Any additional comments about the presentation.

Abstracts should include a statement of objectives, brief description of methods, presentation of results, and a summary of conclusions/inferences drawn.

Sample abstract:

ALL PROBLEMS IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT RESOLVED.

I. M. SMART*, Dept. Biological Sciences, Slapout Univ., Slapout, MN 73848 USA.
N. O. ITALL and D. UNNIT, Minnesota Dept. Natural Resources, Foraker, MN 74000 USA.

Biologists have been plagued by problems of natural resource conservation since time immemorial. Our research has shown that the solution to all of these problems is ...

imsmart@slapout.edu

I. M. Smart
Department of Biological Sciences
Phillips Building
123 Highway 270
Slapout, MN 73848
580-555-1212

LECTURE

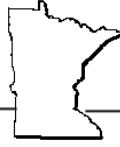
SLIDE PROJECTOR, LAPTOP, POWERPOINT PROJECTOR, ETC.

NOTE: This presentation should come at the end of the meeting.

**A REVIEW OF THE EFFECTS OF PATTERN TILING ON
WETLANDS AND RECEIVING WATERS¹**

Several years ago, a number of field offices on the Mississippi Headwaters/Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem Team funded a literature review of the effects of tile drainage on the environment. Following is the introduction to that review. The full review will be posted in the MNTWS website.

¹ Conducted for Region 3 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Daniel E. Hubbard²
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
South Dakota State University

November, 2005

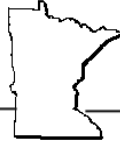
Introduction

The drainage of land for agricultural production has been occurring in the upper Midwest for over a century (Busman and Sands 2002). Artificial drainage features include surface ditches to speed surface runoff (typically installed to drain ponded water in depressions), subsurface drainage tile to drain, and hence lower, shallow water tables, and open pipe inlets (a vertical pipe riser extending to the surface from drain tiles) designed to drain ponded surface water directly into subsurface tiles (Busman and Sands 2002). The focus of this review is on subsurface drainage in the upper Midwest. For purposes of this paper, this region extends from the eastern Dakotas east-southeastward through western and southern Minnesota, Iowa, southern Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, southern Michigan, and Ohio. The impetus for this review stems from an apparent increase in new installations of tile drainage facilities, as well as replacement of old systems, especially in the western portion of the upper Midwest. In recent years, about 100 million feet (30,480 km) of tile have been installed in Minnesota alone (Busman and Sands 2002).

In the western portions of this region, notably Minnesota and Iowa, drainage tiles (originally loose fitting short sections of concrete or clay pipes; now predominantly perforated polyethylene tubing) began to be installed early in the 1900s to drain both depressions (“pothole” wetlands) and areas with high enough water tables such that agricultural crop production was severely limited. In addition to replacement of old facilities, many new drains are now being installed on currently producing crop fields that will benefit (i.e., increase grain yields) from lowered watertables. In 11 western counties of Minnesota, extreme precipitation events in the 1990s reduced crop production by 20 to 30% throughout that decade (Sands et al. 2001). In 1999 alone, about 683,000 acres were not planted and 239,000 acres were planted but not harvested (Sands et al. 2001). The 1990s were wet all over the upper Midwest and this appears to have stimulated interest in installing tiling systems. In recent years, the term “pattern tiling” has come to be used to describe subsurface drainage installations that are intended to lower the watertable under whole fields, rather than systems intended to drain ponded depressions.

This review will primarily focus on sub-surface drainage. However, surface drainage will be discussed where appropriate and to the extent needed, since agricultural drainage systems frequently incorporate both types of drainage in their water management schemes.

² Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, South Dakota State University, P.O. Box 2140B, Brookings, SD 57007



FISH & WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE ALLIANCE

2045 BRUNSWICK AVE. N, GOLDEN VALLEY, MN 55422

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND ADVISORY TASK
FORCE TESTIMONY

Members of the task force my name is Lance Ness, I am president of the Fish & Wildlife Legislative Alliance and Co-Chair of the Rally for Ducks Wetlands & Clean Water Rally.

I am not going to dwell on the past LCMR.

Our focus is on the future, and what the LCMR should look like from now on. We looked at how other states operate their delivery systems for natural resources conservation. Our thoughts were how to make Minnesota the best system for delivery of funds to protect, maintain, and conserve our great states natural resources for future generations. We have several recommendations to give to the task force.

