

The Wildlife Society New Jersey Chapter

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 26, 2005

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource
Education Center, Oxford New Jersey

49 people were in attendance.

At 9:25 Chapter President, Janet Bucknall called the meeting to order.

Janet indicated that since the first order of business would be to vote on the proposed changes to the by-laws, and only paid members could vote on those changes, it would be best if all those present wishing to become members of the NJ Chapter of TWS pay their dues. 2005-06 membership applications were made available to all present. Dues was collected by Jim Sciascia, NJ Chapter treasurer.

Don Freiday, Executive Board Member, reviewed the proposed changes to the by-laws. Proposed changes include: The name shall be the New Jersey Chapter of the Wildlife Society, not the New Jersey or Garden State Chapter. A mission statement was included, which reads "The mission of the New Jersey Chapter of The Wildlife Society is to foster excellence in wildlife stewardship through science, outreach and education to ensure responsible conservation of wildlife resources." The phrase "wildlife management" will be replaced with "wildlife conservation". The membership year shall begin on October 1. The dues is \$10, not \$4. The NJ Chapter shall have the office of Vice-President, rather than President-Elect. Janet explained that the Vice-President may run for the office of President, but would not automatically assume that position. Other proposed changes include: Any action of the Board can be overridden by 2/3 vote of the voting member attending a meeting, having met a quorum of 50% of the voting membership or 10 members in good standing. The Conservation Review and the Resolutions and Public Statements Committees shall be combined into the Conservation Committee.

Cathy Blumig made a motion to accept the proposed changes to the by-laws. The motion was seconded. A discussion ensued as to why the term "management" was replaced by "conservation", and why that change was not carried throughout the by-laws. The executive board agreed to change "management" to "conservation" throughout the by-laws. A question arose as to whether the Northeast Section and TWS mission statement used the term "conservation" or "management". It was indicated that the NE Section and TWS used the term "wildlife stewardship".

A question arose as to why the membership year would begin on October 1. Pat Carr questioned how that would impact the National Chapter membership year which runs January 1 through December 31.

Janet introduced three new Chairpersons of committees: Ted Nichols, Chairperson of the Programs Committee, Julie Lockwood, Chairperson of the Nominations and Elections Committee, and Steve Atzert, Chairperson of the Conservation Committee.

Ted Nichols spoke about the Programs Committee, and the need for additional members on this committee. He asked whether those present preferred day or evening meetings. It was indicated that since this was a day-time meeting, a show of hands would not be a good indicator of the entire membership's preference for day or evening meetings. Susan Predl, NJTWS Secretary agreed to e-mail members and ask for preferences for day or evening meetings. Ted Nichols also asked for suggestions for topics and/or locations. Ted indicated that the shorebird migration might be a good topic for the spring meeting, but if the meeting were to include a field trip, the meeting location would have to be near Cape May or along the Delaware Bay. Janet suggested the Rutgers Eco-Complex as a potential future meeting location. Cathy Blumig questioned whether there was a standard format for the spring meeting vs. the fall meeting i.e. one speaker vs. several speakers. Ted indicated that there was no standard format, but even if there were several speakers, it would be on one topic.

Julie Lockwood spoke about the Nominations and Elections Committee, and what their tasks would be. Julie called for nominations for the Vice-President position. Gene Huntington suggested Julie Lockwood run for the Vice-President position. Don Freiday was nominated for the 2-year Board member position and agreed to run for this position.

Steve Atzert, Chairman of the Conservation Committee explained that the Wildlife Action Plan is a requirement of state wildlife grant funding. Plans had to be submitted to the Federal government by October 1. Steve attended the Northeast Section of TWS, as a representative of NJ and stated that the Northeast Section will be having a student conclave again. The University of Massachusetts will be hosting it.

Jim Sciascia gave the financial report. There was \$8160 in a fund for the Cookingham scholarship award. That money was moved to our checking account when the chapter became inactive. A \$1000 scholarship was awarded to Lewis Gorman in 2005, a third-year Penn State University student. \$7160 from that checking account was invested in an Index 500 Vanguard Fund. \$130 in dues was deposited, leaving \$1896 in the checking account. Jim Sciascia proposed that \$250 be donated to the Northeast Section of TWS. That money will be used to assist students attending the student Conclave. The NE Section will match our \$250 donation. Dr. Len Wolgast made a motion that the NJ Chapter approve the \$250 donation, provided there are NJ students that plan to attend. A representative of the Rutgers University Naturalists Club indicated that several of their members would be attending the Conclave. The motion to approve the donation of \$250 was seconded and passed.

Mimi Dunne represented Awards Committee. She discussed the eligibility requirements for the Russell Cookingham scholarship which included meeting ½ the requirements for a BS degree in Natural Resource Science / Wildlife Biology or Education option. Mimi stated that the application deadline for the Russell Cookingham scholarship was April 1.

Students should send a resume, transcripts and letter of interest, including their involvement in volunteer or other wildlife-related activities.

Janet discussed new Chapter business. Janet stated that she attended TWS national meeting in Madison Wisconsin. The conference was attended by approximately 1400 people. Janet stated that there is a new working group to handle Wildlife diseases.

Jim Sciascia, Chief of the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife Bureau of Information and Education gave a presentation on Communication based on data, not assumptions and the results of the *Survey on Public Opinion on Fish and Wildlife Agencies in the Northeast U.S.*

Dave Chanda, Assistant Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife presented information on Communications strategy and the *National Communications Initiative for the State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies* developed by the International Association of fish and Wildlife Agencies.

The business meeting was adjourned.

Lunch was provided by the Executive Committee.

The day's meeting attendees were invited to take a tour of the Pequest Trout Hatchery facility after lunch.

Meeting Summary Prepared by: Chapter Secretary, Susan Predl
October 27, 2005