



MISSOURI CHAPTER  
Of  
**THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**  
NEWSLETTER

December 2008 Issue No. 38, Vol. 2

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**John Vogel, President**

2360 Highway D  
St. Charles, MO 63304  
Day phone: 636-300-1953, ext 318  
Fax: 636-926-9125  
e-mail: [John.Vogel@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:John.Vogel@mdc.mo.gov)

**Rochelle Renken, President-Elect**

1110 South College Avenue  
Columbia, MO 65201  
Day phone: 573-882-9909, ext 3242  
Fax: 573-882-4517  
e-mail: [Rochelle.Renken@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Rochelle.Renken@mdc.mo.gov)

**Mike Schroer, Past-President**

P.O. Box 180  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
Day phone: 573-522-4115, ext 3165  
Fax: 573-526-4663  
e-mail: [Mike.Schroer@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Mike.Schroer@mdc.mo.gov)

**Mike Hubbard, Secretary**

P.O. Box 180  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
Day phone: 573-522-4115, ext 3163  
Fax: 573-526-5582  
e-mail: [Mike.Hubbard@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Mike.Hubbard@mdc.mo.gov)

**Alan Leary, Treasurer**

P.O. Box 270  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
Day phone: 573-526-6678  
Fax: 573-882-4517  
e-mail: [alan.leary@modot.mo.gov](mailto:alan.leary@modot.mo.gov)

**Robert Alexander, Board Member-at-Large**

11579 Natural Bridge Road  
Bridgeton, MO 63044  
Day phone: 314-731-4769  
Fax: 314-731-4947  
e-mail: [R.C.Alexander@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:R.C.Alexander@aphis.usda.gov)

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**2008 MoTWS Committees**

**Audit**-----Julie Fleming  
**Chambers Scholarship**-----Bill Eddleman  
**Education/Graduate Fellowship**-----Josh Millspaugh  
**Farmer/Conservationist**-----Bob Schroepel  
**MNRC Steering**-----Ted Seiler  
**Membership**----- Rosemary Heinen  
**Nominating/Elections**-----Dave Murphy  
**Professional Development**-----Jennifer Mittelhauser  
**Resolutions/Public Statements**-----Joel Porath  
**Runge Award**-----Dennis Figg  
**Raffle/Auction**-----Dean Stucker  
**Operations Manual**-----Margie Mitchell  
**Stephens Award**-----President's Choice

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**Please Go On-Line And Vote**

[www.motws.org](http://www.motws.org)

**On-line Voting Deadline is Midnight February 2**



*Missouri Natural Resources Conference*

**February 4-6, 2009**

**Global Trends, Missouri Impacts:  
Adapting to Climate Change**

**Tan-Tar-A Resort and Golf Club  
Lake of the Ozarks**

Visit MNRC website [www.mnrc.org](http://www.mnrc.org) for  
updates, agenda and registration.

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## The President's Corner

By John Vogel



I began my research for this column by looking back and re-reading each fall newsletter President's Column from the last 5 years, and I found a common theme—every article mentioned the apparent lack of participation among MOTWS members when it comes to things like nominating officers, voting for officers, nominating Chapter award recipients, and providing feedback in general to Chapter activities. Typically, I like to buck trends and venture into new territory, but this time I shall keep with the same old message.

Our current database shows that in 2008, MOTWS has 145 paid members. Membership is down from a high in 2003 with 179 paid members. Is our membership suffering from the pulse of retirements in the natural resources field these days? Probably. Are we having trouble recruiting young professionals that are just entering the workforce? Yes. Are we having trouble recruiting current members to officer positions? Yes. Is everyone very busy with work life and personal life? Absolutely! Is involvement in professional societies such as The Wildlife Society, American Fisheries Society and Society of American Foresters important? I believe it is.

So—where do we go from here? We are currently working on a couple of ideas that might improve communication between Chapter members. One idea that might soon become a reality is a Missouri Chapter listserv, similar to the parent society listserv, which would greatly improve communication among members. Another idea that is being looked at is some type of continuing

education workshop for members. For those of you that do not know, all Certified Wildlife Biologists that were certified after January of 2000, must renew their certification every 5 years. Currently, the Missouri Society of American Foresters hosts a spring and fall workshop for its membership. From a MOTWS standpoint, a workshop similar to the Spring Student Workshop that we host each year, could provide valuable assistance to our Chapter membership. We plan to investigate the potential of a joint workshop with our peers in the Missouri Society of American Foresters as well. A diverse educational background will only make us stronger!

