



INTELLIGENT TINKERING

Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society Newsletter

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



TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Soapbox.....	2
Truisms	3
WCTWS Executive Board Meeting Minutes.....	4
WCTWS Winter Meeting Minutes.....	5
WCTWS Winter Meeting Summary.....	9
Financial Update	10
WCTWS Issues Committee Updates.....	11
WWF Meeting Summary.....	12
On The Docket.....	13
Student Chapter Corner.....	15
WCTWS 2009 Travel Grant Applications.....	16
WCTWS Winter Meeting Awards/Scholarships	17
Prairie Chicken Festival Announcement.....	20
WCTWS Issue Committees & Officers.....	20

Thank You Winter Meeting Sponsors and Member Donors

WCTWS Executive Board

We had a successful silent auction and garage sale at our Winter Meeting in Madison. Thank you to the members who donated garage sale and auction items. Another thank you to the following sponsors donated items for the silent auction:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Cabela's | Mel's Trading Post, Rhinelander |
| Creative Converting | Midwestern Shooters Supply |
| Pamida | Hal Leonard Corporation |
| Ruffed Grouse Society | Sportsman's Warehouse |
| Ocean Spray, Babcock | |

2009 WCTWS Technical Training

Watch your email for information on the 2009 WCTWS Technical Training in September. The focus of this year's technical training will be "Wildlife Inventory and Monitoring."

Best Student Presentation Award

Congratulations and Thank yous!

WCTWS Executive Board

Congratulations to Emilie Travis for receiving the Best Student Presentation Award during the 2009 Winter Meeting. Emilie's presentation was titled, "Impacts of Communication Towers on Avian Migrants in Dane County, WI."

A special thank you to all of the reviewers who graciously volunteered their time to listen to the student presentations. Reviewers included: Matt St. Pierre, Sumner Matteson, Chuck Pils, Tim VanDeelen, Pat Manthey, Sean Storm, Robert Rolley, Steve Lens, Michelle Windsor, Ron Eckstein, and Beth Kienbaum.

Finally, thank you to all student presenters for your hard work and willingness to present your research.

2009 Travel Grant Applications

WCTWS is accepting applications from professional members (students are not eligible) for a \$750 travel grant to help defer expenses related to attending the 2009 National Meeting in Monterey, California in September, 2009.

Up to two awards will be provided and the WCTWS Executive Board will make the final decision on selection.

Application deadline: June 30, 2009.

For more information on the application process, check out page 16.

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 Harvey Halvorsen

Spring Turkey Permits go on sale in about 75 minutes. I hope to have this wrapped up by then to take advantage of buying a \$10 chance to kill a 2nd spring gobbler in Zone 4 in May!

Winter meeting '09: Our winter meeting was so successful thanks to our hard-working “can-do” attitude of our WC-TWS Board and officers. I thank our past president Jamie Nack, and outgoing board members Bob Nack and Karl Martin for the smooth transition and background stuff they did/do to help make the meeting run smoothly. I CAN'T BELIEVE THE EXCELLENT CHOCOLATE CAKE AND CHEESE CAKES THAT KARL MARTIN BAKED FOR OUR BANQUET DESSERT! THANKS KARL! THE CHEESE CAKE QUALITY RATED IN MY TOP 3 ALL-TIME FAVORITES. I'd be remiss if I didn't also thank our current treasurer/secretary Dan Hirschert, board member Kay Brockman-Mederas for running such a smooth silent auction, and Lesa Kardash for her excellent newsletter service!

Voting: about 48% of our members voted this past election. I thank our members who took the time to read candidate position statements, looked at their photos, and VOTED! I also thank all the candidates who committed to running for office and put the time into crafting their candidacy statements. Our new president-elect Scott Walter (UW-Richland Center) and new board member Greg Kidd (NRCS) improve our agency-diversity representation. I look forward to working with you. To Becky Roth, David Drake, and David Ruid, I extend heart-felt thanks for putting yourself on the ballot!

Speaking of voting, last evening I was e-mailing several Sierra Club candidates who were running for 5 of 15 open board positions. My wife and I've been members for years = membership eclecticism or idiosyncrasy? I've asked each of my potential vote-getters their view on hunting, trapping and fishing. NONE of them hunted or trapped. The closest any of them came to hunting was one guy who said that when he was a lil' tyke, shooting pebbles at squirrels with his slingshot was the closest he's come to hunting. Other candidates said “I have no argument with those who do engage in those sports...If people want to hunt, and the bio-sphere can support the activity, I think it's their own business”; “I am not an anti-hunter”; “...I'm not a hunter myself, but the *Sierra Sportsmen*, a sub-group of the Sierra Club, has been very successful with issues here in Kentucky. The head of our local Sierra Sportsman program is also head of the Kentucky Fly Fisherman's association, and this alliance has helped us tremendously with water quality issues...The hunting and fishing community have been good allies here. In a primarily rural state such as ours, this becomes essential. So I do support these partnerships.”

I learned a lot and found potential new partnerships. I think they all can learn a lot from our wildlife cohort and will suggest strongly that they continue their support of environmental activism, PLUS enroll in hunter safety classes AND take a “Learn To Hunt Turkey, Deer, Pheasant, Elk...Course”!

Memberships: I pledged to increase membership in our chapter. I'd like to ensure that all prospective wildlifers know about our chapter and what it has to offer. PLEASE let me know if I can make a personal contact with someone you find deserving to become a member of our chapter. I've noted that several retirees (not you Keith) dropped membership; I'll be visiting with them. A target I'm starting to investigate is our US Fish and Wildlife staffers embedded in WI. They may not be allowed (?) to become board members or officers in the WCTWS, but I'll encourage they join us with their \$10.00 membership dues. This chapter is your professional organization, your stamp of recognition across political, professional, private and/or public affairs.

Unions vs WCTWS: Let's stop for a minute and see, for instance, what the WDNR Technicians and Wildlife Biologists pay for their Union Dues. Techs have about \$420.00 taken from their paychecks annually, while I, as a member of our Wisconsin Science Professionals, pay \$510.00 per year.

Soapbox continued on page 3

Soapbox continued from page 2

While I appreciate the hard work our volunteer union officials do for us, we have no choice in whether we pay dues or not. This brings us to the WCTWS: we offer exceptional professional net-working, technical training, annual meetings, newsletter communications, position statements, in-house radio-telemetry frequency database, travel grants to TWS annual meetings and *phenomenal cheese cake* at our banquets (Karl you're on the hook now) Cost is only \$10 per year plus meeting expenses. I repeat, membership cost is only \$10 per year. Why not join? Is there a political reason for now joining? Please let me know.

If you need to discuss off-hours, your membership or any WCTWS concerns, please call me at home at 715-246-3178. That reminds me, also last night, I was on the phone for almost an hour, with the president of the Wisconsin Science Professionals Union. We didn't talk wildlife matters, just political stuff and what union membership offers to state of Wisconsin employees. So, taking his notable example, I'll call anyone too to discuss matters of WCTWS after work. I'll stay committed to providing as much service to you and our wildlife resources during my tenure as President. I hope that you provide me your input to do a good job!