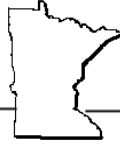
1. Develop a long-term plan for conservation of our natural resources.
2. Restore the integrity of the funds administered by the LCMR
 - A) The cigarette tax dollars & B) the In-Lieu of tax dollars placed upon lottery tickets
3. Reduce the size of the LCMR, Smaller is better- not Bigger is better
4. Involve citizens as equal partners in LCMR decision making, (at least ½ of the LCMR should be made up of citizens)
5. Streamline the project application and implementation process
6. Focus lottery dollars back to woods, water & wildlife conservation

We have a great opportunity to reform and progress conservation for Minnesota's future. It is the future we are concerned about and we are confident changes can be made to protect our natural resources for future generations. The responsibility is now yours to show wise leadership to the citizens of Minnesota. Thank you for the opportunity to present our views.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Doug Wells, President

As a Board, we are working to maintain active committees. After the 2005 annual meeting, it is our intent to publish the list of committee members along with the Chair of each committee. At the annual meeting, we will provide opportunities for members to sign up for committees. We will also provide time for the Farmland, Forest, and Wetland Issues Committees to meet. If you are not able to make it to the annual meeting and would like to contribute to one of our committees, send me a note and I will make sure it gets passed on to the right person. My contact information is listed in the back of this newsletter.



REACHING OUT

How often do you reflect about the future of your profession – forestry, wildlife, fisheries, ecology, or another similar field – and think about what drew you to it? Do you think about what you did, or didn't do, as a child or young person, and how those experiences led you to academic studies and to your current job? Do you think about what youngsters are doing, or not doing, these days and how you might provide an experience they are not getting? And have you also thought, "I'm no teacher! I just know (trees, plants, animals, insects, etc)." Or maybe, "This isn't part of my job responsibility!"

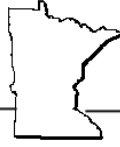
These were some of the things I was thinking eight years ago when I called the Fond du Lac Reservation Head Start program (temporarily forgetting the age of children enrolled in Head Start) to explore creating an outdoor program between the Cloquet Forestry Center and the school. Seven and a half years later, we're still at it. I've learned a great deal about managing (and even teaching) a group of 15 three and four year olds, and have a repertoire of lessons and activities I can pull out in the blink of an eye.

I've learned to teach by applying what I already know of the subject (trees, plants, animals, insects, etc) to the cognitive level of a preschooler, with a lot of initial help and feedback from the teacher. This approach works for me, and in fact helped define the parameters I set with the school at the beginning of this experiment, because I don't have formal training as an educator and am not comfortable with nor practiced in the structure of lesson plans and classroom teaching.

I look at traditional classroom and teacher resources for ideas, but in truth, I'm not interested in teaching in a classroom, if I can do the same thing outdoors, because kids, and grownups, spend far too little time outside as it is. If they leave the Cloquet Forestry Center tired, maybe wet, a little bit dirty, with a few spots of sap on their clothes and ruddy cheeks, with stories of bug holes in trees, animal tracks in the snow, snowshoeing on a frozen stream to find a beaver lodge, reading a story next to the roots of an upturned tree, and watching branches sway in the wind, we've had a successful day.

What I have not succeeded in is encouraging colleagues in natural resources to try something similar in their area. So I have an idea – if you're reading this and thinking, "I'd like to hear more." or "Maybe I want to do something like this, too." or "Fer cryin' out loud, what is she talking about?" – then give me a call, or send me an e-mail. If anyone responds, we'll find a time to get together (perhaps at the joint Society of American Foresters-Wildlife Society-American Fisheries Society-Society for Conservation Biology meeting in late February).

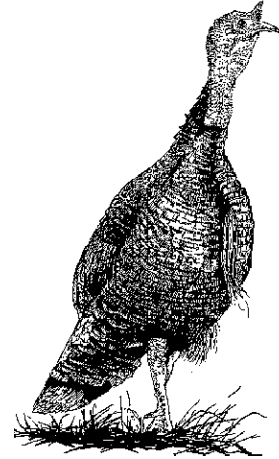
--Louise Levy, University of Minnesota, Telephone: 218-726-6404; or e-mail: llevy@umn.edu



PUBLICATIONS

Chavez, A.S., E. M. Gese, and R.S. Krannich. 2005. *Attitudes of rural landowners toward wolves in northwestern Minnesota*. Wildlife Society Bulletin 33(2):517-527

Now Available!!! The Wildlife Society has completed development of a literature review document entitled: *Fish and Wildlife Benefits of Farm Bill Conservation Programs: 2000-2005 Update*. This product is the result of a partnership among NRCS, FSA, and TWS pursuant to the wildlife component of the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) and updates the literature synthesis produced by Heard et al. in 2000. A limited number of hard copies are also being produced. The document may be downloaded from the CEAP website at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/NRI/ceap/fwbenefit.html> .



