

# **MINNESOTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

**VOLUME 38, NUMBER 2**

**September 2011**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

President's Message.....2  
 Board Meeting Minutes.....3 - 5  
 Regional Reports.....6 - 9  
 Student Chapter Reports.....9  
 Conservation Reports.....9 - 10

**MN Chapter TWS Regions**



**NEXT  
NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE:  
DECEMBER 1,  
2011.**

Minnesota DNR News.....10 - 11  
 Announcements.....12 - 18  
 Executive Board Membership.....19  
 Committee Chairs and Student Chapters.....20  
 Committee Membership.....21



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My mind is on the topic of change. It's the week after Labor Day. Cool overnights last week and the kids starting a new school year this week had me thinking about the changing of the seasons. Weather, of course, changes more frequently. Summer isn't ready to say good-bye just yet; we've now had several days straight with highs in the 80s.

Death and taxes are commonly cited certainties, but change is at least as certain as those (and perhaps even more certain, depending upon your religious and political beliefs). Due to the ubiquity of change and also our common passion for conservation, we're all familiar with the fact that most, if not all, changes simultaneously present us challenges and opportunities. I'm either an optimist or prone to passive avoidance because I tend to focus more on the opportunities. A third alternative, I suppose, is that I have many improvements I want to make and am always seeking additional motivation to achieve them.

I want to help improve the operation and impact of our chapter. To do so I'll need to do more and do better as your president during the latter part of my term than I've done so far. As I mentioned in my first newsletter message last winter, though, the success of the chapter depends upon all of its members, and it depends upon having a few of those members at a time step forward and contribute some of their time and talents. It just so happens that we currently have several specific opportunities for such contributions. Okay, some people might call them vacancies we need to fill (i.e., Membership Database Coordinator, Webmaster, Nominations & Elections Committee members, Fundraising Committee members).

Whether you're looking forward to cooler temperatures, colorful leaves, hunting seasons, not having to stay up past your bedtime to see the stars, or some other wonderful aspect of autumn, please take a few moments to contemplate change. Keep up the good work in overcoming the challenges we face in conservation, and consider opportunities you have to do something different or differently to enhance your success in all you do.

I hope you have (or had) a very happy equinox!

Mike



# MN TWS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday 8/1/ 2011

Conducted via conference call.  
Minutes submitted by Mike Larson

Called to order at 9:04 am

Present: Thom Soule, Erica Hoaglund, Charlotte Roy, Mike Larson, Bill Faber, Wes Bailey, Wayne Brininger, Beau Liddell, and Nancy Gellerman.

## Officer Reports

- President (Larson)
  - Considered request to sponsor TWS Annual Conf.; no action taken.
  - Mike intends to write a letter to Michael Hutchins to clarify different perspectives on the flow of solicitations and funds up and down within the society.
  - Budget discussion
    - Mike had produced a 'budget,' which was a summary of revenues and expenditures by major categories for 2006-2011.
    - There's a desire to develop a true budget with proposed spending priorities for the upcoming year.
- Secretary (Larson for Olson)
  - Motion to approve minutes of the March 2011 Board meeting.
    - Made by Bill, seconded by Beau, passed.
  - Motion to publish only approved minutes in the newsletter
    - Made by Thom, seconded by Charlotte, passed.
    - The Board will approve minutes via email rather than waiting until the next meeting, so the minutes will be printed in the earliest possible newsletter.
- Treasurer (Roy)
  - Quarterly Treasurer's Report
    - Add the following statement to the "12 Month CD" section of the report:  
"Established from revenue (\$1000) for lifetime memberships in 1995, \$350 added to CD in 2002. The interest may be used for typical operating expenses of the society if needed."
  - 12-month CD maturing 8/24
    - Motion to roll the 12-month CD, on its date of maturity, to a 12-month WAHOO certificate at 2.0% APY and to approve the amended Treasurer's report.
      - Made by Thom, seconded by Bill, passed.
  - Board members should consider developing a proposal for use of the proceeds from the "Lifetime Membership" account.
  - Motion to approve \$47.00 reimbursement to Mike for travel expenses to meet with ND Chapter representatives in Fargo on July 11<sup>th</sup> to plan the February 2012 joint chapter meeting.
    - Made by Bill, seconded by Beau, passed.
- Newsletter Editor (Bailey)
  - Last issue (vol. 38, issue 1) said "April/July," but it should have been "March/June."



- Next deadline is Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Include a clear announcement that printed newsletters will be ending in 2011.

## **Old Business**

- 2012 joint meeting with ND chapter
  - Planning meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> in Fargo with with Jane Austin & 3 other reps from ND;  
Mike attended and sent notes to the MN Board via email on July 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - Fundraising (Knutson via email to Larson)
    - Item-specific proceeds will go to the chapter that donated the item
    - Norm will cover our typical silent auction stuff
    - Gregg needs 1-2 new people to help with live auction stuff
- Membership database - Need a new coordinator
  - No news or updates from Greg Hoch on this topic (via email to Wayne).
  - Still looking for a new Membership Database Coordinator/Membership Chair.
  - Consider paying someone to update our membership database; could be expensive.
  - Consider having a student chapter help and/or do the necessary updates; consider offering to pay them, too.
  - Ask Brian Pember, Reg. 5 representative, to consult with Brian Haroldson, the former coordinator, and report to the Board on at least the following items:
    - Which software program is used for the current membership database,
    - Detail of relevant issues, strengths & weaknesses, and major problems, and
    - Brian's advice on what to do and how, so we have a up-to-date, highly functional database.
  - Thom offered to contribute personal funds to support the development of a new method for Membership record keeping.
- FWLA membership dues for 2011 (Roy)
  - Motion to not pay any dues to FWLA until progress is made with our representatives about current benefits to the Chapter.
    - Made by Bill, seconded by Thom, passed.
  - Mike will follow up with our FWLA representatives.
  - Ask TWS parent society to support our membership in FWLA and MCF.
  - Consider soliciting funds from members (e.g., at annual meeting) to support our policy/advocacy work.

