

North Central Section The Wildlife Society

Biennial Newsletter, Volume 48, Number 2, Fall 2008

www.crk.umn.edu/tws/NCS

Illinois - Indiana - Iowa - Michigan - Minnesota
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2008 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

The 69th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference will be held in Columbus, Ohio, during 14-17 December 2008. Conference hosts have assembled an impressive array of workshops, symposia, and speakers. See the conference website for further details:

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/wildlife/tabid/19507/Default.aspx>



BE SURE TO REGISTER SOON! Conference highlights include:

- Workshops on abundance estimation and detection probability, advancing natural resource management through meeting facilitation, introduction to spatial modeling using ArcGIS, and human dimensions research.
- Symposia addressing wind energy and wildlife interactions, invasive species spread in aquatic ecosystems, noninvasive survey techniques for carnivores, long-term analyses and ecological thresholds, understanding midwestern reservoir function, the Farm Bill, and uses of otolith chemistry for fisheries management.
- **NCS Executive Board Meeting: Sunday, December 14, 4-6 PM.**
- **NCS Membership Meeting: Monday, December 15, 5-6:30 PM. Be There!**

President's Column

Jeff Lawrence

The leaves are changing colors and falling in northern Minnesota. Duck season opened in Minnesota on October 4. What a great time of the year to be out! We were up early and enjoyed the stars, then the sunrise, and the ducks. It was a spectacular morning with hundreds of ring-necked ducks roaring across our decoys. We enjoyed watching until the season opened at 9 A.M., and then enjoyed the taking. While each of us has different motivations, this is one of the items that keeps me inspired. It's nice to step back from the troubles of the economy and challenges to natural resources and enjoy the hunt - or canoe, trail, fish, birds or other things that keep us inspired.



November 4th will be an important day – Election Day. In addition to voting for the U.S. President and other elected officials that day, in Minnesota we will be voting for a Clean Water, Land and Legacy amendment. The amendment would dedicate 3/8 of one percent sales tax for clean water, natural resources, parks and trails, and the arts. This would be a real plus for natural resources in the State and allow us to make some real strides, similar to what Missouri has done since passage of a similar amendment there. A fine group of conservationists have worked for 10 years to get this on the ballot in Minnesota. A few years ago, I would have expected it to pass easily – but given the state of the economy and other factors it will be more of a challenge to pass an additional tax this year. However, conservationists and others continue with outstanding efforts to get the amendment passed and we remain hopeful. Regardless whether you will be voting in Minnesota or elsewhere, please take the time to vote in November. This is an important election.

As I review the newsletters and reports of the State and Student Chapters, I am reminded of the role of The Wildlife Society. It's interesting to check out the different state and student chapter websites that can be accessed through www.wildlife.org. The activities of the student chapters are exceptional – and the efforts of the Michigan Tech University and University of Wisconsin-Madison Student Chapters to hold the North Central Section Student Conclave were above the call. Many students from chapters throughout the Midwest attended this event.

Your annual dues, in addition to helping support the Student Conclave, have helped the Section contribute another \$1,000 toward our \$5,500 commitment for The Wildlife Society Endowment Fund. We also will contribute up to \$1,000 to help the Student Chapter of the Year attend the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Columbus, Ohio, this December, \$500 to support the North Central Section Student Conclave, \$500 to support the annual TWS Conference in Florida, \$100 to support the TWS Leadership Institute, and fund several other awards. We also contributed a small amount to digitize proceedings of past symposia hosted by the North Central Section. Thanks to John

Loegering and John Moriarty for getting this done. These publications will now be available on-line at the North Central Section website.

Thanks to the Minnesota Chapter, who completed their \$2,000 donation to the Continuing Education Fund. While we are still only at about half of our \$50,000 goal, interest from this account can be used to help support Continuing Education workshops that are open to attendance by North Central Section members in your State. Keep this source in mind as you look for ways for your Chapter to provide benefits for wildlifers and natural resource professionals in your state.

The 2009 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference will be held in Springfield, Illinois. Typically, we hold symposiums in odd numbered years of the Midwest. If you have symposium ideas that would be appropriate for the Section to sponsor, please let us know.

Our annual business meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 14 (5 P.M.) at the 2008 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Columbus, Ohio. We will present our annual awards at the Midwest and recognize some of our finest. I hope to see many of you there. Enjoy your fall!

Past-President's Column

John Moriarty

Special Topic: North Central Section Literature Archive

There is an ever-increasing and sometimes overwhelming amount of information on wildlife management and conservation issues. This information is available in a wide variety of formats from many different sources. The traditional source of information, from printed books and journals, is being supplemented by on-line journals and websites. This has led to some of the important sources of information to be lost, or at least forgotten about in the libraries of agencies and universities. The North Central Section is trying to make sure that this information, especially those involving the Section, is not lost.

Last year the North Central Section started a digital symposium archive project to make past symposium proceedings available on the web. As this newsletter is sent out the last of the symposium proceedings is being posted on the Section's website at <http://www.umcrookston.edu/tws/NCS/Publications.htm>. The archives will allow a new generation of wildlifers to access these important works. The success of the project was due to John Loegering and his students for scanning all the publications. Ollie Torgerson and Allan Crossley generously donated their copies of the symposia to be cut apart for scanning.