I will end with my pitch for involvement. I likely waited too long this year to begin the search for candidates to fill the Executive Board positions for President-Elect, Secretary, and Board Member-At-Large. I had no idea how difficult it would be to get people interested in throwing their name into the hat! However, I sincerely thank everyone who was willing to serve as a candidate for the open positions! For those that are elected by our membership to represent the Missouri Chapter, CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU! For those that are not elected, please do not give up, our Chapter will need many leaders in the future and I hope you will consider another try sometime. To the rest of our members—PLEASE VOTE FOR OFFICERS DURING OUR UPCOMING ELECTION AND PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING BACK TO THE MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY BY SERVING ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE.

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## **PLEASE Don't Forget to Pay your Dues!**

The State Chapter dues (\$10.00 annually) are important to maintain our funds towards projects, the website, scholarships, workshops, and travel reimbursement. If you have not paid your dues for 2009, please mail payment to:

**Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
PO Box 743  
Columbia, MO 65205 – 0743**

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## Treasurer's Report

January 1, 2008 thru December 15, 2008

Alan Leary, Treasurer

### CHECKING ACCOUNT

**Beginning balance as of 01/01/08** **\$5458.29**

#### Credits

2008 Membership dues: 156 @ \$10 \$1560.00  
2009 Membership dues: 2 @ \$10 \$ 20.00

2008 MNRC income \$ 1362.00

Silent auction \$ 471.00  
Raffle tickets \$ 645.00  
MoTWS hat sales \$ 246.00

Spring 2008 Workshop \$ 470.00

Registrations \$ 465.00  
Donation \$ 5.00

Other \$ 84.80

Donations \$ 20.00  
Dividends \$ 64.80

**Total Credits** **\$3496.80**

#### Debits

2008 MNRC expenses \$ 467.97

Award plaques & engraving \$ 273.64  
Rifle purchased for gun raffle \$ 179.78  
Postage-silent auction items \$ 14.55

2009 MNRC expenses \$ 240.00

Exhibit Booth Rentals \$ 240.00

2008 Spring Workshop \$1117.06

Food & accommodations \$ 859.53  
Thank you gifts for \$ 257.53  
Klondike Park staff

2009 Spring Workshop \$ 150.48

Site investigation \$150.48

2008 Affiliate Membership CFM \$ 166.00

Other \$ 136.52

PO Box Rental \$ 41.00  
Web Site Annual Fee \$ 95.52

**Total Debits** **\$2278.03**

**Ending Balance as of 12/31/08** **\$6677.06**

## 2009 Spring Student Workshop

The 2009 Spring Student Workshop, sponsored by Missouri's Chapter of The Wildlife Society, will be held at Wah-Kon-Tah Prairie near El Dorado Springs in southwest Missouri during April 4-5, 2009. During the workshop students from five different university chapters within Missouri will have the opportunity to learn about prairie management; the plight of Missouri's prairie chickens; the Department of Conservation's efforts to rejuvenate prairie chicken populations; procedures for estimating bird and small mammal populations in prairies; and perhaps, an opportunity to complete Level 1 fire training. Students will rub elbows with experts in prairie management and prairie chickens as the experts illustrate what efforts are taken to restore and manage prairies, and students are introduced to skills that are needed to evaluate the success of prairie management and prairie chicken restoration efforts. A highlight of the workshop will be the opportunity to watch booming prairie chickens on a lek.

Wah-Kon-Tah Prairie is about 2300 acres, and owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy. The Missouri Department of Conservation owns and manages several other prairies near Wah-Kon-Tah, thus making the region important for private and public efforts to preserve and conserve the various components of prairie systems within Missouri. The annual workshop is held in different location each year and the 2009 location was chosen to provide students with the opportunity to learn more about prairie ecosystems.

The 2009 Spring Student Workshop will be the fifth workshop sponsored by the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The annual workshop is one way the Missouri Chapter tries to mentor student chapter members within the state. You may be asked to become involved in the workshop. I am still making plans for the workshop and would like to involve many professionals. But don't wait for my phone call! If you would like to help with the workshop in any fashion or would just like to hang out with the students, I more than welcome your involvement.

Rochelle Renken  
President-elect

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## MOTWS Hats Now Available!



