

MISSOURI CHAPTER
Of
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

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2006 MO-TWS Committees

Audit----Julie Fleming
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Education/Graduate Fellowship----Josh Millspaugh
Farmer/Conservationist----Brad McCord
MNRC Steering----Gene Gardner
Membership----John Vogel
Nominating----vacant
Professional Development----vacant
Resolutions----Joel Porath
Runge Award----Dennis Figg
Raffle/Auction----Dean Stucker
Operations Manual----Margie Mitchell
Stephens Award----President's Choice



**The Wildlife Society 13th Annual Conference
September 23-27, 2006
Anchorage**

Anchorage 2006 conference advertisement and preliminary program are available on the web at:
<http://www.wildlife.org/conference/index.cfm>

The President's Corner

The Fire in Their Eyes Tim Russell, President

The website for the [Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections](#) provides some of the following state and national trends for the top career opportunities:

Careers in Database and related Network Systems for Administrators' & Analysts' positions rank among the top six in growth through 2014. Their employment growth rates range from 38% to 55%. That equates to a projected level of job openings for approximately 80,000 positions nationwide over the next four years due to growth and net replacement. Physician's Assistants hold the number two slot with a projected growth of 50% over 2004 levels, and 4,000 job openings through 2014.

The wildlife biologist profession is listed below:

Wildlife Biologist careers rank 110th in the nation for projected demand. Nevada, Washington, and Idaho are the top three states with projected highest growth rates through 2014 (34%, 20% and 19% respectively). The national rate is 13% with only 730 job openings from 2004 to 2014.

Our challenge to encourage, mentor and help facilitate new wildlife professionals in this field is evermore important as the demand on the nation's natural resources continues to escalate and the direction of appropriate conservation decisions continues to fall on a small group of us.

The North Central Section Executive Board approved formation of a TWS Student Chapter at Missouri State University. The section proudly welcomes this new student chapter. We now have four such student chapters in the Show-Me State, with other campuses interested as well. I encourage, not only the Executive Board of the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society, but all MoTWS members to offer their assistance to wildlife students on the remaining Missouri

universities and colleges, fanning the flames of that burning passion we see in their eyes for a career in conservation. We will continue to have the need for wildlife professionals in academia, research and management. Future candidates should display excellent knowledge, skills and abilities to meet the future challenges on a broad array of conservation issues. Decision-making and other leadership skills will be essential. Many opportunities exist for current professionals to help encourage students and young professionals in the development of those needed skills. I challenge our chapter members to speak to a student chapter about career opportunities, to help establish a small chapter symposium on a campus, to attend a student chapter function, or to promote the scholarships available through our state TWS Chapter. Mentoring a small group of students can be valuable to their perspective on career opportunities and the choices they face.

I also encourage members to consider the substantial contributions being made towards the conservation of wildlife in Missouri from wildlife professionals (regardless of their agency or organizational affiliation) as well as from civilian conservationist groups. Take note of the efforts of your friends and colleagues. Then, write a nomination to recognize their work. The passion they have for the resource is what motivates them the most; they, too, still have that fire in their eyes. That is why I believe that wildlife conservation becomes a way of life for most of us. It feeds the very wildness inside each one of us as we step back after a period of time to see the change and sense the restoration on the landscapes when all that is wild returns. Feed the flame.

Have You Paid Your Dues?

Many of us do not think about dues for TWS except for once a year while at the Missouri Natural Resources Conference when someone asks, "Have you paid your dues?" The State Chapter dues are important to maintain our funds for projects, the website, scholarships, workshops and travel reimbursement. Realistically, you will spend \$10.00 on snacks and drinks in a month's time (some will spend that per week). Think about how much healthier you and MoTWS will be if you do not buy that soda/beer/snack and pay your dues

workshop that was held at the Bull Shoal's field station, April 1-2. As a "host chapter," we planned and prepared the lunchtime meal for the workshop attendees. According to the members that were able to attend, the event was a success. The various workshops that were offered were well received overall. Many of the MSU chapter members were able to obtain Level 1 fire certification because of their involvement with the fire workshop plus a 3-hour lecture course given previously by Brad Jump, a biologist for MDC.

For community service activities, we performed trash pick-up along our adopted street as well as trail work for the Bois D'Arc Conservation Area. We also took part in community outreach at the annual Earth Day event held on campus.

The semester would not have been complete without having some fun! A few of these activities included: spelunking, canoeing, fishing, camping, and having an end-of-semester picnic.

Currently, we are in the process of finding a way to send 4-5 chapter members to the Annual TWS conference that will be held in Anchorage, Alaska, this coming September.

