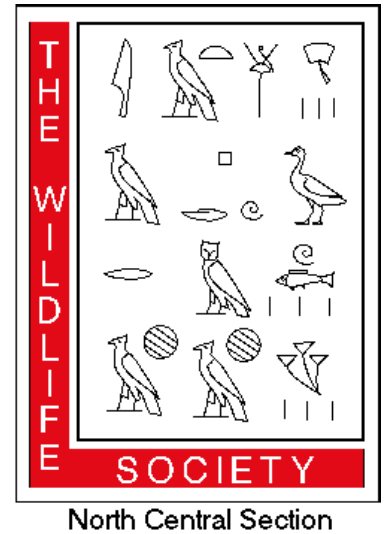


North Central Section The Wildlife Society

Biennial Newsletter, Volume 49, No. 1, Fall 2009

www.mntws.org/ncs

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President's Column

By Clayton K. Nielsen,



We wildlifers are a busy breed...but there is time for The Wildlife Society!

I derived the title for this column at 0430 on 21 October 2009 as I awoke thinking of the many tasks I had before me that day, one of which was to put together this piece. It dawned upon me that we wildlifers are indeed a busy breed, that I was not alone in this aspect, and that this may make a good topic for discussion, to be ended with a plea for greater involvement by our North Central Section membership in The Wildlife Society. After all, my Doctorate is not in Wildlife Management, Zoology, or Ecology, but in Philosophy. Thusly so, please bear with me as I philosophize for a spell and develop my argument.

We wildlifers are busy people. We tend to be extremely passionate about our field, as evidenced by the countless tireless hours we spend at it with minimal recompense. Indeed, I advise undergraduate students at Southern Illinois University Carbondale that this field is not for the faint of spirit, nor the wisher of great wealth and fame. Of course, some wildlife biologists do become famous, albeit in a relatively small world. Fewer become wealthy. No, wildlife work is for those with deep concern and passion for wildlife, habitat, recreation, and conservation; those items are worthy of mentioning to novel students entering our field.

Allow me to get back to this issue of busyness. In addition to our careers as field biologists, human dimensions specialists, or academic/research egghead-types such as myself, we tend to thoroughly enjoy and participate in the outdoors where we work (or profess to work if you are a desk biologist). Many of us fell in love with this field because we were (and still are) consumptive users of wildlife resources; efforts afield require a lot of time should we wish to harvest game properly while truly enjoying the outdoor experience and time outdoors with friends and family. Thus, we are busy in the woods and fields and wetlands, enjoying the recreational aspects of the very wildlife and habitats we conserve.

Most wildlifers seem to me to be family-type folks, and raising and participating in a family obviously requires much effort, too. My thoughts here are merely conjecture, being currently unmarried and devoid of any known offspring. However, most wildlifers of a certain age and status have families, and although I would bet natality rates of wildlifers are slightly lower than the national average, our potential fecundity is certainly high. We are generally a fit people with no doubt a strong natural urge to enhance our fitness. Given our understanding of animal behavior and associated fitness consequences, mating systems, and the like, we can therefore be only more cognizant of these issues than the general populace. The bottom line is that our work, our hobbies, and our families make us wildlifers very busy people.

These things being said about our generally demanding schedules, how is it that we, as wildlifers, have time for anything else, such as involvement with The Wildlife Society? Good question. I, myself, have taken on 3 major positions in The Wildlife Society during the past 5 years: SIUC Student Chapter Faculty Advisor, Illinois State Chapter President and North Central Section President. I'm quite sure I have not worked hard enough in these positions given my otherwise busy schedule as a forestry professor, wildlife scientist, and first responder to cougar calls (from humans, not cougars) from all corners of the continent. Yet, I have tried to contribute to The Wildlife Society in what little way I have been able, and intend to continue to do so in some capacity during the next 25-30 years of my career (unless I can be coaxed into early retirement given my likely future as the crazy old professor that never leaves the institution).

It is my contention that we can all contribute to The Wildlife Society. There are numerous opportunities, for professionals of all levels, to become active at the state, section, and/or national chapter levels. Chapters, working groups, and committees are always looking for members and officers. The Wildlife Society is growing to meet the needs of today's wildlife professionals and the broader public. This growth requires that its members not only pay dues, but to occasionally share their manifold skills, even given the scarcity of free time. Several elder biologists are questioning the incoming generation of wildlifers...will these people have the skills to continue the profession? I, as someone who trains our incoming biologists at the undergraduate and graduate levels, believe the future is exceptionally bright given the caliber of our students. That future can be made even brighter given guidance from more experienced professionals who are active members of The Wildlife Society. Although we wildlifers are indeed a busy breed, we need to try and carve out some time to become more involved with The Wildlife Society. The future of our professional demands it.

Past-Presidents' Report

By Jeff Lawrence



Fall is here in northern Minnesota. After a beautiful, warm September, we had many gray, rainy or snowy days in October. Many of the trees seem confused about when to drop their leaves. But in the last few weeks the tamaracks have been incredible – a splash of yellow and gold among the subtle browns, rust, and bare branches. It's a wonderful time of change as we approach winter.

An exciting change occurred last November fall in Minnesota, when we voted on the Clean Water, Land and Legacy constitutional amendment. It passed! Even in tough economic times, 56% of Minnesota voters supported the amendment that added a 3/8 of one percent sales tax for clean water, natural resources, parks and trails, and the arts. Thirty-three percent of the total funds (approximately \$78 million the first year) go to the outdoor heritage fund, which can be spent only to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife. A similar amount (33%) will go to a clean water fund, 14.25% to the parks and trails fund, and 19.75% to the arts and cultural heritage fund. The amendment will sunset in 25 years.

