

**Volume XXXX
Number 1
Spring 2003**



**The New York
Chapter of
The Wildlife Society**

Message From the Editor
E-mail Addresses:
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Newsletter

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www.cobleskill.edu/nychaptws
www.esf.edu/org/tws/
www.wildlife.org

Chapter Presents Awards



Jason Beeler, Drusila Pagan, and George Mattfeld with their awards

Outstanding Professional Awards

George Mattfeld- George Mattfeld has essentially become the Bureau of Wildlife's entire research arm. Virtually all of the research needs, ideas, and applications with regard to the New York State DEC Bureau of wildlife passed thru George. Over the past 10 years he has handled this enormous workload with efficiency and concern for not only the resources but for those individuals who have been engaged in moving the work forward.

Whether named or not, George has been a welcome and active Principle investigator in all of the projects being carried forward by the Cornell Cooperative Research Unit. The unit has relied on him for ideas, funding sources, troubleshooting, and helpful involvement at all levels. George has never failed them and is, in large part, deserving of much of the credit for the active research and management program activities and success enjoyed by the Research unit.

Drusila Pagan- Over the past several years, Drusilla has made significant contributions to the field of wildlife management through her involvement with the New York Chapter of The Wildlife Society. As Production Editor of our newsletter, Drusilla was instrumental in moving us from paper format to a more modern, electronic version of the newsletter that could be printed in color. Dru also keeps our membership database up-to-date and oversees the printing and mailing of paper copies of the newsletter so that our members have a choice of format to choose from. Through all the transitions and beyond Dru has always been willing to go the extra mile and has had a refreshingly pleasant “can-do” attitude. It has been a pleasure interacting with her and for her commitment to service on the behalf of our Chapter and our profession, she is a perfect candidate for the Outstanding Conservationist Award.

Outstanding Student from a Two-Year College



Jason Beeler accepting his award from Lynn Braband

Jason Beeler is currently a senior at SUNY Cobleskill and is majoring in wildlife management. Jason consistently demonstrates leadership in- and outside of

the classroom, and is an asset to the wildlife program at SUNY Cobleskill.

Jason has perhaps been the most active and proactive member of SUNY Cobleskill’s student chapter, and although not an officer, he has led the chapter on a number of fronts. This past September, Jason attended TWS’s national meeting in Bismarck, ND -- among 14 students that made the 9-day round trip. He also serves as the chapter’s representative to the Student Senate. He has been highly effective as co-chair of the planning committee for the 8th annual SUNY Cobleskill Wildlife Festival to be held May 2003.

In the classroom, Jason has perfect attendance and always arrives on time and well prepared. He asks questions when he has them, and they tend to be pertinent to the topic at hand. In the field, he excels at following protocol and collecting objective data. He is an avid and smart outdoorsman, and among his favorite recreational activities is white-tailed deer hunting.

Having successfully fulfilling his obligation with the U.S. Army, Jason is now attending college on the GI Bill.

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President's Column

From the President's Report given at the NY-TWS Annual Business Meeting February 7, 2003, Radisson Hotel, Utica, NY

I am thankful for the dedication and extra effort of the Chapter's Executive Committee and Standing/Ad hoc Committee members in furthering the work of the Chapter. Our Chapter has a strong reputation in broader circles.

At this writing, our upcoming Annual Meeting, with the theme of "Feeding Wildlife-What Do We Know?", promises to be a well-attended and informative event. We will be looking into the possibility of a combined meeting next year with the state chapters of the American Fisheries Society and the Society of American Foresters.

Last September's Fall Field meeting at the West Point Military Reservation was excellent. Participants learned about wildlife and other natural resource management at West Point and its relationship to the military use of the Reservation.

We issued two editions of the Chapter Newsletter this past year (good considering that we are functioning without an "official" newsletter editor). We are also working on a Chapter Communications plan that will involve not only current efforts, as the Newsletter, but new possibilities such as a "web presence".

The "Fifty in Five" Campaign is continuing albeit slowly partially due to the ubiquitous poor performance of investments.

