

Minnesota Chapter

Newsletter

The Wildlife Society

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 4

DECEMBER 2007

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President's Message

Well this is it, my last column in the newsletter as your president. It has been a heck of a year! What a wonderful experience to be able to lead this fantastic group of people. I feel blessed to have found work in Minnesota. The wildlife professionals that I have been able to work with in Minnesota are top notch. You all keep me on my toes, which is truly wonderful!

The year has gone by so quickly! We have been busy with policy work all year. The position statements on OHV's and the Farm Bill were finished and distributed in March and April. We weighed in on the Forest Industry Task Force meeting. Two of our members traveled to Washington, D.C. with the National Wildlife Federation. While meeting with our congressional staff, they distributed our position statements and expressed our views on the Farm Bill. We signed on to a Farm Bill funding letter with many Minnesota conservation organizations that went to Washington this fall as well. All of this contact led to Amy Klobuchar's office contacting us for more information about our group and requesting a sit down meeting with us. We are going to be sending a press release to MN media about the Clean Water Restoration Act and a letter to our congressional staff supporting Representative Oberstar's bill. It has been a productive year! (Both the press release & letter follow in the newsletter)

We have been making updates to our new website, and will purchase a newly designed display for our chapter. Making these changes will improve communication from our group. Keeping up with technology is the key to keeping the next generation of biologists informed and active. We have also been coordinating with the Minnesota Chapters of the American Fisheries Society and the Society of American Foresters. We released a couple of joint press releases, and we got some good publicity in the Duluth Newspaper about our views on OHV's. We have been told by our lobbying groups that people take our opinion very seriously. When we send information to our legislators, they really pay attention. I find it gratifying to hear that we are being taken seriously and that our hard work does not go un-noticed in the legislature.

Steve Kittelson is hard at work on the Annual Meeting that will be held at Ruttger's Lodge in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on February 5 -7, 2008. We are pleased to be holding a joint meeting with the Society of American Foresters regarding prescribed fire as an ecological management tool. Keep your eyes open for registration materials!

On a side note, I have noticed many of our members impacted by cancer in the past year. A number of our board members' families, former leaders of our chapter, and member's friends and families have been impacted. I know my request below is not typical, but I have been touched by how many people who have ties to MN TWS in some way have been impacted. To honor our friends, family, co-workers, and others, I am asking everyone who can to consider making a donation to the American Cancer Society or Susan G. Komen for the Cure organization during the holiday season. I know this is unconventional, but it feels important enough to me to add to my message.

Remember this is your chapter! The theme for this year's Midwest is a quote from Gandhi, "Be the change that you want to see in the world." I challenge you to be the change that you want to



see in our chapter! Get involved! It is an experience that you will not regret! I have been very busy with business this year, and I would not trade the experience for anything!

Enjoy the Holidays with family, friends, dogs and shotguns! I hope to see all of you at the upcoming Annual Meeting.

Stacy Salvevold
President, MN TWS

Treasurer's Report

MN Chapter TWS – Quarterly Report 1 August 2007 – 26 November 2007

Savings (Bremer 69172740)	\$ 300.56
Beginning Balance	\$ 300.18
Change	\$ 0.38
<u>Debits</u>	\$ 0.00
<u>Credits</u>	
Interest	\$ 0.38
Checking (Bremer 07137958)	\$ 5,823.75
Beginning Balance	\$ 6,707.00
Change	(\$ 883.25)
<u>Debits</u>	
Sheldon Myerchin (summer workshop)	\$ 125.04
Peterson Bus (summer workshop)	\$ 275.00
Shubat Transportation (summer workshop)	\$ 325.00
Printing Plus (July newsletter)	\$ 489.00
McKale's Catering (summer workshop)	\$ 684.53
Jeff Hines (summer workshop)	\$ 200.95
Tim Quincer (summer workshop)	\$ 32.10
Doug Franke (newsletter postage)	\$ 133.62
Bill Faber (MCF expenses)	\$ 360.28
Printing Plus (Sept newsletter)	\$ 351.00
Univ. of MN (birch workshop)	\$ 30.00
<u>Postmaster (bulk mail permit)</u>	<u>\$ 175.00</u>
Debits Subtotal	\$ 3,181.52
<u>Credits</u>	
Summer workshop Registrations	\$ 2,285.00
Membership	\$ 5.00
<u>Interest</u>	<u>\$ 8.27</u>
Credits Subtotal	\$ 2,298.27
Savings (Affinity Plus S1)	\$ 10.59
Beginning Balance	\$ 10.23
Change	\$ 0.36
<u>Debits</u>	\$ 0.00
<u>Credits</u>	
Transfer from checking (Affinity Plus S8)	\$ 0.36



Checking (Affinity Plus S8)	\$ 0.00
Beginning Balance	\$ 0.36
Change	(\$ 0.36)
<u>Debits</u>	
Transfer to Savings (Affinity Plus S1)	\$ 0.36
<u>Credits</u>	\$ 0.00
***This account is now closed (August 31, 2007)	
12 Month CD (Affinity Plus 7045270)	\$ 2117.81
Life memberships, matures 16 Aug 2008	
60 Month CD (Affinity Plus 7016288)	\$ 3081.61
Moose conference, matures 2010	
Total Chapter Assets as of 26 November 2007	\$ 11,334.32

Sara Vacek, Treasurer
26 November 2007

Board Meeting Minutes

MN TWS Fall Board Meeting DNR Office, Brainerd, MN 26 November 2007

Call to Order: 10:45 am

Present: Stacy Salvevold, Sara Vacek, Richard Olsen, Bill Faber, Mike North, Dave Trauba, Mike Zicus, Gary Huschle, Thom Soule, Luke Anderson, John Loegering, Sheldon Myerchin, Steve Kittelson

Officer Reports

Agenda Review – Call for Additional items. Teaming with Wildlife – added to New Business as a request from National TWS to sign on to a letter (see details in New Business)

Correspondence – No significant correspondence during the quarter.

Secretary Report – Motion to Approve minutes from last meeting (August 1 2007, Spicer MN) - G. Huschle, 2nd by M. Zicus and unanimously passed.

Treasurer Report:

- 12 mo CD has been renewed
- FWLA has not cashed their check from MN TWS – this needs to be addressed
- S. Vacek reports that the Woody Invasive Species Workshop in Spicer made >\$600 and the Forest Management Workshop broke even
- Motion to Approve Treasurer Report by G Huschle, 2nd by D Trauba, and unanimously passed.



Newsletter Editor Report – As usual, the newsletter needs items. It is critical that they be given to John Loegering by 1 December

Electronic Motions: Motions and results by emails during the last quarter.

