



Minnesota Chapter

Newsletter

The Wildlife Society

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DECEMBER 2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

President’s Message..... 1
 Treasurer’s Report..... 2
 Board Meeting Minutes..... 3-6
 Regional Reports 7-15
 Committee Membership..... 16
 FWLA Rep Needed..... 16
 Newsletter Editor Appointed..... 17
 Prairie/Farmland Committee Chair Named..... 17
 Forest Issues Committee Report..... 18-19
 Wetland Issues Committee Report..... 19-20
 Executive Director Attending Annual Meeting..... 21
 2007 Annual Meeting Agenda..... 21-22
 Call for Papers..... 22-23
 Raffle Items Needed..... 24

MN Chapter TWS Regions



**Next Newsletter
 Deadline:
March 1, 2007.**

2007 Elections-Meet the Candidates..... 24-27
 2007 Awards Nominations..... 28
 MN TWS Awards History..... 29
 Fedeler Scholarships..... 30
 Habitat Project Proposals..... 31
 Grass Beats Corn in Ethanol Study..... 31
 Wildlife Policy News..... 31-32
 Executive Board Members 33
 Committee Chairs and Student Chapters..... 34



President's Message

Stacy Salvevold has been hard at work on the annual meeting and this year's theme is "Wildlife Management and Research in a Changing Environment." Stacy has put together a program that is relevant for students and professionals alike and affordable for all members. Please mark your calendars for February 21 & 22 at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria, Minnesota. Registration and annual meeting detail are found in this newsletter. I hope everyone can make the time to attend. Not only do these events allow a person to grow professionally but they are also a lot of fun!

It is hard to believe this will be my final column as President of the Minnesota Chapter. When I started my term I wanted to focus on the following areas: professional development, membership, and policy work.

On the professional development end I believe we are doing very well as a Chapter. I consider this our Chapter strength. We had the first ever MN Natural Resources Conference, hosted 2 summer workshops that were again well attended, financially supported two other workshops, and we have another annual meeting quickly approaching. These events just do not happen but are the result of our dedicated board members and other Chapter members taking the time to make these happen. Tell them thank you.

Membership and policy results are mixed. We gained a few members at our summer workshops but we still need to find creative ways to increase our membership base. We want to hear your ideas. In the end the best way may be by old fashion peer pressure. If your colleague next to you is not a member get them to the annual meeting and signed up.

We took action on a few important policy matters as outlined in the last newsletter but we need closure on the pattern tiling paper. The good news is that we have a meeting scheduled for mid-December with both the FWLA and MCF to discuss the upcoming legislative session and priorities. I suspect this meeting will provide further direction on our policy work. We are also close to finalizing our position paper on the OHV issue and have a new chair for the Prairie/Farmland Committee just in time for debate on the 2007 Farm Bill.

The board has also been trying to move us into the electronic age. As reported in the last newsletter, Stacy Salvevold has spearheaded efforts to get our website updated and we are trying to move our operations manuals, meeting minutes, past agendas, annual meeting brochures & registration forms into an electronic format. My goal is to try to reduce the "learning curve" each time we have a change in board members. I refer to this as organizational history. I believe having electronic copies of these documents will allow future board members to be more efficient with their time and not have to "reinvent the wheel".

It has been my pleasure serving as your President this past year. I take great pride in knowing the Chapter is in great hands as we have a very talented and dedicated group of board members on-line for 2007. I have enjoyed working with all of you and thank you for your efforts. Finally, as I have always stated this is YOUR CHAPTER. We are only as strong as our membership. Become involved – run for office, volunteer for the annual meeting, join a committee, become



our FWLA representative, etc. We need your talent and enthusiasm. I have found my time with MN-TWS to be a valuable learning experience and I trust you will also.

Take care everyone and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

David Trauba
MN TWS Chapter President

Treasurer's Report
MN Chapter TWS
Quarterly Report
10 August 2006 – 30 November 2006

Savings Account	\$ 1,168.15
Beginning Balance	\$ 1,166.74
Change	(\$ 1.41)
Checking Account	\$ 7,060.77
Beginning Balance	\$ 9,185.77
Change	(- 2,125.00)
Debits:	
City of McGregor	\$ 75.00
McGregor Independent School District	\$ 138.99
Printing Plus (newsletter)	\$ 437.00
Tim Quincer (mtg. reimbursement)	\$ 89.43
Doug Franke (postage + mailing permit)	\$ 195.60
<i>Nathaniel Emery (award)</i>	\$ 100.00
<i>Water Resources Center (Shallow Lakes)</i>	\$ 250.00
<i>Curt Vacek</i>	\$ 439.12
<i>Richards Transportation</i>	\$ 212.50
<i>American Fisheries Society</i>	\$ 427.32
<i>Society of American Foresters</i>	\$ 192.04
Subtotal	\$ 2,557.00
Credits:	
Interest (August – October)	\$ 2.00
Memberships	\$ 60.00
Brush Workshop	\$ 370.00
Subtotal	\$ 432.00
12 Month CD (Life membership, matures Aug. '06)	\$ 2,025.62
60 month CD (Moose conference, matures 2010)	\$ 2,953.00
Total Chapter Assets	\$13,481.16
(Total Chapter Assets 9 August 2006)	\$15,268.01)

**Note: Debits in *italics* were recorded on last quarter's report but did not clear until this quarter.



Board Meeting Minutes

MN TWS Board Meeting Brainerd, MN 30 November 2006

Board Members in attendance: David Trauba, Curt Vacek, Mike Zicus, Bill Faber, Sheldon Myerchin, Mike Larson, Doug Wells and Stacy Salvevold

Meeting called to order at 11:10AM

Review of previous meeting minutes – **Motion** by Faber to approve with one change, under brushland workshop in new business Tim Barberg should be changed to Tim Quincer; second by Zicus. Motion Passed

President's Announcements: Contact list for board members will be circulated via e-mail. Assignments and contact information is now current.

Treasurer's Report (Salvevold for Bonneau): Review of Treasurer's report was tabled. **Motion** to table by Wells; second by Vacek. Motion passed. The board is requesting clarification from Laura on the numbers and will approve via e-mail vote. The board would like to see checkbook ledger only. Board also approved Laura's request to purchase duplicate checks.

Newsletter Editor's Report (Salvevold): A transition in the appointed position of Newsletter Editor has been taking place this year, and the board apologizes for any inconvenience. Shelley Gorham has served our chapter longer than any newsletter editor on record. We appreciate her efforts over the years; her service has been nothing short of spectacular. During this transition an interim editor had to be found and previous newsletter information compiled (March, June, September) to get the newsletter rolling off the press again. Salvevold accepted interim duties until the Annual Meeting.

December 1 newsletter deadline will be extended until December 6. Newsletter must include biographical information for election candidates and must be out to the membership within 45 days of annual meeting. We need final corrected copies, if necessary, on previous Treasurer's reports from all of 2006 in the next newsletter in order to have correct historical records. Regional Reports from the entire year will be printed as requested. Fedeler Scholarship, habitat project proposals, award deadline, and annual meeting registration need to be advertised in December newsletter.

The newsletter process needs to be documented in our records, so here goes: The newsletter content is written on typical 8.5 x 11 inch pages in Microsoft Word. The cover is completed as a separate word document. These documents plus any announcements or forms that need to be on separate sheets of paper in the center of the newsletter are e-mailed to Doug and Ruth Ann Frankie. The Frankie's deliver the newsletter to Printing Plus in Thief River Falls. Printing Plus condenses the pages down to half page size and in a printable order. Printing Plus adds the back



cover to every newsletter. The back cover includes the bulk mail permit information. The Frankies add the mailing labels to the finished newsletter and send it out. Brian Haroldson automatically sends mailing labels on the typical newsletter mailing schedule to the Frankies.

Old Business

Brushland Workshop (Larson): Attendance was good with 23 total attending. 7 members (2 new), 9 non-members, and 7 presenters. Meeting went very well. A few members did not hear about the meeting until it was over – never received our flyer. Some Society of American Foresters (SAF) members requested continuing education credits. Continuing education credits for training and workshops are necessary for foresters to keep their certification to write forest stewardship plans. We can get continuing ed credits approved by Tim Pharis, SAF- MN for any forest related meeting we have by sending the agenda to him and having hours assigned for the material.

General information for summer meetings next year: Schedule during the week and garner agency support for employees to attend. Attendance much improved on a weekday versus weekends. Advertise through all available outlets (newsletter, agency email (with approval), special flyers, universities, etc.). We need to clarify that membership is \$15 and the meeting cost is \$20 rather than just advertising \$5 more for membership. This year DNR attendees were reimbursed their meeting expenses of \$20, but they do not get paid for the membership fee of \$15, so our advertising was a little misleading. A non-member would have paid \$30, so membership would have only cost \$5 more if they were paying all out of their own pockets. For DNR attendees whose expenses were covered, they could join and only pay \$20 for the meeting, but they had to pay all \$15 out of their pocket for membership. Make sure that is clear on registration next year!

