



INTELLIGENT TINKERING

Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society Newsletter

To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of Intelligent Tinkering. – Aldo Leopold



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2009 Election Ballots Coming Soon

Lesia Kardash, Editor

I know, I know. You survived the everlasting presidential election and now you're being asked to vote again.

Positions up for election include President-Elect and Board Member. Look for an email or hard copy mail later in January with information about each candidate's background, interests, and objectives, as well as how to submit your vote. We promise the process will be quick, painless, and worth it.

Interested in running for a position? Please contact me ASAP so I can get your candidate information and include it in the mailing (lesa.kardash@wisconsin.gov, 368 Milford Court, Nekoosa, WI 54457).

Please Send Award Nominations!

Ken Jonas, Awards Committee Chair

Please send in your nomination for the following awards as soon as possible:

- ★ WCTWS Wisconsin Award
- ★ WCTWS Don Rusch Award

There is still time to make a recommendation of recognition for the dedication and hard work of your fellow wildlife professionals.

Contact Ken Jonas, today!
Kenneth.jonas@wisconsin.gov

Think Green This Winter

Please consider bringing your own mug to the winter meeting to load up on coffee or other beverages.

We won't have to throw away a lot of cups and you'll get to show off that tacky reindeer or snowman mug your kids bought you!



*A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community.
 It is wrong when it tends to do otherwise. – Aldo Leopold*



Presidents Soapbox

By Jamie Nack

The WCTWS Executive Board has been busy planning the 2009 WCTWS Winter Meeting. The meeting will be held March 3-4 at the Lussier Family Heritage Center in Madison. We will also be hosting a welcome reception on Monday evening at the Clarion Suites. The plenary will focus on the Impacts of Climate Change on Wildlife. The general and concurrent sessions will offer attendees the chance to hear about current research going on around the state. Don't miss Tuesday's dinner and silent auction, we will be having barbeque with all the fixins'. We will conclude the evening by honoring deserving colleagues with the 2009 WCTWS awards. Additional meeting information and all the details are included in this newsletter and on the WCTWS website (<http://joomla.wildlife.org/wisconsin>).

A few items worth mentioning again...

- The early registration deadline is February 15, 2009. We are encouraging early registration to give us a more accurate attendance estimate for meal counts.
- The WCTWS room block at the Clarion Suites will be held until February 2, 2009.
- We are still looking for presenters; please submit abstracts to Bob Nack (Robert.Nack@wisconsin.gov).
- If you have silent auction or garage sale items, please contact Kay Brockman-Medegas (Kay.BrockmanMedegas@Wisconsin.gov).

I hope to see you at the Winter Meeting!

Truisms

Contributed by Tom Bahti

Shamelessly borrowed, stolen and plagiarized from other sources

If a million people believe a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing.

If you can't answer a man's argument, all is not lost; you can still call him vile names.

To be prepared is half the victory.

Never slow down, never look back, live each day with adolescent verve and spunk and curiosity and playfulness.

Non nobis solum: "Not for ourselves alone."

A vote is like a rifle: it's usefulness depends upon the character of the user.

Never invest in an idea you can't illustrate with a crayon.

We're supposed to be perfect the first day on the job and then show constant improvement.

***WISCONSIN CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
WINTER MEETING
MARCH 3-4, 2009 Madison, WI***

The 2009 Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society's Winter Meeting will be held March 3-4, 2009 at the [Lussier Family Heritage Center](#) in Madison. This annual event is a great way to find out what's going on with Wisconsin's Wildlife and to catch-up with colleagues from around the state. On Monday evening we will be hosting a welcome reception at the Clarion Suites. Local and out-of-town conference attendees are welcome. We are planning a half-day plenary session on Tuesday morning, followed by a general session, WCTWS business meeting, and dinner. We will have a half-day concurrent session on Wednesday morning with the meeting concluding at noon.

This year's plenary theme will focus on the Impacts of Climate Change on Wildlife. Plenary speakers will include Stan Temple, Mike Larson, Mike Meyer, and Alan Crossley.

Stan Temple is a Senior Fellow of the Aldo Leopold Foundation and retired faculty member of the University of Wisconsin's Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology. Stan will be talking about seasonal events observed at the Leopold "Shack" and how these records reflect climate changes.