This document summarizes current literature on the effects of Farm Bill Conservation PROGRAMS on fish and wildlife resources. Several chapters in this review were recently presented by the authors at The Wildlife Society's annual conference in Madison, Wisconsin. Another synthesis product currently in development under this partnership is a review of the literature on the effects of various agricultural conservation PRACTICES on fish and wildlife. That product is expected to be completed in early 2006.

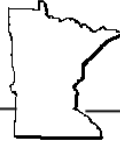
Thanks to all those who helped with development of this product, and we hope you find it useful.

The Summaries of Wildlife Research Findings 2004 publication is now posted on the website at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/wildlife/index.html>.

Wildlife Policy News. Volume 15, Issue 5, December 2005. To read this issue of Wildlife Policy News, go to <http://www.wildlife.org/policy/index.cfm?tname=wpnv15&issue=v15i5> To download a PDF of the entire issue, go to <http://www.wildlife.org/policy/WPNDDecember05.pdf> . If you would like to receive future issues directly, please contact laura@wildlife.org.

In this Issue:

1. Grizzly Delisting Proposed
2. House Passes Budget Reconciliation Bill
3. CRP Contract Re-Enrollments and Extensions
4. Agriculture Appropriations Update
5. Roadless Area Conservation Advisory Committee Announced
6. Forest Service Off-Road Vehicle Policy
7. State Wildlife Action Plans Submitted
8. Northern Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf Delisting Considered



LETTER REGARDING MNDNR'S NONGAME PROGRAM

December 7, 2005

Gene Merriam, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: DNR's Nongame Program

Dear Commissioner,

The MN Chapter of The Wildlife Society recently learned of a possible administrative move of the Nongame Program from the Division of Ecological Services to the Division of Fish and Wildlife. It is our understanding that this move is no longer under consideration. Therefore, our Board will not comment directly on that issue at this time. However, it would appear there remain some underlying issues related to the Nongame Program that we would like to comment on.

Our Board recognizes and applauds the past accomplishments of the DNR Nongame Program. The Nongame Program is nationally recognized and has received numerous awards for their work, and we commend those individuals within the DNR who have contributed to this success. Our Chapter would like to see this level of performance continue through a Program that is well organized and funded, allowing both the staff and Department to succeed.

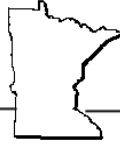
Although the MN Chapter of TWS has not undertaken a thorough review of the Nongame Program, we do have concerns about several issues regarding the future of the Program. It would appear that the staffing levels have declined in the recent past due to position vacancies that have not been filled. Funding levels have also declined due in part to the impacts of inflation. We are also concerned that interaction has been reduced between Nongame Program staff and staff in the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Moving Nongame out of the Division of Fish and Wildlife has led to some confusion on the part of Wildlife Managers, and the public, regarding the focus of their work and the ability to integrate nongame management with game management. In addition to the data gathering and public outreach aspects of the Nongame Program, the on-the-ground management functions remain important to field operations. We think it is vital that this operational aspect of the Program remains a high priority.

Our Board would be very interested in keeping abreast of the Department's current and future plans for the Nongame Program, including plans for staffing, funding, collaboration, and administration. We would like DNR's Nongame Program to continue to be a national model as it has been in the past.

Truly,

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cc: John Guenther
Brad Moore
Lee Pfanmuller



**CELEBRATING OUR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION HERITAGE –
THE COWCH PROJECT UPDATE**

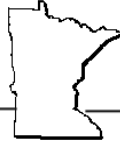
COWCH was started in order to “document the development of the wildlife management profession from those who have lived it”. Preserving these stories for future generations of wildlife biologists will help them to understand the evolution of our fairly new field.

COWCH standards recommend that interviews with members of our profession are about 2 hours long and recorded on VHS tape, although audio recordings are acceptable also. Any member interested in doing an interview should contact Stacy Salvevold at 218-998-2727 or stuccie_wlf@yahoo.com, and she will send the necessary materials to complete an interview.