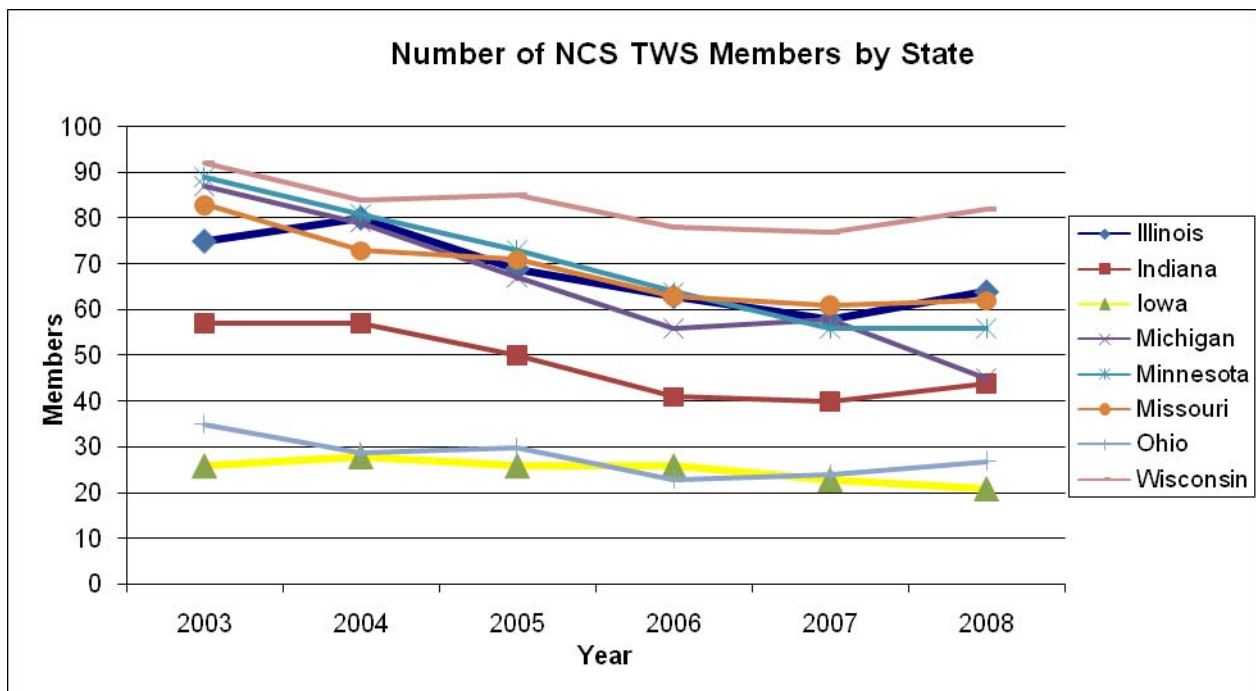
I was concerned about passage before the election, both because of the economic recession and some negative outdoor press. However, folks with an eye toward the future voted for making Minnesota a better place. The amendment did not pass in all the rural areas of the state, but strong support from much of the state led to approval. The amendment concept was modeled after Missouri's, in place since 1977. Arkansas passed a similar amendment in 1997.

This will be a real plus for natural resources in Minnesota and allow us to make some real strides in conservation and outdoor recreation. Many fine conservationists worked for 10 years to get this passed, but I especially admire the handful of private citizens who made passage their mission and donated untold hours to get this on the ballot and passed in Minnesota. Details on the Outdoor Heritage portion of the amendment can be obtained at <http://www.lohc.state.mn.us/>. Hopefully, other states in the North Central Section and elsewhere will be able to pass similar amendments.

Membership in the North Central Section has been a frequent topic of articles by NCS officers. The Section has lost about 35% of its members between 2001 and 2008. Generally, membership in the parent chapter of TWS membership had been relatively stable and State chapter membership has been variable. It is interesting to compare membership by state (see figure). While all states have seen some declines, some have

maintained relatively stable numbers of NCS members (e.g. Wisconsin, -11% since 2003) and others have seen substantial declines (e.g. Michigan, -48%, Minnesota, -38%). Is there a relationship between student or state chapter membership and Section and National membership? These patterns may be worth exploring as we work to keep The Wildlife Society a strong force in wildlife management and conservation.

The North Central Section serves a valuable role as the link between student chapters, state chapters, and the National Chapter. Elsewhere in the newsletter, you can see some of the benefits of the Section. As I complete my past presidents term, I thank you for your continued support for the North Central Section. Special thanks to the many that have served as officers in student, state, section, or national chapters. Please consider taking an active role in The Wildlife Society in the future. Only through your efforts will we remain a strong organization.



Section Representative's Report

By Alan Crossley,
Representative to TWS
Council



Council and senior staff met July 20-22 at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation in Dundee to review the recently approved [strategic plan for TWS](#). The purpose of our meeting was to review the accomplishments to-date and prioritize the objectives within the plan. The plan includes 9 programmatic goals in the areas of:

- Wildlife management and conservation;
- Government affairs and partnerships;
- Publishing and information resources;
- Meetings;
- Membership recruitment and retention;
- Professional development, certification and ethics;
- Public affairs and education;
- Marketing and development;
- Administration and finance.

