

THE NORTHEAST SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Photo courtesy of Zach Adams

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THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY TAKES RALEIGH

Sydney Spicer

The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference took place in Raleigh, North Carolina, and was attended by a huge variety of wildlife professionals. From retirees of the wildlife field to undergraduates from institutions across the country, nearly every sector of the field was represented in Raleigh.

The Conference kicked off on October 15th with all-day workshops with topics including Spatial Recapture, Maintaining Green Infrastructure, and Wild Pig Management.

Sunday began with a plenary dedicated to the theme of this year's conference: partnerships. To start the day off, Shane Mahoney and John Beck delivered inspirational talks to the over 1,000 people who flooded into the ballroom. They were followed up by 2015 Aldo Leopold award winner, Jim Nichols, who gave a talk on how Leopold would feel about the wildlife profession titled "On the Evolution of



**Two Coquerel's
sifaka lemurs who
call the Duke
Lemur Center
home.**

*Photo courtesy of
Dr. Chuck Yohn*

the Wildlife Profession: The Times They Are A-Changin'."

The week continued, full of workshops, field trips, and networking. One of the major hits of the event were the field trips to the Duke Lemur Center, which took place on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the Conference. Another highlight of the Conference was the Student-Professional Networking Event at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. There, attendees could explore the museum and check out the different exhibits. The Conference also provided an opportunity for students to showcase their research as a part of the poster exhibit or presenting their papers.

Looking beyond Conference activities, Raleigh was a beautiful city to explore and experience for the duration of the Conference. Attendees explored many different eateries including local barbecue places, an excellent burger place called Chuck's, and some magnificent little coffee shops that were only a few minutes' walk from the conference center. The city was flush with shops, museums, and parks that all made for an excellent visit.

Overall, the Conference was a success, and it's safe to say that we're looking forward to Albuquerque next year!

Featured Photographer: Zach Adams

Zach Adams is a senior at Juniata College studying Environmental Science. Before Juniata College, he attended Paul Smith's College for two years studying Wildlife Management. Zach has worked for the National Audubon Society as an educator and summer camp counselor as well as the University of Delaware as an avian point count technician for SHARP (Saltmarsh habitat and avian research program). Zach's interests include birding, mycology, cooking and writing poetry. Zach would like to seek higher degrees in ornithology and eventually become an educator at the college level.



If you are interested in being the next issue's Featured Photographer or know someone who might be, contact Sydney at spicesa15@juniata.edu

Updates from the Annual Conference

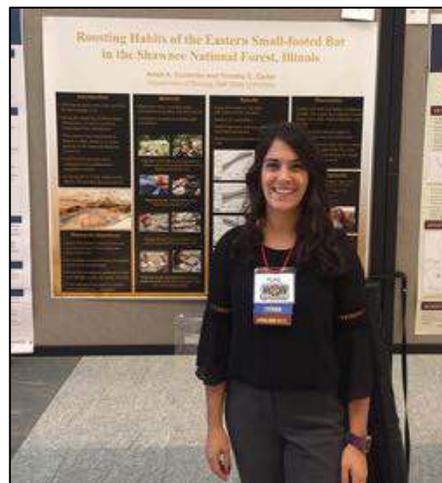
A message from the Student Development Working Group –

My name is Kristi Confortin, I am currently the incoming Chair of the Student Development Working Group. Our working group focuses on promoting increased student awareness of the Wildlife Society membership benefits.

As of this year every student that is a member of our parent society is automatically a member of our working group. Our working group is to be a voice for the students, and provide many benefits to the Student University Chapters. Some of our benefits are networking with other students with our new Google Groups, receive first-hand advice on how to transition from students to early career professionals and you also receive a weekly student version of the eWildlifer with information geared towards students.

At the annual conference our working group host meetings, workshops, poster sessions, a mentoring program and a student chapters' leaders' breakfast. Our working group looks forward to working directly with students, we love to have more student's members. We also have a Facebook page, where we encourage Student Chapters to post on, such as activities with photos, or conference/meeting photos from local sections, conclave ideas, etc.

This will be a great way for students across the country to see each other's chapter hard work. We look forward to working with students, as we are the next generation and love to hear from everyone.



