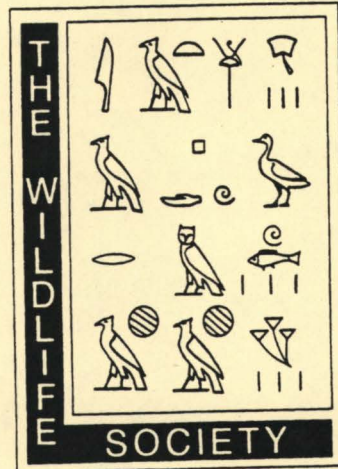


THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



**SECTIONS, CHAPTERS, STUDENT CHAPTERS, and
WORKING GROUPS**

SUMMARIES OF ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 1997 - DECEMBER 1997



NORTHEAST SECTION

Northeast Section

New York Chapter

Pennsylvania Chapter

West Virginia Chapter

Rutgers University Student Chapter

SUNY-ESF Student Chapter

West Virginia University Student Chapter



NORTHEAST SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Ronald Reagan Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

1. The Section coordinated with the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in the development and presentation of a Wildlife Program at the 53rd Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in Massachusetts. Art Johnsen of New York was elected as President-Elect. The John Pearce Award, the Section's highest award, was presented to Dr. Richard M. DeGraff of the Northeast Forest Experiment Station at Amherst, Massachusetts.
2. The Section continued to fund the Teaming With Wildlife initiative in response to the financial appeal of the TWS President.
3. Major bylaws revisions were approved by the membership.
4. The Section's proposal entitled "Inter-Agency Professional exchange Program" was endorsed by the Northeast Directors. An Ad-Hoc Section Committee will implement in 1997. This proposal seeks to provide a TWS-governed framework for facilitating the short-term exchange of biologists between states as a professional development and organizational enhancement tool.
5. The development of a Section web site was initiated.
6. The President appointed an Ad-Hoc Forest Plan Review Committee to provide for TWS review of National Forest Plans at a regional level.
7. The President sent a letter to Don Barry, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, requesting CITIES Appendix III listing for the alligator snapping turtle, 12 species of map turtles, and the timber rattlesnake.
8. Volume 52 of Northeast Wildlife was published.

NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Jim Daley Title: Secretary

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

It has been a busy year for the New York State Chapter. A large amount of the membership's time has been devoted to The Wildlife Society's 1998 Annual Conference, which the New York Chapter will be hosting in Buffalo in September of 1998. One of the highlights of the Conference is sure to be the banquet. We are planning to hold it immediately adjacent to Niagara Falls, where a spectacular view, as well as the mist and roar of the falls, will be experienced up close from the vicinity of the banquet tents.

In an effort to become a more effective organization, the Chapter has jumped on the planning bandwagon and adopted a mission statement and strategic plan for the future. We were able to accomplish many of the items on the plan during this first year. The Chapter also instituted a line item budget enabling us to better plan activities and finances.

We published 4 editions of our newsletter, and have just created a new web page on the Internet (check it out at <http://www.cobleskill.edu/nychaptws/>). The page contains information on the Chapter, membership, volunteer opportunities, recent Chapter Executive Committee Meeting minutes, our annual budget, as well as links to the Teaming With Wildlife and national TWS pages.

Our annual meeting was held last January at the White Eagle Conference Center in Hamilton, New York. The meeting had the theme "Science and Politics: How Government Makes Decisions About Natural Resources." Highlights included a panel discussion on the much publicized controversy over New York's Allegheny State Park Management Plan, a review of public referenda and their impact on wildlife management, the potential wolf recovery in New York, and a visit from Tom Franklin, The Wildlife Society's Policy Director. The banquet speaker was a representative from the Akwesane Nation, who gave a fascinating Native American perspective on natural resource decision making.

The Chapter's annual fall field meeting was held at Allegheny State Park in September. This gave participants a firsthand look at many of the topics discussed at the Annual Meeting's panel discussion. After a full day of touring the park, a delicious game feast was prepared by head chef (and Chapter President) Mark Lowery.

Submitted by: Deborah Lynch Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

Early in 1997, PA-TWS continued our support of the PA Game Commission (PAGC), for a license fee increase. Over the year, different tiers of the PAGC have presented various approaches to wildlife management. PA-TWS supported some of the approaches and offered suggestions for those which not present sound wildlife management. We will continue to observe the situation within our state and offer recommendations to PAGC on wildlife management decisions. We will continue to observe the situation within our state and offer recommendations to PAGC on wildlife management decisions.

Our annual meeting was held in April near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The theme this year focused on the Pennsylvania Biological Survey's role in maintaining biological diversity. Several of The Pennsylvania Biological Survey's technical committees met in conjunction with our annual meeting. Prior to our annual meeting, PA-TWS sponsored a workshop entitled, "The Pennsylvania Gap Analysis Project". We awarded our first annual Frank Felbaum Scholarship of \$500.00 and welcomed the California University of Pennsylvania Student Chapter to The Wildlife Society with the presentation of their charter.

As his last official duty during our annual business meeting, President Ropski proposed that PA-TWS sponsor support to increase tipping fees (by 50 cents) from all trucks going into municipal solid waste landfills into the state of Pennsylvania. This increase was to be included under the reauthorization of Act 101. The increased tipping fee was to be earmarked for the Wild Resource Conservation Fund in Pennsylvania. The membership agreed to support this proposed tipping fee increase. Following the annual meeting, the Executive Board and new President implemented mass mailings to conservation organizations, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the Pennsylvania Senate to rally support for the increased tipping fees. Opposition to the fee increase was strong. PA-TWS also approached the Governor's office for support and suggestions for long term funding for WCRF. The motion to increase tipping fees was defeated in the late Fall of 1997. Beginning in December 1997, the Executive Board started to investigate other sources of funding for WCRF, such as charging a fee for Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Index searches. The Executive Board will continue to search for funding for the WRCF in 1998.

During the fall of 1997 we were invited to attend a field trip with the NYTWS. In addition, PA-TWS offered a letter of support for the nomination of Jerry Hassinger as Pennsylvania Outdoor Professional of the Year. This award was offered by the PA Federation of Sportsmen. PA-TWS also agreed to nominate Dr. Gerry Storm for the N.E. Section's John Pierce Memorial Award. Late in 1997, the PA-TWS initiated steps to create a lifetime achievement award within the state of Pennsylvania.

PA-TWS held 3 Executive Board Meetings and issued three newsletters. The membership agreed to modify some of our bylaws. A phone and e-mail chain was created to notify our members of quick response items in a timely and cost-effective manner. Our Membership Committee is compiling information to update and print new membership directories. These directories will be issued at our 1998 annual business meeting.

WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Robert Silvester Title: Secretary/Treasurer

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

- West Virginia Chapter held two meetings during 1997. The first meeting was held in April at Elkins and was a joint meeting with the American Fisheries Society and Wildlife Society Student Chapters from West Virginia University and the State Chapter of the American Fisheries society. Our second meeting was held at Pipestem State Park in October during the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Workshop.
- Spring and fall newsletters were prepared to inform our members about current issues.
- A contribution was submitted to the National Chapter for the Teaming with Wildlife Initiative.
- The Chapter passed a resolution to increase yearly dues effective January 1, 1998.
- The Chapter developed a proposal to present the James M. Ruckel Memorial Award each year at the West Virginia State Conservation Camp.

Submitted by: Kris Schantz Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

Agricultural Field Day: Held annually by Cook College. Our chapter sets up a table to basically recruit members, and answer visitors' questions concerning hunting issues and ecological concerns.

Costa Rica Trip: The chapter co-sponsored a trip to Costa Rica during Spring Break. During this trip, the students were involved in the following activities:

- Manuel Antonio National Park Tour: learned about the native wildlife and vegetation
- White Water Rafting Trip: fun and educational, they learned about the possible future Hydraulic dams (power) and the impact the dams would cause to the ecological system...reflecting back to our own NW United States problems
- Rainforest Hike: learning about the vegetation and wildlife, the importance of the forest to animals and humans

Canoe/Camping Trip down the Delaware River: We had 17 or 18 people, most of whom have never camped out, nor were they part of the Nat. Res. Mgmt. Major. It was a great interacting experience for all. Those with more canoeing & camping experience were able to teach those who were not so knowledgeable. Others were able to point out various birds along the river, including Great Blue Herons and a Bald Eagle. These birds seem obvious to some, but for the students that joined us for this trip, that are **NOT** in the Natural Resource Mgmt. Major, they were birds that would have gone unnoticed.

Speakers:

- Mountain Man: explains his life living with nature, all the uses for wildlife (so as not to waste anything)
- Turkey Expert: discusses the turkey around the US and Central America/Mexico, turkey management
- Dr. Leck, Ornithologist, Cook College: discussed the "Avian Sanctuaries occurring around the United States," and the various endangered birds and why they are endangered (theory or fact)
- Dr. Locandro, Nat. Res. Mgmt., Cook College: discussed his various trips to Alaska and New Finland, recruited students to go on future ecological trips (they are actual ecological courses for credit where Dr. Locandro takes students to an area and teaches, experiences, and lives the life of the area visited).

1st Annual Harvest Fest: We hope to continue this event every year. We invite students, professors and their families, and past guest speakers to the festival. The festival is an opportunity to teach the public about the importance of hunting in wildlife management, as well as the importance of hunter education and practice.

At the festival, we have the following events:

*We requested donated prizes from as many outdoor centers as we could (including gift certificates, a bow, passes for free rentals on outdoor equipment, etc.). We had contests at specific times during the day in the following events, but the events themselves went on all day (until it rained in the early evening) with instructors to teach and assist:

- 1) bow and arrow
- 2) shotgun and muzzle loader: skeet and target
- 3) hatchet throwing

NOTE: the instructors for the skeet, target, and bow shooting are all trained instructors and explained the different types of guns and how they are used, as well as the management of wildlife in NJ.

*We also had a variety of foods available:

*Children games available with prizes

*haunted hayride

*"guess how many acorns are in the jar"

*gave away pumpkins to shoot, or to keep

Volunteers went to the NJ State Fall Forestry Festival: assisted in educating the public about the ecosystem and wildlife.

Fundraisers: sapling sale; bake sale; and tree farm harvest

SUNY-ESF STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Michael Wichrowski Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

Last year's spring semester was not as eventful as first planned. Some of our major events consisted of helping out in the Dence Award & Lecture. This consisted of helping out with coordinating the lecture (speaker: Malcolm Hunter) and serving refreshments. We also participated in the same lecture and award presentation this last fall when Lynn Rogers came to speak. This is an award given out to an outstanding graduate student in the wildlife field. We also have participated each spring in the NS River Otter Project. This consists of helping the NYS Dept. Of Environmental Conservation conduct track checks and sightings at the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge. Each spring we also plan a trip to Derby Hill in Mexico, NY to watch the raptors migrate back to the north, but due to bad weather conditions were advised that the trip would be pointless. Finally, the past few years we have co-sponsored the student-faculty mixer each spring for the Environmental & Forest Biology Dept. We had a chili cook-off that involved both students and professors, along with a quiz bowl that featured the graduate students vs. The undergraduates.

This past fall saw the changing of the guard as the new officers really began to run the club. We had high hopes which saw some things fall short due to lack of funds. We had planned on making a 1998 calendar using amateur ESF photographers, but we realized that the lack of money was a problem. So we started some new fundraisers; they were making an ESF t-shirt using TWS artists and we purchased a painted from a member's sister to raffle off in the spring of 1998. As far as trips go, we traveled to Hawk Mountain, PA to watch the southern migration of raptors and we also had a hike to the high Peaks region of the Adirondack Mountains in norther NY. We also had some guest lecturers speak on raptor migration and landscape analysis of wild turkey habitat.

Submitted by: Tom Bassista

Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The 1997-98 school year was an extremely busy one for the Wildlife and Fisheries Society. We became officially recognized by the National and State Chapters of the American Fisheries Society as a section sub-unit. Our merger between "wildlififers" and "fish-heads" helped develop a stronger bond between students and enabled us to have a much more diverse outlook at natural resource management and conservation.

The spring semester of 1997 quickly got underway preparing for the 1997 North East Wildlife Society Conclave. The conclave was held October 10-12 and a total of six schools from the Northeast participated. Hats off to Penn State for winning the quiz bowl and California University of Pennsylvania for winning the field competition. Wildlife and fisheries society members and faculty did an amazing job to pull this event off without one single problem. Conclave participants also had the esteemed opportunity to meet, hear, and chat with James Lyons, under secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

After many weeks of preparing for an excellent conclave Society members were ready to go out and acquire some hands on field experience. Members went out to a bird banding station at Dolly Sods to help collect data on fall migration patterns of song birds. Bill Grafton, WVU's botanical expert, educated members of wetland processes and instilled the importance of such systems. Society members were fortunate enough to capture a few saw-whet owls in the Otter Creek Wilderness Area with DNR biologist Kevin Boyle. The Army Corps of Engineers utilized our help to create spawning and nursery fish habitat in Tygart Lake. Members also ventured to Rachelwood Wildlife Preserve to help trap and collect data on black bears. Society members were also busy in keeping their section of adopted highway clean by having two cleanups.

