



Photo courtesy of Ryan von Linden

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Hello Northeast!!

Is it just me, or is spring on our doorstep?? I love this time of year. Although I'm a bit of a snow bunny, I can't resist new buds, melting snow, plants pushing through the soil, and every living creature shaking winter from their shoulders.

What else does spring bring? The Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference!!!! And this particular conference marks a personal milestone as I pass the gavel to our new President – the fantastic Emily Just.

As I write this article I'm drawn to reflect on the last few years. You, wonderful members of the Northeast, never elected me as President. I assumed the role transitioning from Vice President after the hardship and passing of our friend, colleague, and former President Stacy Carpenter. In addition to completing Stacy's term I remained in the role as we shifted our leadership structure. It's been three years...three interesting years full of change, growth, and energy.

We've accomplished a lot through tireless contributions from our board, committee chairs, members, and professional partners. We have restructured the Section Board to incorporate a cleaner Presidential transition and to ensure that there is never complete turnover at any one time. We have created, eliminated, and reorganized committees to better tap into member strengths. We passed the first Section-wide position statement, re-inserted ourselves as a contributing partner to the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference (NEFWC), strengthened our relationship with our fisheries counterparts at AFS, and for the fourth consecutive year

have co-lead a dynamite student development component at our annual conference. We've hired a newsletter editor, Sydney Spicer, hosted our first (and soon second) annual member's reception, increased communications, and started a Facebook page. We have a Conservation Affairs Committee that truly has region-wide representation, a Student Affairs Committee working to unify student activities across the region, and a Workshop Committee that has reinvigorated our role in professional development.

I have been proud to sit at the helm of this ship with a team of professionals who not only want Northeast TWS to be present, but to flourish. And I hope you are proud, too! You've made this happen as much as anyone else. This is your Section. You've owned it, and it's paid off.

As my final message to you as your President, I am excited to tell you that the change is just beginning. Just like spring brings new life to our northern forests, so too does it bring a new life to Northeast TWS. I'll let you in on a little secret - the Section is expanding, welcoming in a record number of new members through a pilot project with TWS National. The details of this initiative will be announced at our Members Meeting and Reception on April 9th at the NEFWC with news to follow on our list serve and social media. But until then, let this serve as a teaser!

To adapt a well-known quote, be the change you want to see in TWS. And with that, my friends, I happily say so long! And thanks for all the fish!

Yours truly,

Terra Rentz, *Outgoing President*

Featured Photographer: Ryan von Linden



Ryan von Linden is an Environmental Program Specialist with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation in the Division of Management and Budget. Previously he worked for the Department's Endangered Species Unit as a bat specialist, and also has experience working with waterfowl, big game, and raptors. Ryan holds a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management from SUNY Cobleskill. Ryan spends much of his free time photographing the birds and other wildlife found near his home in Schoharie, New York. He also enjoys getting outside with family and friends kayaking, hiking, camping, fishing, and turkey hunting. To see more of Ryan's work you can visit his website at www.shadowhillsphoto.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/shadowhillsphoto

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

Northeast Updates:

2017 Northeast Section Field Course Openings!

This will be the ninth year for the course, *Field Techniques and Current Topics in Wildlife Biology*, to be held 14 - 27 May at the Kehoe Conservation Camp in Castleton, Vermont. About 120 students have graduated from the class over the years. Enrollment for 2017 has been full (20 students) but **2 recent openings have emerged, so any interested students should apply ASAP**. Teaching is done by TWS volunteers from throughout the region representing State and Federal agencies and private industry. Vermont Fish and Wildlife provides the teaching facilities, some teachers, and access to the Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area. College credits are offered by Castleton University, and the \$950 fee includes tuition, room, and board.

The course teaches basic field skills used in wildlife management and research; skills that are best learned the context of practicing them in a field setting. The skills include, map, compass, and GPS use; telemetry; habitat mapping, bird, and herptile surveys; small mammal trapping; use of chemical immobilization equipment; and tree and plant identification. We also include hunter education and certification as Project Wild instructors.

In addition to individual techniques, the course teaches the organizational skills, teamwork, and record keeping skills that are necessary for successful field work. The course is organized around the idea of making a preliminary survey of a newly acquired property. In the first part of class students learn field techniques. Then, they are organized into field teams of 4 to collect data on birds, small mammals, herptiles, and habitat along transects that they establish on the Bird Mountain WMA. Data is collected over a 3-day period, and each team is responsible for organization and meeting a prescribed sample size. Finally, students are reorganized into analysis teams, one for each taxa, and they must summarize and interpret data from all field teams and present results to class.