What better way to show your pride in the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society than to wear one of our new hats! The hats are \$12 each. Contact any member of the Executive Board to purchase a MOTWS hat. Or be certain to bring your money to the 2009 Missouri Natural Resources Conference, February 4-6, 2009 at Tan-Tar-A resort at The Lake of the Ozarks and purchase one at the Chapter's booth!

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## Ted Needs Help!

Ok, so Ted Seiler does not need the help that might be implied by the title of this section, but he would love to have your help on the 2010 MNRC Steering Committee! MOTWS is the host society for the 2010 conference. Ted is the 2010 MNRC Steering Committee Chair and the Committee still has a several chair slots that need to be filled. So if you want to get involved with the planning for the 2010 MNRC, please contact Ted at [Ted.Seiler@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Ted.Seiler@mdc.mo.gov) or 660/385-2616, ext. 118.

As the Host Society of our annual Quad Society Conference, MOTWS will need help from many members to help make the conference a success. Registration workers are always welcome; illumination engineers (turn the lights off/on) are in demand; plus, we are always looking for fresh faces to work our Society booth during the conference. We want the 2010 MNRC to be the best it can be – with **your** involvement. If you can volunteer during the 2010 MNRC, please contact Ted Seiler at: [Ted.Seiler@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Ted.Seiler@mdc.mo.gov).

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## Don't Forget to Vote

All voting members will receive an e-mail soon with your Voter ID number so that you can go online at [www.motws.org](http://www.motws.org) to vote! On-voting will be open until midnight Monday, February 2, 2009. You can also vote at the MOTWS booth at MNRC or by using the ballot included with this newsletter.

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### Upcoming Business at Annual Meeting February 5, 2009

2009 Spring Student Workshop Plans  
Committee Vacancies  
Presentation about Wisconsin's CWD  
Student Chapter Reports  
Election Results

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### Student Chapters

There are currently 5 active Student Chapters of The Wildlife Society in Missouri. Please make sure you attend the MOTWS Annual Meeting on February 5, 2009 to hear from our Student Chapters on the great activities in which they are involved!

Missouri State University

Missouri Western

Southeast Missouri State University

University of Central Missouri

University of Missouri

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## Wisconsin's CWD Experience

Alan Crossley, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Chronic Wasting Disease Project Leader, will be giving a presentation at our annual business meeting on February 5, 2009 about Wisconsin's experience with CWD. Alan is also our TWS North Central Section representative and we hope he will also provide us with news of TWS section and parent society activities. So be certain to attend the business meeting on Thursday, February 5 at 3 p.m.!

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# Donations Needed for MNRC Raffle

Last year generous members and corporate sponsors donated artwork, hunting accessories, backpacks and other items to make our auction extremely successful. If members would once again donate items or contact a business for a donation, we could make this auction successful as well. Remember, all donations are tax deductible and you will be helping The Wildlife Society's scholarship fund.

If you have items to donate or have any questions, please contact Dean Stucker, MNRC Raffle Committee chair deanstucker@yahoo.com or call him at 660-287-2590.

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## FREE MONEY-Any Takers?

The MOTWS Travel Grant is available to all MOTWS members for travel to conferences. The Grant has not been used much since it was developed. In these days of tight budgets and very tight travel budgets for all agencies, additional funds such as the travel grant could be just what you need to convince your boss to let you make that trip! Go to the website at [www.motws.org](http://www.motws.org) for more details.



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## Conferences of Interest

### MNRC 2009

Lake of the Ozarks, Tan-Tar-A Resort February 4 - 6,  
2009

### Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

Springfield, Illinois – December 2009

### Annual Wildlife Society Conference

Monterey, California -- September 20-24, 2009  
Snowbird, Utah – September 19-23, 2010

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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.cfm>

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

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  
<http://www.dnr.mo.gov>

USDA/NRCS  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

USDA/APHIS  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/>

Texas A&M job board  
<http://wfscnet.tamu.edu/jobboard/index.htm>

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

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

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

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

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## 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!!**

# Biographies of Candidates for MO TWS Executive Board Positions

## Candidate for President-elect

Scott Sudkamp

Age: 37

Hometown: Neoga, Illinois

Education: B.S., Environmental Biology/Botany Minor; Eastern Illinois University, 1994; M.S., Zoology; Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 1997