Our fund raisers this year were extremely effective but most of all fun and very rewarding. We held our annual bake sale and raffled off a low-numbered 1996 "last of state" duck print kindly donated by the West Virginia State Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Our conclave proved to be a successful fund raiser was our Sixth Annual Wild Game Dinner.

Society members express their deepest regards for Mary Grace Samuel, mother of Dr. David E. Samuel. Mrs. Samuel established an Endowment Fund which will provide money for future Wildlife and Fisheries Society members to promote environmental education and natural resource conservation through society activities.

Wildlife and Fisheries Society advisor, Dr. David E. Samuel, retired at the end of the 98 spring semester. Society members will miss his extreme dedication and help which he so often provided. His enthusiasm and knowledge for wildlife management and ecology helped mentor countless numbers of wildlife and fisheries students throughout the years. His care and devotion helped foster the strength and confidence needed of future wildlife and fisheries professionals. New faculty advisors, Drs. John Edwards and Kyle Hartman, will have some big shoes to fill and we wish them the best of luck. Special thanks for all Dr. Samuel has done and been a part of and we wish him the very best.

The West Virginia University Student Chapter of the Wildlife and Fisheries Society would like to thank Mr. Dan Cicotta, Dr. John Edwards, Mr. William Grafton, Dr. Kyle Hartman, Dr. Tom Helser, Dr. David E. Samuel, Dr. Robert Leo Smith, Dr. Robert Whitmore, and Mrs. Amy Wodzinski.

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION

Florida Chapter Chapter

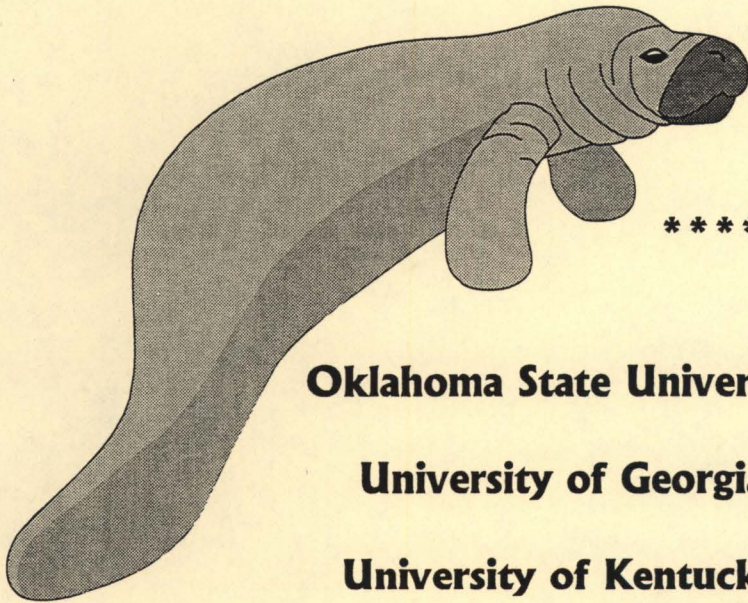
Georgia Chapter

Kentucky Chapter

Maryland-Delaware Chapter

Oklahoma Chapter

Virginia Chapter



Oklahoma State University Student Chapter

University of Georgia Student Chapter

University of Kentucky Student Chapter

University of Tennessee Student Chapter

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Julie Hovis Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

It has been a busy year for the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Thirty-six members attended the Spring Business Meeting held at Camp Ocala in the Ocala National Forest. The technical session consisted of a summary of the 1996 Farm Bill provisions, an overview of the ecology of Florida's bats, and an introduction to the science of conservation genetics. Two field trips were offered: a tour of scrub habitat types in the Ocala National Forest and a canoe trip down scenic Alexander Springs Run, also in the Ocala National Forest. The following Executive Board members were inducted into office at the Spring Meeting: Julie Hovis, President; Mark Robson, Past-President; Pete David, Vice-President; Carrie Sekerak, Secretary-Treasurer; Nick Wiley, Representative to the Southeastern Section; and Tim O'Meara and Brian Millsap, Members-at-Large. The Chapter also voted to amend its Bylaws in 1997.

Noteworthy changes include the clarification of the honorary member selection process, the establishment of a Student Representative on the Executive Board, and the establishment of the Awards Committee as a standing committee. The amended Bylaws were submitted to the parent society for review and subsequently approved. One of the most exciting events of 1997 was the establishment of a student scholarship. Cosponsored by the Florida Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, the \$500 scholarship will be awarded annually to a Junior or Senior undergraduate student who is pursuing a career in wildlife ecology or management at a 4-year college or university in Florida. Recipients will be selected on the basis of financial need, extracurricular activities, demonstrated leadership, and professional potential and goals. The Chapter plans to award the first student scholarship at its 1998 spring business meeting. On the political front, the Chapter continued to support the Teaming With Wildlife funding initiative by writing letters to Florida's senators and representatives in Congress. The Chapter also continued to follow and support efforts to unify the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission into a single governing body. The Chapter held its Fall Business Meeting at the Florida Leadership Training Center in Haines City; 31 members and 7 students were in attendance. During the Fall Meeting, President Julie Hovis presented Past-President Mark Robson with an award for exemplary service during his presidency. Julie Hovis also presented Harry Dutton with an award of excellence for his outstanding service as Newsletter Editor during the past 2 years, and introduced Stephen Stiegler as the new Editor. After several years of discussion, the Florida Chapter finally decided to enter cyberspace and create its own web page. The Chapter should be on line by March 1998. Although the Fall Business Meeting did not include a technical session, attendees were treated to a guided tour of the Disney Wilderness Preserve, a mitigation park managed by The Nature Conservancy.

GEORGIA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Doug Hall Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

January - December 1997

May - Spring Meeting in Athens, GA. In conjunction with the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
- new officers were elected
- meeting emphasis was centered upon Farm Bill implementation and organization with NRCS

October - Fall Meeting at DiLane Wildlife Management Area Waynesboro, GA.
- meeting theme was non-governmental organizationa nd their support of natural resources, traditions and comraderie
- financial donation to support "Teaming With Wildlife" campaign
- supported and coordianted with the student chapter, TWS

KENTUCKY CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Robert Morton Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The Kentucky Chapter of the Wildlife Society was moderately active during 1997. The annual meeting was held April 4-5 at Camp Wallace in Wayne County, Kentucky. A members forum was held on the goals and objectives of the Chapter. It was determined that increased activity was desired, that increased membership involvement was necessary and that some activities should be changed to increase membership interest. An election of officers at with the annual meeting; those individuals are: President Elect - Roy Grimes; Secretary/Treasure - Bill Balda; Executive Board Members - Dan Figert. Actions were undertaken to develop a chapter web page which was operational in September, 1997; the address is: www.kfwis.state.ky.us./wild/kycws.htm; Steve Beam is the contact for adding information to the web page.

A group was formed to develop membership activities and coordinated future workshops and programs. Planning for the 1998 annual meeting and workshop were begun; dates for the annual meeting will be February 6-7 at Barren River State Resort Park, in Barren County, KY. A Right-of-Way and Control Burning workshop was scheduled for February 17-19 at Winchester, KY. This workshop will be held in cooperation with East Kentucky Power and held at EKP Board Room.

Newsletters were prepared and provided to the memberships. Plans are in process to publish the Kentucky Professional Fish & Wildlife Biologist Directory for 1998.

MARYLAND-DELAWARE CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Carol Bernstein Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

During 1997, the MD/DE Chapter has accomplished a variety of activities. The Executive Board met bimonthly throughout the year and held general membership meetings in spring and fall. The spring meeting was held at Patuxent Naval Air Station in Solomons, MD. A program on the Farm Bill was presented and a tour of wildlife management areas was enjoyed by all. The fall meeting was held at Ommelanden Shooting Range in New Castle, DE. Members toured marsh and waterfowl restoration areas. The following committees have been active this calendar year.

Education and Information: This committee developed, printed, and distributed its "Who're Ya Gonna Call About Wildlife" speakers directory to schools, public libraries, agencies, etc. Chapter t-shirts continue to be sold at Chapter functions. The Chapter donated funds to the Maryland and the Delaware Environthons. This year an Ad Hoc Student Affairs Committee was formed to address issues unique to students and to help attract new students to the Chapter. Discount registration prices are given to student members for meals to help with tight student budgets.

Membership Committee: The membership committee welcomed 5 new members to the Chapter this year. We continue to conduct outreach efforts with universities to attract new members, and share our Newsletters with other Chapters around the country.

Environmental Legislative Review Committee: MD Senate Bill #443 was introduced that would have substantially changed the structure of the MD Wildlife Advisory Commission, and given the Legislature final authority in establishing hunting regulations. The Chapter drafted comments on this bill for the Senate committee and the Wildlife Advisory Board. The Bill was defeated. The chapter is currently investigating new legislation on furbearer licensing.

Resolutions and Public Statements Committee: The Chapter prepared a letter to the MD Wildlife Advisory Commission stating our concerns and opposition to the use of fox pens. In addition, the Chapter has been asked to address the Trumpeter Swan imprinting program, however experimental permits had already been issued to the applicant.

Special Committees:

Awards Committee: The Awards committee has been active, receiving nominations and presenting several awards: At the October 9, 1997 fall general membership meeting, awards were presented to Edith Thompson in the Professional category and to Warren Fisher in the Wildlife Conservation category.

Teaming With Wildlife Committee: The Chapter has been active in supporting the Teaming With Wildlife (TWW) Initiative, and has donated funds to the Parent Chapter to support its efforts. The Chapter is a member of the TWW Coalition. Maryland is the only state thus far where the Department of Natural Resources signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the TWW Coalition.

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: David M. Leslie, Jr. (Chip)

Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

Five Oklahomans were honored this past year--four at the Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Chapter of TWS, which was jointly held with the Oklahoma Section of the Society for Range Management at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater in September 1997 and one at the TWS Southeastern Section Meeting at SEAFWA in October 1997 in Oklahoma City. **Jason Pike** received the Byron Moser Award for the best student paper presentation in the Fish & Wildlife Section at the Oklahoma academy of Science Annual Meeting. Jason's paper was entitled "Geographic analysis of mountain lion sightings in Oklahoma." **Ester M. Key** of Piedmont, Oklahoma, received the Harold C. Stuart Conservation Excellence Award for her efforts to enhance conservation stewardship and perpetuate a conservation ethic in Oklahoma. Ms. Key is very active as a volunteer trainer in the 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program and her 1997 team placed fourth in the nation at the National Invitational.

We honored **Stan Kimbell** of the Kimbell Ranches in Oklahoma, Texas, and Australia with the Chapter's Outstanding Wildlife Management on Private Land Award because he is an active proponent of sound wildlife and range management practices, including proper water development and anti-poaching strategies to benefit wildlife. **Steve Tully** with the Natural Resources Conservation Service received the Oklahoma Award for his longstanding efforts to conserve and restore wetlands in Oklahoma. Under Steve's leadership, one of the largest wetland restoration projects in the nation, Red Slough, was enrolled under the Wetlands Reserve Program. **John Skeen** was honored with the Management Excellence Award from the TWS Southeastern Section for his ongoing commitment to recover the population of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers in southeastern Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Chapter continues its commitment to *Teaming With Wildlife*. The energy of wildlifera throughout the State have kept our Chapter in the top tier of supporters with regard to organizational and business support. The Chapter vows to continue its active campaign to insure successful passage and implementation of *Teaming With Wildlife*. Our current President, **Chip Leslie**, has challenged Chapter members to become involved with supporting the initiative.

Submitted by: Gina DeMillo Title: Secretary

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The University of Georgia student chapter of TWS meets bi-monthly, hosting speakers from various wildlife related professions. The following summarizes some of the events from 1997:

- ⇒ **Conclave:** We sent several undergraduate and graduate students to TWS Conclave at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. There we won first place in several events, including quiz bowl, drawing and free-form art, the essay competition, obstacle course, and telemetry.
- ⇒ **Clean and Beautiful:** Our chapter has adopted a mile of highway in Athens which our members maintain on a quarterly basis.
- ⇒ **Deer Study Group:** Some of our members attended the 20th annual Southeast Deer Study Group in Charleston, SC.
- ⇒ **Wildlife Supper:** Each year TWS hosts a wildlife supper in which alumni, faculty, and students are reunited. This past year, students prepared the various game dishes which fed over 150 guests. This is also a time to thank the past officers and recognize the newly-elected ones.
- ⇒ **Oklahoma:** In October, some of our members and officers attended the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Oklahoma City. There they heard several interesting papers, and received valuable advice from wildlife professionals on graduate school and job opportunities.
- ⇒ **Fall Picnic:** Each fall we take the opportunity to welcome new and returning students through a fall picnic, and encourage involvement in TWS activities for the year.
- ⇒ **Hunters for the Hungry:** The past couple years, TWS members have been given the opportunity to volunteer for Hunters for the Hungry, a program that collects deer on selected days in the fall to be processed and sent to homeless shelters throughout Georgia for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. Students operate check stations throughout the state, collecting the deer from hunters.
- ⇒ **Check Stations:** Several members of our chapter gained experience working at check stations throughout the state this fall.
- ⇒ **Project Learning Tree/Project Wild:** Close to 40 of our students attended our first PLT/PW workshop and became certified. The program was led by Richard Osorio and Kris Irwin, who plan to host another workshop due to the overwhelming response.
- ⇒ **Graduate School Seminar:** Several of our graduate students thoughtfully prepared a seminar for our undergraduates, providing all the information they would have liked to have had in preparing for graduate school themselves.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Anne Jewell Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The University of Kentucky Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society accomplished a variety of activities which met our goals of educating students in the fields of forestry and wildlife while in a peer setting. Over the last academic year, such activities have included the design and sales of T-shirts as well as sales of wildlife lithographs, and Christmas trees. Other activities have included volunteering at local deer check stations, a day-trip to Lilly Cornette Old Growth Forest in Kentucky that was interpreted by the department ecologist, and trips to various related conferences including conferences in New Mexico, Memphis, TN, and London, KY. We also encourage speakers to share their experiences in the fields of forestry and wildlife and, in turn, share our knowledge with other University of Kentucky students through participation in the campus Earth Day and Arbor Day events.