Under these goals, we have 31 specific objectives and 184 strategies to carry them out. We concentrated on re-evaluating and prioritizing those 31 objectives. Some of the challenging questions we faced included:

- What role should TWS play in international affairs?
- How can we organize TWS staff to better serve members?
- What new publications are needed to serve member's information needs?
- What new information technologies can we use to advance scientific wildlife knowledge?
- How can we more effectively promote the use of wildlife science in public policy decisions?

At the national meeting in Monterey in September, Council reviewed a plan from TWS staff to implement the objectives in the context of the human and financial resources that we have available. You will be hearing more about that as time goes on.

Approval of a Lead Position Statement

Council also approved a final [lead position statement](#) at the Max McGraw meeting, based on the information contained in the Lead Technical Review (*Sources and Implications of Lead Ammunition and Fishing Tackle on Natural Resources*) and incorporating comments from the draft position statement that had been out for member review.

Congratulations to Wisconsin Chapter, John Olson, and Gary Potts

The North Central section was well represented at the Awards ceremony in Monterey. The Wisconsin Chapter received the Chapter of the Year Award. John Olson, furbearer biologist for the Wisconsin DNR received the Jim McDonough Award. And Gary Potts (Illinois wildlife biologist and former North Central Section representative to Council) was honored as a TWS Fellow.

Making Tracks – TWS Blog

Keep up-to-date with the latest news and views on wildlife conservation management. Feel free to post comments. Find it at <http://wildlifeprofessional.org/blog/>

North American Conference Will Be in the North Central Section in 2010

The North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference will be held March 22-27, 2010 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This is a rare opportunity for North Central section members to take in this conference on the 75th anniversary of its initiation. For more information as the conference gets closer – check out: <http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/>

TWS Conference is coming to Milwaukee in 2013!

At the September TWS Council meeting in Monterey, CA, council unanimously approved Milwaukee, Wisconsin as the location for the 2013 TWS Annual Conference. Thanks to the Wisconsin Chapter for stepping up and saying they'd host it again after hosting in 2005. Hopefully an annual meeting in the North Central section will make it a little easier for section members to attend the conference.

Check Out the Website! There is a lot more that is going on at TWS, so I encourage you to visit the website to learn more – www.wildlife.org

I'd Love to Hear from You!

My ability to adequately represent the members of the North Central Section on Council is in large part influenced by the feedback and information I hear from you folks. Please don't hesitate to 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

From TWS National

TWS Members:

A vital component of our Society is its member committees. As your President, it is my responsibility to fill these committees with TWS members and to declare respective chairs. To begin that process, I am asking for volunteers from the membership.

If you are interested in being a member of a TWS Member Committee, or remaining as a member on a TWS Committee, please let me know. Do not respond to this email address, but to the following address which I have specifically established while I am President: bleopold_tws@cfr.msstate.edu.

I would like to fill all committees by November 1, 2009, so please respond as soon as you can. The possible committees are listed at the end of this email.

Thank you in advance for volunteering for a committee, and thereby ensuring that The Wildlife Society continues to remain in the forefront of natural resources issues!!!

Respectfully requested,

Bruce D. Leopold, Ph.D.
President, The Wildlife Society

Volunteers Needed for TWS Committees (2009-2010)

Aldo Leopold Memorial Award

Ballot Validation (only for members living in the DC area)

Caesar Kleberg Award

Conservation Education Award

Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship

Honorary Membership and Special Recognition Service Award

Jim McDonough Award

Retired Wildlife Professional

TWS 75th Anniversary Celebration Committee (Ad Hoc)

TWS History Committee (Ad Hoc)

Wildlife Publications Awards

Awards and Recognition

Gary Potts Honored as a TWS Fellow, From Lesa Kardash, Wisconsin Chapter

Gary Potts was honored as a TWS Fellow at The Wildlife Society's annual meeting in September in Monterey, California. Gary is the consummate TWS professional, having worked at all levels, in all positions of the Society since he was a student member.

Gary's contributions to the wildlife profession are quite evident from his 28 years of service to The Wildlife Society. On the job, he has spent a lot of time in the trenches, working on the ground to develop wildlife habitat on both public and private land.

Gary served as the president of the Illinois Professional Association of Conservation Resource Managers from 1994-98. He has been a master hunter safety instructor in Fayette County, Illinois since 1995. He served on the editorial board of the Illinois Steward Magazine from 1993-2003. He is a member of Quail Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation, serving on the local NWTf chapter committee.

Gary has been a member of TWS since 1980, receiving a professional development certificate in 1999, and becoming a certified wildlife biologist in 2000.

His involvement with TWS activities began as a student board member at large with the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Student Chapter of TWS in 1980. He served on several committees with the Illinois Chapter, as well as Secretary/Treasurer and President. He was President of the North Central Section in the mid-1990s, and has been involved in countless Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conferences, chaired a variety of section committees, and served on a handful more.

Gary was the North Central Section representative to TWS Council from 2001-2007. During that time he served on a number of council committees, chaired the subcommittees for two technical reviews (Climate Change and Impact of Wind Energy), and has been a champion in many ways of the Lead Technical Review.

Gary's passion is working with young people, particularly students, and the joy he gets from inspiring them to reach higher, whether it is in pursuit of a higher degree, a job, or a leadership role in TWS. He always works the student crowd at meetings, making time to sit down to talk and identify ways that he could perhaps help them in some small way. His effort to promote professionalism among students is one of his lasting legacies.