Aspen Parkland Workshop (Trauba): We approved via e-mail \$250 in support of the Aspen Parkland Conference which was held in Crookston during October and educated folks about the economics of ecotourism and opportunities for eco-tourism to impact the economy of northwestern Minnesota. We would like to hear comments from attendees. The conference agenda looked fabulous. **Motion** to support this conference passed via e-mail in September.

T-shirts (Trauba): T-shirts were held by Janet Boe. Since Janet and Thom are moving to North Dakota, Janet passed the t-shirts on to Martha Minchek, who will be the future contact person on t-shirt matters. There are plenty of shirts in all sizes still available.

Membership List Request (Trauba): Contact information for new members has been forwarded to Brian Haroldson to get on our mailing list, and committee interest information was passed from the Treasurer to the Membership Chair who will contact them about becoming active in the Chapter.

National TWS requested that we send them our membership list for all MN Chapter TWS members so they can query our database for find those individuals who are not members of National. National will then contact these individuals about National membership. Brian



Haroldson forwarded out membership list onto National. Faber suggested that we do the reverse. Request to know who is a National member, but not a MN Chapter member and recruit those individuals to join the MN Chapter also. Trauba will contact National.

Website Updates (Salvevold): A new website is being developed with private website designer Lacey Koep of Fergus Falls. The text has been updated and forwarded to the designer. The website will comply with National TWS's web format. It will remain housed at Crookston until National has space to house it on one of their servers. Web content will be collected by Salvevold, who will lump together and send to John Loegering at UofM Crookston to load once per quarter of each year. Professional photos have been donated by Rex Johnson, Michael Paulbeck, and Ross Hier. Amateur photos were donated by Salvevold. A list serve was also established via yahoo groups. This would allow communication among TWS members by sending an e-mail to one e-mail address and anyone who is a member of the group would receive it. Individuals would have to sign themselves up, but a simple subscribe e-mail can be sent to do that. More details will be available once the website is launched. **Motion** to update the website at a cost up to \$1,000 by Wells; second by Faber. Motion passed.

New Business

Annual Meeting (Salvevold): Fundraising contacts have been made to Norm Moody and Rob Naplin. **Motion** by Wells to use up to \$400 to purchase some larger items for the raffle, and if they need more we will get more money to them. Second by Larson. The plenary speakers are committed. The agenda is set, the arrangements with the hotel are completed. The call for papers closes on December 31 at which point the concurrent sessions will be organized. The registration form is on the website and will be sent to the membership in the next newsletter. Call for papers has been circulated to entire DNR-Wildlife and USFWS biologists, researchers and managers twice, was e-mailed to many university contacts in MN and surrounding states twice, and a hard copy was sent to every College or University Biology program in MN. Minchak has Award nomination deadline of Jan. 19. Fedeler Scholarship application deadline will be the same. Committee meetings can take place before concurrent sessions from 8AM – 8:40AM on Thursday the 22nd. Student discussion forum should be arranged for during the concurrent session where a panel of wildlife professionals can answer questions for students and talk about careers.

TWS/AFS meeting with MCF and FWLA (Trauba): President, President-Elect, Farmland/Prairie Committee Issues Chair, Forest Issues Committee Chair, Wetland Issues Committee Chair, and MCF Representative are going to meet along with members of AFS with both of the lobbyists that work for MCF and FWLC in order to discuss priority legislation for 2007. This meeting will take place in St. Cloud on December 15. Need to focus discussion on our top 3 issues.

Prairie/Farmland Issues Committee Chair (Trauba): Greg Hoch professor at Concordia College in Moorhead will be our new Prairie/Farmland Committee Chair. Mr. Hoch is passionate about prairie issues and will be an asset to our organization. Welcome aboard Greg! We will post Mr. Hoch's biographical sketch in the next newsletter.



Legacy Commission (Trauba): Bruce Hawkinson was selected to be on the newly established Legacy Commission. This commission will work to produce strategies to fund natural resources programs into the future

Flash Drive (Trauba/Salvevold): Two flash drives will be purchased and held by the president in their copy of the operations manual. Documents that will need to be held for the historical record will be stored on them as well as the typed bylaws and operations manual. This will be our electronic storage means to keep track of our files and to have a backup of our files.

Operations Manual (Trauba): Trauba will check with a few individuals about what they would charge to type our operations manual and bylaws and provide us with electronic copy of both. May need electronic vote on this in the future.

Summer Meeting Reminder (Trauba): Second year regional representatives need to begin thinking about summer meeting topics. Membership will have an opportunity to provide comments and suggestions during annual meeting. Sheldon for sees a prairie woody vegetation removal topic.

Regional Reports:

See next newsletter

Committees

Nominations (Wells): Reps 2,4, and 6 are being elected this year as well as Secretary, Treasurer, and President-elect. A Newsletter Editor will be appointed by the president as called for in the chapter bylaws. Names were discussed and potential candidates have been identified or will be contacted. Biographical sketches will be published in the newsletter before the Annual Meeting so the membership can make an informed decision regarding their vote.

Forest Issues (Larson for Quincer): Draft OHV position paper is almost ready. Matt Norton with MCEA should be contacted for a speaker at the annual meeting regarding OHV effects on Natural Resources. Quincer will submit write up for newsletter.

Wetland Issues (Trauba for North): Letter was set to EQB regarding the shallow lake rules. Salvevold is still attending Shallow Lakes Forum planning, and will keep board informed of meeting topic. Decision to sponsor the forum financially will be made at the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Larson; second by Faber at 2:45 PM.

Regional Reports –



Region 1 – **Mike Zicus** (This report includes earlier reports from this year that were omitted from the previous newsletters)

Spring. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources filled a number of vacancies in the Region I. John Williams is now the Assistant Regional Wildlife Manager. Rochelle Gorham was selected as Area Wildlife Supervisor to fill the Bemidji area office and Douglas Franke was selected to fill the Thief River Falls area office. Michael Broschart filled the Red Lake Assistant Area Wildlife Manager position and Richard Olsen filled the assistant position at Glenwood. Todd Call was hired as the Shallow Lakes Specialist in Glenwood.

The relatively late and rapid snowmelt caused some problems in northwest again this spring. The prairie chicken lek on Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge was covered with 2 feet of water on March 30. The 1,338-acre basin of the drained Hamden Lake collected melting snow and rapidly flooded, pushing the prairie chickens on to the adjacent gravel road. The refuge staff retrieved a wooden viewing blind before it floated away. The prairie chickens remained in small groups of 2 – 3 birds, scattered on 2 nearby roads and drier fields near the lek for about a week. Occasional flocks of 3 – 4 prairie chickens were seen flying over the water-covered lek during that time. Prairie chickens returned to the lek on April 9, with several inches of standing water covering much of the lake bottom. A total of 23 prairie chickens were counted during surveys conducted prior to March 30. Thirty-one chickens had returned to the lek by Easter Sunday. The viewing blind was relocated near the lek on April 11.

The 9th Annual Minnesota Waterfowl Association's 2006 Waterfowl Symposium was held April 7 – 9 at Maplelag Resort near Callaway, Minnesota. The theme of the Symposium was *Management of Border Prairie Habitats for Waterfowl*. The symposium started with a field trip including both the maple-basswood forest transition zone and the prairie with stops at Hamden Slough and Tamarac National Wildlife Refuges. Symposium sessions covered a variety of waterfowl related topics including an overview of waterfowl management in North America, fall use issues, and species management concerns. The banquet featured guest speaker Jay Strangis, editor of Wildfowl Magazine.

Bovine TB Update. Tests have shown the TB is a Mexican strain, suggesting it originated in cattle brought in from outside the area. More than 1,000 head of cattle were eradicated from the affected herds last fall. Eighty-five deer have been collected under shooting permits issued to landowners with infected TB herds. Testing is being preformed on the samples and one preliminary test appeared to be positive. If confirmed, this would be the 2nd deer to have been found with TB in the Skime area. Further collection and testing will continue. Two related bills are being considered by the Minnesota Legislature. Senators Rod Skoe and LeRoy Stumpf and Representative Maxine Penas in the House have authored these bills which request an undetermined amount of money from the state's Game and Fish Fund to depopulate deer within a 15-mile radius of cattle herds that were infected with TB. Depending on the outcome of the legislation, testing is over until fall when the DNR plans to sample deer during the 2006 hunting season.

