

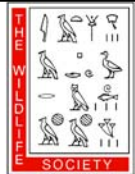
ATTENTION!

Immediate Action Requested

**Please note that Officer Elections are OPEN and ballots will be counted on Monday, December 5, 2011 at the Annual Meeting! See page 16 for a ballot and additional details.
THANKS.**

North Central Section TWS

<http://www.mntws.org/ncs/>



Illinois - Indiana - Iowa - Michigan - Minnesota - Missouri - Ohio - Wisconsin

The Biennial Newsletter of the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society

Volume 51, Number 1 & 2, Fall 2011

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The President's Column

By Don Sparling



Like many people throughout the country, those of us in the wildlife professions are no doubt experiencing the tough economic times. Many of us, whether in state or federal agencies, state universities, or non-governmental organizations, are affected by financial constraints because of cutbacks or perhaps because many Americans are watching their dollars more and are less likely to contribute to organizations. For example, Illinois leads the nation in terms of debt – no other state has the per capita debt load that Illinois has built. Over the years this has led to drastic declines in state spending on conservation, reductions in force for Department of Natural Resources personnel, and virtual elimination of state funded support of research. Other agencies that rely on general funding from their state legislatures are in similar straits. I would not be surprised if non-governmental organizations that rely on state grants or contracts are also suffering.

At the federal level, the only Department of the Interior agency to have a hope of an increase in the final 2012 budget approvals is the U.S. Geological Survey. Based on the budget so far submitted by the House of Representatives, other conservation agencies within Interior can expect reductions ranging from 5 to 21% and the U.S. EPA budget appears headed to at least a 17% decrease compared to 2011. Depending on what is ultimately resolved, the greatest decreases will almost certainly result in a loss of personnel and elimination of programs.

So, is there any silver lining in these dark clouds? I think there are. Budgetary problems are not new to any agency. When I worked for the federal government were told almost every year that we'd have less money in the coming year than in the current year. Sometimes these forecasts were accurate, sometimes they weren't. The phrase "doing more with less" became the slogan in all areas of business. Some of us more cynical types would respond "great, then I can't wait until we have nothing and then we'll be able to do everything." But we found that there is some truth to that statement. Continually faced with the prospects of reduced funding we thought of more creative ways of getting things done, we learned how to leverage, to cooperate with others in our agencies and with other agencies, and to be more aware of opportunities when they arose.

Again, using the Illinois DNR as an example, years of reduced funding from the state general funding is making the agency less reliant on that source of funding. Instead, it is looking towards user fees as an increasing source of funding. While there may be some downsides to them, user fees increase revenues by asking those who enjoy the resources to help defray some of the expenses associated with maintaining them. Other agencies in states such as Missouri have benefitted by established taxes that are directed to conservation. Another way that limited conservation dollars can be spread.

I guess what I'm trying to say in this very brief message is that we can and will make it through these times despite some of the dire financial outlooks

(Continued on page 2)

for those in universities, state or federal agencies, or non-government organizations. These times should challenge us to look for new cooperative relationships and opportunities to do what we can to protect the environment, manage the resources under our domain, and solve new and existing problems. As individuals we can support political candidates that are environmentally friendly. You can call me an optimist and I guess I am but that's the way I see it.

TWS North Central Section Council Report — Summer 2011

by Karl Martin, NCS Representative to Council

The Wildlife Society Council met on March 13-14, 2011 in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resource Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Council addressed many issues via email and conference call prior to the March meeting and during the two-day meeting in Kansas City with subsequent actions via email since the March meeting. Highlights from some of those discussions are below:



- Approved holding all future mid-year Council meetings in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference
- Approved holding the 2014 Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. (12/10)
- Approved Wildlife Disease Association MOU. (1/11)
- Approved the draft Shooting Preserves Position Statement for member review and comment. (1/11)
- Approved proceeding with plans for a 4th International Wildlife Management Congress in Durban, South Africa, July 9-12, 2012. (2/11)
- Approved a plan to engage Mexican colleagues to build a stronger TWS presence.
- Moved forward on a draft MOU between TWS and American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (AAWV) similar to the MOU signed with the Wildlife Disease Association. Colin Gilin, AAWV president answered questions and provided information to coun-

cil noting that many AAWV members were also members of TWS.

- Membership Marketing and Conferences Director Walter reported that membership had reached record numbers (>10,000) in 2010. This year membership numbers are tracking ahead of last year by more than three months. He estimated that by April we will be tracking ahead of August 2010. Membership numbers are currently fluctuating a little more because memberships are no longer on a calendar year basis.
- Student Membership Sponsorship Program: The program raised \$4700. Section Representative Martin, John Loegering, and the **North Central Section provided a \$760 incentive at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in December to use as \$20 rebates for student membership fees. This worked very well and resulting in 38 new student members.**
- Wildlife News Update is going out to about 30,000 recipients. It is doing very well with ad sales and feedback from members is mostly positive. It is a good source of non-dues revenue. He estimates that TWS is on track to make \$100,000 per year in revenue.
- Approved the Forestry & Wildlife Working Group for interim status.
- Approved the Early Career Professional Working Group for interim status.
- Approved the Military Lands Working Group for interim status.
- Dissolved the St. Cloud State University Student Chapter.
- Approved to revoke certification for AWBs and CWBs currently not holding membership in TWS in violation of the Bylaws change.
- William Block to start on July 1, 2011 as the new JWM Editor. **A huge thanks for Frank Thompson for the excellent job he did as JWM Editor-in-Chief.**
- Approved that President Ryder appoints a committee to develop of a new position statement on wolf recovery, delisting, and management.
- Director of Government Affairs Bies informed Council that the committee has completed the position statement on feral swine. She distributed a copy.
- Director of Government Affairs Bies said that she is incorporating comments from members on feral horses into the feral horse position statement. Many nonmember comments were also received. She has also received comments on the grizzly bear position statement.