Confortin at the student research in progress poster session this year at the 23rd annual conference in Raleigh,



Photo courtesy of Zach Adams

Northeast Updates:

Workshop Committee Report

Thank you to all for participating in our August workshop survey. It was of great value in helping us plan workshops for the Northeast Section.

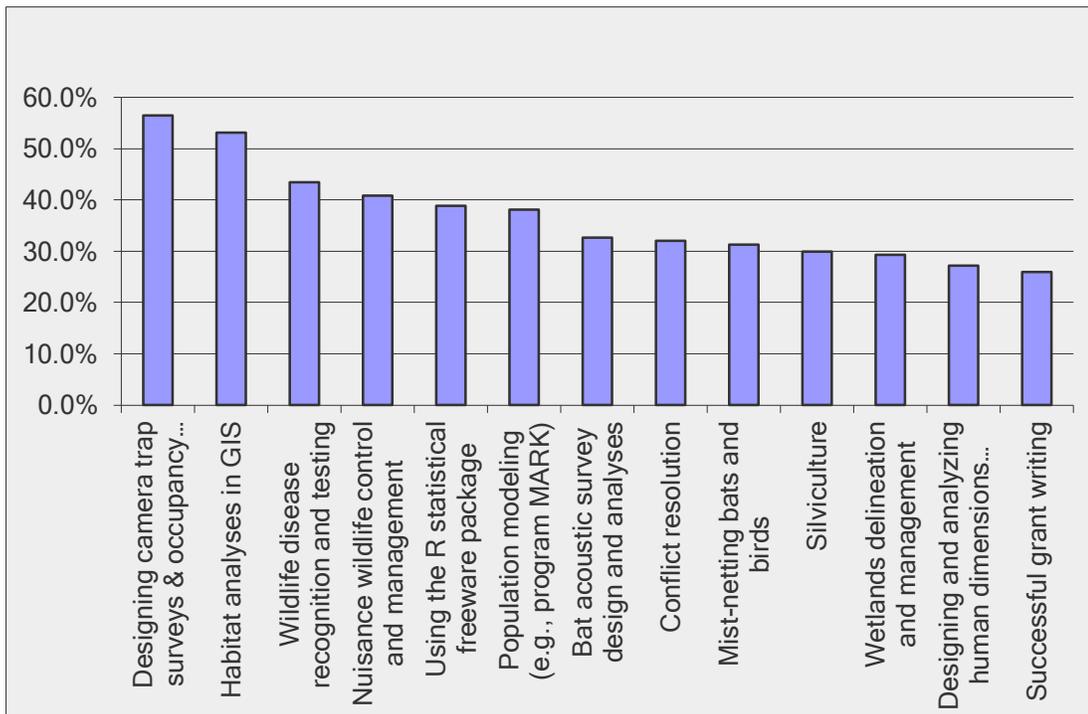
Question 1 concerned topics of preference from a given list. The top three, in order, are *designing camera trap surveys and occupancy*, *habitat analysis in GIS*, and *wildlife disease recognition and testing*.

Question 2, other topics of interest, was not so straight forward. As a group, we listed over 100 topics including drones, invasive plants, non-lead ammunition, wildlife first aid, trapping, leadership, and citizen science, to name a few.

Questions 3 and 4 involved days of preference associated with the NEAFWA conference and interest in a workshop outside of the conference. As a group, we slightly prefer a Sunday workshop, in relation to NEAFWA. And 88.5% of us are interested in a workshop that is independent of the conference.

Results: Given these data, the workshop committee is developing two workshops to be available at the NEAFWA conference. Estimating that habitat analysis in GIS may be more complex than can be delivered at a conference workshop the committee chose *camera trap surveys and occupancy* along with *wildlife disease recognition and testing* as workshop topics. Once these workshops are organized, the committee hopes to develop a *habitat analysis in GIS* workshop for the membership at some date beyond the 2017 NEAFWA conference.

The committee gratefully acknowledges the work of Samara Trusso (Pennsylvania Game Commission) in the development and analysis of the workshop survey!



Question 1 asked for workshop preferences based off of a given list of options. The results of question 1 are listed in the graph to the right, in order of most desired to least desired

Northeast Updates:

Call for Nominations - Awards Presented by Northeast Section, The Wildlife Society

The Northeast Section of the Wildlife Society is looking for nominations for the following five awards. Please consider nominating a deserving member of the society. **For contact information, see page 10**

TWS Fellows Award – Due 15 January, 2017.