Stacy is also working on compiling copies of all of the COWCH interviews completed by the Minnesota Chapter and creating a new library of interviews. If interviewers have copies of the interview they have completed, please contact Stacy to submit a copy.

COWCH Minnesota List (as of 11/2005):

Possible Interviews:	Completed Interviews:
Berg, Bill (Bovey, MN)	Breckenridge, Walter (John Moriarty, 11/00)
Berner, Al	Duebbert, Harold (Tony Rondeau, 01/04)
Gulden, Nick (Winona, MN)	Frenzel, Dan L. (Fred Bengston)
Heather, Jack (Eyota, MN)	Hawkins, Arthur S. (John Moriarty, 6/00)
Holmes, Roger	Jessen, Bob (Steve Caron, 02/05)
Idstrom, John (Owatonna, MN)	Lensink, Cal (Mike North, Fall 04)
Jantzen, Robert A. (Twin Cities)	Mann, Grady (Dorothy Norton 04/05)
Jassen, Dave	Partch, Max (Emily Hutchins, 9/00)
Knutson, Lloyd (Hugo, MN)	Stenlund, Milt (Lori Schmidt, Summer 04)
Kotak, Joe	
Larson, Goodman (Minneapolis, MN)	
Lee, Forrest (ND)	
Longley, Bill (Forest Lake, MN)	
Martens, Jerry (Bemidji, MN)	
Mathison, John	
Mech, David (St. Paul, MN)	
Nelson, Harvey (Bloomington, MN)	
Seabloom, Robert (Grand Forks, ND)	
Sheppard, Howard (Stewartville, MN)	
Tester, John (St. Paul, MN)	
Tordoff, Harrison (Bud)	
Weller, Milt (U of M)	



AWARDS

MN TWS AWARDS NOMINATIONS – A FORMAL REQUEST

The time has come to nominate a person or organization for one of MN TWS's annual awards, to be presented at our annual meeting this winter. The deadline for receipt of nominations is **January 9, 2006**. The nomination form is included as an insert in this newsletter.

The nomination process is simple: send me an email or paper copy of the nomination form explaining why a person or organization should receive one of our awards. Please include their name, address, phone number, email address, and the name of their hometown newspaper (if known).

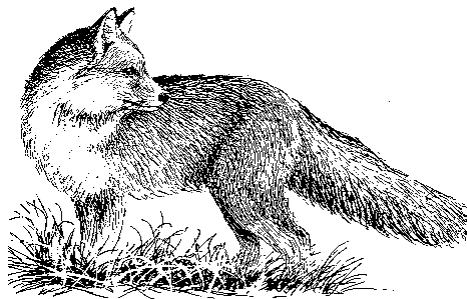
Martha Minchak, Awards Committee Chair (shrooms@peoplepc.com or Martha.minchak@dnr.state.mn.us)

The Minnesota Award is our Chapter's highest award and is presented to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to Minnesota's wildlife and natural resources.

The Conservation Award is presented to an organization or institution that has shown an outstanding commitment to Minnesota's resources.

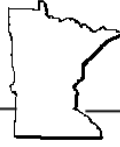
The Student Conservationist Award is presented to a Wildlife Major at a Minnesota college who had shown a commitment to wildlife, has high scholastic achievement, and shows promise as a future wildlife professional.

The Law Enforcement Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated dedication and service to the protection of Minnesota's natural resources.



OTHER AWARDS

Pam Perry was awarded the 2005 Thomas Sadler Roberts Award by the Minnesota Ornithologist's Union at their Annual Meeting in Minneapolis. This high honor was given in recognition of Pam's professional contribution to ornithology and educational efforts on behalf of birds and Minnesota's Nongame Program. Pam works for the MN Department of Natural Resources Nongame Program and is stationed in Brainerd. Congratulations, Pam!



ANNUAL MEETING SCHOLARSHIPS

MN TWS provides scholarship funds (\$500 total) to Minnesota college students who plan to attend the Chapter's Annual Meeting. This year, the Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Minnesota Chapters of the Society of American Foresters, American Fisheries Society and the Society of Conservation Biology on 28 February – 2 March 2006 in Brainerd.

The amount of money available to each student depends upon the number applying for assistance. Awards of assistance will be partial reimbursement for meeting registration or lodging. Students must be members of the MN Chapter of TWS (\$5.00 student membership) to qualify. We also encourage recipients to volunteer to assist with the meeting as needed.