Support for Bill Faber's expenses to D.C. with National Wildlife Federation up to \$500 (C. Vacek - motion, S. Vacek - 2nd, Passed)

Sign on to MCF letter to Klobuchar and Coleman on Farm Bill Funding (Myerchin motion, Faber 2nd, passed)

Clean Water Restoration Act letter and Climate Change Bill with MCF (both tabled)

NRCS Technical Committee Members Named: Salveold

Jodi Provost accepted position as main representative from TWS as NRCS Tech Committee

Dave Trauba will be the alternate

Greg Hoch will represent Prairie Chicken Society and will stand in for TWS in emergencies.

Old Business

Janet Boe Memorial Award

Board decided to make an annual award to recognize an outstanding female individual in natural sciences (professional or student) working in Minnesota.

Ross Hier has offered to paint original painting of eared grebes for display by the award winner and MN TWS Chapter will pay for the framing of the painting.

Additionally, there will be 2 plaques presented to the winner. One plaque will recognize the award winner and remain with the winner. The second plaque will list all the names of the previous winners, be updated each year, and act as a traveling plaque similar to the annual MN Award. This plaque and the painting will be returned each year and given to the next winner during the MN TWS annual meeting.

Motion to Approve all the above – G. Huschle, 2nd Mike North, and unanimously passed.

Operations manual – Distribution of new manual continues. Anyone who hasn't received his or her manual, please contact Stacy Salveold.

Subsurface Tile Drainage Position Statement – Trauba has nothing to report

Annual Meeting 2008

- Kittelson reports that the preliminary agenda is still under development and will be distributed to Salveold ASAP
- Annual meeting scheduled for February 5-7, 2008 in Grand Rapids, MN in conjunction with SAF
- Federal/DNR Coordination meeting will be held during the afternoon of 5 February with the TWS Executive Board Meeting to follow that evening.
- Huschle made a Motion to Approve \$500 for use in raffle expenses/prizes for the annual meeting. 2nd by Trauba, Passed



Clean Water Restoration Act Letter and Press Release (printed elsewhere in the newsletter)

- Salvevold reports that MN TWS has asked AFS to sign on to a letter to support Rep Oberstar's bill in the House of Representatives that will protect waters of our country and also close many loopholes that currently exist with water law.
- Motion to Approve M Zicus, 2nd G Huschle, Passed

Student Mentoring Program Progress

- Hansen and Berdeen will make a Power Point presentation at the annual meeting, says Salvevold. This will kick off the student mentoring program. Refinements will need to be made in this process, but we need Mentors willing to work/advise students. Volunteers please recognize yourselves.

MN TWS Display

- Salvevold handed out information regarding display boards. After review, \$600 will be needed for display board and to print quality images. Motion to Approve by G Huschle, 2nd by S Myerchin, Passed

Habitat Project:

- Salvevold attended the North Fork WMA Dedication that was partly funded by MN TWS habitat project dollars. Salvevold reports that the event was well attended, and there was lots of interest and enthusiasm from many partnering agencies/sportsmen's clubs to support such projects.

Progress on Wind Energy and Biomass Energy Position Statements

- Some discussion as to what MN TWS can contribute, but it was generally agreed that TWS should be involved on these issues and take a stand and develop guidelines for better structures and locations.
- S Myerchin reports that USDA NRCS has received inquiries about using Grassland Reserve Program acres as sites for wind turbines.

New Business

Minnesota Conservation Federation (MCF) and Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance (FWLA) Meeting with American Fisheries Society (AFS)

- Salvevold reports that there are issues pertaining to dock sizes in lakes – DNR would like to limit dock size
- Dedicated Funding Bill (aka Heritage 08) did not pass the conference committee
- Ditch buffer rules passed last session – essentially says the ditch buffer begins at the top of the ditch bank (not the middle of ditch) and proceeds outward 1 rod in length.
- Money has been allocated to look at benefits of ditches, their location, and value.
- Wetland Conservation Act of 2007 tightened some wetland rules.
- Game and Fish bill is asking for lots of money for acquisition.

Request to Meet with Klobuchar's Office

- Salvevold reports that they are still trying to find a suitable time and date to meet with Klobuchar's office. They would like to know more about MN TWS and what we do.



Funding Request for AFS Career Books for Midwest, 2nd time

- Board decided that TWS is not apt to support this request because the main focus is on fisheries careers and not wildlife
- M North suggested we table the issue until we can find this book to see what exactly we would be supporting

Request to Judge Wildlife Papers at Midwest in 2010

- Minnesota will be hosting the Midwest Wildlife Conference in 2010. MN TWS Chapter will help with judging wildlife papers as well as help out elsewhere as needed.

Forest Industry Task Force Meets Again Without Wildlife Input

- TWS sent a letter to DNR and Governor that said that the task force did not include wildlife input and that we respectfully request a seat at the table. Did not get a favorable response, so S Salvevold will resend a similar letter asking for inclusion with the task force.

Streamlining the E – Voting by the TWS Board in order to respond to congressional happenings

- E-voting is working rather well, although a bit cumbersome, and the issues have been important and relevant. Suggestions to improve or maintain this functionality is to only bring up important time sensitive issues that need a quick response and to state explicitly what needs to be done (i.e., motion to approve action)

Teaming With Wildlife

- Salvevold reports recent letter to sign onto from National TWS. Essentially, revenue will be generated from selling carbon credits and do we (wildlife) want money from industry and allow them to pollute. Salvevold will request more information from national so that a more informed decision/discussion can occur.

Regional Reports:

Region I: Mike Zicus

Reported on scaup die off at Winnie Lake. Information available on the DNR website.

Region III: Sheldon Myerchin

- Partners in Wildlife celebrated their 20th Anniversary.
- Pheasants Forever was awarded outstanding partner award for USFWS Region 3
- Habitat conservation Partnership submitted proposal for \$6+Million to LCCMR and is receiving \$3+ Million

Student Chapter Reports:

U of MN Crookston: Luke Anderson

- L Anderson reports that the student chapter has been very busy with a variety of wildlife projects. Conducted a fundraiser to send 8 students to the Midwest Conference in Madison this year, banded ducks at Agassiz NWR, put out tree tubes to mitigate deer browse damage at Rydell NWR, and have removed invasive buckthorn at various places. Job well done.



Committee Reports – Standing Committees

Membership: Trauba – No notable changes in membership

Program and Publicity: Kittelson – List of candidates and bios will be available on the MN TWS website

Committee Reports – Special Committees

Awards – Nomination for awards information will be in the newsletter, but get any information to Martha Minchak

Professional Enhancement – G Huschle reports that regional reps are now responsible for summer workshops and the duties of the committee have diminished to the point where it may be appropriate to abolish this committee. This will need to be addressed in 2008 with review of the bylaws.

Wetland Issues – M North reports that BWSR is working on rules changes regulating ‘impacts’ of activities such as dredging. WCA – would like to regulate wetlands through the use of wetland plant communities instead of wetland types (i.e., I, II, II, IV).

