



MISSOURI CHAPTER
Of
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

Larry Mechlin, President

1110 South College Ave.
Columbia, MO 65102
Day phone: 573-882-9909, ext.3216
Fax: 573-882-4517
e-mail: Larry.Mechlin@mdc.mo.gov

Vicki Jackson, President-Elect

CMSU – Department of Biology and Earth Science
WC Morris 306
Warrensburg, MO 64093
Day phone: 660-543-8861
Fax: 660-543-4355
e-mail: vjackson@cmsu1.cmsu.edu

Dan Zekor, Past-President

PO Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Day phone: 573/751-4115, ext. 3350
Fax: 573/526-4495
e-mail: Daniel.Zekor@mdc.mo.gov

Steve Sheriff, Secretary

1110 South College Ave.
Columbia, MO 65102
Day phone: 573-882-9909, ext.3216
Fax: 573-882-4517
e-mail: Steve.Sheriff@mdc.mo.gov

Margie Mitchell, Treasurer

P.O. Box 180 (mailing address)
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
Day phone: 573-522-4115, ext.3347
Fax: 573-526-5582
e-mail: Margie.Mitchell@mdc.mo.gov

Rosemary Heinen, Board Member-at-Large

USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services
1714 Commerce Ct. Ste C
Columbia, MO 65202
573-449-3033 x 12
e-mail: Rosemary.A.Heinen@aphis.usda.gov

2004 MO-TWS Committees

Audit-----David Erickson
Chambers Scholarship-----Bill Eddleman
Education/Graduate Fellowship-----Josh Millspaugh
Farmer/Wildlife-----Bob Schroepel
MNRC Steering-----Gene Gardner
Membership-----Robert Chapman
Nominating-----Mike Schroer
Professional Development-----Eric Kurzejeski
Resolutions-----Joel Porath
Runge Award-----Dennis Figg
Raffle/Auction-----Jeff Hodges
Operations Manual-----Margie Mitchell
Stephens Award-----President's Choice

TWS 11th Annual Conference – Calgary 2004



Register online at: <http://www.wildlife.org/cart/index.cfm>

Heh! Read This

By Larry Mechlin, Chapter President

I'm not right sure how I ended up presiding over the Missouri Chapter, but it happened. Never considered myself a natural leader or any other kind of leader, but thanks to this good luck, I have been given the opportunity to pass on some thoughts in the Newsletter. Bein' somewhat of a hick, and getting more that way everyday, I'll just say it like this: Everyone I know in our outfit today is busier than a body ought to be and I wouldn't take any pride in wasting your time. As Tex Bix Bender would say, "You don't need decorated words to make your meanin' clear. Say it plain and save some breath for breathin'."

We got as far as we have with the help of others. I defy you to show me a self-made man or woman. Everyone of us has been inspired, supported, encouraged and generally brought along by many others. It's the only reason we as humans aren't a lot further down on the food chain. In your college years, you search for understanding and direction. You tend to be receptive to new ideas. You are gathering knowledge and training in a classroom atmosphere, but thirst for real world experience and understanding. Most college students spend a great deal of cash and endure a considerable amount of stress to arrive at graduation – but graduation to what? As a professional, why wouldn't you want to open that window before graduation to give them a glimpse of what follows? Give them some early insight so they graduate better prepared for a career in natural resources.

What we are asking is for members to contribute to our Fall Meeting effort. It will center around providing student TWS chapters and wildlife clubs from colleges across Missouri with hands-on experiences not often found on campus. Our Executive Board has developed a sporting clays contest program as the initial focus to get groups involved. The chapters and clubs are encouraged to have sporting clay contests as fund raisers involving teams of students and natural resource professionals in their area. They will bring their winning team to compete against teams representing other chapters and clubs at the Fall Meeting. At the Fall Meeting, we also hope to provide some training for shooters and a variety of training with natural resource

techniques (such as mist netting, rocket netting, trapping, fish sampling, etc.).

Please take the opportunity to respond to chapters and clubs in your area to participate in their event. In addition, please pass along to the executive board any activities you believe would be fun and educational for students at the Fall Meeting. Thanks for your support.

Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society Treasurer's Report – June 4, 2004

By Margie Mitchell

Credits

Membership dues	170 @ \$10	= \$1700.00
Midwest tee shirt sales		= 355.32
Silent auction (9 items)		= 256.00
Cash raffle		= 170.00
Stretch raffle		= 532.00
Change for conference returned		= 100.00
Transfer from Quail Study Group		= 32.47
Dividends		= 28.98
Total		= \$3174.77

Debits

Postage		= \$ 30.60
MO Natural Resource Conference:		
Booth rental		= 75.00
Change for conference		= 100.00
Banquet tickets for guests		= 54.00
Extra table rental		= 20.00
Camping package for auction (Jeff Hodges)		= 100.00
Grad student award (Craig Pullins)		= 750.00
Award plaques (Red Weir)		= 112.00
Runge award plaque (Lar Signs)		= 103.25
Total		= \$1344.85

Balance as of June 4, 2004 \$7922.46

Current paid membership 174

Student Chapter News

Please visit their websites to learn more about the exciting projects, seminars, workshops, and outreach each chapter is currently working on!



<http://www.missouri.edu/~wildlife/>



http://www.cmsu.edu/biology/stu_org/wl_index.htm

The Wildlife Society

Missouri Western State College
Student Chapter

<http://www.mwsc.edu/orgs/twschap/>

Cooperation between Professional Wildlife Biologists and Students: Our Key to Success

By, Vicki Jackson

I am about to begin my third year at Central Missouri State University, and am excited and proud of the relationships we've established with professionals in our region. When I interviewed at CMSU, the students were extremely interested in starting a student chapter of The Wildlife Society. Since its inception in the fall of 2002, we have been fortunate to have overwhelming help from MDC, USDA, DNR, and several people from the Johnson County community. These folks have presented seminars, hosted workshops, allowed us to volunteer performing a myriad of different jobs pertaining to wildlife and habitat conservation, and given us much-needed experience and exposure to the world of wildlife science. Without these experiences, our students would never have had the opportunity to interact with professionals or the chance to work in their chosen field. I cannot say enough good things about the people who have helped members of our chapter learn and grow.

I hope that the other student chapters are as lucky as we are. If you are a professional and would like the opportunity to share your knowledge with eager young minds, please don't hesitate to contact your local university. Most student chapters will jump at the chance for volunteer work. This is an exceptional way to provide students with experience and contacts within the industry, as well as getting work done! Free labor, what can be better than that?

The Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society fully supports our student chapters and would like to encourage established Wildlifers to spend some time with the students.

ATTENTION ALL STUDENT WILDLIFERS

Challenge your mind, show your expertise and represent your school in the First Annual Wildlife Quiz Bowl to be held at the Natural Resources Conference in January 2005. This is a chance to expand your knowledge of wildlife, interact with fellow students and future colleges, and compete for the honor of "Outstanding Student Wildlife Organization". TWS is currently working on the possibility of having such an event but it cannot occur without involvement from student chapters throughout the state. If anyone is interested in starting this new tradition and friendly competition among Missouri's colleges and universities, please give Rosemary Heinen a call at 573-449-3033 x 12.

MNRC Steering Committee

By Gene Gardner

The MNRC Steering committee has been hard at work to provide Missouri's resource specialists with another quality MNRC conference at Tan-Tar-A Resort. Next year's conference will be held on February 2-4, 2005, with a theme of Missouri's Resources: Shaping the Future with Leadership. The call for papers is already out so please check out the web site

(<http://www.mnrc.org>) for details. Please note that while papers and posters that can be worked into a special session or that are related to the conference theme are strongly encouraged, paper topics will not be limited to only the conference theme or special (e.g., workshop) topics. Presentations dealing with any aspect of forestry, fisheries, wildlife, or soil and water conservation are welcome.

One big deviation this next MNRC is NO BANQUET. Conference organizers are shaking things up a bit by developing plans for a very special "Awards Celebration" event, complete with desserts to die for and cash bars. Conferees can dine at their leisure where ever they want that evening, but they will want to be sure to return to the Hotel by 8:00 p.m. for tantalizing desserts and an hour of festivities that will pay tribute to our fellow Society members. Hang around after the short awards program to congratulate the honorees because you could be a winner yourself! Since there will be no organized social before the awards celebration to draw for society raffle winners, current plans are to continue the evening of celebration and merriment with raffle drawings and extend the cash bar hours. All of this celebration is yours automatically through a \$10 increase in the conference registration fee. Don't miss this special opportunity to honor your colleagues and enjoy the heck out of yourself at the same time! Hey, shape the future as a leader yourself, pay the \$10 fee for a student and bring them with you. Give them something to celebrate! After all, they will shape the future with their leadership!