University of Missouri- Columbia

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

Bethany Meyer, Secretary – Student Chapter MU

The University of Missouri Student Chapter of TWS has had an exciting year. Members have worked hard to raise money for educational conferences and other rewarding experiences. The participation of our students in our fund-raising events encourages their professionalism as well as networking with new faces.

This fall was a fast one for the membership. The chapter started the year off by jumping in with both feet; lots of football viewers were served hotdogs by our smiling TWS members. Moving further into the year, we got buck fever. Our membership helped the Missouri Department of Conservation with a deer-aging study. Members requested permission, then, removed two front teeth from deer older than 1½ years. In addition, antler measurements were taken on bucks. Members learned professional and scientific skills they do not experience in the classroom. Our members learned

about habitat management by assisting the Missouri Department of Conservation with tree planting (plus, we got money for each tree planted). The club adopted a local shooting range to clean, and formed a bird watching group. The group helped the Audubon Society with winter bird counts and traveled to Northwest Missouri to get an up-close view of the elusive Prairie Chicken. Members also helped make our Wildlife Society Banquet a success. Many people attended for the food and the raffles.

Load up the Tour Bus

Tim Russell, President

One of the missions of TWS is to enhance the knowledge, skills and abilities of wildlife professionals to conserve natural resources. The Wildlife Society does this by encouraging professional growth through certification, peer-review publications, conferences, and working groups.


Our profession encompasses a broad array of wildlife resources - from insects and reptiles to birds and mammals. I believe a majority of individuals in this wide variety of wildlife professions neither knows about nor understands the Society's support for professional development. We should remember that our profession includes not only federal and state agencies and universities, but, also, local governmental agencies, NGOs, private wildlife services, as well as a growing number of environmental consulting firms.


Our chapter should increase its efforts to reach these professionals and clearly define the purpose and 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.

Professionals and Students Build Relationships- Second Year of Student Workshop

Nineteen Wildlife and Forestry professionals led hands-on demos at the Missouri State University Bull Shoals Field Station located on the Drury-Mincy Conservation Area over the weekend of

March 31- April 2. This was an opportunity for wildlife conservation and biology students from Missouri's colleges to experience, first hand, management techniques in the field. Forty-eight students representing The Wildlife Society student chapters from five different Missouri colleges attended the workshop. Students were given the choice of participating in any or all of a variety of activities: rocket-netting, bat telemetry with mist netting and anabat detector, wildlife damage trapping, feral hog trapping, avian damage control, orienteering, GPS, raptor trapping, prescribed fire operations, herpetology sampling, and even fungi ID. This workshop was the second attempt by the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society to offer college students across the state a forum through which to share training experiences with other students and professionals. Once again, participating professionals were encouraged by the interest of students and their passion for pursuing careers in the field of wildlife management, research and conservation. Students camped at field station grounds and at primitive campground on the Drury-Mincy Conservation Area. APHIS staff sponsored an evening pig roast (of course) while the new Missouri State University Student Chapter provided grilled lunches. Springtime in the Ozarks was a great time to enjoy the blooming of service

berry, hear the wild turkeys gobble  from oak savannas and woodland hills early in the morning, and experience a typical springtime thunderstorm roll across the landscape at night. The warmer temperatures made for great herp sampling, as the numerous spring peepers were displaying their

choruses  from the sinkhole ponds on the area. Weather conditions were perfect for providing students the opportunity for observation and for some closely supervised training with prescribed fire in a post-oak savanna. Conservation professionals from, APHIS, DNR, Missouri State University, Central Missouri State College, Missouri Western State College, along with two Divisions within MDC helped coordinate the workshop. The Missouri Chapter is planning to offer the 3rd Annual Workshop for students next year - perhaps, on a big river system. Our goal is to encourage better relationships with professionals, and to provide real field experiences within a variety of Missouri's natural communities and landscapes for years to come.

Please consider assisting at next year's MoTWS Student Workshop. We welcome (read need) your ideas and your participation!

Be sure to view the photo gallery of the 2006 Spring Workshop on the MoTWS website:

<http://www.motws.org/picsindex2006.html>

Do You Want To Dance?

Mike Schroer – President-elect

This seems like a strange question in a professional society newsletter but, of course, it is meant to be rhetorical. There's a popular song by Lee Ann Womak where a parent is giving advice to one of her offspring. Basically, it says to take in the wonders of the world, but when the time comes, "I hope you dance" - meaning "get involved and don't sit on the sidelines." So, as we go through our careers, we have a choice to make: will we sit on the sidelines and watch? We might possibly complain about how "they never do what I want to do" or, perhaps, we hope not to be noticed - so, we don't get that sweaty-palm-inducing question "Do you want to dance."

