

**MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY  
ANNUAL MEETING  
TAN-TAR-A RESORT, OSAGE BEACH, MISSOURI  
FEBRUARY 3, 2005**

President Larry Mechlin called the annual meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on February 3, 2005 at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, Missouri. Larry welcomed the attendees.

**MINUTES FROM 2004 ANNUAL MEETING**

A synopsis of the minutes from the 2004 annual meeting was given by Secretary Steve Sheriff. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Dave Murphy and seconded by Glen Chambers. The motion was approved by the membership.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

A treasurer's report from Margie Mitchell was handed out to the attendees. Larry Mechlin summarized the financial report, and reported that the checking account had a balance of \$8,018.39 on January 28, 2005, while the savings account had \$46.90. Margie had opened an Endowment Fund account and it contained \$100.17 on January 28, 2005. Glen Chambers later reported that the 3 CD's for the Chambers Memorial Fund had a total of \$11,404. Glen Chambers moved to accept the Treasurer's Report with a second from Bob Schroppel. The motion was approved by the membership.

**ANNUAL AUDIT**

Julie Fleming presented the audit report that she conducted on the Treasurer's books for 2004. She reported that the financial books for the MOTWS were in order and correct. Larry Mechlin accepted Julie's written report.

**FARMER CONSERVATIONIST AWARD**

The 2005 Farmer Conservationist award was presented to Karl and Albert Noellsch, who farm near Oregon, Missouri. Larry made this presentation to Karl and his wife. The Noellsch families farm over 1,000 acres. They make wildlife habitat an integral part of their farming operation. They have over 100 acres of quail habitat, and they are working with a landowner who they lease land to develop further wildlife habitat outside of their personal ownerships.

**GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP AWARD**

Aaron Jefferies made the presentation of the University of Missouri Graduate Student Fellowship Award on behalf of Josh Millspaugh and himself. Aaron reported that 6 applications for the Fellowship were received. It was a very difficult decision for the committee. The Fellowship was awarded to Chadwick Rittenhouse. Mr. Rittenhouse's research work focused on resource selection, space use, and population viability. The \$750 scholarship and plaque were presented to Mr. Rittenhouse. He thanked the chapter and selection committee for this honor.

**JAMES D. CHAMBERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Glen Chambers announced the winner of the 2005 James D. Chambers Memorial Scholarship.

The \$500 award and plaque were awarded to an undergraduate for the first time. Lucas Miller, the winner of the scholarship, is a senior at the University of Missouri. He helped John Schulz (MDC Resource Scientist) and Dr. Joshua Millspaugh (MU Wildlife Wildlife Associate Professor) with the third phase of their lead shot effects on mourning doves (*Zenaida macroura*) study. He is currently pursuing his own undergraduate research study of the survival of eastern cottontail rabbits (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) within Missouri River bottomland agroforestry habitats at Plowboy Bend with Dr. Millspaugh and Daniel Day, USDA Forester. Lucas thanked Glen, the Chambers family, and the Missouri Chapter for the award and their support.

## **STUDENT CHAPTER REPORTS**

### **Missouri Western State College**

Lisa Miller, president, and Melissa Lewis, vice president, made a presentation. Their chapter has been working with the Missouri Department of Conservation on quail call counts and aging deer brought to locker plants during the firearms deer season. They also have been working at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge on restoring prairie habitats and conducting spotlight surveys of deer. On their own, they are mapping dump sites on the MWSC campus. Using these maps, they are planning future clean-up activities for these dump sites. They also proudly, and rightfully so, reported that they tied with the student chapter at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point for the TWS Student Chapter of the Year Award. The Stevens Point chapter has over 200 members, but the MWSC chapter of 20 members is very active as proven by this outstanding award.

### **University of Missouri**

Nick Cahill, President of the University of Missouri Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, presented a report on their activities for the last year. Their student chapter has 62 members with most being very active. Their list of activities includes:

- A deer drive at the University of Missouri's Thomas Baskett Wildlife Area
- Sponsoring the Dunmire Seminar, which brings an outstanding speaker from the wildlife profession to the MU campus in Columbia.
- Clean-up along I-70
- Working football concessions to help send 2 members to the annual TWS conference, 5 members to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, 20 members to the Missouri Natural Resources Conference, and funding for training as first-responders for outdoor crises
- Adopted a great horn owl at the MU raptor rehabilitation center
- Adopted a wild dog pack in Africa
- Presented 6 wildlife programs to 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes in Columbia
- Initiating a burn plan for the Thomas Baskett Wildlife Area

### **Southeast Missouri State University**

Jason Green reported on their activities at SEMO. Their first official meeting as a new student chapter of The Wildlife Society was held on September 22, 2004. They have had

speakers from the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Fish and Wildlife Service come to their meetings. They will be planting giant cane along several streams where it used to occur in Missouri. Their chapter is starting a Stream Team this year. They are also starting a bluebird box trail, which is currently in the planning stage.

### **Central Missouri State University**

Leslie Bilbrey presented a report on the student chapter at Central Missouri State University. The chapter is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of existence. They have adopted a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class in Warrensburg. With this class, they have helped clean and monitor a number of bluebird nest boxes, held a pond day for the children, and helped the children with leaf tracings. They are currently working on a brochure that will be distributed on campus to interest others in joining their student chapter. They worked a deer check station for the Missouri Department of Conservation during the 2004 fall season, and collected CWD samples. They are involved in the No-MO Trash campaign in several areas. Three outside speakers from the Missouri Department of Conservation have come to their meetings and made presentations for which they were grateful. Members of the chapter have also made presentations concerning summer jobs within the profession that they have held. They too have been involved with the prairie habitat restoration at the Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge. They conducted a BioBlitz, which is a 24-hour live trapping spree to identify as many species as possible in a set area. During the BioBlitz, they recorded 124 species of vertebrates and 9 orders of insects. They would like to get more non-biological majors involved in this effort.