Future technical training and winter meeting: Last fall, we offered for the first time a technical training session on dealing with nuisance wildlife. I'm investigating holding another workshop with a theme of wetland restoration (via Ricky Lien) or something that Scott Craven suggested = inventory and monitoring techniques. Scott also recommended a habitat management techniques class like chain saw and ATV use and maintenance, or how to plant a food plot, setting up a hedgerow, ...stuff like that. But, in September, the inventory and monitoring would lack the spring/summer flush of wildlife we'd like to sample. Please send me your ideas to: Harvey.Halvorsen@wisconsin.gov. As for the next winter meeting, I'm looking at hooking up with the Wisconsin Waterfowler's Conference at Stevens Point in March 2010. Look for more on this in the coming months.

I still have 10 minutes before left-over turkey permits go on sale. Time to close, until next time stay charged for wildlife. We need to make a difference here there and everywhere...but stay focused.

Truisms

Contributed by Tom Bahti

Shamelessly borrowed, stolen and plagiarized from other sources

Burn brightly without burning out.

The best sermons are lived, not preached.

To love and be loved is to feel the sun from both sides.

Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.

Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.

Laughter is the shortest distance between two people.

I intend to live forever...so far, so good.

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.

Remember: Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.

***WCTWS Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Gander Mountain, Rothschild, WI
February 9, 2009***

Submitted by Dan Hirschert, Secretary/Treasurer

Executive Board (EB): Jamie Nack, Karl Martin, Harvey Halvorsen, Kay Brockman-Medegas, Bob Nack, Lesa Kardash, Dan Hirschert

Agenda items:

Board received a thank you note from Linda Lyons 2008 scholarship recipient, expressing her gratitude to WCTWS for recognizing her and her accomplishments.

1. 2009 Nominations/elections - President-elect, board member. The candidate bios were distributed to members with the voting form. Lesa will collect and tally votes. Selections will be announced at business meeting, March 3, 2009.
2. WDNR's CWD Management Plan - NRB meeting February 25th. Discussion at NRB was put off to later date and EB will request Deer Committee member to testify on WCTWS' behalf. We plan to provide our comments to WWF.
3. Annual budget presentation for winter meeting / budget update – Dan
 - a. Recommendation for future Leopold scholarships. The EB discussed the proposed budget for 2009 and the impact that the increased scholarship amounts will have on the Chapter budget. The EB discussed the possibility of limiting the amounts to \$1000 or \$1500 with one directed towards an undergrad and the other graduate. Jamie to follow-up with Scholarship Committee (Bruce Bacon) to exchange ideas prior to winter meeting. Plan to discuss alternatives with membership at business meeting.
4. Chapter finances/spending policies. Dan to prepare treasurers' report and proposed 2009 budget for membership review at business meeting. Also plan to address financial streamlining so that combined accounts are able to be tracked easier and able to recover greater earning potential with larger sum.
5. 2009 Winter Meeting – final plans
 - a. Lesa to send out another e-mail(s) to remind folks to register – February 10
 - b. Jamie – facility, food, name tags, Season's End books, WCTWS brochures
 - c. Social at the Clarion evening of March 2, e-mail a flyer/reminder to all registrants, EB to each bring appetizers at 5:45 pm.
 - d. Bob and Karl – contact speakers, organize moderators, give Ken Stromborg a list of student presenters, Dan to purchase \$100 gift card for student award.
 - e. Lesa – Finalize program booklet design, layout, printing each EB member to provide donor's name for printing by Feb. 20.
 - f. Dan – registration update to Jamie for name tags, make receipts, \$200 check for Clarion hotel, and bring computer for registration on site.
 - g. Kay – silent auction (bid sheets, pens), prints from Dave Evenson, garage sale signage. Disposable plates, napkins.
 - h. Speaker gifts- Jamie to purchase cheese boxes.
 - i. Plenary speaker expenses to be organized with speakers
 - j. Computers and projectors Bob, Jamie and Karl to each bring a set.
 - k. WCTWS Display to be put up in Lussier Center.
6. Meeting adjourn at 1:50 pm.

***WCTWS Winter Meeting Minutes
Lussier Family Heritage Center, Madison, WI
March 3, 2009***

Submitted by Dan Hirschert, Secretary/Treasurer

The annual meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society was called to order by President Jamie Nack at 3:00 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

Summary of 2008 Chapter Activities

Jamie reviewed the accomplishments of the Chapter in 2008 they include, MOU with Leopold Foundation regarding the Chapter logo and use of the shack image, the successful Technical Training event which generated new memberships and provided professional development opportunities for members, approval of several position statements, development of an annual budget and establishment of a new website linked to the National's website.

Membership update and Treasurers Report

Dan Hirschert reported that the Chapter had 213 members in 2008 which is slightly less than 2007 but shows a continued trend of greater than 200 members annually.

The Chapter started 2008 with assets of \$85,405.01 and ended the year with \$100,553.75. The majority of this increase was due to funds generated through raffles and other income related to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. While the Chapter's main interest generating accounts accumulated \$3,142, our mutual funds lost \$3,426 in value. It was recommended that we leave the mutual funds in the current investment strategy and wait until recovery to reevaluate the account.

A motion was made by Carl Batha to accept the Treasurer's report and seconded by Ken Jonas. Motion carried.

Chapter Finances and Spending Policies

Over the past number of years WCTWS has benefited from the generosity of several estates. This has enabled us provide opportunities to members and students alike. With this has come the responsibility to manage these funds appropriately to ensure their longevity for the WCTWS. Currently, our funds are held in saving accounts, a checking account, multiple certificates of deposit and mutual funds. It is increasing difficult to keep track of specific named accounts when transferring responsibility to new treasurers every few years as well as keeping track of multiple CD renewal dates. WCTWS can earn more interest than currently achieved if we condense our resources to larger but fewer accounts. The WCTWS Executive Board is recommending the following:

1. Condense accounts to Checking, Savings, and Mutual Funds. The Savings accounts would include one CD and one regular savings account.
2. Review of the Bjerke Fund Guidelines by the Investment Committee and determine how non-Bjerke funds held in the same account are to be managed.
3. Develop an electronic accounting file (spreadsheet) that documents all historic and current contributions. Within the large CD account there would be detailed documentation of where, when, who and how much money was received by WCTWS. If contributions are designed for a specific purpose this would remain on file with the account that the funds are located in. This file would be updated regularly, shared with the WCTWS Executive Board and Membership at the WCTWS annual meeting of upon request and transferred from the outgoing to incoming WCTWS Treasurer.

A motion was made by Chuck Pils to accept the financial streamlining proposal and seconded by Gary Zimmer. Motion carried.

Minutes continued on page 6

Minutes continued from page 5

Leopold Scholarship(s) Revisited

At the 2008 annual meeting it was decided that we would increase the amount of the two scholarships from \$500 each to \$1000. The Executive Board has discussed and evaluated the increased funding level and impact on Chapter funds. Currently, the Bjerke Guidelines stipulate that the principle be maintained and the interest generated be made available for Chapter activities. The interest generated from all interest producing accounts was \$3,142 in 2008. The Executive Board asked the Scholarship committee to discuss the funding level to ensure they thought the \$2,000 expense was appropriate. Discussion indicate that members think the scholarships are appropriate at there current amounts. However, membership would like to revisit this issue in subsequent years to ensure safety of principle funds.

