

**MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING
TAN-TAR-A RESORT, OSAGE BEACH, MISSOURI
JANUARY 29, 2004**

President Dan Zekor called the annual meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. on January 29, 2004 at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, Missouri. Dan welcomed the attendees.

MINUTES FROM 2003 ANNUAL MEETING

A synopsis of the minutes from the 2003 annual meeting was given by Secretary Steve Sheriff. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Dave Murphy and seconded by Mike Schroer. The motion was approved by the membership.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Lonnie Hansen reviewed the financial report. The checking account had a balance of \$5,640.49 on December 31, 2003, while the savings account had \$46.18. The 3 CD's for the Chambers Memorial Fund had a total of \$11,551.35. The ending balance for 2003 of all accounts assigned to the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society (MOTWS) was \$17,238.02. Dave Murphy moved to accept the Treasurer's Report with a second from Mike Schroer. The motion was approved by the membership.

ANNUAL AUDIT

Dave Erickson presented the audit report that he conducted on the Treasurer's books for 2003. He reported that the financial books for the MOTWS were in order and correct as of December 31, 2003. Diana Hallett moved to acceptance of the audit report with a second from Ollie Torgerson. The motion was approved by the membership.

YEAR-END REVIEW

President Dan Zekor reviewed the last year under his leadership. Dan indicated that progress was made, and he was pleased with the direction of the MOTWS. A third student chapter was added this last year in Missouri. Dan welcomed the addition of the student chapter at Central Missouri State University. Dan and Larry Mechlin attended several University of Missouri student chapter meetings. During the last year, a new chapter web page was created, and the membership has begun receiving electronic communications. The Executive Board met 5 times during the last year. He indicated that a fall meeting was discussed by the Executive Board, and further information from the membership is needed before a proposal can be made. A survey on this topic was available at our 2004 MNRC booth and on the web site. Dan thanked the Executive Board and many individuals who were helpful throughout the year.

PRIVATE LANDS AWARD

Tim Russell presented a Certificate of Merit from the Private Land Services Division of the Missouri Department of Conservation to Warren Valenti, Sharron Gough, Steve Clubine, and Kevin Hedgpeth. They received this award for their efforts, and those of their agency partners, in helping to restore prairie habitat on a total of 503 acres in Hickory County on 3 adjoining landowners. The project that they were involved in will

serve as a demonstration for what private landowners can do on a landscape scale for the restoration of critical habitats. Congratulations to Warren, Sharron, Steve, and Kevin.

NORTH CENTRAL SECTION REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Gary Potts, North Central Section Representative to TWS Council, presented a report concerning The Wildlife Society (TWS) Council activities over the last couple of years. He pointed out the importance for wildlife professionals and students to be active members of TWS at each level – local, sectional, and parent organizations. The North Central Section is as strong as is our chapter. Gary advised the audience to visit the TWS web site to see the activities and policies of TWS Council. The web site can be found at <http://www.wildlife.org>. He encouraged our members to become Certified Wildlife Biologists and to get actively involved in continuing education and the organization. He also encouraged members, who are not members of the parent organization, to join this very active professional organization.

GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP AWARD

Aaron Jefferies made the presentation of the University of Missouri Graduate Student Fellowship Award on behalf of Josh Milspaugh and himself. The Fellowship was awarded to Craig Pullin. Mr. Pullin's research work focused on "The Influence of Landscape Characteristics on White-tailed Deer Abundance and Harvest Vulnerability in Missouri." The \$750 scholarship and plaque were presented to Mr. Pullin. He thanked the chapter and selection committee for this honor.

JAMES D. CHAMBERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Glen Chambers announced that 5 applications were received for the scholarship. The 5 applicants were:

- Mundy Hackett – University of Missouri – Columbia
- Rachael Katz – Truman State University
- Craig Pullins – University of Missouri – Columbia
- Kerry Reeves – University of Missouri – Columbia
- Chadwick Rittenhouse – University of Missouri – Columbia

All of these applicants presented studies of the highest caliber, and each of them was worthy of the scholarship. These 5 applicants made it a tough choice.

The \$500 award and plaque were awarded to Chadwick Rittenhouse for his work on "The Relationships between Resource Selection, Space Use, and Animal Populations" with a focus on linking habitat quality and population viability.

Glen announced that over the last 10 years this scholarship fund has distributed \$5,000. The account has a balance of over \$11,000 with the interest from this account supplying the funds for this annual scholarship.

STUDENT CHAPTER REPORTS

University of Missouri

Jered Wisdom, 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 65 members with most being very active. They have worked MU football games as a fundraiser. They have worked with the Missouri Department of Conservation helping at deer check stations, conducted a winter bird count, helped with a deer drive at the Baskett Area, anticipating taking Level 1 Fire Training, and teach a mammals program to 4th graders.

Missouri Western State College

Kristi Ruegge presented a report on the student chapter at Missouri Western State College. She said that 12 students were attending the 2004 MNRC. They helped at the managed deer hunt at Squaw Creek NWR where they sold chili to hunters as a fundraiser. They also hold an antler days at a local mall where they teach people to age deer. They have an active intern program, and sent students to Minnesota, Arizona, and to a couple of agencies in Missouri. They also were involved in helping the Missouri Department of Conservation with deer check stations.