(Continued on page 3)

- Approved the revised position statement on Economic Growth for member review and comment.
- Approved the revised position statement on the Endangered Species Act for member review and comment.
- Approved the revised position statement on the Endangered Species Act for member review and comment.
- Approved the revised position statement on Feral and Free-Ranging Cats for member review and comment.
- Director of Government Affairs Bies asked Council to consider developing a position statement on wildlife diseases – Council Approved.
- Approved an ad hoc committee of the Retired Professionals/Heritage Committee members be appointed to study the feasibility and develop criteria for a “Wildlife Hall of Fame.”

Approved Climate Change Position Statement for member review (5/11).

The Fall Council Meeting will be held on November 4th, 5th, and 8th in Kona, Hawaii prior to the Annual Conference. If you have a concern or issue you would like my to bring up to council or other questions please let me know (Karl.Martin@Wisconsin.gov). Hope everyone is having a GREAT SUMMER!!

Annual Exec Board Meeting

North Central Section TWS, December 13, 2010, Minneapolis, MN

Submitted by Charles Nilon

Called to order by Bob Gates at 5:35 p.m.

I. Exec Board Reports

Present Bob Gates, Charles Nilon, Gary Potts, Clay Nielsen, Daryl Walter, John Shultz, Karl Martin

Absent: Suzie Prange

Presidents Report

high points: 2 new student chapters Truman State (MO) Rio Grande (Ohio)

Need for slate of candidates

Paid for Chuck Pils registration, although he had to cancel because of weather, but we will honor his registration if needed. Board needs to consider covering expenses of retired members who receive awards at Midwest.

Need to have a motion at meeting to formalize paying for expenses of awardees

Treasurers Report (Bob for Suzie)

Charges: Student chapter of the year award went to MO Western and we will provide their money (do we need a motion to ask that funds be for Midwest?)

continuing education and symposia \$5000 in savings for ce and \$3500 for symposia are in savings accounts for use (board approved during year) balance is in a cd on a rolling basis to maintain cash at hand (board approved during year)

State Chapter Reports - None

IV. National Report

Daryl – update from TWS: policy department staff has increased; asst. director and 3 interns; New publisher Wiley Blackwell, WSB relaunched as online only product ca March 2011

Annual conference attendance: 1400 at Snowbird, Utah in October 2010

2011 conference in Hawaii

2012 Portland

2013 Milwaukee

2014 Pittsburgh

2015 Central U.S. - Iowa Chapter and Canadian section expressing interest

Scholar One will be new abstract site

Intl. Wildlife Management Congress, June or July 2012 in South Africa

Membership – new high 9700+ members close to 10,000 - reasons : new member benefits (new online mentoring site, social networking, policy news now monthly, technical reviews online and free)

2011 – weekly wildlife newsletter; other benefits

Push to get 10,000 reaching lapsed members, asked sections and chapters for names of folks that are not national members; student sponsorship program

III. Section Karl Martin – incentive program; student professional mixer, target students and offer \$20 toward 10 student memberships (Karl will); will section add in \$15 for remainder?

V. Nominations and Elections

Bob gave report – no nominations to date

Need to keep in mind bylaws that ask us to have a committee to handle this

Discussion around having state chapter presidents to be part of nominating committee – Gary suggested looking at states that are not represented by existing board members; involving representative of each chapter

Need to handle this quickly – board has discussed this

Need two people: secretary and president

(Continued on page 4)

Get people from future conferences States who are likely to be able to attend

The group developed a list of 14 names and discussion followed on who to recommend for president and treasurer (names omitted for privacy reasons)

Bob will contact priority list of people to be considered for nominations.

Bylaws – president establishes 2-3 person nominating comm. Involve state chapter officers in this perhaps states where conference will be; geographic representation

VI. Prof Award of Merit: solicited nominations and appointed a committee from states where nominee was not from . 4 strong candidates

Chapter of the year

Need to take photos for awards at business meeting

Paper/poster awards – 20+ will make awards following meeting, section will pay for memberships of winners

Old Business

Fenske Award and Breakfast (issue is what should we spend money on) – requested \$250 and board supported, but conference came up with rest of money; issue is money for breakfast: we have supported this in past; Gary described discussion on this. Award started as an AFS state chapter award, then became a division award, and is now in sixth year. NCS needs to consider role of this each year. Need to raise money. **General support for a NC Section top student award perhaps call it north central section to student award. Instead of paying for breakfast and other activities: key point better use of money ... Bottom line is to create a monetary gift and award for a student at plenary. And next year's steering committee needs to be aware of this.** Idea of award is to gather students who have applied for award; venue for them to interact with professionals

Question is what should we do about awards for wildlife students? We need to have a vote on this by membership / Extensive discussion followed; How to avoid a negative policy statement; How to handle an annual request

Action Item: Bob will communicate to Fenske breakfast organizer that NCS is likely to discontinue funding. And here are our concerns: We want to honor student with NCS name attached at plenary.; concerns about cost of budgets; etc. Open to further discussion concerning how our nominees might be honored at breakfast

Continuing Education Fund: Gary discussed history of fund. Money came from chapters and from individuals; + \$6000 from solicitation to companies; no fundraising since then, but goal was \$50,000 currently at \$27,000. Gary Potts / Paul Brewer volunteered to lead effort to rewrite text for a new solicitation letter. Need to outline subject areas for continuing ed that we would like to pursue ex. Private lands workshops

Address disparity in managers who get to come to conference and need for providing training for continuing ed. / professional training or development. Develop a program for at least every-other year for conference.

Need to engage academics and involve them in training. E.G. Sunday workshops.

Two issues: using balance; building endowment

We could use existing balance... discussion followed on options

Can symposia fund be used for this – would this be more effective, and a more effective way of meeting needs

Travel funds for officers to attend Midwest: is there a need?

Will it increase interest in running for office? Consensus was no need for this.