### **YEAR IN REVIEW**

Larry Mechlin recapped the activities during the last year. He thanked Bob Schroppel for his efforts in working with Larry and the Executive Board to get the Farmer Conservationist Award into a form that it could be given this year. He also thanked Mike Schroer for his hard work as chair of the nominating committee. Larry encouraged members of the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society to step into leadership roles for the Chapter. Our chapter is full of individuals, who have wonderful ideas, work hard, and can be role models for future wildlife professionals.

### **ELECTION RESULTS**

Mike Schroer, chair of the nominating committee, announced that Tim Russell was elected President-elect and Chris Newbold was elected Secretary. Therefore, the officers for 2005 will be:

Past-president	Larry Mechlin
President	Vicki Jackson
President-elect	Tim Russell
Treasurer	Margie Mitchell
Secretary	Chris Newbold
Board Member	Rosemary Heinen

Presidential authority was passed from Larry Mechlin to Vicki Jackson. Larry provided some brief remarks from Vicki Jackson concerning her desires for the next year. Vicki had lost her voice, so Larry had this honor.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **TWS Endowment**

Glen Chambers invited David Murphy and Jef Hodges to join him in speaking on the issue of the TWS Endowment fund that was created last year. (Jef was not present, but Dave was able to join Glen.) Glen, Dave, Jef and Larry Mechlin had met during the last year and discussed a number of options concerning raising money to meet the chapter's \$2,500 pledge for the TWS Endowment. They concluded that there were a number of alternatives, but most required a lot of work and expenditure to generate a few dollars. Therefore, their conclusion was to take a more cost effective method for generating \$500/year for the next 5 years. They will be contacting members and soliciting funds directly. At this point, Glen, Dave, and Larry each contributed \$100 apiece, and asked members of the meeting to join them. David Erickson and Norb Giessman each contributed \$100. This effort took less than 5 minutes to generate our \$500 contribution for the TWS Endowment.

### **North Central Section of The Wildlife Society**

Dennis Browning, president of the North Central Section, reported on their activities. He said that they have need for active interest in the section. They are having difficulty in obtaining a slate of candidates for their offices. Dennis reported that the continuing education fund of the North Central Section is at \$21,000. The goal for the fund is \$50,000. This money would be used to support workshops at North Central Section meetings. He reported that Gary Potts had provided a list of items and activities concerning TWS Council. Gary's list of activities included:

- TWS Endowment now has \$2.3 million in pledges
- The 2005 annual meeting of TWS will be in Madison, Wisconsin during September
- Contributions are being sought for this conference. We were asked to make a contribution.
- Raffle items for this conference are also being sought.

David Murphy moved that the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society make a \$500 contribution to the continuing education fund of the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society. The motion was seconded by Ted Seiler, and was passed by the members present.

### **Spring Workshop for Students**

Larry Mechlin talked about and promoted the Spring Workshop that is scheduled for March 12-13, 2005 at Fountain Grove Conservation Area. Larry and Vicki need ideas and volunteers to commit to helping with this workshop. A great variety of needs are wanting and need many hands to get them done.

### **Missouri Natural Resources Conference**

Gene Gardner is looking for volunteers to help with the MNRC. He needs ideas for a conference theme. If you would like to help or share your thoughts, contact Gene.

### **By-Laws Amendments**

Steve Sheriff read 3 proposed changes for the Bylaws. Copies of the proposed changes had been distributed to the members. The first suggested change concerned balloting, and would allow for electronic balloting to be an option in the future. The second change was intended to clarify the conduct of the Executive Board between meetings of the membership. The third suggested changes in the name of the Farmer Wildlife Award to the Farmer Conservationist Award. Dave Murphy move acceptance of the proposed amendments to the By-Laws as published in the January newsletter. This motion was seconded by Gene Gardner. The motion passed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Envirothon Request**

Judy Stenson of the Envirothon made a request for cash contributions to the National Envirothon to be held in Missouri this summer. The dates of the National Envirothon are July 18-24, 2005. Fifty-five teams from states and provinces will be attending this competition in Missouri. Their budget is nearly \$250,000 for this event. Judy requested a contribution of \$1,000 or whatever the Missouri Chapter could donate for this effort. Judy then excused herself, so that she could go make presentations to other professional organizations meeting at the same time. After some discussion, Barbara Moran moved that the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society make a contribution of \$500 to Envirothon's national event in Springfield, Missouri. This motion was seconded by Thomas Gluick. After much discussion, this motion was defeated by a show of hands. Dennis Browning moved that the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society make a contribution of \$300 to Envirothon's national event in Springfield, Missouri. This motion was seconded by Ted Seiler. This motion passed by a show of hands.

#### **Words from the New President**

Vicki Jackson speaking through Larry Mechlin wanted everyone to know that she is excited to be our president for 2005. The audience applauded her and Larry Mechlin for their efforts.

#### **Adjournment**

With this applause, Thomas Gluick moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded by Mike Schroer. The motion passed with adjournment at 5:22 p.m.