Many wildlife studies are never published in scientific journals, but are presented at professional meetings such as the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Abstracts of these presentations are sometimes the only "published" form of these projects. A search

for the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference Program and Abstracts using the WorldCat library search found less than half of the abstract books are in a library. Most of these items can only be found on the bookshelves of the persons who attended the conference. The largest collection is found at the University of Minnesota Wildlife Library, with 19 years of abstracts, where they are available for interlibrary loan.

As a further effort to archive our wildlife literature, it is important to have a complete set of abstracts available through the interlibrary loan program. The following table lists the abstract books from the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference that are not available from a major library. If you have copies of these abstracts books, I encourage you to donate them to a university library or send them to me (John Moriarty, Ramsey County Parks, 2015 N. Van Dyke St., Maplewood, MN 55109) so they can be deposited in the University of Minnesota Wildlife Library, which has stated it would maintain them in their permanent collection.

**Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference Programs/Abstracts
Not Currently in a Major Library**

Conf #	Year	Location	Conf #	Year	Location
1	1935	Urbana, IL	25	1963	St. Louis, MO
2	1936	Ann Arbor, MI	26	1964	Bloomington, IN
3	1937	Madison, WI	27	1965	Lansing, MI
4	1938	Columbus, OH	29	1967	Madison, WI
5	1939	St. Paul, MN	31	1969	St. Paul, MN
6	1940	Urbana, IL	36	1974	Indianapolis, IN
7	1941	Des Moines, IA	41	1979	Champaign-Urbana, IL
8	1946	Columbia, MO	42	1980	St. Paul, MN
9	1947	Lafayette, IN	43	1981	Wichita, KS
10	1948	Ann Arbor, MI	44	1982	Des Moines, IA
11	1949	Madison, WI	45	1983	St. Louis, MO
12	1950	Columbus, OH	46	1984	Indianapolis, IN
13	1951	Minneapolis, MN	47	1985	Grand Rapids, MI
14	1952	Des Moines, IA	50	1988	Columbus, OH
15	1953	Chicago, IL	51	1989	Springfield, IL
16	1954	St. Louis, MO	54	1992	Toronto, ONT
17	1955	Lafayette, IN	56	1994	Indianapolis, IN
18	1956	Lansing, MI	58	1996	Omaha, NE
19	1957	Milwaukee, WI	60	1998	Cincinnati, OH
20	1958	Columbus, OH	61	1999	Springfield, IL
21	1959	Minneapolis, MN	64	2003	Kansas City, MO
22	1960	Toronto, ONT	65	2004	Indianapolis, IN
23	1961	Lincoln, NE	66	2005	Grand Rapids, MI
24	1962	Des Moines, IA	69	2008	Columbus, OH

Section Representative's Report

Alan Crossley

It has been a year now since you elected me as the North Central Section representative to Council. So far I have been enjoying my time and the discussions that Council has had on a

great many issues. I know I sound like a broken record but I continue to believe that TWS is on the right track and doing lots of good things for its membership and for the wildlife resources that we all care about.

I'd Really Like to Hear from YOU!! As I head down to Miami to attend the TWS meeting in November, I would like to bring with me some of your thoughts, ideas and feedback

- Is TWS meeting your needs and expectations?
- If not, what's bothering you?
- What is TWS doing right?
- Are there issues that you want me to raise on behalf of the North Central Section?
- Are you happy with the direction and position that TWS is taking on issues?

I'm not sure I have heard from a soul during my first year on Council. Either everybody in the section is tickled pink with all that TWS is doing, or you can't remember how to get hold of me. So hoping it's the former, but guessing it's the latter – give me a shout. Here's my contact information:

Alan Crossley
Wisconsin DNR
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707
608-266-5463

Alan.Crossley@wisconsin.gov

I'd Like to Visit YOU!! One thing I did not do during my first year on council was get out to chapter meetings in the section. My job as CWD project leader for Wisconsin seemed all-consuming this past year. Heck, I even missed the Wisconsin Chapter meeting because of a work-related conflict. But I'm vowing to get out and about more in 2009 and it all starts with you extending me an invitation to your chapter meeting. I'd love to have the opportunity to hear and see first hand what chapters are up to. So send me an invite. My ability to attend meetings will depend on when they are and how much vacation time I have to use on these kinds of trips. But I'll do my best. Hope to hear from some of you.

Check Out the Website! Rather than rattle off a bunch of things that TWS Council and staff have been working on the past few months, I want to encourage you to get in the habit of checking the TWS website for the latest information – www.wildlife.org. The home page alone is filled with a huge amount of information and gives you a sense of the depth and breadth of things that TWS is working on. *The Wildlife Professional* special issue on climate change is featured prominently as is a link to an extensive climate change bibliography. There are links to the most recent technical reviews published by TWS including **Sources and Implications of Lead Ammunition and Fishing Tackle to Natural Resources** and **Impacts of Wind Energy Facilities on Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat**.

The Government Affairs News featured on the home page includes:

- TWS comments on the Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal to change the regulations governing Section 7 consultations under the Endangered Species Act
- TWS support for the Fish and Wildlife Service proposal to remove feral cats from San Nicolas Island in California
- TWS comments on the Final Recovery Plan for the Spotted Owl
- A copy of the TWS letter in support of the National Park Service proposal to eradicate non-native deer at Point Reyes National Seashore

On top of all that, there is plenty of information about the upcoming annual conference, TWS election results, links to The Wildlifer and much more. And that's just on the home page! So check it out, stay involved, or get involved in your professional society. And by all means, give me a shout – I'd love to hear from you.

Deer Workshop!