A motion was made by Tim Van Deelen to stay with the proposed 2009 budget (\$2000) and seconded by Adrian Wydeven. Motion carried.

Issues Committee updates

A. Climate Change – Karl Martin

Over the last year there has been a DNR/UW-Madison collaborative effort on climate change called the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI). The WICCI Wildlife Working Group (along with other disciplines such as forestry, climate, coldwater fisheries, etc.) has formed over the past few months to address climate change and wildlife issues. This group will work with WCTWS on climate change issues. Details of the wildlife group are listed below:

WICCI Wildlife Working Group

Mission

The Wildlife Working group will operate within the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts structure to produce and share information on the impact of climate change on Wisconsin's wildlife resources.

Goal

The Wildlife Working group will collaboratively synthesize existing climate research as it pertains to Wisconsin, set priorities for research, and generate management strategies to address future climate change impacts utilizing applied research, modeling, and adaptive guidelines. Adaptive management approaches will be developed and shared with Wisconsin policy makers, stakeholders, and citizens.

Working Group Leaders

Karl Martin and Mike Meyer - Team Leaders

Scope of Effort

The Wildlife Working Group will focus on the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on Wisconsin's wildlife resources that are likely to occur over the next 1, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, and 200 years. Wildlife resources include all species of vertebrates (excluding fish) and invertebrates in the context of their natural communities.

Duration of Working Group

The working group has no set duration but the composition of participants is expected to change over time as the group moves from modeling, to applied research to field application approaches. Given that participants will change over time, the charter of the group will be reviewed on an annual basis.

B. Deer Issues

Keith McCaffery reported on actions taken by the deer committee. Tom Bahti, Jon Gilbert, Chris Jacques, Tim Van Deelen and Keith make up the committee. They have provided the Executive Board with position statements on Baiting and Feeding and Captive Cervids. The Baiting and Feeding position statement was approved and posted on the Chapter website. The Captive Cervid position statement was provided to members for review and is being revised. Also comments were provided on the DNRs CWD plan.

Minutes continued on page 7

Minutes continued from page 6

Keith McCaffery requested members to provide suggestions for further issues that they would like the committee to address.

C. Farm Wildlife Issues

Greg Kidd reported that funds are arriving for many of the Farm Bill programs (Wetlands Reserve Program - WRP, Grasslands Reserve Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program - WHIP and Emergency Watershed Protection Program - Floodplain Easements - EWPP-FPE) however, the rules are currently out for comment so the actual on-the-ground funding will be delayed for several months. WRP - Wisconsin has received over \$8 million to date with more expected depending on our backlog. GRP Wisconsin will probably receive less than \$1 million and we hope to spend that on easements. WHIP - Wisconsin has received slightly over \$600K that can only be spent on private lands. EWPP-FPE – Wisconsin could receive as much as \$30 million. Guidelines are forthcoming and there will be a signup soon and NRCS hopes to get a large single parcel (over 1,500 acres) acquisition with a portion of this money.

D. Government Affairs

Chuck Pils reported that an independent DNR Secretary was one of the top issues discussed at the Conservation Lobby Day this year. It appears that this issue has bipartisan support and may be strong enough to pass without support from the Governor. The lobby day was coordinated by the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) it is a good opportunity for constituents to talk to both his/her senator and representative on conservation issues. The WCTWS provided a \$250 donation to LCV to sponsor this worthy event. Chuck agreed to remain our WCTWS liaison with the LCV. He also said to pass the bill to ban on baiting/feeding deer, we need a strong majority in both the assembly and senate or Governor Doyle will not sign the bill. George Meyer is lead proponent for this bill via the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. Please provide your support for the bill to either Chuck or George.

E. Wildlife Damage Management

Jamie Nack reported that the committee provided a position statement to the Executive Board regarding Double-crested Cormorant Management in Wisconsin. It was approved by the Board and posted on the WCTWS website.

F. Wolves

Adrian Wydeven reported that the delisting process that was initiated under the Bush administration was halted for further review by the incoming Obama Administration. Currently, through support from many conservation organizations and agencies the delisting process is progressing and we can expect to hear more as spring arrives.

North Central Section update

Michele Windsor spoke of the benefits of belonging to the North Central Section, specifically the opportunity to network with wildlife professionals from other states and agencies. Students should take advantage of this resource to introduce themselves and meet potential employers and seasoned professionals can meet with their counterparts to compare and contrast ideas.

NEW BUSINESS

2009 President Harvey Halvorsen presided over the new business portion of the meeting.

2009 Executive Board Election Results

Harvey thanked all the candidates who volunteered to run for office this year. Candidates for President-Elect were David Drake and Scott Walter. Executive Board candidates were Greg Kidd, Becky Roth and Dave Ruid.

Scott Walter was elected as President-Elect and Greg Kidd as Executive Board Member. Harvey thanked outgoing board members Karl Martin for his work as Past President and Bob Nack for his term as Executive Board Member.

Representation at annual TWS Conference

Currently the President-Elect is given the opportunity to attend The Wildlife Society's (TWS) annual conference at the WCTWS's expense to represent the Chapter at the Leader's Luncheon and to bring information back to the Chapter. In some years, the President-Elect has been unable to attend. The WCTWS Executive Board has discussed the importance of having

Minutes continued on page 8

Minutes continued from page 7

Chapter leadership at the national conference. The Executive Board recommends the following order of offers to assure the Chapter is represented.

1. President-elect (expenses covered if needed)
2. If the President-Elect is unable to attend, any member of the WCTWS Executive Board, that is planning on attending the conference at their own expense, may represent the Chapter
3. If no one on the WCTWS Executive Board is planning on attending, the Chapter will cover the expenses for an Executive Board member to attend. Executive Board members who have previously attended a national TWS conference at the Chapter's expense are not eligible. The offer to attend will be made in the following order: Past-President, President, Secretary/Treasurer, Board members (priority given to the board member who has been on the Executive Board the longest)

If no one from the Executive Board is eligible or able to attend the conference, the Executive Board will seek a WCTWS member who will be in attendance to represent the Chapter at their own expense.

Jim Ruwaldt commented that the thought behind providing the funding for the President-Elect to travel to the annual TWS Conference was that individual having the longest term yet to serve and the Chapter could get the greatest benefit from attendance. Scott Craven recommended that the amount travel grant fund should be utilized for the President-Elects travel if it exceeds the \$1000. Karl Malcolm recommended that both the line items for the President-Elects travel and the travel grant be combined to allow for either greater expense available for the President-Elects travel or if the conference is close, funds for more members to attend.

Motion made by Tim Van Deelen and seconded by Chuck Pils to approve the Executive Board proposal as written. Motion carried. Note: Board will consider suggestions, comments made by Craven and Malcolm.

Position Statements

In recent years, the WCTWS's Issues Committees have begun to develop position statements on various topics. The Executive Board has approved the first two position statements on 1) Baiting and Feeding of Deer and 2) Double-crested Cormorant Management in Wisconsin; however, the Board would like to develop a formal approval process that allows for membership feedback. The WCTWS Executive Board is recommending the following approval process for future position statements.