Info items – membership list of section and state needed by national (really focus on state and student member) discussion followed on how to get state members interested in membership at all levels of TWS discussion followed with Daryl and Karl about how to handle membership lists and contacts ; can TWS maintain database for all levels? Discussion followed that states think this would be a great deal

Gary mentioned put together materials for student chapters to go out at fall semester. For first program... about TWS and being a member of your professional society; similar materials for state chapters

vii. New business – approve student chapter bylaws

viii. John Moriarity reported on student paper awards: TWS membership, state membership, journal sub, cash John Schultz mentioned that info on this should go to Iowa for recognition for next year John will forward to Bob what package is for winning; he will write this up.

Web site – need to update and add information on award winners and student chapters. Need to reconstruct this information. Information needs to be compiled and forwarded for inclusion to website

NCS has made symposia available as pdf's on website

Goal is to archive our section website on TWS site

Ollie Torgerson's history of Midwest conference should be placed on website.

Charlie – brought up interest in section taking on diversity issue

Karl – moved that he would sponsor up to 20 new student

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members at tonight's meeting if NCS will match remainder. Karl will pay and Suzie will reimburse; Charlie seconded; motion passed
Adjourn

Treasurer's Report, 2010

December 2010

General Fund

Starting Balance	\$7343.46
Income (dues)	\$3821.00
Expenses (below).....	\$1026.84
Ending Balance.....	\$10137.62
Expenses included ordering checks (\$9.25) and the Student Chapter of the Year Award (\$1017.59)	

Continuing Education Fund (Savings & CDs)

Balance	\$27,488.16
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Symposia Fund (Savings & CDs)

Balance	\$10,467.56
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TOTAL FUNDS as of December 12, 2010.....\$48,093.34

Respectfully submitted by the Treasurer,
Suzanne Prange, Ph.D.
Waterloo Wildlife Research Station
ODNR, Division of Wildlife

State Chapter Reports

Illinois Chapter – no report submitted

Indiana Chapter – no report submitted

Iowa Chapter – no report submitted

Michigan Chapter – no report submitted

Minnesota Chapter

By Michael Larson, President

We held our 2011 Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Minneapolis in December 2010. Award recipients recognized then included Margaret (Maggie) Anderson, Manager of Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge (Minnesota Award--our chapter's highest award), Jodi Provost, a Private Lands Wildlife Specialist for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) (Dr. Janet S. Boe Memorial Award), and Sheila Carlton, University of Minnesota-Crookston (Student Conservationist Award). In March Dr. Michael Zicus, retired Waterfowl Biologist in

DNR's Wildlife Research Unit, received the Award of Professional Excellence from the University of Maine's Wildlife Ecology Program, which is given to graduates of the program who have distinguished themselves throughout their careers. We are looking forward to our joint annual meeting with the North Dakota Chapter next February 7-9, 2012, in Fargo, ND.

Missouri Chapter

By Chris Newbold, President

The Missouri Chapter held its annual meeting at the 2011 Missouri Natural Resources Conference in February. The Conference is an annual event that is sponsored cooperatively by the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Missouri Chapter of The American Fisheries Society, the Missouri Society of American Foresters, and Missouri Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. The 2011 Conference was lightly attended due to a record blizzard Missouri received in February 2011. The day before the Conference started, the Lake of the Ozarks region was blessed with 24" of snow. Needless to say, most Missouri Chapter members are not accustomed to this much snow and travel plans were greatly affected. Despite the weather, the Missouri Chapter was able to hold its 2011 annual meeting and those members that were able to make it to the Conference enjoyed a worthwhile and friendly meeting.

Usually the Chapter hosts a Spring Student Workshop that gives members of the 6 Student Chapters in Missouri a chance to network with each other, other State Chapter members and professionals in the field. However, in 2011 The University of Missouri Student Chapter hosted the 2011 TWS North Central Student Conclave and the State Chapter decided to support this effort rather than hold a competing State Student workshop. The conclave was attended by 17 schools from the North Central Section and had nearly 300 students. Congratulations to the MU chapter on a successful conclave.

We held our 2011 summer professional development work-



shop in July. The Workshop was held in Theodosia Missouri and was focused on karst, groundwater issues, and cave management. Attendees went on a tour led by Tom Aley of the The Ozark Underground Laboratory of Tumbling Creek Cave, home of the endangered Tumbling Creek Cave Snail. Several of us were also lucky enough to witness the out flight of about 30,000 grey bats the night before the workshop. The program was excellent and members were exposed to a lot of information regarding cave ecology and preservation. The Missouri Chapter's summer workshop is a great opportunity to get "hands-on" professional training and we plan on continuing this annual activity in future years.

The Missouri Chapter is also preparing to celebrate our 50th Anniversary in 2012! We currently busy planning our commemorative events for our upcoming annual meeting in February, 2012. We plan on hosting a celebration Luncheon for members and past Society award winners. The 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. If you are interested in celebrating with us, plan on coming to the 2012 Missouri Natural Resources Conference at Lake of the Ozarks.

Ohio Chapter – no report submitted

Wisconsin Chapter – no report submitted

Student Chapter Reports

Eastern Illinois University – – no report

Southern Illinois University

By Eric Ness, President

The Southern Illinois University Carbondale student chapter of TWS has elected new officers for this school year. We were not active during the summer months because of all the students being away. A barn owl box was purchased by the club and we are in the planning process of where to set it up. Our first meeting is coming up and we are very excited to see all the new and old faces. We have several volunteer activities to start off the year in which we will be cleaning and clearing brush on a couple natural heritage areas in the Carbondale area.