Mike Larson, Research Scientist with the MN DNR, served as the chair for the MN DNR's Wildlife Section's climate change working group. Mike will be talking about the impacts of climate change on wildlife and their habitats, both observed and potential. Mike will also share some of the findings from the working group's preliminary assessment on how climate change might influence the way we manage wildlife.

Mike Meyer is a WDNR Research Scientist and Chair of the WCTWS Climate Change Issues Committee, will discuss Wisconsin based climate change initiatives and current research efforts in Wisconsin and the Midwest.

Alan Crossley is a Wildlife Biologist for the WDNR and the North Central Section Representative on The Wildlife Society Council. Alan will be talking about national TWS initiatives related to climate change. He will also share his experiences as a representative to council and provide an update on current TWS initiatives.

Important Dates

Abstract submission deadline: January 1, 2009

Rooms are being held at the Clarion Suites until February 2, 2009

Early registration deadline: February 15, 2009

Call for Abstracts

We invite the submission of abstracts for oral and poster presentations on topics of wildlife management, conservation, education, or policy. We encourage presentations on recent scientific investigations and management experiences from professionals and students.

Abstracts should include title, oral or poster format, author names (indicate presenting author), agency or affiliation, contact information, and a brief paragraph describing of what you did, how you did it and what you found out. Please indicate if this is a student presentation. Please e-mail your abstract to Bob Nack, Program co-chair (Robert.Nack@wisconsin.gov) by January 1, 2009.

Meeting Location

The meeting on March 3-4, 2009 will be held at the [Lussier Family Heritage Center](#) (3101 Lake Farm Road, Madison).

Meeting Information continued on page 4

Pre-meeting Social

On March 2, we will have a social from 6-10PM at the [Clarion Suites](#) (2120 Rimrock Road, Madison) to catch-up with friends and colleagues. All meeting attendees are invited. We are asking members to bring an appetizer to share; nothing fancy. Beverages will be provided.

Lodging

A room block under WCTWS has been set-up at the [Clarion Suites](#) (2110 Rimrock Road, Madison; 608-284-1234). Rooms will be held through February 2, 2009. Pre-tax room rates for state employees are \$70 single occupancy; \$10 each additional person. Non-state employee rates are \$90-\$100/double occupancy depending on room type; \$10 each additional person. Refer to "WCTWS" block when making reservations. The Clarion has a FREE full breakfast buffet.

Registration

We are asking attendees to register prior to the event so we can obtain accurate numbers for meal counts. The registration fee includes: Monday evening reception at the Clarion Suites; Tuesday's breaks, lunch, and dinner; and Wednesday's break. Please use the registration form included in this newsletter or print one from the WCTWS website.

Early Registration (Before February 15)	Late Registration (After February 15)	2009 WCTWS membership: \$10.00
Regular: \$40.00 Student: \$20.00	Regular: \$50.00 Student: \$30.00	

Silent Auction

If you have any new items or have contact with companies who are willing to make a donation please contact Kay Brockman-Medegas (Kay.BrockmanMedegas@Wisconsin.gov or 715-526-4226). Donations help keep meeting costs low, provide training sessions, and offer opportunities for continuing education through scholarships and travel grants.

Garage Sale

We need your help gathering items for our annual garage sale. Bring your gently used hunting, fishing, and outdoor items to the meeting and find Kay Brockman-Medegas, she will make sure they find a good home.

Awards

Do you know an outstanding wildlifer whose contributions have been unsung? If so, please consider submitting a nomination. For more information on the types of awards and how to submit a nomination please visit the awards page on the WCTWS website (<http://joomla.wildlife.org/Wisconsin>). Awards will be presented at the Winter Meeting.

Best Student Presentation Award

Students presentations will be judged at the meeting and the student with the best presentation will receive an award.