Congratulations Gary on an honor that is richly deserved!!



Gary Potts Receiving TWS Fellow Award from President Tom Franklin (photo credit - Ruxandra Giura)

**Wisconsin Chapter Receives TWS State Chapter of the Year Award
From Lesa Kardash, Wisconsin Chapter**

Congratulations to the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society (WCTWS) for being chosen by TWS as the Chapter of the Year in 2009. The award recognizes exceptional achievements by a Chapter during the previous year. Past President Karl Martin (2007) and President-Elect Scott Walter accepted the award at the Awards Ceremony and delivered a presentation during the Leader's Lunch at the Annual Conference in Monterey, California in September.

So much has been accomplished by the Chapter in 2008, under Past Presidents Karl Martin and Jamie Nack. The following are some of the major accomplishments for which the Chapter was recognized:

- Offered the first technical training workshop on Wildlife Damage Management
- Offered two \$750 travel grants for members to get financial support to attend the TWS National conference
- Held Annual winter meeting jointly with the Wisconsin Chapter of The American Fisheries Society

- Moved the chapter website to the TWS server, providing significant improvements in communication.
- Developed/distributed an informative quarterly newsletter, *Intelligent Tinkering*
- Offered several awards at the annual winter meeting to recognize its members
- Developed two position statements on Wisconsin issues (Baiting and feeding, Double-crested cormorant management)
- Provided comments on Draft 10-year CWD management plan
- Established a transmitter frequency database
- Testified in support of DNR deer hunting season structure
- Redesigned its membership brochure



Karl Martin (blue shirt) and Scott Walter proud recipients of the Chapter of the Year Award (photo credit - Ruxandra Giura)

Larry David Receives TWS Certificate of Appreciation From Gary Potts, Illinois Chapter

Larry David recently received a certificate of appreciation from Tom Franklin, President of The Wildlife Society. Larry, a retired wildlife biologist from the IL Dept. of Natural Resources, served TWS with two three year terms on the Certification Review Board. Larry served one term as chair of the board. A great deal of time was spent reviewing applications, making suggestions, reviewing procedures with fellow board members and meeting with TWS Council.

Larry is a very active member of the IL Chapter and North Central Section of TWS. Larry and his wife Linda have moved back home to southern Missouri. Thanks Larry for your significant contributions to the wildlife profession!

John Olson Receives the Jim McDonough Award

From Lesa Kardash, Wisconsin Chapter

John Olson with Jim McDonough Award
(photo credit - Ruxandra Giura)



Congratulations to John Olson, Wisconsin DNR Furbearer Biologist, who received the Jim McDonough Award from The Wildlife Society at the Annual Conference in Monterey, California in September. The award recognizes Certified Wildlife Biologists who are TWS members at the Chapter, Section, and National levels. Recipients are biologists that have made significant contributions to the wildlife profession through development of new techniques, approaches or program implementation.

A few of John's significant contributions for which he was recognized include:

- Chairing the Wisconsin DNR Technical Furbearer Advisory Committee
- Working with researchers to develop better surveys for otters and beavers
- Developing "Fur School" – a week-long intense training program where participants learn all aspects of furbearer management through a hands-on approach to education
- Developing educational materials that result in trap placement that greatly reduces the risk of harming non-target species and domestic animals
- Coordinating furbearer track training to help biologists be more effective using track surveys to index populations
- Hosting the 17th Midwest Furbearer Symposium in Siren, Wisconsin in 1999.
- Working with Wisconsin Trappers Association to develop and improve a mandatory trapper education course
- Working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and attorneys on the management of Canada lynx.
- Serving as president of the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society in 1995.
- Coordinating a cable-restraint best management project that has been adopted as a nation-wide model.
- Serving as a member of the U.S. Furbearer Conservation Technical Working Group.
- Developing 40+ DNR rule proposals in an effort to improve trapping and furbearer management in Wisconsin.

**Ron Labisky Receives the Aldo Leopold Memorial Award
From Gary Potts, Illinois Chapter**

Dr. Ronald F. Labisky, Professor Emeritus, University of Florida, was awarded the Leopold Award and Medal during the Awards Ceremony at the Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Monterey, CA. Dr. Labisky worked early in his career at the Illinois Natural History Survey. He is the 5th individual who worked in IL to receive the Leopold Award.



Dr. Ron Labisky with the Aldo Leopold Award.

Recipients of North Central Section Awards, Presented at the 69th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Columbus, OH

Professional Award of Merit: Dr. Olin Eugene Rhodes, Jr., Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University

Student Chapter of the Year: University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana. Advisor: Dr Robert Schooley, President: Blake Ruebush, Past President: Ben O'Neill

Contributed Articles

Certification Myths Debunked

By Shannon Pederson, Subunit and Certification Coordinator, The Wildlife Society

Wildlife certification is a program I believe in and a major function of my job. Every year, I travel to wildlife agency meetings and inevitably find myself discussing wildlife certification. During these discussions I realize that many students and professionals are not fully aware of significant changes to the program.

The Certification Review Board (CRB) is made up of a dynamic and diverse group of five individuals who represent different interests and geographic locations. These individuals do not simply glance over the application and stamp “accept” or “reject”. Instead, they review applications thoroughly, request revisions if needed, cast a preliminary vote, and discuss the application further if consensus is not reached.