University of Illinois - Champaign/Urbana – – no report submitted

Western Illinois Uni-



versity – – no report

Ball State University (Indiana)

By Julia A. Nawrocki, President

As we immerse ourselves in the fall semester, the Ball State University student chapter of The Wildlife Society has many activities and speakers planned. We started the first meeting of the year with an informational meeting highlighting some of the activities we have done in the past and some that we are planning to do. Other meetings this year included Indiana Deer Biologist, Chad Stewart, our own grad student Jennifer Wagner and professor Timothy Carter. New this year is a collaboration with the John M. Craddock Wetland Nature Preserve. This former industrial site was restored and the city of Muncie has partnered with the our chapter to provide our expertise doing faunal surveys for all the semi-annual Ecoblitz. This not only provides a service to the community, but gives our members an opportunity practice the skills and techniques they have learned in the classroom and to share their love of the outdoors with the public.

Last year we had guest speakers come approximately every other week to talk about careers in the wildlife field. Some examples of presentations given focused on topics such as the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' upland game research, Indiana bat distribution and roosting habitats, herpetoculture, and predator-prey relationships and densities. We were also given a talk about the local mammals of Indiana by Indiana State University's John O. Whitaker. We worked closely with members of Indiana DNR when we participated in deer check stations and a rabbit management project on state lands. In the fall, some of our members travelled up to the Jasper-Pulaski area to view the sand hill cranes during their migration. This past winter, we also at-

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tended the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Minneapolis. This gave students an opportunity to network and to mingle with professionals.

This coming year we plan on continuing our biweekly meetings with presentations from professionals in the field. We are also planning on interacting closely with the local Audubon Society. We are already committed to participating in the Indiana DNR deer check stations again and hope to also have some state biologists speak to our chapter. Some of our members are planning on attending the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference again this year and we have also started volunteering at a local bird rehabilitation center. The chapter has its fall camping trip planned for the weekend of October 22nd, where we will be going down to Clifty Falls State Park and spending the Saturday volunteering at Red Wolf Sanctuary. In October and November, we have offered our help to a group of researchers that have been doing annual saw-whet owl migration studies in Hoosier National Forest, as well. Overall, we are looking forward to another successful year!

Purdue University (Indiana) – no report

Iowa State University – no report

Central Michigan University – no report

Lake Superior State University

(Michigan) – no report

Michigan State University – no report

Michigan Tech University – no report

Northern Michigan University – no report

Minnesota State University Moorhead – no report

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities – no report

University of Minnesota, Crookston

By Austin Link, President

As fall term has just begun, there is little to report other than we are planning a host of activities such as banding ducks at Agassiz NWR and planning to attend the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in December. Last spring we participated in several professional and community service events. We raised significant funds to defray costs of attending future conferences by cleaning a local sports arena following events and a concert. During the annual spring flood throughout the Red River Valley, many of our members spent a significant amount of time sandbagging to protect property from floodwaters. We also participated in a European Buckthorn removal project at the Red River Valley Natural History Area. Nearly a dozen members volunteered capturing and monitoring American Woodcock for a gradu-

ate student at Tamarac NWR several weekends in April. We ended the semester with elections and welcome officers for the 2011-2012 academic year; Austin Link, President and Sheila Carleton, Vice-President. Planning is underway to capture and inspire a number of the larger than average incoming freshman class this year. Many have expressed interest in becoming active members. During the first week of classes, President Link and VP Carleton delivered a brief presentation to the Intro classes explaining The Wildlife Society, the benefits that come with becoming a Student Chapter member, and inviting them to our first meeting.

Missouri State University

By Allison Keefe, President

As the 2011-2012 school years starts up, The Wildlife Society have been pulling together all of our resources to make this year better, than the previous. In the previous year, member complained that our chapter was not offering enough activities; therefore as president, I have taken it upon myself to reach out to other clubs and organizations to create new opportunities for our members. So far, the society is looking at a several new events this year, such as Deer Population Spot Lighting Survey and the Lake Taneycomo Shoreline Clean-Up.

The Deer Population Spot Lighting Survey will offer the Missouri State Chapter a new and intriguing fundraiser. This project is being led by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Personally, I am excited about this hands-on experience. The other society fundraiser is the Deer Aging Survey. These hands-on fundraisers will provide our chapter with the necessary funds to have members attend the Missouri Natural Resources Conference in the winter.

Table Rock Lake Water Quality Inc. is one of the new organizations the Missouri State Chapter is volunteering with. They are hosting the 1st Annual Taneycomo Shoreline Clean-Up. There will be 3 clean-up locations along the lake; Missouri State Chapter has members volunteering at each of these locations. I believe that this will be a great “getting-to-know-you event.”

Finally, the Missouri State Chapter will be going exotic this year by volunteering at the Branson National Tiger Sanctuary. It will be a full day event that will offer many new experiences for everyone. One of our new members, Dana Wynen, is an intern at the sanctuary and is going to give our members a up close encounter with these magnificent cats

The 2011-2012 school year looks to be promising and full of professional hands-on experience with fun adventures all wrapped into one.

Missouri Western State University – no report

Southeast Missouri State University

By Katie Long, President

During the fall 2010 semester, the Southeast Missouri State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society held two meetings a month with a different guest speaker at every meeting and one field trip a month. Guest speakers for the fall semester included Stormy Crawford who did a world bird presentation, Dr. Michael Taylor presented information about graduate school, Robert Byrd from the Missouri chapter of The Wildlife Society, and Dr. William Edleman did a presentation on deer biological data collection. Trips for the fall included a trip to Snake Road in southern Illinois and trips to Pochontas and St. Genevieve, Missouri to assist the Missouri Department of Conservation with their deer biological data collection during deer season.

During the spring 2011 semester, we hosted several different presentations from different Missouri Department of Conservation employees on topics that ranged from protection to forestry to the media's role in wildlife biology. We took three major trips in the spring. One trip included pine tree planting in January, we attempted to attend the Missouri Natural Resource Conference but it was cancelled due to snow and we also attended the student conclave but left early due to snow.