- 1) Draft position statement is written by an Issues Committee or a group of WCTWS members with expertise on the issue.
- 2) WCTWS Executive Board reviews the draft and provides feedback to authors.
- 3) Revised position statement is sent to WCTWS membership with a 30-day comment period. Comments are sent to the Executive Board and forwarded to the authors.
- 4) Authors review comments, take them into consideration, and prepare the final position statement.
- 5) Final position statement is given to the Executive Board for approval.
- 6) Approved position statement is posted on the Chapter website and members are notified.
- 7) A copy of the approved position statement is forwarded to the Director of Government Affairs at TWS headquarters.

Tim Andryk made a motion to include a friendly amendment that would read 3) Revised position statement is sent to WCTWS membership with a maximum 30-day comment period. A shorter period may be deemed necessary by the Executive Board. Comments are sent to the Executive Board and forwarded to the authors. Seconded by Michele Windsor. Motion carried.

Randy Jurewicz mentioned that we already have a method of approving position statements in our bylaws and that by approving this process we are disregarding the current process and this should be changed by amending the bylaws, if that is what we want to do. Harvey stated that he is planning to tackle that task this year but we would like to move ahead with this proposal and work it into the bylaws during the review.

Motion made by Gary Zimmer to accept the proposal with the friendly amendment. Seconded by Adrian Wydeven. Motion carried. One nay.

Minutes continued on page 9

Minutes continued from page 8

Telemetry database

Scott Walter reported that he has collected radio frequency data for the last year and would like to include it on our website. Discussion revolved around the pros and cons of public access and potential misuse. It was decided that we might be able to put some data out for access if we only include who's working in what part of the state. The general consensus was to include the researcher's name and contact information, along with the region/counties they're working in, on the chapter website, without specific transmitter frequencies. Researchers developing telemetry projects could then contact individuals directly to find out which frequencies are being deployed.

Revision of Chapter bylaws

Our Chapter bylaws are in need of revision. The last time they were updated was 2001 and some alterations have occurred during the last several years and have not been included. Harvey has graciously consented to accomplish this task and asked for assistance from the membership, Randy Jurewicz, David Drake and Ken Jonas volunteered to help.

2009 Technical Training

Our 2008 Technical Training was very well received and the Executive Board wanted to get some ideas from the membership for the 2009 course. Several ideas have been discussed regarding wetland management/development, statistical techniques, green energy, public relations and basic wildlife biology for seasoned professionals. The Executive Board will explore these ideas to plan training event in September 2009.

2010 Winter Meeting

The next winter meeting will be held in the Stevens Point/ Wausau area to keep with the tradition of alternating between several locations to ensure students and professionals alike are able to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

WCTWS 2009 Winter Meeting Summary

Submitted by Jamie Nack, Past President

On March 3-4th 2009, the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society held its annual meeting at the Lussier Family Heritage Center in Madison, WI. The theme was "Impacts of Climate Change on Wildlife". Approximately 140 natural resource professionals and students from around the state were in attendance.

The meeting kicked-off with a Monday evening social at the Clarion Suites complete with appetizers and beverages. The Tuesday morning plenary session was informative and thought provoking. Stan Temple (Professor Emeritus in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at UW – Madison and a Senior Fellow of the Aldo Leopold Foundation) provided a fascinating account of how the phenological record keeping by the Leopold family at "the shack" has provided insights on how climate change is affecting wildlife and their habitats. Mike Larson (MN DNR Wildlife Research Scientist) and Mike Meyer (WI DNR Natural Resources Research Scientist) discussed current climate change projections, observed and potential effects of climate change on wildlife, how climate change will impact the way we manage wildlife and their habitats, and the ways Minnesota and Wisconsin are addressing climate change through working groups and research. Alan Crossley (North Central Section representative to The Wildlife Society Council) provided an update on how TWS is contributing to our understanding of the effects of climate change on wildlife. Alan also described other issues TWS is working on and engaged audience members with a discussion on why they are or are not members of our professional society.

The general session on Tuesday included interesting presentations on the declining ruffed grouse population in southwest Wisconsin, wildlife usage on a 1,500-acre Wetland Reserve Program restoration in Jefferson County, wildlife hazard management at General Mitchell International Airport, and the impacts of wind turbines on birds near Horicon Marsh. The business meeting followed the general session and included issues committee updates, a TWS north-central section update,

Summary continued on page 10

Summary continued from page 9

and discussions on Chapter finances/spending, a position statement approval process, WCTWS representation at the annual TWS conference, revising the Chapter bylaws, and plans for the next technical training and annual meeting.

Following the business meeting we had a dinner catered by Smoky Jon's #1 barbeque. After dinner, the silent auction was closed and Chapter awards were presented. Undergraduate student Ryan Stephens (UW – Stevens Point) and graduate student Karl Malcolm (UW – Madison) were the recipients of the Leopold Scholarships. The Outstanding Student Award went to Kristina Artner (UW – Stevens Point). Brian Buenzow (WI DNR Wildlife Technician) was presented the Don Rusch Memorial award that recognized his dedication to the profession and acknowledged his success in restoring and managing public and private land for wildlife.

The meeting concluded with a half day concurrent session on Wednesday morning. There were many outstanding presentations by both professionals and students. Emilie Travis (UW – Madison) received the Best Student Presentation award for her talk on the impacts of communication towers on avian migrants in Dane County. Emilie received a \$100 Cabela's gift card.

The 2009 WCTWS winter meeting provided scientific presentations on a variety of topics and the opportunity to network with colleagues from a number of agencies, organizations, and institutions. Thanks to everyone who attended and presented!

Note: The WCTWS winter meeting program, including abstracts, is available on the Chapter website.

WCTWS Financial Report ***January 1, 2009 – March 17, 2009***

Submitted by Dan Hirschert, Secretary/Treasurer

STARTING BALANCE – 01/01/2008 \$100,553.75

INCOME

Membership	\$ 1,660.00
Winter Meeting	\$ 5,320.00
Silent Auction/Garage Sale	\$ 938.00
Investment Interest	\$ 725.92
Donations	\$ 5.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 8,648.92</u>

EXPENSES

Winter Meeting	\$ 5,025.27
Postage Box & Mailing Supplies	\$ 62.70
Brokerage Fee	\$ 20.00
Leopold Scholarships	\$ 2,000.00
Outstanding Student-TWS Membership	\$ 98.00
Student Speaker Award-Winter Meeting	\$ 100.00
WI Wildlife Federation Membership	\$ 125.00
WI Conservation Hall of Fame Membership	\$ 100.00
Mileage and Lodging for WWF Meetings	\$ 39.50
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 7,570.47</u>

CHECKING ACCOUNT - 12/31/08	\$ 3,422.81
CHECKING ACCOUNT - 03/16/09	\$ 4,939.61
SAVINGS ACCOUNT – 12/31/08	\$ 4,413.75
SAVINGS ACCOUNT – 03/16/09	\$ 4,418.04
CD #1 -12/21/08	\$ 1,867.06
CD #1 -12/19/08 (Matures 08/28/09- 1.84%)	\$ 1,872.37
CD #2 -12/19/08 (Bjerke Account)	\$82,853.07
CD #2 -03/17/09 (Matures 09/24/09-3.45%)	\$83,315.76
CUNA BROKERAGE - 12/31/08	\$ 7,991.75
CUNA BROKERAGE -03/17/09	\$ 7,186.17
TOTAL ENDING BALANCE – 03/17/08	\$101,731.95

Issue Committee Updates

Government Affairs Committee - Chuck Pils, Chair

I have been the Chapter's contact for the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters (WLCV). The WCLV has established the following 4 priorities for legislation during the current session:

1. Preserve Groundwater: Wisconsin's Buried Treasure by managing Wisconsin's groundwater resources to preserve drinking water supplies, lakes, streams, and wetlands.
2. Stop Global Warming with the STRONG Clean Energy Economy Bill
3. Restore Conservation Integrity by returning to an Independent DNR Secretary and ensuring timely appointments of Natural Resource Board members.
4. Protect Wisconsin's Drinking Water by making sure we safely spread agricultural, municipal, and industrial waste.