The CRB has also evolved to become proactive and accepting of applications. If an applicant does not meet requirements in a particular category, the Board will review the applicant’s transcripts or classes in other categories to try to fill gaps. The process allows for substitutions of certain classes. If, for example, an applicant is one course shy in a particular category, he or she may still be approved provided the applicant can present a strong case of having “equal intent”. Attending workshops, on-the-job training, on-line courses, and other professional development opportunities may substitute for a missing course. The CRB also allows for graduate work to substitute for (1-3 years) Professional Experience requirements or three-semester hours in the Communications category requirement. This acceptance for substitution has been incorporated into the program booklet available on our website (www.wildlife.org). The CRB also allows for courses to be split among multiple categories. For example, if an applicant takes a four-hour general biology course that focused on animals and plants, he or she may split that course by placing two hours in the zoology category and two hours in the botany category (along with applicable course descriptions).

The CRB acknowledges professional experience as coming from more than just wildlife managers. Administrators, educators, and researchers are considered professional wildlife biologists if they apply their knowledge to wildlife problems.

Certification is indeed relevant and helpful for wildlife biologists to demonstrate commitment to the profession. It can qualify a wildlife professional for certain jobs or promotions and can add credibility when consulting, speaking, or testifying before a professional audience. The program is trademarked, so certified wildlife biologists may add the title after their name (i.e., John Smith, Certified Wildlife Biologist ®).

The Wildlife Society also recognizes the important and beneficial work of wildlife technicians and we are in the process of creating a wildlife technician certification

program as well. Please look for upcoming information on those procedures soon at www.wildlife.org.

I welcome any questions or comments about our certification program. Please contact me anytime at Shannon@wildlife.org or 301-897-9770 X 303. I hope that this article has clarified any questions and misconceptions about the program and that more wildlife biologists will consider applying for certification.

Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow

By Zachary Lowe, Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation

Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLfT) is an educational program that conducts workshops for emerging leaders within the natural resources profession. It was developed under a partnership between the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation and The Wildlife Management Institute. The premise of the program is to improve participants' understanding of the varied and important roles that hunters and hunting play in conservation. Participants include senior level and graduate students, and agency professionals who are interested in better understanding the diverse interest of this conservation constituency. The CLfT program has recently trained an additional 17 top instructors from Universities, agencies, and private natural resource organizations across the North Central region in preparation for 3 workshops that will be held this winter.

Universities involved in the North Central Workshops include Grand Valley State, Iowa State, Mankato State, Michigan State, Missouri State, The Ohio State University, Purdue University, University of Michigan, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. All three Midwest workshops will be held at our flagship facility, the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation. The Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow program is currently administering 10 workshops nationally which enjoy the support of approximately 35 Universities and 30 States. See the website for further detail www.clft.org where you can locate a brochure, videos, and a list of 120 veteran instructors from across the nation.

The objective of the CLfT workshops is not to recruit hunters or in any way try to and make hunters out of the participants. Rather the mission of the program is to expose the participants to the diverse biological, social, ecological, and economic importance of hunting as it relates to conservation, management of wildlife resources, and the North American Model.

In January of 2010 CLfT will be hosting Pilot Agency Workshop designed specifically for non-hunting agency personnel. The Pilot workshop is for the professional development of state wildlife and federal resource management agency personnel who are non-hunters. In particular, we want to make the CLfT educational experience available to those non-hunting agency personnel who are identified as future leaders in management, administration and communication positions within the profession. This effort was initiated in cooperation with State and Federal natural resource agencies from across the Nation in order to expand the impact of the CLfT program to agency

personnel. If additional information about the CLFT program or participation in the Agency Pilot is desired, please refer to the website or contact Dr. Zach Lowe, National Coordinator for CLFT at: zach@clft.org.

Meetings and Workshops

2009 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

The 70th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference will be held in Springfield, Illinois during 6-9 December 2009. Conference hosts have assembled an impressive array of workshops, symposia, and speakers.

See the conference website for further details:

<http://dnr.state.il.us/MIDWEST/>



Student Professional Development Workshop at the 70th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

Wildlife, Fisheries, and Natural students are invited to a full-day professional development workshop, geared specifically for undergraduate fisheries and wildlife majors. NOTE: Workshop space is limited to the first 50 registrants.

We co-organized the workshop at three of the past four Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conferences and are pleased to present the workshop again on Sunday, December 6, 2009, at the 70th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Springfield, Illinois.

Student cost for the full-day workshop is \$20. This fee includes a light breakfast, lunch and an afternoon break, and a copy of the AFS publication, "A Guide to Careers in Fisheries", a sheet of laser-printed business cards for use at the conference, a directory of professionals who assist with the workshop for their future use, and a binder full of resource materials related to their budding careers in fisheries and wildlife.

We encourage students to register for the whole conference so they have opportunity to hear talks about the latest research in fisheries and wildlife given by professionals and graduate students, and to take advantage of the plethora of opportunities that they will have to practice the skills they started to master at the workshop.

Mike Pagel, Natural Resources & Sciences Employment Specialist at University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, will once again be co-instructing the workshop and will be

available to students to consult with on a one-on-one basis during the Conference (Mon, Tues) regarding resumes, interviews and other career-related topics.

If you are attending the Conference, please consider helping at the workshop as a table leader for 1/2 a day or to serve on our academic panel. To do so, please contact either of us so that we can get you more details - thank you!