Preliminary Agenda

Monday, March 2, 2009

Clarion Suites (2120 Rimrock Road, Madison)

6 - 10 pm Woods and Waters Welcome Reception (appetizers and refreshments)

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Lussier Family Heritage Center (3101 Lake Farm Road, Madison)

8 - 9 am Registration
9 - Noon Plenary Session: Impacts of Climate Change on Wildlife
Noon - 1 pm Lunch (included with registration)
1 - 3:30 pm General session
3:30-5:30 pm WCTWS Business meeting (everyone welcome)
5:30 - 6 pm Social
6 - 10 pm Dinner (Smoky Jon's barbeque), Awards & Silent Auction (included with registration)

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

8 - Noon Concurrent sessions
Noon Adjourn; Lunch on your own

**THE WISCONSIN CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
WINTER MEETING**

March 3-4, 2009
Lussier Family Heritage Center
3101 Lake Farm Road
Madison, WI

Lodging
Clarion Suites (608-284-1234)

WCTWS REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Conference Registration: Includes Monday evening reception; Tuesday breaks, lunch, and dinner (Smoky Jon's Barbeque); and Wednesday break. _____

Early Registration (Before February 15)
Regular: \$40.00 Student: \$20.00

Late Registration (After February 15)
Regular: \$50.00 Student: \$30.00

**Note: You can register on-site, but late registration fee will apply.
Please do not mail your registration form and check after February 23.**

2009 WCTWS Membership: \$10.00 _____

____ New Member ____ Renewing Member

Additional Contribution to the WCTWS (optional): _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Please check this box if you would prefer vegetarian lasagna for Tuesday's dinner

**Please mail registration form and check (made payable to WCTWS) to
Dan Hirschert (Secretary/Treasurer) at:
USDA Wildlife Services, 1201 Storbeck Drive, Waupun, WI 53963
(Daniel.L.Hirschert@aphis.usda.gov, 920-324-4514)**

***WCTWS Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Gander Mountain, Rothschild, WI
October 14, 2008***

Submitted by Dan Hirschert, Secretary/Treasurer

Attendance: Jamie Nack, Karl Martin, Harvey Halvorsen, Kay Brockman-Mederas, Bob Nack, Lesa Kardash, Dan Hirschert

Agenda items:

1. Technical training workshop was attended by 37 members and 15 presenters/Board members. We signed up 22 new members at the event and one other renewed their membership. Cost to put this event on was \$765.00 and we collected \$340.00 in membership dues and fees. Overall we spent \$425.00 more than we generated but we were able to hopefully attract new long term members. The event was evaluated by attendees and was very well received, we also received ideas for future training that included, invasive species, wetland management and basic wildlife biology refresher courses.
2. 2009 Winter meeting – March 3-4th at the Lussier Family Heritage Center, Madison. Jamie and Karl have started to organize speakers, the theme is going to be Climate Change and Impacts on Wildlife. Jamie has researched several vendors for food but we have not yet narrowed down our search. Kay has agreed to organize the silent auction / garage sale items with help from other Board members. Board agreed to open registration January 1 and close early registration on February 15. Bob/Lesa will send out the call for abstracts to start November 1 with a deadline of December/January. We will need 32 presentations to fill our agenda.
3. To maintain the diversity of the Board it was discussed to look for non DNR members who have been with WCTWS for the last three years to recruit for the 2009 Elections. Dan agreed to provide a membership list of paying members for the last three years for discussion and review.
4. Position statements. Board discussed how position statements should be approved and will be asking the general membership to decide how future position statements should be revised/approved.
5. Legislative/proposed action updates. Ron Eckstein met with USFS for clarification regarding the FS road closure and provided WCTWS' support.
6. Request for donations. Michele Windsor requested assistance from WCTWS for travel to the Section meeting. Board approved up to \$200 towards travel expenses however, subsequently she was not able to attend.
7. Investments/Annual Budget. Dan reported that the Bjerke CD had come due in September, he renewed the CD and transferred funds from low performing savings account into the CD at that time to earn more interest. The other Summit CD expires in February and a short term CD will be investigated so that it will come due at the same time as the Bjerke and more account consolidation can occur.

Next meeting – December 2

Adjourn 1:45pm

***WCTWS Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Gander Mountain, Rothschild, WI
December 2, 2008***

Submitted by Dan Hirschert, Secretary/Treasurer

Attendance - Board: Jamie Nack, Harvey Halvorsen, Kay Brockman-Medera, Bob Nack, Lesa Kardash and Dan Hirschert
Attendance – Membership: Scott Walters, Keith McCaffery, Ken Stromborg, Alan Crossley and two students from UW Steven Point.