The Fellows Program recognizes members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to our profession. TWS Fellows serve as ambassadors for the Society and as such are encouraged to engage in outreach and other activities that will benefit and promote both TWS and the wildlife profession.

A maximum of two TWS Fellows per Section may be appointed annually, with an annual Society-wide total not to exceed 10, by vote of Council at the March meeting. Sitting members of Council cannot be nominated.

Please submit all materials to the NE TWS awards committee or to the NE executive committee by 15 January, 2017.

TWS Distinguished Service Award - 15 April, 2017

The award is given by the parent Wildlife Society to a member of each section for their long term dedication and service to the society. Nominees must have been members of the parent society for more than 20 years. Nominees should have also served the society to help further in goals at the chapter, section, or international level. More information can be found at: <http://wildlife.org/distinguished-service-award/>. A final nominee will be selected among the candidates by the Northeast Executive Committee and submitted to parent society. The recipient will be provided an award lapel pin and certificate, to be given during the Awards Ceremony at the TWS Annual Conference.

Please submit all materials to the awards committee chair

The P.F. English Memorial Award - 15 February 2017

The P.F. English Memorial Award is presented annually by the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society to the outstanding undergraduate senior student of wildlife biology or wildlife management within the region. Its purpose is to acknowledge and to encourage students, and to perpetuate the name of the late P.F. English, an outstanding educator, sportsman, and inspiration to youth.

Submit student's name, transcripts, GRE scores if available, evidence of work experience, and a personal letter of recommendation to the Awards Committee Chairperson (preferably via email).

Certificates of Recognition - 15 February 2017

In contrast to the John Pearce Memorial Award, which is presented for outstanding professional accomplishment, Certificates of Recognition may be awarded to people in any area of work, professional or non-professional, who have made noteworthy contributions to knowledge about wildlife or wildlife management, furthered public understanding, or who have made available increased wildlife habitat through modification of land use practices (e.g., agriculture, highways, forestry). Any member of the Northeast Section may recommend recipients of the Certificate of Recognition.

Submit candidate's names, justifications, resumes, and letters of support to the Awards Committee Chairperson (preferably via email).

The John Pearce Memorial Award - 15 February 2017

The John Pearce Memorial Award shall be made by the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society to Society members in the Northeast for outstanding professional accomplishments in Wildlife Conservation in the Northeast. The basic criteria for judging professional accomplishment of nominees shall be (1) contribution of knowledge and (2) leadership over a period of several years in any areas of wildlife work, including research, management, administration, or education - as evidence by publications, skillful development, and/or application of effective management or educational programs or methods. Any member of The Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society may nominate persons to be considered by the Awards Committee. The award may be made to an individual, or jointly to individuals who have worked together for several years.

Submit candidate's names, justifications, resumes, and letters of support to the Awards Committee Chairman by preferably via email).

Northeast Updates:

2017 Northeast Student Conclave

Sydney Spicer

As of last month, no school had signed up to host the 2017 Northeast Conclave. As we inched closer and closer to the spring, concern from the student chapters in the Northeast Section about whether or not there would be a Conclave this year began to grow.

Planning for Conclave is no easy feat. There are site logistics, registration, event planning, speaker scheduling, and more to get done. With time passing so quickly, and no main host school, it did not seem like Conclave was going to happen. That concern is what sparked California University of PA Chapter President, Laken Ganoë, to hold a meeting of all of the student chapters from the Northeast who were present at the conference in Raleigh. Chapters represented included CalU, University of Maine, Green Mountain College, Penn State, Juniata College, Paul Smith's, and University of Maryland.

Ideas were thrown out about how the chapters could make Conclave happen, and finally, Juniata College Chapter President Zach Adams suggested that the chapters divide and conquer. Instead of one chapter taking on the entire load of planning the event, it would be split up.

After that, volunteers came rolling in. Each chapter stepped forward in some way to offer what they could in planning this event. With a fairly widespread division of labor, the planning can now move forward, and we can hopefully expect a Student Conclave this Spring - April 7-9 to be specific, so mark your calendars!