Truman State University (Missouri) – no report

University of Central Missouri

By Ryan Dunwoody, 2010-2011 President,

The University of Central Missouri's Chapter of The Wildlife Society had a very busy but yet rewarding spring 2011 semester. Our first event planned was the attendance at the Missouri Natural Resource Conference (MNRC), but due to the weather, most members were not able to attend. Next, on February 17th, our chapter hosted a movie social to allow members to mingle and hang out. February 19th our TWS chapter volunteered at the Science Olympiad at UCM and members were in charge of judging bottle rocket competitions. February 23rd and 24th the Missouri Department of Conservation came to campus to educate members on fire

safety so they could obtain Level 1 burn certifications. March 25th through the 27th we had 9 members attend the annual Midwest Student Conclave that was hosted by Miz-zou. UCM was in charge of developing and running the quiz bowl. On April 9th members along with friends and family took a trip to the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha Nebraska. On April 16th we hosted our annual Bioblitz at Pertle Springs in Warrensburg, MO. This event was created for public outreach and education purposes. Many wildlife professionals, professors, and students volunteered their time to educate the public in their areas of specialization/interest. Some of the activities included bird banding with Leslie Bilbrey and MRBO, bird walks with Neal Young, plant ID walk with James Crawshaw, water cycling with Dr. Sally Zellers, insect ID with Dr. Steven Wilson, and herpetology with Jennifer Mittelhauser and David Penning. The American Fisheries Society UCM chapter along with the UCM Stream Team was also involved with this event and led GPS activities, lure and knot demos, bait casting, and invertebrate surveys. We held a silent auction and raffle at this event to raise money for our chapter. Thanks to local and state businesses, we had numerous donated items to auction.

Also in April we had members tag along with the Herpetology class as they took a trip to Mingo Nation Wildlife Refuge to survey for various species of amphibians and reptiles. April 18th through the 20th we were fortunate to have Dr. Manuel Spinola, professor and researcher at the International Institute in Wildlife Management and Conservation at the National University of Costa Rica come and give a Seminar focusing on wildlife analysis, occupancy studies, and the use of Mark, Presence, and Distance. Dr. Spinola was an advisor to one of our Graduate members who presented his thesis following the seminar.

We had multiple members conducting undergraduate research. The sampling techniques used for the research were pitfall traps and drift fences to survey a wetland restoration area for herps. The other research focused on surveillance of bobcats around Warrensburg by the use of camera traps. New requirements were developed and voted on for the UCM Chapter Wildlifer of the year, an award that is given to an outstanding member. Lastly, a member obtained Cottonwood saplings from MDC so that they could be distributed to faculty, staff, and students to plant for Arbor Day

TWS Annual Conference in Hawaii

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference is November 5-10, 2011 in Waikoloa, Hawaii (on the Big Island). The TWS Annual Conference is the largest gathering of wildlife professionals in North America. The conference has a number of education sessions that are directly applicable to your work and will allow you to network with a variety of wildlife experts and colleagues from around North America and the world. Visit www.wildlife.org/conferences for more information.



In the future multiple members and both advisors will be taking a trip to South Africa for a month to conduct research for college credit. Fall 2011 our chapter will be volunteering for the UCM Mule Haul where members help unload the vehicles of new incoming students. Another exciting event in the future will be the attendance of the first Canadian TWS Conclave on September 23rd through the 25th in Ontario Canada. This conclave will be hosted by Lakehead University. Other events planned for next year include Fall Festival/Creatures of the Night (outreach and education) and a Biathlon for a spring fundraiser.

University of Missouri – no report

Hocking College (Ohio) – no report

Ohio State University – no report

University of Rio Grande (Ohio)

Editors Note: The URG Student Chapter was officially chartered January 22, 2010. Welcome to the fold!
 During spring, several URG Student Chapter members, in cooperation with the Hocking College Student Chapter, checked and cleaned wood duck boxes. URG also contributed to 2 ongoing studies in the area. Members bought materials, constructed, and erected 19 kestrel boxes and 25 flying squirrel boxes. The kestrel boxes were added to an existing network that has been in existence in southeast Ohio since 1999. The flying squirrel boxes were part of a new site near the Hocking College campus that is part of a series of sites first established in 1996. Students participated in box checks for both species this past spring and summer. The 2nd annual URG get-together was held in April. Outgoing chapter president Adam Benschoff was selected by faculty to receive the Leadership Award from among all graduating URG Wildlife and Fish students. New officers elected in April for 2011-2012 are Michael Whittemore-President, Amy Smith-Vice President, Jessica Byrd-Treasurer, Matt Wilson-Secretary, and Kendra McCloskey--



Executive Board Member.

University of Wisconsin-Madison

By Christopher Warneke, President

We are just starting the school year here at the UW-Madison Student Chapter and we have a lot planned. We are planning on having more speakers at our meetings this semester and hope that this will keep our membership interested in the meetings and the Society. We are also planning on starting a longer term program with wildlife monitoring. In the past our chapter has had a dedicated group that monitored populations of certain species groups (herps, mammals, birds) in designated areas. We hope to establish that sort of activity again. We also plan to continue to be active in our yearly activities like prairie restorations in the Barneveld area and our highway cleanup section. The prairie restoration is especially rewarding for our members as it is easy for them to see the changes to that section of prairie over the several years that we have helped work on it. Each fall we hold our annual game dinner, which is usually in the first week in December. This is our major fundraiser and we are expecting a good turnout this year. We are anticipating this upcoming semester and year as being a good, active year for our chapter.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

By Andy Richardson, President

The UWSP Chapter of The Wildlife Society had a very eventful spring semester. We were able to gather some great speakers for our weekly meetings. Christine Thomas, the Dean of UWSP College of Natural Resources, spoke to us about her work with the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board. Jason Suckow, Director of USDA Wildlife Services in Wisconsin, spoke to us about the many projects his department carries out within the state. Scott Walter, WI Upland Wildlife Staff Specialist, gave us advice on how to obtain our dream job in natural resources. We were also fortunate enough to be able to have Travis Booms, Regional Wildlife Biologist with Alaska Fish & Game, fly down and

speak to us about the adventures his job has brought him in the last frontier.