Summer. Conditions in the northwest remain very dry. The region has received only 50 – 70% of normal 1 April – 21 August precipitation, making this year rank in the lowest 20% of the



historical record. Despite the dry weather, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge had another outstanding waterfowl production year. The estimated number of indicated pairs on Agassiz was 5,666, a decrease of 11% from last year's total of 6,403. This year's estimated number of pairs was below the long term average of 7,098. The number of mallards continued to increase after a low estimate of 573 in 2004. This year's estimate was 1,245 which was greater than the 1,009 estimated last year. Production was estimated at 14,227 dabblers and 9,015 divers for a total of 23,242 ducklings. This was an increase of 7% from last year and is well above the long term average of 13,533. The past 2 years estimates have been the highest since the late 1970s when there were 4 years with estimates between 19,000 and 23,000.

Agassiz also had 2 pair of trumpeter swans successfully nest this year. However, in early August 2 dead cygnets were found dead and one pair had only 2 live cygnets with them out of a brood of seven. Another pair was observed alone on the pool that had the second successful nest so it is possible that the second brood was also lost.

The Agassiz crew burned a 1,000 acre cattail marsh on August 22. This marsh has 6 plots that are being monitored in a cooperative research project with other refuges and USGS. Above and below ground nutrients and temperatures during and after the fire were recorded. Nutrient loads will be assessed again next year.

Personnel from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Wetland Wildlife Populations and Research Group began collecting samples for avian influenza testing in July. Samples will be collected from 1,000 waterfowl. These will include 100 northern pintails, 200 mallards, 200 green-winged teal, 100 lesser scaup, 100 common goldeneyes, 100 ring-necked ducks, and 200 Canada geese. A large part of the sample has been collected in conjunction with the Group's summer banding program. Samples for species not included in the summer banding program will be collected during hunter bag-checks. Two hundred forty nine samples were collect from common goldeneyes and mallards in by researchers from the University of Minnesota in 2005, and all tested negative for the virus.

Fall. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) hosted a media event about Minnesota's Tallgrass Aspen Parklands on September 13 – 15. Media representatives from the Outdoor News, the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Ron Schara's Minnesota Bound, and Minnesota Public Radio attended. Although structured around a chance to view the Minnesota elk, this event was meant to publicize the Parkland's unique habitat. The event kicked off at Lake Bronson State Park, where Ralph Cinfio (RMEF) gave an overview of their work. Donovan Pietruszewski (DNR) followed with a presentation about the history of elk and their management in Minnesota. Later during the event, the group was accompanied in the field by personnel from the DNR and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to learn about the habitat work that TNC, the DNR, and private landowners are doing to set back aspen encroachment and return the area to a more open state characteristic of the tallgrass aspen parklands. Tours of the Skull Lake and Caribou Wildlife Management areas illustrated this work and the challenges in preserving, restoring, and maintaining these unique habitats.

The Tallgrass Aspen Parklands event was followed on October 23 and 24 by a conference *Ecology of the Aspen Parkland - Life at the Edge* at the University of Minnesota, Crookston



which was attended by approximately 90 people. Naturalists, biologists, and ecotourism specialists from Minnesota, North Dakota, and Canada gave presentations on elk ecology and management, snake dens of Manitoba, recent changes in wildlife and plant distribution, migratory bird routes, ecotourism potentials, early settlement history, and grouse as ecological indicators. This was probably the first time that a full conference has been devoted to this special region of North America. National Geographic photographer, author, and filmmaker Jim Brandenburg gave a special presentation to highlight the conference. The conference also honored Ron Nargang, recently retired State Director of the Minnesota Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and architect of key acquisitions in the Aspen Parkland region. The conference was sponsored by the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society; Northwest Research and Outreach Center; University of Minnesota, Crookston; Crookston Visitor's Bureau; The Nature Conservancy; Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership; Northwest Minnesota Foundation; Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society; Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society; and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

The November 16 National Drought Mitigation Center *Drought Monitor* continues to place much of northern Minnesota in Extreme Drought or Severe Drought categories. The northern reaches of the Red River Valley are considered to be in Moderate Drought. Counties in west central and central Minnesota are Abnormally Dry. Rainfall totals from May 16 through October 30 were <9 inches in some areas of northwestern and north central Minnesota. Rainfall deficits exceeded 6 inches in many northern and central Minnesota communities with rainfall totals ranking below the 5th percentile in many areas. In much of Beltrami County and western Itasca County, rainfall was among the lowest on record for the 5 ½ month period being 10 – 12 inches below normal.

On the upside, these dry conditions have been excellent for field work in the Crookston area. Trails/parking lots that deteriorated during recent wet years have been improved. Heritage funds are being used to mow brush in open landscapes on several prairie units, and numerous firebreaks have been prepared for spring 2007 controlled burns. Crookston staff is also removing duck nesting structures after several decades of management in central and eastern Polk County. In recent years, use by wood ducks, hooded mergansers, and the occasional common goldeneye as well as gray, fox, and flying squirrels has declined substantially. Most of the decline seems to be due to the influx of fishers over the past 5+ years. Staff is considering erecting small groups of boxes on metal poles equipped with predator guards in a few of the better wood duck areas. Whereas these might be safer, more attractive nesting sites, they are considered less aesthetic by some people than are wooden nest boxes mounted on trees.

Bear harvest for Region 1 declined 50% from 2005 (458 vs. 917) and was down 46% from 1997 – 2006 mean harvest of 847. Deer harvest for the regular firearms deer season is anticipated to be approximately 73,300 – 76,200 (compared to a 2005 harvest of 73,975). Area managers are currently entering manual registrations during firearms season into the Electronic Licensing System. Final total should be available by December 11.

Deer were sampled for Bovine TB and data collected regarding Alternative Deer Management during the first 2 weekend of the rifle season. A total of 946 samples (from a goal of 1,000) were



collected in Bovine TB intensive zone with 2,985 samples (from a goal of 3,000) collected in the northern half of the state as part of the statewide surveillance effort.

Samples also were collected to test for avian influenza throughout the Mississippi Flyway this late summer and fall. Live and hunter-harvested birds were sampled in Minnesota as part of the USDA-Wildlife Services (USDA) surveillance program. Pete Sahr (USDA) reported 2,009 cloacal samples and 1,011 fecal samples were submitted from Minnesota. The totals included 1,564 waterfowl samples. Interns with the DNR's Wetland Wildlife Populations and Research Group processed well over half of the agency's quota of 1,000 cloacal swabs. Dr. Greg Hoch of Concordia College, and Peter Sahr captured 183 shorebirds returning from the tundra for cloacal sampling at Bisson Lake at the north end of Hamden Slough NWR. Several dozen other were caught on Leech Lake. The USDA charged their offices to sample 200 shorebirds in each state. Nationally, only Minnesota and Wisconsin reached the quota of 200 shorebirds that was set by the USDA. Dr. Hoch noted that pectoral sandpipers were least able to cope with handling stress.

DNR Wetland Wildlife Populations and Research Group interns also banded 1,694 waterfowl and water birds in the summer and 2,790 ducks prior to the fall hunting season. Summer banding included 17 species with mallards, blue-winged teal, ring-necked ducks, common goldeneyes, and gadwalls accounting for almost 80% of the total. Eight species were banded in the fall with mallards comprising 90% of the total.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and U.S. Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) have recently agreed to expand their partnerships with DNR Private Lands Program for wildlife in northwestern Minnesota.

A cooperative DNR/USDA Brushland Habitat project proposal including 77 priority townships in 7 counties was approved in October. These townships will be added to 49 priority townships in northeastern and east central Minnesota. In the past, most brushland habitat work has occurred on DNR administered lands with little work on private lands. The cooperative project will focus on habitat improvement on private lands using funds from the conservation provisions of the USDA Farm Bill, specifically the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). Interested landowners will be able to apply for cost-share funding through their local county NRCS district conservationist. If approved, a 75 percent cost-share will be provided from WHIP. When possible, funds from DNR Wildlife's Private Lands Program will provide the additional 25 percent cost-share so that the cost will be completely or almost completely funded by these programs. Eligible habitat management techniques will include winter shearing and rotary-axe or mowing, prescribed fire, firebreak construction, herbicide application, and hand cutting.

In addition to the USDA partnership, DNR is also working with the FWS Minnesota private lands office *Partners for Wildlife Program* to further expand brushland habitat management in northwestern Minnesota. FWS funds can be used for brushland projects that benefit migratory species such as sandhill cranes and woodcock. DNR private lands specialists are able to request FWS funds to be applied to private land brushland projects with a dollar for dollar match from DNR funds. Under this partnership, rotary-axe treatment of 100 acres of brushland habitat on 4 private parcels in Marshall and Roseau Counties was successfully completed as the first



cooperative DNR/FWS brushland project in fiscal year 2006. Fifty percent of the cost was paid by DNR and 50% by FWS.