Submitted by: Anna Burrow Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The University of Tennessee (UT) Student Chapter of TWS had a very active and productive year in 1997. The highlight of our year was the 4th Annual TWS Conference held in Snowmass, Colorado. Our student chapter was represented by 11 members and two advisors. We all had a great learning experience and are making plans to attend the 5th Annual TWS Conference in Buffalo, New York. We also had representatives attend the Tennessee State Chapter of TWS meeting, TWS Southeastern Conclave, TWS Southeastern Conference, and the Eastern Black Bear Workshop.

One of our main goals for 1997 was to aide our members in gaining valuable field experience through participation in various projects. These projects not only allowed us to learn various field techniques, but also work hand-in-hand with wildlife professionals. Many of the projects were in cooperation with government agencies, such as the National Park Service (NPS) and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA).

A summary of our main projects and events for 1997 are listed below:

● PROJECTS

- White-tailed deer, raccoon, and black bear checking stations (TWRA)
- Frog survey (TWRA)
- Kyker Bottoms wetland project (TWRA)
- Teaming With Wildlife letter writing campaign
- Electroshocking/Stream Sampling (Great Smoky Mountains National Park - NPS)
- Appalachian Bear Center
- Bird banding
- Black bear den monitoring (UT)
- Eagle Center
- Kestrel box monitoring
- Wilbur Dam Wood Duck Project
- River Rescue
- Ames Plantation quail census (UT)

● EVENTS

- Spring Social and Fall "Pig Pickin"
- 'AG Day' booth (College of Agriculture and Natural Resources - UT)
- Wilderness Wildlife Week booth (Pigeon Forge, TN)
- Annual Wild Game Supper
- UT-TWS Bass Tournament
- Migratory Bird Management Day - dove hunt
- Bi-monthly meetings - includes pizza, guest speakers, etc.

NORTH CENTRAL SECTION

Indiana Chapter

Missouri Chapter

Ohio Chapter

Wisconsin Chapter



Iowa State University Student Chapter

Lake Superior State University Student Chapter

Southern Illinois University Student Chapter

University of Wisconsin-Madison Student Chapter

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Student Chapter

INDIANA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Brian Frawley

Title: Secretary-Treasurer

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The Indiana chapters of The Wildlife Society and the American Fisheries Society hosted a legislative breakfast on January 16, 1997. Despite blizzard conditions on this date, 43 people attended the breakfast, including 19 legislators. Legislators were briefed on the goals and accomplishments of The Heritage Trust Program.

The Indiana Chapter held its spring meeting jointly with the Indiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society on February 25-26, 1997, at the Seasons Lodge in Nashville, Indiana. About 140 people attended the meeting. A joint session entitled "Real People's Perspective" featured several speakers who discussed fish and wildlife issues from the standpoint of nonprofessionals. Separate technical sessions also were conducted by both chapters. Presentations at the wildlife technical session included topics discussing deer, rattlesnakes, raccoon roundworms, bats, woodland songbirds and hawks.

Our chapter awarded Dave Hudak the Hoosier Wildlife Award. This award is the highest award presented by our chapter recognizing outstanding achievements. Bob Feldt, Ken Neetles, Dave Turner, and George Seketa were awarded honorary membership.

Our members have continued their campaign to implement the recommendations of Public Law 70-1996 that would reclassify natural resource professionals and adjust their salaries. This campaign has consisted of repeated correspondences with state legislators urging them to support remedial actions.

Our chapter's 1997 continuing education workshop was titled "GIS-A Tool For Landscape Ecology." It was jointly sponsored with the Indiana Chapter of The American Fisheries Society and held during October 21-22, 1997, in Indianapolis. Approximately 75 paid registrants attended the workshop. This workshop was intended to provide an overview of GIS, what computer hardware is necessary and what types of software are available.

The Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife attempted to purchase land for the Goose Pond Project in Greene County (southwest Indiana). Our chapter prepared an emergency resolution supporting the project.

Our chapter helped send two of its members and three 4-H members to the national 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Contest held in Idaho during July. Our chapter members acted as coaches and chaperones. Twenty-nine teams from around the country participated. The Indiana team placed third for their urban wildlife management plan and seventh for their rural management plan.

MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Keith Jackson

Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The highlight of the year for our chapter was the annual Forest, Fish and Wildlife Conference held at the Lake of the Ozarks. This two-day event is jointly sponsored by the Missouri Chapters of TWS, American Fisheries Society, Society of American Foresters, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Over 800 students and resource professionals attended the event. Our annual business meeting is held in conjunction with the conference.

We initiated several new programs during the past year. We now have our own web site (<http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/6472/>). We have two Chapter Working Groups, Computer and Information and Technology, and Agriculture and Wildlife. The AG/Wildlife group has been especially busy, and took the lead role in developing a workshop for this year's Forest, Fish and Wildlife Conference. Entitled *Conservation and Agriculture Partnerships: Toward the 21st Century*, the workshop will focus on opportunities to address habitat development in private land. We have a new scholarship fund. We also helped to sponsor an advocacy workshop, "Preserving the Privilege", for private conservation groups.

One of the most rewarding activities each year is recognizing outstanding achievement. Our E. Sydney Stephens award was presented to George Brakhage for his outstanding service to wildlife conservation. The Columbia Area Archers received our Any Runge award for their efforts in developing Missouri's *Share the Harvest* program--aimed at allowing deer hunters to donate all or a portion of their harvest to needy families. J.D. Dowell and his son Trent were honored with our Farmer/Wildlife award. Brian Harrelson received our chapter's Graduate Fellowship, and Elsa Gallego received the first ever James D. Chambers Memorial Scholarship.

Other areas where our members were active include: developing a joint watershed project with the Missouri Chapters of AFS, SAF and SWCS; assisting with the 7th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management; developing comments for the management plan for the Mark Twain National Forest; and development of a new Chapter display. In addition, we are in the exploration phase of developing materials for the Missouri Pork Producers to include in the information they present at their environmental protection training for members.

OHIO CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: _____

Dan Evert

Title: _____ Past-President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

Supported the Wildlife Legislative fund of America (WLFA) with a \$500.00 donation for the issues that they are involved with.

Supported the Ohioans for Wildlife Conservation (OWC) for their promotion of professional wildlife management.

Donated \$1,500 to the North Central Section TWS continuing education fund. With this donation the Ohio Chapter has met its goal of \$2,000.

Donated \$1,400 to the Big Island Wildlife Area NAWCA wetland restoration. The Big Island project will contain the largest prairie restoration in the eastern United States and will constitute the second largest NAWCA project in the U.S. The OCTWS will be one of the many partners that joined together to complete both phase I and phase II.

The Ohio Chapter supported TWS's Teaming With Wildlife Campaign with a donation of \$200.00.

Letters were mailed to Congressional Representatives to support Teaming With Wildlife initiative.

Held the OCTWS Fall Meeting at the Buckeye Game Club in September.

Conducted a GIS Continuing Education Workshop in October at Don Scott Field in Columbus. Dr. Kevin Johnson was the workshop instructor.

Held the OCTWS Annual Meeting in February 1997 at the Fawcett Center for Tomorrow on The Ohio State University campus.

Presented the Chapter's "Wildlife Awareness Award" at the state science fair. This year's first place project, "Is It Possible To Make a Squirrel-Proof Feeder?", was prepared by Thomas A. Manion, a 8th grader from Solon Middle School.

WISCONSIN CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Dan Dessecker

Title: Past-President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

Following is a brief summary of Chapter activity highlights in 1997.

Preparation for the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Milwaukee--This took a big bite out of the schedule for a number of folks. Chapter members seemed to very much enjoy their role as referees for the paper sessions (to identify Best Paper and Best Student Paper).

Annual Meeting--Conducted jointly in February with the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

Paper sessions on various topics provided an opportunity for members to be brought up-to-date regarding active research. In addition, we held a plenary session concerning the new Farm Bill and its implications for wildlife habitat management.

Summer Meeting--Our annual camping trip was held in northwest Wisconsin in July. Participants enjoyed the weather, swimming, and, as always, the chance to get together in an informal setting. We also toured the release area for our reintroduced elk herd and got an update on this research project.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Kathie Taylor Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The ISU Student Chapter had a very successful and challenging year in 1997. We had a variety of speakers during the last year ranging from ISU Animal Ecology graduate students and professors, Iowa DNR wildlife and fisheries specialists, and a representative from the Trumpeter Swan Restoration Committee. In February, our club attended the first Annual College Work Day at Walnut Creek National Wildlife Refuge. We cleared trees and had one of the first tours through the new visitor center which was dedicated by Secretary Babbit in April. In March, we did volunteer work for the Army Corps of Engineers at Saylorville Lake. We cleaned our woodduck boxes and goose structures, and ate a big chilli dinner afterward. In April we had our big fund-raiser of the year, which was operating the Veisha (ISU's spring celebration) food stand. We built a new food stand last year and had a great success in selling our buffalo brats. Other things we had for sale were our custom-made T-shirts, mugs and hats. In May we finished up the semester with one last camping trip to Ledges State Park. We had a great turnout at our Annual Fall Student/Faculty Picnic and everyone went home full. The highlight of the year was the chapter sponsoring six members to go to the Annual TWS meeting in Snowmass. The students who went came back with new friends, new professional contacts and new goals, both personally and for the club. In October our Prairie Committee went to Broken Kettle Grassland Preserve which is owned by the Nature Conservancy. Fun was had by all, camping and participating in prairie restoration. Our members traveled west to DeSoto Bend National Wildlife Refuge in November for our annual winter camping trip. Despite the cold and heavy snowfall, we saw many snow geese and everyone had a good time keeping warm by the campfire. Our Environmental Committee has been busy working with the Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative, and attending meetings to save a nearby marsh. We are looking forward to another eventful year and are planning to send several members to The Wildlife Society Meeting next fall in Buffalo, New York.

Submitted by: David Jentoff Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

- **Attended Michigan Chapter Spring and Fall 1997 meetings**
- **Wildgame Cookoff potluck dinners - January 1997 and November 1997**
- **1st Annual Sled-off party - February**
- **Aided AFS student chapter with a fishing derby weigh-in station**
- **Aided a student in a walleye aging study--in conjunction with AFS**
- **Snow shoeing hike - February**
- **Attended 59th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference - 16 students**
- **Worked with AFS on a lake mapping project**
- **Deer check with the Michigan DNR - November**
- **Regular monthly meetings with featured speakers**

Submitted by: Dr. William E. Stone Title: Advisor

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

Our year began with a presentation on cave wildlife in Illinois by a recently graduated doctoral student, Steve Taylor. In February, 10 members went spelunking in Illinois caverns and had a fantastic time. In March, Dr. Stone presented research information on breeding bird communities in Illinois prior to presenting his results to the state TWS meeting in Collinsville. President Clay Frazer, and members Sam Phillippe and Curt Decker also traveled to the state meeting to help with registration and the prize raffle. They made some valuable contacts among the state's wildlife biologists and attended some excellent wildlife talks. Also, in March we officially adopted a patch of a campus wood lot and 8 members planted over 300 seedlings. Several members assisted the Shawnee Audubon Society at War Bluff Sanctuary near Golconda.

In April we heard from alumnus and state biologist Scott Ballard who brought a few reptilian "pets" that had been seized during law enforcement stings on illegal wildlife smuggling activities. His live collection included a two-head snake, a Gila monster, and a timber rattlesnake. Eight members traveled to the conclave at Steven's Point, Wisconsin. The quiz bowl team placed 5th and the skit team placed 2nd with their interpretation of "unusual animal adaptations". We hosted several representatives of conservation organizations during our next meeting which focused on career development. During our final meeting of the academic year, new officers Chris Caris (P), Sam Phillippe (VP), Dave Hyten (T), Shane Johnson (S), and Lisa Marco (EM) were elected to the executive board. Summer field jobs prevented any activities over the summer.

In August, we held a "welcome back" meeting for new and returning members. President Chris Caris presented information about the student chapter's activities, goals, organization, and mission. SIU's wildlife faculty in the zoology department were present to meet students with an interest in the wildlife profession. Dr Robert Gates, the current President of the Illinois state chapter of TWS explained the state chapter's role in the profession and invited us to participate in the Illinois Renewable Natural Resources Conference in Springfield later in the academic year. Approximately 50 students joined the chapter that evening.