Purdue University and The Ohio State University are hosting a major workshop on ecology and management of white-tailed deer. Experts from the field will be presenting on a variety of topics. The conference will be held during 25-27 February 2009 in Lafayette, Indiana, and abstracts for the special poster section are being accepted until 3 December 2008. Please visit the conference website at www.fnr.purdue.edu/2009deer.



Emerging Issues in White-tailed Deer Conservation and Management

February 25-27, 2009
Lafayette, Indiana
Holiday Inn Select Hotel

A unique conference for wildlife and forestry professionals

Keynote Speaker - Gary Alt
"The Challenges of White-tailed Deer Management from an Ecosystem Perspective" - During his tenure with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Gary made some of the most sweeping changes to bear and deer management in history.

Dinner Speaker - Bill Heavey
Editor-at-large and columnist for *Field & Stream*. Author of the book, "If You Didn't Bring Jerky, What Did I just Eat? Misadventures in Hunting, Fishing, and Wilds of Suburbia."

Invited papers from leaders in their field

- Impacts to Hardwood Regeneration
- Lease Hunting and Open Access
- Chronic Wasting Disease
- Urban and Suburban Challenges
- Quality Deer Management
- Fertility Control
- Invasive Plants
- Financial Impacts
- Human Dimensions
- Population Demographics
- Challenges and Roadblocks for State Government

For complete conference details, visit www.fnr.purdue.edu/2009deer

Poster Session - Abstracts due Dec. 3rd

State Chapter Reports

Illinois

Tom Micetich

The Illinois Chapter of TWS will be meeting jointly with the Illinois Society of American Foresters, March 31 - April 2, 2009. The meeting will take place in southern Illinois, at the World Shooting and Recreational Complex near Sparta. An article in a TWS publication of about 1-1/2 years ago suggested that wildlifers get to know foresters a bit better. We hope to accomplish this as we meet jointly next year, to discuss issues of common interest.

The Illinois Chapter would like to congratulate the members and leadership of the University of Illinois' Student Chapter of TWS for winning the North Central Section's "Best Student Chapter" award.

Indiana

Dan McGuckin

The Indiana Chapter of TWS held a fall workshop, as part of our continuing education series, on October 28 and 29. The workshop was held at the Wright Forestry Center at Purdue University. Presenters discussed a variety of topics including successful tree and shrub planting, converting brush to native grasses, woodland edge feathering, wildlife crop damage identification and perennial food plot establishment and maintenance.

Missouri

John Vogel

On the weekend of April 4-6, 2008, 30 students representing 4 student chapters of The Wildlife Society in Missouri and one Illinois student chapter participated in the 4th annual MOTWS Spring Student Workshop. The workshop was held at Klondike County Park in St. Charles, Missouri. The St. Charles County Parks and Recreation Department graciously hosted the workshop and provided free lodging and meeting space for the entire event. Workshop topics included search techniques for herptofauna, fish sampling techniques in big river ecosystems, wetland mitigation in the Missouri River floodplain, raptor trapping and handling, and nuisance Canada goose management. A lucky trap set earlier in the morning led to a capture of a Cooper's hawk for the students to observe. In addition, a red-tailed hawk from an earlier capture was available. Being able to observe these two raptors up close was a great opportunity for the students. Overall, the 4th Annual MOTWS Spring Student Workshop was a huge success. This workshop provides a great opportunity for the students to network with each other, MOTWS members and professionals in the field.

The 2009 Spring Student Workshop sponsored by the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be held at Wah-Kon-Tah Prairie in southwest Missouri during April 4-5. Wah-Kon-Tah Prairie is about 2,300 acres in size, and owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy. The Missouri Department of Conservation owns and manages several other prairies near Wah-Kon-Tah, thus making the region important for private and public efforts to preserve and conserve the various components of prairie systems within Missouri. The annual workshop is held in a different location each year and the 2009 location was chosen to provide students with the opportunity to learn more about prairie ecosystems.

During the 2009 workshop students from the five different university chapters within Missouri will have the opportunity to learn about prairie management, the plight of Missouri's prairie chickens, the Department of Conservation's efforts to rejuvenate prairie chicken populations, procedures for estimating bird and small mammal populations in prairies, and perhaps, an opportunity to complete Level 1 fire training. Students will rub elbows with experts in prairie management and prairie chickens as the experts illustrate what efforts are taken to restore and manage prairies, and students are introduced to skills that are needed to evaluate the success of prairie management and prairie chicken restoration efforts. A highlight of the workshop will be the opportunity to watch booming prairie chickens on a lek. The 2009 Spring Student Workshop will be the fifth workshop sponsored by the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The annual workshop is one way the Missouri Chapter tries to mentor student chapter members within the state. The Missouri Chapter also provides undergraduate and graduate scholarships for students, and underwrites student participation at the state's annual Missouri Natural Resource Conference.

In addition, The Missouri Chapter is busily preparing for the annual winter meeting held in conjunction with the Missouri Natural Resources Conference. The Chapter is working on some Operations Manual and By-Laws revisions that will be discussed with our members at the annual meeting. Our Chapter will also have a booth during the Conference that will allow our members to network with other Conference attendees and hopefully raise some funds through a raffle and silent auction.

Ohio

Suzie Prange

The Ohio Chapter of TWS (OCTWS) held its fall business meeting on October 3rd. Important topics covered included clarification of the Bylaws and planning of activities for this year's Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Columbus, Ohio. Activities at the upcoming conference will include an OCTWS booth and a joint raffle with the Ohio Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (OCAFS). Additionally, OCTWS contributed \$250 to match the Michigan Chapter of TWS's \$250 contribution for the 2008 wildlife portion of the Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award for outstanding students, which is presented annually at the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference.