Students interested in applying should:

- *Send a letter or e-mail indicating their interest to the MN TWS Membership Chair at the address below by 9 January 2006. In the letter, students should include their address, phone number, and email address, and the name of their academic advisor.*

Recipients will be notified of their scholarship amount prior to the Annual Meeting.

Submit Applications to: Mark Hanson, MN TWS Membership Chair, 102 23rd Street NE Bemidji, MN 56601, (w) 218-755-3920, mark.hanson@dnr.state.mn.us.

FEDELER SCHOLARSHIPS

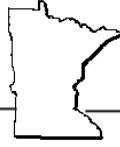
The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) has established two Fedeler Scholarships in memory of past president Bob Fedeler, who taught in the Natural Resources Department at Central Lakes College. These scholarships consist of two awards (one undergraduate student, one graduate student) of full membership in TWS including all publications of TWS.

The Fedeler Scholarships help beginning wildlife professionals get started with membership in TWS and expose them to research and issues discussions through the Society's various publications.

Students applying for the Fedeler Scholarships should be undergraduates in their junior or senior year or graduate students in a masters or doctorate program at a Minnesota college or university.

They should:

- Have a 3.0 or better GPA
- Have a strong interest in a career in wildlife biology
- Be active in extracurricular activities
- Have a strong sense of public service
- Have demonstrated good communication skills.



How to apply:

- Send a letter by 9 January 2006 indicating interest and explain how you meet the requirements to the MN Chapter Membership Chair, Mark Hanson at the address listed below. Include your address, phone number, and email address, and the name of your academic advisor.
- Ask your academic or research advisor to send a letter of recommendation to the same address.

Recipients will be notified prior to the Annual Meeting, which will be held 28 February-2 March, 2006. Submit Applications to: Mark Hanson, MN TWS Membership Chair, 102 23rd Street NE, Bemidji, MN 56601, mark.hanson@dnr.state.mn.us .

ECONOMIC GROWTH PRECLUDES WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

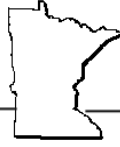
Mike Larson, Chair, TWS Working Group for the Steady State Economy

The fundamental conflict between economic growth and wildlife conservation may be the greatest obstacle to achieving excellence in wildlife stewardship. Currently, economic growth enjoys unquestioned supremacy as a policy goal at all levels of government. However, TWS issued a technical review recognizing the fundamental conflict (Trauger et al. 2003) and during 2004 adopted a position on economic growth. This article is intended to provide a brief synopsis of the fundamental conflict, address a couple potential concerns about the steady state economy, and ask for your help in resolving the fundamental conflict.

Economic growth is an increase in the production and consumption of goods and services. Nationally, Gross Domestic Product is an index of the size of the economy, which is a function of human population size and the per capita rate of resource consumption. All sectors of the economy require the consumption of finite natural resources. As more resources are allocated to the human economy, fewer remain in the economy of nature. Our economy grows, therefore, at the competitive exclusion of wildlife in the aggregate. Furthermore, the laws of physics dictate that perpetual economic growth is an oxymoron.

We cannot rely on technology to resolve the conflict. Technology, including substituting rare resources with more common ones, has the potential to mitigate the fundamental conflict but only to the extent that it increases the efficiency of resource use without contributing to increases in the rate of resource consumption. Unfortunately, new technology that makes it to the market, when coupled with the goal of economic growth, invariably serves to accelerate resource consumption (Czech 2003).

The only alternatives to economic growth are a declining economy (i.e., recession) and a steady state economy (SSE), which consists of mildly fluctuating human population size and per capita resource consumption that do not change in magnitude over the long term. Since the mid-1800s renowned economists from John Stuart Mill to Herman Daly have advocated a SSE, described how society would function under a SSE, and provided ideas about how to transition to a SSE. Under a SSE overall wealth and the size of economic markets (e.g., Nasdaq) would be constant but capitalism could still operate as



people and business firms compete, resulting in relative economic winners and losers. For example, the wildlife profession could grow under a SSE but only at the expense of a less sustainable economic sector, such as automobile racing.

Please learn more about macroeconomics, the fundamental conflict, and the SSE. Discuss them with your colleagues and friends. Consider becoming a member of TWS' Working Group for the Steady State Economy (WGSSE), whose mission is to address the fundamental conflict by discussing it with peers, policy makers, and the general public and by promoting a SSE as a feasible and positive alternative to the growth paradigm. The WGSSE also advocates a stronger policy position on economic growth by TWS. You can find literature citations and additional information at our web site <http://www.wildlife.org/wg/steadystate/> .