We sent Angie Berchielli, Chair of the Conservation Affairs Committee, to represent the Chapter at the Wildlife Funding Reception and Wildlife Funding Lobby Day in Washington, D.C.

Upon request, the Chapter reviewed the new Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator training curriculum being prepared by the NYSDEC and Cornell University.

Our Committee structure could be bolstered. Almost all of the Committees could use additional members. Some Committees do not have a Chair and are either inactive or the Executive Committee has taken over their function. The following Committees have official Chairs: (Standing Committees) Nominating and Awards; Membership; Program; Conservation Affairs; Audit; By-laws; Certification; (Ad hoc Committee) Finance. The following lack Chairs: (Standing) Publicity and Information; Resolutions; (Ad hoc) Advocacy of Scientific Wildlife Management.

Another area that we need to improve our performance in is our part in TWS's COWCH interview process to capture the history and rich insights of retired professionals. Understandably, as time goes by, we permanently lose opportunities.

During the second year of my tenure as Chapter President, I want to particularly focus on two things: improving our relationships with the state's Student Chapters and piloting regional Chapter activities. One of the first efforts will probably combine both of these initiatives with a professional/student mixer in the Albany area.

Finally, I encourage Chapter members to be involved, both as participants and volunteers, in this fall's TWS Annual Meeting in Burlington, Vermont.

GOT DATA? Consider publishing in *Northeast Wildlife*, the technical journal of the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society. University and college faculty and students are particularly encouraged to submit articles.

For details, contact Martyn Obbard, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 7000, 300 Water Street, 3rd Floor North, Peterborough, Ontario, CANADA K9J8M5, (705) 755-1549,

E-mail: martyn.obbard@mnr.gov.on.ca

Meet our new President-Elect



Charlie Smith

Charles R. ("Charlie") Smith is a naturalist, educator, and conservationist employed by Cornell University as a Senior Research Associate for the Department of Natural Resources and as a Senior Lecturer for Cornell's Adult University. He also holds an Adjunct Associate Professorship in the Biodiversity, Conservation, and Policy Program, Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Albany. He received his Ph.D. in wildlife ecology from Cornell University in 1977 and holds a B.S. (*cum laude*) for studies in botany, zoology, geology, physical geography, and meteorology from East Tennessee State University. Dr. Smith has more than 40 years of experience in teaching, research, and conservation related to plants and terrestrial vertebrates of eastern North America, including first-hand familiarity at the genus or species level with more than 85% of the vertebrate fauna of eastern North America, nearly 1000 species of vascular plants, and more than 120 species of North American and Caribbean butterflies.

At Cornell, he works with graduate students in avian ecology and science-based conservation and teaches undergraduate courses in field biology, conservation of birds, and characterization of ecoregions. Charlie has been active in research and conservation related to the birds of New York State for nearly 25 years. Since 1992, he has coordinated the New York State Gap Analysis Project at Cornell and manages a broadly based research program in avian conservation and ecology, currently exploring applications of satellite imagery for describing relationships of birds to landscape patterns across large land areas. He is author of more than 100 technical and popular papers and book chapters relating to birds. He contributed several species accounts and two chapters on conservation and bird habitats to the revision of *Birds of New York State*, published by Cornell University Press in 1998.

From 1977 through 1991, Dr. Smith worked for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in a variety of capacities, including Acting Director, Director of Education and Information Services, and Director of Special Projects. He has served as chairman of the Northeast Working Group of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program ("Partners in Flight"), as president of the New York Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and as president of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. He has been an advisor and collaborator on bird conservation and management issues for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey/Biological Resources Division, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and to the Commissioners of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. His studies of birds have taken him to more than 30 states and to Africa, Canada, England, Mexico, Costa Rica,

Panama, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, and Ecuador (Galapagos Islands).