Minnesota Conservation Federation – Faber related that he had a good trip to DC and it was very informative and interesting. Thanks MN TWS for financial assistance. Also related that potential Sharp-tailed grouse habitat acquisition project in Aiken County. Information to request money for Habitat Projects will be in the upcoming newsletter and applications will be considered at the next board meeting in February 2008.

Motion to Adjourn – S Vacek, 2nd Myerchin, Passed, Adjourned 1:55 pm (1355)

Regional Reports

Region 1 – Mike Zicus

The latest November 27 National Drought Mitigation Center *Drought Monitor* places a relatively small area of west central and central Minnesota in the "Moderate Drought" category with portions of northwestern and north central Minnesota remaining "Abnormally Dry", an acknowledgement of a lingering precipitation deficit in the northwestern part of the state. Rainfall totals for September and October were near normal for much of the region. All other Minnesota locales are deemed to be free of drought conditions.

Field work for the 2nd year of a ring-necked duck study was completed by Minnesota DNR staff and interns. Fifty-two ducklings were captured across a large study area in central and northwestern Minnesota, and these were fitted with radio-

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transmitters. Attempts were made to locate birds weekly from the air with their use of refuges monitored continuously by telemetry receivers on fixed towers. Eighteen radio-marked birds used at least 1 refuge; however, not all refuges were used nor were refuges used equally. Mud Goose, Drumbeater, and the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) were the most heavily used. No radio-marked birds were documented at Rice Lake NWR (an important fall ring-neck refuge) nor were any radio-marked birds located on several state refuges.

A die-off of 6,000-7,000 scaup and about 200 coots occurred on Lake Winnibigoshish beginning in late October. Scaup deaths were caused by a trematode (*Sphaeridiotrema globulus*). This is the first known occurrence of this parasite causing a scaup die-off in north central Minnesota. The National Wildlife Health Center has not determined the cause of the coot deaths, but it was not due to the trematode that was killing scaup. The trematode involved in the die-off has a complex life history and requires 2 intermediate hosts such as snails. Large numbers of banded mystery snails (*Viviparus georgianus*) have been documented along the western side of Lake Winnie for at least 8 years. The species is native to eastern North America and has been documented in other Minnesota lakes. Some of the scaup examined had eaten this snail; however, there has been no confirmation yet that the parasite came from these snails or that it can serve as an intermediate host species for this species of trematode. No new dead or sick birds were observed during a survey of the west side of Winnie on November 19th.

DNR staff, vet students, and USDA disease biologists again sampled deer for Bovine TB during the rifle season. A total of 1,085 samples were collected, and 3 carcasses were confiscated from the Skime area. Two of these had lesions in the chest cavity and on the lungs that were suggestive of the disease. The third carcass had abscessed lymph nodes only. Preliminary lab results are not available yet, but there will likely be at least 2 positives in the sample. Both of the expected positives were shot in the geographic area where the disease has been found previously in wild deer.

Samples also were collected again to test for avian influenza (AI) throughout the Mississippi Flyway this late summer and fall, and live and hunter harvested birds were sampled in Minnesota as part of the USDA-Wildlife Services (USDA) surveillance program. There were 3 different sampling efforts in MN this year with many samples collected in the region: 1) a joint Minnesota DNR / USDA effort, in which samples were taken from ~1,500 birds, 2) a University of Georgia - Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, in which ~600 Canada geese and more than 300 ducks were sampled during the summer and several hundred were ducks sampled during the fall, and lastly 3) an effort by students from the University of Minnesota Veterinary School directed by Dr. Dave Halvorson. No positives were detected in the Canada goose samples with testing of the ducks samples continuing.

Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge Update. More than 1,600 ducks were banded in September at the Agassiz NWR. The total included more than 1,200 mallards, and the annual mallard quota was met for all sex/age categories. Additionally, small numbers of pintails, black ducks and mallard/black hybrids and a single wood duck were banded.

The refuge was recently awarded 2 grants to investigate water quality of refuge inflows and outflows. Field work will take place in 2008 and 2009 in cooperation with the Red Lake



Watershed District, Minnesota DNR, USGS Water Resources Discipline (Grand Forks, ND), and the Northwest Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnership. Gauging stations will be installed at several inflow and outflow locations where water level, flow, temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH, and specific conductivity will be monitored. Additional work will measure sediment accretion and levels of phosphorus, ammonia, and organic nitrogen.

The refuge again had an active prescribed fire year. Two management units, each exceeding 2,000 acres, were burned in August in an attempt to reduce cattail and common reed coverage. Further, since October 1 more than 5,300 acres have been burned on the refuge, including 2 units larger than 2,000 acres. As of late November, areas of peat continue to burn in 3 units, including one that was first burned in mid-August.

As of the end of November approximately 63,000 firearms deer had been registered in the DNRs northwest region through the Electronic Licensing System (ELS). This was about 10% less than for this date in 2006. Adult bucks were down approximately 5% and antler-less deer were down about 13%. There will be another 2,000-3,000 non-ELS deer registrations entered into the system during the next couple of weeks. Early antler-less season firearms registration for October 13 - 14 was 3,626 for 13 Deer Permit Areas in the region.

Region 2 - Mike Larson – No Report

Region 3 - Sheldon Myerchin

The Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP), formerly the Habitat Corridors Partnership, a group of 18 agencies and organizations, was informed that a proposal submitted to the new Legislative and Citizens Commission on Minnesota's Resources is being referred for legislative approval of \$3.125 million from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ETF) to restore, conserve and protect fish and wildlife habitat in the state during fiscal year 2009. This is Phase V of the HCP's plan to utilize ETF funds to benefit Minnesota's natural resources.

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The Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP) celebrated its 100,000th acre of wildlife habitat protected, restored or enhanced in Minnesota with a dedication ceremony on Henry Lake at Albion WMA in Wright County on September 21, 2007. Approximately 50 people attended the ceremony which included state legislators, LCCMR citizen members, Minnesota Lottery officials, and HCP partners.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's *Partners for Fish and Wildlife* private lands habitat restoration program kicked off its 20th Anniversary celebration with a conference and workshop in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Approximately 250 FWS biologists and partnering agencies and organizations attended along with several private land owners. Pheasants Forever, Inc. received the Partnership Award for the FWS Midwest Region for their contributions and partnership on several habitat restoration projects since the start of the program in 1987.

Mark your calendars to attend Pheasant Fest on January 17-20, 2008 at River Centre in St. Paul.



Region 4 – Curt Vacek

DNR “Deer Goal Setting” meetings (completed in 2006) indicated the public wanted to see deer populations increased throughout most of SW MN. In response, antlerless permits were drastically reduced (50 – 90%) in many of the lottery areas this fall. Preliminary harvest data indicate overall harvest in SW MN was reduced by about 25%.

The waterfowl migration was another late one, with no big numbers of birds pushing through until Thanksgiving week, when the main ice-up finally started. Most migrators were geese and dabblers; leaving many hunters wondering where all the divers were this year.