Our first outdoor activity was a nature hike at the Green Earth Wetland Preserve in Carbondale. We were interested in viewing some wildlife as well as determining which future activities we might conduct there. We observed numerous passerine birds and some white-tailed deer that first evening. During a small mammal trapping activity there later in the fall, all we captured were some house mice. Chris & Dr. Stone surveyed our Thompson Woods "adopt-a-patch" to estimate seedling survival among the 300 oak & hickory seedlings we planted in March. We observed extensive browsing damage by deer, rabbits, squirrels, and other herbivores which probably accounted for most of tree mortality (75%) we discovered. Another popular activity was our canoe trip to Cedar lake. One group observed a black vulture roost site while others saw herons, & deer along the shore. The autumn scenery had not reached its peak, but it was a beautiful day to explore southern Illinois. We also constructed some wood duck nest boxes in October. We also heard about the Illinois Resource Watch Program from Conservation Officer Larry Griffin at our monthly meeting.

In November, we participated in the first annual "Diversity Fair" held in the SIU student center. The event was meant to showcase the activities of the many Registered Student Organizations (RSO) on campus. We displayed telemetry equipment, traps, animal mounts, & endangered wildlife parts & products seized by the Fish & Wildlife Service. We also took the opportunity to distribute letters, & gather signatures, in support of the Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative for nongame wildlife management (more popularly known as "Teaming With Wildlife"). This was also a fund-raising effort by our chapter to win a nationwide contest among student TWS chapters. Through our efforts, over 500 letters of support were sent to federal congressmen from Illinois. We came in 3rd in the TWS contest. Also, in November, we installed our home-made wood duck nest boxes around a campus pond near the Stone Alumni Center. Monitoring of the nest boxes will be conducted in the Spring. Our monthly meeting featured Mike Eichholz, a waterfowl biologist working on black brant in Alaska. Mike is also an SIU alumnus, and he addressed our members on techniques of finding your first wildlife job.

In December, we planted ball-stock oak trees in our Thompson Woods "adopt-a-patch". We also removed exotic vegetation & sugar maple saplings to reduce competition for the planted oaks. We set up another display table in the student center to collect signatures for our Teaming With Wildlife letter drive, & Carie Wingert worked hard to update our website on the Internet. We also heard about the Illinois EcoWatch program from Amelia Endt & Brandi Sangunett during our final meeting of the semester.

Submitted by: Erin Barclay Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

Fall 1997 Activities

- June 13:** UW-Madison Student Chapter charter accepted by TWS
- September 11:** Kick-off meeting of TWS UW-Madison Student Chapter!
- September 15:** Lecture at Leopold shack: *The Small Cogs & Wheels: Microbes, Sediments & the Origins of Life*
- September 21:** Underwood Prairie work party: vegetation sampling
- September 25:** Business Meeting
- September 27:** Underwood Prairie work party: seed collection and nature walk with Rich Henderson of The Prairie Enthusiasts
- September 28:** Mist netting workshop (#1) with graduate student David Curson
- October 4:** Mist netting workshop (#2) with graduate student David Curson
- October 5:** Birding at UW-Madison Arboretum
- October 9:** Project Salamander slide show and discussion
- October 11:** Day trip to Wyalusing State Park
- October 12:** Project Salamander work party
- October 15:** Underwood Prairie Project meeting
- October 23:** Mini-burn school with Steve Richter, land steward for TNC
- October 30:** Graduate school question-answer session with department grad. students
- November 6:** Stanley Temple discusses falconry with his red-tailed hawk, D.C.
- November 20:** Pat Manthey discusses the Trumpeter Swan Reintroduction program
- December 4:** Annual Holiday Game Dinner & raffle
- December 6:** Underwood Prairie work party: brush removal
- December 8:** Officers accept TWS UW-Madison Student Chapter charter @Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Milwaukee

Submitted by: Patrick Lieske

Title: Secretary

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

During the year of 1997 the UWSP Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society was active in a number of areas. The student chapter has 20 different projects, many of which were active during this time.

One of the big successes of 1997 was the inaugural season of the Wolf Tracking Project, a cooperative project between the DNR at Sandhill Wildlife Area and our student chapter. Over 50 people participated in the project from January till March in tracking the South Bluff Wolf Pack located near Babcock, Wisconsin.

The Wildlife Society's Education Project was active once again, doing a variety of presentations on environmental related issues for Boy Scout troops, public schools and other groups at request. They have given informational as well as fun presentations on mammals as well as conservation-related issues.

Many of our perennial projects such as the Salamander Project, the Raptor Project, the Small Mammal Project, Crane Count and the Prairie Chicken Project were all active during the year of 1997. These projects allow students to gain valuable field experience in censusing wildlife and learning field techniques for wildlife observation and data collection.

The Prairie Project also had a busy year, setting up a research project at Camp Helen Brachman to study the effects of various prairie management techniques at their study site. They have applied for grant funding for their project from the Doug Stephens Research Scholarship Fund to finance their undertaking.

In addition our chapter hosted the Northcentral Regional TWS Student Chapter Conclave during April of 1997. Conclave was held at the Lions Camp in Rosholt. We had 100 students attending from 12 different schools. A variety of speakers gave presentations on topics from fisheries related issues to wildlife research and habitat management. Other opportunities were also available for students to observe prairie chickens at Buena Vista Marsh, attend the Point Brewery Microbrew Festival and attend the Reptile Show held at UWSP. The previously mentioned Reptile Show was also arranged jointly between our student chapter and the Herpetology Society.

In September five members of our student chapter attended the Annual National TWS Conference in Snowmass Village, Colorado to receive our 3rd consecutive Best Student Chapter of the Year Award. While at the conference they attended a variety of presentations and special opportunities, such as the Student-Mentor Social, a Career Workshop dinner and birding and alpine ecology fieldtrips.

In December ten or eleven students attended the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Milwaukee. Students attended presentations and took part in special activities while at the conference. Students of our chapter also assisted in a joint venture with the state chapter in selling raffle tickets for auctioning off a print of Leopold's shack.

This is a summary of many of the larger-scale activities which our chapter has participated in. In addition we hold weekly meetings to keep our members informed and involved with our society and to cover necessary organizational business issues. We were very pleased with our success during the year of 1997 and continue will continue to work in this direction in the future. We will keep you posted.

CENTRAL MOUNTAINS & PLAINS SECTION

Colorado Chapter

Kansas Chapter

Manitoba Chapter

North Dakota Chapter

Wyoming Chapter

*** * * * ***

Kansas State University Student Chapter



COLORADO CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Gary T. Skiba Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The primary activity of the Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society during calendar year 1997 was hosting the 1997 Conference of The Wildlife Society at Snowmass, Colorado, Sept. 21-27. Conference planning, organization, and logistics consumed the available volunteer time of the majority of the Chapter's active members, with approximately 15 members attending monthly planning meetings. Chapter members Rick Hoffmann and Len Carpenter chaired the Arrangements and Program committees, respectively, and put in many long hours working out the details of a first-rate conference. Many other members were involved in various aspects of conference planning and volunteer work, and more than 50 individuals assisted with the Conference. The Chapter was honored to have the opportunity to host the Conference, and we believe that it was a wonderful opportunity for wildlife professionals to keep up to date on the latest in wildlife science while enjoying Colorado's awesome scenery.

The Chapter held its annual meeting in Fort Collins, Colorado January 22-24, 1997 in Fort Collins, Colorado. The theme of the meeting was *Wildlife Research and Management: Strengthening the Relationship*. The Thursday session was a series of panels with presentations on Perspectives from Managers on the Role of Research, Development of Research Programs, Information Transfer and Communication, and Adaptive Resource Management. A technical session on Friday touched on a wide array of issues, including the relationships between policy managers and analyst, the impact of a constitutional amendment limiting trapping, South African wildlife management, birds in spruce-fir mosaics, riparian system inventory, elk management, and winter feeding of mule deer.

The new executive board took office at the annual meeting. The 1997 board had representatives from a wide variety of organizations, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Boulder County Parks, Ducks Unlimited, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The board held 6 meetings during the year.

The Chapter was actively involved in the Colorado Legislative session, and continued to hire a lobbyist in conjunction with other environmental groups. As a means of communicating with members on late-breaking legislative issues, email addresses were collected from members with messages sent out as legislative issues arose.

The Chapter continued to publish its newsletter, *Wildlife Tracks*, on a bi-monthly basis.

Planning for the Chapter's 1998 annual meeting, which will be held January 21-23 in Grand Junction, CO, began in August. The theme will be the Effects of Habitat Fragmentation on Wildlife.

Elections were successfully held in December, and new officers will be installed at the 1998 annual meeting.

KANSAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Michael T. McFadden Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

During 1997, the Kansas chapter continued to advocate responsible consideration of Kansas wildlife resources. Testimony was given in the state legislature regarding efforts to change the state's threatened and endangered wildlife species laws. Input has continued with the subsequent participation on the Kansas Nongame and Endangered Species Task Force. The result has been useful and responsible recommendations that should strengthen the integrity of the Act.

Comments were provided to the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks Commission regarding expansion of Sandhill Crane hunting.

Many efforts were made to head off the destruction of Sandsage Prairie near Garden City. A local electric utility is pursuing the transfer of property to KSU for the development of a sandy land ag experimental station. Lesser Prairie Chickens occur in this area of reduced sandsage prairie habitat. Letters were written to argue for good stewardship and corporate foresight. Thus far voluntary conservation of this precious resource is not in the interest of either party. Further chapter efforts are on hold until the anticipated change in status of the Lesser Prairie Chicken by the USFWS service.

Chapter representatives attended the National Park Service open house for the new Tallgrass Prairie Park. The chapter offered ecological management expertise for planning and management of the park. The NPS has not yet responded to this offer. Many chapter members have prairie management expertise and will provide service if asked.

The chapter is serving on a restoration advisory board for the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant near DeSoto, Kansas.

On the administrative front, the chapter developed a new chapter membership brochure and the chapter by-laws were brought up to date to address the current functions of the chapter.

The spring meeting was held in Manhattan on June 12-13 in conjunction with the Soil and Water Conservation Society's meeting. A joint paper session was held which provided information of interest to many disciplines in attendance. The new chapter officers were also installed at this meeting. Some of the chapter members have been employed by USDA. Others, employed by Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, have assignments to work for USDA-NRCS.

A long time KDWP employee and KCTWS member, Bob Wood retired and was recognized for his long and outstanding service.

A student scholarship was developed by the chapter. The chapter intends to build up principal until interest yields provide \$250 or more for scholarship awards.

Several committees are active: **Education & Information** - Short term goals include the development of an Internet home page to communicate chapter positions and facilitate information exchange. **Environmental Concerns** - Prepare resolutions as needed. Provide liaison with other organizations. Participate on USDA-NRCS technical committee and the Conservation Issues Forum. **Program** - Develop programs and fund raising projects. **Membership** - Develop nominations of officers, re-activate the awards program, promote membership and conduct surveys, conduct audits as necessary.

The chapter was well represented at the Central Mountains and Plains section meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota during August. The national meeting in Snowmass, Colorado, also was well attended by Kansas chapter members. The spring 1998 meeting is set to occur in Hays in conjunction with the SWCS.

The fall 1997 meeting was held in Garden City. The chapter provided assistance for a Furbearer workshop to be held in 1998. Teaming with Wildlife was discussed and it was determined that letters would be written to Kansas legislators. The meeting adjourned at the beginning of a severe blizzard.

In 1998, the chapter will continue to meet the needs of its' members and the Kansas wildlife resource.

MANITOBA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Jim Fisher Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

Delta Getaway Weekend The First Annual Getaway Weekend to the Delta Marsh Field station - University of Manitoba held February 28 - March 2, 1997. Twenty-five wildlife professionals and students took in the weekend, utilizing the University's wonderful facilities on the shore of Lake Manitoba. A great addition to the field station was the newly constructed conference building, ideal for our presentations.

Seminars on upland game birds (Garth Ball and Rick Baydack), hunter numbers (Grant Baker), co-management (Doug Barrett), conservation districts (Harry Harris and Brian Osborne), deer depredation (Larry Bidlake) and Pine Falls Paper Co. (Bill Snell) were held throughout Saturday. Saturday evening was graced by plenary speaker Karla Guyn with an update on her Ph.D. pintail research.

Annual General Meeting The meeting was held on March 14th at the Fort Whyte Centre. Student bursary presentations were made by Rhian Christie and Isabel Martinez-Welgan who received the awards in 1996. Alan Scarth delivered the keynote address. Mr. Scarth reflected on the differences between wildlife management in the past and present and ended his talk with his perspective on the need to involve more people with the wildlife profession.

Co-sponsored Lubinski Lecture The University of Manitoba's Zoology Department held it's annual Lubinski Lecture which featured Dr. Daniel Brooks from the University of Toronto. Dr. Brooks talk was entitled "Biodiversity, Sustainable Development, and the Systematics/Industrial Complex".

