



MISSOURI CHAPTER  
Of  
**THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**  
**NEWSLETTER**

June 2005 Issue No. 35, VOL. 1

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**2005 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



**The Wildlife Society 12th Annual Conference**  
**September 25-29, 2005**  
**Madison, Wisconsin**

Madison 2005 conference advertisement and preliminary program are available on the web at:

<http://www.wildlife.org/conference/2005conferencead.pdf>

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## Where Were We and Where Are We Heading?

By Vicki Jackson, Chapter President

I am not particularly eloquent with the written word. I actually tend to time my speeches to fit in 50 minute or hour and 15 minute increments, depending on whether they are meant for a MWF or TTH course ☺. I will try to write down my thoughts on our chapter's progress over the last few months and where I envision our chapter going.

One of our major goals last year was to increase participation by students interested in wildlife biology and management. We have been more successful than we ever imagined. Currently there are 3 established student chapters at University of Missouri, Central Missouri State, and Missouri Western State College. A brand new chapter at Southeastern Missouri started up this year and as we speak by-laws and a operation manual are being written for a new chapter at Southwest Missouri State (or is it Missouri State University yet?). These students and several faculty and real-life wildlife professionals took part in our First Annual Spring Workshop at Fountain Grove Conservation Area this past April. Plans are underway to develop our Second Annual Spring Workshop and we hope to increase participation and get new people involved.

A great segue into where we are going...

This next year our emphasis will be increasing membership and increasing involvement in the society by our current members. Recall why you joined... was it for perceived benefits for your career or because someone peer-pressured you into it (if so please tell us their name so we can get them on the Membership Committee)? We truly are interested in why people join and what we can do or provide for our members to influence more people to join. Please send us an e-mail to let us know!

We have several committees in our society that could use some extra volunteer help. I know that everyone leads an over-loaded life with several pots on the stove. Let MO-TWS be a small pot simmering on a backburner of your stove! Take care, Vicki

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## Treasurer's Report January 1, 2005 thru May 27, 2005 Prepared by Margie Mitchell

### CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning balance as of 01/01/05		<b>\$7993.39</b>
<u>Credits</u>		
2005 Membership dues 152 @ \$10		\$1520.00
Midwest tee shirt sales (cont.) 1 @ \$5		\$ 5.00
<u>2005 MNRC income</u>		
[Cash reimbursement	\$ 400.00	
Silent auction	\$ 517.00	
Stretch raffle	\$ 275.00]	
		\$1192.00
<u>Spring 2005 Workshop</u>		
[Registration & some meals	\$1310.00	
Food purchases returned to store	\$ 23.46	
Purchase of leftover drinks	\$ 41.48]	
(by Relay For Life team)		
		\$1374.94
Dividends		\$ 26.19
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>\$4118.13</b>
<u>Debits</u>		
Reimbursement for printing of Spring & Fall 2004 Chapter Newletters (CMSU)		\$ 79.00
<u>2005 MNRC expenses</u>		
		\$1747.00
[Cash for booth	\$ 400.00	
Extra student booth rental	\$ 115.00	
Reimbursement for banquet tickets for award winners (Larry Mechlin)	\$ 50.00	
Grad student award (Chadwick Rittenhouse)	\$ 750.00	
Raffle award winner (cash)	\$ 100.00	
2005 Award plaques (Red Weir)	\$ 201.00	
Engraving costs (Red Weir)	\$ 20.25	
2005 Runge award plaque	\$ 103.25	
Engraving costs (Lars Signs)	\$ 7.50]	
Reimbursement for postage of TWS display case (Vicki Jackson)		\$ 26.91
Missouri Envirothon donation		\$ 300.00
<u>Spring 2005 Workshop expenses</u>		
[Reimbursement – refreshments	\$ 238.38	
Reimbursement for ice	\$ 4.87	

Reimbursement for lunch	\$ 45.20
Meals provided by Boy Scouts	\$ 560.00]
Reimbursement for stamps & envelopes (Treasurer)	\$ 9.41
<b>Total Debits</b>	<b>\$3010.77</b>
Ending Balance as of 05/27/05	<b>\$9100.75</b>

### Student Chapter News

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

### Central Missouri State University

[http://www.cmsu.edu/biology/stu\\_org/wl\\_index.htm](http://www.cmsu.edu/biology/stu_org/wl_index.htm)

