

## Canadian Section Approved

May 3<sup>rd</sup> marked an historic event for The Wildlife Society. On April 30, Canadian members of TWS voted overwhelmingly in support of establishing a Canadian Section, and TWS Council affirmed the action three days later. Very shortly, a slate of candidates for officer positions of the new Section and for Canadian Section Representative on TWS Council will be voted on in Canada. The list of candidates can be found on page 8 and background information on the candidates is available on the Society's website.

The establishment of the Canadian Section means changes in the geographic boundaries of the Society's Northeast, Northwest, and Central Mountains and Plains Sections, as the Canadian provinces and territories formerly contained within their boundaries now will be part of the new Section. I do not view this as Canada pulling away, but, rather, bringing Canada closer. This new Section will provide a stronger voice for Canadian TWS members, and a seat on Council that will represent their collective interests. I envision

this greater presence energizing Canadian wildlifers to become more active in TWS, and that activity will foster more trans-border dialogue and collaboration. The United States and Canada are, after all, the architects of a unique model of wildlife conservation. We share many of the same approaches and many of the same challenges. Yet we have many differences as well. We can learn from these differences as we work together to advance wildlife conservation in North America and beyond.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Shane Mahoney, Rick Baydack, Arlen Todd, Sandra Staples-Bortner and others for their tireless efforts over the past 9 months in making the Canadian Section a reality. I look forward very much to seeing the first Canadian Section Representative on the 2007-2008 TWS Council!

John Organ  
TWS President

## The Wildlife Professional Launched at National Press Club



*Philippa Benson, TWS Director of Publishing and Information Resources (l) poses with the cover art for the inaugural issue along with TWS Executive Director Michael Hutchins and Theresa Pickel of ACG/Allen Press.*

Dozens of members of the wildlife professional community came together to celebrate the launch of *The Wildlife Professional* at Washington, D.C.'s

prestigious National Press Club on April 12th. Joining The Wildlife Society's staff were representatives of wildlife non-profits, leaders from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey, members of the scholarly publishing community, as well as many others.

### Next Issue of The Wildlifer Will be Electronic

We encourage all members who have computer access to use the online option for reading *The Wildlifer*. You'll conserve natural resources, keep TWS printing and postage costs low, and you'll be able to quickly access additional information of interest online! Check it out now at [wildlife.org](http://wildlife.org). If needed, you may request to receive print copies of future issues by contacting Lisa Moll at [lisa@wildlife.org](mailto:lisa@wildlife.org) or (301) 897-9770.

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## THE WILDLIFER DEADLINES

ISSUE	DEADLINE
Summer 2007	July 15, 2007
Fall 2007	October 15, 2007
Winter 2008	January 15, 2008
Spring 2008	April 15, 2008

Please email your submission to Yanin Walker, Production Editor, at [yanin@wildlife.org](mailto:yanin@wildlife.org).



Mexican Wolf. Photo by Michael Hutchins.

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# RUMINATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Who is a “Wildlife Professional”?



**by Michael Hutchins,**  
TWS Executive Director/CEO

As The Wildlife Society (TWS) has begun to redefine itself and think carefully about its future, many critical questions have emerged. One of these questions is: who should be a member of TWS? Since TWS is an

educational and scientific organization that represents and serves “wildlife professionals”, how we define this term becomes an important issue. In this essay, I argue that TWS should, and, in fact, needs to fully embrace the diversity of individuals and disciplines that are contributing to our important and rapidly evolving field. Still being relatively new to this organization, I admit that I may be preaching to the converted, and that the issues discussed here may have already been largely resolved. If so, then we are well positioned to take on the many onerous challenges that lie before us.

So, who are these wildlife professionals? A more traditional view would have us include only those individuals who have a degree in wildlife biology, ecology or management and who are working in a job in which they: (1) conduct scientific studies of wildlife biology or ecology; or (2) actively monitor and manage wildlife populations and/or their habitats. TWS’ current definition of certified wildlife biologist and its certification program are based largely on this traditional view, and this, in itself, is a good thing. In fact, there is a substantial need for more individuals that are fully trained and qualified in the theory and practice of mainstream wildlife management. With many universities now adopting a more theoretical, rather than an applied focus, there seem to be fewer and fewer people who have the practical knowledge required for managing and conserving wildlife on the ground. On the other hand, does this definition really work in today’s complex world? Could it limit our organization’s ability to reach its considerable potential and fulfill its critical mission of responsible wildlife stewardship through science and education?

There are many professionals who play significant roles in wildlife management and conservation today that do not fit into this traditional mold. Among the most significant of these non-traditionalists are those who work on the human dimensions of wildlife management and conservation. Such individuals may have training in psychology, sociology, anthropology or economics. They may study human attitudes toward wildlife or wildlife management and utilization, cultural traditions that impact wildlife, or

economic factors that influence our ability to sustain wildlife populations over the long-term. Since most of the challenges facing wildlife managers and conservationists today are anthropogenic in origin, it is critical that we understand the many complex issues that lie at the human-wildlife interface. Human dimensions will undoubtedly play a critical role in our ability to manage and conserve wildlife now and into the future. I would therefore argue that psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists and economists who have a wildlife focus are indeed “wildlife professionals” and should be fully embraced by our organization. And what about urban planners, architects or landscapers that focus on planning or designing wildlife-friendly developments or so-called “smart” development strategies? Such individuals plan green spaces or corridors that allow wildlife to flourish in and near housing and other developments and must have some knowledge of wildlife behavior and ecology to be effective. With an ever-expanding human population, such considerations will become increasingly important if wildlife is to thrive over the coming decades.