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA NAMED FOR CONSERVATION OFFICER/PILOT

(MNDNR News Release 2005-11-22)

Conservation officers with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) remember Grant Coyour with a great deal of affection - a man who was not only a great officer, but also a friend with a big smile and endless enthusiasm for whatever he was working on.

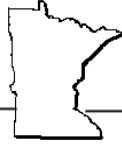
Coyour, along with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service volunteer Eric Cox, died in 1999 while flying a moose telemetry survey in the Red Lake Wildlife Management Area.

Coyour became a state conservation officer in 1988 to fulfill one of his dreams. During his 11 years with DNR, he received numerous letters praising his professionalism and his courteous and compassionate personality. He was recognized for his valor during an armed hostage situation, his outstanding work with personal watercraft education and enforcement, his involvement with the Career Mentor Program at Fond du Lac Community College, his involvement in Paddle for Courage for the disabled and impaired, and his promotion of the Take a Kid Fishing program.



He will be honored again next year for his dedication to wildlife, water quality and recreation, when land southwest of Fergus Falls will be donated to the DNR and become the Conservation Officer Grant Coyour Memorial Wildlife Management Area.

"Grant was full of life and greatly enjoyed the outdoors and protecting the resources," said



Col. Mike Hamm, DNR Enforcement Division chief. "He is still missed within the DNR Enforcement family, and this is a wonderful tribute to his memory."

The 160-acre tract of land was mostly purchased with \$123,000 in court-ordered restitution following a series of violations of the Wetland Conservation Act dating back to 1998. The remaining funds for the purchase came from a group of wildlife volunteers including Pheasants Forever Minnesota Habitat Fund, the Habitat Corridors Partnership, local Pheasant Forever chapters, and conservation groups. Once the project is finished, 28 acres of wet meadow and shallow marsh will be restored, with the remainder being upland restoration.

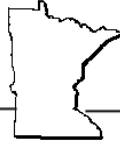
"This quarter section will be restored and provide benefits to all current and future generations of Minnesotans," said Matt Holland, Minnesota director of conservation for Pheasants Forever (PF).

Holland also noted that the project is "smack dab in the middle of a complex of private and public land habitat projects." He expects once the project is finished, it will attract a wide range of waterfowl, songbirds, pheasants, prairie chickens and deer.

Dale Krystosek, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) wetland specialist, said DNR and BWSR recently entered into an agreement with PF to purchase the land. Local PF chapters providing funding include Otter Tail, Pelican River, and Clay County. The Fergus Falls Fish and Game Club, the Bios De Sioux Watershed District and Ashby Coots Unlimited also provided funding. The Habitat Corridors Partnership funding is made possible by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

"We're pleased to see such a positive outcome to the original wetlands violations," Krystosek said. A formal dedication of the site is expected to take place next year.





GUENTHER RETIRES

Fish & Wildlife Division Director John Guenther announced today that he will retire from the DNR January 11, 2006.

John has served the people of Minnesota as a public employee for about four decades, including 30 years as a dedicated DNR employee in various capacities, such as Employee Development Specialist & Director of Training, Regional Director, Special Assistant to

Commissioner Joe Alexander and Special Projects Manager for Commissioner Rod Sando. His unique combination of experience and skills guided the Fish & Wildlife Division through the reorganization that brought back together the Fisheries Division and the Wildlife Division. His leadership contributed greatly to the agencies success at reconnecting with key stakeholders.

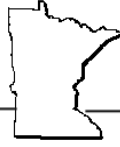


Please join us in thanking John for his dedicated service to the people and the natural resources of Minnesota.

MEMBERSHIP

Changing Places? Please remember to keep the Chapter up-to-date of your address changes, phone and email changes. We continue to get a few newsletters back due to wrong addresses. For those of you who do receive the newsletter, check your label to make sure it has kept up with changes. If you have a colleague that is not receiving their newsletter, the address might be the problem. Please forward address changes to: Brian Haroldson, c/o MNDNR, Farmland Wildlife Research, 35365 800th Avenue, Madelia, Minnesota 56062.

Membership trends appear upwardly steady and may look a bit stronger than during the past 2 or 3 years. On average, our "regular" and "total" member categories are running a bit ahead of where they were during the past 2 yrs. Perhaps more encouraging, student memberships are the highest since March 2003.



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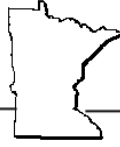
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