For most students, the field course provides their first opportunity to interact with working professionals. In both formal and informal settings, instructors share their career paths and insights about finding and applying for jobs. They discuss day to day activities within their agency or company and the management issues they face. Students learn the value of professional networking and the importance of TWS and other scientific and educational societies in promoting their professional development.

You can help by promoting the course to students and/or volunteering. Volunteers are unpaid. The rewards are good meals, beautiful scenery, and the chance to interact with colleagues and 20 dedicated, enthusiastic students. Mitch Hartley, long-time volunteer, put it this way, "working with students in the course gives me a chance to get outside, and reconnect with the experiences, both personally and professionally, that initially drew me to a career in wildlife biology." I think most instructors share those sentiments. Each year as I leave home for class, I feel a twinge of regret because my garden is not finished and I'll miss the end of spring turkey hunting season, but I return with renewed enthusiasm for the wildlife profession and faith in the future of natural resources management.

You can find more information about the field course by visiting the TWS web site, clicking on Northeast Section, and searching for the term Field Course. Questions about registering or volunteering can be directed to John McDonald at twsmdonald@gmail.com.

Bill Healy

Northeast Updates:

Northeast Workshops at NEAFWA

The Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society is proud to sponsor two full-day workshops at this year's NEAFWA conference in Norfolk: Designing Camera-Trap Surveys and Analyzing Your Data Using Occupancy Models and Wildlife Disease Recognition and Testing. Both workshops begin on Sunday at 9:00 am, and the instructors are leaders in their respective fields.



Camera Trap Survey Design and Analysis Workshop

We are fortunate to have Marcella Kelly of Virginia Tech and David Miller of Penn State University lead our Camera Trap Survey Design and Analysis Workshop. Camera traps are increasingly being used as a method for monitoring wildlife species, and they allow managers to document a wide-range of relevant biological variables such as occurrence, distribution, phenology and activity patterns, co-occurrence and species interactions, and abundance. In the morning the workshop will focus on the design of camera trap studies, including types of equipment, camera placement, and study design considerations. In the afternoon the workshop will shift to data analysis with a focus on occupancy models. Occupancy modeling can be used to estimate spatial distribution, habitat relationships, and patterns of co-occurrence among species. *Participants should bring a laptop.* This workshop will be beneficial for beginners interested in how camera trapping works and for those with intermediate experience who want to learn more about design and analysis of their data. *The fee is \$100 for a professional and \$50 for a student, and the price includes lunch and a coffee break. Please note that this workshop is capped at 30 attendees.*

Wildlife Disease Recognition and Testing Workshop

An excellent team is lined up to lead our Wildlife Disease Recognition and Testing Workshop. Drs. Julie Ellis and Walter Cottrell of the Northeast Wildlife Disease Cooperative, Drs. Heather Fenton and Mark Ruder of the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, Dr. Maria Forzan of Cornell University, and Dr. Megan Kirchgessner of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will speak on how wildlife disease emergence and resurgence threatens the sustainability of healthy population levels and long-term survival for many wildlife species in the Northeast as well as threatening biodiversity and ecosystem health. This workshop introduces wildlife disease investigation with a focus on diseases that are of particular significance in the Northeast. You will learn about some commonly encountered and emerging diseases that are significant to wildlife conservation, as well as diseases that are at the interface of wildlife, humans, and domestic animals. Diseases frequently reported by the public to wildlife agencies and those that result in resource-intensive agency control programs will also be touched on. The practical aspects of field investigations will be covered, including how to document a mortality event, collect samples, and protect yourself (and wildlife) from disease transmission. In addition to lecture, attendees will participate in practical investigation and response scenarios in which actual disease events are presented. You will also receive information on networks and resources for wildlife health. *The fee is \$90 for a professional and \$45 for a student, and the price includes lunch and a coffee break.*



If you are interested in one of these workshops, please don't delay in signing up. These workshop topics were the most requested topics by our membership.

Northeast Updates:

Northeast Section Representative's Report – Paul R. Johansen

March 2017

As wildlife professionals, it is reassuring to know The Wildlife Society (TWS) works hard to provide a solid and secure foundation for our organization and its many valuable programs. The highly trained and competent staff working out of headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland strive to serve TWS members to the best of their abilities. They remain a calm and consistent voice of reason within the sometimes chaotic world inside the Beltway. I am proud of their service and dedication, and I would like to recognize them for their outstanding efforts.

Past TWS President Gary Potts coined the phrase “We are The Wildlife Society” as a symbol of unity and appreciation for the fact that each one of us contributes to the success of the organization in our own way. TWS works hard for its members, and I would like to suggest a few ideas that you might consider for improving the effectiveness of our professional organization and its value to you as a wildlife professional.