## **New Business**

- NRCS Technical Committee representative - designation needed (Larson)
  - Ask Jodie, who has been active and involved as our representative, to continue.
- Donation from the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference Steering Committee (Larson)
  - Motion to accept funds from the Steering Committee
    - Made by Bill, seconded by Wes, passed.
  - Stipulations (from draft letter from Tim Goeman):
    - Funds are intended to appropriately support the next MN Midwest F&W Conference.
    - Funds should be managed to produce a reasonable rate of return.



- Funds should be accounted for separately from other Chapter monies, and reported annually to the Chapter membership.
- Expenses incurred by the Chapter in managing these funds can be covered from the fund.
- If the Midwest Conference does not return to MN, the funds should be used to further professional training and development consistent with the spirit and tradition of the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, at the discretion of the Chapter.
- The Chapter agrees to keep documentation of the origin and history of these funds (via this letter) until the funds no longer exist after being dispersed for their intended purpose.
- Nominations & Elections committee
  - Board selects 3 members to serve (Article V, Section 1).
  - Past-president has served in this role, often alone, in the recent past, and we would like the Past-President to continue serving on the committee.
  - Regional Representatives and others should send ideas to Mike.
- New Webmaster needed
  - Ask John L. what recruiting he has done so far.
  - Regional Representatives and others should send ideas to Mike.
  - Consider delegating to specific board members the responsibility for recruiting someone for each vacant position, including Membership Database Coordinator.
  - Discussion on having Parent Society assume this function.
- Future of the Chapter (Larson/Soule)
  - Board member attendance at meetings
    - Consider meeting not during business hours (e.g., try a weekday evening)
    - Toll charges for conf. call - have the chapter pay for a toll-free line?
    - Ask non-attending board members why they couldn't attend.
  - The Board may need meet more frequently to accomplish as much as we want, especially if the meetings are conference calls, which tend to be shorter than in-person meetings.
  - Summer workshops - Why none this year (or last year?)? How to get back on track?
  - Query board members then other members about desired direction

## **Announcements**

Wes has volunteered to chair the Forest Issues Committee

Adjourned at 12:09 pm

## **Summary of HELP NEEDED**

Membership Database Coordinator  
Webmaster  
Nominations & Elections Committee members (2-3)  
Fundraising Committee members (1-2)



## REGIONAL REPORTS

MN Chapter TWS Regions



### Region 1 – Greg Knutson -No report

### Region 2 – Nancy Gellerman

Ron Moen, NRR

A trail camera deployed for 3 weeks north of Two Harbors picked up 11 mammal species: bobcat, marten, black bear, badger, raccoon, wolf, red fox, snowshoe hare, eastern chipmunk, red squirrel, and deer. Most surprising was the badger, this was the first time a badger appeared in trail cameras used sporadically in this area since 2003.

The GPS moose collar project continues. In all 4 projects (Voyageurs National Park, Grand Portage Indian Reservation, Quetico Provincial Park, and ENRTF (LCCMR) a rough overall mortality rate is similar to the long-term average mortality rate measured during the VHF study in NE MN.

Data analysis for the first winter and summer will begin this fall.

### Vermilion Community College Forestry & Wildlife Club – Lori Schmidt, Faculty Advisor

While Vermilion Community College in Ely, MN does not have a TWS Chapter, the students are active on wildlife projects for local research agencies. Students began the semester completing Predator Scent Post Surveys for John Erb (DNR) on 3 USFS ranger districts: Grand Marais, Tofte, and Lacroix. The weekends in late August and early September provided great weather for surveys. Students will begin the small mammal trapping survey for the 1854 Treaty Authority in October as well as conduct a one-day bag limit survey on the Waterfowl Opener for the DNR. Our students will also assist with the Governor's Deer Hunting Opener festivities conducting "Oh Deer" sessions and plaster deer track demonstrations with local youth. Our Fish and Wildlife degree is a transfer degree, which means students spend 2 years in Ely, then transfer to a 4-year institution (usually U of MN, Crookston or U of WI, Stevens Point). We hope their experience in Ely will continue to drive their motivation to be involved with this profession and join the TWS chapters at the 4-year institutions.

### Wild Rice Lakes Aerial Survey Completed for Northeastern Minnesota

In late August an aerial survey of wild rice lakes in St. Louis & Lake Counties was completed. During the survey, aerial photographs of the lakes are taken and information about the observed wild rice or other vegetation (depending on water levels) covering the lake is documented. Other observations such as beaver activity may also be noted. The aircraft and pilot were provided by the MN DNR with observers and funding for the survey provided by multiple agencies including 1854 Treaty Authority, MN DNR, Fond du Lac Resource Management Division (Wildlife), and the US Forest Service. When possible, the survey will be done annually. For more information about wild rice and rice reports on some individual lakes, go to

<http://1854treatyauthority.org/wildrice/>

Walt Gessler of the Tower DNR office reports that the migrating sparrows have learned that the wild rice drying in his back yard is a good place to forage for rice worms!



### Minnesota Moose Habitat Collaborative Proposal Submitted - Mike Schrage, Fond du Lac Wildlife Management

The MN Moose Habitat Collaborative comprised of MDHA, TNC, USFS, Tribal Agencies, and 3 counties submitted a \$6M proposal to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for funding to do moose habitat work on 18,000 acres across northeast Minnesota. The MN DNR most recently joined the effort by adding 100 acres of state land to the Collaborative's proposal (the DNR generally funds or submits proposals for moose habitat and forestry projects through its own internal process). A hearing on the proposal was held September 7<sup>th</sup> at the Capital. Moose are an iconic species in Minnesota and if funded, this proposal will go a long ways in providing the habitat they need.