Sincerely,
Rebecca Christoffel and Jim Schneider

Student Chapter Reports

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Brenna Towery, President

The SIUC student chapter of The Wildlife Society has been busy and the semester has just begun. We started off the year with a habitat restoration project on a local woman's property. Her land was destroyed by a massive storm in May of this year, so our group went out and seeded her property and planted multiple red bud and oak trees. We also participated in the annual Crab Orchard Clean-up Day by picking up trash in the area surrounding Crab Orchard Lake. Our most recent activity was a trip to Garden of the Gods, one of southern Illinois' breath-taking hiking trails. Coming up our group is planning a trip to the Wild Canid Center in Eureka, MO, to learn about endangered wolf species. We are also planning our biannual trip to LaRue-Pine Hills for the snake migration, where many species of snakes and amphibians can be spotted migrating from their summer to their winter habitats. In the future, we hope to be involved in habitat restoration projects, wood duck banding, and other activities that bring us closer to wildlife.

On September 20th, members of the SIUC student chapter of The Wildlife Society worked together on a habitat restoration project just miles outside of our college campus (see pictures on the following page). Due to the destructive storm last May, a woman's property was heavily damaged. While the storm took out many trees, there was also a lot of damage from the trucks and tractors that towed away the trees. The vehicles compressed the dirt, creating deep ruts and making erosion a serious problem. With the help of one of SIUC's senior scientists and a forestry graduate student, our group started off by raking the ground to loosen the top soil. We, then, saturated the land with grass seed and planted multiple red bud and oak trees. Just two weeks later, after a few good rains, we were pleased to see that the grass was growing tall and the trees were still standing. This project was a very rewarding experience for our chapter and we hope to be able to help out with similar projects in the future.



University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dan Elbert

The UIUC Chapter of TWS kicked off its fall semester recruiting many new students at Quad Day and our annual Fall Cookout held at Illini Grove. Our chapter continues to generate interest among undergraduate and graduate students and is also attracting students from departments on campus that have not traditionally been involved with our TWS chapter, such as Engineering, Political Science, and Classics. We welcome this diversity, and believe that it reflects a broader awareness and interest on campus concerning wildlife and related topics. Our attendance at chapter meetings this fall has been outstanding, averaging around 45 members. Dr. Jeff Hoover (INHS), recently presented some of his research on Brown-headed Cowbirds to our chapter, which continues to stimulate much interest among members and has translated into active participation in collaborative efforts between Dr. Hoover's lab group and UIUC TWS. This semester, we have organized several Student Naturalist Program courses. Members had the opportunity to gain experience trapping and banding Wood Ducks with Wade Louis (IDNR) and Dan Newhouse (IDNR), electrofishing Asian Silver Carp in the Illinois River with Dr. Greg Sass (INHS), and mist-netting migrant songbirds with Dan Elbert, Matt Mckim-Louder and Amber Albores, some of our graduate student members. We have plans later this semester to collect and process native prairie seed from remnant populations in Champaign Co., collect tick specimens for Nohra Mateus-Pinilla's (INHS) research group, restore frog habitat at the Vermillion River Observatory with Steve Buck (UIUC), and construct nest boxes for Prothonotary Warblers used for Dr. Hoover's long-term research in Southern Illinois. Our chapter is also working with the UIUC Office of Sustainability to develop compensated opportunities for student members to gain experience with habitat management, research, and educational outreach while simultaneously helping our campus to become more ecologically compatible for native wildlife. Several of our members will be traveling to Springfield to attend the upcoming Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and present posters and oral presentations on their research. We hope to see you and look forward to catching up with you there!

Central Michigan University Student Chapter

Keith Miller, President

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 Hiawatha National Forest to call for wolves. We had responses from both wolves and coyotes, making this our second successful wolf howling trip in as many 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.

We will also be making our first trip to volunteer at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Association within the next couple weeks, and plan to visit consistently throughout the year.

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
Amy Viscito, Vice President

This past spring the Fisheries and Wildlife club hosted the North Central Section Student Conclave of The Wildlife Society in Clarklake, MI, April 3-5. The weekend was a great success with 73 students from 8 different schools attending. There were workshops on radio telemetry, determining fish diets, and mist netting as well as speakers on spotted turtles, panda research in China and managing controversial species. During the spring the club also put on the biannual Red Cedar River Clean-up, where volunteers from

campus and the community join in the fun of removing trash from the river. The fall clean-up will be taking place on October 31, complete with a costume theme of the terrible trash monster. Six members of the club were able to attend the annual TWS conference in Monterey, CA this past September. The club is very proud to be able to fund their airfare to and from the conference. In September, several members from the club attended the Firearms Safety Course at the Watervliet Rod and Gun Club. Also during September one of the department PhD students, Sarah Hamer, took the club mist netting at Rose Lake Wildlife Research Center. This is a great way for students to gain experience handling birds and to learn about Sarah's research on lyme disease. About 15 students also attended Crane Fest in Bellevue, MI on October 11th. The club has weekly meetings during the school year to host speakers from the MDNR, the MSU Fisheries & Wildlife department, and the community regarding natural resources issues, ongoing research and to present opportunities to gain experience with the outdoors and field techniques. The club is always looking for speakers for these meetings and volunteer activities for our members to participate in. Please contact Casey Koleski (koleskic@msu.edu) or Amy Viscito (viscitoa@msu.edu) if you have any questions about what the club does.

University of Minnesota, Crookston **Jaime Mills, President**

The UMC student chapter participated in several events this fall. In September the club helped plant thousands of trees in a restoration effort at Voyageurs' National Park. The chapter also successfully banded over 70 ducks during the annual duck banding trip to Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge. Most recently the chapter coordinated the removal of invasive species, including buckthorn, at the Red River Valley Natural History Area. As the weather turns cooler, we plan on several guest speakers this winter.