Agenda items:

1. CWD Management Plan presentation. Alan Crossley reviewed the Department of Natural Resources CWD 10 year Plan to the WCTWS Executive Board and members so he could get our feedback. Alan discussed the plan with the main objectives of preventing new introductions of CWD, respond to new disease foci, control distribution and intensity of CWD, increase public recognition and understanding the of CWD risks, address the needs of customers and enhance the scientific information about CWD. Alan expects the plan to be available to the public in the next few days. Jamie will send an e-mail to all of our members letting them know the Chapter will be weighing-in on the plan and inviting members to submit comment. Keith McCaffery agreed that this was something the Deer Issues Committee could take the lead on and will work with his committee to begin drafting a letter.

2. 2009 Winter Meeting (March 3-4th) – updates

Logistics – food, facility. We have decided to use Smoky Jon's #1 barbecue as our winter meeting caterer. The owner assured Jamie that we wouldn't be disappointed and that we would have lots of food. The cost would be \$10-12 depending on the menu items we select. The Lussier Center is set we will need to arrange for morning break items cups napkins etc. We have 60 rooms reserved at the Clarion each night and if we get 50 booked, we will get 1 room comped. The Social will also be at Clarion \$200.00 for the room and ask that Board members bring some hor d'oeuvre. We will provide beer at social and at Lussier Center.

Program – theme, plenary, call for abstracts (2nd call?) Arranged for Stan Temple, Mike Larsen and Mike Meyer to present with emphasis on Climate Change Impacts to Wildlife each at different geographical levels. We also plan to hear from Alan Crossley and Michelle Windsor regarding National initiatives and the role of the Section. We will be sending out another call for abstracts all members are encouraged to speak with colleagues and request submissions.

Registration is proposed as: Early Registration (Before February 15) Regular: \$40.00 Student: \$20.00. Late Registration (After February 15) Regular: \$50.00 Student: \$30.00

Kay is organizing the Silent auction and garage sale and Board members are encouraged to assist with acquiring items. Members are encouraged to bring outdoors related items they would like to donate to the meeting garage sale.

2009 Nominations – President-elect, board member. Board members are encouraged to review membership list provided and get at least three members to run for each position.

3. President-elect deferred attendance at annual TWS Conference. Board discussed proposal to allow the President-elect or president the opportunity to attend national once during their duration. President-elect gets first choice and if unable to attend president who passed during year as elect the option. Plan to bring option up at the Winter business meeting for membership discussion.

Minutes continued on page 8

4. Possible sale of “Promote Habitat...Prescribed Fire” t-shirts at Winter meeting. Board encourages shirt promoters (WCTWS members) to set up a table at the Winter meeting to offer shirts for sale without WCTWS involvement in the financial aspect of shirt sales.
5. 2009 Technical Training possibility – Ricky Lien/wetlands workshop. Harvey plans to discuss this option further with Ricky.
6. Financial update. Dan will prepare presentation for membership at business regarding income generated in calendar year and propose budget projections for 2009 to allow for planning.
7. Mail received. 2009 membership from Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