### Minnesota DNR Draft Moose Management Plan Available for Review and Public Input

The MN DNR is currently seeking public input on its draft moose management and research plan. This input is an important part of the process and will help the DNR make decisions regarding management of the moose population. The plan addresses the following topics:

- Research and management objectives, problems, and strategies
- Introduction and background
- Research needs
- Deer management as it relates to moose
- Moose diseases and parasites
- Habitat management

The public input period was planned for August with comments to be reviewed in September and October. A final plan is intended to be in place following that. For more information, go to:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/moose/index.html>

### Concern Over Minnesota's Bat Populations

A mysterious fungal disease called white-nose syndrome (WNS) has decimated bat colonies in the Eastern U.S. Although it has not been found in MN yet, there is concern it would have the same result if it does invade important hibernaculums such as the Soudan mine near Tower, MN. A comprehensive article on this subject appeared in the July-August issue of the MN Conservation Volunteer. The DNR is collecting information on unusual sightings of bats (such as flying during the day or observed in the winter) or bats found dead or with white fungus on muzzles or wings. These bats should not be handled, but should be reported to the Animal Report Line at 888-345-1730 or [www.mndnr.gov/reportbats](http://www.mndnr.gov/reportbats) . It is very important you do not enter caves or mines in MN if you have been in caves in states where WNS occurs. You should also decontaminate your footwear, clothing, and gear when you leave any cave (go to decontamination protocols at [www.fws.gov/whitenosesyndrome/caves.htmls](http://www.fws.gov/whitenosesyndrome/caves.htmls) ). You can find out more about WNS at [www.caves.org/WNS/](http://www.caves.org/WNS/) or [www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org)

### Eastern Equine Encephalitis Found in Northwestern and North Central Wisconsin Counties

The mosquito-borne disease called Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) has been confirmed in the deaths of 2 alpacas and the illness of 3 different horses in August in Dunn, Price, & Taylor Counties. The illness is caused by a virus that attacks the central nervous system. There is a vaccination available for horses. Without it, EEE has a mortality rate in excess of 90% according to Wisconsin State Veterinarian Dr. Bob Ehlenfeldt ( [www.wisconsinagconnection.com](http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com) ). Wisconsin had a major outbreak of EEE back in 2001. More detailed information can be found on the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection website. Interestingly enough exposure to this disease has also been confirmed in previously collected blood samples of some individual moose in Northeastern Minnesota. It is unknown at this time how much of a threat EEE poses to MN's moose population. For the past few years, blood samples have been



collected and tested for the presence of various diseases (including EEE) in both hunter-harvested and ill-acting moose in MN.

### **Region 3 – Beau Liddell**

It's been a wet summer, although precipitation has abated over the last month throughout MnTWS R3. The cold and wet climate experienced earlier this spring and summer is believed by many to have hampered upland bird production, and appears to be corroborated by smaller than normal turkey broods and significant drop in pheasants seen during August roadside surveys throughout the region. In addition, due to large amounts of precipitation and flooding throughout most of the growing season, wild rice crops are generally poor to fair in most areas compared to last year.

On the bright side, duck broods abound, and in recent weeks a notable influx of blue-winged teal occurred throughout most of Central Minnesota. Trumpeter Swan production also appears quite strong this year, with some large broods reported in the central part of the state, including a pair with 8 cygnets found on public land in the Little Falls area.

Routine habitat enhancement & maintenance projects on area-wide WMAs is keeping area DNR wildlife offices very busy, particularly activities associated with grassland management, wetland habitat maintenance, and facility maintenance. Invasive species continue to be a growing problem throughout Central Minnesota, with notable increases in spotted knapweed and tansy in some locations. Control of invasive woody vegetation into open grasslands is also a growing workload this time of year. Finally, most offices are extremely busy with various LSOHC funded acquisition and habitat enhancement projects, and keeps staff hopping.

The Hardwood Hill Subsection Forest Management Plan process is nearing its final stages, and encompasses much of Region 3. Proposals are currently being made on various designations for area field staff consideration, and 10-year cut lists are on schedule for final determination by the end of September. Public ownership in the subsection is dominated by State Wildlife Management Areas, and input from DNR-Wildlife is receiving priority consideration as a result. This subsection is unique compared to most SFRMP planning efforts, and similar to those ongoing in the Anoka Sandplain, and recently completed Aspen Parklands subsections due to the transitory nature of many of the habitats, fragmentation that has occurred, and relatively low amounts of public land on the landscape. Final training implementation is scheduled for mid-December, with final draft plan anticipated to be completed between late-December and early-February.

### **Natural Resource Club Update – Central Lakes College**

It is the 2011 – 2012 school year at Central Lakes College. The first meeting of the Natural Resources Club had an overwhelming 56 members sign up including both first and second year students. Every year the NR Club goes above beyond the call of duty when it comes to volunteer work, philanthropy as well as educational outings. This year is no different; before the first week of school was out, the club had scheduled a trip for mid-September to Hawk Ridge in Duluth to witness the migration of thousands of birds. The following week, they had agreed to assist the Bird Sanctuary at the school by replacing a fallen bird feeder and supplying food.

This year is bound to be filled with laughter, accomplishment and more than a few “ah-ha” moments as we are joined by a new enthusiastic group of students excitedly waiting to reach out to the community and volunteer. Every year the Dendrology class teams up with the Land Measurement class, along with any other club members, to spend a week at Forestview Elementary School in Brainerd. While there, they work with fifth graders showing them how to read and use a compass along with instructing them on properly determining the height and age



of a tree. Later on in the school year the club will road trip to Itasca state park to do some bud capping on White Pines to prevent deer, rabbits and other animals from stunting their growth by consuming them.

The club members are also excited to be working with Hides for Habitats at our local MDHA Chapter as a fundraiser, as well as picking up trash alongside the Mississippi River and a three mile stretch of Business Highway 371 that the club has adopted in the local community. They also plan to attend a multitude of seminars, and conferences related to the natural resources field.