Employment History: Wildlife Biologist/Asst. Area Manager, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 1998-2002; Wildlife Biologist, Missouri Department of Conservation, 2002-2004; Private Land Conservationist, Missouri Department of Conservation, 2004-present;

Professional/Conservation-related Affiliations: The Wildlife Society, 1995-present; Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 1998-2002; Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 2002-present; The Nature Conservancy; Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation

Professional Interests: Bobwhite ecology and management; wildlife management opportunities through the USDA Farm Bill; wetland development and management; effects of fire and grazing on grassland habitats; woodland restoration and management; invasive species management and control

Personal Interests: Upland bird hunting; bird dog training; family; and native plant landscaping/gardening

## Candidate for President-elect

Kevin Hedgpeth

Wildlife Management Biologist, Missouri Department of Conservation, Lebanon, MO

I am currently headquartered at the Lebanon forestry office and serve the Niangua District and I am transitioning to also manage the James River District in the Southwest Region including Bois D'arc Conservation Area. I worked for MDC on the Spring River Demo farm (Now Talbot CA) in 1982, graduated from Southwest Missouri State University in 1983 with a Wildlife Conservation and Management Degree and worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for nearly 17 years at Truman, Clinton, Okeechobee, Hartwell, Norfolk and Bull Shoals lakes. I came back to MDC in December of 2000. I enjoy working on habitat projects, licensed lands on Pomme de Terre and Truman lakes, helping on endangered species monitoring and survey including hellbenders, and cave gate projects to protect Gray and Indiana bats and other species.

I have served as President of the Bunt Cumbea Laclede County Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation from 2001-2004, served as a member on the NWTF state board reviewing superfund projects and currently serve as a technical committee member on the state board.

I enjoy hunting, fishing and canoeing with my 4 children, Rachel, Katey, Bryan and Steven. My wife Beth even gets to canoe occasionally, although she hasn't learned to use a paddle yet!

I look forward to working with the Student chapter of the Wildlife Society at MSU-Springfield and plan to involve them on habitat and monitoring projects on Bois D'arc, Rocky Barrens and Dale Sare Conservation Areas. As a member of the wildlife Society I am aware of the need to share information and as president of the State chapter I will work to communicate effectively with the conservation community.

Thank You,

Kevin Hedgpeth

## **Candidate for Secretary**

Jeff Esely

### **Personal Data:**

I was born in St. Petersburg, Florida in 1973, but grew up in Savannah, MO. Since 2000, I've been married to my wife, Karla, and so far our only child is our yellow lab, Skeeter.

My interest in wildlife began early, as I spent the bulk of my childhood controlling the populations of bullfrogs, house sparrows and other worthy quarry around the area. I also ran a successful fish stocking operation in which I relocated dozens of bullhead from the local stream to the neighboring farm ponds. Having already spent my formative years managing the local fish and wildlife, I decided that I might as well continue these pursuits as an adult.

### **Education:**

B.S., Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Northwest Missouri State University, 1995.  
M.S., Biological Sciences, Eastern Illinois University, 1998. My graduate work focused on the breeding ecology and impaling behavior of Loggerhead Shrikes in northwest Missouri.

### **Employment:**

My career in wildlife began with two stints on the MOFEP bird crew in 1993 and 1995. I followed that up with a few other temporary jobs involving turtle, fish, and bird monitoring in the eastern US. My first permanent position was in North Carolina, where I spent five years working for a natural resource agency in the Charlotte area. There I was responsible for developing nature preserve management plans and monitoring plant and animal populations in response to management practices. While I enjoyed my time out east, Missouri never stopped calling me home, and I came back to work for MDC in 2005 as a Private Land Conservationist.

### **Other Information:**

I currently serve as the secretary and membership/newsletter chair for my local chapter of Quail Unlimited. I also helped form, and now serve as a board member of, the Cuivre River Wildlife Management Association. This is a coalition of landowners working to improve wildlife populations and hunting opportunities in the local area. My other affiliations include Ducks Unlimited

and the Quality Deer Management Association. While in North Carolina, I was a member the state TWS chapter, and was also active in Partners-in-Flight efforts. I became a Certified Wildlife Biologist in 2006, and am a brand new member of the Missouri TWS chapter. I would be excited to serve as the chapter secretary.