[Calls for contributed papers and posters has begun. All papers and posters will be due July 1, 2004.](#)

The "Black Sheep" in Porky Pig's Family

By Tom Hutton

Most natural resource professionals in Missouri should be aware by now that we have a small, but increasing, population of feral swine in the state. Their presence is bad news for all Missourians because of the damage they do and the diseases they can carry. The rest of the bad news is that they reproduce like rabbits and, unfortunately, continue to be released illegally. In the last 3 years, feral hogs have appeared in Clark, Holt, Nodaway, Gentry, DeKalb, Caldwell and Schuyler counties (up north), and McDonald, Ozark, and Taney counties (down south). While hunting pressure and control efforts by private landowners and agency personnel appear to have eliminated a few releases and stabilized some of the more established populations, the ongoing illegal release activity threatens to quickly overwhelm efforts to contain the problem. We need your help!

Although there has been a considerable amount of publicity (and more is in the works) about the problems with feral swine, most people don't recognize it as a problem because Missouri's populations are still relatively small in comparison to the estimated 2,000,000 wild hogs in Texas. We need your help getting the word to the public through your newsletters and everyday contacts. We also ask you to encourage the public and your public agencies to report feral swine sightings, sign, or releases, and eliminate feral swine at every opportunity. Early knowledge, coupled with a prompt response, provides our best hope of eliminating recent releases before they become well established. A county can easily be without feral swine one day then have them the next day from an illegal release.

Several informational items are available on MDC's website:

<http://www.conservation.state.mo.us/landown/wild/nuisance/hogs/>,

You can contact Dan McMurtry or Tom Hutton at APHIS-Wildlife Services (573 449 3033) for additional information. We have developed a "Feral Swine Database Sheet" to help track the situation. It is available electronically from:

dan.w.mcmurtry@aphis.usda.gov or
thomas.a.hutton@aphis.usda.gov

We encourage you to use it.

You should be aware that technical advice and loaner traps are available from APHIS-Wildlife Services to private landowners and agency personnel who are willing to bait and run traps on their properties. We are also developing regional "Feral Hog Control Networks" in cooperation with the Mo. Dept. of Agriculture, Mo. Dept. of Conservation, as well as other state and federal agencies, to better coordinate information flow, hog control and enforcement activities.

So, if you discover any of Porky's "black sheep" in your area, share the bad news. We won't be glad to hear it, but we need to.

Websites to Know

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://www.fws.gov/>

International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

<http://www.iafwa.org/>

The Wildlife Society

<http://www.wildlife.org/index.html>

MDC

www.conservation.state.mo.us

MO DNR

www.dnr.state.mo.us

USDA/NRCS

www.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA/APHIS

www.aphis.usda.gov

Texas A&M job board

www.wfsc.tamu.edu/jobs/job_view.cfm

Conservation Federation of Missouri

<http://www.confedmo.com/>

Wildlife Legislative Fund

<http://www.wlfa.org/>

Organization of Wildlife Planners

<http://www.owpweb.org/>

Wildlife Management Institute

<http://www.wildlifemgt.org/wmi/pages/main.html>

Conferences of Interest

July 10-13, 2004

Midwest Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Meeting

Bismarck, North Dakota

July 24-29, 2004

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Sun Valley, Idaho

August 21-26, 2004

134th American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting
Madison, Wisconsin

September 18-22, 2004

The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting
Calgary, Alberta

September 18-22, 2004

States Organization for Boating Access Annual Meeting
Kalispell, Montana

September 23-26, 2004

Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers Annual Meeting
San Diego, California

September 26-October 1, 2004

94th International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting
Trump Marina in Atlantic City, New Jersey

October 31-November 3, 2004

Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting
Hilton Head, South Carolina

December 12-15, 2004

Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference
Indianapolis, Indiana

March 16-20, 2005

70th North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference
Crystal Gateway Marriott, Crystal City, Virginia

March 22-26, 2006

71st North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference
Hyatt Regency Columbus, Columbus, Ohio



Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Application Information

The Missouri Chapter of the Wildlife Society cordially invites you to join us! If you haven't already done so, take a look at [what we are all about](#).

You do **not** have to be a member of our parent society, [The Wildlife Society](#) to join our State Chapter. However, if you would like more information about our parent society, just click [here](#).

Annual Dues are just \$10.00. As a member you will receive:

- A semi-annual newsletter.
- The opportunity to interact with other wildlife professionals in Missouri.
- The opportunity to serve on several committees and working groups which actively influence wildlife conservation and management in Missouri.
- The opportunity to attend occasional continuing education workshops and symposia.

To Join:

Down-load a [membership form](#) (in PDF format)

OR

Send us your:

name

mailing address

phone number (optional)

Fax number (optional)

e-mail address (optional)

along with your \$10.00 dues (make Checks payable to Missouri Chapter TWS) to:

Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society

P.O. Box 743

Columbia, MO 65205 - 0743

If you just would like more information, you can e-mail us at motws@motws.org.

We Hope To Be Hearing From You!!