Bird Banding, Delta Waterfowl Tour, & Snake Pit Visit Spent the morning of 25 May with Delta Marsh Bird Observatory leader Heidi den Haan banding numerous song birds including 14 warbler species. Had a tour of Delta Waterfowl's facilities on the Delta Marsh. Barb Lercel, a Mississippi State University masters student presented her current research findings titled "Mate loss during winter and reproduction by captive, wild-strain female mallards". We also visited the Narcisse Wildlife Management Area to observe the garter snake pits during the breeding season.

NRI Beer Bash Held an information session for students at the Natural Resources Institute, including signing up 10 members. Mr. Garth Ball gave a presentation on avian botulism and the recent concerns with massive die-offs in the prairies.

NEBRASKA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by:

Mark Lindvall

Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

Program

The chapter annual meeting was held at the 4 H Camp at Halsey National Forest in October. There was a fair turnout for the sessions on CRP and Wildlife Damage Management on the first day. We had about 30 people for these informative papers, demonstrations, and discussions. On the second day we had 8 papers presented but only 6 people in the audience. It was a serious embarrassment for our chapter.

The annual student/professional workshop was held in conjunction with the Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Workshop held in Nebraska City in April.

Education

The interactive CD Rom on Nebraska's threatened and endangered species was completed. It will be distributed at cost to schools in the state. Financial assistance was provided to the 4 H Habitat Judging Contest and the *Trails Tails* magazine.

Award

The 1997 Professional of the Year Award was awarded to Pete Berthelson, the state representative for Pheasants Forever in Nebraska. Pete secured a large grant for habitat improvements, started a youth mentor program, and worked on the controversial state pheasant initiative.

Scholarship

The 1997 Chapter Scholarship was awarded to Kurt VerCauteren, a graduate student at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Kurt is studying the effects of various environmental factors on deer movement, home range, and mortality.

Issues

A pheasant task force was formed to provide input concerning the Nebraska Pheasant Initiative. The portion of the initiative dealing with pheasant stocking is controversial. The Chapter has a seat on the USDA state tech committee and commented on EQUIP. The Forest Service task force continues monitoring proposed transfer of control of the National Grasslands and the planning process underway for these lands. Letters were sent to congressional delegates and businesses supporting Teaming with Wildlife and a donation was made to the national chapter to work on passage. The possible transfer of Bureau of Reclamation lands and waters was monitored. The Chapter also has a member on the working group for comprehensive management planning for the Fort Niobrara and Valentine National Wildlife Refuges. We also wrote several letters to lessens the impacts of LB 877 which changes in stream flow law in the state.

NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Michael Olson Title: Past-President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

1997 was another exciting and eventful year for the North Dakota Chapter. Despite our unusually harsh winter weather, our year kicked off with another well attended annual meeting with over 200 members in attendance. The theme of our meeting was "North Dakota: Ecosystems at Risk". One of the highlights of our meeting was the awarding of "The North Dakota Award" for distinguished service to North Dakota's natural resources to Karen Smith. Karen is the manager of the Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge and has been a major contributor to the Chapter for 20 years. We also presented habitat awards to two groups whose work in North Dakota has been exceptional, Garrison Chapter of Pheasants Forever and the Corps of Engineers for Work in the Bowman-Haley watershed. We presented three undergraduate student scholarships last year bringing our total participation in the program to over \$8,000 in the last 10 years. We also elected two new executive board members and Scott Peterson as President-elect.

Major issues our chapter worked on in 1997 include redrafting major federal legislation related to the Garrison Diversion water project, working our congressional delegation to pass a mineral exchange bill that will protect 20,000 acres of North Dakota's Badlands, and lobbying the state legislature on over 40 pieces of legislation related to natural resources. Our involvement in natural resource politics at the Washington and state levels has provided many benefits to our chapter over the years. We believe that key decision makers are much more willing to call us for our opinion on natural resource legislation because of our continued involvement. In 1997 we participated in 31 meetings with either the Governor or our Congressional Delegation. We feel that our state benefits through our comments on draft pieces of potentially detrimental legislation. We sent a lobbyist to Washington twice in 1997 (both times related to the Garrison legislation) and provided testimony for congressional hearings on the proposed mineral exchange in western North Dakota.

Our Chapter has also hired a lobbyist at the State Legislature for the last 10 years and we are beginning to see more and more positive effects from being involved at this level. We host a legislative social each session to discuss natural resource bills with key legislators and turnout at the last social was over 150.

Another issue our chapter is working hard on is the Teaming With Wildlife initiative. We have met personally with each member of our congressional delegation and encouraged them to play a large role in supporting the legislation. We have also worked with local media to promote the bill and have facilitated numerous meetings on the topic with potential supporters of the legislation.

We have been actively working with the Governor to develop an alternative to the "No-Net-Loss of Wetlands" policy that was repealed in the 1995 session of the legislature. The Governor's committee is made up of agriculture, water and wildlife interests.

We hosted the Central Mountains and Plains Section annual meeting in July and over 100 professionals from the Section participated. The theme for the meeting was "Conservation Outreach Programs: Developing Advocates For Wildlife Conservation".

We have a very active chapter and over 25 committees that meet on topics ranging from Wildlife Damage Management and Youth Education to Fisheries and Water projects. There is not enough space here to adequately relate all the positive things these dedicated professionals have accomplished in the past year but invite all those interested to become members.

WYOMING CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Dale Strickland Title: Past-President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

1997 was a busy and successful year for the Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society (Chapter). The Chapter gave strong support to several national issues. We supported Teaming With Wildlife with letters and e-mail to politicians, agencies, and retail suppliers of potentially affected products. We also made a contribution of \$250 dollars to The Wildlife Society (TWS) for their effort to support the legislation. Professional Certification was promoted at our annual meeting and through the Chapter's Newsletter. Nine Chapter members become certified in 1997, bringing our total certified membership to 36, 20% of our membership. The Chapter also provided a member on TWS's Professional Development Committee. The Chapter provided significant assistance to the Colorado Chapter and TWS in putting on the 1997 annual meeting in Snowmass. Members assisted in the planning of the conference and was in charge of the event's Student Activities. The Chapter also began planning for the 1998 Central Mountain and Plains Section's (CMPS) annual meeting which we will host. Finally, the Chapter provided support for the annual meeting of Wyoming Partners In Flight.

While involved in both the above meetings the Chapter also planned and held our annual meeting at Riverton, Wyoming, which was attended by more than 100 members. The meeting included scientific papers, including a judged student session, and an Awards Banquet. The Chapter recognized the outstanding achievements of a Professional and Citizen of the Year. The Chapter co-sponsored with the Society of American Foresters and the Society of Range Management a communications workshop in Casper, Wyoming. We also assisted members of the Wyoming Student Chapter TWS attend the national meeting in Snowmass and the 1997 Student Conclave.

The Chapter maintained a number of important committees. Our Legislative Committee was active during the 1997 Session of Wyoming's Legislature, maintaining a very effective phone and e-mail tree. Perhaps our most active committee was the Resolutions and Public Statements Committee. We responded with peer reviewed comments on numerous development projects during 1997 with potential impact on wildlife. Significantly, we represented the CMPS and TWS on the issue of potential oil and gas development in the Bridger-Teton National Forest (BTNF). The Chapter provided comments during the Forest Service's scoping process for their EIS on oil and gas leasing in the BTNF. Members are currently preparing a white paper for use by CMPS and TWS on the potential impacts to wildlife of this proposed development.

The Chapter continued to raise money for the Bear Fund, a fund created in memory of two Wyoming biologists and two pilots killed during surveys for grizzlies in the Yellowstone Ecosystem in 1991. The Bear Fund will provide grants to support bear research, management, conservation, and law enforcement worldwide. To date the Chapter has raised \$25,000 and plans to offer the first grant in 1998. Throughout the year the Chapter's leadership maintained strong contact with its membership by holding four Board of Directors meetings and publishing three newsletters.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Phillip Buser Title: Secretary

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

- April 26 - A work day was held at the Milford Nature Area.
- May 3 - The Spring Banquet was held at the Ramada Inn Ballroom.
- September 11 - A watermelon feed was held to begin the new school year.
- September 14 - A booth was set up at the KSU Student Union Activities Carnival.
- September 21-
27 - Members of the chapter attended the National Conference in Snowmass, Colorado
- October 4 - A Project Wild was held for volunteer members.
- October 30 - The chapter took a tour of Konza Prairie-Research Area Natural.
- November 22 - A clean-up was held at the chapter's designated area of Tuttle Creek State Park.
- December 11 - A video fishing tournament was held for students to unwind before finals.
- Fall Fundraisers included chapter T-shirt sales, calendar sales, and a book sale.
- The chapter set up a web page on the World Wide Web and started an e-mail address with a listserv for members.

SOUTHWEST SECTION

Texas Chapter

Murray State University Student Chapter

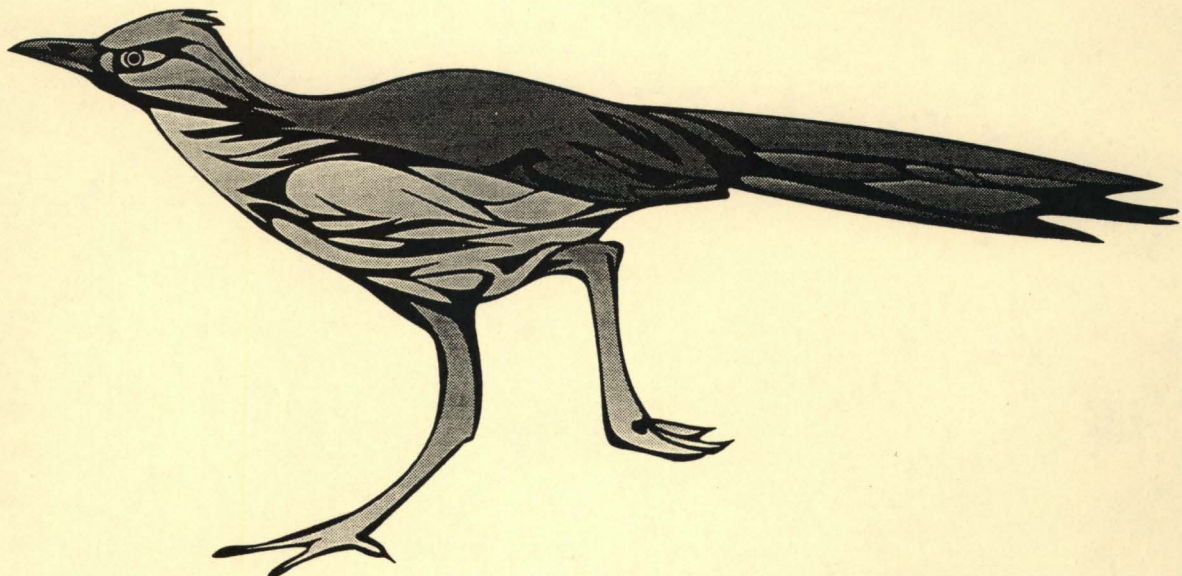
New Mexico State University Student Chapter

Stephen F. Austin State University Student Chapter

Sul Ross State University Student Chapter

Texas A&M University Student Chapter

Texas A&M University - Kingsville Student Chapter



TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Dale Rollins Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The Texas Chapter reflects back on 1997 as its most productive year ever. The legislative session in Texas this year entertained more wildlife-related bills than ever before and the Texas Chapter was active as a science-based voice helping to shape such legislation. The Chapter passed Position Statements (1) opposing Initiative and Referendum form of government (this position statement was later upgraded to a resolution which passed overwhelmingly), (2) steering proposed deer management legislation away from privatization behind high fences, and (3) promoting an interstate working group on Lesser Prairie Chickens as a means of circumventing (possibly) restrictive mandates from USFWS. The Chapter successfully navigated into the cyber-age with the addition of two new components: (1) a web page that features various information about the Chapter (<http://texnat.tamu.edu/profsocs/tctws/index.htm>), and (2) a listserv called TXWILD (txwild@taex001.tamu.edu) for facilitating communication and information transfer among chapter members and the general public. Our annual meeting, conducted in Beaumont, attracted 400 participants, with 50% of them being students! We were especially proud of such a strong student contingent, but then we work hard at making the Chapter student-friendly. We have an active student affairs committee and scholarship committee. Also on the youth front, the Chapter's Wildlife Conservation Camp concluded its most successful camp to date. We graduated 24 campers and received outstanding evaluations from the students and parents. On an administrative note, we convened our first ever Strategic Planning Session and developed (1) mission statement and (b) plan of work to allow the Chapter to better serve its members and clientele. We initiated a Carl Shoemaker Scholarship fund to recognize the contributions made by Mr. Shoemaker (he was instrumental in drafting and passing the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937); the Chapter donated \$2,500 toward this important endowment. We also initiated a Donnie Harmel Memorial Scholarship Fund to pay tribute to our Past-President who died in October. Our Conservation Review Committee reviewed science textbooks and initiated plans for a Textbook Review Committee for consideration by our Board at its February ('98) meeting. The President, Executive Director and several members presented testimony to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission in support of regulated hunting and against privatization of wildlife resources. Our Chapter is co-sponsoring a symposium with Texas A&M University System on role of genetics in white-tailed deer that will probably increase our membership by 200 members. Four issues of our newsletter was published, with each issue containing 16 pages. The Texas Chapter was well represented at the TWS meeting in Snowmass, with over 40 members attending, many of them presenting papers. Finally, our planning committees for the 1999 TWS meeting in Austin are already in place and at work to see that TWS' millenium goes out on a high note. We look forward to seeing you there.