Wildlife, environmental or conservation educators are a related group that deserves more attention. We humans have the ability to learn and modify our behavior. However, the challenge is that each generation must be taught to appreciate and value nature and wildlife if the goal of conservation is to be achieved. With so many people now living in urban or suburban environments and unfamiliar with the natural world, this is becoming an increasingly difficult task. I grew up on a midwestern farm early in my childhood and consider myself fortunate to have been surrounded by both the wonders and realities of nature. Wildlife and domestic animals were part of my life, but many, if not most, children today typically spend their time watching television or movies, playing video games, or shopping at the mall. While they may have a dog, cat or goldfish as a pet, wildlife and nature are often distant and largely unknown to them. Living in this comparatively sterile and domesticated world, urban and suburban children are not just ignorant of wild animals and nature—they may fear them. This is precisely why educators are essential to our goal of responsible stewardship. Why should people care about wildlife if they do not value it or understand its importance to the complex web of life on which we ourselves depend? Are wildlife and conservation educators wildlife professionals? Undoubtedly.

And what about policy experts that specialize in wildlife issues? These individuals carefully analyze relevant

government policies and comment on their potential impact on wildlife and wildlife habitats. They educate key decision makers in government on the pros and cons of proposed legislation, based on their understanding of the relevant science. While they may consult with biologists and, over the years, become familiar with wildlife biology themselves, many are not trained as wildlife scientists or ecologists. Often they hold degrees in law, environmental policy or other related fields. But is their work important for wildlife management and conservation? Are they wildlife professionals in the broad sense? Affirmative!

Are wildlife technicians—the people that provide technical support for wildlife veterinarians, managers and researchers—wildlife professionals? Wildlife technicians, who must also receive specialized training, make a living helping to manage and conserve wildlife and thus must be considered wildlife professionals. TWS is collaborating with the North American Wildlife Technicians Association (NAWTA) to develop a certification program for wildlife technicians.

[See the full version of this article online to read a discussion of the importance of public relations experts, wildlife law enforcement officers, and zoo and aquarium professionals.]


Among scientific fields, I believe that wildlife managers and conservationists historically neglected the importance of animal behavior. As a behavioral ecologist myself, I have long realized the importance of understanding animal behavior and its implications for wildlife management and conservation. Many books and articles have been published on this topic in the past few years and interest is growing. Animal behaviorists are certainly wildlife professionals and we need to recruit more of them into our organization, especially if they are focused on the practical application of animal behavior to wildlife management and conservation.

This move toward greater inclusiveness has many implications for our venerable organization. Traditionally, TWS had attracted wildlife managers and scientists that focused on game species, such as deer, turkey, elk and grouse. However, this has changed dramatically over the past few decades. While the responsible management of game species will continue to be a very important aspect of TWS' mission and the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, the management and conservation of the full array of wildlife diversity is also important. For example, individuals that focus on the conservation of endangered or threatened species and their habitats, including the control of destructive invasive species, are and must be an important and valued segment of the TWS membership and are clearly "wildlife professionals." Indeed, wildlife cannot survive and thrive unless we maintain healthy, diverse ecosystems to support them and this means caring for and conserving all of the parts. Thus wildlife and ecosystem management are closely intertwined and interdependent.

White-tailed deer are a case in point—too many deer may mean less dense and diverse vegetation, fewer insects, and subsequently fewer small mammals and migratory birds.

My goal in this essay was not to try to identify all types of individuals that might be categorized as "wildlife professionals", but rather to note that professionals from many disciplines could easily and legitimately claim this moniker. The point is that we have all had to become much more specialized in order to perform our respective jobs. However, this should not get in the way of our recognition that what defines a wildlife professional is an intense interest in and focus on wildlife, combined with specific skills to contribute to the profession. TWS welcomes specialists from other disciplines who understand the scientific principles of natural resource management and embrace our philosophy and goals. This includes people that have training and expertise in non-traditional fields, such as psychology, sociology, anthropology, economics, educators, policy and public relations, but whom have dedicated their careers to wildlife management and conservation.

So what does all this mean? Taking a more inclusive and interdisciplinary approach has implications for many aspects of TWS operations, including our core programs: Publishing and Information Resources, Government Affairs and Partnerships, Professional Development, and Membership and Conferences. For example, in the future, TWS publications (journals, monographs, technical reports, magazines and web site) and conferences will likely need to expand in scope to meet the needs of a broader range of wildlife professionals. In addition, the conference formats may need to allow more interdisciplinary dialog and debate. In the realm of professional development, TWS certification programs and training workshops may also need to be expanded to serve a broader range of wildlife professionals. The number and diversity of partner organizations with which we regularly communicate and cooperate may also need to expand, and our membership recruitment strategy should be altered to include a broader diversity of target audiences.