Several WI conservation organizations, like the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and WCTWS have teamed up to lobby for the independent secretary by helping to establish Assembly Bill 138. This issue was the focal point of the annual Conservation Lobby Day (February 25th) held at the state Capital and was attended by 500 conservationists from around the state, working with the WLCV. This Conservation Lobby Day, citizens from all over the state will be asking their legislators to support the above 4 priorities. Governor Doyle announced that he will not support AB 138. Since the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters started working on this important legislation, 68 legislators in the Assembly and Senate - *a majority of each house!* - have co-signed onto our Independent Secretary Bill (AB138). The Chapter will continue to work with WLCV and others to pass AB 138.

I also agreed to let the WCTWS name be associated with a letter opposing the creation of DOA attorney positions that would be filled by moving DNR attorneys. This is part of the Governor's budget (2009 AB 75).

Farm Wildlife Issues Committee

Conservation Reserve Program - On March 11th a meeting was hosted by the Farm Service Agency in Madison to discuss the "Future of the Conservation Reserve Program in Wisconsin". This meeting was precipitated by declining CRP enrollment in Wisconsin. Over 35 people attended representing more than 10 different organizations. Congressional staff from Kagen, Kohl, and Feingold's office were also present. The meeting started out by discussing the positive and negative factors impacting CRP in Wisconsin. As one would expect this generated lots of discussion. The group also created a laundry list of actions that could encourage participation in Wisconsin. The group decided that a small number of working groups should be formed to tackle some of the more complex issues surrounding CRP in Wisconsin. These working groups include: Outreach/Education/Training; CRP Landowner Survey; CRP Maintenance & Management; Staffing/Implementation; CRP Policy. Each of the working groups are to meet by mid-April and report back to the larger group by summer. People interested in participating on the working groups should contact Scott Hull (Scott.Hull@Wisconsin.gov) or Greg Kidd (Greg.Kidd@wi.usda.gov) for more information.

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program - Floodplain Easements (EWPP-FPE) recently extended the signup period until April 10th. So far, the response to the program has been overwhelming with >100 applications for over 7,000 acres being submitted to NRCS. While the signup is open statewide, the majority of applications have been in the recently flooded areas along the Rock River corridor. The maximum a state can receive is \$30 million this year to fund this program.

Greg Kidd and Scott Hull, Co-Chairs

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

*Update from Bi-Monthly Meeting
February 13-14, 2009 Stevens Point, WI*

Submitted by Pat Kaiser, WCTWS Representative in WWF

Several Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) committee's submitted reports that pertain to hunting, fishing, legislation, and issues of environmental concern.

1) Legislation --- AB 4 and SB 48...would repeal early catch and release musky season; AB 7 and SB 6... would designate a portion of Brunswiler River as a wild river, and, SB 47 ... would designate portions of Totogatic River as wild river; and SB 12 ... would impose a slow-no-wake zone of 100 ft. from lake shorelines for all motorboats that are not personal watercraft. WWF members support these issues of legislation.

2) Cervid Game Farms --- a) Escape Data numerous escapes of cervids are reported to DNR each year. There are 681 game farms in Wisconsin. In 2006, 36 escapes reported involving 194 captive animals (44 whitetail deer, 24 elk, and 126 exotics... fallow, sitka, red deer, etc.). Of those only 74 were recovered or destroyed. In 2007, 43 escapes reported involving 148 captive animals (70 whitetail deer, 15 elk, and 73 exotics). Of those only 98 were recovered or destroyed. In 2008, 58 escapes were reported involving 168 captive animals (100 whitetail deer, 31 elk, and 37 exotics). Of those only 110 were recovered or destroyed. Essentially the concern is the need for 'stronger enforcement' of fencing laws. b) Of the 681 game farms in Wisconsin, 9 farms have had deer tested positive for CWD. These farms have been depopulated. Of concern is the "fencing" on these farms. If they are sold and fences come down wild whitetail deer have access to these potentially 'prion' infected grounds. Current rules require fences be maintained for five years. However there is some evidence that five years is not sufficient time for the prions to become inactive. WI. Department of Agriculture has not been proactive in dealing with this issue. The issue is of specific concern for the former 'Hall Shooting Preserve' which was depopulated in 2006 because of CWD infected deer. A total of 82 deer tested positive for CWD at this farm. Now the farm is 'For Sale' and the question is ..'Will the fences be maintained for more than 5 years' if the property is sold? Wildlife and Forestry Committee's of WWF emphasized the need to update state laws that supports current science regarding CWD reoccurrence on game farms infected with CWD.

3) Conservation Lobby Day – Feb. 25, 2009. Executive Director, George Meyer encouraged the WWF members to participate in the lobby at the State Capitol in Madison, WI. He stated that approximately 300 people participated in 2008, and that the hope is to have 500+ people participate in 2009.

4) Four issues that will be pursued by WWF for adoption by the legislature in 2009; a) Restoring the appointment authority of the DNR Secretary back to the Natural Resources Board, b) Seeking state and federal funding for the reduction of climate changing gas emissions that continue to affect Wisconsin's fish and wildlife habitat, c) Reducing on a statewide basis the phosphorus that runs into our lakes and streams as result of over-fertilized lawns and use of dish detergents, and d) Protecting Wisconsin's deer herd and our important livestock industry by prohibiting the feeding and baiting of deer in WI.

5) "Aquatic Invasive Species". There is concern of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) as sea lamprey, Asian carp, and rusty crayfish causing degradation of aquatic ecosystems. These species already exist in upper Midwest fresh water systems. There is a critical need to develop integrated pest management programs to contain and control such aquatic invasive species. The 'Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center' in La Crosse, WI. is conducting research to evaluate fish management chemicals that can target the specific (AIS) to control these populations. The Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center is seeking assistance to move forward with the project. The WWF supports moving forward with the project.

6) Ralph Fritsch, Chairman – Wildlife Committee (WWF). Mr. Fritsch attended the WDNR Statewide DNR Wildlife manager's meeting in January '09. He noted that he was the only person representing a conservation organization at the meeting.

WWF Update continued on page 13

He stated that he was glad to hear that DNR wildlife deer program specialists admit they had incorrectly predicted the deer population level pre-hunt population for the 2008 hunting season, and that 2008 deer harvest data supports that situation. Also, he expressed praise and support for the state wildlife managers and staff for their professional attitude and sincerity to make corrections in population predictions for Wisconsin hunters. He expressed a "Thank You" to all the wildlife management personnel for the courtesy and respect he received.