OR... will you be the one to dance! The Wildlife Society in Missouri has long been nationally recognized for the many participants and leaders that have come through our Chapter. When I was in the private consulting world in Florida, another consultant, who had been in the business for 30 years, told me "Missouri has an active TWS Chapter." This fellow recognized the activity and dedication of our past colleagues. In essence, he was telling me that we must have had a lot of "dancers." It takes many people to make a Chapter "active"; it does not happen with a handful of members.

So, take this as a call for help and participation. MoTWS still has vacancies on several committees. We always need assistance at the MNRC; we are continually looking for individuals to mentor students; we need help soliciting donations for raising funds; we need hands for the Spring Workshop; and the list goes on. You have skills and knowledge that would benefit others. If you have an interest in helping MoTWS, please contact one

of the Executive Board members – we'll be happy to find a place for you to get involved!

Again, I ask you the question – and this is intended for students, potential members, inactive members, retirees, and active members - “DO YOU WANT TO DANCE?” I hope you do. Contact us individually by e-mail or at motws@motws.org.

Newsflash

Because Kim Wells is moving out of state, the Board Member-at-Large position will soon be vacant. The Executive Board will be appointing a person to serve out Kim's term. We regret a colleague leaving our state, but understand when opportunity knocks, you open the door. Good Luck to Kim in her new position.

Donate to The Wildlife Society?

Your donation supports The Wildlife Society's many programs that benefit wildlife conservation, in areas such as policy, education and outreach, and special publications.

Please consider supporting TWS programs with your voluntary donation.

The Wildlife Society is designated as a 501(c)3 non-profit association by the IRS and, as such, donations to TWS may be tax-deductible.

You may [Donate Online](#), or you may mail your donation to:

The Wildlife Society
5410 Grosvenor Lane
Suite 200
Bethesda, MD 20814

If you have any questions about a donation to The Wildlife Society, please call the Society's office at (301) 897-9770, or email twswildlife.org.

Looking for Nominations

Do you know fellow colleagues, production farmers or students worthy of scholarships? As we proceed throughout the year it is in everyone's best interest to keep our annual awards (E. Sydney Stephens,

Andy Runge, Farmer/Conservationist, or Graduate Fellowships) in the forefront of our thoughts. If you have possible candidates for any of the awards, please pass their name(s) on to the Executive Board.

TWS Publications - Digital and Online

The current issues of both the *Journal of Wildlife Management* and the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* will soon be available online at www.wildlifejournals.com. Access to the first issues of 2006 of both publications will be open and free to all, allowing users to explore the advantages of electronic access. Future issues, as well as the archival collection of both journals will be available to subscribers by logging on with their subscription user name and ID.

Technical difficulties with the digital versions of the 2005 issues of *WSB* have delayed the posting of these volumes. They will be online as soon as possible. Please send comments or questions to pubs@wildlife.org.

MNRC 2007 - TWS is the Host Society

Mark your calendars for January 31 - February 2, 2007. There will be plenty of opportunity for participation at the MNRC 2007. As the host society, MoTWS will need help from a lot of members to help make the conference a success. Do you realize how unique we are in MO and, especially, how fortunate we are to hold a 4-society professional conference? And, do you realize how fortunate we are to have multiple agencies within the state supporting the conference as well as allowing their staffs to participate in the conference as professional development?

If you can volunteer during the 2007 MNRC, please contact Gene Gardner, Steering Committee Chair, at Gene.Gardner@mdc.mo.gov, and he will direct you to an appropriate Chairperson for assignments. We want the 2007 MNRC to be the best it can be – with *your* involvement.

Need Help With Travel Expenses?

One of the main reasons our dues increased to \$10.00 a couple of years ago was to help assist members with travel funds for professional development. Is there a conference, symposium or workshop you would like to attend? To date, we have not received any requests for

the current year. If you plan to apply, please submit your application by **July 15, 2006**. The travel application form is available at: www.motws.org/TravelGrant.html

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

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/>

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

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

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

Conferences of Interest

13th Annual TWS Conference in Anchorage, Alaska,
September 23-27, 2006
<http://www.wildlife.org/conference/index.cfm>

Shortleaf Pine Symposium in Springfield, MO,
November 7-9, 2006
http://mdc.mo.gov/science/sl_pine/

Quail Unlimited National Convention in Kansas City,
MO July 26-30, 2006
<http://www.qu.org/content/events/convention/convention.cfm>

MNRC 2007 at Tan-Tar-A , Lake of the Ozarks,
January 31- February 2, 2007
<http://www.mnrc.org/>

Other TWS Annual Conference Locations
Tucson, Arizona -- September 22-26, 2007
Miami, Florida -- November 8-12, 2008
Monterey, California -- September 20-24, 2009



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!!