Today's wildlife professionals are faced with some Herculean tasks and wildlife management and conservation are likely to become more, not less, daunting over time. It is only through an inclusive approach that TWS and its members can begin to effectively address the increasingly complex task of managing and conserving wildlife in a human-dominated world.  **More Online!**

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# GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND PARTNERSHIPS

## Recommendations for 2007 Farm Bill Conservation Title

The Farm Bill has significant influence on wildlife conservation through funds dedicated to proper management of soil, water, and other wildlife resources. As part of the TRCP Agriculture and Wildlife Working Group, TWS released recommendations to Congress in a report entitled "Growing Conservation in the Farm Bill" with key suggestions included in a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns. Recommendations included increasing acres enrolled, supporting Biofuels and Renewable Energy research and development, establishing strong Sodsaver provisions, linking Sodbuster/Swampbuster compliance to federal benefits, and identifying specific mechanisms to track conservation performance measures.

## Additional FY07 Funding for Wildlife Refuges

Congress directed an additional \$15 million to the National Wildlife Refuge System for Fiscal Year 2007 as part of the Joint Resolution passed in January to fund the remainder of FY07. As part of the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement, TWS sent a letter to Secretary of Interior Dirk Kempthorne, requesting that the Department of the Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) direct the entire \$15 million to the Refuge System as Congress intended. Ultimately, the Refuge System received \$12.8 million, of which \$3.9 million went toward uncontrollable fixed costs and the rest toward refuges FWS is focusing on for maintaining or enhancing operations.

## Permanent Conservation Easement Tax Incentives

Beneficial tax deductions for landowners who donate conservation easements will expire at the end of 2007. House and Senate bills were introduced to make the tax incentives permanent, an action supported by the President in his FY08 Budget Request. TWS, along with several conservation organizations, sent a letter to the House and Senate Finance Committees urging members to cosponsor the bills.

## Wildlife Management Guidelines for Oil and Gas

In order to minimize impacts from oil and gas development on air and water quality, wildlife, and habitat, the Colorado Mule Deer Association and Colorado Wildlife Federation developed a set of ten wildlife management guidelines for oil and gas development in Colorado. Recommendations include minimizing the total area of drill pad disturbance, selling new leases in blocks to reduce habitat fragmentation, consulting with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and establishing a scientifically sound monitoring system to gather baseline data and monitor effects of development. TWS endorsed the guidelines in March.

## TWS Submits FY08 Budget Testimonies

TWS submitted testimony to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees regarding budget requests for various wildlife-related programs within the Interior and Agriculture Departments. Coalition requests included the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement's request of \$451.5 million for the National Wildlife Refuge System, the Teaming with Wildlife's request for \$85 million for the State Wildlife Grants Program, the USGS Coalition's request of \$1.2 billion for the USGS, and several Bird Conservation Funding Coalition requests (such as \$50 million for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act). Independent TWS requests included restoring the Landowner Incentive Program and Science Excellence Initiative, two programs eliminated in the President's Budget Request, increasing the U.S. Forest Service's Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management Program to \$135 million, and funding the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program at \$100 million.

## IRS' Proposed Ruling to Tax CRP

If the Internal Revenue Service finalizes its proposed ruling (Notice 2006-18), all rental payments that farmers and landowners receive through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will be subject to self-employment taxes, even if the landowner is retired from farming. TWS submitted comments to the IRS urging them to reconsider the ruling, with copies sent to several Senators who share these concerns.

## TWS Urges Congress to Reinstate LIP

The President's FY 2008 Budget Request eliminated funding for the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP), saying it was duplicative of other federal programs even though it is the only program designed exclusively for conservation of wildlife on private lands. TWS expressed disappointment that all funding had been removed for LIP in letters to Secretary of Interior Dirk Kempthorne and Senate and House Subcommittees on Interior Appropriations, and asked that FY08 funding be restored to the FY06 level of \$21.7 million.

## Funding for Agricultural Baseline

The Farm Bill is the single most significant program delivering on-the-ground conservation benefits to private landowners. In preparation for the budget resolution for FY 2008, TWS and other conservation groups sent a letter to the House and Senate Budget Committees, as well as House and Senate Agriculture Committees and Congressional leaders, requesting that adequate resources be allotted to the agricultural baseline so that important conservation programs, like those in the Farm Bill, can be funded to their full potential.



[More Online!](#)

# STUDENT MEMBERS

## TWS Ramps up Services to Student Members

The Wildlife Society is undertaking major changes in the services it offers to student members. TWS is pleased to welcome on board a new face to support student chapters, as well as other subunits. Shannon Pederson, a local Washingtonian, brings along much enthusiasm and experience from her studies at Texas A&M University and Virginia Tech. She will work closely with student chapters to improve services offered by TWS Headquarters, such as making resources available online, helping prepare for student conclaves, creating a toolkit for chapter success, and preparing students for certification as associate wildlife biologists.

Wildlife Society student chapters provide unique and exciting experiences for college students. Student chapter

members may participate in TWS workshops, conferences, conclaves, and contests. Student members gain professional, leadership, and networking skills while learning valuable hands-on skills from faculty and other wildlife professionals. NOW is the time for students to get involved with TWS at the national/international level, the working group level (Student Professional Development Working Group), and the student chapter level to fully take advantage of all the dynamic opportunities TWS has to offer.

If your college or university would like to join the 100 current student chapters and over 1,000 student chapter members, please contact Shannon Pederson at [shannon@wildlife.org](mailto:shannon@wildlife.org) for more information.