- The 24th Annual TWS Conference is scheduled for September 23 – 27, 2017 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The call for educational and training session proposals (i.e., symposia, panel discussions and workshops) closes on March 10, 2017. The call to submit abstracts (i.e., contributed papers, posters and student research in progress) closes on April 7, 2017. Please consider these dates, as you make plans to attend the conference.
- A new membership recruitment program entitled “Give Back” was initiated in December 2016. The program allows TWS members the option of ‘gifting’ a 6-month membership to someone in the wildlife profession who is not currently a member. There is no additional cost to the member



Photo courtesy of Visit Albuquerque

Northeast Updates:

Northeast Section Representative's Report continued...

providing the gift, and the recipient will receive free membership benefits for 6 months and follow-up information on discount incentives and encouragement to join TWS. Please consider this option when you renew your TWS membership.

- If you haven't done so already, please take a few minutes to update your TWS membership profile. At last count, we needed an additional 100 members to update their profile, so the new and improved membership directory could go live.

Ed Thompson, Chief Operating Office of TWS, often refers to the term 'Value Proposition' when discussing the many programs and services offered by TWS. I believe it is important to note two very major advances recently made by TWS that do indeed increase the value proposition of membership.

- TWS members now receive full, online access to all our journals (i.e., Journal of Wildlife Management, Wildlife Monographs and Wildlife Society Bulletin).
- The Wildlife Professional has been expanded to six issues each year, and the Editorial Advisory Board for this publication is capably chaired by our own Tom Decker.

In closing, I would like you to know how honored and privileged I am to serve as Northeast Section Representative to TWS. Please do not hesitate to contact me anytime, if I can be of assistance to you or your local Chapter.

Paul R. Johansen, Certified Wildlife Biologist®
Northeast Section Representative to The Wildlife Society

Conservation Affairs Committee Update!

The TWS NE Section Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC) had its first 2017 conference call on February 3. Twelve members of the TWS NE Section participated representing most TWS chapters. The group discussed several issues that the CAC could take on including lead ammunition on USFWS lands, Endangered Species Act, effectiveness of position papers, early successional habitat, feral cats, and use of science in policy decision making.

The CAC decided to pursue position papers or equitable guidance on use of science in policy decision making and early successional habitat. The CAC also talked about local chapters reaching out to new legislative representatives and the role the NE Section could have. The CAC also will set up an additional call in March and will also look into creating a Gmail account for the CAC.

Contact Eric Schradling or Emily Boyd (co-chairs of CAC) for additional information.

Northeast Updates:

Editorial Advisory Board

TWS' *The Wildlife Professional* magazine has an Editorial Advisory Board (EAB) to advise, plan, and review content prior to publication. Samara Trusso of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Tom Decker of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service serve as at-large members for the northeastern United States. Shawn Haskell of Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife serves as the Northeast Section Representative to the EAB. All three are active members of the Northeast Section of TWS.

The EAB meets every other month by teleconference and annually at the national TWS conference. We are always looking for feedback from our readership, and we should be reporting soon on the results of our readership survey that hopefully you took the time to complete. In case you have not heard, not only does national membership in TWS get you *TWP* for free, it now gets you free electronic access to *JWM* and *WSB* as well.

During our most recent call on Feb 2nd, we reviewed the May/June issue lineup that will feature conservation lessons from the Lesser Prairie-Chicken, and we brainstormed on ideas for July/August articles that will highlight "Conservation Partnerships in State Fish and Wildlife Agencies". We are already planning the September/October feature story that will reflect some aspect of the southwestern U.S., where this year's national TWS conference is to be located - 'Should have taken a right at Albuquerque.'

We are also always looking for contributing authors and interesting news bites. If you feel that you or somebody you know is making an interesting contribution to the profession, please feel free to contact your regional reps or *TWP*'s EIC, Nancy Sasavage, to help tell the story. I just reviewed an article coming out of Oregon, outlining that State's progress toward state-side broad-based funding of fish and wildlife public-trust resources. If AFWA's Blue Ribbon Panel gets it done in Congress, there's about 47 other States that will need to tow that line to access much greater federal funding. Thank you all for your efforts, and maybe see you at NEAFWA.

Article by Shawn Haskell



Photo courtesy of Ryan von Linden

Northeast Updates:

Maryland-Delaware State Chapter Spring Meeting: April 20-21, 2017

Members of nearby states are invited to the 2017 Maryland-Delaware State Chapter Spring Meeting. This meeting is being held in Western Maryland at Deep Creek Lake State Park, with cabin lodging available nearby at Herrington Manor State Park. This will be a great opportunity for professionals and students alike to get practical experience in the classroom and the field, as well as TWS-Awarded CEU credits! We will have three stellar guest speakers and 3 field experiences.