## **Candidate for Secretary**

Terry Coon

### **Hometown:**

Berger, Missouri

### **Education:**

B.S. Biology Major/Criminal Justice Minor from Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, MO, 1995. A.A. in General Studies from East Central College in Union, MO, 1993.

### **Work Experience:**

Since August of 2000, I have been working as a Wildlife Resource Technician for the Missouri Department of Conservation at the Columbia Bottom CA in St. Louis. Work duties include: supervising two full time staff; area and habitat management; public relations work with managed hunts and interpretive programs; and working on a nation-wide mourning dove project 2003. Prior to working at Columbia Bottom I worked for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for several years as a Seasonal Wildlife Area Assistant and a Maintenance and Repair Technician.

### **Activities:**

I have been a member of the Missouri Chapter of the Wildlife Society for one year. I also serve as a member of the New Haven, Missouri Volunteer Fire Department. In addition, I am a Missouri Hunter Education Instructor.

### **Hobbies:**

In my spare time I enjoy hunting and fishing as well as playing baseball and fast pitch softball.

## **Candidate for Board Member**

Jef Hodges

BS Fisheries and Wildlife

University of Missouri – Columbia 1979

I started my career with the University of Missouri – Gaylord Memorial Lab as a research technician in 1980. I spent 5 years with MDC in a variety of temporary full-time and seasonal jobs including, wildlife technician, planting native grasses, fisheries technician and creel census clerk. I followed that with 5 years of work with Sharp Brothers Seed Company managing the seed conditioning and warehousing division and also was involved in marketing. In 1992 I began as the Regional Director for Quail Unlimited for the Great Plains Region, covering 6 Midwestern states where I worked for 15 years until October 2007. I currently operate my own natural resource consulting and contracting company, Total Resource Management.

## **Candidate for Board Member**

Debra Burns

**Personal data:** I was born December 31, 1974 and grew up in Granby, Massachusetts. My older sister and I were raised as tomboys spending a lot of time fishing and shooting BB-guns with our father. I moved to Flagstaff, Arizona in the winter of 1998 and then moved to Lone Jack, Missouri in 2002. I have been married to my husband Bob for 5 years, but we've been best friends for at least 12 years. We are fairly new parents of a wonderful little girl named Brenna, born in May of 2008. We also have 1 cat and 2 dogs. I love reading, deer hunting, and native landscaping.

**Education:** I received a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA in 1996. I received a Master of Science in Forestry, Wildlife Emphasis, from the Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff in 2001. My graduate study looked at the use of Gambel oak by bats in northern Arizona.

**Employment:** Since March of 2002, I have been working for the Missouri Department of Conservation. I started as the Urban Wildlife Biologist in Kansas City and was promoted in April of 2007 to Wildlife Regional Supervisor. From 1999 to 2002, I worked as a research assistant and field crew leader on a handful of research projects for the School of Forestry mostly on cavity nesting birds and did contract work for Arizona Game and Fish on wintering raptors. From 1997 -1998, I worked for the Harvard Forest, Harvard University researching the history of wildlife in Massachusetts (pre-settlement to the present) resulting in a couple journal articles and one book chapter. From 1996-1997, I worked as a temporary research assistant for the Connecticut Wildlife Division working on furbearers

**Wildlife Society Activities:** I've been a part of The Wildlife Society since joining the student chapter at UMASS. I've been a member of the New England, Northeast, Arizona, Southwest, North Central, and Missouri Wildlife Societies. I have presented papers at the Arizona/ New Mexico Wildlife Society Conference and the 2001 Wildlife Society Conference in Reno, NV.

**Why I want to serve:** To serve as Board Member at Large would allow me a chance to give back to my profession. Many times we get so caught up in our own little working worlds that we forget that there are so many other professionals out there in the state that we can learn from or that they may actually have something to learn from us. The Society allows us the opportunity to build those educational/mentoring relationships through conferences, trainings and workshops.

**BALLOT**

**Vote for only one in each Category**

**President-elect:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Scott Sudkamp

\_\_\_\_\_ Kevin Hedgpeth

**Secretary**

\_\_\_\_\_ Jeff Esely

\_\_\_\_\_ Terry Coon

**Board Member**

\_\_\_\_\_ Jef Hodges

\_\_\_\_\_ Deb Burns

**Ballots must be received by close of business on**

**Friday January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Send completed ballot to:**

**MoTWS - Nominations**

**P.O. Box 743**

**Columbia, MO 65205-0743**