**Region 4 – Molly Tranel – No report**

**Region 5 – Brian Pember – No report**

**Region 6 – Erica Hoaglund – No report**

## **STUDENT CHAPTER REPORTS**

**Minnesota State University Moorhead – Char Binstock – No report**

**University of Minnesota, Crookston - Austin Link** – As fall term has just begun, there is little to report other than we are planning a host of activities such as banding ducks at Agassiz NWR and planning to attend the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in December. Last spring we participated in several professional and community service events. We raised significant funds to defray costs of attending future conferences by cleaning a local sports arena following events and a concert. During the annual spring flood throughout the Red River Valley, many of our members spent a significant amount of time sandbagging to protect property from floodwaters. We also participated in a European Buckthorn removal project at the Red River Valley Natural History Area. Nearly a dozen members volunteered capturing and monitoring American Woodcock for a graduate student at Tamarac NWR several weekends in April. We ended the semester with elections and welcome officers for the 2011-2012 academic year; Austin Link, President and Sheila Carleton, Vice-President. Planning is underway to capture and inspire a number of the larger than average incoming freshman class this year. Many have expressed interest in becoming active members. During the first week of classes, President Link and VP Carleton delivered a brief presentation to the Intro classes explaining The Wildlife Society, the benefits that come with becoming a Student Chapter member, and inviting them to our first meeting. Respectfully submitted, Austin Link, President, linkx079@umn.edu

**University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Student Chapter – Devin Tunseth – No report**

## **CONSERVATION REPORTS**

### **CONTENTIOUS BILL TO REMOVE GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF LEAD REGULATION**

In an effort to remove the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) authority to regulate lead in ammunition and fishing tackle, on April 8, 2011 Rep. Paul Broun (R-GA) and 9 co-sponsors introduced in the House H. R. 1445 (the bill has subsequently been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce). H. R. 1445 calls for not allowing the EPA to prohibit, limit, nor control, based on material composition, any type of firearm ammunition or fishing



tackle. Information of the bill as it was written by its sponsor and submitted to the House for consideration is available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d112:h1445>: The bill is likely a response to a 2010 lawsuit brought by the Center for Biological Diversity and others to ban lead ammunition and fishing tackle.



**MINNESOTA'S PHEASANT INDEX FALLS 64% FROM 2010**  
*(Released September 6, 2011)*

A severe winter followed by a wet spring contributed to a significant decline in Minnesota's pheasant counts. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the pheasant population index declined 64percent from 2010 and is 71 percent below the 10-year average.

Contributing factors include:

- A second consecutive severe winter, resulting in hen counts 72 percent below the 10-year average.
- Cold, wet weather during the April through June nesting period, resulting in brood counts 75 percent below the 10-year average.
- Loss of nearly 120,000 acres of grass habitat enrolled in farm programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) since 2007.

Severe winters combined with cold, wet springs are doubly hard on pheasant populations. That's because fewer hens survive the winter and those that do are less successful in producing broods.

Pheasant hunters are expected to harvest about 250,000 roosters this fall, the lowest harvest since 1997. This compares to harvests that have exceeded 500,000 roosters five of the past eight years. The 500,000 bird harvests correspond with a string of mild winters and high CRP enrollment.

"We expect hunters to harvest a similar number of birds in 2011 as they did in 2001, which was another year with a severe winter followed by a cold, wet spring," said Kurt Haroldson, a wildlife biologist for the DNR's Farmland Wildlife Population and Research Group in Madelia. Haroldson noted survey results indicated an unusually low ratio of hens to roosters.

This suggests hen mortality was high or hens were nesting or caring for young broods during the survey. If the late nesting effort was greater than normal, the 2011 pheasant population and the fall harvest may be higher than forecast. Pheasant populations can rebound quickly given good habitat, mild winter weather and favorable spring nesting conditions.

Minnesota is not the only state to see pheasant index declines. Wildlife officials in South Dakota reported a 46 percent population index decline. North Dakota's spring population survey showed a decline, too.



The pheasant population estimate is part of the DNR's annual roadside wildlife survey. The survey summarizes roadside counts of pheasants, gray (Hungarian) partridge, cottontail rabbits, white-tailed jackrabbits and other wildlife observed in the early morning hours during the first half of August throughout the farmland region of Minnesota.

The highest pheasant counts were in the east central region, where observers reported 51 birds per 100 miles of survey driven. Hunters will find fair harvest opportunities in pockets of south-central and southwest Minnesota, but harvest opportunities in most of Minnesota's pheasant range are rated poor to very poor.

This year's statewide pheasant index was 23 birds per 100 miles driven, the lowest index since 1986. The pheasant index in southwest Minnesota, typically the state's best pheasant range, fell 82 percent from last year to 19 birds per 100 miles driven.

Haroldson said the most important habitat for pheasants is grassland that remains undisturbed during the nesting season. Protected grasslands account for about 6 percent of the state's pheasant range. Farmland retirement programs such as CRP, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Reinvest in Minnesota and Wetlands Reserve Program make up the largest portion of protected grasslands in the state.

High land rental rates and competing uses for farmland diminish the economic attractiveness of farmland conservation programs. During the next three years, contracts for 550,000 acres of CRP lands are scheduled to expire. If not re-enrolled, this would reduce CRP acres in Minnesota by 36 percent.

To help offset continued habitat losses caused by reductions in conservation set-aside acreage, DNR has accelerated acquisition of wildlife management areas in the farmland region of Minnesota. DNR also supports habitat conservation on private lands by working with a variety of partners in the Farm Bill Assistance Partnership and Working Lands Initiative. Also, nearly 10,000 acres of private property will be open to public hunting through the state's new Walk-In Access program.

The August roadside survey, which began in the late 1940s, was standardized in 1955. DNR conservation officers and wildlife managers in the farmland region of Minnesota conduct the survey during the first half of August. This year's survey consisted of 166 routes, each 25 miles long, with 148 routes located in the ring-necked pheasant range.

Observers drive each route in early morning and record the number and species of wildlife they see. The data provide an index of relative abundance and are used to monitor annual changes and long-term trends in populations of ring-necked pheasants, gray partridge, eastern cottontail rabbits, white-tailed jackrabbits and other select wildlife species.

The gray partridge index was similar to last year but 75 percent below the 10-year average. The cottontail rabbit index was also below the 10-year and long-term average. The jackrabbit index was 96 percent below the long-term average. Finally, the mourning dove index was 26 percent below last year and 29 percent below the 10-year average.

