



Maryland-Delaware Chapter News

A Newsletter for the Maryland-Delaware Chapter of
The Wildlife Society

Fall 2009

Join Us At The National Wildlife Visitors Center For Our Fall Meeting!

The Fall Meeting, including executive board elections, is scheduled for Friday, October 30, 2009 at the newly renovated National Wildlife Visitors Center located on the South Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge near Laurel, Maryland. (please see below for directions). We encourage you to come early and walk refuge trails, enjoy the fall foliage, and explore exhibits at the Visitors Center prior to the meeting. Established in 1936 by executive order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Patuxent Research Refuge is the Nation's only National Wildlife Refuge established to support wildlife research. Today most of the research on the refuge is conducted by the US Geological Survey (USGS) through the [Patuxent Wildlife Research Center](#). Patuxent Research Refuge is one of over 540 refuges in the [National Wildlife Refuge System](#) administered by the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#).

over as Chapter president. Kevin is the State Director for the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services for Maryland, Delaware and Washington DC and I think he will do a great job as Chapter president. When I accepted the nomination for the presidential series 3 years ago, I had the good fortune of following several good presidents that had created new rejuvenated energy within the Chapter. In the past year, I've tried to build upon their hard work and to expand our chapter and update our resources such as the website. I think there is room for us to grow and I am encouraged by the ideas and background that Kevin will bring to the table and by the enthusiasm of our board members. The success of our Chapter seems directly related to how motivated the general membership and board members are. We currently have a good group in place, but for some of them, their terms are set to expire in the fall and we will need to elect new members. Our current board has brought new ideas and great perspectives to the table and I appreciate their service to the chapter. For several positions I look forward to seeing newly elected faces after the fall meeting elections.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I previously mentioned in the President's column of the Spring Newsletter, my time as Chapter President has flown by. At the start of the fall general membership meeting next month I will step aside and Kevin Sullivan will take

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During the fall meeting, we will be holding our annual elections. I was a little disheartened by the lack of nominations that we've received thus far but hopefully we will receive a few more. Nominations will be accepted up until the election day and can be submitted by emailing me (joseph.rogerson@state.de.us) or another board member. I don't think our Chapter has reached its full potential and without the hard work and dedication of a proactive board and membership, I don't know that we will. I encourage each of you to consider whether you want to run for a position on the board. Outside of the spring and fall general membership meetings, we meet four additional times throughout the year. It's really not a huge time commitment and I find the meetings very worthwhile. I work for the Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife and there have been times when the Chapter has provided a much needed outside/professional voice on controversial issues.

I encourage all of you to attend our fall meeting on October 30 at the Patuxent NWR and get out of the office and interact with colleagues that you might not normally get to see. In these trying economic times and constantly being asked to do more with less, I think these meetings really help to keep me sane, as they provide a good relief from my day-to-day responsibilities.

Yours in conservation,
Joe Rogerson

EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

The MD/DE Chapter of TWS Executive Board elections will be held at the Fall Chapter Meeting on October 30, 2009. The following five positions make up the list of available officer positions. We will continue to accept nominations to the various positions up until the election day, and as always we will also accept nominations from the floor. Please consider running for a Chapter officer position.

The current list of ballot nominees is as follows:

Vice President – Jon Klimstra

DE Delegate – Craig Rhoads

MD Delegate – Brian Eyler, Tom Serfass

Treasurer – Matt DiBona

Secretary – Alison Rogerson

AGENDA (Times are approximate):

Friday, October 30, 2009

General Membership Meeting, Elections and

Poster Introduction - 10:00 – 11:30 am

Lunch - 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Poster Session – 12:30 – 1:00 pm

Professional Presentations-1:00 – 3:00 pm

Award for Best Poster -3:00 pm

Board Only Meeting - 3:00 – 3:30 pm

Lunch Costs: \$15. Students \$7. Speakers free. Please e-mail Glenn Therres if you plan to attend the meeting by Tuesday, October 27 so we can give a head count to give to the caterer.

(gtherres@dnr.state.md.us; phone 410-260-8572)

DIRECTIONS:

National Wildlife Visitors Center

At the **Patuxent Research Refuge**

Conference Room

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop

Laurel, Maryland

301-497-5763

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/>

FROM Washington D.C.:

Take the Baltimore/Washington Parkway north to the Powder Mill Road exit. Turn right (east) onto Powder Mill Road. Go two miles and turn right onto Scarlet Tanager Loop and follow to the Visitor Center. Please observe posted speed limit.

FROM Baltimore:

Take the Baltimore/Washington Parkway south to the Powder Mill Road exit. Turn left (east) onto Powder Mill Road. Go two miles and turn right onto Scarlet Tanager Loop and follow to the Visitor Center. Please observe posted speed limit.