Region 2 - Mike Larson

3 Gray-crowned rosy finches (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*, <http://tinyurl.com/y29cxx>) showed up on some old sunflowers outside the Fond du Lac Resource Management Division office in Cloquet on November 27th. They've been regular visitors since then, and there's been a steady stream of birders from around the state to see them. This is only the 13th record of them from Minnesota and the first Carlton County record.--Mike Schrage

As of Dec. 1, 2006 USDA-Wildlife Services personnel verified 89 complaints of wolf damage (85 involving livestock) and captured 129 wolves statewide in 2006 to reduce further damage. Numbers are very similar to last year.--John Hart

During the opening day of waterfowl season at Canosia WMA in St. Louis county ducks/hunter (1.6) and total harvest were 50% greater than last year.--Martha Minchak

At least 208 moose were harvested in MN this year. This count was current on November 21st, but the Fond du Lac band's season went through December 3rd.

Region 3 - Sheldon Myerchin

-The second annual "Wetland Summit" will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2007 at the Normandale Community College in Bloomington. Please watch for further information on the agenda.

-USDA Farm Service Agency has announced a new CRP Continuous Sign-up Practice, CP-37 which started on October 2, 2006. The CP-37 practice will be targeted in areas that are identified as having a minimum 25 Breeding duck pairs per square mile. The practice allows from a 4:1 up to a 10:1 upland to wetland ratio. Minnesota has an allocation of 8,000 acres to be enrolled into the program.

-With assistance from partnering agencies, organizations and landowners, the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife program completed private land restoration projects covering over 2600 acres of wetland habitat and 4800 acres of upland habitat in Minnesota during fiscal year 2006.

From Sherburne NWR:

- On October 14, 2006 the USFWS and the Friends of Sherburne NWR held a dedication ceremony of the Grewe Unit at the Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. The Friends of Sherburne facilitated the purchase of the 40 acre tract using funds donated by the late Alfred Grewe for this specific purpose. Al Grewe was responsible for establishing thousands of acres of protected land for wildlife in Central Minnesota. He dedicated his adult life to wildlife, playing a pivotal role in establishing Sherburne NWR in 1965, as well as Crane Meadows NWR in 1992.



Grewe was a professor in biology at St. Cloud State University. Over 60 people attended the dedication ceremony.

- The Sherburne NWR annual Christmas Bird Count will be held December 16th starting at 7:30 a.m. Please contact Jim Pasch at (763)662-2179 to register. Birders will meet at the Old Schoolhouse which is located on Sherburne County Road #9, 5.5 miles west of Highway #169.

From Fred Bengtson, MNDNR, Sauk Rapids:

- The Central Minnesota deer harvest report shows an increase of 10 – 15 %.
- Pheasant season to date has been characterized as “exceptionally good” by many area hunters.
- Waterfowl season turned around this year with many “fair to good” comments being made by hunters.
- Efforts to restore Pelican Lake in Wright County continue. A DNR EAW for outletting the lake is expected to be published soon.
- Jason Stordahl is the new Sauk Rapids Assistant Area Wildlife Manager. He hails from the Crookston area and most recently worked for TNC.
- Several new WMA acquisitions are pending in central Minnesota. Bonding revenue has helped spur these possibilities.

From Matt Holland, Pheasants Forever:

- The Minnesota Pheasants Forever State Convention will be held January, 12 – 14, 2007 at Breezy Point, Minnesota. Please contact Eran Sandquist @ (320)236-7755 or esandquist@pheasantsforever.org for agenda or registration information.

- Minnesota’s Habitat Corridors Partnership has recently completed the second phase of its 10-biennia mission to restore, enhance, and conserve habitat corridors for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife, and native plant communities for all generations. Funded by the partners and the Minnesota Environment and Natural resources Trust Fund, this 18-partner entity focuses its restoration and acquisition efforts in identified project areas in a cooperative approach to on-the-ground habitat conservation in Minnesota. For maps, project-of-the-month, or information about the Habitat Corridors Partnership, go to www.mnhabitatcorridors.org or contact the project coordinator @ mholland@pheasantsforever.org .

Region 4 – Curt Vacek

Wildlife - Piles of smiling pheasant hunters, several glowing duck hunters, an occasional smirk from a deer hunter, and plenty of grumblings by the coyote bashers, pretty much summarizes things locally this fall. Summer forecasts for high pheasant harvests have proven to be accurate thus far, with plenty of birds and successful hunters reported region-wide. Reports of waterfowl numbers and hunter success throughout the west and southwest were quite good compared to recent years. One theory is the extensive drought in the central Dakotas may have turned migrating birds east. Into early December, Canada Goose numbers remain very high throughout western MN (e.g. 120,000 on LQP Refuge). Deer harvest in Zone 4 (the agricultural zone) is on pace to be one the highest. However, locally, some counties were down by 25% from 2005, and several hunters continue to question the logic (or lack thereof) for the liberal “all season license”



in the conservative lottery permit areas. A Coyote Forum was held in Herman on November 30 to address local questions and concerns over an apparent expanding coyote population and potential effects on the farmland deer population.

Working Land Initiative - In 2005, several agencies and organizations including USFWS, DNR, TNC, PF, DU, MWA, MN Dept of Ag, NRCS, BWSR, MN Farm Bureau and Farmer's Union formed a discussion group aimed at improving wetland-grassland complex's in the Prairie Pothole Region of Minnesota. Partnerships like this are nothing new. However, a primary focus of this program is to demonstrate landscape management and farming practices hoped to be financially lucrative to operators while at the same time improving critical habitat. Examples include conversion of poor ag land to pasture, native grass production for ethanol, biomass (grasses/shrubs) production, late harvested yellow flowered alfalfa, rotational grazing between public lands and private neighbors, and even delayed drainage structures on tiled ag fields. Nine "Focus Areas" were identified and local teams were established in each. This summer, teams formulated "Target Areas" and submitted project proposals to the discussion group. In September 2006, the group reviewed proposals totaling over \$4.5 million, and allocated \$829,000 among the Focus Areas. It's just a start, but perhaps enough to get some practices turned in the right direction.

Prairie Management Workshop - On August 12th landowners in Southwest Minnesota were invited to a Prairie Management Workshop held at the U of M – SW Research and Outreach Center in Lamberton, MN. Presentations were given on the history of Minnesota's Tallgrass Prairie landscape and it's status today. Also presented was an overview of the wildlife species that call prairie home, and a lesson on how to identify the many diverse plants that make a prairie community. Following a catered lunch participants were broken out into smaller groups for sessions on managing remnant prairies, restoring prairies, and the status and management options for locally invasive species. In the afternoon everyone boarded the "Prairie Ecology Bus" for a tour of the Cottonwood River Scientific and Natural Area (SNA). The SNA tour provided landowners with a first-hand look at a local prairie and it's many management challenges and successes. In total, about 40 landowners from the 5 county area were in attendance. This event was a partnership between the U of M Extension Service, DNR - Section of Wildlife, DNR - Ecological Services (SNA, MCBS, & Nongame programs), and the Prairie Ecology Bus Center, Pheasants Forever, and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Windom Wetland Management District—Mark Vaniman, District Manager

September

Construction of a ¾-mile accessible, interpreted hiking trail at Wolf Lake WPA in Cottonwood County began on June 1. Construction is well underway but behind schedule. The paved trail will be interpreted and features an accessible photo blind, accessible dock, three observation decks, and several benches. The Windom WMD staff hopes it will be completed in time to dedicate during the National Wildlife Refuge Week in October. Lastly, staff has been continuing to eradicate weeds on Service lands.

December

The final inspection of the nature trail has been completed. A small list of items must be completed in order to finalize the contract. The Windom WMD is pursuing several excellent fee title and easement purchases to provide additional quality wildlife habitat and round out WPAs.



Region 5 – Emily Hutchins

Emily Hutchins volunteered to contact 4 potential presenters for the annual meeting for Stacy Salvevold.

Winona Area Wildlife Office—Gary Nelson, Area Wildlife Manager

September

The Winona Office has been busy with several complaints of deer depredating crops. Mowing projects, including WMA parking lots and burn breaks, have kept them busy. Additionally, they are working on posting and development projects on new WMA acquisitions, such as new seedings, food plots, and parking lots. They also are submitting several new WMA acquisition proposals.

December

During the past few months, managers at the Winona Area Office have been busy with private lands agreements and deer season data collection. They also are developing parking lots and posting the new Ferndale Ridge WMA in Houston County.