Charlie has been a member of the Tennessee Ornithological Society since 1963 (currently Life Member) and the Wilson Ornithological Society (currently Life Member) and American Ornithologists' Union since 1966. In 1994, he was named an Elective Member of the American Ornithologists' Union (the oldest professional ornithological society in the Western Hemisphere), an honor traditionally extended to less than 10% of the members of the Union, in recognition of their service to professional ornithology. In 2000, Charlie received 2 Certificates of Achievement from Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (USGS/Biological Resources Division), in recognition of 20 years of contributions and completion of more than 50 NY surveys as part of the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS); he has been coordinator of the BBS in NY since 1986. His hobbies include cooking, wines, studying butterflies and vascular plants, and nature photography.

Conference - "Enhancing the Forest Watershed"

November 1, 2003. Attend a regional conference and learn how forests and forest management affect water quality. Discover why forests are important to maintain water quality, the role of riparian forests and how to management them, and how water move through forest soils. Concurrent sessions will address riparian buffer management, forest-fish interactions, best management practices, streamside restoration and more.

The conference will be at the Treadway Inn in Owego, NY. Pre-registration of \$25 per person is required by October 10th and

includes lunch, breaks, and conference materials. Conference sponsors include Bradford-Sullivan Forest Owners Association, NYFOA, CCE, PSU, and many more. For registration information or to participate as a vendor with a booth contact Bob Hansen at PSU Cooperative Extension at (570) 265-2896 or by email at rsh7@psu.edu

🍁 Fall Field Meeting 🍁

Mark your calendars! The 2003 Fall Field Meeting, co-sponsored by the Finger Lakes Community College student chapter, will be held at Cornell's Arnot Teaching and Research Forest on October 2nd and 3rd. The Arnot Forest is a 4,075-acre tract of forested land located just south of Newfield, NY. Protected and maintained by Cornell's Department of Natural Resources, management of the Arnot Forest is guided by a philosophy that integrates environmental conservation within a well-planned and sustainably managed forest. With its mixture of forested habitats, open fields, ponds, and stream, the Arnot Forest's 4,000 + acres and field campus provide an excellent setting for conservation and outreach efforts. Come out and learn about on-going, applied research on amphibians and reptiles, Quality Deer Management, and the effects of forest management on wildlife. Visit demonstration areas that show wildlife habitat enhancement techniques, and see deer exclosures that clearly tell the tale of how deer affect forest regeneration. The Fall Field Meeting is an excellent opportunity for student/professional interactions. Please join us and take in the incredible fall scenery at the Arnot Forest!

TWS 2003 Annual Conference Info for Students

The Wildlife Society's 10th Annual Conference is an excellent opportunity for students to learn about a wide range of research and management programs and to meet other students and wildlife professionals from across North America. Special activities for students include a student dinner, student-professional mixer, job board, student chapter leadership workshop, and student quiz bowl. Discounted student registration fees will be available.

Student Travel Grants

The Wildlife Society announces the availability of travel grants for TWS student members presenting a technical paper or poster at the Society's 10th Annual Conference. Travel grants of up to \$500 will be awarded to a limited number of students. Travel grant applications are due at TWS headquarters by May 31, 2003. An individual is eligible if he/she is a current student or 2003 graduate, a member of The Wildlife Society, and senior author of the accepted presentation or poster. Additionally, the student must present the paper or poster. Recipients of year 2002 grants are ineligible. Recipients will be notified in late July 2003.

If you wish to apply for a Student Travel Grant, download the **2003 Student Travel Grant Application** at www.wildlife.org. Complete the application in full and send to The Wildlife Society.

Best Student Presentation and Poster Awards

Awards will be presented for the Best Student Presentation and Best Student Poster at The Wildlife Society's 10th Annual Conference. All application materials are due by July 31, 2003. A presentation or poster is eligible only if the senior author is a current student or recent graduate (degree received during 2002 or 2003) and a member of The Wildlife Society.

Additionally, the student author must present the paper or poster. Award recipients are recognized at the annual conference dinner and receive a plaque and small gift.

To apply for the Best Student Presentation Awards, download the **2003 Best Student Presentation Application** at www.wildlife.org.