FROM Annapolis:

Take Route 50/301 west to Route 197 north. Turn left onto Powder Mill Road. Go one mile and turn left onto Scarlet Tanager Loop and follow to the Visitor Center. Please observe posted speed limit.

CALL FOR STUDENT RESEARCH POSTERS

Deadline: October 26, 2009

The Chapter invites submission of student (undergraduate, M.S., and PhD) posters on *completed research or research-in-progress* covering topics in wildlife science, management, conservation, education, or policy.

Instructions for Submitting Abstracts

Please submit your abstract as a Word (.doc) document attached to an email to fammer@frostburg.edu with "TWS Student Poster Session" in the subject line by midnight, October 26, 2009. Abstracts that miss this deadline will not be considered. Files should be named with the lead author's last name and initials.

Abstracts should include the following information BEFORE the body of the abstract:

- Names of authors, university/affiliation, and email address (underline the name of the author presenting).
- Current student status (Undergraduate, M.S. or Ph.D.).
- Poster title

Abstract Body

The body of the abstract should be less than 300 words and include a statement of the objectives, brief description of methods, principal results (if applicable), and conclusions (if applicable). Include scientific names in the abstract, but not in the poster title.

Registration

Presenters are encouraged to join the State Chapter

and may join at the meeting.

Questions?

Questions about the student poster session may be directed to Frank Ammer, at: fammer@frostburg.edu.

Poster Specifications

1. Posters should not exceed 4-ft. high x 6-ft wide.
2. Posters may be prepared as a single poster or as several smaller sections mounted together.

Advice on Production of Posters

1. Keep text brief. Report only key aspects of each section (e.g., introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and management implications). It is not advisable to display the entire text from a manuscript. Too much detail detracts from the primary message of the text.
2. Keep figures simple. Convey only one idea per figure, table, or photograph. Too much detail detracts from the primary message of the figure.
3. Text and figures should be readable to someone standing at a distance of six feet. Adjust font and image sizes accordingly. **BIG IS BEAUTIFUL** and easy to read.
4. Photographs should clearly show what you want the audience to see.
5. Use appropriate blank space between words, sections, and figures.
6. Use appropriate and compatible colors for fonts, backgrounds, graphics, and matting. Light backgrounds generally are best for text.
7. Simple typefaces are preferable to fancy fonts. **Bold type** may be effective on headings.

NOTES FROM 2009 SPRING MEETING

The Chapter's Spring Meeting was held Friday,

April 24 at the historic Woodmont Lodge near Hancock, Maryland. Attendees enjoyed the strikingly beautiful setting of the lodge on a fine spring day and heard four excellent scientific presentations in addition to an interesting talk by Jim Mullen, MD DNR Western Region Manager, on the history of the Lodge, including its former role as a setting in which national policy was made by cabinet secretaries and members of Congress.

Matt DiBona, DNREC Gamebird Species Biologist, discussed the overabundance of snow geese and the resultant damage to their breeding grounds along with modifications in regional hunting regulations in an attempt to reduce population levels of light geese.

Dan Feller, MD DNR Western Regional Biologist, gave an interesting talk on the endangered Allegheny wood rat and the reasons for its decline which include the loss of the American chestnut and forest fragmentation. Dan also discussed the utility of rat middens to researchers who study paleo climatology and botany and shared humorous pictures of contemporary objects which can be found in 21st century rat middens.

Harry Spiker, MD DNR Game Mammal Section Leader, presented a likely future in which bears increasingly migrate into the more urbanized portions of Maryland. He discussed strategies such as aversive conditioning that will be increasingly useful to mitigate undesirable interactions between bears and humans.

Aimee Haskew gave a fascinating and timely lecture on the usage of abandoned railroad tunnels in western Maryland by bats as both hibernacula and a breeding environment. Her talk focused on the necessity of routing proposed hiker-biker trails around, rather than through remaining undisturbed tunnels, such as the Indigo Tunnel in light of the loss of bat populations due to white-nose syndrome. We would like to extend our thanks to the Izaak Walton League for facilitating the use of Woodmont Lodge.

RECENT CHAPTER NEWS

At the August executive board meeting Treasurer Brian Eyer reported a balance of \$4215.24. It was decided to contribute financial resources to the Southeast Conclave hosted by the Frostburg State University Student Chapter rather than the Parent meeting in Monterey, CA. The Chapter agreed to function as the registration account for the Northeast Deer Technical Meeting held at the Woodmont Lodge this September. TWS bylaw changes were approved including the necessity of maintaining membership in the Parent chapter to maintain certification status and membership dues payable on by anniversary date of membership rather than the calendar year. Membership Chair Marnie Pepper, with the help of TWS Shannon Pederson has been working on encouraging the roughly 100 locally residing national members to extend membership to the MD-DE Chapter.