The OCTWS and OCAFS are also gearing up for the Ohio Fish & Wildlife Management Association Conference. This conference is co-sponsored by the Ohio Fish & Wildlife Management Association, OCTWS, and OCAFS and will be held in Columbus on February 6, 2009. The theme is “Advancing Fish and Wildlife Management for a Changing Environment.” The conference will feature 13 invited speakers (including a keynote speaker), posters, exhibitors, and a job fair. Speakers will present talks covering new technology and advances in wildlife management that will aid managers in dealing with timely issues, such as global warming, wind energy, and rapid urbanization. OCTWS will also host a booth at this conference and is responsible for organizing and conducting the raffle. The Ohio Fish & Wildlife Management Association Conference is typically attended by more than 200 people and is capped off by the winter business meetings of OCTWS and OCAFS.

The OCTWS continues to support important legislation and initiatives. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to support funding for Invasive *Phragmites* Long-Term Control and Outreach, and Invasive *Phragmites* Management and Control appropriation requests submitted to Congress. Ducks Unlimited, Inc., coordinated the requests in conjunction with Wayne State University and Cornell University. These research and management projects will yield immediate and long-term controls that will improve wetland vegetation, and consequently enhance fish and wildlife habitat, water quality functions, and outdoor recreation.

Wisconsin

Jamie Nack

WCTWS Hosts First Technical Training Workshop

The WCTWS held its first technical training workshop on Wildlife Damage Management, September 25th at the UW Arboretum in Madison. The session went very well and offered an opportunity to learn more about a topic that many wildlife professionals and students receive little formal training on. The Chapter had two primary reasons for hosting this training. One was to provide a professional development opportunity to wildlife students and professionals. The all-day training counted for seven contact hours toward TWS recertification and professional development credits. Second, we wanted to increase the awareness about the WI Chapter among non-members. The workshop was free to members and \$15 for non-members which included a 2008 membership. We will be tracking the new members to see if they continue their membership in 2009.



Thirty-seven people attended the workshop (14 current members and 23 non-members), plus an additional 15 people including board members and speakers were present for the day. The morning session was held in the UW Arboretum auditorium and included an overview of the history and principles of wildlife damage management by Scott Craven (UW-Madison). Brad Koele (WDNR) went over the nuisance wildlife regulations. Jason Suckow (USDA WS) described the USDA Wildlife Services program and highlighted some of the current projects

they are working on. Rob Erickson (On Target Animal Damage Control) discussed the private sector and the role they play within the wildlife control field. Then, the program switched gears and we discussed common problems and solutions for specific species. David Redell (WDNR) and Scott Craven started things off by talking about bat ecology and how to evict bats from dwellings without harming them.

After lunch, the program moved outside where the attendees rotated between four stations to see demonstrations on various control options. Mike Jones (USDA WS) discussed a variety of bird control techniques from pyrotechnics to the “scary man”. Scott Craven and David Drake (UW-Madison) talked about small mammal identification and how to eliminate moles, voles, mice, and other small mammals. Rob Erickson showed us how to get raccoons out of chimneys and how to deal with a skunk without being sprayed. Finally, Dan Hirschert (USDA WS) provided suggestions on how to reduce deer damage to landscape plants, orchards, and tree farms. He also discussed controlling deer in urban areas through sharpshooting programs.

The Wisconsin chapter will host a workshop on a new wildlife-related topic and in a different location each year. Trainings will be open to anyone, but free for WCTWS members.

New WCTWS website!

The Wisconsin Chapter has a new website: <http://joomla.wildlife.org/wisconsin>. Our new site is housed on the national TWS server and we are responsible for maintaining and updating it. However, there is no annual fee for the site and I have agreed to serve as our webmaster.

The website has a number of new features. For example, we have a new Chapter brochure that we can download and share with our colleagues who are not current Chapter members. The brochure explains who we are, what we do, and describes the benefits of being a Chapter member. The new website also has contact information for our board members and committee chairs, a list of past-presidents (1972-current) and award winners, position statements, current and past issues of the Intelligent Tinkering newsletter, Chapter bylaws, information on how to join, and much more. The website will also be a source of information for upcoming Chapter events like the 2009 Winter Meeting which will be held March 3-4 at the Lussier Family Heritage Center in Madison.

Student Chapter Reports

Ball State University

Matt Holding

As we start the fall semester, the Ball State University student chapter of The Wildlife Society has many planned activities and speakers. The first meeting of the year was an informational

meeting describing what The Wildlife Society is about and some of the activities we do during the year. Our second meeting featured Tim Dale, who is the local representative of Critter Control, so that we might get some perspective into the issue of human-wildlife conflicts. Our third meeting featured our own Dr. Tim Carter, who spoke about his work on the conservation of abandoned mines for bats. Future meetings will include Paul Waser on genetics in population monitoring, Gary Bevlosky on his work with bison, Neil Sabine on his conservation work, Bruce Kingsbury on eastern massasauga research, and an informative meeting about resume building and the acquisition of internships.