The 2011 August Roadside Report and pheasant hunting prospects map is available online at <http://mndnr.gov/hunting/pheasant>



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MN TWS LISTSERV

Do you want to exchange ideas and information with fellow TWS members? Or be the first to hear about the annual meeting, summer meetings, or important issues in conservation? We now have a listserv for all members for just that purpose. . If you would like to join the list, direct your browser to [http://wildlifeprofessional.org/mailman/listinfo/mntws\\_wildlifeprofessional.org](http://wildlifeprofessional.org/mailman/listinfo/mntws_wildlifeprofessional.org).

The governing board corresponds on a similar list (which is open to the members) at [http://wildlifeprofessional.org/mailman/listinfo/mntwsboard\\_wildlifeprofessional.org](http://wildlifeprofessional.org/mailman/listinfo/mntwsboard_wildlifeprofessional.org)

### MN TWS SHIRTS!

Short sleeve (natural white or sage green, S-XXL): \$10

Long sleeve (natural white, S-XXL): \$12

Please contact Sara Vacek (320-297-0386 or [curtsara@hotmail.com](mailto:curtsara@hotmail.com)) to order.

### WEBMASTER NEEDED

The Minnesota Chapter is searching for a webmaster to assume responsibility of the chapter website as it transitions from its current location to be hosted on the parent society's server. An interest in website design and Joomla software used to manage web content is a plus! Anyone interested in additional information should contact current webmaster John Loegering, 218-281-8132 or [jloegeri@umn.edu](mailto:jloegeri@umn.edu).

---

### 2011 RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2011 Raptor Research Foundation annual conference will be held October 5-9, 2011 at the Radisson Hotel in Duluth, Minnesota. The conference is hosted by the University of Minnesota's Natural Resource Research Institute, Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory and the Duluth Audubon Society. The scientific program will include oral and poster sessions including symposia on Raptors and Contaminants; Raptors and Wind Energy; Breeding Ecology, Distribution, and Movements of *Aegolius* Owls; Short-eared Owls: the need for a continental conservation plan; and Ecology & Conservation of Eastern North American Golden Eagles. The 2011 Plenary Address will be delivered by Dr. Scott Lanyon, Professor and Head of the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Lanyon will explain how scientists discover the evolutionary relationships of modern species (the Tree of Life) and how our changing understanding of these evolutionary relationships leads to changes in raptor classification. For complete conference details, visit our website at [www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/conferences](http://www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/conferences).

---

### NORTH DAKOTA HERP PROJECT

An update to the field guide of the Amphibians and Reptiles of North Dakota is under way. The guide will feature detailed species accounts, identification keys, color photos of *actual* North Dakota specimens and greatly updated county level range maps. In order to make the range maps as accurate as possible, sightings of reptiles and amphibians from citizens and biologists working within or near the North Dakota border are requested.

Please send sightings with locality information (preferably with GPS waypoint) and digital photograph(s) and/or audio recording (for frog and toads) to the following authors at: [Smith.LeClere.Blasus@gmail.com](mailto:Smith.LeClere.Blasus@gmail.com)

Thank you, Jeffrey B. LeClere, Randy E. Blasus, Christopher E. Smith



---

## 27TH ANNUAL MIDWEST HERPETOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM

When: 21-23 October 2011

Where: Plymouth, Minnesota Best Western Kelly Inn 2705 Annapolis Lane North Plymouth, Minnesota 55441 (763) 553-1600 (\$71 MHS room rate, family & pet friendly)

\$65 pre-register, \$75 at the door \$40 Banquet (adult); \$15 ages 5-12, under 4 free

For registration, go to the MHS website at <http://www.mnherpsoc.com>

### Schedule of Events

Friday October 21 Icebreaker, Social and Guest Speaker Dav Kaufman, "The Making of Herpers and Herpers II"

Saturday October 22

- Keynote Speaker - Barney Oldfield (Hesperus, Colorado), "Crotaphytid Odyssey"
- Jeff LeClere (Minneapolis, Minnesota) – MHS member & MN DNR, "Herpetofauna of Minnesota"
- Jeff Etting (St. Louis, Missouri)– Curator of Herpetology, St. Louis Zoo, "The Spatial Ecology and Habitat Usage of Armenian Vipers, *Montivipera raddei*, in Two Different Landscapes"
- Tony Gamble (Minneapolis, Minnesota) – University of Minnesota, "Describing South America's Lizard Diversity: From the Field to the Lab Bench"
- Salvatore Santelli (Annville, Pennsylvania) – Trustee, World Chelonian Trust
- Turtles/Tortoises, "The North American Wood Turtle: Personal Experiences with Them in the Wildfie and Capitivity"
- Chris Tabaka (Battle Creek, Michigan) – Staff Veterinarian, Binder Park Zoo, "Role of the Veterinarian in Field Conservation Research"
- Paul Moler (Gainesville, Florida), Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission-retired (Florida), "Herpotfaunal Surveys in Southern Vietnam"

---

## NATURAL RESOURCES COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

The Natural Resources Communication Workshop, sponsored by the Western Section of The Wildlife Society, will be held at California State University, Chico from January 9-13, 2012. The week-long workshop is designed to help natural resource workers more effectively communicate with general as well as technical audiences through personal presentations using computer-generated PowerPoint images. A variety of topics are covered including selecting communication strategies for specific audiences, creating computer-generated graphics, avoiding PowerPoint presentation "pitfalls," handling difficult questions, and solving equipment problems.

Application deadline is **October 28, 2011** and tentative registration fee is \$749.

Applying for the workshop is easy. On letterhead, applicants should describe: (1) their current position within their agency/organization, (2) how they would use the training, (3) any special reasons why they feel they should be chosen as a participant, and (4) if they already have official agency/organization approval to attend. Applicants should include their address, phone number, fax number, and email address with their application.