Central Missouri State University  
Student Chapter, The Wildlife Society  
Report for 2004-2005 school year

We had a great year with our members, everyone was involved as much as possible, and we participated in many activities. In November of 2004, some members traveled to the Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge to participate in a prairie restoration project. Our chapter is very involved with the Missouri Department of Conservation; so many volunteer opportunities arose with the state. We have been involved in the No More Trash Campaign and helped clean the Hazel Hill Lake Conservation Area and the Maple Leaf Conservation Area. In addition to volunteer work, we have been paid to help MDC in a Morning Dove project, which required 3,000 trees to be planted. Our members also assisted in removing lymph nodes at deer check stations, which are tested for Chronic Wasting Disease.

The past school year we were able to attend different workshops and conferences. Many of our members attended the Missouri Natural Resources Conference in January of 2005 where we set up a table along with the Missouri Chapter. In addition to attending the conference, one of our members, Josh Flinn, presented his undergraduate research. In March, we attended the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society's Spring Workshop, which was very helpful for learning new field techniques. A Hunting and Fishing Expo was held on the fair grounds in February of 2005 where we were able to set up a booth for our student chapter.

Our society is fortunate to have many speakers talk to us about a variety of subjects. Speakers included Neil Bass from Whiteman Air force Base, Steve Hoel from MDC, Theresa Ramsey from Knob Noster State Park, Max Alligar from MDC, and Debra Burns from MDC. Topics included job opportunities, wildlife management, and job descriptions.

Many other opportunities came up this past year. Along with MDC, we held a burn certification class that attracted more than just members of our chapter. We were able to take a trip to the Lakeside Nature Center, where we went on a tour and obtained lots of information about the area. We became cosponsor of the Environmental Education Committee, which is an educational outreach program through our Biology and Earth Science Department at CMSU. This year we made a brochure to have available on campus to help advertise our chapter to students who may not always be in the Biology building.

One of our biggest projects is our annual Bio Blitz, which is an inventory of plants and animals in a given area. Although I define it this way, it was so much more. We attempt to get the community involved so they can learn about their local wildlife. This was our third Bio Blitz and I believe our most successful. More people attended this year than before, and I feel they learned a lot from the experience.

Vicki Jackson, Academic Advisor

### New Student Chapter in the Works

Tim Russell, MoTWS, President Elect

After some of the SMSU Wildlife Biology and Wildlife Conservation Management students attended the Spring Workshop, the university's Wildlife Club began to inquire information regarding membership with MoTWS as a Student Chapter. The students that were able to attend readily saw the benefits just from the professionalism exhibited from the workshop leaders and the potential opportunities from networking with other students and wildlife professionals alike. The experiences the students shared greatly influenced the club's decision to vote unanimously to seek status as a student chapter of MoTWS. We were able to get assistance from our parent society through Lisa Moll, Program Assistant, in Bethesda, Maryland. She forwarded the needed framework for the students to formulate their bylaws and the petition that will be forwarded to the TWS Council for approval. Beginning in the fall of 2005, Missouri State University students of wildlife conservation and wildlife biology will have a new opportunity to benefit from academic and professional development as members in The Wildlife Society.

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## 2005 Spring Workshop

By Larry Mechlin, Chapter Past-President

### Professionals and Students Build Relationships

Twenty-eight Wildlife and Fisheries professionals gathered together at the Fountain Grove Conservation Area on March 12 and 13<sup>th</sup>, in the midst of spring waterfowl migration, to provide hands-on training for conservation students from Missouri's colleges. Sixty-five students representing The Wildlife Society Student chapters and wildlife clubs from six different Missouri colleges attended the workshop. Students were given the choice of participating in any or all of a variety of activities: rocket-netting, electro fishing, telemetry, otter trapping, orienteering, GPS, raptor trapping, WRP management, aquatic invert sampling, waterfowl ID, and the technique of maneuvering a duck boat. This workshop was a first attempt by the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society to offer college students across the state a forum to share training experiences with other students and professionals. Participating professionals were noticeably inspired with the interest of students and the comradery among students. One professional noted that the future of conservation was in good hands. Students camped at Pershing State Park or stayed in facilities at Fountain Grove CA. Ducks Unlimited sponsored an evening cookup and the Lexington Boy Scout Troop #318 provided excellent breakfasts and a lunch for a small fee. Numerous waterfowl were using the wetlands providing students the opportunity for observation as well as training with wetland management on public and associated private lands.