Next Meeting is the WWF 'Annual Meeting' – April 3 – 5, 2009.



ON THE DOCKET

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Tim Andryk

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2009 – 2011 STATE BUDGET BILL – AB 75

The 2009 – 2011 State Budget Bill (AB 75) was introduced by the Governor on February 17, 2009. The budget bill requires a reduction of \$36 million in DNR base reductions for the two year period and in addition DNR will lapse \$15 million over the two year biennium, partially as a result of keeping over 300 positions vacant. The Budget Bill includes a net reduction of 85.5 positions for DNR, partially as a result of discontinuing public service at 24 DNR Service Centers, resulting in a cut of 51 positions. The Bill does not propose any cuts or changes to the Stewardship Program. The Budget Bill is currently being reviewed by the Legislative Joint Finance Committee which will hold hearings on the Bill, and approve, modify or pass their own version of the Budget Bill for the entire Legislature to act on.

Items of WCTWS interest in the Governor's Budget Bill are listed below.

State Agency Positions – The Budget Bill authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Administration (DOA) to eliminate any position in a state agency that has been vacant for more than 12 months. The Secretary of DOA is also authorized to reassign employees from one state agency to another when the Secretary determines that state operations will be performed more efficiently and effectively under the reassignment. Reassigned employees will perform any work to which they are reassigned but will remain employees of the agency from which they were reassigned for payment of their salaries and benefits during the duration of the reassignment.

Endangered Resources Program License Plates – The Governor's Budget Bill authorizes a second endangered resources vehicle license plate. The plates will be purchased from the State of Minnesota and will be of a color and design that will cover the entire plate. An additional annual fee of \$25 will be charged for the plate, which will go to the DNR Endangered Resources Program after paying for purchasing and other administrative costs.

Wildlife Violator Compact – The Budget Bill converts a 0.75 project position into a full time permanent position to oversee the State's participation in the inter-state Wildlife Violators Compact. The Budget also increases the Compact surcharge assessed on fines and forfeitures for fish and game violations from \$5 to \$20 to help pay for costs of administering the Compact.

License and Application Fees – The Budget Bill provides no increases in license fees for fishing, hunting, and other recreational licenses. It does though raise the application fee for bobcat permits from \$3.00 to \$6.00 to help provide

On The Docket continued on page 14

revenue to study and monitor bobcat populations, and also raises the elk hunting permit application fee from \$3.00 to \$10.00, applicable when DNR initiates an elk hunting season.

Wildlife Damage Program – To help address a projected deficit in funding for the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program, the Budget Bill increases the deductible for damage claims from \$250 to \$500, and lowers the maximum damage payment from \$15,000 to \$10,000. The Bill also transfers \$350,000 from the Recycling Fund to the Damage Program and directs DNR to work with Counties to lower administrative costs of the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program.

Conservation Wardens – The Budget Bill increases expenditure authority for Conservation Wardens providing: (a) warden overtime (\$178,000 each year), (b) warden recruit class support (\$175,000 in FY 10), (c) warden fleet costs (\$126,300 each year), and (d) lease payments on warden laptops (\$250,000 in FY 10).

Great Lakes Compact Implementation – The Budget Bill creates 4 positions in DNR to implement the Great Lakes Compact, establishes fees for large users of water and large water withdrawals from the Great Lakes Basin, and establishes a statewide water conservation and efficiency program. Fees start with an annual base fee of \$125 for a system that has the capacity to withdraw an average of 100,000 gallons per day for more than any 30 day period, with additional graduated water use fees.

Great Lakes Ballast Water Permitting – To help deter exotic invasive species, the Budget Bill provides 3 positions to implement a compliance monitoring and inspection program for ships that discharge ballast water in Wisconsin ports, specifically those that are 79 feet or greater in length. To help pay for this new program, the Bill establishes a \$1,200 initial fee for a 5 year permit plus a \$345 annual fee. The new program will be closely aligned to Minnesota's program in the absence of a federal ballast water program.

Coastal Zone Management Program to DNR – The Budget Bill transfers the Great Lakes Coastal Zone Management and Grant Program from DOA to DNR, to consolidate water programs in DNR.

Grant Program Cuts – The Budget Bill eliminates grant funding during the biennium for purchasing public access easements on former Managed Forest Law Properties, and for urban forestry grants. The Budget reduces but does not eliminate county forest wildlife habitat grants and forestry grants to private landowners.

Non-point Source Pollution Abatement Increase – The Budget Bill provides \$13 million in new GPR (General Program Revenue) bonds for grants to counties and municipalities for installation of non-point source pollution abatement practices, with \$7 million going to the Targeted Runoff Management Program and \$6 million to the Municipal Flood Control and Riparian Restoration Program.

Attorney Reorganization – The Budget Bill transfers vacant legal positions to DOA from other State Agencies to create a Division of Legal Services in DOA. This DOA Division will consist of 15 attorneys and legal staff who will consolidate some legal services for state agencies and assess or charge those state agencies for their legal work. In addition, the Budget Bill creates an appointed Chief Attorney position in each agency, who will supervise attorney supervisors and report directly to the Secretary in each agency.

OTHER BILLS OF WCTWS INTEREST

NRB Appointment of DNR Secretary, Assembly Bill 138 (Rep. Black et al.) – This bill restores the authority of the State Natural Resources Board to hire and appoint the DNR Secretary. The Secretary would be appointed for a full 4 year term, eligible for re-appointment every 4 years. In addition, NRB members (who are appointed by the Governor) would begin serving immediately upon expiration of the term of the NRB member they are replacing.

Trapping, Green Skins, and Sale of Animal Parts, Assembly Bill 150 (Rep. Hraychuck) – This bill requires the name, address, or DNR customer I.D. number of the operator to be on a trap, rather than the owner of the trap as is currently required.

On The Docket continued on page 15

The bill also allows for possession of the green skin of fur bearing animals during the closed season for those animals, if the skin has a DNR registration tag or is taken by a landowner under nuisance animal control authority. The bill authorizes sale of a fur bearing animal that has a DNR registration tag or sale of a wild animal or its carcass for which there is an open season and no bag limit. It also authorizes the sale of squirrel parts, and liquid scent made from the carcass of a lawfully taken wild animal, except from a bear's gall bladder.

Aquatic Invasive Species, Assembly Bill 162 (Rep. Milroy) – This bill prohibits the placement or operation of any vehicle, watercraft, seaplane or object on navigable waters with aquatic plants or animals attached. It also prohibits the transportation or operation of any vehicle, watercraft or other object on a highway with aquatic plants or animals attached, or a seaplane from taking off with aquatic plants or animals attached. Authorizes DNR to conduct compliance investigations, and enter certain premises (other than a dwelling) where invasive species and vehicles, equipment or objects are stored that may transport or hold invasive species. SB 123 (Sen. Jauch) is the companion bill in the Senate.

Hunting and Fishing License Plate, Senate Bill 61 (Sen. Leibham) – The bill creates a specialty vehicle license plate for those wishing to express their interest in hunting and fishing. The plate will include a picture of a white-tailed deer on a background nature scene. There will be a \$15 issuance or reissuance fee and an annual fee of \$15 that will be deposited in the DNR Segregated Fish and Wildlife Account. These plates will only be issued though, if the Department of Transportation receives enough donations by June 30, 2013 to cover the initial production costs.