## Texas A&M University - Commerce Student Chapter



*Wildlife students at Texas A&M U-Commerce assist Texas Parks and Wildlife with the erection of Wood Duck boxes at Cooper Lake WMA.*

The Texas A&M University—Commerce Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society represents a small but active group of ambitious wildlife students. We are currently in

our third year as an official chapter. Through partnerships with Texas Parks and Wildlife, the USDA, Ducks Unlimited, USFWS, and The Nature Conservancy, we have no shortage of activities and projects to work on. Our campus has the luxury of owning and managing its own 45 acre wetland and prairie preserve. The preserve is currently in its first year of existence and the student chapter of The Wildlife Society has been engaged in managing and establishing native grasses in the wetland area. Ultimately, this preserve will be used to host wildlife outreach activities with the surrounding community.

Additionally, our chapter has taken an active role in helping the Texas Nature Conservancy in managing the Cowleech Prairie Preserve just south of our campus. The Cowleech Preserve represents 86 acres of globally imperiled lowland eastern gamma grass tall grass prairie. This year, our chapter has been eliminating woody vegetation that has encroached on part of the preserve.

In the fall, we will be restoring gamma grass to a disturbed area within the preserve itself.

In addition to these projects, the chapter has served as a venue for several educational activities and workshops. Last spring, under the direction of Dr. Jeff Kopachena, chapter members spent several mornings learning how to capture birds using mist nets. During the summer, several of our members took part in a field trip to the Cowleech Preserve to view herp arrays and small mammal trapping arrays being used in biological surveys of this area. In the fall, the chapter took a field trip to a land-owner cooperative to learn how wildlife management operates in the context of private land-owner agreements. Finally, this past March, our chapter hosted a wildland fire training class (C-130/190, L-180) taught by USFS.

Our chapter has also held several fund-raising events. Most notable of these was our Wildlife Auction and Dinner which was held in December. Through numerous donations from local businesses and private donors, this event raised over \$2,500 and helped pay the cost for student attendance at the Texas Chapter annual meeting in Beaumont and help pay the cost for students to take the wildland fire training class.

Though we are a young chapter, we feel that we have accomplished a lot in the last year. With this under our belts, we are confident and look forward to much future growth and many highly productive projects in the years to come.

Dr. Jeff Kopachena, TAMU-C Student Chapter Advisor

# COMMERCIAL AND AGENCY MEMBERS

## TWS Welcomes its 1<sup>st</sup> Government Agency Member: Arizona Game & Fish Department

The Wildlife Society welcomes the Arizona Game and Fish Department, one of the leading wildlife agencies in the nation, as its first government agency member. The agency joined The Wildlife Society “to provide us with more opportunities to network and to find the best qualified applicants across the nation for our various positions,” said Rory Aikens, a public information officer of AGFD. “We want to retain our position as one of the leading wildlife agencies in the nation,” he said. “We always want the best and the brightest.”

Arizona Game and Fish strives to “conserve, enhance, and restore Arizona’s diverse wildlife resources and habitats through aggressive protection and management programs, and to provide wildlife resources and safe watercraft and off-highway vehicle recreation for the enjoyment, appreciation, and use by present and future generations,” according to the department’s mission statement.



*Eaglet released by George Andrejko, Arizona Game and Fish Dept.*

The Wildlife Society offers multiple benefits for government agency members including 30 free job postings on Wildlife Jobs Online – the Society’s popular online jobs board, a free advertisement in The Wildlife Professional – TWS’ new magazine, and two agency news announcements on TWS Web site front page.

## TWS Welcomes its 1<sup>st</sup> Commercial Member: Sirtrack

New Zealand telemetry company Sirtrack became The Wildlife Society’s first commercial member, after attending its annual conference for twelve years and advertising in the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* for two. “This conference is incredibly important to Sirtrack as it is one of the few opportunities we have annually to meet with North American researchers and biologists to reinforce existing and forge new relationships,” said Rowan Calder, marketing manager of Sirtrack Tracking Solutions. “Our current North American customer base is loyal and growing and we see one of the many benefits of commercial membership is the opportunity for Sirtrack products and brand to reach an extensive target audience through publications and websites.”

Sirtrack is an independent subsidiary company of Landcare Research, a Crown Research Institute established by the New Zealand government, and began its life as a commercial entity in 1986 as an initiative of the now obsolete Ecology Division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Many of the company’s original founders have been working as pioneers in the industry since the 1960s when the practice of telemetry and wildlife tracking devices started to gain momentum as a viable scientific practice, Calder said. “Our staff has a genuine interest and passion for wildlife telemetry and our team is well-known and respected for our expertise and knowledge,” he said. “We are proud to be

proactive and progressive and we will go out of our way with typical ‘Kiwi ingenuity’ to assist a researcher achieve their research objectives.”

Sirtrack manufactures telemetry equipment for research on more than 500 species of wildlife (from small insects through to heavyweights like elephants and whales), and the products have been put to the test in more than 70 countries around the world. “Since TWS is moving to become more of an international organization by expanding its membership and content in its publication, TWS could help improve Sirtrack’s exposure to their core membership, that being the North American research community,” Calder said. “With modern technology, we can supply innovative product solutions coupled with outstanding personalized customer service.”



