

**MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING
TAN-TAR-A RESORT, OSAGE BEACH, MISSOURI
JANUARY 30, 2003**

President Dave Murphy called the annual meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. on January 30, 2003 at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, Missouri. Dave welcomed the attendees.

MINUTES FROM 2002 ANNUAL MEETING

A synopsis of the minutes from the 2002 annual meeting was given by Secretary Dennis Browning. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Norb Geissman and seconded by Ollie Torgerson. The motion was approved by the membership.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Lonnie Hansen reviewed the financial report. Three CD's currently have a total value of \$12,036.79. The checking account has a balance of \$4,932.12, and the savings account has \$45.36. The ending balance for 2002 of all accounts assigned to the Missouri Chapter of TWS was \$17,014.27. Ollie Torgerson moved to accept the Treasurer's Report with a second from Dennis Browning. The motion was approved by the membership.

ANNUAL AUDIT

Treasurer Lonnie Hansen presented the audit report that was conducted by Ron Drobney. He reported that the financial books for the Missouri TWS Chapter were in order as of December 31, 2002, after a \$2.00 error was corrected during the audit.

GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP AWARD

President Dave Murphy made the presentation on behalf of committee chair Josh Milspaugh. The University of Missouri Graduate Fellowship was awarded to Kimberly Suedkamp-Wells. Ms. Suedkamp-Wells was selected for her research on "Habitat Use, Movement patterns, and Survival of Post-fledgling grassland Birds in Missouri." The \$750 scholarship and plaque were presented to Ms. Suedkamp-Wells. She thanked the chapter and selection committee for the honor.

JAMES D. CHAMBERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Glen Chambers announced that 4 applications were received for the scholarship. All 4 were from the University of Missouri. The projects that these students were working on included:

Relationships between landscape characteristics and white-tailed deer abundance and harvest vulnerability

Animal resource selection

Sustainable management and conservation of our natural resources

Ecology of grassland birds in Missouri

The \$500 award and plaque was present to Kimberly Suedkamp-Wells. Ms. Suedkamp-Wells was selected for her research on "Habitat Use, Movement patterns, and Survival of Post-fledgling grassland Birds in Missouri."

STUDENT CHAPTER REPORTS

University of Missouri

Rebecca Landewe, president of the student chapter at MU, reported on the activities of their chapter. They hold bi-weekly meetings in the Anheuser-Busch Natural Resources Building. This fall (2002) members worked at the MU football games as a fundraiser. They sent 3 of their members to the annual TWS Conference that was held in Bismarck, North Dakota, in September 2002. They conducted a field day that provided fun and competition with a number of outdoor skills, and they adopted a Mexican wolf. This next spring (2003) they intend to conduct their annual midwinter bird count, a deer drive, begin an outreach program with 4th graders in Columbia, have a resume writing workshop, have a clean-up day of the Thomas Baskett Wildlife Area, and take a trip to the St. Louis zoo to learn about care of the animals. They have invited Scott Robinson as the Dunmire Lecturer on March 13, 2003. Their sponsors are Drs. Josh Milspaugh and Rochelle Renken.

Missouri Western State College

Derek Dorsey presented a report on the student chapter at MWSC. He is the president of this chapter. Their chapter had 9 students attending the 2003 MNRC. They had a barbeque at the start of the school year to bring attention to their chapter as a membership drive on campus. Personnel from the Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge and the Missouri Department of Conservation were present. They worked at Pony Express Conservation Area during dove season. They also conducted a deer drive at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, and during deer season held a chili dinner for deer hunters at the refuge. They also participated during the firearms deer season by helping at a check station and collected deer heads for the CWD study. They plan a skeet shoot and a fish-off for activities this spring (2003).

ELECTION RESULTS

President Dave Murphy announced that Larry Mechlin was elected President-elect, and Steve Sheriff was elected to the secretary position. Therefore, the officers for 2003 will be:

Past-president	Dave Murphy
President	Dan Zekor
President-elect	Larry Mechlin
Treasurer	Lonnie Hansen
Secretary	Steve Sheriff
Board Member	Janet Sternburg

Dan Zekor provided remarks concerning his desire for more activism from the membership. He thanked a long list of people that participated in the chapter's booth during the MNRC. Things that he desired for the chapter to work on during the year included:

- Improved communication
- Improved e-mail and web site
- Electronic newsletter
- Regular board meetings
- A fall meeting

OLD BUSINESS

No report was given concerning the status of Celebrating Our Conservation History video project. DeeCee Darrow thought that Bill Crawford had been interviewed.

Tom Kulowiec provided an update on the web site concerning an idea to move it to a better location. There was discussion concerning setting up the web site on a commercial server as well as setting up a listserve for the chapter. A motion was made by Mike Shroer instructing the Executive Board to explore the options for the web site and listserve and report their recommendation at the next meeting. This was seconded by Norb Geissman. The motion was approved by the membership.

Judy Stinson and Peggy Lemons presented a request for the chapter to become a sponsor of Envirothon. The Envirothon is a field competition open to 9-12th graders to show knowledge in soils, wildlife, aquatics, and forestry. Seventy teams competed in Missouri this last year (2002). Many natural resource agencies participate in this effort. If we become a sponsor, our logo would be printed on their competition t-shirts.

The chapter received a request from the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference steering committee asking us to provide financial support for this effort to be held in December 2003. For \$1,000, the chapter will be provided exhibit space at the conference. The steering committee also would like the chapter membership to mentor students at the conference. After some discussion Norb Geissman moved that the chapter donate \$1,000 to sponsor the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. This motion was seconded by Dennis Browning, and it was approved by the membership.

After the motion concerning the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference was approved, a lengthy discussion was held concerning sponsorship of the Envirothon. Dale Humburg moved that \$300 be provided to the Envirothon to support their efforts with the stipulation that they provide a report next year concerning the attendance and accomplishments of this activity. This motion was seconded by Elisa Gallegher. The motion was approved by the membership.

A fall meeting was discussed with the idea that the Executive Board should organize such a meeting which would include professional development activities. The membership thought this would be a worthy effort.

The topic of the Farmer/Wildlife Award was discussed concerning its viability. No nominations were received this year. General impressions were that the criteria may be too restrictive. A motion by Dave Erickson was made to direct the Farmer/Wildlife Award committee to address the criteria and name of the award with the Executive Board providing oversight and bring a recommendation to the fall meeting in 2003. This motion was seconded by Mike Shroer, and the motion was approved by the membership.

The certification and professional development committees and their functions were discussed given the new guidelines concerning certification as a wildlife biologist. Newly certified wildlife biologists will have to show professional development credits to retain their certification, so the functions of these committees may be redundant. Debbie Fantz made a motion to combine the certification and the professional development committees and their functions. This motion was seconded by Kevin Slate. The membership approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

Ollie Torgerson spoke concerning the endowment campaign for TWS. TWS wishes to establish an endowment of \$3 million to be used for bringing together wildlife professional leaders for white paper development. He also indicated that wildlife professionals need to belong to the national TWS organization. Dave Murphy also spoke concerning activism within the national TWS organization.

Dan Zekor again made a plea for activation of the membership. John Vogel thanked students who helped with the MNRC registration.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m. with around of applause for Past-president Dave Murphy and his efforts as president during 2002.