Next meeting – February 10

Adjourn 2:38pm

WCTWS Financial Report ***January 1, 2008 – December 19, 2008***

Submitted by Dan Hirschert, Secretary/Treasurer

STARTING BALANCE – 01/01/2008	\$85,405.01		
INCOME		UWSP Student Chapter Midwest T-shirt sales	\$ 500.00
Membership and Winter Meeting	\$ 7594.00	UW-M Student Chapter Midwest T-shirt sales	\$ 500.00
Kent Klepinger memorial gifts	\$ 1,075.00	UW-M Student Chapter Conclave	\$ 500.00
Midwest raffles	\$ 4,253.00	Technical Training Expenses	\$ 765.00
Technical training income	\$ 110.00	American Fisheries Society-winter mtg costs	\$ 440.00
Midwest income (\$7500 held for next visit)	\$12,000.00	Student Paper Awards – Midwest	\$ 550.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$25,032.50</u>	Student Speaker Award – Winter Meeting	\$ 100.00
		blackriverfalls.com	\$ 172.90
		<u>Total</u>	<u>\$11,387.61</u>
EXPENSES		CHECKING ACCOUNT – 09/17/08	\$ 4,222.81
Stoney Creek Inn (Winter Mtg)	\$ 3,600.00	CHECKING ACCOUNT - 12/19/08	\$ 3,587.81
Midwest registration reimburse WM-DNR	\$ 2,700.00	SAVINGS ACCOUNT – 09/17/08	\$ 19,494.20
Award engraving	\$ 73.55	SAVINGS ACCOUNT – 12/19/08	\$ 4,411.50
Winter Meeting expenses	\$ 200.00	CD #1 -09/17/08	\$ 1,851.55
WALCE – Exhibition fee	\$ 59.00	CD #1 -12/19/08 (Matures 02/28/09- 3.35%)	\$ 1,867.06
PO Box Fee	\$ 40.00	CD #2 –01/01/08 (Matured 02/28/08-5.16%)	\$ 567.48
Winter Meeting Speakers	\$ 451.58	CD #2 –09/17/08 (Closed transfer to CD#1)	\$ 000.00
P.O. Box Fee	\$ 40.00	CD #3 -09/17/08 (Bjerke) <small>added 15k from savings</small>	\$ 66,884.35
Postage & Mailing Supplies	\$ 97.80	CD #3 -12/19/08 (Matures 09/24/09 -3.45%)	\$ 82,136.75
Brokerage Fee	\$ 20.00	CUNA BROKERAGE - 06/30/08	\$ 10,654.03
Leopold Scholarship	\$ 500.00	CUNA BROKERAGE –09/30/08	\$ 9,589.31
Scholarship - TWS Membership	\$ 98.00		
Scholarship & Award Expense	\$ 42.54	TOTAL ENDING BALANCE – 09/17/08	\$102,932.41
WI Conservation Hall of Fame Membership	\$ 100.00	TOTAL ENDING BALANCE – 12/19/08	\$101,592.43
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Membership	\$ 125.00		
Mileage & lodging for WWF Meetings	\$ 272.37		

Issue Committee Updates

Government Affairs Committee - Chuck Pils, Chair

I have been following the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters efforts to come up with the 4 top conservation priorities, which were chosen as a result of several meetings and extensive discussion.

The 4 Conservation Priorities are:

1. Preserve Groundwater: Wisconsin's Buried Treasure
2. Stop global warming in Wisconsin
3. Protect Wisconsin's drinking water.
4. Restore Conservation Integrity
 - A. Restore appointment authority of DNR Secretary to the Natural Resources Board.
 - B. Require that the state vote on the NRB nominees within 6 months of their nomination.

I have been in touch with George Meyer from the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and other organizations about Priority #4. We will work closely with Representative Spencer Black, new Chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee about his legislation to get #4 enacted. This year, Lobby Day for the League of Conservation Voters will take place on February 25, 2009. For more information on the 4 priorities go to: www.conservationvoters.org

Deer Issues Committee

The committee has prepared a response to the draft 10-yr CWD plan by DNR. This draft response contains controversial elements that may need modification by the Executive Committee before being submitted to the DNR. We expect that our committee will also be asked to draft testimony for future hearings on the CWD plan. The committee continues to work on a draft position statement about captive cervids in Wisconsin. This draft also contains some controversial elements that may require further discussion by a broader group before being submitted for approval.

Keith McCaffery, Chair
Dr. Jon Gilbert, GLFWC

Tom Bahti, Retired DNR
Dr. Chris Jacques, DNR

Dr. Tim Van Deelen, UW

Farm Wildlife Issues Committee

As most of you know, the 2008 Farm Bill was passed in May this last summer. The bill officially known as 'The Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008' met with serious debate and was finalized with some significant changes over previous Farm Bills. As of this December writing, many of the program's rules are still being edited so the specific details are not known. However, we do know that the bill continues funding for programs such as the Environmental Incentive Program (EQIP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), the Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Based on the law or the statute as was signed by the President, we do know that this Farm Bill is very focused on private farm land. To that end, WHIP limits money to 'private agricultural land, non-industrial private forest land and tribal lands so assistance to the State for wildlife projects on state owned land is no longer allowed.