Rochester Area Wildlife Office—Don Nelson, Area Wildlife Supervisor

September

Governor Tim Pawlenty announced the fourth annual Governor's Deer Hunting Opener will be held this year in the Rochester area on Saturday, 4 November.

This year's event will build on the success of the past three Deer Hunting Openers, which raised thousands of dollars for habitat and conservation projects in Minnesota. The event will also give families a chance to enjoy the natural resources of Minnesota and the Rochester area.

Governor Pawlenty began this new tradition in 2003. The first three Governor's Deer Hunting Openers were held in the Brainerd Lakes area, the Grand Rapids area, and the Perham area.

December

The 2007 Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee (UMRCC) meeting will be held in Red Wing 20-22 March 2007. Don Nelson and Mike Tenney (DNR-Wildlife) are involved in planning for this event.

Regional realignment of the DNR takes effect 1 January 2007. Six southeast counties will be transferred to the Central Region. Changes may be made to area boundaries as well.

Deer seasons are winding down in Zone 3. Harvest appears to be up slightly from 2005.

The fourth annual Governor's Deer Hunting Opener was held Saturday, 4 November in southeast Minnesota. Governor Pawlenty hunted on a private farm near Kenyon in Goodhue County with his brother. Neither of them saw a deer in the time they hunted Saturday morning. A press conference was held at the Rochester DNR office following the hunt.



Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District—Mike Malling, Wildlife Biologist

Brief description for the three months for our 14 County WMD:

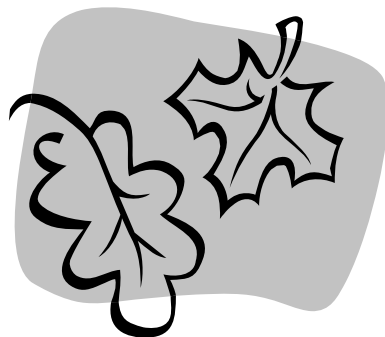
During the months of June, July, and August, Minnesota Valley WMD restored 15 wetlands for 142 acres. Additionally, 5 prairie sites for 150 acres were planted. These projects occurred on private and federal lands.

Region 6 – Bruce Hawkinson

The DNR Wildlife WMA protection group has met and is bringing forth a report to the 2007 Roundtable. The group is made up of conservation groups, cities, townships, counties and DNR staff. The report will address the very difficult issues of ordinances on shooting in WMA's, impacts on habitat, loss of recreation, development adjacent and drainage ditch authority affecting WMA's. There is no simple answer. Although this is done in the Metro, its solutions will be applicable across the state. The WMA system is the backbone of the open and free hunting in Minnesota. Bonding has increased recently to add significant new acres. Public hunting's future lies with the findings of this committee and with the Commissioner to protect this investment in hunting for all Minnesotan's.

Governor Pawlenty created a Conservation Legacy Council, which is composed of citizens, to help prepare state government for the future. Last year an amendment to dedicate a percentage of the sales tax to conservation died on the conference committees table after passing both houses. The Governor is committed to assisting this legislation in 2007. So in preparation for its eventual passage, he is asking this group to put politics aside to create a long-term strategic vision for natural resource and conservation management, governance and funding for Minnesota.

The CLC will determine the following: a funding recommendation, a governance recommendation, and then develop an implementation strategy for the reform efforts.



Committee Memberships –



If you are a member of any of the below committees and do not see your name or see your name and are not on that committee, please contact Dave Trauba for changes.

Audit

Gretchen Mehmel (Chair)
Dave Olfelt

Forest Issues

Tim Quincer (Chair)
Jeff Hines
Martha Minchak
Gretchen Mehmel
Mike Schrage
Wayne Brininger
Thom Soule

Professional Development

Gary Huschle (Chair)
Martha Minchak
Pamela Deerwood

COWCH Project

Stacy Salvevold

Statewide Issues

Bill Faber (Chair)
Mike North

Awards

Martha Minchak (Chair)
Fred Bengtson
Bill Berg
Janet Boe
Wayne Brininger
Ross Hier
Sara Vacek

FWLA Rep

Vacant

Publicity/Programs

Stacy Salvevold
Laura Bonneau
Shelley Gorham

MCF Rep

Bill Faber

Membership

Doug Wells

Fundraising

Norm Moody (Chair)
Jerry Lamon
Rob Naplin

Prairie/Farmland Issues

Greg Hoch (Chair)
Jeanine Vorland
Sharon Goetz
Richard Olson

Wetland Issues

Mike North (Chair)
Stacy Salvevold
Sheldon Myerchin
Laurie Fairchild
Doug Norris
Tim Barberg

Tribal Liaison

Bill Faber

FWLA Representative Needed -
Fish & Wildlife Legislative Alliance (FWLA)

Members,

Our FWLA Committee Chair position is vacant and we desperately need a person, better yet two persons, to represent our Chapter at upcoming FWLA meetings to be held during the next legislative session. As a member of FWLA we have voting privileges on policy items and we need our voice at the table!

We ask interested individuals to be able to attend 4-5 meetings held during the next legislative session. Meetings are in the early evening (5-6 PM) and located in either St. Paul or Golden Valley.

Needless to say this is a great opportunity for a member in the Metro area to become involved in Chapter business and at the same time learn more about the legislative process and issues. Please consider this opportunity.

If interested please contact David Trauba at 320-734-4884. Thank you.

Newsletter Editor Appointed by President -



A transition in the appointed position of newsletter editor has been taking place this year, and the board apologizes for any inconvenience. Shelley Gorham has served our chapter longer than any newsletter editor on record. We appreciate her efforts over the years; her service has been nothing short of spectacular. Thank you very much Shelley for everything you have done for MN TWS!

During this transition an interim editor had to be found and previous newsletter information compiled to get the newsletter rolling off the press again. Stacy Salvevold accepted interim duties until the 2007 Annual Meeting.

Laura Bonneau, Park Ranger at the Prairie Wetland Learning Center, has agreed to accept the duties as newsletter editor. Laura has been the Secretary/Treasurer for the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society for the past two and half years and has done an excellent job in those positions. We are excited to have Laura working on our newsletter! She will begin duties as newsletter editor following the 2007 Annual Meeting.

***Artwork in this issue created by Tom Kelley and Bob Hines, USFWS
Clip Art from Microsoft Works***

New Prairie/Farmland Committee Chair Named –
By Dave Trauba

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Greg Hoch as our new Prairie/Farmland Committee Chair. Mr. Hoch is very passionate and knowledgeable about a wide range of prairie/farmland issues and will serve our Chapter well. This appointment is timely as debate begins on the 2007 Farm Bill. Welcome aboard Greg!

Greg is originally from Indiana but came to Minnesota by way of Kansas where he did his graduate work. He is currently in his fifth year in the Biology Dept at Concordia College, Moorhead. His research projects include shorebirds at Hamden Slough NWR, golden-winged warblers at Tamarac NWR, invasive plants on Waterfowl Production Areas, woody plants in prairie, grazing, and bird banding at Buffalo River State Park. Greg is on the Clay County Local Water Management Plan committee and the MN Prairie Chicken Society board. Contact information for Mr. Hoch can be found at the end of the newsletter.



Forest Issues Committee Report -
By Tim Quincer

A brief committee meeting was held before the last day of the annual meeting at Craguns, on March 2nd, 2006. Five individuals showed up—several others indicated an interest, but were not able to attend due to other commitments.

This committee is still very much in need of adding new members—anyone with an interest is encouraged to contact Tim Quincer or another member. If you know of someone who may be interested, let us know as well.

The chapter board has initially asked the committee to tackle several new/ongoing forest issues: the USFWS decision to designate critical habitat for Canada Lynx in the state; the progress of ongoing OHV system plans; and the potential to develop a chapter position paper on OHV impacts on wildlife in the state. Several other state TWS chapters have developed OHV impact positions, and the MN chapter of The Society of American Foresters is in the process of finalizing their own OHV position.

One exciting new development occurring within the forested portion of the state is the realization that a long-time goal for some MN wildlifers is soon to begin—the harvesting of brush for woody biomass utilization. This is potentially great news for species that rely on brushlands and open landscapes! Some use of woody biomass left after timber harvesting operations may also occur. One biomass plant—being developed by the Laurentian Energy Authority in Hibbing—is slated to start testing the commercial harvesting and utilization of brush as soon as the end of this year. There is also the potential for other plants to start up similar operations around the state.

This new development does lead to a number of questions on how harvesting of biomass should be conducted and where it should occur. The MN Forest Resource Council has begun efforts to pull people together to write BMP's for biomass harvesting. Stay tuned for more information on that effort later this year.