*Female olive ridley turtle on the Orissa coastline of India after attaching a satellite transmitter.*

Sirtrack’s newest innovations include Proximity Loggers, GPS/Argos linked collars, FastLoc® (the latest variant of GPS technology that will revolutionize marine research) and a microGPS system weighing in at just 21 grams, designed specifically to map fine scale movement of the avian market, Calder said.

# NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

## TWS Council Meets in Portland, OR

The Wildlife Society Council met in Portland, Oregon on March 23-24. One of the items on the agenda was development of a business plan for the Society that will outline steps needed to ensure the financial viability of the Society and several key programs, including the new magazine.

Considerable progress has been made on upgrading information technology resources at TWS headquarters. Work on overhauling TWS' website is well underway and the new site is projected to launch in September. New chapter and working group websites – hosted on TWS' site but maintained by the subunits themselves – will be an important feature of the redesigned site.

Final position statements were approved on:

- [Baiting and Supplemental Feeding of Game Wildlife Species](#)
- [Conservation Recommendations for the 2007 Farm Bill](#)
- [North American Model of Wildlife Conservation](#)
- [Conservation and Management of Old-Growth Forest on the Pacific Coast of North America](#)

Additionally, a position statement is expected to be completed soon on:

- Oil and Gas Development in the Rocky Mountain West

TWS Council approved development of new technical reviews on:

- North American Model of Wildlife Conservation (to supplement the position statement referenced above)
- Predator Control in Alaska: A Review of its History, Effectiveness, Current Status, and Future

Other technical reviews are in preparation on:

- Impact of Wind Farms to Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat
- Lead in the Environment
- Public Trust Doctrine
- Effects of Biofuels on Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

A TWS committee recently completed a literature review entitled Fish and Wildlife Benefits of Farm Bill Conservation Practices. This product is the result of a partnership among Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Security Administration, and TWS. The report is in press.

New editors were selected for the *Journal of Wildlife Management* (Michael Chamberlain) and *Wildlife Monographs* (Eric Hellgren) for 2008-2009.

At year-end 2006, TWS membership was 7,497 members, a 1.5% decrease from 2005. Launch of the new membership

magazine and an aggressive recruitment campaign are expected to reverse that trend in 2007.

TWS Council heard results of a 2006 survey of involvement in professional societies by wildlifery employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey. Survey results will help TWS better target our programs to serve federal employees and help USFWS and USGS identify employee-development needs within their agencies

Finally, the Society's financial and investment policy statements were updated to reflect bylaws changes approved by the membership last summer.

## TWS Website Update

The Wildlife Society is making fast progress on the redevelopment of the headquarters website. Our goal is to offer more comprehensive and up-to-date content to our members, within a vastly more usable, functional and attractive interface. The most significant recent benchmark of our progress is the completion of our installation of Joomla, the new open source content management system we've selected to use. Joomla will be able to completely handle the TWS site and offer new functions, including an interactive events calendar, discussion boards and full site search capability. We expect to complete the content migration over the next couple of months. We also plan to test the new site on a panel of volunteer TWS members.

We will be able to host subunit sites on our server and allow the subunit webmasters to access their site pages to independently update information through their own content management system. We hope that by giving subunit webmasters more flexibility and independence, they will be able to better keep their sites up-to-date and expand online services for TWS members. You'll find updates on progress toward launching our new website posted at [wildlife.org](http://wildlife.org).

## TWS Canadian Section Officer Candidates

The newly formed Canadian Section has announced its slate of candidates for Section officers and representative to Council. They are as follows:

Canadian Section Representative on TWS Council: Rick Baydack and Mike O'Brien

President: Merlin Shoesmith and Arlen Todd

President-Elect: Jack Dubois and Rob Otto

Vice-President: Markus Dyck and Martyn Obbard

Past-President: Evelyn Merrill and Kathreen Ruckstuhl

[Please visit wildlife.org](http://wildlife.org) for background information on the candidates.

## Update on Endowment Fund

To address the degradation and decline of wildlife and their habitats, The Wildlife Society established the Endowment Fund to Sustain Wildlife Conservation several years ago to ensure a permanent financial base for TWS's crucial policy and public outreach services that support wildlife management and conservation. As of today, many generous donors – mostly TWS members – have contributed or pledged nearly \$2 million to this campaign.

From 2004 to 2007, the fund generated about \$30,000 each year to support TWS's wildlife policy and public outreach work. During 2004 to 2006, this money provided matching funds for a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for our Wildlife Information Network (WIN) program, and has enabled TWS to continue the Leadership Institute and media efforts after the grant period ended.

The WIN project had four objectives:

1. Establish partnerships and ongoing dialogue among wildlife professionals, landowners, business interests, agencies, state, regional, and national organizations, and other stakeholders in wildlife resources
2. Identify and develop leaders within the wildlife profession to advance the use of science-based decision making as the most effective process for conservation of wildlife resources
3. Position the wildlife professional as the most credible source of information on management of wildlife resources, and
4. Create a public that is better informed about the management and conservation of wildlife resources.