The general focus of this meeting is on natural resource and wildlife management communication issues. This theme was chosen as a reminder that the communication challenges we face in our work are significant. We must be able to effectively explain our management actions and the science behind them to both a kindergartener and a hostile landowner. That is a tall order!

The first training is a certified course entitled "Tactical Communication", presented by Tony Tanner. Training will include how to use your bearing and demeanor as well as your words to defuse risky situations, increase safety, and maintain professional performance when dealing with disagreeable, stressed or difficult individuals. These techniques will enable you to redirect hostility and help you gain compliance from people who may be seeking confrontation. While these techniques are usually associated with the hostile landowner, we believe many skills will translate well to the belligerent kindergartner! Attendees will earn a professional certificate of completion. The second speaker will be Mr. Harry Spiker discussing Bear Management in Maryland. We will be learning how Maryland DNR is managing a growing population of black bears across an increasingly suburban landscape. The last speaker will be Kerry Wixted, and she will be discussing Tips and Techniques to Teach the Public about Wildlife, including creepy crawlies and their cousins, to get across conservation messages.

Three field sessions are planned including a Wetland Field Trip (Thursday Evening), Mist Netting & Bird Banding (Friday Morning), and Chemical Immobilization Demonstration & Practice Session (Friday Morning).

Please visit <http://mddechapter.wixsite.com/mdde/upcoming-events> to register



Photo courtesy of Ryan von Linden

TWS National

Exciting news from TWS headquarters!

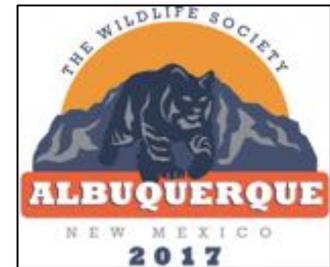
It's been a busy winter here at The Wildlife Society's headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland. We've been working hard to roll out new programs and member benefits. And although it seems like just yesterday we were in Raleigh for our 23rd Annual Conference, the next one is quickly approaching. Before you know it, it will be time to start registering for the 24th Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico!

Give Back program

In Raleigh, we announced our plan to develop a unique new program that would help share the benefits of TWS with non-member professionals, and in that way, give back to the wildlife profession. The program would allow professional, new professional and retired TWS members the opportunity to nominate a non-member friend or colleague for the Give Back program, giving them a six-month full membership for free. Learn more about the program [here](#) and be sure to nominate a fellow wildlife professional when you renew your TWS membership.

24th Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Coming off arguably one of TWS' best conferences ever in Raleigh (and third highest attended), we're working hard to ensure that your experience at the 24th Annual Conference in Albuquerque doesn't disappoint. Check twsconference.org in May for complete program details and registration information.



TWS Network Online Directory

TWS has launched your newest membership benefit that will revolutionize your networking opportunities in support of your daily work and professional development. For the first time ever, TWS members will be able to search for other members and mentors by location, area of focus, employer type, and other relevant factors based on their member profile. This directory can help you make valuable connections for collaboration, potential career opportunities, mentorship and more! Learn more about this new member benefit [here](#) and login to [Your Membership](#) today to start using this incredible tool.

Free online access to TWS journals

Now you can read all the latest papers in each issue of *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, and *Wildlife Monographs* and access the complete archives of these journals as part of your TWS membership. Learn more about this new member benefit [here](#) and login to [Your Membership](#) to start reading the journals.

Article by Mariah Simmons, Wildlife Programs Coordinator & Nick Wesdock, Operations Assistant

TWS News

Northeast Election Results!

President-Elect:

Michael Fishman, CWB



Treasurer:

Tammy Colt



Congratulations to our new Northeast Officers!

Submit an article to the Wildlife Professional!

Got a story to tell?

Share it with your fellow TWS members in The Wildlife Professional! We invite members to submit articles in any of the following categories: commentary, education, ethics in practice, health and disease, human-wildlife connection, law and policy, research and practice, professional development and tools and technology. Send a brief summary of your article topic to editor@wildlife.org to learn more about how you can publish in The Wildlife Professional.

Thanks,
Nancy

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	smclelevel@esf.edu
Field Course Chair	John McDonald	twsmdonald@gmail.com
NE Section Student Representative	Laken Ganoe	GAN5557@calu.edu

Workshop (ad hoc) Committee

Chair	Allen Gosser	Allen.l.gosser@aphis.usda.gov
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