In past action, the USFWS Lynx critical habitat designation action was discussed in a series of e-mails and phone calls between myself and chapter members, USFWS staff, and Lynx experts both within and outside agencies. Feedback on the possibility of a chapter response ended up being mixed, so a decision was made not to proceed with drafting a public response. However, the recent change to CH designation plans (much less land appears to be included than originally planned) may result in the need for more discussion.

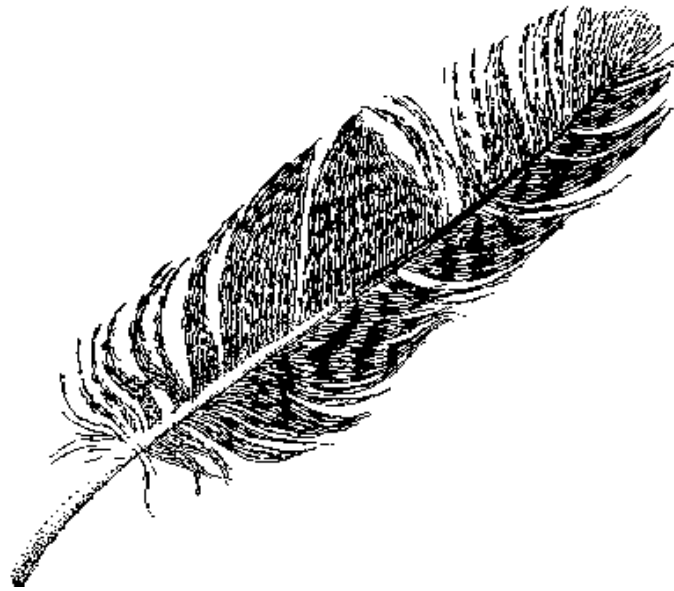
As reported in the last newsletter, a successful brushland management summer workshop was held in McGregor last August. Some discussion of future workshops on forest issues has occurred. Forest management based on native plant community classification is one topic that has been discussed, with the potential for a joint workshop with the state chapter of the Society of American Foresters.

Work is ongoing on preparation of a position on OHV's in the state, with a goal of having



something concrete to review by the 2007 annual meeting. Committee meetings will likely be required as we finalize a draft for board consideration.

Future work likely to see discussion within the committee include the state of the timber industry in the state and it's effects on timber prices and amounts offered for sale, and review of the MN Forest Resources Council's draft guidelines for biomass harvesting, due to be finalized in summer of 2007.



Wetland Issues Committee Report -

The letter below was drafted by Mike North, Chair of the Wetland Issues Committee in response to the Environmental Quality Board solicitation for public comment on New Shoreland Environmental Review Thresholds. Please note the Wetland Committee under Mike's leadership provided very detailed comments early in the planning process.

October 16, 2006

Mr. Greg Downing
Environmental Quality Board



300 Centennial Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. Downing:

The Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society submitted to EQB a detailed list of recommended thresholds and a justification for the thresholds at the beginning of the process for establishing the new EAW category for lakeshore development. We believe our recommendations were very concise and workable for local government units to administer. We provided input on the Citizen's Advisory Committee, and although we did not believe the outcome was perfect, we supported the outcome arrived at through consensus. We note that several staff from the Minnesota Association of County Planning and Zoning Administration (MACPZA) were present, but largely silent; they voiced no real concern at the outcome.

Now we learn that a meeting was held between MACPZA, DNR, Minnesota Waters and MCEA on September 22, 2006 to create a new set of draft rules that were acceptable to MACPZA. We believe that this meeting was out of the bounds established by EQB, as the other parties on the Citizens Advisory Committee were excluded.

Ironically, we share MACPZA's concern that the proposed thresholds are partly unworkable for LGU's to administer. For example, the proposed thresholds involving modifications of habitat in the Shore Impact Zone are based on activities that are otherwise illegal and unlikely to be proposed, or would apply to individual lots on which there are shoreland violations. We believe the threshold needs to be based on proposed activities above the building setback and above the shore impact zone, but that the linear water frontage must be one of the measures in determining the need for an EAW. However, we do not agree with MACPZA that no new thresholds should be established. Therefore, we once again recommend the same specific standards that we originally recommended two years ago. Furthermore, at the time we made our recommendations we understood that EQB would be leading the process, and not farming it off to the DNR to address. We respectfully request that EQB regain control of this process and adopt our original recommendations.

Sincerely,

David R. Trauba
President, Minnesota Chapter
of The Wildlife Society
14042 20th ST NW
Watson, MN 56295

PWS Executive Director Attending Annual Meeting –



Michael Hutchins, Executive Director of The Wildlife Society, will be attending the Minnesota Chapter of TWS Annual Meeting this year. Michael will be in attendance both Wednesday and Thursday, so please take the opportunity to introduce yourself, share your thoughts, and greet our national leader. Michael will be speaking at the Banquet on Wednesday evening about his background and the future of TWS as well as participating in the Student/Professional Discussion Group on Thursday afternoon. This is unique opportunity for our members to meet Michael in a small forum like our Annual Meeting!

Annual Meeting Agenda-

**2007 Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting
Holiday Inn, Alexandria, MN
February 21 & 22, 2007
“Wildlife Management and Research in a Changing Environment”**

Wednesday, February 21, 2007 –

9:30-Noon Executive Board Meeting

Noon-1:00 Meeting Registration

Plenary Session:

1:00-1:15 Introduction and Welcome (MN TWS President: Dave Trauba)

1:15 – 2:00 Donald Senechal, The Windmill Group (general topic - economics and feasibility of cellulosic ethanol versus corn based ethanol, potential farm bill support of cellulosic ethanol)

2:00- 2:45 Michael Larson, Chairman of the TWS Working Group for the Steady State Economy (general topic - conflict between economic growth and wildlife management)

Break 2:45 – 3:15PM

3:15 – 4:00 Lee Frelich, Research Associate and Director, the University of Minnesota Center for Hardwood Ecology (general topic – effects of the BWCAW blowdown, forest fires and global warming on the BWCAW’s forests)

4:00-4:45 Susan Galatowitsch, Associate Professor, the University of Minnesota, Department of Horticulture (general topic – managing reed canary grass to improve wetland habitat quality)

4:45 – 6:00 MN TWS Annual Business Meeting

6:00 – 7:00 Social / Silent Auction / Raffle

7:00 – 8:30 Banquet and Awards Presentation

Speaker: Michael Hutchins, Executive Director, The Wildlife Society

Thursday, February 22, 2007 –

7:45 – 8:40 Meeting Registration



- 8:00 – 8:30 Committee Meetings
8:40 – 10:00 2 Concurrent Technical Sessions (4 presentations each)
10:00-10:30 Break
10:30 – 11:50 2 Concurrent Technical Sessions (4 presentations each)
11:50 – 1:00 Lunch
1:00 – 3:00 2 Concurrent Technical Sessions (6 presentations each)
Student/Professional Discussion Group
Grassland Management Discussion Forum (tentative)

Concurrent Session Focus: (Call for Papers does not close until December 31, 2006)

- Effects of climate change on natural resources
- Effects of bio-fuels, biomass energy, wind power and other alternative fuels on natural resources
- Invasive species management
- Sustaining natural resources into the future, including a look at the next Farm Bill and OHV use in our forests
- Any ongoing or final research results from wildlife and wildlife habitat studies in Minnesota or related to any of our three major biomes.

Call for Technical Papers and Posters
“Wildlife Management and Research in a Changing Environment”

This is a call for technical papers and posters for the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Papers and posters that are related to the meeting theme are encouraged, but all natural resource related topics are welcome. The topics to focus on for this meeting include:

- Effects of climate change on natural resources
- Effects of bio-fuels, wind power and other alternative fuels on natural resources
- Invasive species management
- Off-Highway Vehicles, biomass harvest, and other forest issues
- Sustaining natural resources into the future, including a look at the Farm Bill
- Any ongoing or final research results from studies in Minnesota or related to any of our three major biomes

If you wish to present a paper or poster, please submit a short, simple abstract following the attached format to:

Stacy Salvevold
1410 South Mabelle
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
218-736-0648 work
218-998-2727 home
Stacy_Salvevold@fws.gov



- Abstract deadline is December 31, 2006
- Selected poster and paper presenters will be notified by January 10, 2007
- All topics will be considered but those that deal directly with the conference theme will be given priority
- MS Powerpoint 2003 (or newer) will be the only format supported; no overheads, slides, or Mac based software
- Presentations will be run on conference computers and will need to be loaded via CD or USB storage device at the break before your presentation
- Abstract submission via e-mail is preferred
- Poster presenters, please indicate what you will need to hang your poster
- Poster presenters will be expected to be at their posters during breaks to answer questions

Abstract Format:

Please include in plain type: **paper or poster title, authors name(s), affiliation, e-mail, phone number, and abstract less than 250 words.** If more than one author is listed, please **underline the author who is presenting** the paper or poster. Please indicate whether you are submitting a poster or paper.