From 2004 to 2006, the WIN project focused on four elements:

1. *Conducting facilitated roundtable discussions among TWS members:* Roundtable discussions were conducted with senior TWS leadership at the March 2005 North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference and with the Maryland-Delaware Chapter in June 2005. Participants discussed how to best implement the WIN program.
2. *Providing WIN grants to TWS Sections/Chapters:* Seven TWS sections and chapters were awarded grants totaling \$30,000 in September 2005. The grants empowered the Society's sections and chapters to initiate cooperative projects with landowners, groups, and businesses to enhance conditions for wildlife by improving habitat quality, and to provide training and educational opportunities to wildlife students and professionals.
3. *Developing and implementing national media efforts:* TWS stepped up its media presence by developing and distributing press releases on several different topics. This effort continues in 2007.
4. *Developing a TWS Leadership Institute:* The Institute trains early-career wildlife professionals to be more effective leaders and encourages them to seek

leadership roles within TWS. The first class of 10 participants graduated in 2006 and a second class of 10 participants has been selected for 2007.

The Endowment Fund, with support from our members, allows The Wildlife Society to make a difference in promoting a balanced, scientific conservation perspective. Contributions to the endowment can take the form of cash, bequest, land or property donation, gift annuity, trust, or naming TWS as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy. Please contact The Wildlife Society at 301-897-9770 (tws@wildlife.org) for more information.

## Wildlife Society Investors

Our thanks to the following for their contributions to support improvement of information technology and web services at The Wildlife Society through our 2006 Investors Campaign.

### \$500

Biometrics Working Group, TWS  
Northwest Section, TWS  
Oregon Chapter, TWS  
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, TWS  
Wildlife Toxicology Working Group, TWS  
Wyoming Chapter, TWS

### \$100

Haywood Community College Student Chapter, TWS  
Kansas Chapter, TWS  
Wildlife Diseases Working Group, TWS

### \$50

Hal Cribbs, Sacramento, CA

### \$35

Quail Creek Resources, Tyler, TX

## The Wildlife Society 14th Annual Conference

Tucson, Arizona  
September 22-26, 2007

**Save the Date!**  
Conference Activities on Back Page

- ◆ Visit sunny Tucson and the Sonoran Desert
- ◆ Engage in wildlife management, conservation, and research programming
- ◆ Meet key wildlife experts
- ◆ Improve your job performance



# RELATED WILDLIFE NEWS

## **Defenders of Wildlife Symposium Call for Posters**

The symposium "Innovations in Wildlife Conservation: Reducing the Impact of Global Warming on America's Wildlife," will be held on Sept. 27, 2007, in Washington, DC. Speakers will explore the impacts of climate change on wildlife; adaptation strategies to reduce those impacts; and policy responses necessary to ensure that wildlife species survive impacts of global warming over the next century. Science, engineering, and policy innovators are invited to present posters demonstrating innovative approaches, strategies, and practices to enhance adaptation of wildlife to the impacts of global warming. Posters should broadly examine both the impacts as well as the types of tools, technologies, practices, and measures that should be considered if we are to meet the challenges of global warming. Symposium proceedings, poster abstracts, and recommendations for action will be published. See [www.defenders.org/innovations/symposium2007](http://www.defenders.org/innovations/symposium2007). Questions may be addressed to: [poster@defenders.org](mailto:poster@defenders.org)

## **Avian Veterinarians Request "Notes from the Field"**

The Association of Avian Veterinarians is welcoming submissions for *Notes from the Field*, a subsection of the *Journal of Avian Medicine and Surgery* (JAMS) dedicated to stories from veterinarians, researchers, and support staff who are engaged in avian conservation, field research, or other field activities. JAMS is published on a quarterly basis. The goal of this section is to inspire others to get involved with avian conservation efforts. An honorarium of \$250 is paid for each accepted manuscript. Please request criteria and make submissions to Scott Ford, DVM, ABVP-Avian by email at [akeaglelevet@yahoo.com](mailto:akeaglelevet@yahoo.com).

## **The Western Bird Banding Association**

The Western Bird Banding Association (WBBA) is an affiliation of people interested in bird banding as a useful tool in the study of birds in western North America and Hawaii. Members receive the quarterly journal, *North American Bird Bander*; are represented on the North American Banding Council; can post photos and have their banding stations listed on WBBA's website; receive invitations to WBBA's annual meetings; and support WBBA's scholarship program and other activities. To join or for further information, visit [www.westernbirdbanding.org/](http://www.westernbirdbanding.org/).

## **Dennis Raveling Scholarship**

The Dennis Raveling Scholarship for Waterfowl Research is awarded annually to a student(s) with a desire to pursue a career in waterfowl or wetlands ecology. Candidates must be pursuing an advanced university degree in: Wildlife, Zoology, Botany, Ecology, or other pertinent biological science. The scholarship is intended to provide field experience and training in the tools, methods, and concepts

of waterfowl and wetlands research and management. 1<sup>st</sup> place scholarship is \$2000 and 2<sup>nd</sup> place is \$1,000, paid in quarterly installments. Contact Nicole Berset at 916-648-1406 or [nicole\\_berset@calwaterfowl.org](mailto:nicole_berset@calwaterfowl.org). Deadline is October 31, 2007.

## **National Zoo Conservation Courses**

The National Zoo's Center for Conservation Education and Sustainability is now accepting applications for intensive one or two-week training courses in Front Royal, Virginia this summer. Graduate credit hours for these courses may be obtained, and can be applied to a new Smithsonian Certificate Program. Some sample courses are: Advanced Conservation GIS and Remote Sensing, GIS for Decision-Makers, Effective Leadership and Communication Tools for Environmental Management and Conservation, and Introduction to Field Techniques for Conservation Research. For details email: [zootraining@si.edu](mailto:zootraining@si.edu). Register on-line at <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/professionaltraining>.