University of Minnesota Twin Cities **Jessica Curry, TWS Representative**

To start the year off the Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology Club had a clean-up of Sarita, our campus wetland area which the club helps manage. In the future, we are planning to index the flora and fauna and possibly including a migratory bird list, and a survey of macro-invertebrates through collaboration between students and faculty. Many of our club members are participating in deer population and Chronic Wasting Disease surveys through the Minnesota DNR big game program under Lou Cornicelli. We have also planned a trip to the Advanced Telemetry Systems manufacturers. We will be learning about manufacturing of radio collars and will also have the opportunity to complete some telemetry exercises. Finally, we are in the planning stages in assisting one of the campus professors in conducting trumpeter swan research in Hudson Wisconsin.

Ohio State University
Kathleen Secor, President

The Ohio State University Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society has changed their name to the Fish and Wildlife Society with the addition of an American Fisheries Society affiliation. Most of our members are interested in both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, so this addition was well suited for them. We have participated in various conferences, such as the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and Ohio Fish and Wildlife Management Conference to promote networking; provided information and opportunities to gain experience for wetland and aquatic techniques used in the field; and brought in speakers to inform members of opportunities and career experience. We have also reached out to the community by helping out with a children's fishing day.

Purdue University
Keith Norris, President

The Purdue Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has had a busy start to the academic year. Boasting a large increase in student memberships, the chapter is engaging in a number of activities, helping to develop these future wildlife professionals.

To start off the year, members of The Purdue Student Chapter have assisted graduate students in the Forestry & Natural Resources Department at Purdue University with the sampling of the state endangered Eastern Hellbender in southern Indiana. After an introduction to the project, and a natural history review of the salamander by Dr. Rod Williams, the students were given the opportunity to head to the field to assist with the research. This project is researching the movements, home range, and habitat use of the Eastern Hellbender. By working with the graduate students (Nick Bergmeier, MS; Shem Unger, PhD) on this project, Purdue TWS members were able to gain amazing experience in the field, develop an understanding of how wildlife research projects are coordinated, as well as interact with a very unique species.

Purdue TWS has also been in the woods hanging screech owl boxes, with the intent to hang more before the winter season really sets in. After a lesson on the natural history of screech owls and the importance and use of owl boxes, the students were led by Dr. Harmon P. Weeks, Jr. into the woods to learn how to properly attach the boxes to trees. This project was able to get the student members out in the woods, and opens the door for potential future projects dealing with the owls that nest and roost in the boxes.

The four officers of the Purdue Student Chapter were able to attend the 2009 Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Monterey, California, in September. The officers were able to attend many of the presentations and workshops that were held throughout the conference. This was a great opportunity for the officers, allowing them to network with wildlife professionals as well as other student chapters. The valuable time spent at the conference was made possible by donations from the Indiana Chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Purdue University Department of Forestry & Natural Resources.

The Purdue Student Chapter has taken on the task of hosting the 2010 Midwest Student Conclave in the spring. The conclave, which is scheduled for March 26th-28th, has been given the broad theme of “Managing in the Matrix: Wildlife management on a changing landscape”. The hope is to deepen the understanding of wildlife management practices in an increasingly fragmented environment. The Student Chapter has many workshops, field trips, speakers, and competitions- including the annual Quiz Bowl- already planned. Currently, the Purdue Student Chapter is seeking donations to help fund the large event (which is expected to engage more than 100 students from all over the Midwest), as well as donations of ‘door prize’ type items. If you are interested in making a donation, or if you would like to attend the Conclave as a guest or a presenter, please contact the Student Chapter President, Keith Norris, by sending an email to norrisk@purdue.edu.

For more information regarding the plans for conclave, or for updates on the Student Chapter’s activities, please visit the Student Chapter website at www.purdue.edu/tws.

University of Wisconsin Stevens Point
Alyssa Untiedt, Vice President

Our fall semester is off to a great start! Seven of our members went to the TWS National Conference and had a great time viewing the wildlife out there, as well as contributing a poster on our saw-whet owl research. We’re looking forward to attending the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference this December!

We’ve begun the year with interesting speakers from all areas of wildlife including Dick Thiel from the Sandhill Wildlife Area Outdoor Skills Center, speaking about the importance of involvement in the society, Ross Dorendorf, a UWSP student speaking on the opportunities his summer job provided him, Stacie Robinson, UW-Madison graduate student speaking on her genetic work with white-tailed deer, and Ryan Walker, speaking on his job as Northeast Area New Mexico Game Manager.

We have many new members excited about getting out and involved. A few research projects are already well underway, including small mammal trapping, flying squirrel nest site searching, saw-whet owl banding, and bobcat tracking. We’re looking forward to the snow and the projects that come with it such as otter, fisher, deer, woodpecker, and lagomorphs. Other fun things this semester has been a brat fry that was a successful fundraiser, we recently voted on apparel designs done by our own members, and a trip to Hawk Ridge to see the fall migration is underway. We're excited for what the rest of the semester will bring!