Submission to Stacy Salvevold via e-mail is the preferred method:
stacy_salvevold@fws.gov

Format abstract as seen below: (no bold, no underline, and no fancy fonts. Please keep it simple! Thank you!)

Indicate Poster or Paper:

Title:

Authors and Affiliations:

Presenter E-mail:

Presenter Phone:

Abstract Text:

Poster hanging requirements:

Raffle Items Needed for 2007 Annual Meeting Fundraiser -

Members,



On behalf of Norm Moody and the rest of the Fundraising Committee please remember to bring raffle items to the upcoming annual meeting. You know the type of items we are looking for: artwork, hunting/fishing gear, outdoor clothing, magazines/books, collectibles, etc. Remember the raffle is an important fundraiser for the Chapter and half the proceeds go toward funding habitat /conservation projects. The more income we generate the more work we can do for wildlife! Again, please bring raffle items. Thank you in advance.

A Vexilar Pro Pack fish finder will be our large raffle item this year, so come prepared to raise some funds for wildlife conservation in Minnesota.

2007 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

I am currently a Wildlife Lake Specialist with the Shallow Lakes Program - Wildlife, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in Mankato. I conduct field surveys and provide technical assistance to assess and manage shallow lake habitats. Clientele include other DNR staff, local governments, the public, and wildlife organizations, especially Ducks Unlimited. Previous work experiences include 20 years in the Nongame Wildlife Program as coordinator for the Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program, DNR Falconry Liaison, and Assistant Regional Nongame Specialist working in St. Paul. Other work experiences include 2 years as Technician/Assistant Manager at Big Woods State Park and trail corridor work at Minnesota Valley Lawrence Wayside. Four field seasons as a Biological Technician with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Morris Wetlands Management District and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and 8 years seasonal experience at Lac Qui Parle and Thief Lake Wildlife Management Areas during and post college provided an early foundation for growth and direction in my career. I grew up on a farm in the Lac Qui Parle area.

My educational background includes a B.S. in Biology/Ecology from MSU in Moorhead and 2 years of Wildlife Conservation graduate course work at the U of MN, St. Paul. I have taken advantage of additional training opportunities within the DNR and am currently participating in the Leadership Training Program. I have been active in the MN Chapter of the Wildlife Society as a regional representative on the Board and as the Chapter representative to the Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance. I believe the Chapter serves a vital role in the conservation of Minnesota’s natural resources and outdoor heritage. The Board has outlined several important goals and strategies to reach them during the last two years. This work will move forward if interested people become members of TWS and step forward to take an active role. Expanding an active membership, building on connections with educational institutions, and working with



partners to advocate for a long term, ecologically sound future for Minnesota's landscapes and heritage are interests that draw me to the TWS team.

Candidates for Secretary:

Rich Olsen

I am currently employed as the Assistant Area Wildlife Manager with the DNR in Glenwood, and have been with this position since February 2006. I received by BS in Natural Resource Management from Rutgers University in 1991, and my MSc. in Wildlife (emphasis on waterfowl) in 1999 from Louisiana State University. I have been mostly involved in waterfowl research on both wintering grounds and breeding grounds in Louisiana, Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, and the arctic. I have also worked for a year with the Estonian Ornithological Society and Kotkas in Estonia.

My passions and hobbies/interests are waterfowl and upland birds, sustainable living, in addition to most sports and outdoor recreational opportunities * both consumptive and non-consumptive uses. My wife and I are beginning to start a semi-organic farm and plan to deliver fresh produce direct to older folks in and around Glenwood. We also plan to produce several sheep and goats each year for those markets.

I have been a member of the TWS since 1990. But because of traveling and other commitments, I have not been involved with the TWS as much as I would like. Now that I am firmly rooted in Minnesota, this position offers a fantastic opportunity to contribute to the direction of the MN TWS and become involved within the MN TWS. I expect that the secretary position will present many opportunities for professional contacts, challenges, and with educational and personal growth/opportunities.

I look forward to serving all the members of the MN TWS.

Candidates for Treasurer:

Sara Vacek

USFWS – Morris Wetland Management District
43875 230th St.
Morris, MN 56267
320-589-4973 (w)
320-297-0386 (h)
Sara_Vacek@fws.gov

I'm the wildlife biologist at the Morris Wetland Management District (USFWS). I've been in this position for five years, and am responsible for our biological program including inventories, monitoring habitat management effects, and coordinating research on the district. I also coordinate our volunteer program. I am the network leader for the Prairie and Eastern Broadleaf Forest Biological Network, a group of refuge and private lands biologists from Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin. I'm also on the Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society board. I



got my M.S. from South Dakota State University, where I worked on mitigation wetland biodiversity and policy, and B.A. from Lawrence University (Appleton, WI).

I have been a member of TWS since 1998 and a MN TWS member since 2001. I am on the awards committee, and I'm excited about this opportunity to become more involved with our chapter. I feel that I have the organizational and personal skills to be effective in the role of treasurer.

My husband Curt is an assistant wildlife manager in the Appleton Area Office. We live just outside Appleton with our two kids, Luke (3) and Grace (9 mo.). When I'm not chasing after the kids, I enjoy cooking, gardening, birdwatching, and enjoying the view of Marsh Lake from our porch.

Candidates for Regional Representative Region 2:

Mike Larson

Michael A. (Mike) Larson is the Grouse Research Biologist for the DNR. Previously, he was a research ecologist for the USGS at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland. Mike earned a Ph.D. in Wildlife from the University of Missouri, an M.S. in Wildlife from Michigan State University, and a B.A. in Biology from Gustavus Adolphus College. He grew up near Dawson and, later, Askov. Mike enjoys reading and outdoor activities, such as camping and skiing, with his family. Mike is past chair of TWS's Working Group for the Steady State Economy and sees valuable roles for TWS and its members at all levels of the organization.

Candidates for Regional Representative Region 4:

Curt Vacek

Name/Address:

Curt Vacek
DNR Wildlife Office
3715 Campground Rd
Montevideo, MN 56208
(work phone) 320-752-4394
(home phone) 320-276-0386

Education:

1988 – AAS; Natural Resource Management; Vermilion Community College
1997 – BS; Wildlife/Fisheries Sciences; South Dakota State University
1999 – MS; Wildlife Sciences; South Dakota State University

Work Experiences:

Presently working as Assistant Area Wildlife Manager with MN DNR in Appleton. (formerly held same position in Sauk Rapids). Previous employment included: Wildlife Biologist with APHIS in Pierre, SD, Graduate research on shorebirds and snowgeese at La Perouse Bay, Manitoba, and various natural resource positions with USF&WS, Department of Defense and state agencies in Maryland, Alaska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota.



Activities/Interests:

Basically anything involving Outdoors recreation or education.

Personal Statement:

This would be my second term as regional rep. My personal goal is still the same as my last term - to do what it takes to help Mother Nature deal with the onslaught of mankind!

Candidates for Regional Representative Region 6:

Bruce Hawkinson

BACKGROUND

Bruce's 40 years of natural resource experience have been defined by the realization that the protection and management of natural resources is not about managing the resources themselves but about managing the way people use natural resources and define the fundamental quality of life issues. That use is based on human values, which are based, in part, on the social, economic, cultural and ethical parameters of society. His experience working on the Mississippi River with the Corps of Engineers, long-range lake and river planning, hunting and fishing groups and internal constituents of the fish and wildlife agency across the country have resulted in a very diverse background in agency effectiveness, project management; strategic, long range and operational planning, evaluation and outcome measures development.

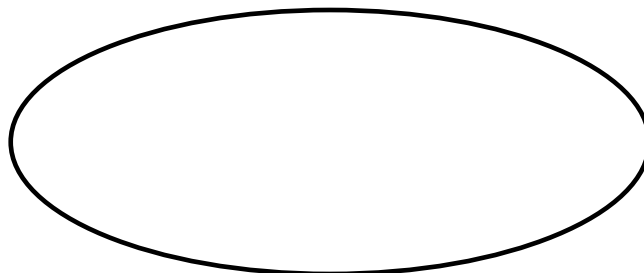
WORK HISTORY - EDUCATION

Work History

1999-present	Founding Member, Dynamic Solutions Group, LLC
1985-present	Fish and Wildlife Planning Supervisor
1983-1985	Lake and Stream Management Planner
1976-1983	Area Fisheries Supervisor
1971-1976	Creel survey and fish study supervisor
1968-1971	Scientist, University of Minnesota
1965-1968	Technician, University of Minnesota

Education

University of Minnesota. Bachelor of Science in Fish and Wildlife Management





**MN TWS Chapter T-shirts are on sale for only \$10 each.
Get yours now! Contact Martha Minchak at
(218)628-3462 or shrooms@peoplepc.com**

2007 Award 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 19, 2007**. 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). Feel free to add more sheets or information.