Evidence of expiring CRP contracts can be seen on the landscape as many acres (too many!) were hayed, burned, and/or ripped this fall. We all need to do our part to make sure our legislators understand our resources cannot afford to lose such important conservation programs.

From the local Ducks Unlimited biologists. – Completion of 1,662-acre west pool project at Big Stone NWR (early December). Also beginning construction of water control structure on Hjermstad Lake located on Hjermstad WMA in Murray County next week. Hjermstad is a 70 acre basin in a complex with 2 other 50 acre basins that currently have control structures (North and South Marshes on Hjermstad WMA).

From Madelia Farmland Research Station – The Farmland Wildlife Research office in Madelia has 2 new employees, bringing us to full staff for the first time in 3 years. Eric Dunton is the new Wild Turkey Research Biologist. Eric is from Michigan and worked most recently for Michigan DNR. Molly Tranel is the new Habitat Evaluation Biologist. Molly is originally from Illinois but worked most recently in Wyoming.

From Windom Wetland Management District. – Continue draw down of Wolf Lake to allow for spring repair of water control structure (WCS). Also lowering the east pool on Wolf Lake WPA to allow for culvert repair/replacement on WCS. There were 10 trumpeter swans on Wolf Lake until ice-up.

Region 5 – Emily Hutchins – No Report

Region 6 – Bruce Hawkinson – No Report

Student Chapter Reports

University of Minnesota, Crookston student chapter has had a great fall semester. We kicked off the year with our annual fundraiser. This year we had much success with a Domino’s pizza coupon fundraiser. We also spent much of our time with community volunteer projects. A number of members helped eradicate Russian Olive and Eurasian Buckthorn from the local elementary school nature center. We also installed protective tubes around native tree saplings at Rydell National Wildlife Refuge to protect them from deer browsing. Our club also strives to bring in speakers several times during the semester. These include researchers, professionals related to our fields of study, and students with interesting field experiences. Recently Lou



Cornicelli talked about his big game capture adventures in the western United States. Upcoming events include buckthorn removal and wood duck box cleaning at Rydell National Wildlife Refuge. Eight students will attend the 68th Annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Madison, Wisconsin thanks to our hard fundraising efforts. Luke Anderson, President.

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Student Chapter. On Dec. 1 about 20 chapter members visited the Minnesota Zoo and got behind-the-scenes tours of the Minnesota and Tropics Trails. Members participated in discussions about the role of zoos in species conservation, public education, and professional opportunities in zoos courtesy of Kevin Willis and Tom Ness. Recently, the chapter received a \$3000 grant from the Students Activities Office for a January ice fishing trip in Upper Red Lake. The trip will be shared with the UofM's Hunting and Fishing Club and Environmental Studies Club. Through the winter months, work on Sarita Wetland continues. Chapter members are currently drafting habitat management plans for the site to be reviewed by the entire chapter. In addition, drafting of proposal and project ideas for our annual beautiful U day grant and Sarita restoration in the spring will begin soon. Andres Morantes, President.

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

COWCH Project

Stacy Salvevold

Awards

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

Fundraising

Norm Moody (Chair)
Jerry Lamon
Rob Naplin

Tribal Liaison

Bill Faber

Forest Issues

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

FWLA Rep

Vacant

MCF Rep

Bill Faber

Prairie/Farmland Issues

Greg Hoch (Chair)
Jeanine Vorland
Sharon Goetz
Richard Olsen

Professional Development

Gary Huschle (Chair)
Martha Minchak
Pamela Deerwood

Statewide Issues

Bill Faber (Chair)
Mike North

Publicity/Programs

Stacy Salvevold
Laura Bonneau
Shelley Gorham

Membership

Doug Wells

Wetland Issues

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



Fish & Wildlife Legislative Alliance (FWLA) Representative Needed

Mike Dings moved on to a new position in Arizona and resigned as our Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance Representative (FWLA). This is an important position for our chapter. FWLA meets twice a month at the Kelly Inn in St. Paul during the legislative session each year (January – May). We pay for a voting membership in the FWLA. It is one of two lobbying organizations of which we are a part. This political involvement through FWLA is one of the best ways that our chapter can influence state politics as they relate to natural resources. If you live in the Twin Cities metro area and are interested in a more active role with your chapter, please consider this opportunity.

Volunteering for the board is very rewarding and lots of fun. This is a great opportunity to make a difference for wildlife and wildlife professionals and have fun doing it. Please contact President Stacy Salvevold at 218-770-2062 or stacy_salvevold@fws.gov if you can support MN TWS by volunteering to be our next FWLA representative.

Newsletter Editor Appointed by President Salvevold

Eric Dunton, the new wild turkey biologist for MN DNR, will be the next MN TWS newsletter editor. We are all very excited to have a new member and a fresh face on the executive board. Many thanks to Eric for his willingness to take on this role! Eric will be officially appointed to the position at the next board meeting during our annual meeting. Welcome Eric!

For those with submissions for the next newsletter, send them to eric.dunton@dnr.state.mn.us by March 1, 2008. In this time of generosity and resolution, let us all be sure to get Eric complete submissions a day or two ahead of time!

On a related note, a huge thank you to John Loegering who volunteered to help with the MNTWS newsletter this month. It is a busy time of year, and this was very helpful!

North Fork WMA Dedication

The habitat project that MNTWS supported this year was the acquisition of the North Fork Wildlife



Management Area in southwestern Stearns County near Brooten. I represented MNTWS at the dedication on a beautiful October afternoon. Fred Bengston held a short program recognizing



the contributors to the acquisition project on Thursday, October 11, 2007. MNTWS contributed \$1,500 to the 155 acre WMA acquisition along the North Fork River. We were one of over 18 partners in this project, with some of the local clubs being substantial contributors to this project. It was great to see such a diverse piece of land enter the WMA system. This property has woods, native prairie, seeded grass, wetlands, and river bottom lands. It was even better to see the passion of the local clubs that contributed to the project. Their drive to protect the entire corridor along this river was very apparent. I always enjoy seeing great support for a local wildlife office and their land acquisition program. Congrats Fred and the entire Sauk Rapids DNR Wildlife office on another great project. Stacy Salvevold

Janet S. Boe Memorial Award
to recognize women in natural resources science

The Janet S. Boe Memorial Award is a new award that was approved by the board at the 26 November 2007 executive board meeting. The award is given to recognize a professional woman or outstanding female graduate or undergraduate student who exemplifies the cognizant natural resource scientist. The purpose of this award is to recognize women who are making a significant difference in natural resource science in Minnesota and to encourage increased recruitment of women into this profession. This award will be given each year at the Annual Meeting Award Ceremony. The awardee will be selected using the same form and nomination process as the other MN TWS awards, and the awards committee will make the selection each year. The award is an original watercolor of an eared grebe that Ross Hier will paint to recognize one of Janet's favorite birds. We will frame this original with a plate saying "Janet S. Boe Memorial Award in recognition of exemplary female natural resource scientists." The painting will be the winners to display for one year. It must be returned to the awards committee at the Annual Meeting each year to be passed to the next winner. A small plaque will be purchased each year for the winner to keep. Ross Hier proposed this award idea to President Salvevold and Award Committee Chair Minchak after Janet's death and offered the painting. We graciously accepted his generous offer.