Student Chapter Corner

University of Wisconsin - Madison



By Lili Prah, President

Spring semester is flying by for the UW-Madison student chapter. With the weather getting warmer, we will be spending every weekend out enjoying it, whether it be at Kettle Moraine searching for emerging herptiles or up near Phillips, WI working on Sharp-tailed Grouse habitat restoration in the Chequamegon National Forest. Our spring is full of events designed to get out and experience Wisconsin's abundant natural resources.

Our first field trip of the semester was visiting the Aldo Leopold shack and Legacy Center with Professor Stan Temple. Dr. Temple let us take a "tour" of the one-room shack and showed us around the Legacy Center, which is the greenest building in the world. It was an amazing experience to see where wildlife and restoration ecology got their starts and to learn about the amazing legacy of Aldo Leopold.

We have many other spring field trips planned, which include seeing the tiger salamander migration near Shoveler's Sink, going to the Buena Vista Grasslands to see the Greater Prairie-Chicken's on their booming grounds, caving in southwestern Wisconsin, forest restoration in Richland County, "herping" at Kettle Moraine, and habitat restoration in northern Wisconsin with the Sharp-tailed Grouse Society and the US-Forest Service. We were also able to send a few members to the Wisconsin Chapter TWS meetings in March and to the TWS North Central Section student conclave in April.

Finally, we are participating in a few outreach events this spring with elementary school kids including CALS Day for Kids on campus and the Madison Metropolitan School District's "Science Nights" at Emerson Elementary school. We are looking forward to a very busy semester and a beautiful spring!

University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point



By Adam Murkowski, Vice President

Much has happened since the last update here at UWSP. Many of our projects are wrapping up after a successful field season. The woodpecker project had one of their best years yet catching more birds and a wider variety than ever before! The new

Student Corner continued on page 16

lagomorph project got underway and learned much about the challenges of trapping and radio collaring Mr. Cottontail. The otter and coyote projects were out looking for tracks in full force at Sandhill this winter. The deer project broke records for most 'doubles' in the box traps and had one of the most trap happy deer on planet earth.

Our projects weren't the only thing going on though as we had students attend the WCTWS meeting in Madison and sent students to the WI waterfowl conference and pheasants forever to help volunteer and participate in the festivities.

While the snow melting means an end to many field seasons here at UWSP it brings excitement for what the spring and summer will bring!

WCTWS 2009 Membership Application

Name: _____ Affiliation: _____
 First Last

Address: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____
 City State Zip

Please mail application, along with a \$10 check written to Wisconsin Chapter TWS, to:

Wisconsin Chapter TWS, P.O. Box 863, Madison, WI 53701

** You can also apply for a membership on the National TWS website: <http://www.wildlife.org>

Call for applications for the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2009 Travel Grant to attend The Wildlife Society Conference in Monterey, California – September 20-24.

The Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society is accepting applications from professional members (students are not eligible) for a \$750 travel grant to help defer expenses related to attending the 2009 National Meeting in Monterey, California. This grant opportunity is being offered to chapter members who otherwise would not be able to attend the national conference because of financial restrictions. Up to two awards will be provided and the WCTWS Executive Board will make the final decision on selection by June 30, 2009. Travel grant funds are being provided by the Floyd Bjerke Endowment.

Specific criteria:

- Member of the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society
- Inability to offset expenses with other means (i.e., grant money, agency funding, etc.)
- Willingness to write an article related to the conference experience for the Intelligent Tinkering newsletter and/or present at the WCTWS Winter Business Meeting
- Willingness to attend the Leaders Lunch at the national meeting as a representative of the State Chapter

Application Process

Applicants should submit an essay (not to exceed 1000 words) describing their current and past positions (employment and involvement with organizations), affiliation with The Wildlife Society, why they want to attend the national conference, what they hope to bring back from the conference and why this grant is critical for them to be able to attend. This should be sent electronically to Lesa Kardash at Lesa.Kardash@Wisconsin.gov by June 30th. Applicants should include their contact information and a letter of support from their supervisor.

WCTWS Winter Meeting Award Recipients



Don Rusch Memorial Award – Brian Buenzow

(excerpts taken from WCTWS Awards Committee nomination)

Brian Buenzow, DNR Wildlife Technician, has served in Rock and Green Counties for 27 years. He was the first DNR Wildlife Tech 5 (Tech/Biologist) in recognition of his biologist duties in 1991, and was recognized as the DNR Wildlife Technician of the year in 1989.

In 1985, became one of DNR's first private lands biologists to take advantage of farm bill habitat programs such as CRP. Brian created many partnerships with private landowners, conservation groups, federal and non-DNR personnel to enroll thousands of acres of private lands in federal set aside programs and convert that land to wildlife habitat, to compliment the wildlife habitat on public lands that he also managed. Because of this extensive grassland habitat program, Brian manages one of the largest prescribed burn programs in the state. In his 27 years, he has hired, trained and mentored many wildlife professionals that work throughout Wisconsin for DNR and other organizations.

Brian has used his partnership skills to manage and maintain the largest leased public hunting ground program in the State. He has successfully been able to get over 60 private landowners to annually open their lands for public hunting for as little \$1 to \$3 per acre, providing annually 11,000 acres of private lands open for public hunting.

Brian was the first in the state to start managing for dove hunting opportunity on public lands in southern Wisconsin. The interest in this new hunting opportunity has increased exponentially each year due, in part, to Brian's efforts and enthusiasm.

Brian is an avid hunter and has worked hard to provide for and promote the interests of the hunting community, who as he likes to remind people, pay our DNR salaries. He frequently works nights meeting with hunting clubs, Conservation Congress folks, and non-profit organizations helping them fund raise and promote hunting interests. Brian's enthusiasm and dedication are both contagious and inspiring to all of us who work with him. Wildlife management is far more than a job to him, it's a way of life. He has always had a great deal of admiration and respect for Don Rusch, who he considers to be one of his mentors.



Outstanding Student Award – Kristina Artner

(excerpts taken from nomination written by Dr. Eric Anderson, UW-Stevens Point)

Without a doubt, Kristina is one of the 10 best students I've had the privilege to work with in nearly 20 years of college teaching. She is extremely bright, highly organized, poised, cheerful, and incredibly hard-working as well as being actively involved in a wide variety of extra-curricular wildlife-related activities.

Her commitment to school and her raw intellectual ability are abundantly evident in her GPA (3.97 out of 4.0), despite taking a heavy course load every semester (17-19 credits on average, while 12-15 is normal). Her GPA is particularly impressive considering that she is carrying 2 majors in traditionally the most academically challenging areas, Wildlife and Biology, and is filling in her "free time" with additional upper level chemistry courses. Her efforts were recently rewarded by her acceptance into vet school at Iowa State, where she hopes to complete her DVM before pursuing her PhD in Wildlife Biology.