Winter snows brought about an abundance of research projects. Our coyote, felid, and wolf tracking projects took place around the Babcock, WI area. Gray squirrel, lagomorph, and woodpecker trapping projects took place within Sandhill Wildlife Area on weekends during the first few months of the year. As spring approached we also had projects that focused on point count surveys for cranes and lek monitoring of greater prairie chickens.

The upcoming fall semester also holds a lot of promise with the beginning of our saw-whet owl banding project, which is very popular with members. We also plan on sending four members to the National TWS Conference in Hawaii and several members to the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Iowa. If you would like more information about our student chapter please visit our website, <http://www4.uwsp.edu/stuorg/wildlife/>

Missouri Western State University Student Chapter named Student Chapter of the Year

The Missouri Western State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society was named Student Chapter of the Year for 2011 by the parent chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS). This is the first time the MWSU Student Chapter has been selected as the International Student Chapter of the Year. This selection follows the past two years as North Central Section TWS Student Chapter of the Year in 2009 and 2010. This is the first time in the 17-year history of the Chapter of the Year Award that a Student Chapter from the state of Missouri has won this recognition.

New Webmaster Needed

Calling All Techies! Have you ever been interested in serving the section with your hard-earned skills? We need a new webmaster. The current web page is functional but has been limping along due to serious neglect. The webmaster is not getting any younger either. No experience designing web pages is needed; however, some IT understanding would be helpful. The new site would be hosted by the parent chapter at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/NCS/>. If you are interested, contact John Loegering, president elect and current webmaster for more information at jloegeri@umn.edu or 218-281-8132.

Student Paper and Poster Winners 2010 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

The Student paper and poster competition at last year's Midwest included 23 papers, over 14 sessions, and 11 posters. The first place winners received a one year membership, including The Journal of Wildlife Management, in TWS, NC Section, and their state chapter from the NC Section and a \$100.00 award from the Minnesota Chapter. The second place winners received a one year membership in TWS, NC Section, and their state chapter from the NC Section and a \$50.00 award from the Minnesota Chapter. The winners and their presentation titles are:

1st place oral presentation

Allee effects and growth of the recovering southern Lake Superior gray wolf population

Ms. **Jennifer Stenglein**, Forest and Wildlife Ecology - University of Wisconsin - Madison

2nd place oral presentation

Seasonal home range and habitat use by American black bears in a fragmented, agricultural landscape

Mr. **Mark Ditmer**, Fisheries, Wildlife & Conservation Biology - University of Minnesota

1st place poster

Patterns in time and space: Using graph theory and occupancy modeling to assess population connectivity and persistence of Missouri wood frogs

Mr. **Bill Peterman**, Division of Biological Sciences - University of Missouri

2nd place poster

Assessing Landscape and Vegetative Composition at Multiple Scales: What Drives Avian Abundance and Distribution in a Grassland Ecosystem?

Mr. **Christopher Jorgensen**, School of Natural Resources - University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The committee would like to thank all the students who participated and the judges who volunteered to review the presentations. We look forward to increased student participation at the 2011 Midwest in Des Moines, Iowa.

Meetings of Interest

*The Wildlife Society 18th Annual Conference,
Waikoloa, Hawaii November 5-10, 2011
<http://www.wildlife.org/conferences/>*

*Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in
Des Moines, Iowa, December 4-7, 2011
<http://www.midwest2011.org/>*

2011 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference—Des Moines, Iowa

Please make plans to attend the 72nd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Des Moines, Iowa, December 4-7, 2011. The Conference offers an excellent forum for training, professional development and networking. Professionals and students will share their latest work and discuss the challenges of the future. The Des Moines Marriott Downtown offers an outstanding, affordable venue for this gathering.

The meeting will include exceptional plenary speakers, workshops, symposia, contributed papers as platform (oral) and poster presentations, and technical committee meetings. Please join us in Des Moines! We encourage you to browse our website and to contact us with any questions at <http://www.midwest2011.org/>

DECEMBER 4-7, 2011 | DES MOINES MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN | MIDWEST2011.ORG



RECONNECTING PEOPLE WITH
NATURAL RESOURCES

“Beginning Your Professional Journey: A career preparation workshop for undergraduate students” to be held at 2011 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference!

by Rebecca Christoffel

Are you trying to figure out the requirements and best way to apply to graduate school, or what types of positions employers have for new graduates and what they're looking for in future employees? Eager to prepare for those inevitable interview questions such as “Why should we hire you for this position?” If so, ‘Beginning your Professional Journey’ is the workshop for you! Four sessions will include Resumes and Professional Correspondence, Academic and Employer Panels, Networking, and Interview Skills. Participants will receive binders full of resource materials for future use. And for those who register for the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, there will be am-

ple opportunity to (1) learn about ongoing research in fisheries and wildlife as you listen to talks given by professionals and students and (2) practice your newly acquired skills during Sunday evening’s reception and several other Conference events. Previous participants gave the workshop a “thumbs up!” From a student participant, “It would be hard to find this much information anywhere else.”

The workshop will be held on Sunday, December 4 from 8:30a.m. – 5:00 p.m., and is limited to the first 50 pre-paid registrants. Workshop cost (including breaks, lunch and a binder stuffed with relevant resources) is only \$25! ****NOTE:** Registration for the conference is NOT included in this fee. To register for the workshop and/or conference, please do so at <http://www.midwest2011.org/>.

Questions? Contact co-organizers: Rebecca Christoffel (christof@iastate.edu) or Jim Schneider (schne181@msu.edu). We look forward to seeing you in Des Moines!