If you or your chapter is interested in contributing to Student Conclave in any way, contact Laken Ganoë at

GAN5557@calu.edu



Sydney Spicer

California University of PA Chapter President, Laken Ganoë, addresses Northeast Section Student Chapters at Raleigh

Upcoming events and conferences in the Northeast

New England Fall Workshop
November 17

Maine TWS Annual Meeting
March 8-10

PA TWS Annual Meeting
March 31-April 1

Northeast Student Conclave:
April 7-9 (subject to change)

NEAFWA Conference:
April 9-11

Wildlife News

African Giant Pouched Rat in the War Against Trafficking Pangolins

by Oliver Milman

An elite group of African giant pouched rats will be used at ports, initially in Tanzania to detect illegal shipments of pangolins – the world’s most trafficked animal, which has been pushed towards extinction due to the trade in its scales and skins – as well as hardwood timber.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service is spending \$100,000 on a pilot project that will train rats to detect the illegal items and learn to communicate this to their human handlers. The rats, which can grow up to 3ft long, have poor eyesight but an excellent sense of smell. They have pouched cheeks, much like a hamster, which give the species its name.

African giant pouched rats have previously been attached to leashes and used to detect mines and tuberculosis. Bart Weetjens, a Belgian rat enthusiast, started a project that has trained and accredited rats that have found 1,500 buried landmines in Africa and south-east Asia. More than 5,000 TB patients have also been identified by the rats.

The Fish & Wildlife Service said it hoped that the foray into the investigation of wildlife smuggling would be the first stage of a “much larger project to mainstream rats as an innovative tool in combating illegal wildlife trade”.

The Obama administration has recently escalated its crackdown on the hunting and trafficking of imperiled African wildlife. Last week, the Fish & Wildlife Service announced a ban on the import of all “trophies” – such as heads, paws and tails – taken by American hunters from captive-bred lions in Africa.

The money for rat training is part of a larger than \$1.2 million package that will provide funding for law enforcement in Cambodia, forest patrols to reduce tiger poaching in Indonesia and sniffer dogs to unearth illegal shipments of saiga antelope horn.

“These grants provide much-needed resources to support projects on the ground where wildlife trafficking is decimating some of the Earth’s most cherished and most unusual species,” said Dan Ashe, director of the Fish & Wildlife Service.

Full article can be found on [The Guardian](#)



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

US Fish and Wildlife Approved Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge!

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has officially approved a new National Wildlife Refuge in the northeastern United States. The Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge will span up to 15,000 acres in six states. The refuge aims to protect shrub land and young forest habitat for wildlife in the area, including the New England cottontail (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*), American woodcock (*Scolopax minor*), and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). The new refuge will contribute to conservation efforts for declining migratory bird populations and threatened and endangered species. The agency can now begin the process of acquiring land from landowners interested in contributing to wildlife conservation by selling or donating land to the Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge

Article from [TWS News](#)

National TWS News

NEAFWA 73rd Annual Conference Call for Presentation Abstracts

The scientific program will consist of three types of sessions:

- Organized Symposia** (oral presentations organized by a topic of interest)
- Contributed Oral Presentations** (20-minute presentations grouped into sessions by topic)
- Poster Presentations**

Proposals are being accepted for all three types of presentations, now through **December 11, 2016**. Proposals must be submitted through the [online submission form](#) in order to be considered.

Please submit an abstract only if you plan to attend the meeting. Presenting authors must be registered for the conference on the day of their scheduled presentation. The Registration Deadline for all presenters is **February 15, 2017**. This is also the early registration deadline. If you submit an abstract and fail to register by this date, your abstract may be dropped from the program. A separate online registration form will be available via the conference website.

Each submission must include the following: **Contact Information, Presentation Type, Track, Title of Presentation, Authors and Affiliations**, and **Abstract** (up to 300 words).