Community activities planned this semester include maintenance of nest boxes we installed last spring on the Cardinal Greenway, a bicycle and walking trail in Muncie. Additionally, we will volunteer at a local wild animal rehabilitation facility for a day to help maintain the facility. We are planning a radiotelemetry educational day and a bird mistnetting event on the Cooper Farm property owned by Ball State. We will be spear-heading an effort to create a small ephemeral wetland in Christy Woods, another university-owned property, to improve habitat for herptiles and specifically for a re-introduction of Spring Peepers into the area. The Wildlife Society will be taking a camping trip to Pulaski County to watch the sandhill crane migration during which we will also go up to the Indiana Dunes and bird watch. Members of the Wildlife Society will also be participating at the State deer check stations.

Central Michigan University

Keith Miller

We started off our semester with a very impressive group of active members who have showed a lot of participation and enthusiasm. Our first event of the year was a trip to the Wildlife Recovery Association to volunteer with raptor rehabilitation and facility repairs. Our second trip of this semester was a camping trip up to Hiawatha National Forest, to howl for wolves. We had multiple return howls from one location, which made it the first successful trip in the past three years!

In addition, we are also planning our Wildlife Education Project at local elementary schools, which has been a fun and successful event for both the schools and our members in past semesters. Very shortly, we are also scheduled to hold our second ever BioBlitz at CMU's Neithercut Woodland, which will consist of a full species inventory in conjunction with faculty and other student organizations.

This semester, we made it a goal to set up a mentoring relationship between older experienced biology students and recently-signed biology majors, to help them with simple problems/questions with their academic planning. We are also scheduling seminars and speakers for upcoming meetings and will hopefully have a winter tracking seminar and a tracking trip to make use of the snowy winter months. Overall, it looks like we have an eventful semester planned out, and definitely have the membership and enthusiasm to make it happen.



CMU's student chapter wolf howling in Hiawatha NF, MI.

Michigan State University

Mike Hassett

The Fisheries and Wildlife Club at Michigan State University is off to a slow start, but is gearing up for a great school year. The club has again started to have its weekly meetings and has several exciting guest speakers lined up to come in to talk with the club about many topics, including how to use radio telemetry in management, study abroad opportunities for Fisheries and Wildlife students, bird banding, and more. Club members even had a chance to work with the Michigan DNR and learned how to catch, band, and sex ducks.

Another exciting event coming up is our biannual River Cleanup, where club members and other volunteers work together to pick up trash in and around the Red Cedar River that runs through our campus. We always have a great turnout of volunteers and we hope to have even more this semester!

Unfortunately, another project our club and several other clubs on campus have been involved with has been put on hold. Sometime last year, several peregrine falcons made their way onto campus and have been hanging around one of the older buildings on campus. Clubs on campus had planned to set up a nesting box and monitor the birds, but the building that the nesting box was to be installed upon is now in consideration to be demolished.

The club is also looking forward to hosting the Spring 2009 North Central Section Student Conclave. It will be held at Camp McGregor in Jackson, MI from April 3-5. We're working on planning a great weekend for students and hope you can all come!



Missouri Western State University

Victoria Ward

In the fall of 2007 we began a partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Kansas to offer wildlands fire training leading to red card certification to members of our student chapter and plan to continue the program in the fall 2008 semester. Chapter members were able to take the Pack Test to earn their federal red card. In the fall of 2007 Missouri Western State University hosted the Missouri Academy of Science where members of The Wildlife Society were able to present independent research projects.

The Wildlife Society was a part of Western's annual Family Day where students and their relatives visited our campus. The Wildlife Society set up two tables. One was an informational booth and the other had animal skulls and furs for those interested. Children guessed the identity of the skulls and furs and were given candy. Informational pamphlets were handed out to individuals interested. Our student chapter attended the Missouri Natural Resource Conference where members staffed an information booth and some members presented their independent research.

Our chapter is the only student organization in the state of Missouri active in the MO Department of Conservation Hunter Education Instructor Program to the extent that the majority of the student chapter members are Hunter Education Instructors and active in teaching Hunter Education classes. Our chapter plans to organize and host a deer aging workshop on October 29 where professionals from the Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Sciences teach members how to age deer by tooth replacement. Participants learned how to correctly extract lower incisors for later processing in the lab. During the first weekend of deer season, November 15-16, student chapter members will become crew chiefs for groups of members that go to selected deer processing businesses in various counties to collect the teeth. These teeth were used for the on-going population management study being conducted by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Our chapter hosted a deer antler measuring workshop and then participated in the Missouri Department of Conservation's Deer Antler Measuring Day.

Our chapter participated in several habitat restoration workdays at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge. We have committed to 175 volunteer hours at the refuge. Members will conduct deer spotlighting surveys at Squaw Creek Wildlife Refuge. The surveys will be used to estimate deer populations on the refuge. Chapter members partook in Stream Team training. Student members attended the State Chapter of The Wildlife Society's annual Spring Skills Workshop.

We have continued the upkeep on the nature trails on campus. Using GPS technology, the annual survey of hazardous wastes and illegal dumpsites on campus has given our members field experience using state-of-the-art mapping GPS technology. Two individuals from our chapter will be going to The Wildlife Society annual conference in Miami, FL to represent our chapter. In partnership with Tri Beta Biological Honors Society, our student chapter members will be able to attend a cave exploring weekend. A cave owner has generously offered our organization the use of a cave for a small fee. The weekend will include an above-ground tour on how caves impact landscapes and an exploration of the inside of the cave.

Our chapter has begun a partnership program to research habitat selection by bobwhite quail on private lands which have implemented habitat restoration management programs for bobwhite quail. We look forward to participating in additional programs in the future and are proud of our achievements.