Janet was a MNTWS leader for many years and was a role model for many women natural resources scientists. Her contributions to the chapter and to natural resources science in Minnesota deserve this sort of recognition. Janet was always poised and professional. She truly was the cognizant natural resources scientist. She was also an advocate for professional women and women's rights. Janet touched the lives of many as a friend, colleague, and mentor. We recognize her contributions to our profession with this beautiful award, and we expect she would be pleased to see this award being given to professional women working to impact natural resources in Minnesota.

The first award recipient will be selected in 2009.



Conservation Issues Review Committee Announces the Next Position Papers

MNTWS Conservation Issues Review Committee consists of the three presidents (past, present, and president-elect). This committee is tasked with making the decisions about what wildlife related issues need to be addressed by the executive board. These tasks can be as simple as sending a letter to an agency regarding an issue to writing a white paper. This year the committee has been active on primarily the federal Farm Bill. The executive board also held a meeting with the Minnesota Conservation Federation (MCF) and the Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance (FWLA) along with the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) to discuss our legislative session this year as well as our priority issues for the 2008 legislative session.

The Committee also tasked the Forestry and Agriculture/Prairie Committees with writing the next two position papers. The Farm Bill and OHV position papers were completed by these two committees earlier this year. Both position papers received attention from our legislators and the media. One new position paper will focus on the strategic placement of wind generation facilities to reduce the impact to grassland species by lessening prairie fragmentation. The second statement will be a joint project between the two committees to work on guidelines for biomass energy and biomass utilization to provide recommendation to reduce the impacts of these activities on wildlife. In some situations, biomass utilization may be beneficial to wildlife and in other situations it may be harmful. We want to take a position on some of these up and coming issues before they get ahead of us. Expect these two position statements to be completed by the end of 2008. Position statements are at http://www.umcrookston.edu/tws/mn/position_statements.html

Mooseman Goes to Washington - advocates for action on global warming

Dr. William Faber, past president of the Minnesota Chapter and an instructor in the Central Lakes College Natural Resources program, met with lawmakers in Washington, D.C., as part of a three-day National Wildlife Federation Hunter-Angler Lobby Days project. He offered his biological expertise and urged passage of legislation to protect wildlife and confront global warming, issues of importance to the National Wildlife Federation.

Faber said that the delegation of conservationists is asking senators such as Norm Coleman (left, pictured with Faber, right) and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota to support two bills that put the United States on a path toward reducing global warming pollution by 2 percent per year. These bills are Sens. Sanders' and Boxer's "Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act" and Sens. McCain's and Lieberman's "Climate Stewardship and Innovation Act." Two similar bills are moving forward in the House of Representatives. For information go to <http://www.nwf.org>.





Letters to Legislators on behalf of MTWS

October 19, 2007

The Honorable Norm Coleman
United States Senate – Hart 320
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate – Hart 302
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Coleman and Klobuchar:

As you are no doubt aware, the federal Farm Bill is the single largest source of conservation funding in the United States. Here in Minnesota, the need for conservation is so great that a broad coalition of organizations has pushed for years for a constitutional amendment to increase the sales tax to fund habitat protection and clean water. We are hopeful that the legislature will put the amendment on the 2008 ballot. The success of the state effort, should it pass, is predicated on the core funding provided by the Farm Bill.

Yet the commitment made to conservation in the last farm bill does not provide enough conservation funding to keep up with demand from farmers who want to practice conservation. According to the NRCS, in 2006, Minnesota had a backlog of funding requests totaling \$9,887,624 for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and turned away 567 farmers from the program. In 2005 the backlog was \$12,676,173. In 2005 (most recent NRCS data available) the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) backlog was \$60,597,405. 371 applications to enroll 59,276 acres were rejected. In 2004 the WRP backlog was \$52,228,607.

This Farm Bill must do a better job of supporting farmers when they offer to share the cost of improving water quality and wildlife habitat or become better stewards of their land. The House version of the farm bill increases conservation by \$4.5 billion over 5 years – a step in the right direction, but still not enough to meet farmer demand for conservation assistance.

As Minnesota's Senators who serve on the Agriculture Committee, we urge you to fund the conservation programs at the level of at least \$6 billion over the budget baseline. At the very least, the Senate Agriculture Committee must not report a bill that provides less than the \$4.5 billion provided by the House.

As you know, on October 4th the Senate Finance Committee reported a tax package designed to provide additional funds for the 2007 farm bill. This package includes provisions allowing participants in the Conservation Reserve, Wetlands Reserve, and Working Grassland programs to opt for tax credits in lieu of cash payments from USDA. These provisions will free up an estimated \$3 billion from these programs for use by the Agriculture Committee in crafting the farm bill. Because these funds were generated from conservation, they must be used for conservation, not for other purposes.

On behalf of thousands of hunters, anglers, bird watchers, hikers and enthusiasts of Minnesota's Great Outdoors, we strongly urge you to support conservation funding increases in the farm bill that the Senate Agriculture Committee will mark up soon. We applaud the efforts of the Senate Finance Committee to provide tax credits for conservation. It is imperative that the \$3 billion savings to the Agriculture Committee remain in the Conservation title and fund necessary increases in conservation programs.

We look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

Gary Botzek
Executive Director
Minnesota Conservation Federation

Jim Klatt
Director, Field Operations
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Brad Nylin

Mark Wm. Johnson



Executive Director
Minnesota Waterfowl Association

Rolf Nordstrom
President
Izaak Walton League, Minn. Division

Nancy Gibson

John F. Schneider Ph.D.
Faculty member, Natural Sciences Dept.
Metropolitan State University

Cheryl Miller

Evan Rice
Minnesota Coordinator
Republicans for Environ. Protection

Michael Duval
President, MN Chapter
American Fisheries Society

Andy Buchsbaum
Regional Executive Director
National Wildlife Federation

Tom Glines
National Wild Turkey Federation

Executive Director
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association

Jeffrey Heegaard
Executive Director
1000 Friends of Minnesota

David Hartwell

Rebecca Rom
Member, Governing Council
The Wilderness Society

Phil Zins

Lance K. Ness
President
Fish & Wildlife Legislative Alliance

Paul W. Aasen
Advocacy Director
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

Stacy Salvevold
President, Minnesota Chapter
The Wildlife Society

Mark Herwig



*The Minnesota Chapter
of The Wildlife Society*



November 26, 2007

Dear Representative

Minnesota Representative Jim Oberstar introduced H.R.2421: Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007 in the United State House of Representatives on May 22, 2007, recognizing that U.S. Supreme Court rulings over the past six years have undermined the authority of the Clean Water Act of 1972. Rep. Oberstar's Clean Water Restoration Act will clarify and restore protections to waters previously covered by the original act.