Conservation professionals from private companies, DU, NRCS, APHIS, DNR, Central and Missouri Western State Colleges and three Divisions within MDC helped coordinate the workshop.

The Missouri Chapter hopes to hold this type of workshop for students each year to further relationships with professionals, and to provide on-the-ground experiences within the variety of natural communities and landscapes of Missouri.

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Be sure and view the photo gallery of the 2005 Spring Workshop on the MoTWS website:

<http://www.motws.org/picsindex2005.html>

The following e-mail message is an example of one of the many comments we received from students that attended the Spring Workshop:

*Hello.*

*My name is Samantha Dingfelder and I am from Northwest MO State and attended the training last weekend. Just thought you would like to know how much everyone enjoyed it. We are still talking about it. It was very educational and was ran very smoothly and with the kindest and easiest-going people possible. The food was great too! From all of us at Northwest thank you very much for a wonderful weekend and you can definitely depend on us to be there next year too!*

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### When I Grow Up

John H. Schulz, Mo-TWS Past-president

"So, Johnny, what do you want to be when you grow up?" Since my earliest memories, I must have been asked this question several thousand times.

Well intentioned adults seem obligated to inquire into the long-term life plans of young people. This line of questioning is somehow intended to show the young person the importance of long-term planning in choosing a career, and the necessity of making the proper educational preparations. Make the "right" choice and you ensure life-long happiness and great riches. Make the "wrong" choice and you are destined to poverty and sadness. At least that's the implied message.

Depending upon the age, younger respondents might reply to the career question with "fireman", "policeman", or "doctor" while older respondents might choose "teacher", "lawyer", or "garbage collector". Once in college young wildlife professionals are once again asked about their long-term career interests. Freshman wildlife majors might just be interested in being a "park ranger", "naturalist", or "game warden." As students learn more about the wide range of available jobs, their career choices begin to become more and more specific; "I want to work with deer", or "I want to be a waterfowl biologist", or "I want to work with large carnivores."

For many young college students, graduate school becomes the next logical step in they wildlife career development. The next life-decision steps, however, traditionally become blurred and muddled with clouded thinking. The educational learning process becomes segmented into species-of-interest type of thinking; "I want to do deer research", or "I want to do waterfowl research", or "I want to do furbearer research." The student, by segmenting their interests into species-of-interest, decreases his/her chances to build a firm foundation of knowledge for their future careers. How many people with a thesis or dissertation on white-tailed deer actually obtain a life-long job with deer? Or how many graduate students conducting waterfowl research actually get a job working with ducks? More

importantly, how many people keep the same species job focus their entire careers?

I suggest a different approach in helping young students. The first step is to stop asking students, "What do you want to do when you grow up?" Secondly, we must stop drawing a line between students interested in "management" and students interested in "research." Given enough time (hopefully not on an evolutionary scale), everyone in our profession will be deeply involved in wildlife management activities conducted and guided by a new experimental research heuristic. This is where we begin to understand that all scientific knowledge is tentative, and our management activities are based upon this tentative knowledge. Therefore, our scientific knowledge and related management actions will change through time. This will require an intentional redirection of our thinking and actions, both for students and wildlife practitioners.

The line of career inquiry for young students should focus on topics related to the skills a student possesses, and the type of questions that spark curiosity in the young mind. Does the student have an aptitude or interest in population ecology questions, epidemiology, environmental philosophy, or habitat/animal relationships? Parsing out learning opportunities based upon species-of-interest severely limits a young person's career opportunities later in life. Skills and knowledge learned about population dynamics of woodpeckers can be equally useful in learning about the population dynamics of white-tailed deer. Ideas and knowledge learned from studying the effects of habitat manipulations on small mammal populations may become helpful in understanding the effects of larger-scale habitat manipulations related to federal farm programs. More surprising to some, ideas learned in a humanities class may have immediate applications to understanding the implied value judgments in a difficult land management decision impasse.

So, what do you want to do when you grow up? Do you want to be a doctor, lawyer, GIS wildlife habitat specialist, or wildlife biometrician? How about a career and in environmental problem solving, or a job where you're paid to help other people make difficult wildlife management decisions?

Enjoy life and live well.