Purdue University

Adam Janke

The Purdue Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society is looking forward to an eventful and fun academic year. Our first meeting of the year was an interactive workshop which illustrated how to identify and abate issues with human-wildlife interactions in Indiana. We plan to host additional workshops this year including invasive plant control, equipment operation, and shorebird identification to increase our students' exposure and skills in these important topics.

The spring of 2008 brought our first breeding pair of mallards to the waterfowl nesting structures we maintain at a local wetland. Plans are in place to continue maintenance of these structures and install additional waterfowl structures and bluebird boxes on wetlands around Purdue's campus during the winter.

This year we will also be hosting our first annual "Wildlife Olympics," where undergraduates in teams of four will vie against each other in competitions testing their skills in the field. Events will include equipment operation, specimen identification, telemetry, and life history questions. The officers of the club are also looking forward to attending the annual TWS Conference in Miami in November.

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Heather Foslund

The SIUC Chapter of TWS has had a very active fall 2008 semester. We have had a variety of different speakers enlighten us with their knowledge of the wildlife field, including State Director Scott Beckerman of USDA Wildlife Services and Dan Frisk, Refuge Manager at Crab Orchard NWR. Both speakers gave members information about different potential careers in the federal government. We also HAD to listen to our Faculty Advisor, Dr. Clay Nielsen of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab at SIUC, talk about graduate school. We have also been active in outdoor activities, as well. We have helped clean up at Crab Orchard NWR and were fortunate enough to be able to help Dan Woolard of the IDNR band wood ducks (see pics below) in Union County. Several activities and speakers are planned for the remainder of the fall semester. Meg Martin will be presenting to the group about REACH, an undergraduate research program offered at SIUC. A visit will be paid to LaRue Pine Hills in the Shawnee National Forest to observe the snake migration. A representative from the St. Louis Zoo will speak to the group and that will be followed by a zoo trip to St. Louis the following weekend. We will spend the rest of the time enjoying the lovely southern Illinois fall colors (and working some on courses, I suppose)!

Dan Woolard shows SIUC Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab graduate student Kenny Delahunt the boring end of a wood duck.



SIUC zoology student Andy Schaal has a new feathered friend.



University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Blake Ruebush

The University of Illinois chapter of The Wildlife Society has hit the ground running this fall. To kick off the semester we had a cookout on September 3rd. It rained during the event but we still had 25 members attend. On September 19th we had 13 members go on a camping trip at Middlefork Fish and Wildlife Area. During this trip members put in service hours removing invasive plant species and learned about the impacts of invasive plants in the area. Scientist Rick Larimore, with the Illinois Natural History Survey, led this project. Our first Chapter meeting was held on October 1st at the Vet Med Sciences Building and 30 members attended. For this meeting we watched a "Raptor Rehabilitation" presentation that was hosted by the University of Illinois Wildlife Medical Clinic. During the chapter meeting we discussed our new "TWS Student Naturalist Program". This program was developed by our board members and advisors in hopes to increase participation and to recognize students for their involvement in the chapter. We put together an outline of the program and presented it at our chapter meeting. To be named a TWS Student Naturalist, members have to attend 5 of 8 yearly chapter meetings, be involved in 8 field work and educational events, and meet other criteria in the outline. This new program is very exciting for our chapter and we are looking forward to seeing how it develops. Our next event will be on October 18th when we will learn how to mist net birds, handle them, and band them. At our next meeting, on November 5th, our guest speaker will be Dr. Jim Miller. We have a couple of members attending the National Conference in Miami. Our past Chapter President, Ben O'Neil, will be presenting data from our annual American golden plover survey.

University of Minnesota, Crookston

Chris Waltz

The student chapter of The Wildlife Society at the University of Minnesota, Crookston, is off to a great start. We have completed three community projects already and have outlined our goals for the fall semester. Ten students helped restore abandoned homesteads on several islands to historical vegetation by planting native conifers (e.g., white pine, *Pinus strobes*; red pine, *Pinus resinosa*; and balsam fir, *Abies balsamea*). We also removed nearly 700 pounds of day lily (*Hemerocallis* spp.) bulbs that were planted by the homesteaders. The two other community projects were banding ducks at Tamarack NWR and mist-netting migrating birds at the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survival (MAPS) station at Buffalo State Park with Moorhead State University. Duck banding at Tamarack NWR was a great success with 20 members attending, and most were freshmen and sophomores banding for the first time. The students that went on the MAPS trip had a great experience too, they saw over 20 different species of passerines.

The executive board had our first meeting on September 25. In that meeting we outlined the goal of the club for this semester. Some of those goals are gaining valuable field experience to provide members with more skills when entering the professional field, building member's

professionalism through the attendance of professional meetings and conferences, and finally stressing the importance of political participation and activism, especially on issues like the "Vote Yes Campaign" that would dedicate 3/8% sales tax to wildlife, water quality and the arts.

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Lili Prahl

After a very successful spring semester for the UW-Madison student chapter, we are working hard to make this fall just as memorable. We have two field trips planned already along with several volunteer opportunities. We are also busy getting our Quizbowl team ready for the national TWS meetings in Miami, and, of course, planning our Big Game Dinner for late November.

Our first field trip will be to Kemp Natural Resources Station in Woodruff, WI. While we're up in the Northwoods we will be helping out on a flying squirrel project with Dr. Tim Van Deelen's graduate student Stephanie Steinhoff. Our members will have the opportunity not only to see the beautiful Kemp facility, but also to gain some valuable field experience doing radiotelemetry work and vegetation sampling. Our second field trip will be our very popular annual trip to Linwood Springs Research Station in Stevens Point, WI, to watch the banding of Northern Saw-whet Owls.