The Clean Water Act required the United States to clean up some of our most polluted waters, improving the fish and wildlife habitat provided by those waters. The act protected rivers, lakes, wetlands and streams from pollution and destruction. The improved water quality it produced is one of this country's greatest natural resource success stories. Many lakes, rivers, and streams that were cleaned up by the act now provide Americans with safer, cleaner drinking water, and improved human health, but our waters are still at risk. Minnesota's 2008 list of impaired waters includes 1,469 impairments on 336 rivers and 500 lakes even though only a relatively small sample of our waters has been tested.

Before the recent Supreme Court rulings, the Clean Water Act protected nearly all public waters, providing us with clean drinking water, recreation, flood storage, water filtration, food, wildlife and fish habitat, and pleasing natural resource esthetics. The Supreme Court ruling reduced the authority of the act from protecting the "Nation's waters" to protecting only "navigable waters". This change is estimated to remove protection for nearly 60% of U.S. creeks and streams and tens of millions of acres of wetlands. The Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007 would restore the act's original intent: "To restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation's waters."

The Supreme Court rulings have muddled the definition of waters that are regulated by the Corps of Engineers and are causing a permitting nightmare for counties and local governments in Minnesota and nationwide. The rulings have created an increased Corps' permitting backlog because these court decisions require numerous determinations to see if there is a "significant nexus" of connection between the wet area and a navigable waterway. For example, St. Louis County officials have found that a 4 mile section of highway 47 that is slated for renovation will have to undergo no less than 36 jurisdictional determinations under the new rules, before an application for a permit can even be made. St. Louis County highway engineers estimate that delays cause by meeting the rules will cost county taxpayers an extra \$1 to \$2 million a year. The court's muddling of what waters are protected and what waters are not will certainly lead to more lawsuits and confusion if the law is not clarified.

Our citizens; our lakes, rivers, and streams; our wildlife and fish resources; our drinking water and our recreational opportunities would all benefit from clarifying the law to better maintain and improve water quality through Oberstar's legislation. Clean water is important to all aspects of American life. In order to protect our waters from pollution and destruction, we ask you to support HR2421 and S1870: Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007. Our citizens and wildlife populations deserve and depend on clean and adequate water and efficient government regulations to maintain it.

Sincerely,

Stacy Salveold
President, Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society
29965 State Highway 28
Starbuck, Minnesota 56381
320-239-2667
www.umcrookston.edu/mn/tws

Michael Duval
President, Minnesota Chapter of the American
Fisheries Society
20859 N. Sorenson Lake Trail
Merrifield, MN 56465
www.mnafs.org

Fish and Wildlife Professionals Support Clean Water in Minnesota; Support the
Federal Clean Water Restoration Act -

November 26, 2007 Press Release

Contact:

Stacy Salvevold, President, Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 320-239-2667,
stuccie_wlf@yahoo.com

Michael Duval, President, Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, 218-833-8612,
sorensonlk@yahoo.com

The Minnesota Chapters of the Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society strongly support a bill to restore the Clean Water Act to its original intent, and they urge all Minnesotans to join them.

Minnesotans take great pride in our rivers and streams, wetlands, and lakes. Our passion for outdoor recreation, hunting and fishing has been passed down for generations, but without clean water, the future of this great heritage is uncertain.

Representative Jim Oberstar's Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007 was introduced to make sure our waters are protected, just as intended in the Clean Water Act of 1972.

The Clean Water Act's purpose was, "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation's waters." It protected most lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands in Minnesota and across the nation from pollution and destruction. But Supreme Court rulings over the past six years have changed that. Court decisions have weakened the authority of the Clean Water Act to protect only navigable waters, which may put 60% of our streams and creeks, and tens of millions of acres of wetlands at risk. Further, The Supreme Court rulings have muddled the definition of waters that are regulated by the Corps of Engineers and are causing a permitting nightmare for counties and local governments in Minnesota and nationwide.

The vulnerable state of our waters is increasingly clear. Every year, beaches close to the public due to contamination. Community drinking water has to be boiled because it's not safe for consumption. And wetlands around the state are drained and filled with few repercussions.

"Everyone understands that clean water is important for Americans," said Stacy Salvevold, President of the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society. "Clean water is necessary for our survival. As forward thinking U.S. citizens we should leave our lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands in better condition for our children's future. Congress can ensure this happens by passing the Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007"

Citizens depend on clean water for every aspect of our daily lives. We use it for drinking, recreation, food, hunting, fishing and boating. It preserves the integrity of fish and wildlife habitats, and enhances landscape esthetics. Maintaining and improving water quality is essential not only to our quality of life, but more importantly, to our health.



“The health of our nation’s waters has a direct influence on the health of our nation’s fish and wildlife,” says Mike Duval, President of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. “Unlike 30 other states, we are fortunate to have state regulations in Minnesota that overlap federal regulations, but we need national leadership to ensure protection of our citizens from pollutants originating outside our state boundaries too. Oberstar’s Clean Water Restoration Act is clearly needed to ensure our waters are protected.”

MN TWS and AFS meeting with Minnesota Conservation Federation
and the Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance.

Mike North, Steve Kittelson, and Stacy Salvevold met with members of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society on November 6, 2007, to speak with our representatives at the Minnesota Conservation Federation (MCF) and the Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance (FWLA). We support these two groups to lobby for natural resources at the State Legislature. We got to hear a summary of accomplishments made in the legislature in 2007. Both of our groups told MCF and FWLA what issues we were focusing on for the 2008 legislative session, and Gary Botzek and Lance Ness told us about their expectations for the next legislative session.

Legislative Accomplishments in 2007 include:

- 1) Ditch Buffer legislation requiring a ditch buffer of 1 rod from the top of the ditch on any improved existing ditches and new ditches.
- 2) Dedicated funding passed both the house and senate, but got tied up in conference committee. Hopefully they can work out any issues and get it moved out of conference committee quickly when the session starts. It has 290 million dollars attached to it each year through a sales tax increase. 33% of that goes to fish and wildlife, 33% goes to impaired waters, 14.25% goes to parks and trails, and 19.75% goes to arts and culture. This will be a huge increase when nearly 2/3 of the 290 million will be applied to natural resources. Both MCF and FWLA felt very good about this bill. It has excellent bipartisan support, but it will still have to be voted on by the people in the November 2008 election if the bill passes. They feel that with everything included on this bill, the constitutional amendment should get broad support from Minnesotans.
- 3) Improved tightening of the Wetland Conservation Act also passed this year.
- 4) The quick passing of the Great Lakes Compact. All states and Canadian provinces that border the Great Lakes are working together to sustain them into the future, and this compact is a huge commitment to that effort.
- 5) Lots of good bills supporting clean renewable energy and sustainable energy use in Minnesota passed this session.