Outstanding Wildlife Student Award North Central Section 72nd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference December 4-7, 2011, Des Moines, Iowa

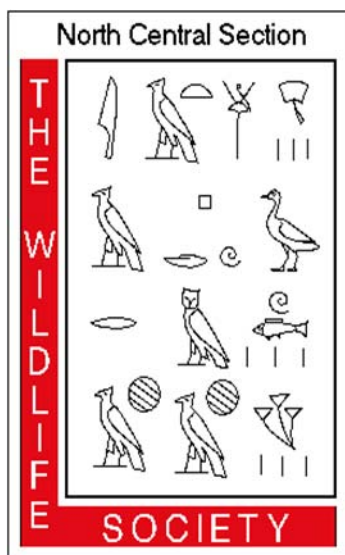
We are accepting applications for the Outstanding Student Award. The North Central Section (NCS) of The Wildlife Society has a long history of working on student activities and we have developed an award recognizing outstanding students and potential future wildlife professionals.

Undergraduate (Juniors and Seniors) and graduate students who are pursuing a degree in wildlife ecology, wildlife management, zoology or a closely related discipline who plan to attend the Conference are encouraged to apply. Student finalists will be selected based on academic ability, scholarly achievement, work experience, letters of reference and extra-curricular activities in The Wildlife Society.

The Outstanding Student Award will be presented during the Plenary Session of the annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. The award winner will be presented a check for \$300.00 to \$500.00.

Interested students need to submit an application (available from the chair), a resume of 3 pages or less, two letters of recommendation from faculty members or natural resource professionals, and a cover letter including future career goals and reasons for attending the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference to: **John H. Schulz**, Outstanding Wildlife Student Award Committee Chair. Email: john.h.schulz@mdc.mo.gov

Deadline for submission is October 30, 2011. E-mail submissions are required. The award winner will be notified by November 20.



Why one newsletter in 2011???

Indeed, the astutely observant will note that 2011 has brought only one NCS newsletter to your doorstep (or email box as the case may be). This was intentional. The 2010 newsletter production schedule was disrupted and the spring newsletter arrived in June but the fall newsletter did not arrive until March 2011. Thus, as newsletter editor, I noted there was very little to report a month later and canceled the spring edition of the 2011 newsletter. We will be back to our biennial schedule in 2012!

Additionally, the Fall newsletter was delayed as we sought candidates for elected office.

John Loegering, newsletter editor and president-elect

Annual Membership Meeting

All members of the section are invited to the Annual Meeting of the North Central Section held in conjunction with the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Des Moines, Iowa in December. The meeting is scheduled for the Marriott Hotel, Sioux City Room, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Monday December 5. We'll see you there!

Member Input Requested

The Section has a history of organizing symposia around a central theme or topic during alternate or odd years. This will be discussed at this year's annual meeting. If you have a topic you would like to see discussed, please contact an officer.

NCS Dues Reminder

As you pay your national dues, please remember to include your section dues as well! At \$10, it is still a bargain. Dues funds are used to support student scholarship programs and symposia as well as other section business.

Constitution Revision

The NCS Constitution is being reviewed and several changes will be proposed on or before November 1, 2011. These changes will be posted at the link below. Please review these changes and be prepared to vote on the changes at the annual meeting in Des Moines. View the potential changes at <http://www.mntws.org/ncs/constitution.html>

John Loegering, Constitution Review Committee

Meet the Candidates — President Elect

Rochelle Renken is a Resource Science Field

Chief with the Resource Science Division of the Missouri Department of Conservation. She has worked for the Department for 21 years as a research biologist and has worked as a Department administrator for one year. As a research biologist, Rochelle was involved in work to evaluate recreational use of the Missouri River, interior least tern ecology on the Lower Mississippi River, the effects of forest management on amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals in the Ozark forests, and on amphibian use of wetlands created by the Flood of 1993 in the Missouri River alluvial valley. As a Department of Conservation administrator, Rochelle oversees the operations and 35 staff at the five research field stations and the Heritage group. Prior to working for the Department, she worked for the Florida Game and Fish Commission and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, with shorter work stints with Delta Waterfowl Research Station and Iowa State University. Rochelle earned degrees at Iowa State University (B.S. and M.S.) and the University of Missouri (Ph.D.).



Rochelle served as the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society President during 2009. She also served as the Chapter's Treasurer during 1996 and 1997.

Tim Van Deelen is an associate professor in the

department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin at Madison where he splits his time between teaching and research. Tim is also a Wisconsin Certified Sharpshooter and a Master Angler (really. I have the certificates to prove it!). Tim's research focuses on the population dynamics of large mammals in Wisconsin and elsewhere and



he has spent a career trying to live down his early reputation as a deer nerd. Current research includes variation in the survival of wolves, life history of badgers, survival in deer, black bears, and predator impacts on deer. He teaches Animal Population Dynamics and a capstone course built around deer (of course) management. The keys to whatever meager success Tim has enjoyed are productive relationships with wildlife management agencies (particularly the Wisconsin DNR) and uncommon luck in collaborating with some of the finest graduate students in the Wildlife field. Tim's training in Wildlife occurred at the University of Montana (MS 1991) and Michigan State University (Ph.D. 1995). Past positions include Deer Research Specialist for the Wisconsin DNR (2001 – 2004) and Research Scientist with the Illinois Natural

(Continued on page 15)

Meet the Candidates — Secretary

Scott Walter

B.S. Biology, Beloit College. M.S. & Ph.D, Wildlife Ecology, UW-Madison. Currently: Upland Wildlife Ecologist & Farm Bill Staff Specialist, Wisconsin DNR.