Awards & Scholarships continued on page 18

Although her academic track record is impressive, what is even more remarkable is her commitment to learning beyond the bounds of the classroom. Since Kristina arrived on campus, she has worked for me as an honors intern. During her first semester she began preparing a skull collection for use in one of my labs. Within weeks she had perfected the technique, was preparing dozens of skulls, and managed to catch the attention of the curator of our mammal collection because of the quality of her preparatory skills. In the research arena, she has been an active force behind a student research project to detect the presence of cougars in Wisconsin using hair collections and DNA analysis to confirm their occurrence. For the past 2 springs, she has presented the results of the research at a student research symposium and won several awards for her presentations.

Although at a student research symposium and won several awards for her presentations. She shows a level of competence and ability on par with my second year graduate students. Her research is now expanding to investigate the relationship of bobcat food habits to the sex and age of individuals which had her recently collecting several hundred bobcat stomachs in Madison's "fur shed".

Clearly Kristina is extremely motivated and a self-starter. She constantly wants to be intellectually and professionally challenged. It is also clear that she believes that the quality of her education is, to a large extent, her responsibility. A hallmark of Kristina has been her ability to take a task – and with the minimum of directions - return a short time later with a finished product that exceeds expectations. During her sophomore year, I asked her to create a map of all reported sightings of mountain lions in Wisconsin, buffer those sightings with 300 km² circles and add them together to create a "hotspot" map of cougar sightings in Wisconsin. My expectations were that all of this work would be created in a Geographic Information System – a tool she has never used and had no previous experience with. Although at times frustrated, she returned several weeks later after consulting a variety of information sources and experts, with a map worthy of publication. She has shown an unusually high degree of initiative and maturity in everything she does.

Kristina has also been extremely involved in the UW-SP Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society. She has served as the Society's secretary, treasurer, and on the Board of Directors. During the spring of 2007 she was largely responsible for organizing a student conclave which brought together wildlife students from 7 universities in the upper Midwest for a weekend of lectures, workshops, and social activities.

Personality-wise, Kristina is also a delight. She is cheerful, enthusiastic, and has a wickedly dry sense of humor. Despite her significant intellectual ability, her ego is well in check. Everything she does is done efficiently, competently, and very professionally. What is astounding to me is that despite all she does, she still manages to get out to train her dog and to hunt on a good number of weekends in the fall. She leads a very balanced life.

I highly recommend Kristina for the WCTWS student award. She represents the very best of our student scholars/leaders. There is ample evidence of her commitment, ability, and leadership skills and I have no doubts she will make major and significant contributions to the field of wildlife management.

Leopold Scholarship – Karl Malcolm

(excerpts taken from WCTWS Scholarship Committee)

The graduate scholarship winner has a closer relation to Leopold's legacy than most students. He has spent a lot of time at the Leopold Shack working, reflecting and hunting! All things Leopold himself would appreciate. He has involved the Aldo Leopold Foundation staff in some of his field research, a trip I'm told they greatly enjoyed.

He has participated in hunter education and more importantly mentoring new hunters and fishers as they explore their new outdoor experiences. He stresses the need for ethics in the outdoors. In his the application he stresses the need for hands on experiences for youngsters, "learning from the land through direct, mucky, thorny, sunburned, bee-stung experience". He talks of the need for landowner pride and responsibility for the landscape. From his application papers I get the feeling this guy walks the talk!



Karl Malcolm is this year's graduate student Leopold Scholarship winner. His master's research dealt with using contraception to reduce population growth in white-tailed deer on the famous George Reserve in Michigan.

His Ph.D. work involves studying bear dispersal southward in Wisconsin and habitat relationships of Asiatic black bears in China. From one of his professors in regards to the new and untested research Karl is attempting with bear, "If it can be done by a graduate student, Karl will do it." Followed by, "He has demonstrated exceptional academics, has extensive experience, and is hard working, curious, independent and self motivated". In these projects, Karl has involved the public, educating them and gaining valuable support for our wildlife resources.

Karl arranged the visit of and hosted 4 Chinese conservationists on their visit to Wisconsin last fall where they experienced a Wisconsin Deer Camp and visited Leopold's Shack, learned firearm handling, the history of hunting in Wisconsin, deer biology and much more. This was the first of what Karl hopes is an annual North American Wildlife and Habitat Workshop designed to educate foreign conservations on ecological integrity and restoration.

This is a very short summary of Karl's application and 2 letters of recommendation, but I'm sure you get the gist of who he is and why we are awarding the scholarship to Karl. He also expressed something that we all need to be reminded of occasionally. In his words, "I am surrounded by great friends and faculty, doing exactly what I love to do."



Leopold Scholarship – Ryan Stephens

(excerpts taken from two recommendation letters)

Ryan is an exemplary student. He currently has a 3.98 GPA, while competing in track for UWSP and practicing 3 hours, 6 days a week.. In addition, he works 10 hours a week for the Biology Department preparing study skins to be used as teaching aids in several classes. In the summer of 2007 while at Treehaven, Ryan asked if he could help improve the quality of study skins used in the wildlife class. He offered to make study skins from carcasses during fall of 2007 despite his busy schedule.

In 2008, Ryan served as a research associate at the Smithsonian where he evaluated morphometric differences between 2 shrew species. He learned that their collections had few Wisconsin small mammals and then collected and prepared over 300 small mammal specimens for the Smithsonian. During this process he trained 12 other undergraduates. He has mastered the art of specimen preparation such that his preparations are housed in the Smithsonian! He is an avid hunter and angler who spends his precious free time in the out-of-doors. Finally, he is simply a pleasure to work with.

Another professor described Ryan as "one of the best students ever in my Ornithology course, due to his keen intelligence, diligence in study habits, commitment to detail, and passion for understanding and learning scientific facts and principles." He continued with the following glowing recommendation. "It was his eye for detail that led me to invite Ryan to participate in my field ecology studies with breeding Cooper's Hawks in Wisconsin and North Dakota. As I predicted before the field work began, Ryan was careful in his handling of live birds and meticulous in his data acquisition and recording. He frequently would ask if there was anything he could do to improve his work. Ryan is mature, somewhat quiet, truly humble, and he has an excellent sense of humor. He takes criticism and directions well. Frederick and Frances Hamerstrom were friends of mine... and I'm confident in saying that the standards of professional accomplishment and the expectations infused in them regarding a career in wildlife biology by their mentor, Professor Leopold, are reflected in the current and developing character of Ryan Stephens!"

Central Wisconsin



Earth Day Weekend
April 17 - 19, 2009

“A Celebration of Grasslands”

Activities for all ages throughout Central Wisconsin! Featuring Greater Prairie-chicken viewing, birding tours, children’s crafts, wildlife talks and demonstrations, nature art and book sales, and Saturday’s Wisconsin Literary Bash.

Reservations required for Greater Prairie-chicken viewing and birding tours. A nominal wristband fee grants entry to all featured locations.

715/343-6215 www.prairiechickenfestival.org

Presented by: Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. and Wisconsin Center for the Book



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Deadlines for Intelligent Tinkering Submissions:

- Winter Meeting Issue: January 1, 2009***
- Spring Issue: March 15, 2009***
- Summer Issue: June 15, 2009***
- Autumn Issue: September 15, 2009***

INTELLIGENT TINKERING

Published by the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The Wildlife Society is an international nonprofit organization of wildlife professionals. Subscriptions available through Chapter membership. Regular \$10.00. The Editor invites comments, articles, photos, and new items for possible publication. Whenever possible, please use MS Word, and email or send by disk to:

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