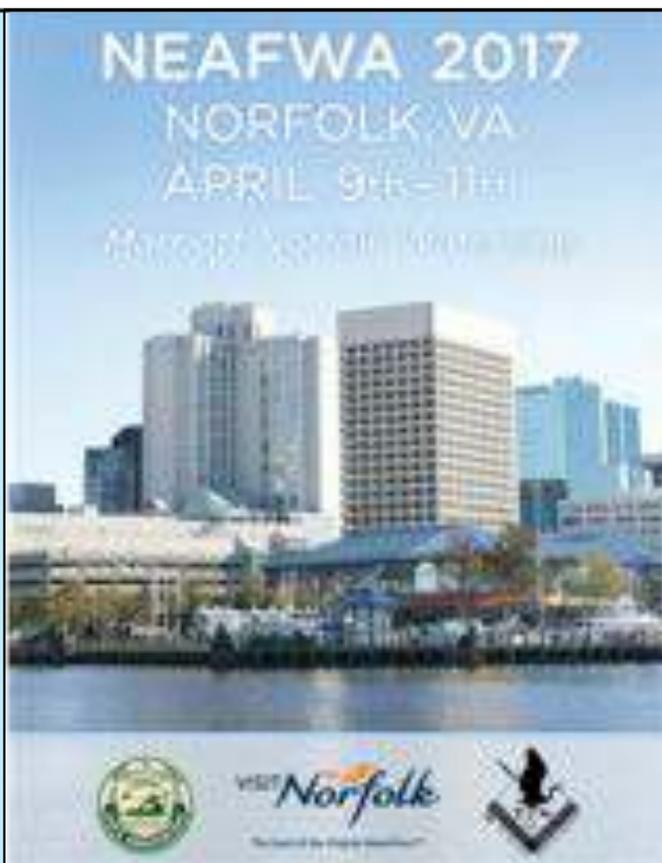
Nominations for Positions in the Northeast:

Positions available:

President Elect – 3-year term

Treasurer – 2-year term

All nominations should be submitted to Tim Green, Operations Committee Chair at tgreen@bni.gov by the end of January. Elections will take place in March, and officers will take their post at the annual meeting in April.



Membership Application

NORTHEAST SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY: Membership Application

Stay connected and engaged! Please use this form to apply for membership in the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society:

- ❖ Regular Membership [] (\$8 per year)
- ❖ Retired Membership [] (\$8 per year)
- ❖ Student Membership [] (\$5 per year)

Make checks payable to: "The Northeast Section, TWS."

Mail to: Michael Schiavone

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754

P: (609) 383-3938 x 31

Email: Michael.schiavone@dec.ny.gov

Name: _____

Institution/Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Country/Zip (Postal) Code: _____ Daytime telephone number: () _____

E-mail: _____

Alternatively—

Apply for or renew your Section membership when you apply for or renew your National membership online! Visit <http://wildlife.org/membership> to complete your application.

Who's who in the Northeast?

Executive Board:

President : Terra Rentz
SUNY — ESF
P: (315) 470-6762
Email: terra.rentz@gmail.com

President-elect: Emily Just
Bureau of Forestry
P: (717) 425-5367
Email: emjust@pa.gov

Secretary: Michael Schiavone
New York DEC
Email: Michael.schiavone@dec.ny.gov

Treasurer: Scott C. Williams
Dept. Forestry and Horticulture
P: (203) 974-8609
Email: scott.williams@ct.gov

Section

Representative: Paul Johansen
West Virginia Div. of Natural
Resources
P: (304) 558-2771
Email: Paul.R.Johansen@wv.gov

Audit Committee

Chair	Mitch Hartley	Mitch_hartley@fws.gov
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Awards Committee

Chair	Jennifer Higbie	higbie@bnl.gov
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Communications Committee

Newsletter Editor	Sydney Spicer	spicesa15@juniata.edu
Webmaster	Ken MacKenzie	Ken.mackenzie@state.ma.us
NE Representative to TWP	Shawn Haskell	Shawn.haskell@maine.gov

Conservation Affairs Committee

Co-Chair (NJ)	Eric Schradling	Eric_schradling@fws.gov
Co-Chair (PA)	Emily Boyd	boydes06@gmail.com

Operations Committee

Chair	Tim Green	tgreen@bnl.gov
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Student Affairs Committee

Co-Chair	Val Titus	Valorie.titus@greenmtn.edu
Co-Chair	Shawn Cleveland	smclevel@esf.edu
Field Course Chair	John McDonald	twsmdonald@gmail.com

Workshop (ad hoc) Committee

Chair	Allen Gosser	Allen.l.gosser@aphis.usda.gov
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Photo
courtesy of
Zach Adams