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Mary Ellen Prince Title: Secretary

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

For our Wildlife Society, 1997 started off great. We began the spring with a Spring Break trip to South Carolina and Florida to go herping. We visited places like Ocala National Forest and the Everglades. It was a blast. In March we also helped with a local gun show as a fundraiser. As it started warming up in late March-early April we helped Land Between the Lakes by cleaning trails. We cleared dead trees, picked up trash, and marked the trails. During the summer some of our members also did trail work. Some representatives of our club also visited the World Bird Sanctuary in St. Louis, Missouri and brought a few of our birds from our raptor house.

This fall also started off with a bang. We began a monthly newsletter titled *The Untamed Newsletter*. The newsletter includes articles submitted by both students and professors, recent wildlife news, minutes and dates from the meetings, as well as cartoons. It has been a big hit in the Biology Department. We also finished the renovation of our raptor house as well as continuing our ongoing recycling program. On September 26-27 our club participated in the National Public Lands Day, sponsored by the Corps of Engineers, at Land Between the Lakes. We helped work on a 2½ mile trail repairing bridges, clearing the trail, repairing viewing blinds, building nesting boxes, and horseshoe pits. For a fundraising activity we sold wildlife posters on campus and had a rose sale. This year we also had T-shirts and hats designed for the society. On September 27 we sent a representative from our Teaming With Wildlife Committee to National Hunting and Fishing Day at Western Kentucky Wildlife Management Area to promote TWW. As another fundraiser we helped set up and take down tables at the local gun show on October 4-5. We also had a table featuring some of the raptors from our birdhouse. Also, on October 10-11 we combined a camping/spotlighting grip with the Deer Drive at Ballard County Wildlife Management Area. We took part in both the driving of the deer and the counting. It was definitely fun and a huge success. All and all it has been a successful year with more to come this spring!

Submitted by: Carl Millegan Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

On behalf of the Student chapter, I would like to say thank you to Dr. Howard and other faculty for helping us accomplish our goals of becoming successful leaders in the future.

The Student Chapter has had a busy year, as usual. In the Fall of 1997 we conducted numerous check stations for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. We provided over 50 students and each of them walked away with several hours of experience in the wildlife field. I feel that this is a big part of what a wildlife student needs to be considered for other jobs in the future.

Thank you to all that participated in the check station because with out your help we would not be able to have the things we do in the Student Chapter.

In September and November the Student Chapter cooperated with the Bureau of Land Management to install water tanks for wildlife use in the Upham and Engle areas north of Las Cruces and South of TorC. This was fun time for all and we ate like kings.

This Spring the Student Chapter has gone to the National Chapter Joint Meetings and brought back some useful information about the trip. The Student Chapter has also sponsored the 1998 Coyote Calling Contest which was won with eight dogs, Second, was taken with four dogs and the rest is history. Money prizes were given for first, second, and third place. It was windy for some and not for others, but everyone had a good time. On March 16-22, six team members and several other students will be going to the West States Conclave at Humboldt Sate University to compete against other wildlife teams in the Quiz Bowl. I wish them the best and hope that they return victorious and not wet from all the rain.

On March 14, 1998 the Student Chapter sponsored the annual shootout. There were many prizes to be won and everyone had a great time. Following the competition there was a cookout and all who went ate well. As you can see, this Student Chapter eats good all the time.

The last meeting of the year, in April, consisted of making decisions for Beast Feast, May 1 and 2, the 38th Annual Awards Banquet April 30, and holding election for new officers for the Society. I would like to say congratulations to:

Matt Felts - President
James Powell - Vice-President
Colin Duff - Secretary
Billy Taylor - Treasurer

These are your new Student Chapter officers for the 1998-1999 academic year. The next meeting is in September when we return for classes. Please be sure to come out to join in on the fun for Beast Feast and the Awards Banquet. This is the time of year for us to have fun and blow off some steam.

Submitted by: Charissa Kelly

Title: Secretary/Treasurer

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

♣ February

- > Twenty-six members attended the Texas Chapter Annual Meeting in Beaumont, Texas
- > Participated in the 1st annual Texas Chapter Quiz Bowl at the State Meeting.

♣ March

- > Conclave team consisting of Dennis McAfee, Chuck Willis, Phillip Lewallen, and Dustin Meaders placed 4th in the Western Wildlife Conclave in Tucson, Arizona.

♣ April

- > Hosted our annual Beast Feast

♣ May

- > Hosted the Region 6 Big Game Awards Banquet.

♣ September

- > Guest speaker, Ben Koerth--Deer Measurement Data.
- > Conducted deer spot-light counts for local hunt clubs.
- > Sixteen members attended SEAFWA Conference in Oklahoma, OK.
- > Initiated a bi-weekly skeet shoot competition which was completed in December.
- > Provided volunteer help for the Wildlife Expo in Austin, TX.

♣ October

- > Guest speaker, Dr. Fisher--Bird censusing in Alaska.
- > Held annual Fall Fowl Feast.

♣ December

- > Provided gate help during deer season on 4 local hunt clubs.
- > Eighteen members participated in a club sponsored goose hunt in Winnie, TX.
- > Assisted Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists with small mammal trapping at Peach Point Wildlife Management Areas during Christmas break.
- > Assisted Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists with waterfowl check stations at the Murphree Wildlife Management Area during Christmas break.

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: M. Clay Green

Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The Sul Ross State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society started the year and school year with a "Back to School" Dance to raise funds for the Texas Chapter of TWS Annual Meeting. In early February, club members participated in a Texas Bighorn Society workday at Elephant Mountain Wildlife Area. During January and February, selected club members spent two evenings a week preparing each other for the Wildlife Bowl competition. From February 27-March 1, 26 members of the SRSU Student Chapter of TWS Annual Meeting in Beaumont, TX. In March, several members of the club again assisted the Texas Bighorn Society in a workday at Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area. In April, the chapter participated in a school-sponsored "Spring Blast" on the campus mall. The chapter also hosted the Texas Parks and Wildlife Big Game Awards for Region VIII in conjunction with the club tradition Wild Game Dinner. Both events were a huge success. All proceeds from the Wild Game Dinner went towards a Natural Resource Scholarship Fund. The chapter then concluded the semester with an "End of School" Dance.

The chapter started up the fall semester with a new set of officers and several new club members. In October, the chapter attended the Texas Parks and Wildlife Expo 97 in Austin, TX. The chapter rented an exhibitor's booth and sold "rifle raffle" tickets for fundraising. The money earned from raffle tickets help fund the trip to Austin. In October, the club participated in the school-sponsored two mile section of Highway 67 in West Texas. In November, the club spearheaded preparations for the SRSU Homecoming Bonfire and Homecoming Dance. Both were a huge success. That same weekend, the chapter also participated in the Homecoming Float Parade. The weekend before Thanksgiving, the chapter hosted its 20th Annual Turkey Shoot for the Tri-County residents. The shoot was the biggest success in its 20 year history. The semester ended with a Bar-B-Q "get-together" just prior to finals week.

Submitted by: Laura Bonneau Title: Vice-President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The year 1997 was a busy one for the Texas A&M University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society. We started off the spring semester with our Highway Cleanup service project, and took a group to the Texas chapter Meeting in Beaumont, Texas, in February. Our education committee continued volunteering at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History, both taking care of our chapter's animals housed there and helping to maintain the museum's live animal collection. Much of the semester was spent working on Teaming With Wildlife. We had a Teaming With Wildlife Workshop, and John Herron from Texas Parks and Wildlife came to speak at one of our meetings about the benefits of Teaming With Wildlife and the importance of our support. In March, five members of our chapter went to Tucson, Arizona, and participated in the Conclave Quiz Bowl Competition. We took a field trip to Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Glen Rose, Texas, and got a chance to go on a behind-the-scenes tour and see some pretty amazing wildlife. Our annual Wild Game Barbecue was held in April, and we had a huge turnout, some great raffle prizes, and raised a lot of money for our chapter. We closed the semester with officer elections, and were ready to start over in the fall semester

The fall semester of 1997 started off well, and we sent four of our officers to the 4th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Snowmass, Colorado, to man our departmental display and assist the Texas A&M University Agricultural extension Service with their educational displays. Kieran Lindsay, shelter director for the Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition came to our first meeting and gave a presentation on both wildlife rehabilitation and the importance of professional contacts and experience. In October, a group of students took our departmental display to Austin, Texas, for the annual Wildlife expo held at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Headquarters. David Baggett of Champion International Corporation gave a presentation at our October meeting about wildlife management on Champion's properties in East Texas. We also had another highway cleanup, followed by a barbecue at our president's house. Many of our members volunteered at deer check stations for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on opening weekend of deer season in November, and Dr. Mike Tewes from Texas A&M-Kingsville gave a presentation on big cats at our November general meeting. At our December meeting, Bob Cook, Director of the Wildlife Division for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, gave a presentation on employment opportunities for the state's wildlife division. On a whole, 1997 was a very successful year. Our membership rose, and 1998 promises to be even more exciting as we face the challenges of a new year.

Submitted by: Veronica Moncada Title: Secretary

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

1. Letter writing campaign for Teaming With Wildlife
2. Sale of club caps and t-shirts
3. Sponsored a photo contest
4. Participated in Ag Awareness Week at Texas A&M-Kingsville
5. Sponsored a booth at Hoggie Days to promote club membership
6. Volunteered at the Texas Wildlife Exposition
7. Volunteered at the Youth Dove Hunt sponsored by King Ranch
8. Participated at Texas Chapter Meeting for Wildlife Society
9. Members attended at South Texas Wildlife Conference; Sold t-shirts for Caesar Kleberg Institute
10. Worked a deer capture on King ranch (Wildlife Systems Inc.)
11. Administered spotlight counts for the Kennedy Foundation
12. Worked quail transects (Rollins and Bridges ranches)
13. Participated in search and relocation of endangered species at San Miguel mine
14. Club holds bi-monthly meeting
15. Held a yearly club skeet shoot
16. Members competed in quiz bowl at Texas Chapter meeting
17. Hold club quiz bowl
18. Hosted several guest speakers
19. Participated in Intramural sports: football, softball, volleyball and tennis
20. Held a club barbeque

NORTHWEST SECTION

Alaska Chapter

Alberta Chapter

Idaho Chapter

Montana Chapter

Oregon Chapter

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University of Alaska Student Chapter

University of Idaho Student Chapter

University of Montana Student Chapter



ALASKA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Ellen Campbell

Title: Past-President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The chapter hosted the Northwest Section Annual Conference May 15-18 in Juneau. Chapter members worked hard to develop interesting and informative technical sessions and enjoyable and unique social activities. Twenty-four technical papers were presented in four broad categories: Integrating Wildlife Science into Landscape-level Planning; Applying New Technologies to Wildlife Resource Questions; Ecology and Management of Wildlife in the North Pacific Coast; and an Open session. Social activities included a reception at the local fish hatchery visitor center, banquet and silent auction, and field trip by catamaran to view water birds and marine mammals. At the evening banquet, Alaska chapter members were pleased to see the NW Section's Arthur S. Einarsen Award presented to fellow member Chuck Schwartz, research wildlife biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The chapter annual business meeting was held over lunch on May 15 during the Section conference. Chapter members voted to contribute another \$100 to TWS for the Teaming With Wildlife campaign. Results of the election for regional Representatives were announced.

During the course of the year, members of the Conservation Review committee prepared a draft position statement on impacts and concerns regarding bark beetle infestations of Alaska spruce forests. Because of chapter interest and critical wildlife concerns, the chapter has been invited to participate in a multi-organization team led by the mayor of Kenai Borough and chartered to assess bark beetle impacts and recommend actions by summer '98.

ALBERTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Ian Ross Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The Alberta Chapter enjoyed another busy year in 1997. Our annual meeting was held 21-22 March in Nisku, and was attended by over 150 members. The opening plenary was entitled: "The Alberta Advantage: economic and Environmental Perspectives". This was followed by 24 contributed papers. As we've grown to expect, quality of the papers was outstanding, and judges had difficulty in declaring winners for the best student presentations. Awards for the best student presentation went to Ron Bennett, Lisa Takats, Monica Coughlan, and Kurtis Saker. The Alberta Chapter's William Rowan Memorial Award for excellence in wildlife research was presented to Ernie Kuyt for his distinguished career with Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Chapter's Dedicated Service Award went to former president Brad Stelfox. A fund-raising auction was held, which contributed over \$2,000.00 to our scholarship fund.

We awarded 2 scholarships again in 1997. The Robert (Bob) K. Goddard Memorial Scholarship for technical college studies was awarded to Susan Skinner. Andy Bezener received the Chapter's university undergraduate scholarship.

In 1997 we were involved in a number of issues, including:

- the establishment of a working committee on Endangered Species in Alberta;
- continued review of a development strategy for the Bow Valley;
- encouragement of effective federal Endangered Species legislation;
- review of Provincial policy towards public lands; and
- enhanced liaison between the Chapter and provincial academic institutions.