The Prairie Enthusiasts have asked us back to help them with some restoration efforts this fall after working with them successfully in spring. We are also volunteering for RETHink Wisconsin with their Camp Randall recycling project, as well as participating in our traditional highway cleanup near Mt. Horeb, WI. With record-breaking attendance at our kick-off meeting this year, we are looking forward to a great semester.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Eric Michel and Adam Murkowski

Although school is just getting back in session, the UWSP student chapter has been busy all summer. The Deer Project has been collecting summer deer observations. Through the TWS website the Deer Project has been distributing protocol sheets and collecting observations from Wisconsin citizens while our members drove over 6,500 miles collecting observations across the state. Furthermore, the Wisconsin Civil Air Patrol conducted aerial surveys in four deer management units across the state to test the viability of using aerial surveys to collect summer deer observations.

Even though most of our projects won't be underway until the snow starts to fly, there are some projects that are starting up. The flying squirrel project, small mammal project and road raptor survey have been going afield and getting members involved. The raptor road survey also took a

group of students up to Hawk Ridge to observe the broad winged hawk migration. Even though the weather didn't cooperate everybody still had a great time!

Lately, our society has been helping out with student involvement fairs by setting up booths and explaining to incoming freshman what our society is about. This will be capped off by setting up a booth to showcase the wildlife discipline to the regents of the UW system. Furthermore, the UWSP TWS student chapter will be sending 12 students to the National Conference in Miami this year. We would like to thank Jeremiah Heise and Joe Welch for putting together the applications that allowed our society to win the national student Chapter Of The Year award. We would also like to congratulate the new President (Eric Michel) and Vice President (Adam Murkowski) on their new positions.

2009 North Central Section of TWS Officer Elections

You are stuck with the editor of this newsletter (Clay Nielsen) as President of the North Central Section for 2009. Current Treasurer Michele Windsor is running unopposed, so don't be confused when you see only one candidate for that position. However, other positions are up for grabs; here are biographical sketches for Bob Gates and Tom Gehring (candidates for President-Elect), and Suzie Prange and Aaron Yetter (candidates for Secretary). **Ballots will be provided in a separate e-mail!**

Candidates for President-Elect

Bob Gates

I am currently an associate professor of wildlife ecology and management in the School of Environment and Natural Resources at Ohio State University. I came to Ohio State in 1998 after 8 years as faculty with the Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab and Department of Zoology at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. My B.S. was in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from South Dakota State University in 1979, M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Management from Montana State University in 1985, and Ph.D. in Zoology from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. A member of The Wildlife Society for over 20 years, I have served as president of the Illinois and Ohio Chapters of TWS and currently co-advisor for the Student Chapter of TWS at Ohio State. One of my most personally rewarding experiences has been as instructor with the Wildlife Management Institute's Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow program. Other professional service activities include Science Technical Advisory Committee member for the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture, and Board of Trustees member for the Winous Point Marsh



Conservancy. My research interests focus on population – habitat relationships of wetlands wildlife and upland game birds, wetlands ecology and management, wildlife diseases, and statistical applications to address wildlife and natural resource management problems. Membership and activity in TWS at all levels is more important now than ever, as our profession becomes more diversified and challenges to resource management grow. The wildlife profession has expanded its scope, adapted to societal changes, and broadened its perspective in response to changes in our constituency. Nevertheless, I believe that the core principles upon which our profession was founded are as relevant today as they were 71 years ago.

Tom Gehring

Personal Data: Live in rural Mount Pleasant, Michigan with wife (Amy), son (Forrest), step-daughter (Summer), step-son (Brysen), 5 dogs, 1 cat, and 22 sheep.

Education: B. S. in Biology, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, 1992; M.S. in Natural Resources-Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, 1996; Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology, Purdue University, 2000.

Employment History: 2005-present, Associate Professor of Biology, Department of Biology, Central Michigan University; 2001-2005, Assistant Professor of Biology, Department of Biology, Central Michigan University; 2001, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Forestry & Natural Resources, Purdue University.

Wildlife Society Activities: Member since 1992. Faculty Advisor for Central Michigan University – Student Chapter of TWS (2002-present). Member of Native Peoples' Wildlife Management Working Group. Member Steering Committee for Midwest conference in Michigan (2003-2005).

Honors and Affiliations: Member of American Society of Mammalogists (1992-present), Society for Conservation Biology (1992-present), Sigma Xi (2007-present).

Views: The Wildlife Society and North Central Section have many opportunities for continuing and expanding leadership in wildlife science. Addressing current issues important to the region is an important component of the NCS activities. Promoting and mentoring state and student chapter activities is also an important activity. As President-Elect of the NCS, I would work towards implementing additional means of increasing communication and involvement by all members and work to achieve the objectives of the Section.



Candidates for Secretary

Suzie Prange

Personal Data: Live in Athens, Ohio with husband (Tim), daughter (Rachel), and 2 indoor cats (Apache and Shardik).

Education: B.S. in Biology, University of South Alabama, 1989; M.S. in Biology, University of South Alabama, 1992; Ph.D. in Wildlife Biology, University of Missouri, 2000.

