

New Jersey Chapter – The Wildlife Society
Fall 2009 Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2009

Assunpink Conservation Center, Upper Freehold Twp., Monmouth County, New Jersey

Evan Madlinger, President of the Chapter, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:55 am.

Evan began the meeting by introducing Janice Reid of the NRCS to present a discussion and summary about the new Farm Bill programs. The business meeting was to start after this presentation since Ms. Reid needed to leave early.

The business meeting began at 10:30. Evan welcomed everyone and the meeting began with introductions around the room of all individuals in attendance. Evan then brought up the issue about the Rutgers student chapter and the attempts to have that revived. The issue is that there are no faculty members interested in supporting the chapter.

Evan also stated that if anyone is working on any projects of interest, or knows of anyone who is working on something applicable to TWS, to contact Evan. He will see if we can get something included in the Journal.

Amy Jones, Chapter Secretary, presented the results of the survey for alternate meeting times. Based on the email responses, 18 individuals prefer weekdays (9-5), 1 individual prefers weekday evenings, and 4 individuals prefer Saturdays. One person stated that Saturdays and/or weekdays work. A sign in sheet was also sent around with a column to indicate meeting preference for those individuals that did not respond via email. There were 11 additional responses indicating a preference for weekdays.

Evan briefly discussed and passed around correspondence prepared on behalf of the New Jersey Chapter. These included the following:

- NJ Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee TNR Letter
- Wildlife Policy Intern Announcement
- Position Statement on Lead in Ammunition and Fishing Tackle
- Global Climate Change Sign on Letter to Legislators

Jim Sciascia, Chapter Treasurer, presented the Financial Report. The checking account balance as of 9/30/2009 was \$1,889.59. The Scholarship Fund appears to be rebounding and had a balance of \$5,991.71 as of 9/30/09. This has come up from a balance of \$5,445.84 from 6/3/09. Len Wolgast noted that it is his recommendation that we keep the funds in the market and it should continue to rebound. Evan also indicated that the membership year starts 10/1/2009. Jim was accepting dues at the meeting, and it was also discussed that you can renew your National, Section and Chapter dues and membership on-line. The NJ Chapter gets a quarterly report of those individuals that renewed on-line.

Evan then introduced Beth Ciuzio, Chapter Executive Board Member, who discussed the Forestry Seminar that is being put on by the Forest Guild, and co-sponsored by the New Jersey Audubon Society, among numerous other organizations. Beth presented a summary of the workshop and what sponsorship by the New Jersey Chapter would support. The purpose of the seminar is to support forestry protection in the Pinelands since there is not a lot of literature and information available in regards to disturbance dependent forests, specific to the New Jersey Pinelands. Individuals have been invited from all over the country to present information specific to their experience in managing and working with this type of forest community. The NJ Chapter sponsorship would support travel for the individuals presenting, as well as travel for the field portion of the seminar.

Evan and Jim Sciascia, Chapter Treasurer, noted that it was discussed that we could support the seminar in the amount of \$250.00. Jim recommended not supporting any more than what was provided to support the TWS National Conference. Evan did note that there are a number of worthy workshops available, however we cannot sponsor all of them. Ed Cuneo made a motion to sponsor the workshop in the amount of \$250.00, Eric Schradling, Chapter Vice President, second the motion. All members were in support.

Evan brought up the scholarship fund since Mim Dunne, Chapter Executive Board Member, would be arriving later in the meeting. As was discussed at the spring and prior fall meetings, no scholarship was awarded this year due to the status of Chapter finances. A question was raised as to the quality and number of individuals that apply. Evan indicated that we typically get approximately 6 applications, and most of the individuals are good candidates.

Eric Schradling suggested that all individuals present at the meeting talk to their co-workers and any other individuals that may be interested, to promote the New Jersey Chapter of TWS. Eric noted that membership is stable. However, an increase in member support would result in better meetings. Eric also noted that Steve Atzert, the current chairperson of the legislative committee, is phasing out of the position. Therefore, we are looking for an individual that would be interested in taking over this role. The committee is a one person show, and it involves keeping an eye out for any pertinent legislative items that may be of interest to the Chapter and providing that information to the Chapter Secretary for inclusion in the newsletter and presentation of information at meetings.

Evan noted that elections will be coming up, and the position of President and Secretary are up for re-election. If anyone is interested they should contact Evan and look for upcoming emails.

Evan opened up the floor to any members at the meeting. Don Freiday let everyone know that the New Jersey Birds information is now on-site. This includes information in regards to birds in New Jersey that may "fly under the radar". He noted that if anyone has any information specific to individual species or other important related topics to contact him and it can possibly be included on the website.

Ed Cuneo of the New Jersey Federation of Sportsman Club (NJFOSC) introduced himself and provided some information applicable to the NJ Chapter. The NJFOSC is filing a lawsuit against the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Fish and Game Council (FGC) due to the lack of a Black Bear Management Plan since no progress has been made in that regard in the past two (2) years. Len Wolgast commented, stated that the FGC has made numerous requests to the Commissioner to have the plan approved. The Commissioner and the Governor are stonewalling and nothing has been done as a result. Therefore, the FGC will need to obtain their own legal council since they are opposed to the decision of the Governor.

The NJFOSC also supports the Chapter's attempt to bolster a student chapter at Rutgers University. He also suggested looking into other colleges and universities, such as Stockton State College. Evan indicated that we are focusing on Rutgers because there is an existing Chapter in place, and it will dissolve if there is no activity. Eric also responded that if there is a faculty member at another college or university that is interested, we would also pursue a new student chapter. Ed indicated that he knows a few individuals at Stockton and will inquire as to whether there may be any interest. Jim Applegate noted that the problem at Rutgers is that there are no faculty members on staff that are members of TWS.

Ed also noted that Michael Hutchins, Executive Director/CEO of The Wildlife Society, has been invited to the NJFOSC convention as a keynote speaker. It is anticipated that he will accept this invitation, which would help to expose The Wildlife Society to other individuals that may be interested, however are not familiar with the society.

The presentation portion of the meeting began and various speakers as noted on the meeting agenda and Fall newsletter presented information in regards to the current status of white-nosed syndrome in bats. The following specific presentations were given:

Current Status of the White-nose Syndrome Investigation

Jeremy Coleman, National WNS Coordinator, US Fish and Wildlife Service

WNS New Jersey Perspective and Update

Mick Valent, Principal Biologist, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

Bat research at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and implications for WNS

Marilyn Kitchell, Wildlife Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Swamp NWR

Thoughts from the underground: A user's perspective from organized spelunkers

John Gumbs, Chief, NJ Initial Response Team, Search and Rescue

Meeting minutes prepared and submitted by Amy Jones, TWS - New Jersey Chapter Secretary