We continued our liaison with the parent society and the northwest Section. At times these connections have seemed a bit distant, since many of their issues are specific to federal or regional issues within the United States. Still, we benefit from their strength of voice, and have much to offer them in terms of our international perspective and our own strength. Alberta Chapter membership at the end of 1997 was 236.

IDAHO CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: James W. Unsworth Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society held it's 1997 Annual Meeting in Boise Idaho on February 27 and 28. The meeting was attended by over 150 professionals and students.

During the past year the Conservation Affairs Committee of the Idaho Chapter has prepared responses to pending legislation regarding forest health, the Endangered Species Act, public lands grazing, grizzly bear reintroduction, and Teaming With Wildlife.

The Chapter has financially supported the Parent Societies efforts on the Teaming With Wildlife legislation, Idaho 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation teams, and the Inland Empire Natural Resources Youth Group. The Chapter has also established scholarships at each of Idaho's major Universities. Our Chapter has provided \$5,000.00 each to the scholarship funds at the University of Idaho (Elmer Norberg - Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society), Idaho State University (Edson Fichter - ICTWS), and Boise State University (Richard Olendorf - ICTWS).

MONTANA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Daniel H. Pletscher Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

Over 200 members of the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society attended our 1997 annual meeting last March in Missoula (a new record for attendance). The annual meeting was held in conjunction with the Montana Chapter of the Society of American Foresters' gathering. Training sessions included Population Monitoring and Harvest Management; Living with Wildlife; and Montana Partners in Flight Workshop. Plenary sessions focused on "Bottom Up Conservation: Should We Empower Local Communities?" and "Columbia River Basin EIS: Model for the Future?" The keynote speaker was Boone and Crockett Professor of Wildlife Conservation Jack Ward Thomas.

The Montana chapter, along with the Northwest Section, the Montana State University Bison Center, and the Montana Extension Service, sponsored The Symposium on Bison Ecology and Management in North America last June in Bozeman. Over 260 individuals attended the meeting and heard 64 presented papers.

The Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society formed three committees to address issues important in the western United States. The first provided comments on the Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Grizzly Bear Reintroduction into the Selway Bitterroot. These comments were submitted as a joint position paper of the Montana and Idaho Chapters.

Second, the Montana Chapter established an Ad Hoc Bison Management Committee charged with the mission to develop a biologically and scientifically sound position on the long-term management of wild bison and associated diseases in the Yellowstone Ecosystem. This group's work is continuing.

Finally, the Montana Chapter established an Ad Hoc Committee on Responsible Motorized Recreation charged with assisting agencies in the development of guidelines to address wildlife/habitat concerns with motorized recreation planning and implementation. This group is reviewing literature on the subject, has formed sub-committees dealing with different species groups, and will report back in about one year.

The 1998 Annual Meeting was held at the Kwa-Taq-Nuq Resort in Polson from March 3-6.

OREGON CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Barb Hill Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

- The chapter actively sponsored the Teaming With Wildlife effort.
 - The chapter maintained close to a 600-person membership level.
 - The Raven logo developed for the 1995 national TWS meeting in Portland has become our official logo.
 - An annual meeting and workshop was held in February 1997 at Sunriver. More than 350 attended the meeting and over 100 attended the workshop.
 - Three workshops were conducted in 1997 for professional development and technical training: Shorebird Ecology, Spotted Frog, and Snag Modeling.
 - Since early 1997 members have been organizing and coordinating for the joint annual meeting in Spokane in April 1998.
 - The chapter awarded four scholarships totaling \$2000 to deserving Oregon wildlife students.
 - In 1997 the chapter awarded:
 - The Oregon Chapter TWS Award to Dr. Evelyn Bull for her research contributions to wildlife
 - -The Outstanding Service Award to Cheryl Friesen, Jim Thraikill, Dr. Torolf and Ann Torgenson
 - The Les Eberhardt (best student paper) and Dimmick (best general paper) Awards to Carmen Thomas
 - The Oregon Chapter Stewardship Award to Ted and Harriet Gahr of McMinnville.
 - The TWS Conservation Award to David Fouts
 - The chapter grant program awarded \$250 to BJ Verts to support the development of his book "Mammals of Oregon."
 - The book "Wildlife Atlas of Oregon," developed with chapter support, proved to be a successful fund raiser for the Chapter and an excellent, new technical resource for wildlife professionals and the public. The chapter donated 800 wildlife habitat maps to the second printing of the atlas. This atlas and the above mammal book will be sold by the chapter as a fundraisers in 1998.
 - An Oregon chapter brochure on our mission and activities is nearing completion. It will be used for educational and promotional (for new memberships) purposes.
 - The Conservation Committee provided chapter input on a number of federal and state land management planning efforts, the federal candidate change, state grazing issues, the Governor's salmon initiative, and other state and national issues.
- Our chapter is increasingly recognized as a source of scientific, technical and resource management information on wildlife related issues by members of the state legislature, the Governor and others. Following are highlights of our legislative involvement :-
- Passage of bill (SB774) to extend the sunset that granted tax credits for the preservation of riparian zones and increased the land available for credit.
 - Passage of bill (SB 791) that expands wildlife tax deferrals.
 - Provided a position paper in opposition to measures that compensate landowners for loses to new regulations that on natural areas, scenic areas, wildlife habitat, wetlands and open spaces.
 - Defeat of the "Smith Rocks" Bill (SB 870) that would have changed current land use laws regarding destination resorts.
 - Defeat of bill (SB 60) would have changed income tax check off regulations, hurting ODFW's nongame program contributions.
 - Defeat of bill (SB 1192) that would have circumvented ODFW's wildlife integrity rules.
 - Provided input to bill (SB 109) have created a forest stewardship program. OR TWS was a member of a working group that amended the bill to ensure that land owners comply with the new Forest Practices Act and expand public comment and appeal processes.
 - Defeat bill (SB 1086) that would have reversed the attorney's general opinion that for the purposes of threatened and endangered species that "land" includes the waters of the state.
 - Assisted in reshaping the bill (SB 1002) that increases the ODFW's responsibility for assisting farmers with wildlife damage.

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Mike Fisher Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

January -- Guest speaker John Hechtel (AK Dept. Of Fish and Game) -- Human/Bear conflicts and how to avoid them.

February -- Guest speaker Fran Mann (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) -- Projects underway by the Corps, and wetland conservation.

March -- 10th annual wild game dinner (huge success).

April -- Eric Taylor (chapter advisor) received a grant for the collection of data on goldeneye nest boxes on the Chena Hot Springs Road.

Mikkio Hisamatsu (chapter member) was paid for the collection of data with the goldeneye project for the entire summer.

Volunteers from the chapter built goldeneye nest boxes with help from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Volunteers also put up approximately 100 boxes at the Chena Lakes Recreation area.

July -- Chapter members helped with the Moose Conference held at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

September -- Mikkio Hisamatsu (chapter member) presented to the chapter the data gathered over the summer from the goldeneye nest box project.

October -- Chapter members went on a Dall sheep rutting observation trip.

Chapter members repaired and hung more goldeneye nest boxes.

Chapter sent two members to the Alaska Trappers School.

Dr. Perry Barboza (UAF faculty) spoke on his experiences "wolves, wombats, and wallabies -- Oh My!"

Sherman trap cleaning party (1000 of them).

November -- University of Alaska Fairbanks Career Services representatives spoke on job hunting and resume writing hints.

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Charles G. Lowman Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The past year has been full of activities for our student chapter. Not only were the undertakings surrounding work with wildlife in our area, but we also had a few opportunities to meet with fellow students in the wildlife field.

In the winter, things go a little slow around Moscow. As soon as spring rolls around, things start to happen. Work projects are the call of order for most meetings. One of the professors the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences owns 7 acres of wheatland that our Society has been reclaiming. So far we have sown many grains and created brush piles for pheasant habitat. We have installed perch poles for birds of prey and have put up Kestrel nest boxes. We are in the process of putting in a pond.

The Idaho Fish and Game Department has been more than gracious in allowing us to volunteer our time. In the Springtime we have performed breeding bird surveys on a tract of land that the Department has put into breeding bird habitat. We have also worked on Big game Check-stations during hunting seasons, and this fall we participated in a Waterfowl check-station where we took hunter surveys and took gizzards from the duck for the University to check for lead shot exposure in the waterfowl that have been harvested by hunters. This year we worked three check-stations, interviewing 106 hunters who harvested some 254 birds in on opening day. This was a great chance for our members to get some exposure with the general public.

We also attended the Western States Student Chapter Conclave at the University of Arizona in Tuscon. This was a great time for us to meet other students and professors in our field. We had a small delegation of seven students who attended. We had a great time in the 95 degree weather (compared to Moscow's high 40's) while we competed in the Quiz-Bowl (which we are proud to say that we held Humboldt State to the smallest deficit of all teams that competed against them – a mere 30 points), and seeing the awesome desert country around Tuscon.

We have also had the opportunity to interact with other student organizations in our area. With the Washington State Student Chapter just down the road, we have done a few activities with them. Softball between the two groups was the highlight, with the Idaho Chapter winning in the seventh inning by one point.

We have also worked with private groups in Northern Idaho. The Nature Conservancy has annually allowed us to stay at their preserve on the Snake River in exchange for a weekend of work, clearing away brush and helping with habitat projects. The Potlatch Corporation has paid our society the past two years to run check-stations just off of a few tracts of their land that they are managing. The land is really productive, and I can specifically remember pulling teeth on a 4X5 bull elk that had nursing teeth (which put it at about 2 years old). This has been a great opportunity for our Society to gain great work experience in the technical realm of management.

This truly has been an awesome year with a lot of activities, and we intend to keep it up. We have another delegation of students going to Conclave, which will be at Humboldt State University, Arcata, California. Currently we are in the process of implementing an old fashion big game drive on a tract of the University Forest. It should be a great time.

Submitted by: Mary Ann Donovan Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The Chapter went on a trip to the eastern Front of Montana Rocky Mountains. Stops were at Two Medicine Valley in Glacier National Park, Black Leaf Management area and Pine Butte Swamp. Members also enjoyed field trips to the Grounded Eagle Foundation, a raptor rehab facility, and to Ninepipes for owl netting with Denver Holt. We participated in the annual wildlife count at the National Bison Range in Mosie, Mt. Wildlife counted this year ranged from black bear to mountain goat. This is a great chance for incoming freshmen to see wildlife up close. This refuge is a gem and we are happy to provide assistance in this yearly ritual.

One of the priorities of the Chapter is to expose the members to professionals in the wildlife field. To that end we had many speakers come this year. Mike Jimenez spoke on wolves. Wendy Arjo spoke on predator prey relations. Mary Manning came from the Forest Service and Dave McCleery came from B.L.M. We were honored to have Bud Moore, author of the **Lochsa Story**, come to address us.

This year we sent eight members to The Wildlife Society Conclave held in Humboldt, CA. We were pleased to have two international students join the team in representing the University of Montana. The Chapter came away with the most awards of any group. Tom Giermakowski got first place in a student paper presentation. Erin Bentley was awarded Best of Show and first place for the Non-Wildlife Division in photography, winning two out of the three awards presented. For their rendition of Rough Grouse courtship display, the students got second place in the Animal Behavior Division. All in all it was a successful journey.

The Educational Outreach Program presented many programs to grammar and high schools in and around Missoula. Programs ranged from wolf habitat to pond life. Members also participated in judging at the Student Science Fair at Rattlesnake High School. This program is one of our strongest aspects of the Society.

We finished our year with the Annual Beast Feast. Faculty and students had a great time dining on elk burgers.

WESTERN SECTION

California Central Coast Chapter

California North Coast Chapter

Nevada Chapter

San Joaquin Valley Chapter



CALIFORNIA CENTRAL COAST CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: David Morgan Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

In January of 1997 our chapter hosted Vernon Bleich of the California Department of Fish and Game for a presentation on his research into cause specific mortality factors at work in several eastern Sierra deer herds.

As President, I contacted our local Congressional Representative and presented the Teaming with Wildlife Initiative. Despite showing marked interest in the proposal, Mr. Capps suffered a fatal heart attack and we can only wait to see who is elected in his place and start anew.

On behalf of the Chapter I also contacted our State Representative and let them know of our existence and that we would be happy to provide assistance in natural resource issues.

CALIFORNIA NORTH COAST CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: John E. Harris Title: Past-President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

1997 was a very notable year for the California North Coast Chapter (CNC) culminating in the receipt of The Wildlife Society's Chapter of the Year Award at the annual conference in Snowmass. In addition, the Chapter will also be receiving the 1997 Chapter of the Year Award from the Western Section in February. This was, and is quite an honor to a Chapter which just a few years ago only had a membership of 52.

The Chapter has been able to maintain its membership at approximately 160 members and has increased its finances from approximately \$3,000 to over \$11,000. This substantial increase in Chapter funds was primarily due to the Mesocarnivores of Northern California: Biology, Management, & Survey Techniques workshop sponsored by the Chapter in August. CNC was fortunate to be able to recruit many of the leading experts in mesocarnivore biology and survey techniques from throughout the western United States as instructors. This very successful workshop drew participants from as far away as Seattle, Washington, Washington, DC, and Mexico City, Mexico.