Employment History: Wildlife Research Biologist, Ohio Division of Wildlife, 2006 – present; Postdoctoral Research Associate/Visiting Scholar, Ohio State University, School of Environment and Natural Resources, 2003 – 2006; Instructor, Colorado State University, Department of Fishery & Wildlife Biology, 2002 – 2003; Fish & Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 2001 – 2002; Research Assistant, Missouri Department of Conservation, 1999 – 2001; Graduate Research Assistant, Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, 1995 – 1998; Graduate Teaching Fellow, University of Missouri, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife Biology, 1993 – 1995; Graduate Research Assistant, University of South Alabama, Department of Biology, 1990 – 1992; Assistant Curator, Vertebrate Museum, University of South Alabama, Biology Department, 1987 – 1989.



Wildlife Society Activities: Member of TWS since 1993; Member of TWS Urban Wildlife Working Group, 2003 – present; Member of TWS Biodiversity Working Group, 2003 – present; Member of TWS Publications Award Committee, 2008; Member of Contributed and Special Poster Subcommittee for the 2009 TWS Meeting; Present Elect, Ohio Chapter of TWS, 2007; President, Ohio Chapter of TWS, 2007 – present; Treasurer, TWS Biological Diversity Working Group, 2007 – present.

Honors & Affiliations: Affiliations – TWS, 1993 – present; TWS Urban Wildlife Working Group, 2003 – present; TWS Biological Diversity Working Group, 2003 – present; American Society of Mammalogists, 1993 – present; Society for Conservation Biology, 2005 – present; Midwest Furbearer Working Group, 2006 – present; Eastern Black Bear Study Group, 2007 – present; Mid-Appalachian Black Bear Study Group, 2007 – present; American Society of Mammalogists Conservation Committee, 2007 – present.

Honors – Outstanding Senior in Biology, 1989; Blanch Dean Scholarship, 1990; Goethe Institute Scholarship for study in Austria, 1990; Rucker Teaching Fellowship, 1993 – 1995; Love Fellowship, 1995 – 1999; One the Spot Award, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 2001 & 2002; Full Member of Sigma Xi, Scientific Research Society, 2006 – present.

Views: The Wildlife Society has and will continue to play a vital role in addressing current issues and fostering education and professionalism. Additionally, TWS serves as a uniting force for its diverse membership and a conduit for collaboration among wildlife professionals. Sections, such as the North Central Section, serve in this capacity, but also bridge the gap between state chapters and the national TWS. Sections bring together professionals and allow for issues to be addressed at the regional level, which is the most appropriate level for many wildlife-related issues. As such, I would be honored to serve as Secretary of the North Central Section and play an active role in addressing the challenges and opportunities in our region.

Aaron Yetter

Personal data: Live in Havana, Illinois with wife Julie, daughter Kady, and two yellow Labrador Retrievers.

Education: B.S. in Zoology (1989) and M.S. in Zoology (1993), Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Employment History: Waterfowl Ecologist and Facilities Manager, Forbes Biological Station, Illinois Natural History Survey (2004-Present); Technical Scientist, INHS (2001-2004); Associate Research Scientist, INHS (1996-2001); Assistant Research Scientist, INHS, (1992-1996); Research Biologist, Southern Illinois University (1992); Graduate Research Assistant, SIUC (1989-1992); Conservation Worker, Illinois Department of Conservation (1988-1989)



TWS Activities: President-Elect (2004), President (2005), and Past-President (2006) Illinois Chapter; Executive Board, Illinois Chapter (1999-2001, 2004-2006); Certified Wildlife Biologist (2000); Secretary/Treasurer, Illinois Chapter (1999-2001); TWS and North Central Section member (since 1999); Illinois Chapter member (since 1992); various Illinois Chapter committees including the Resolutions and Public Statements, Big Rivers, Nominations, Awards, Conference Planning, and Registration.

Views: I am honored to be nominated for Secretary of the North Central Section. In the past, I have taken a very active role with the Illinois Chapter and have found it to be very rewarding. I believe The Wildlife Society's role at the Chapter, Section, and National levels is becoming more important every day due to our increasing demand for energy both at home and abroad. If elected, I will help address regional conservation issues and provide input and guidance at all levels of this organization.

Candidate for Treasurer

Michele Windsor

Personal Data: Live in Black River Falls, WI; husband: Brent, 3 step-daughters, Joelle (16), Samantha (15) and Alice (13)

Education: B.S. in Wildlife Biology from University of Montana, Missoula, 1994; M.S. in Wildlife Management from Montana State University, Bozeman, 1997



Employment History: 1999 – present, wildlife biologist with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. During my time as biologist took on acting duties as statewide big game specialist from 2003-2004. 1998-1999, wildlife law enforcement officer with Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Previous employment had me working temporary positions with U.S. Forest Service, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Wildlife International Ltd, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

TWS Activities: Member since 1991. Certified Wildlife Biologist (2007). Treasurer (2008) NCS, President (2006) and treasurer/secretary (2002-2004) of Wisconsin state chapter. President and treasurer/secretary of student chapter at Univ. of Montana (1991-1993).

Honors and Affiliations: Received Roger G. Porter Scholar from AFT to attend national TWS conference in 2006; committee member for Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (2007).

Views: As president of the Wisconsin state chapter I made it my leading goal to improve communications amongst members and increase membership. Our state annual meeting held one of the largest turnouts and our webpage finally was operational. I continue to be a strong advocate of the necessity of professionalism and how TWS can assist its membership in being more successful in doing their job. The foundation for this is to build a strong membership at the state, section and national level to allow for a network of wildlife professionals that can assist each other while helping themselves. I see the role of the NCS to help network wildlife professionals at a regional level to better accomplish landscape and regional goals.

2008 North Central Section of TWS Officers

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