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### **Not Another Meeting!**

John H. Schulz, NCS-TWS Past-President

We've all had that feeling before, especially when the meetings seem like a waste of our time. Sometimes, though, we have a tendency to forget the meetings where we experienced a watershed learning moment. That's

why I'm encouraging you and each state TWS chapter to seriously consider becoming more involved in the annual Section meetings and the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. These meetings provide those watershed learning experiences!

It is critical that each state chapter is represented at the annual executive board meeting of the NorthCentral Section of The Wildlife Society (NCS-TWS). Each state chapter has a vote on the executive board, and often the issues being voted on involve thousands of hard earned dollars from our Section membership. The Section's executive board also makes decisions about upcoming educational opportunities for our members. These are not trivial matters.

Open up those state chapter bank accounts and send a few folks from your chapter on an *all expense paid trip* to the next Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. While many state, federal, and private conservation organizations are cutting budgets and reducing staff, it's important that keep our professional organization active. If travel funds are not available from employer, think about using those state chapter funds to send chapter officers. What good is a professional meeting if there is no one there to listen to latest research or management results???

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### **Load up the Tour Bus**

Tim Russell, MoTWS, President-elect

One of the missions of The Wildlife Society that directly offers benefits to wildlife professionals is to enhance their knowledge, skills and ability to conserve wildlife resources. The Wildlife Society does this by encouraging professional growth through certification, peer-review publications, conferences, and working groups.

In light of the fact our profession takes in a broad interest in wildlife resources (from insects and reptiles to birds and mammals) I am not so sure a majority of those individuals in this wide variety of wildlife professions even knows about or understands the society's support for professional development. We need to remember, our profession entails not only federal and state government agencies and universities, but local government agencies, NGOs, private wildlife services, and a growing number of environmental consulting firms.

Therefore, I can see that our chapter should increase our efforts to reach these professionals and clearly define the purpose and also the benefits to being a member of

MoTWS as well as the parent society. An organization larger than what we have now could certainly support a "tour bus full" of wildlife professionals to attend valuable conferences or meetings such as the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference or the National TWS conference. Even with the current membership of 152, a grant process to help get more members to the various conferences and symposiums could certainly help provide more opportunity for members to attend and take advantage of professional development opportunities. If we can continue to increase our membership, a grant process would only help to facilitate more opportunities.

Perhaps we should think about some type of survey of not only our members but outside wildlife professionals as well. This could help us understand how well MoTWS is known and the benefits of professional development that it offers. This could ultimately serve us well as a catalyst to gain meaningful cooperation and partnerships in various natural resource efforts.

With this issue in mind, the MoTWS Executive Board would like to extend a call for call for financial support for the National TWS Conference and a grant process to facilitate participation for more members to attend. Let us hear from you by e-mailing us at [motws@motws.org](mailto:motws@motws.org).

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### Websites to Know

Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
<http://www.motws.org>

The Wildlife Society  
<http://www.wildlife.org/index.html>

Missouri Department of Conservation  
<http://www.mdc.state.mo.us>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
<http://www.fws.gov/>

International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
<http://www.iafwa.org/>

Conservation Federation of Missouri  
<http://www.confedmo.org>

MO DNR  
[www.dnr.state.mo.us](http://www.dnr.state.mo.us)

USDA/NRCS  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

USDA/APHIS  
[www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

Texas A&M job board  
[www.wfsc.tamu.edu/jobs/job\\_view.cfm](http://www.wfsc.tamu.edu/jobs/job_view.cfm)

Conservation Federation of Missouri  
<http://www.confedmo.com/>

U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance  
<http://www.wlfa.org/>

Organization of Wildlife Planners  
<http://www.owpweb.org/>

Wildlife Management Institute  
<http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org>

MoTWS Student Chapter websites:

Central Missouri State University  
[http://www.cmsu.edu/biology/stu\\_org/wl\\_index.htm](http://www.cmsu.edu/biology/stu_org/wl_index.htm)

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

University of Missouri  
<http://www.missouri.edu/~wildlife>

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### Conferences of Interest

September 25-29, 2005 The Wildlife Society 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison, Wisconsin

March 22-26, 2006 71st North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference in Hyatt Regency Columbus, Columbus, Ohio



## Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society

# Application Information

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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](mailto:motws@motws.org).

**We Hope To Be Hearing From You!!**