Professional Credit: Participants receive 1-unit CSUC Continuing Education credit. The workshop is worth 42 contact hours in Category I of The Wildlife Society's Certified Wildlife Biologist Renewal/Professional Development Certificate Program.



Submit applications to: Dr. Jon K. Hooper, Dept. Recreation and Parks Management, Calif. State University, Chico, CA 95929-0560. For more information, contact Jon by calling (530) 898-5811, faxing (530) 898-6557, or e-mailing [jhooper@csuchico.edu](mailto:jhooper@csuchico.edu).

---

**72<sup>nd</sup> MIDWEST  
FISH & WILDLIFE CONFERENCE  
Des Moines, Iowa**

**DECEMBER 4-7, 2011**

**Call for Contributed Papers and Posters**

The 72<sup>nd</sup> Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference will be held in Des Moines, Iowa during December 4-7, 2011. The meeting will include exceptional plenary speakers, workshops, symposia, contributed papers as platform (oral) and poster presentations, and technical committee meetings. We invite submission of contributed papers on topics of fish and wildlife science, management, conservation, education, or policy. Abstracts will be available on the website, but proceedings will not be published.

Contributed presentations from completed studies or significant results from ongoing work will be given highest priority. Acceptance of papers and posters from work currently in progress will depend on abstract quality and program space. Platform presentations and posters will be accepted based on technical merit and contribution to our knowledge of species, populations, communities, ecological processes, management practices, conservation initiatives, education models, or policy issues. However, meeting time and space is a limiting factor and we may not be able to accept all papers submitted, whether from professionals or students. **Deadline for abstract submissions is September 16, 2011.**

**Platform presentations**

All platform presentations will be scheduled for 20 minutes, which includes 15 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes for a question and answer period. A limited number of platform presentations may be included within symposia when the subject matter is consistent with a symposium's theme and there is available space within the symposium's session. The PCs running the platform presentations will be running Microsoft PowerPoint 2007; older versions of PowerPoint may not translate as expected. No other formats (such as slides, overheads, or video) will be accepted.

**Posters**

Participants are encouraged to consider presentation of their work as posters to provide an opportunity for authors to participate in more detailed communication with attendees. Posters will be displayed for 2 full days, and authors are requested to attend their posters during a scheduled break Monday afternoon and for 1 hour during a networking event Tuesday evening. Posters will be displayed on horizontal boards 4-ft. high x 8-ft. wide.

**Instructions for submitting abstracts**

You may submit your abstract (maximum 250 words) at <http://www.midwest2011.org/> by typing directly into the space provided or copying and pasting text from a word processing file in the appropriate field. Please confirm that the content of your abstract is accurate and correct once pasted into the space provided. Abstracts should include a statement of objectives, a brief description of methods, principal results, and conclusions or management recommendations.



Include scientific names in the abstract, but not in the title. The title should clearly describe what you will present. Please do not abbreviate place names (e.g., state or country) in the title or include author information or literature citations in the abstract. All information must be entered in the spaces provided on the website. During the abstract submission process you will be asked to provide affiliation information (i.e., institution, city, state, country) for all authors and a brief biography for the presenter (to be used by the moderator for your introduction). You will be notified via e-mail that your abstract was received and saved. For those who would like their abstract to be considered for inclusion in a specific symposium or who already have arranged with organizers to participate in a specific symposium, please indicate this by way of the appropriate comment box.

### **Students**

Student papers will be judged to recognize the best student platform and poster presentations.

### **Notice of abstract acceptance**

Notice of acceptance will be made by October 1, 2011.

### **Registration**

All presenters **MUST** register and pay the appropriate conference registration fee. Advanced registration is strongly recommended. Registration information is posted on the <http://www.midwest2011.org/>.

---

### **STUDENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP (SPDWG) OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

Happy September! This is a reminder and an update regarding the following topics pertaining to the Student Professional Development Working Group (SPDWG) of The Wildlife Society:

- 1) Annual Conference is in Hawaii, 5-10 November 2011
- 2) The SPDWG is offering a conference travel award!
- 3) Looking to get involved? We are looking for a volunteer to help fundraise before the conference.
- 4) Elections will be held soon. Currently, we are accepting nominations for officer positions until 30 September.
- 5) The student toolkit is available!
- 6) Canadian Section Conclave will be 23-25 September in Thunder Bay, Ontario.
- 7) Another travel grant from the Wildlife and Habitat Restoration Working Group.

Here are the details:

- 1) **This year's Annual Conference** will take place on the big island of Hawaii, from 5-10 November, 2011 ([conference website](#))! Registration is currently open, and an updated schedule has been posted. Check out the conference website for more information.
- 2) **Introducing the first SPDWG Travel Award!** Because of our increased membership we now have the funds to provide an annual conference travel award worth up to \$500 for 1 SPDWG member. See attached "SPDWG Student Travel Award Form," and submit your application by 10 October 2011.
- 3) **Do you want to get involved?** We are currently looking for someone to help with fundraising for the Student-Professional Mixer at the Annual Conference in Hawaii. Please contact Jerod Merkle ([jerod.merkle.1@ulaval.ca](mailto:jerod.merkle.1@ulaval.ca)) if you are interested. Previous fundraising experience is preferred.



4) **Elections for the SPDWG are coming up.** If you, or someone you know, are (is) interested in running for an officer position with the SPDWG, please nominate yourself (them). Nominations are due by 30 September 2011. See attached "SPDWG election nomination" for more information.

5) **The Student TOOLKIT** is now available here:

[http://joomla.wildlife.org/documents/student\\_toolkit.pdf](http://joomla.wildlife.org/documents/student_toolkit.pdf). This toolkit is an amazing information source, and it provides students and student chapters a plethora of information from running a field trip to writing a letter requesting for donations. Every student should have a copy.

6) **Conclave update.** The Canadian Section Student Conclave

(<http://www.lakeheadwildlife.ca/conclave-and-agm.php>) will take place 23-25 September in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

7) **Another travel grant opportunity.** The Wildlife and Habitat Restoration Working Group is offering grant(s) to cover registration fees at the annual conference. Applications are due 16 September 2011. See attachment for more information.