MCF and FWLA Priorities for 2008 include:

- 1) Dedicated Funding - The legislature will be deciding on some of the details of the new dedicated funding like who will administer the funds. This will be called “Heritage ‘08”, so be watching for that campaign if the bill gets signed. MCF and FWLA expect an LCCMR type commission to be appointed. They need to set up the ballot question so that it is not confusing and campaign for the vote. They need to establish good statutory



language so that “pet projects” cannot be tacked onto this bill down the road. This will ensure that funds go where people expect them to.

- 2) RIM Bonding and AMA and WMA acquisition funding – Good funding was approved for AMA and WMA acquisition in 2007, but RIM was not funded in the bonding bill. Getting funding for all of these important programs will be a priority.
- 3) Efforts will continue to improve drainage laws for natural resources. The ditch buffer rule passed, but much more is needed as Minnesota drainage law is sorely outdated.
- 4) Exotic species like Asian Carp and ballast water invasives in Lake Superior are getting a lot of attention in the legislature as well.

Issues that will challenge natural resources this year include the transportation bill and mass transit efforts in the Twin Cities greater metro area.

MCF and FWLA advised us to weigh in on federal legislation including the Farm Bill, the Clean Water Restoration Act, and the Lieberman/Warner Climate Change Bill. All three of these bills could dramatically impact natural resources in Minnesota. We have already been actively involved in the Farm Bill and Clean Water Restoration Act, but we need to inform ourselves better about what the Climate Change Bill includes.

FWLA will be meeting twice a month now until the legislative session is over and MCF meets quarterly all year. MN TWS is in need of an FWLA representative from the Twin Cities to attend and provide input on our behalf at FWLA meetings. If you can serve our chapter in this capacity, please contact Stacy Salvevold at 218-770-2062.

USDA Technical Committee Representative Named

Jodie Provost volunteered to be the MNTWS representative on the state USDA Technical Committee. This committee helps to make decisions related to how the farm bill programs are implemented in Minnesota. The committee meets three to six times a year on an as-needed basis. The chapter has decided that we should involve ourselves in this committee in order to impact wildlife habitat on private land. Any organization with an interest in the way that the farm bill is implemented is able to request a seat at the table.

When Jodie is unable to attend, Dave Trauba has volunteered to be the backup representative on the committee. Greg Hoch will be representing the Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society on the committee. Greg has also volunteered to backup both Dave and Jodie for MNTWS if neither of them is able to make a meeting. One way or another, we are going to get our voice heard on this important state committee. This is possibly the greatest way we can impact how conservation works on private land. It will be exciting to be involved in such an important decision making process.



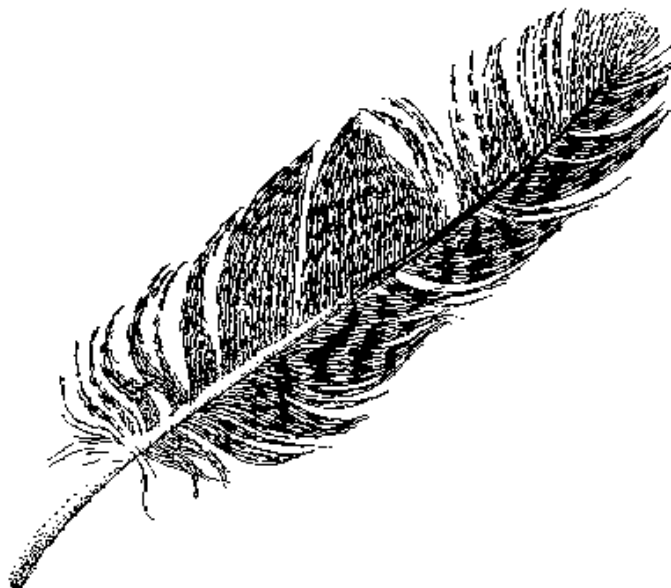
Habitat Project Proposals -
MINNESOTA CHAPTER – THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
REQUEST FOR HABITAT PROJECT PROPOSALS
DEADLINE MARCH 31, 2008

The Minnesota Chapter of TWS is accepting project proposals to help fund habitat work in Minnesota. The deadline for receiving proposals is March 31, 2008. Proposals will be reviewed at the April 2008 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 Stacy Salvevold (stuccie_wlf@yahoo.com) **AND** Steve Kittelson (norskcygnet@yahoo.com) in MS Word. Questions please call Stacy Salvevold at 218-770-2062 (cell).





Wildlife Policy News from TWS National -

Volume 17, Issue 6, December 2007

Editor: Laura M. Bies

Reporters: Jennie Miller and Rachel Peacher

In this Issue:

1. Farm Bill Stalled on Senate Floor
2. Climate Change Bill Approaching Committee Vote
3. Bush Introduces Recovery Credit Trading Program
4. Legislation May End Energy Development on WY Range
5. Revised Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan
6. British Columbia Protects 5.4 Million Acres
7. DHS Waives Environmental Laws for Border Fence
8. Rockies Wilderness Act Emerges
9. National Strategy For Climate Change Adaptation Proposed
10. New Plan to Reduce Threats to ESA Candidates
11. First Session of 110th Congress Comes to Close
12. Updates



To read this issue of Wildlife Policy News online, go to

http://joomla.wildlife.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=203#top

To download the entire issue as a PDF, go to

<http://joomla.wildlife.org/documents/policy/WPNv17i6.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).



2008 Annual Meeting -

Sugar Lake Lodge, Grand Rapids, MN

Feb. 5, 6 & 7

Making a place for prescribed fire in managing Minnesota ecosystems: Overcoming technical, social and cultural barriers

The 2008 joint annual meeting of the Minnesota Society of American Foresters and the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society is being hosted by the Headwaters Chapter of the Minnesota SAF. It will be held at the Sugar Lake Lodge in Grand Rapids, MN. See the Lodge website (<http://www.sugarlakelodge.com/meeting/>) for directions, information about making reservations for lodging and activities in the area.

The conference will focus on fire as a management tool, but will have presentations on other topics, especially forest ecology. Planning is underway for another USFWS/DNR discussion session on Tuesday, February 5, prior to the start of the conference. A poster session is also being planned.

Time will be available before and after the scheduled meeting to enjoy winter activities:

- snowmobiling
- ice fishing
- guided sled dog races
- cross country skiing
- bonfires
- sleigh rides
- free wireless access in main lodge and many rooms
- laptop computers available to check out
- fitness center with treadmill, elliptical, free weights, mats, spring water and towels.

Meals: Sugar Lake Lodge is known for the quality of the meals served in its dining room and during conference breaks. Registration fee includes breakfast, lunch, snacks, & evening meal on Feb. 6, and breakfast and lunch on Feb. 7.