State Chapter Reports

Illinois Chapter

Wade Louis, President

The ICTWS held their annual meeting jointly with the Illinois Society of American Foresters (ISAF), at the World Shooting Conference in Sparta Illinois March 31-April 2nd. This is the first known jointly held meeting of these two Societies and we hope it's not the last. Guest speakers included North Central Section Representative Alan Crossley and *The Wildlife Professional* editor and writer Katie Unger. Alan gave a presentation on Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance in Wisconsin (including an April fool's joke). During the business meeting Alan began by asking for feedback on The Wildlife Society from the membership and mentioned he had already received some feedback, such as concern about the cost of the National annual meeting and the content of the *Journal of Wildlife Management*. Finally, Alan reported on the most-recent Council meeting, indicating the following 5 activities were priorities for the Council: 1) Attempt to publish *The Wildlife Professional* monthly and electronically, 2) Have "anniversary date" memberships rather than calendar-year memberships, 3) Begin work on a book series on wildlife management and conservation to be published by Johns Hopkins Press, 4) re-invigorate the "Celebrating our Wildlife Heritage" program, and 5) Create an "early career" membership.

Katie Unger, a staff writer for *The Wildlife Professional*, reported that TWS recently launched a blog that is intended to provide updates, publications, and other information in a timely fashion. She reiterated that *The Wildlife Professional* is slated to be published monthly. Katie noted that they are working to provide members with electronic access to *Wildlife Society Bulletin* articles, which they do not currently have. She stated that *The Wildlife Professional* wants to publish more articles and they are striving for more utilitarian content, such as articles on field practices and techniques. She encouraged anyone to pitch article ideas to her.

Other highlights include the always fiercely contested Best Student Presentation Award. This year's winner was Amy Kelly with, "*Landscape genetics of white-tailed deer in Illinois: a tool for investigating an outbreak of chronic wasting disease.*" Without the student presenters, we would not have much of a meeting. It is invigorating to see such enthusiasm in our successors. In Illinois at least, it appears that our replacements are being properly trained. The membership also decided to draft a welcome letter to the newly appointed Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director, Marc Miller. The membership wanted to pledge their support as well as outline some concerns we felt needed to be addressed before the agency can move forward. The SAF and ICTWS agreed to jointly develop a document highlighting the benefit of, and encouraging timber harvest on public land.

Due to IDNR budget constraints, it was agreed that we host our annual business meeting in conjunction with the Midwest in Springfield this December. The meeting will be on Tuesday night December 8th starting around 5:00 p.m. Room is to be determined later. It was reported during the meeting the Chapter has had 139 paid members since 2007.

The ICTWS is fortunate to have such dedicated and professional members. It seems every year one of our members is being recognized for their outstanding efforts in the wildlife field. This year was no exception and we had the pleasure of watching two of our members receive prestigious awards. Regional Wildlife Biologist, Tom Beissel received the 2009 "Wildlife Biologist of the Year" award from the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies for his work with Chronic Wasting Disease. The award was presented at the MAFWA Directors Meeting held in Peoria on June 29th - July 1st. This award goes to the individual who has shown an unparalleled initiative towards the better understanding of wildlife and their conservation. Much of the success of Illinois' CWD field operations can be contributed to Tom's hard work, persistence, creativity, personal motivation, and professionalism.

The Chapter also was proud to learn that Past-North Central Section Representative, Gary Potts was awarded a "Fellows" designation during the 16th annual Conference in Monterey, California this past September. This award recognizes members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to the wildlife profession. TWS Fellows serve as ambassadors of The Wildlife Society and as such are encouraged to engage in outreach and other activities that will benefit and promote TWS and the wildlife profession. TWS Fellows are appointed for life. Gary is well deserving of all the recognition he receives.

Finally, we are all hard at work to insure that this years Midwest Conference is a success. We understand times are tough but we hope everyone is able to attend. Please check out the Midwest web site for scheduled events and sessions, <http://dnr.state.il.us/MIDWEST/>. Hope to see everyone in December.

Indiana Chapter

Roger Stonebraker, President

The Indiana Chapter provided financial assistance to the 4-H WHEP team that represented Indiana at the national contest in Louisiana and to Purdue Student Chapter officers who attended the annual TWS conference in Monterey.

Comments were provided on a pending Hoosier National Forest wildlife plan supporting an increase in early successional wildlife management practices.

Members set-up and manned a booth at the inaugural Hoosier Outdoor Experience in Indianapolis during the weekend of Sept. 26-27. Our booth featured numerous tools/toys of the wildlife trade as a way to engage young people in conversation/interest in wildlife careers.

Ohio Chapter

David Scott, President

The Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society held its fall meeting on October 9th at the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium. About 30 members attended and enjoyed access to the Zoo despite the rainy weather forecast for the day. Highlights of the fall meeting included a business meeting in which several changes to chapter bylaws were discussed and approved, a workshop on digital photography by Tim Daniel (ODNR, Division of Wildlife photographer), and an open forum discussion on future workshop topics and other continuing education issues for wildlife professionals.

2009 Officer Elections

The North Central Section is looking for a few good men and women to run for the following offices for 2010: President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you, or someone you know, would make a good candidate, please contact Clay Neilsen.

Watch for a separate mailing of candidate biographies and an election ballot.

TWS Web-Links

Career Center:

http://careers.wildlife.org/home/index.cfm?site_id=8764

Government Affairs:

http://joomla.wildlife.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5&Itemid=178

Position Statements:

http://joomla.wildlife.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=117&Itemid=299

Sections and Chapters:

http://joomla.wildlife.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=32&Itemid=180

Working Groups:

http://joomla.wildlife.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=34&Itemid=192

TWS For Students:

http://joomla.wildlife.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=36&Itemid=183

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