Thank you very much for all of your support. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any comments, questions, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jerod A. Merkle

Chair, SPDWG of TWS

<http://joomla.wildlife.org/StudentDevelopment/>



# N.A.F.H.A.

North American Field Herping Association

The North American Field Herping Association (NAFHA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to uniting amateur, private and professional herpetologists toward the common goal of understanding, conserving and managing the amphibians and reptiles of North America.

The centerpiece of NAFHA is a continent-wide database (<http://www.naherp.com>), where field herpers of all experience levels enter their finds. In less than five years, our database has grown to 75,000+ records. What is done with this data? Various agencies - both governmental and NGOs - can request [naherp.com](http://www.naherp.com) data for approved purposes, including academic studies, population management, conservation, and the formation of herp-related laws. Data requests are approved by the persons' whose data is being requested. Though the database is still in its infancy, seven database requests have already been made, approved, and delivered, including requests related to the Texas Natural Diversity Database, the Missouri Herp Atlas, the rewrite of the state of California's "Species of Special Concern" list, the rewrite of the US Forest Service's "Forest Sensitive Species" list, and a USGS project to measure the genetic diversity of southern California's pond turtle populations.

Persons who enter data into the database can choose the level of privacy of each record. Specific locality information and GPS data are never publicly available under any circumstances. Publicly hidden data are kept strictly confidential and cannot be viewed even by other NAFHA members.

NAFHA also organizes and conducts herpetological surveys of public and private land. NAFHA herpetological surveys have already included:

- \* Tejon Ranch Conservancy, Escondido Creek Conservancy, San Dieguito River Conservancy, Soquel Demonstration Forest, and Angel Island State Park in California
- \* Great Basin National Park in Nevada
- \* Santa Catalina Mountains, Santa Rita Mountains, and the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy in Arizona
- \* Chatfield Park in Colorado
- \* Four Corners area in Colorado/Utah/New Mexico/Arizona
- \* Frenchtown Road Conservation Area in Louisiana
- \* Delaware Water Gap in Pennsylvania
- \* Maryland Herp Atlas in Maryland
- \* Delmarva Peninsula in Delaware/Maryland/Virginia
- \* Everglades in Florida



It's no secret that herpetofauna are poorly studied, even in an area as settled and developed as North America. This database project and the related surveys should increase our knowledge of amphibians and reptiles - their distribution, abundance, and the health of populations. Over time the database will assist in the tracking of population trends. Every little bit helps - through the efforts of NAFHA, conservation agencies have been able to verify the species being protected on their land and better manage their populations; state parks have been able to update their lists of amphibians and reptiles present; and state agencies have been able to better track sensitive herp populations and adjust their management plans accordingly. NAFHA was recently thanked by the Tejon Ranch Conservancy for collecting data that formed part of their case for a \$15.8 million grant that facilitated the purchase of 62,000 acres of amazing land that will now be protected from development.

If you would like more information, NAFHA's homepage explains the local chapters, conservancy projects, surveys, and database contests: <http://www.nafha.org>. Check out what NAFHA is doing in your area, get on your local NAFHA forum, sign up for the [naherp.com](http://www.naherp.com) database, and start making a difference while field herping!



*The Minnesota Chapter  
of The Wildlife Society*



**Waikoloa, Hawaii - November 5-10, 2011**

**THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY'S 18<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Join your colleagues at North America's  
largest gathering of wildlife professionals.

**Network - Learn - Explore - Enjoy!**

**Featuring:**

-  **technical paper and poster sessions**
-  **workshops**
-  **symposia**
-  **Working Group meetings**
-  **student activities**
-  **exhibits**
-  **social events**

[www.wildlife.org](http://www.wildlife.org)



# WILDLIFE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Integrating Wildlife Science and Management

MARCH 2011 ISSN 0022-541X

Yes, it's back!

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY**

and take advantage of the  
member-only rate of \$35/year.  
Subscribe at [wildlife.org](http://wildlife.org).





## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

<p><b><u>President</u></b>  Mike Larson  913 NE 5th Street  Grand Rapids, MN  55744  larson.grapids@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Regional Representatives  Terms expiring in 2011</b></p>	<p><b>Regional  Representatives  Terms expiring in 2012</b></p>
<p><b><u>President-Elect</u></b>  Wayne Bringer  wayne_bringer@fws.gov</p>	<p><b><u>Region 2</u></b>  Nancy Gellerman  nancywildlifer@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b><u>Region 1</u></b>  Gregg Knutson  22996 290<sup>th</sup> St. NE  Middle River, MN 56737  (c) 218-686-4329  Gregg_Knutson@fws.gov</p>
<p><b><u>Past-President</u></b>  Greg Hoch  ghoch@umn.edu</p>	<p><b><u>Region 4</u></b>  Molly Tranel  missmolly102@hotmail.com</p>	<p><b><u>Region 3</u></b>  Beau Liddell  16543 Haven Rd.  Little Falls, MN 56345  liddell@brainerd.net</p>
<p><b><u>Treasurer</u></b>  Charlotte Roy  charlotte.roy@state.mn.us</p>	<p><b><u>Region 6</u></b>  Erica Hoaglund  erhoaglu@gmail.com</p>	<p><b><u>Region 5</u></b>  Brian Pember  51 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St. Room 203  Winona, MN 55987  504-494-6237  Brian_Pember@fws.gov</p>
<p><b><u>Secretary</u></b>  Rich Olsen  23070 N. Lakeshore Drive  Glenwood, MN 56334  320-634-0342  richard.marje.olson@gmail.com</p>	<p><b><u>Newsletter Editor</u></b>  Wes Bailey  wes_bailey@yahoo.com</p>	



## COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND STUDENT CHAPTERS

<p><b><u>Audit</u></b> Gretchen Mehmel Box 100 Roosevelt, MN 56673 (h)218-783-2521 gmehmel@wiktel.com</p>	<p><b><u>MCF Representative</u></b> Bill Faber Central Lakes College, Department of Natural Resources 501 West College Drive Brainerd, MN 56401 (w) 218- 855-8082 (h) 218-575-2328, <a href="mailto:wfaber@clcmn.edu">wfaber@clcmn.edu</a></p>	<p><b><u>Wetland Issues</u></b> Mike North 13261 21St Ave SW Pillager, MN 56473 (w) 320-255-4279 x 235 tjnorth@brainerd.net</p>
<p><b><u>Awards</u></b> Thom Soule 14351 405th St. NE Driscoll, ND 58532 (701) 387-4420 souletp@bektel.com</p>	<p><b><u>Membership</u></b> Vacant</p>	<p><b><u>UMN-Crookston</u></b> Austin Link, President linkx079@crk.umn.edu; John Loegering , Advisor <a href="mailto:jloegeri@umn.edu">jloegeri@umn.edu</a></p>
<p><b><u>COWCH</u></b> Nicholas Snavely nsnav589@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b><u>NRCS State Technical Committee Rep.</u></b> Jodie Provost 27267 Spruce Grove Road Aitkin, MN 56431 218-546-7310 (h) sprucegrovefarm@emily.net</p>	<p><b><u>UMN-Twin Cities</u></b> Amber Brooks, President brook297@umn.edu Peter Jordan, Advisor <a href="mailto:sbme@umn.edu">sbme@umn.edu</a></p>
<p><b><u>Forest Issues</u></b> Wes Bailey wes_bailey@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b><u>Prairie/Farmland Issues</u></b> Molly Tranel missmolly102@hotmail.com</p>	<p><b><u>Minnesota State University, Moorhead</u></b> Ashley Remmick, President <a href="mailto:remmickas@mnstate.edu">remmickas@mnstate.edu</a> Donna Stockram, Advisor stockram@mnstate.edu</p>
<p><b><u>Fundraising</u></b> Norm Moody PO Box 365 Hackensack, MN 56452 (w) 218-947-3338 (h) 218-675- 7739 <a href="mailto:cassland@tds.net">cassland@tds.net</a></p>	<p><b><u>Publicity/Programs</u></b> Wes Bailey wes_bailey@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b><u>Moose Advisory Committee</u></b> Gary Huschle honkerharmony@gvtel.com</p>
<p><b><u>FWLA Representative</u></b> Dave Fronczack dave_fronczack@fws.gov</p>	<p><b><u>Statewide Issues</u></b> Bill Faber Central Lakes College Department of Natural Resources 501 West College Drive Brainerd, MN 56401 (w) 218- 855-8082 (h)218-575-2328 <a href="mailto:wfaber@clcmn.edu">wfaber@clcmn.edu</a></p>	<p><b><u>Shallow Lake Forum Advisory Board</u></b> Molly Tranel missmolly102@hotmail.com</p>
<p><b><u>Historian/Archivist</u></b> John Moriarty john.moriarty@co.ramsey.mn.us</p>	<p><b><u>Student Relations (co-chairs)</u></b> Jim Berdeen james.berdeen@gmail.com Mark Hanson <a href="mailto:Mkhanson@paulbunyan.net">Mkhanson@paulbunyan.net</a></p>	<p><b><u>Webmaster</u></b> John Loegering 2900 University Avenue Crookston, MN 56716 (w) 218-281-8132 jloegeri@umn.edu</p>



## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

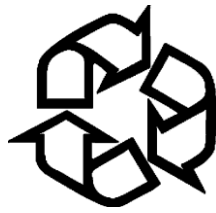
If you are a member of any of the below committees and do not see your name or see your name and are not on that committee, please contact John Loegering for changes.

<p><b><u>Audit</u></b> Gretchen Mehmel (Chair) Dave Olfelt</p>	<p><b><u>Historian/Archivist</u></b> John Moriarty</p>	<p><b><u>Statewide Issues</u></b> Bill Faber (Chair) Mike North</p>
<p><b><u>Awards</u></b> Thom Soule (Chair) Fred Bengston Bill Berg Wayne Bringer Ross Hier Greg Knutsen Martha Minchak Sara Vacek</p>	<p><b><u>MCF Representative</u></b> Bill Faber</p>	<p><b><u>Student Relations</u></b> Jim Berdeen (Co-Chair) Mark Hanson (Co-Chair) Stacy Salvevoid</p>
<p><b><u>COWCH Project</u></b> Nicholas Snaveley</p>	<p><b><u>Membership</u></b> Vacant (Chair) Past president (John Loegering)</p>	<p><b><u>Wetland Issues</u></b> Mike North (Chair) Tim Barberg Laurie Fairchild Sheldon Myerchin Doug Norris Stacy Salvevoid</p>
<p><b><u>Forest Issues</u></b> Wes Bailey (Chair) Wayne Bringer Steve Caron Jeff Hines Martha Minchak Gretchen Mehmel Mike Schrage</p>	<p><b><u>NRCS Tech Representative</u></b> Jodie Provost Dave Trauba</p>	<p><b><u>Moose Advisory Committee</u></b> Gary Huschle</p>
<p><b><u>Fundraising</u></b> Norm Moody (Chair) Jack Lamon Rob Naplin</p>	<p><b><u>Prairie/Farmland Issue</u></b> Molly Tranel (Chair) Greg Hoch Scott Kahan Richard Olson David Pauly Jeanine Vorland</p>	<p><b><u>Shallow Lakes Forum Rep</u></b> Molly Tranel</p>
<p><b><u>FWLA Representative</u></b> Dave Fronczack</p>	<p><b><u>Publicity/Programs</u></b> Wes Bailey (Chair) Doug Franke Ruth Anne Franke Greg Hoch Mike Larson John Loegering John Moriarty</p>	<p><b><u>Webmaster</u></b> John Loegering</p>

MINNESOTA CHAPTER - THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY  
c/o Margaret Anderson  
1823 Robin Hood Drive  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
THIEF RIVER FALLS, MN  
PERMIT NO. 53

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



RECYCLED PAPER  
Conserving Our Resources