Lodging: Rooms should be booked directly with Ruttger's 1-800- 450-4555; Rooms are \$45 for double occupancy, \$90 single.

Pre-registration and payment must be received before January 16, 2008 to guarantee meals. Please visit the Sustainable Forest Education Cooperative to register on-line at <http://sfec.cfans.umn.edu/>. Select Calendar of Events from the navigation menu.

Visit <http://mnsaf.org/> for up to date information and details.

If you know potential presenters/attendees for the conference, please share the conference information. If you are interested in assisting with the conference, I am accepting volunteers to help with logistics at the conference, as session moderators, setup, etc. Thanks in advance for helping put together a great meeting!

Steve Kittelson, Pres.-elect and conference rep, MNTWS

P.O. Box 453, Amboy, MN 56010

Phone: H-507-674-3697; O-507-389-6297

norskcygnet@yahoo.com



Call for Papers and Posters - 2008 Annual Meeting -

TWS/SAF Joint Winter Meeting, 6-7 February 2008

Making a place for prescribed fire in managing Minnesota ecosystems: Overcoming technical, social and cultural barriers

Please consider submitting a title and abstract for a 30-minute technical session presentation at the winter meeting. Concurrent sessions will allow for presentations that are related to this year's theme as well as other topics of interest to forestry and wildlife professionals. Several sessions will be reserved for non-fire subjects. For other technical sessions, topics that relate to prescribed fire and ecosystem management or habitat restoration will be given priority, whether they relate to forested or non-forested ecosystems. Posters will be accepted on a wider range of natural resource topics.

Submit a title and abstract by 4:30 p.m. on **December 26, 2007** to be considered. Mail, email, or fax your submission to: Lynn Sue Mizner, DNR Forestry, 1200 Minnesota Ave. S., Aitkin, MN 56431. Fax: 218-927-4121 or email at lynn.mizner@dnr.state.mn.us

2008 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 11, 2008**. The nomination form is included as an insert in this newsletter or at <http://www.uncrookston.edu/tws/mn/downloads/MNTWSAwardNominationForm.doc> or http://www.uncrookston.edu/tws/mn/downloads/award_nomination_form.pdf.

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 to help the Awards Committee understand why your nominee is so deserving of recognition.

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.

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. Thanks!

Send awards nominations as well as news of other awards to Martha Minchak, Awards Committee Chair (shrooms@peoplepc.com or Martha.minchak@dnr.state.mn.us)



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
2006	Gary L. Huschle	St. Louis River Citizens Action Committee	Tim Barberg	Scott Staples

**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 **10 January 2008** indicating interest and explain how you meet the requirements to the MN Chapter Past-President 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 the first week of February 2008 in Grand Rapids. Submit Applications to: Dave Trauba, Past-President, 14042 20th Street Northwest, Watson, Minnesota 56295. Contact Dave at datrauba@yahoo.com or 320-734-4884 (Home) for more information.

2008 Executive Board Elections - Meet the Candidates-

At this years annual meeting elections will be held for President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Regional Representatives for Regions 1, 3, & 5. Candidate information, along with an absentee ballot for those not able to attend the annual meeting, will be found after December 20th on the Chapter web-site at <http://www.umcrookston.edu/tws/mn/downloads/2008Candidates.pdf>.



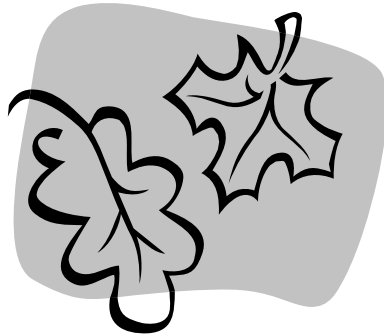
GOT MEMBERSHIP?

Hey folks it is that time of the year for membership renewal. Please take a few moments to renew your membership today! This is especially important if you will not be able to attend the MN-TWS annual meeting being held February 5-7, 2008 in Grand Rapids. Total membership tends to ebb and flow with our annual meeting attendance. The status of your membership can be found on your mailing label. Most will notice "RG07" meaning regular membership expiring in 2007.

Renewal is easy. Simply go to the Chapter's website below and download the membership application and mail to Brian Haroldson at the indicated address. Also, make sure you keep Brian informed on any address change.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to renew your membership.

<http://www.uncrookston.edu/tws/mn/downloads/MembershipApplication-MTWS2007.doc> or
<http://www.uncrookston.edu/tws/mn/downloads/MembershipApplication-MTWS2007.pdf>



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



Proposed Climate Change Legislation

TWS Chapters have been asked to weigh in on the legislation addressing climate change issues as we go to press (early December). No decision has been made by the MN Executive Board. Regardless, we thought the membership might be interested in this evolving ‘hot topic’ issue. Most, if not all, of the climate change bills in Congress right now are cap-and-trade bills, which will establish a permit system under which polluters (exactly who varies by bill) will be required to possess a permit to release greenhouse gases. The benefit of this type of a system is that the total amount of greenhouse gases can be capped, and this cap can be reduced in coming years. This is pretty much the only approach that it being seriously considered. So, it is likely there is going to be a cap-and-trade system, which will generate a stream of income into the federal treasury (through auctioning off permits). National TWS and others are therefore advocating that a percentage of that income stream should be devoted to helping address the effects of climate change on wildlife. For example, the Lieberman-Warner bill (the one most likely to move) would split up the funding according to the strategy below.

Distribution of Wildlife-Related Funds Generated by Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act of 2007 (S. 2191)

The Lieberman-Warner legislation will designate 18% of proceeds from corporate annual auctions to ecological adaptation activities. Specific allocations are listed in Subtitle G of the bill, entitled “Adaptation Program for Natural Resources in United States and Territories,” and would be intended to fund activities that assist wildlife and plants adapt to the impacts of climate change. Funding would be distributed as follows:

- 35% of program funds to States through the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act
- 5% distributed among the Endangered Species Act, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, multi-national species conservation fund of the Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1999, Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, Coastal Program of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish Habitat Action Plan, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Landowner Incentive Program, Wildlife Without Borders Program, and the Park Flight Migratory Bird Program of the National Park Service
- 1% to native tribes through the US Fish and Wildlife Service tribal wildlife grants program
- 10% to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act
- 5% to the Forest Service
- 5% to the Environmental Protection Agency
- 10% to the Corps of Engineers

Additional details on wildlife-related funding designations can be found in Subtitle G of the latest version of the bill (released 28 November 2007), which is available at:

http://www.eenews.net/features/documents/2007/11/28/document_pm_01.pdf.

All of this is in flux typical of the legislative process (i.e., some of these details may change by the time the newsletter reaches you). The Teaming with Wildlife page devoted to climate change has many updates at <http://www.teaming.com/funding/climate.html>



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