Central Missouri State University

Laura Paseniuk presented a report on the new student chapter at Central Missouri State University. They worked a deer check station for the Missouri Department of Conservation during the 2003 fall season. They conducted a BioBlitz, which is a 24-hour live trapping spree to identify as many species as possible in a set area. Their membership is about 35 active members attending their meetings. Many members hope to be involved in a Missouri Department of Conservation intern program.

ELECTION RESULTS

Mike Schroer, chair of the nominating committee, announced that Vicki Jackson was elected President-elect, Margie Mitchell was elected Treasurer, and Rosemary Heinen was elected to be Board Member At-Large. Therefore, the officers for 2004 will be:

Past-president	Dan Zekor
President	Larry Mechlin
President-elect	Vicki Jackson
Treasurer	Margie Mitchell
Secretary	Steve Sheriff
Board Member	Rosemary Heinen

Presidential authority was passed from Dan Zekor to Larry Mechlin. Larry provided brief remarks concerning his desire for the next year. He thanked all who ran for office. He stated that much of what Dan Zekor had started would continue. "Students are where it is at." Larry has learned that students from Southeast Missouri State wish to form a student chapter.

OLD BUSINESS

Certification/Professional Development Committee

Dan Zekor presented the proposal for changes in the By-Laws that would combine the Professionalism and Certification Committees into 1 committee under the name of the Professional Development Committee. These proposed changes were published in the December newsletter. Dave Murphy moved acceptance of the By-Laws changes as published, and this motion was seconded by Bob Schroepfel. The motion passed.

By-Laws Admendments

Dan Zekor presented the proposal for changes in the By-Laws that would affect the representation of student chapter officials on the Executive Board. These changes would make the President of each official student chapter in Missouri an *ex officio*, non-voting member of the Executive Board. We now have 3 student chapters in Missouri with expectation of a 4th during the next couple of years. The proposed changes have also been published in the December newsletter. Dave Murphy move acceptance of the proposed amendments to the By-Laws as published in the December newsletter. This motion was seconded by Dennis Browning. The motion passed.

Farmer/Wildlife Award

Larry Mechlin indicated that he would be seeking 2 volunteers to serve with him in exploring changes in the qualifications of the Farmer/Wildlife Award. Because the award requires that most of a farmer's income must come from the farm, many farmers are unqualified to receive this award even though they actively manage for wildlife benefits on their farms. Bob Schroepfel suggested that the Soil and Water Conservation Society be asked to co-sponsor this award.

NEW BUSINESS

TWS Endowment

Ollie Torgerson made a pitch for the TWS Endowment to support efforts to provide more technical reviews and responses to critical issues for wildlife. The goal for the endowment is to have \$3 million in the fund. They have received pledges for nearly \$2 million thus far. Our chapter and members are being challenged to contribute to this fund. Bill Crawford and the Tom Baskett Family have made a combined challenge of \$20,000 contribution. There are many ways to contribute to this fund, including cash, estate planning, dedicated life insurance policies, etc. Dan Zekor moved that the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society should make a contribution to the TWS Endowment Fund with the amount to be specified at a later date. This motion was seconded by Glen Chambers, and was passed by the members present. Dave Murphy moved that a contribution to the TWS Endowment fund be made in the amount of a minimum of \$500 per year for the next 5 years with the total contribution being at least \$2,500. Bill Eddleman seconded this motion. The discussion of the motion focused on the commitment of the chapter to raise these funds. The motion was passed by the members present.

School of Natural Resources Alliance at the University of Missouri

Dave Murphy spoke on the reduction of funding at the School of Natural Resources at the University of Missouri - Columbia. They will have a 5% reduction in their funding base during the next year. The SNR Alliance has been formed to seek contributions for the School of Natural Resources. Matt Gaunt said that the School of Natural Resources receives less than 18% of their budget through State funding. The rest of their funding comes from grants and contributions. He is looking for \$25 million in contributions. As a “young man with a gun demanding money,” the SNR Alliance is conducting a raffle for a \$10,000 rifle to help aid in this fundraising effort.

Operations Manual

Margie Mitchell and Dan Zekor are finalizing changes to the Chapter’s Operations Manual.

Fall Meeting

Larry Mechlin reported that input is being sought concerning a potential fall meeting for the chapter. He would like to tie this meeting with student chapter activities. The Executive Board is seeking guidance through a survey.

Envirothon Request

Larry Mechlin said that the chapter had received a request from the Envirothon asking for our support. The request is for \$300 to support the printing of t-shirts for the participants. DeDe Vest spoke on behalf of Envirothon requesting support for the national Envirothon meeting that will be held in Missouri during 2005. They need \$15,000 for oral presentation costs. About 350 students attend the national Envirothon. The objective is to teach future citizens about the environment. Each state team is sponsored to attend. The registration fee is \$600 per student. DeDe asked the chapter to consider a contribution of \$1,000 for the 2005 National Envirothon. No motion was made.

Missouri Waterfowl Association Scholarship Proposal

Dan Zekor presented a proposal by Missouri Waterfowl Association to sponsor a scholarship program. The Association would make an annual contribution for this scholarship. Executive Board will continue working on this idea.

Internship Program with Missouri Department of Conservation

DeeCee Darrow announced that the Missouri Department of Conservation will have 25 new internships available this next year. Many student members of our chapter and the student chapters should be interested in these opportunities to gain valuable experience in wildlife management.

Adjournment

Larry Mechlin asked for a round of applause thanking Dan Zekor for his efforts as president during the last year. With this applause, Ted Seidler moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded by Dan Zekor. The motion passed with adjournment at 5:01pm.