## **Prairie Grouse Call for Papers and Posters**

The 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Prairie Grouse Technical Council will be held in Chamberlain, SD, October 8-10, 2007. The meeting will gather the technical committee to identify, discuss, and implement management issues of prairie grouse and provide an atmosphere where managers and biologists working with prairie grouse can gather and exchange information. Abstracts for papers and posters to be included in the meeting scientific sessions should be no longer than 1 page (single spaced). Submit your abstract electronically (MS Word) by August 1, 2007, to: KC Jensen, [kent.jensen@sdstate.edu](mailto:kent.jensen@sdstate.edu). Information on travel, lodging, and other conference information can be found at [www.wfs.sdstate.edu](http://www.wfs.sdstate.edu).

## MEMBERS

**Thomas M. Franklin**, TWS Vice President, recently became Senior Vice President for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership in Washington, DC.

**Barry W. Stieglitz**, Project Leader for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Hawaiian and Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex has been designated the Service's interim Manager of the newly established 140,000-square mile Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument. The world's largest marine protected area, the Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation in 2006, and is being managed in partnership by the USFWS, NOAA, and the State of Hawaii to preserve its natural, cultural, and historic resources for future generations.

# SECTIONS, CHAPTERS, AND WORKING GROUPS

## Feather River College and TWS Western Section

Eight Feather River College students were able to attend The Wildlife Society Western Section's annual conference recently in Monterey, CA thanks to funding provided by TWS' Sacramento-Shasta Chapter, Western Section, the student environmental club (FRESCA) at the college, and Feather River College. Over 500 wildlife professionals attended the event. Attending the conference "really helped me to better prepare myself for a career in the natural resource field," said Tanishia Shaffer-Smith, an environmental studies student. All eight students volunteered 8 hours at the conference in order to waive their registration fee.

## Northeast Section Discontinues Journal

John E. McDonald, Jr., president of the Northeast Section, reports that the Section recently voted to discontinue publication of its annual journal, *Northeast Wildlife*. The journal contained abstracts and papers from the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference. The Section's goal is to establish an electronic archive of all the back issues sometime in the future.

## Wildlife Toxicology Student Research Award

The Wildlife Toxicology Working Group is pleased to announce the availability of a competitive graduate student research award. Students pursuing graduate studies in the area of wildlife toxicology at a college or university in 2007 will be eligible for the \$500 award. It is anticipated that the award recipient will present their research results at a Wildlife Society meeting. Applicants should prepare a proposal, no longer than two pages in length, including a brief introduction, a statement of hypotheses being tested, description of methods, and statistical design. In addition, a one-page curriculum vitae (name, address, telephone number, email address, academic background, honors, professional experience, presentations and career goals) and the names and addresses of two Graduate Faculty references are to be included with the submission. A cover letter should briefly describe the submission, and state how the award would benefit the career of the student. Three members of the Wildlife Toxicology Working Group will judge the proposals based on potential significance of the contribution, feasibility, originality, and qualifications of the applicant. Only applications (two page proposal, one page vitae, and cover letter) received by July 2, 2007 at the address below will be considered. Awards will be announced by August 15. Inquiries and submissions should be made to: Christine M. Custer, Ph.D., USGS-Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center, 2630 Fanta Reed Rd., La Crosse, WI 54603; 608-781-6247; Fax: 608-783-6066; email: [ccuster@usgs.gov](mailto:ccuster@usgs.gov).