On the brighter side, the 'yellow book' appraisal system utilized for WRP acquisition was discontinued and replaced by a market analysis based Geographical Area Rate Cap (GARC). The GARCs offer landowners significantly more money per acre making this wetland restoration program viable again. On the flip side, State lands are also not eligible for assistance with this program (including existing management on over 6,000 acres of State owned WRP lands) so discussions are underway as to where and how WI DNR will be able to utilize this program.

The new Farm Bill also created the Open Fields Program (OFP) to encourage public access to private lands for hunting and fishing. The DNR Private Lands committee is currently working on developing this program for Wisconsin.

Gree Kidd and Scott Hull. Co-Chairs

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

*Update from Bi-Monthly Meeting
December 12-13, 2008 Stevens Point, WI*

Submitted by Pat Kaiser, WCTWS Representative in WWF

The Saturday meeting included reports by various Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) committees and several committees had resolutions or proposals regarding hunting, fishing, and public access.

US Forest Service 'Road Closures'. In August 2008, the WWF commented on a US Forest Service proposal to close 2292 miles of forest service roads to "Highway Legal Vehicle's" in the Chequamegon – Nicolet National Forests (CNNF). The WWF opposed the idea of the road closures without adequate notification to the public users (i.e. hunters, hikers, fishermen, etc.) and submitted an appeal to CNNF. Follow up discussion between WWF and CNNF personnel has resulted in an agreement regarding the closure of certain forest roads.

Each year the CNNF publishes a Motor Vehicle Use Map that shows the roads that are closed to Highway Legal Vehicles. The agreement states that for a 3 year time period (2009, 2010, 2011) the Forest Service will not issue a citation to an individual that is operating a vehicle on a closed road. At the time of contact by Forest Service with an individual regarding closed road status they will provide information to the individual for requesting in writing that the road be kept open for motorized vehicle use. The written requests for road openings will be reviewed on an annual basis. To-date, the Forest Service has honored the majority of the road openings requested by individuals. Each year the CNNF will publish a new Motor Vehicle Use Map to show any changes in road closures. After the 3 year time period, any individual on a closed road may be cited for operating a vehicle on a closed road regardless of any provision of the agreement between the CNNF and WWF.

Impacts of Wind Generators on Wildlife. Wind generation facilities in Wisconsin are inadequately regulated for their impacts to wildlife and the environment. Of particular concern if wind generators are improperly located is danger to migratory birds and bats. Under current state regulations wind generation facilities under 100 megawatts and may include up to 27 individual wind towers are exempt from state regulations. Proposal is that all commercial wind generator facilities in Wisconsin be regulated on a state level that are consistent with standards set forth by US Fish & Wildlife Service and Wisconsin DNR. Resolution Passed!

Lake Trout Stocking into Lake Michigan. There currently is a plan by US Fish & Wildlife Service, Native American Tribes, and the States of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin to substantially increase the stocking of lake trout into Lake Michigan in an effort to restore a reproducing lake trout population. Comments from some fish biologists familiar with Lake Michigan are that the current fish forage base is not adequate to sustain a significant increase in the predatory fish population. The existing salmon population has already taken a significant toll on the existing forage base. Proposal is that the plan to Significantly Increase Lake Trout Stocking in Lake Michigan be opposed at this time. Resolution Passed!

Wisconsin DNR Report. Wildlife Biologist Al Crossley provided explanation for a proposed 10-Year Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Plan. Al provided a review of the past 6 years since CWD was found in Wisconsin in 2002. Then he provided an explanation of the management objectives for the 10 year (2008 – 2017) plan. He state that the 'Goal' of the 10 year plan is to; Minimize the area of Wisconsin where CWD occurs and the number of infected deer in the state. The proposed plan will be introduced to the Wisconsin DNR Board at either the January or February 2009 board meeting. Copies of the proposed plan are available from the WDNR, Bureau of Wildlife Management office at Madison, WI.



ON THE DOCKET

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Tim Andryk

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Democrats did well in the November 4, 2008 elections. In the Wisconsin State Assembly, Democrats gained 5 seats over Republicans, and now own a 52 to 46 seat majority. Democrats also maintained their control over the Wisconsin Senate, retaining the 18 to 15 majority that they had in the last Legislative Session. Consequently, Democrats control both houses of the State Legislature, along with having Democrat Jim Doyle as Governor. The same thing happened at the national level, where Democrats picked up seats in both houses to extend their majority to 57 to 40 seats in the U.S. Senate, and 255 to 174 in the U.S. House of Representatives, to go along with Democratic President-Elect Barack Obama.