In 1997, the Chapter held 10 business meetings, 4 program meetings, 6 breakfast meetings, and 3 social mixers. The Chapter's program meetings have been very well received and regularly drew 50 to over 60 people. The highlight of the program meetings was The Role of Advocacy in the Wildlife Profession. This program was in keeping with the Chapter's desire to have at least one program meeting dedicated to exploring relevant and potentially controversial topics. The other excellent and informative programs were about western rattlesnakes, northern goshawk, and Humboldt martens. Our social mixers, which included our annual meeting in December, continued to be an excellent opportunity for professional and student members to interact over refreshments in a relaxed atmosphere. Also as part of our ongoing Student Mentor Program, the Chapter held its annual resume workshop at Humboldt State University (HSU). Other activities specifically designed for student members included a Map & Compass workshop and a field trip to Simpson Timber Company lands to discuss wildlife and timber management issues.

In April, CNC, in cooperation with the Humboldt Chapter of The American Fisheries Society, held its 23rd Annual Spring Conference and Banquet. The theme of the conference was Humboldt Bay Watersheds: Resources and Recovery. At the awards banquet the Chapter presented an Award of Special Appreciation or Excellence in Leadership to Chapter President Jay Harris, while HSU wildlife student Keith Slauson received the award for Best Student Paper.

The Chapter's committees have also continued to play an active role. The Education Committee participated in the Society of American Foresters Forest Conservation Days and HSU's Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics. The Conservation Affairs committee continued to monitor proposed changes in the California Environmental Quality Act to assure that such changes would not adversely effect the State's wildlife. At the request of the California Department of Fish & Game, the Chapter participated on a citizens advisory committee regarding proposed changes in speed limits on Big Lagoon State Wildlife Area. As a result, the Chapter submitted a letter to the State Fish & Game Commission recommending against any speed limit increases -- a recommendation that was supported by the Dept. Of Fish & Game upheld by the Fish & Game Commission. CNC, in association with the Redwood Region Audubon Society, also began the nomination process to list Humboldt Bay as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) site.

The Chapter has continued publishing its quarterly newsletter, The Marten which features numerous original articles on local wildlife issues. To help off-set reproduction costs, the Chapter began soliciting advertisers for The Marten. This has proven very successful. CNC has also continued to maintain its world wide web site and has realized considerable savings by sending approximately 40% of its mailings via e-mail.

The 1997 Executive Board for the CNC was Jay Harris, President; Lowell Diller, President-Elect; Chet Ogan, Secretary; Sandra von Arb, Treasurer; Catherine Hibbard, Chapter Representative; and Kevin Hughes, Student Representative. To keep abreast of CNC activities you're invited to visit our web site at <http://redwood.northcoast.com/~cncfws>

NEVADA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: James M. Ramakka Title: President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

Two general membership meetings were held in 1997. The winter meeting was held in Winnemucca on January 26. Attendance was limited due to a severe ice storm. The topic of the meeting "Impacts of Exotic Plants and Wildlife on Wildlife Habitat" generated lively discussions. During the business meeting, as a follow up to this topic, it was decided the summer meeting would be held at the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge to look at results of fire in the field. Other business included passage of a resolution supporting Teaming With Wildlife.

President Gary Zunino resigned in May. President-Elect Jim Ramakka assumed the role of Chapter President. The summer meeting was held on June 28-29. Only 16 people attended, of these were chapter members. Since only 2 board members were present, no official business meeting was held. Dean Carrier President-Elect of the Western Section attended the field trip and discussed Section activities with the group. After the meeting, with the approval of the Executive Board, Mr. Don DeLong was appointed to fill the remaining term of President-Elect of the Chapter.

Because of the controversy in the state surrounding the use of fire as a management tool, a committee was appointed in October to prepare a position statement on this topic. Mr. Jim Yoakum is chairing the committee. The statement should be ready for membership review in 1998.

The Nevada Chapter continues to struggle with declining membership. At the end of 1997 there were only 54 chapter members in the state. The main goal for 1998 is to increase involvement of professionals in the Chapter.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Karen J. Brown

Title: '98 Chapter President

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

January-December 1997 was a busy time for the San Joaquin Valley Chapter. Our officers took seriously their pledge to revitalize the Chapter and made some significant improvements. The result has been very positive, both in terms of current member participation and new member recruitment.

Our first job in 1997 was to update the mailing list, which was the biggest complaint of our members. We did this by soliciting updated information from our members and creating a membership database. We used the chapter dues reports that we receive from national to make sure that we weren't leaving anyone off the list, and then started using the "new" mailing list to send out newsletters and announcements.

We also created an e-mail list-server, allowing us to disseminate information to our members in a timely manner. This provides a forum for discussion of issues important to the Chapter and keeps members informed of classes, document review periods and Chapter meetings. We plan to use this e-mail list in the future to electronically distribute our newsletters, allowing us to reduce the cost of our newsletter significantly and avoid the dues increase that so many other organizations have resorted to.

The membership database has come in handy in other ways, as well, because it allows us to organize information on our members. For example, we use the database to track our student members and plan to provide each student with a list of mentors. Our students have indicated that this is one way that the San Joaquin Valley Chapter can meet their needs as future wildlife professionals.

Another way that we have been trying to meet the needs of students and other members is by inviting speakers to our quarterly meetings. Some of the speakers have received grants from the Chapter (we offer two \$500 grants each year, one of which is awarded to a student conducting research in the San Joaquin Valley). Other speakers provide information on technology, such as the use of GIS systems, or information on significant events occurring in the San Joaquin Valley.

In 1997, our Chapter President and other officers put a tremendous amount of time and energy into revitalizing the San Joaquin Valley Chapter, but we're not finished yet!!! The 1998 officers plan to build on last year's accomplishments by continuing to have speakers at our meetings, publishing a membership directory, coordinating social events and field trips, working with other organizations to hold workshops, and finding even more ways that we can serve the wildlife professionals of the San Joaquin Valley.

WORKING GROUPS

Biometrics Working Group

Native Peoples' Wildlife Management Issues Working Group

Public Conservation Education & Extension Working Group

Restoration Working Group

Wildlife Toxicology Working Group



BIOMETRICS WORKING GROUP OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: _____

Steve Sheriff

Title: _____

Chair

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The Biometrics Working Group (BWG) received approval of our charter from the TWS Council during their March meeting. BWG received their certificate as a chartered working group at the TWS Annual Conference in Snowmass, Colorado.

Elections were held in February 1997 resulting in the following slate of officers: Chair Steve Sheriff; Chair-elect Bill Kendall; Secretary Doug Johnson; Treasurer Christine Bunck; and Board Members Mike Conroy, Grey Pendleton, John Sauer, and Tanya Shenk. These officers constitute BWG's executive board for September 1997 through September 1998.

At the TWS Annual Conference in Snowmass, BWG sponsored two symposia and one workshop. The workshop was entitled "Statistical Analysis of GIS and Spatially Correlated Field Data," and was organized by John Kern, Trent McDonald, and Wallace Erickson of West, Inc. This workshop was attended by over 150 individuals. Alan Franklin and Tanya Shenk, from Colorado State University and Colorado Division of Wildlife, respectively, organized a symposium entitled, "How to Practice Safe Modeling: The Use and Interpretation of Models in Resource Management." This symposium was co-sponsored with the Fishery and Wildlife Biology Graduate Student Organization of Colorado State University. Alan and Tanya are in the process of organizing papers from this symposium into a book for publication. The other symposium, entitled "Study of Resource Selection Using GIS," was organized by Lyman McDonald from West, Inc. and Grey Pendleton of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Lyman and Grey are seeking a suitable publication outlet for papers presented during this symposium, too.

BWG conducted our annual meeting group at the TWS Annual Conference in Snowmass.

BWG continued to enhance its efforts of communication with its members through the publication of two newsletters in 1997. The newsletters carried information concerning the election of officers, announcements of symposia and the workshop sponsored by BWG, news from the BWG, and announcements of items of interest, such as other wildlife biometrics conferences and sessions at other meetings.

BWG also started a listserver to facilitate communication within the wildlife biometrics community and with wildlife biologists interested in biometrics. Discussions began concerning the creation of a web-page for BWG.

BWG has proposed two symposia that have been accepted for the TWS Annual Conference in Buffalo, New York. Members of BWG are taking the lead in organizing these activities.

NATIVE PEOPLES' WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ISSUES WORKING GROUP OF THE WILDLIFE
SOCIETY

Submitted by: Dale Becker

Title: Interim Chair

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The Native Peoples' Wildlife Management Working Group developed a slate of candidates for Officer positions and Board of Director positions. Ballots have been distributed to members, and election results will be announced on March 1, 1998. The group is assembling materials for review by the TWS Council at its March meeting, when the group will ask for approval of the working group. The charter has been revised and is ready for approval also. A working group member has volunteered to edit a periodic newsletter, and work on a brochure has begun. Membership is at approximately 75. We hope to begin some real activity within the group immediately after Council approval.

PUBLIC CONSERVATION EDUCATION & EXTENSION WORKING GROUP OF THE WILDLIFE
SOCIETY

Submitted by: Bob Usgaard Title: Secretary/Treasurer

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The Public Conservation Education and Extension Working Group held its first annual meeting in October, 1996 at the Annual TWS Conference in Cincinnati, OH. Following this meeting, a working group charter was drafted, and in March, 1997, this charter along with nominations for offices and board members was sent out to the 90 members of the group. Included with this mailing was a notice about the upcoming annual working group meeting and PCEE sponsored symposium/workshop at the 1997 TWS Conference in Snowmass, CO.

The PCEE Working Group conducted its second annual meeting at the TWS Conference in Snowmass, CO in September, 1997. The main focus of the meeting was to review the mission statement, goals and objectives outlined in the charter. Each person in attendance at the meeting was provided with a copy of the charter and allowed until the end of November to mail edits to the secretary.

The sponsored symposium and associated workshop on how public education and extension can help meet the needs of resource conservation agencies in a "changing world" were very successful and well attended. Following the days events, PCEE members discussed plans for a 1998 symposium and workshop. Proposals for a ½ day symposium and ½ day workshop for the 1998 TWS Conference in Buffalo were completed and accepted.

Immediate plans outside of the scheduled symposium, workshop and annual meeting at the TWS conference in Buffalo, the working group executive board is working on developing a quarterly newsletter and opening lines of communication among its members, which now stands at 120 wildlife/educational professionals.

Other goals for the working group include:

- 1) Create a network among wildlife professionals for the purpose of exchanging information concerning public conservation education through newsletters, symposia, meetings, etc.
- 2) Increase the level of awareness among wildlife professionals of the integral role that public education plays in building successful wildlife management programs. The importance of education will only increase as our society becomes increasingly urbanized and removed from the land. This can be accomplished locally through articles in regional and state publications and nationally by such publications as the TWS Bulletin, etc.
- 3) Facilitate the evaluation of educational curricula and programming at state and national levels to determine what works and why. Further, determine what influence wildlife agencies have had concerning public education curricula and programming and develop strategies for improving this link (i.e., how closely tied is education to wildlife management goals within state agencies?)
- 4) Develop some sort of a formal recognition process within TWS for successful conservation education professionals and programs.

RESTORATION WORKING GROUP OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Peter Fasbender Title: Interim Chair

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The Restoration Working Group has been publishing a quarterly newsletter to keep in contact with the membership. Our charter has been approved by the membership and have held an election of officers. We held our 3rd Annual Meeting in Snowmass to discuss group direction and plan for a restoration symposium to be held at the annual conference in Buffalo. The Restoration Working Group and the Biodiversity Working Group planned a symposium entitled "Ecological Restoration and Biodiversity: Theory and Application." The symposium has been approved as a full-day symposium dealing with restoration and biodiversity issues. The morning session, entitled " Diversity Restoration: Challenges and constraints," describes the theoretical constraints limiting diversity and describe the challenges involved with implementing restoration, especially relative to diversity. The afternoon session, "Restoring Diversity: Meeting the challenge," will use a case-study approach to describe planned and serendipitous impacts on diversity from restoration activities, and suggest methods for inclusion of diversity in future restorations given lessons learned.

WILDLIFE TOXICOLOGY WORKING GROUP OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Kristin E. Brugger Title: Chair

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January - December 1997

The Wildlife Toxicology Working Group had a paid membership of 117 scientists in 1997. WTWG participated in the Fourth Annual Technical Meeting of the Wildlife Society at Snowmass, CO, with a dedicated poster session, A Wildlife Toxicology : Current Issues in the Western United States. Thirty seven posters were displayed and represented research of many members of the WTWG. Coffee and light breakfast were served and funded by private donations.

An annual business meeting was held at Snowmass, CO. No election was held in 1997; only the position of Chair was reallocated at the September business meeting. Kathleen Fagerstone moved from Chair to Past - Chair. Kristin Brugger moved from Chair-elect to Chair. Larry Brewer moved from Past-Chair to private citizen. Other board members retained their responsibilities until elections of February 1998.

The treasury holds approximately \$1,000. A special publication of SETAC - TWS presentations is in progress, edited by L. Brewer and K. Fagerstone. A communications committee formed to develop a traveling educational poster or slide show to assist in regional training of wildlife biologists in issues of toxicology. An Annual Technical Meeting Committee formed and submitted successful proposals for 2 symposia for the 1998 meeting in Buffalo, NY.