STUDENT CHAPTER NEWS

Frostburg State University

The Frostburg State University's Student Chapter is ready for an exciting semester of events and activities. Members have already taken part in a Sunday hike through New Germany State Park in western Maryland and have also enjoyed a wildlife movie night and mist netting at Finzel Swamp. Later this year, students will be going on an elk watching trip to Pennsylvania and a trip to view hawks near Town Hill, Maryland. Members with free evenings will be assisting in the mist netting of migrating Northern Saw Whet Owls.

Members have been active in community service and relations. Students taught the public about native wildlife at the Frostburg Appalachian Festival with a display and wildlife identification quiz. Some members gave up their Saturdays to cleanup Frostburg's arboretum and to help an Eagle Scout project in New Germany State Park.

In addition to classes and activities members have been engaged in fundraising to help support the upcoming Southeastern Wildlife Conclave. Our chapter raised over \$250 from a week long bake

sale and more than \$600 from a Weatherby semi-automatic shotgun raffle. The student chapter is looking forward to many more exciting events and wildlife opportunities this semester.

FSU to Host Southeastern Wildlife Society Conclave

Frostburg State University will host the annual Southeastern Wildlife Society Conclave from March 18th – 21st, 2010. Colleges and universities in the southeastern region have held this prestigious academic event for several decades. Conclave is a three-day competition featuring events that display student knowledge and experience in wildlife conservation and management. Competitions include talent (art, essay and game calling), skill (archery, shooting, orienteering, radio telemetry, dendrology and canoeing), and academics (quiz bowl and team competition). Students also participate in workshops and field trips presented by various wildlife professionals highlighting management techniques and topics unique to Maryland. The Southeastern Conclave is the largest Wildlife Society event for students with over 400 participants in attendance from more than 22 institutions.

The Frostburg State University student chapter will be working closely with wildlife professionals from Maryland and Delaware, as well as sponsors from regional businesses to host this event successfully. If you are interested in being a part of “conclave”, please do not hesitate to contact advisor Dr. Frank Ammer or student chapter president Adam Brandt (fammer@frostburg.edu or albrandt@frostburg.edu).

University of Delaware

The University of Delaware's Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society led by president Addison Reid, vice-president Rachel Schnaitman, treasurer Amanda Dunbar, secretary Jamie Zaccaria and faculty advisor Dr. Jacob Bowman, has lots in store for this fall! Our section started the semester off with a barbecue for freshmen, transfer students,

current members and faculty. There were over 50 new faces excited about what our chapter has in store! We had a blast getting to know all the new people and spreading the word about our chapter.

Our Chapter is planning many exciting trips and speakers for the fall. We will participate in Ag Carnival, which is an event sponsored by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, in which students from different organizations form teams and compete in events ranging from dizzy bat to a day in the life of a farmer. Each organization provides an item for a charity auction to support Agribility, an organization dedicated to helping disabled farmers and ranchers. Also, we are planning trips to the Brandywine Zoo for a behind the scenes look at animal care and conservation and to the Aquatic Resources Education Center in southern Delaware to learn about the importance of horseshoe crabs along the Delaware Bay. In the spring a birding trip to Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge is in the works along with a behind the scenes look at marine life at the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, New Jersey. We also plan to attend the 2010 Eastern Student Conclave in Frostburg.

Our section is also looking forward to talks from guest speakers to learn about volunteer opportunities, internships, and possible future careers. Shannon Pederson, the Subunit and Certification Coordinator from the Wildlife Society, will be addressing us about what it means to be a student chapter and the advantages of being a member of the Wildlife Society. Also, Vanessa Serrao Hiemenz, a wildlife filmmaker, will be coming to talk to us about her online nature video series and her experience in the wildlife field. Finally, a representative from Tri-State Bird Rescue in Newark, DE will come speak to us about opportunities to volunteer and potential internships related to bird rehabilitation.

UPCOMING MEETINGS TO NOTE:
Maryland-Delaware Chapter of TWS
Fall Meeting at the National Wildlife Visitors
Center, Patuxent Research Refuge.
October 30th, 2009. Laurel, Maryland.

2010 Southeastern Wildlife Society Conclave
Frostburg State University
March 18-21st, 2010. Frostburg, Maryland.

DON'T FORGET MEMBERSHIP
DUES!

Chapter Membership dues are \$10.00.
Checks should be made out to the MD/DE Chapter
of the Wildlife Society and mailed to:

Marnie Pepper
C/O USDA WS
1568 Whitehall Road
Annapolis, MD 21409

If you are interested in becoming a member of the
MD/DE Chapter of The Wildlife Society or if you
know of someone else who is interested, please
contact Marnie Pepper, Membership Committee
Chair, (Margaret.A.Pepper@aphis.usda.gov; 410-
349-8055).

The Maryland/Delaware Chapter of the Wildlife
Society is a membership organization
representing local, wildlife management
professionals and interested individuals. The
newsletter is published quarterly for MD/DE
members. For questions, comments or to submit
an entry for the newsletter please contact us at:

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