Assistance Requested For The 2003 TWS Annual Meeting

The 2003 TWS Annual Meeting will be held September 6 – 10 in Burlington, Vermont. The New England Chapter is hosting the conference and has formed an Arrangements Committee. They could use our experience and help in some of the subcommittees (described below). If interested, **please contact the Arrangements Committee Chair, Dee Mazzaresse, at dee_mazzarese@fws.gov or (413) 253-8513.**

Fund Raising Subcommittee - Solicits contributions of cash and merchandise in support of conference activities from specific categories of donors. Ensures that appropriate recognition and benefits are given to donors solicited by the subcommittee. Organizes and conducts the silent auction and members' forum drawing.

Meals and Entertainment Subcommittee – Organizes and oversees the food, beverage, entertainment, and logistics of all conference special events.

Signs Subcommittee – Produces and hangs directional and identifying signs for all conference activities as needed.

Student Activities Subcommittee – Organizes career-oriented and social/recreational activities for students, generally including a student chapter leadership breakfast and workshop, student dinner, student-professional mixer, and optional student quiz bowl. Organizes and oversees judging for the Best Student Presentation and Best Student Poster Awards.

Volunteers Subcommittee – Contact Dee Mazzaresse for more information

Trade Show and Exhibition - Booth space is still available for our Burlington Trade Show and Exhibition, scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday morning. If you know of a company, group, or individual that should exhibit, please have them contact Lisa Moll at 301/897-9770 or e-mail to lisa@wildlife.org for more information.

TWS Poster Contest

I'm pleased to announce The Wildlife Society's Membership Poster Contest! The Poster Contest gives our members a chance to create a poster that invites membership in The Wildlife Society. Winning posters will be used around the world to help attract new members to the Society. This is a great way for our members to help promote our organization, and have the chance to win up to \$500 in gift certificates redeemable for TWS books or merchandise, as well as registration or membership fees!

All entries should highlight the benefits of membership in The Wildlife Society. The winning poster will be selected at the 10th Annual Conference in Burlington, Vermont. A downloadable Adobe Acrobat version of the Poster Contest Guidelines is available on the TWS [website:](http://www.wildlife.org/about/Membership_Poster_Contest.pdf)
http://www.wildlife.org/about/Membership_Poster_Contest.pdf.

Sincerely, Lisa Moll, Program Assistant,
The Wildlife Society

National News

Comment Period Still Open on Proposed Certification Changes - About every 5 years the Society undertakes a review of the certification requirements and we are in the midst of one of those reviews. If you have not already done so, please review and comment on the proposed changes that were outlined in the March-April 2003 issue of *The Wildlifer* (page 1) and posted with more details on TWS website (<http://www.wildlife.org/professional/index.cfm?name=crbwhitepaper>). We have received several thoughtful comments to date, but the more views we receive, the better it will be for this important program. The deadline for comments is August 1. Thank you for your assistance.

TWS Brochure Being Updated – Photos Needed - We are updating the general brochure about TWS and are in need of some sharp, high contrast photos to incorporate. In fact, we're always in need of good quality photos that portray people (including students) involved with and benefiting from TWS activities--on field trips, at meetings and conclaves and quiz bowls, at our conferences, the Council at work, etc. We also have need for shots showing biologists/managers working with wildlife. If you can help or know someone who can, please contact our Managing Editor Bill Rooney at bill@wildlife.org

Section and Chapter Dues for 2004 - In the next week or 2 you will be receiving a request from us for the amount your dues for 2004. We include this information on our dues renewal forms and new member applications to help you collect dues from TWS members. We go to the printer with our forms in early August, so it is very important that you respond promptly to our request. Just a heads up and thank you.

If you pay chapter dues with your parent society dues, there is a lag before we are notified. Please wait until the next newsletter before e-mailing us to "correct" your status.

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**New York Chapter
The Wildlife Society
Membership Application**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

Dues: January 1 - December 2003, Regular \$10.00

January 1 - December 2003, Student \$ 5.00

Please Check: New Renewal Regular Student

“50 in 5” Contribution: \$20.00 for 2002 Other: _____

Make check(s) payable to: “New York Chapter, TWS”

Return to Dave Adams, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754



**New York Chapter
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Bureau of Wildlife
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