Please take a minute to look over the list of previous recipients and the explanation of each award following. Then, think of someone who would fit well in the company of previous recipients, and email me a nomination. Remember how nice it is to be pleasantly surprised and how welcome an award can be to a hard-working individual or organization.

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

OTHER AWARDS

If you know of MN TWS members who have received awards this year from other organizations, please let me know. I would like to mention these during the awards ceremony at the annual meeting this winter. Just send me an email at shrooms@peoplepc.com or Martha.minchak@dnr.state.mn.us . Thanks!



MINNESOTA CHAPTER, THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY,
AWARDS HISTORIES 1958-CURRENT

YEAR	MINNESOTA AWARD	CONSERVATION AWARD	STUDENT CONSERVATIONIST	LAW ENFORCEMENT
1958	George Selke			
1959	Lytton Taylor			
1960	Jack Berryman			
1961	John Moyle			
1962	Arnold Erickson			
1963	Samuel Eddy			
1964	Richard Dorer			
1965	William H. Marshall			
1966	George McCullough			
1967	Walter J. Breckenridge			
1968	Flick Davis			
1969	Grady E. Mann			
1970	Milton Stenlund			
1971	Robert Burwell			
1972	Robley W. Hunt			
1973	Art Hawkins			
1974	Dave Vesall			
1975	Ross Hanson			
1976	L. Daniel Frenzel			
1977	Laurits W. Krefting			
1978	Robert E. Farnes			
1979	Gordon W. Gullion			
1980	Max Partch			
1981	David Dickey			
1982	**			
1983	John Mathisen			
1984	Arlin Anderson			
1985	Carl Madsen	Minnesota Waterfowl Association		
1986	L. David Mech	MN Chapter, The Nature Conservancy		
1987	John Scharf	Fish & Wildlife Legislative Alliance		
1988	Alfred Berner	Nicollet Conservation Club		
1989	Wallace Dayton	The Big Game Club-Special Projects		
1990	Edward Crozier	Friends of the Minnesota Valley		
1991	Roger M. Holmes	Pheasants Forever		
1992	Harvey Nelson	Itasca Community College	Eric Spadgenske	Doug Sandstrom
1993	Carrol Henderson	Clean Up Our River Environment	Dean Paron	David Mador
1994	Jan Green	Sportsmen's Coalition Clean Minn. River	Jane Mueller	Todd Manley
1995	William E. Berg	Hennepin Co. Parks – DNR	Kent Sundseth	Larry Lewis
1996	Alfred H. Grewe	Ducks Unlimited – Minnesota	Eric Rosenquist	David Duncan
1997	Al Radtke	Central Lakes College – Natural Resources	Myron Weltikol	Jeff Birchem
1998	Larry R. Nelson	Rice Area Sportsmen's Clubs	Eric Thorson	John F. Smith
1999	Dan Svedarsky	Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society	Shane Osborne	Martin Book
2000	Robert Janssen	Izaak Walton League – Minnesota Div.	Emily Spinler	Leland Owens
2001	Larry Lewis	Minnesota Conservation Federation	Chad Nordstrom	Tom Provost
2002	Ross Hier	Central Minnesota Audubon Society	Dan Oberg	Brian Mies
2003	Francesca Cuthbert	KAXE Northern Community Radio	Tom Gorman	Joyce & Paul Kuske
2004	Douglas Keran	Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society	Russell Kleinschmidt	Karl Hadrits
2005	Terrance Wolfe	Stearns County Pheasants Forever	Nathaniel Emery	Richard Stoltman

**Prior to 1981, awards presented in year following recognition; since 1983, awards presented in year of recognition.



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 19 January 2007 indicating interest and explain how you meet the requirements to the MN Chapter Membership Chair, Doug Wells 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 21 February - 22 February, 2007. Submit Applications to: Doug Wells, MN TWS Membership Chair, 20274 250th Street, Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56537 or Doug_Wells@fws.gov.



Habitat Project Proposals -



**MINNESOTA CHAPTER – THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
REQUEST FOR HABITAT PROJECT PROPOSALS
DEADLINE MARCH 31, 2007**

The Minnesota Chapter of TWS is accepting project proposals to help fund habitat work in Minnesota. The deadline for receiving proposals is March 31, 2007. Proposals will be reviewed at the April 2007 TWS board meeting and applicants will be notified shortly thereafter on the board's decision. In recent years this fund has helped sponsor work dealing with outdoor education and land acquisition.

Proposals must provide the following information:

- MN Chapter TWS Region
- County
- Project Description (be specific, e.g., project importance, project goals or objectives, methodology, acres affected, expected completion date, project cooperators, etc. If applicable, please submit map of the project area)
- Funds Requested For Project
 - Please indicate if partial project funding is acceptable
 - Please list other funding sources and/or in-kind match & amount for each along with total anticipated project cost.
- Applicant Contact Information (name, address, primary phone number, and e-mail address required. If Student Chapter please list contact information for advisor)

To apply please e-mail proposals to David Trauba (datrauba@yahoo.com) **AND** Stacy Salvevold (stacy_salvevold@fws.gov) in MS Word. Questions please call David Trauba at 320-734-4884 (h) or 320-734-4451 (w).

Star Tribune article "Grass Beats Corn In Ethanol Study". Article by Mike Meyer.
Check it out at <http://www.startribune.com/535/story/861837.html>

Wildlife Policy News from PWS National -

**Wildlife Policy News
The Wildlife Society**

Volume 16, Issue 6, December 2006

Editor: Laura M. Bies

Reporter: Pamela Thompson

In this Issue:

1. Power Shift in Congress Changes Focus for Wildlife Policy, Environmental Issues



2. DOE and FWS Sign Agreement on Migratory Birds
3. Hunting Policy Expanded for Yellowstone Bison
4. Poaching Threatens Hippos in a Congo National Park
5. Elk Feedgrounds in Wyoming Causing Controversy
6. President Bush Signs Several Conservation Bills into Law
7. Judge Rules in Suit on Bird Mortality from Wind Turbines
8. Border Issues Continue to Affect Public Lands on U.S.-Mexico Border
9. New Report on Mercury and Wildlife Released
10. State of Louisiana Refuges One Year After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
11. Judge Rules on Legality of Drilling in Roadless Areas
12. New Study on Global Warming Finds Effects on Wildlife
13. Wolf Management Subject of Lawsuit in Wyoming

To read this issue of Wildlife Policy News online, go to <http://www.wildlife.org/policy/index.cfm?tname=wpnv16&issue=v16i6>

To download the entire issue, go to <http://www.wildlife.org/policy/WPN06.6.pdf>

Wildlife Policy News is intended to foster the exchange of information about policy issues among Society leaders. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official policy of The Wildlife Society unless so stated. Please share this publication with your colleagues. Contents may be reprinted with credit to Wildlife Policy News. We welcome comments and suggestions for future issues (laura@wildlife.org).



Executive Board Members



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<p>Newsletter Editor: Shelley Gorham 202 Gould Ave SE Bemidji, MN 56601 (w) 218-755-3914 (h) 218-444-4143 rmgorham@yahoo.com</p>		

Committee Chairs and Student Chapters



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<p>Professional Development Gary Huschle 18740 144th Ave NW Thief River Falls, MN 56701 (w) 218-449-4115 (h) 218-681-1035 honkerharmony@wiktel.com</p>	<p>FWLA Representative Vacant</p>	<p>UMN-Twin Cities President Luke Kusilek</p>
<p>Awards Martha Minchak 5420 Old Hwy 61 Proctor, MN 55810 (w) 218-628-3462 shrooms@peoplepc.com</p>	<p>Membership Doug Wells 20274 250 ST Fergus Falls, MN 56537 (w) 218-736-0636 (h) 218-736-4469 doug_wells@fws.gov</p>	
<p>Publicity/Programs Stacy Salvevold 1410 South Mabelle Fergus Falls, MN 56537 (w) 218-736-0648 (cell) 218-770-2062 (h) 218-998-2727 stacy_salvevold@fws.gov</p>	<p>Statewide Issues Bill Faber Central Lakes College Department of Natural Resources 501 West College Drive Brainerd, MN 56401 (w) 218- 855-8082 (h)218-575-2328 wfaber@clcmn.edu</p>	
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