## MEETINGS OF INTEREST

### 2007

- |             |       |  |
|-------------|-------|--|
| June        | 30    | Course: <b>The Ecology and Epidemiology of Lyme Disease in the West</b> , Berkeley, CA ( <a href="http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops">http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops</a> or Cynthia Perrine, <a href="mailto:cperrine@berkeley.edu">cperrine@berkeley.edu</a> or 510-643-7008).  |
| July        | 28-29 | Course: <b>Preparation and Importance of Bird and Mammal Museum Study Skins: The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology Method</b> , Berkeley, CA ( <a href="http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops">http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops</a> or Cynthia Perrine, <a href="mailto:cperrine@berkeley.edu">cperrine@berkeley.edu</a> or 510-643-7008).   |
| Aug.        | 5-10  | <b>Ecological Society of America and the Society for Ecological Restoration International Joint Annual Meeting</b> , San Jose McEnergy Convention Center, San Jose, CA (Michelle Horton, <a href="mailto:michelle@esa.org">michelle@esa.org</a> or 202-833-8773).  |
| Aug.        | 6-9   | <b>Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society Annual Conference</b> , Garden City, KS (Mark Sexton, 620-227-8609, <a href="mailto:marks@wp.state.ks.us">marks@wp.state.ks.us</a> ).  |
| Aug.        | 12-17 | <b>56th Annual Meeting of the Wildlife Disease Association</b> , YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO ( <a href="http://wildlifedisease.org/2007_Conference/">http://wildlifedisease.org/2007_Conference/</a> ).  |
| Sept        | 12-16 | <b>Raptor Research Foundation and Hawk Migration Association of North America Joint Annual Meeting</b> , Holiday Inn Conference Center, Fogelsville, PA (Laurie Goodrich, 907-943-3411, ext 106, <a href="mailto:goodrich@hawkmntn.org">goodrich@hawkmntn.org</a> or <a href="http://www.hawkmountain.org">www.hawkmountain.org</a> ).   |
| Sept.       | 20-23 | <b>30th Annual North American Bluebird Society Convention</b> , "NABS 2007 - Bluebird Partnerships - Science of Bluebirds", University of Georgia Center of Continuing Education, Athens, GA ( <a href="http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org">www.nabluebirdsociety.org</a> or contact Helen Munro, <a href="mailto:nabs2007@nabluebirdsociety.org">nabs2007@nabluebirdsociety.org</a> or 910-673-6936). |
| Sept.       | 21-22 | <b>The Wildlife Society Council Meeting</b> , Hotel Arizona, Tucson, AZ ( <a href="http://www.wildlife.org">www.wildlife.org</a> or <a href="mailto:yanin@wildlife.org">yanin@wildlife.org</a> ).  |
| Sept.       | 22-26 | <b>The Wildlife Society 14th Annual Conference</b> , Tucson Convention Center, Tucson, AZ ( <a href="http://www.wildlife.org">www.wildlife.org</a> or <a href="mailto:lisa@wildlife.org">lisa@wildlife.org</a> ).  |
| Oct.        | 21-24 | <b>Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting</b> , Marriott Town Center, Charleston, WV ( <a href="http://SEAFWA2007.org">http://SEAFWA2007.org</a> ).   |
| Oct.        | 8-12  | <b>National Cave and Karst Management Symposium</b> , St. Louis, MO ( <a href="http://www.utexas.edu/tmm/sponsored_sites/biospeleology/nckms.html">www.utexas.edu/tmm/sponsored_sites/biospeleology/nckms.html</a> ).  |
| Oct.        | 21-24 | <b>61st Annual Southeast Fish and Wildlife Conference</b> , Charleston Marriott Town Center, Charleston, WV ( <a href="http://www.seafwa2007.org">www.seafwa2007.org</a> or call Cindy Delaney at 802-655-7769 or <a href="mailto:cindy@delaneymeetingevent.com">cindy@delaneymeetingevent.com</a> ).  |
| Nov.        | 4-10  | <b>18th International Conference on Bear Research and Management</b> , Monterrey, Mexico ( <a href="http://ckwri.tamuk.edu/bears/">ckwri.tamuk.edu/bears/</a> IBA or contact Diana Doan-Crider, <a href="mailto:d-crider@tamuk.edu">d-crider@tamuk.edu</a> , 361-593-3963).  |
| Dec.        | 9-12  | <b>North Central Section of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting</b> , Madison, WI ( <a href="http://midwest.ncd-afs.org">http://midwest.ncd-afs.org</a> ).   |
| Dec.        | 9-12  | <b>68th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference</b> . Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison, WI. Theme: Be the Change: Manage Locally, Conserve Globally. ( <a href="http://midwest.ncd-afs.org">http://midwest.ncd-afs.org</a> ).  |
| <b>2008</b> |       |  |
| March       | 4-7   | <b>12th Biennial Alaska Bird Conference</b> , Westmark Hotel, Fairbanks, AK ( <a href="http://www.alaskabird.org">www.alaskabird.org</a> or Nancy Dewitt, <a href="mailto:ndewitt@alaskabird.org">ndewitt@alaskabird.org</a> ).  |

# TUCSON 2007



**TWS 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**SEPTEMBER 22-26, 2007**

## Retired Members Gathering

An informal gathering for retired wildlife professionals will be a fun opportunity to reconnect with old friends.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Sign up soon if you are interested in volunteering at the conference. Stipends are available to eligible individuals.

## Field Trips

An exciting mix of field trips are being offered for your enjoyment, including 7 guided field trips and 10 self-guided field trips. Here are some of the great places you can visit.

- Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge
- Catalina State Park
- Cave Creek Canyon
- Grand Canyon
- Kartchner Caverns State Park
- Las Cienegas Conservation Area
- Mount Lemmon
- Patagonia Lake State Park
- Ramsey Canyon
- Sabino Canyon
- Saguaro National Park
- San Pedro Riparian Conservation Area
- Sonoita Creek State Natural Area
- Sweetwater Wetlands

## Photography Contest

Show off your great photographs in the following categories:

- Flora
- Mammals
- Birds
- Fish, Amphibians, Reptiles, and Invertebrates
- Landscapes and Still Life
- Human Dimensions
- Creative and Clever
- Plenary Session Theme
- Student

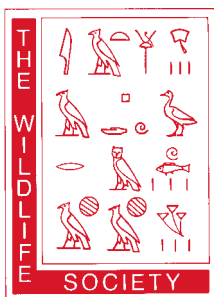
## Student Activities

The Wildlife Society's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference features many activities for students.

- Student Quiz Bowl – register by Aug. 31
- Student Chapter Breakfast
- Student Professional Development Working Group
- Student Dinner
- Student-Professional Mixer
- Student Research-in-Progress Poster Session
- Student Mentoring
- Student Travel Grants – apply by May 31
- Best Student Paper & Poster Awards – apply by July 31
- Job Board



**More Online!**



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