Like many wildlife professionals, hunting and fishing have long been passions of mine. I also



(Continued on page 14)

Katy Reeder

Since 2007, I have been Iowa's Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator. Originally from Wisconsin, I received my Master's degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Iowa State University, and my Bachelor's degree in Biology from Earlham College. My years as a field technician and graduate student



(Continued on page 15)

Meet the Candidates — Treasurer

Suzie Prange

incumbent

I received my B.S. and M.S. in Biology from the University of South Alabama and my Ph.D. from the University of Missouri. I also completed post-doctoral training at Ohio State University and am currently employed by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. I serve as the state's fur-bearer biologist, but the majority of my research is dedicated to threatened and endangered forest wildlife species, such as black bears and bobcats. I have served



TWS as member of several committees, President of the Ohio Chapter, and am currently Treasurer for the Biological Diversity Working Group and the North Central Section. I have been a member of the North Central Section since 2003, and have served as Treasurer for the past 2 years. I look forward to continuing to serve the Section in this capacity. As a member of the Executive Board, I will strive to continue and expand upon the good work of the Section.

Greg Hoch

I grew up in Indiana and received graduate degrees from Kansas State University. My dissertation research used remote sensing and GIS to study regional land cover change. I moved to Minnesota nine years ago for an academic position and have worked for the USFWS for the last two years. While in academics I had 24 funded grants through the DNR and various Federal programs for research on prairie plant communities, grassland songbirds, shorebirds, and forest warblers. In 2009 my student's research with golden-winged warblers was selected as the top undergraduate research project in Minnesota. Additionally, I have written 21 grants for habitat work and have 6 grants pending. I am active on a number of boards in Minnesota including the MN Prairie Chicken Society, Bird Conservation Minnesota, and the Farm Service Agency State Technical Committee. In 2009 I was the President of the MN Chapter .



Meet the Candidates — Secretary, cont

Scott Walter, continued

enjoy bird watching, morel hunting, making maple syrup, and gardening. I am also the 6th generation Walter on my family farm, with my wife, and 5 children. Much of my enthusiasm for nature, and my desire to live a "simple" life, developed on this farm, and I'm ecstatic to now call it home. Professionally I advocate for sound resource management, but it's on our farm where I put the keyboard down, pick the chainsaw up, and put these ideas into practice. I am truly blessed to be able to simultaneously live in what I consider the most beautiful country in the world, introduce my children to nature and our family heritage on our farm, and continue to pursue my interests in wildlife.

I have been a member of TWS since 1992, and am honored to have served as a member of the Executive Board and as President-Elect, President, and Past-President (current) of the Wisconsin Chapter. I believe very strongly in wildlife and habitat conservation, and view the role of TWS as central to this

mission. Via membership, we are provided with an effective means of communication with other resource professionals and a conduit by which we can air our views on timely resource management issues and policies. The impact our collective voice can have on conservation issues, however, depends on the level to which members interact and discuss ideas and ethics, and I would hope to increase member involvement as Secretary of the Northcentral Section. We need to recognize that 99% of the expertise relative to important wildlife and habitat conservation issues rests in our membership, and I believe it's our duty to help steer the course of conservation via more direct communication with the public. Position statements carry the most weight when they are understood by, and influence, the voting public, and I think that we as a group need to insure our voice is heard by a broader audience. I would work energetically with fellow NCS Board members to make the Section an influential partner in wildlife conservation efforts.

Meet the Candidates — Secretary, cont

Katy Reeder, continued

afforded me the opportunity to learn about a variety of ecosystems and wildlife communities, including forests in Connecticut, sandhill cranes in Wisconsin, and bird and butterfly communities in Arizona and Minnesota. During my tenure at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, I have served as the chair of two technical working committees of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA). Being a wildlife action plan coordinator suits me well as my interests are broad. My hope is that implementation of our Action Plan is helping to create an environment in which scientists and natural resource managers work in partnership to pursue

science-based conservation on a landscape scale, across political boundaries. One of the things I enjoy most about my job and my participation in MAFWA is the opportunity to work with a broad variety of people across Iowa and in other states who share a passion for the wildlife, a curiosity for scientific discovery, or a connection with the outdoors. That's why I am pleased to be nominated for Secretary of the North Central Section. I hope that my service to the membership can help maintain a strong section presence within The Wildlife Society.



Meet the Candidates — President Elect Continued

Tim Van Deelen, continued

History Survey (1995 – 2001) which included a partial appointment in the department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign. Tim is currently advisor to the UW-Madison student chapter of TWS and has been advisor to the student chapter at University of Illinois. He has served as president of both the Wisconsin and Illinois state chapters of TWS. In his spare time, Tim argues with his kids (playfully), daydreams, and procrastinates – although he would rather be paddling a canoe/kayak/fallen log on the nearest lake/river/marsh/mud puddle.

Ballot

North Central Section of The Wildlife Society

2011

President Elect (vote for 1)

_____ Rochelle Renken

_____ Tim Van Deelen

Secretary (vote for 1)

_____ Katy Reeder

_____ Scott Walter

Treasurer (vote for 1)

_____ Greg Hoch

_____ Suzie Prange

Written ballots will be collected at the beginning of the North Central Section membership meeting to be held at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Des Moines, Iowa. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for the **Marriott Hotel, Sioux City Room from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Monday December 5**. Please confirm the time and location with the program upon arrival at the conference.

Only current members of the North Central Section are eligible to vote; this newsletter may be circulated more widely.

Absentee ballots may be sent to John Loegering, President elect, at jloegeri@crk.umn.edu and must be received by noon, Monday December 5. Ballots will be tallied during the meeting and the results announced during New Business.

2011 North Central Section TWS Officers



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Interested in joining this crew of resource professionals??? President-elect John Loegering will be forming 2012 Committees soon and is VERY interested in recruiting willing and interested participants in the section. Give him a call or email and express your interest in serving on a committee!

NCS Standing Committees

Audit
Program
Publicity
Resolutions and Public Statements
Symposia and Publications
Professional Award of Merit
Best Student Presentation and Best Student Poster
Membership

Newsletter Deadlines

Deadlines for submission of article for the Spring and Fall newsletters are 15 March and 15 September. Please have your information electronically delivered to the president elect by these dates. Photos are ALWAYS appreciated.

John Loegering, Editor/President-Elect
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