In the Wisconsin Senate, Senator Russ Decker (Weston) was elected as majority leader, Senator Mark Miller (Monona) was appointed to Chair the Senate Environment Committee and Senator Jim Holperin (Rhineland) to Chair the Transportation, Tourism, Forestry and Natural Resources Committee. In the Wisconsin Assembly, Rep. Mike Sheridan (Janesville) was elected as Speaker, Rep. Ann Hraychuck (Balsam Lake) was appointed to Chair the Assembly Fish and Wildlife Committee, Rep. Gary Sherman (Port Wing) was appointed to Chair the Assembly Forestry Committee, and Rep. Spencer Black (Madison) was appointed to Chair the Natural Resources Committee. All the above leadership appointments went to Democrats.

The 2009 – 10 Legislative Session begins in January 2009. I will report in the next WCTWS newsletter on State Bills of WCTWS Interest that have been introduced then.

Check Out the WCTWS Website!

If you haven't heard, we have a new WCTWS website that is housed on the National TWS server. The formatting is similar to the National website with clearly labeled boxes that allow for drop-down menus, providing easy navigation for all users. As an added bonus, there is no cost to us. Our webmaster and current President, Jamie Nack, is responsible for maintaining and updating the site, but the TWS webmaster provides all support.

The WCTWS Executive Board would like to know what you think about the new website. Please visit the site and send any comments and suggestions to Jamie Nack, webmaster (jlack@wisc.edu).

We want the site to be user-friendly and meet the needs of our members, so please let us know what you think.



<http://wildlife.org/Wisconsin>

Student Chapter Corner

University of Wisconsin - Madison

By Lili Prahl, President



We have had a great semester here at UW-Madison, full of field trips, volunteer opportunities, and our annual game dinner. At the beginning of the semester we spent a lot of energy recruiting new people to our club and were rewarded with a great group of members. We went on two fantastic field trips, the first to Linwood Springs Research Station and the second to Kemp Natural Resources Station. We sent a Quizbowl team to the national TWS conference in Miami, FL, participated in prairie restorations with the Prairie Enthusiasts in Barneveld, WI, did our bi-annual highway cleanup, and hosted a very successful game dinner at the UW Arboretum.

On our first field trip to Linwood Springs, we learned about their Northern Saw-whet Owl banding project and were lucky enough to be there on a night with high activity. We brought 30 members and everyone had the opportunity to hold an owl and see many of them banded and processed by the crew at the station. For our second field trip, we spent a weekend up at Kemp Natural Resources Station in Woodruff, WI. We spent most of the trip collecting coarse woody debris data for a flying squirrel project being done in the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest. We were also able to get a behind the scenes tour at the Northwoods Wildlife Center in Minocqua, WI where we saw baby flying squirrels, a Bald Eagle, an American Kestrel, and many other things.

Our other activities this semester were all very successful thanks in large part to the leadership of the officer team as well as an involved membership. We are looking forward to an eventful spring semester that will include, among other things, outreach at local elementary schools, tiger salamander migrations, Greater Prairie Chicken booming grounds, job and graduate school panels, a trip to the north central section student conclave, and attendance at the state chapter meetings.

University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

By Adam Murkowski, Vice President



The first semester of the year just ended with many students glad it's behind them and looking forward to break. You could never tell though if you visited the UWSP wildlife society. No matter who you talk to whether it be the saw whet owl project, who caught and banded over one-hundred birds this fall, the flying squirrel project, or the twelve students who just returned from the national TWS conference everyone at UWSP only wishes we had more time to do everything! But alas, no worries because winter only means the students at Stevens Point are getting ready to shift into high gear again. Right now people are trudging through snow to check fisher traps, preparing to place hundreds of hair snares and cameras for a glimpse of the illusive puma, sharpening their vision for aerial surveys, looking at how hunting affects gray squirrels, and preparing to radio collar that ever elusive big buck.

With so much going on or about to start up it's impossible to highlight everything going on here at UWSP but look forward to more updates and an invitation to our game dinner in the near future!

