



Intelligent Tinkering

To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of Intelligent Tinkering—Aldo Leopold

Volume 53, Number 1

Winter 2024

Raffle and Silent Auction Donations Needed!

Please consider bringing a donation for this year's raffle or silent auction at the 2024 winter meeting. This is the perfect opportunity to re-gift that Christmas present you didn't really want, clear out the bookshelf (how many mushroom guides do you really need?), or channel your artistic side. Wildlife- or nature-related items are encouraged. Previous donations have included food items, artwork and crafts, books, gift cards, gear, and "experience" coupons such as the opportunity to harvest wild rice.

This year all proceeds of both the silent auction and the raffle will go into the scholarship funds, so come ready to support our students!

We are also **seeking volunteers** to assist with running the silent auction and raffle. This is a very easy way to give back to the Chapter with minimal time commitment prior to the meeting.

Please contact [Jennifer Summers](#) if you are willing to donate an item or volunteer. At the meeting, be prepared to drop off your donation at the registration table when you check-in.

We need you.

By Ken Pemble, President

I recently had the honor and privilege to attend the retirement celebration of one of my former supervisors, someone I have had the privilege of calling a mentor for many years. While at her party, I was reminded by a coworker of a saying we had, "we'll get it done, we always do."

I may have adopted this slogan from a previous career and brought it into our line of work, because as a wildlife professional, the alternative is unthinkable. If we've committed ourselves to a job, it's obviously worth doing.

Back then, I would often say it to calm nerves and acknowledge the treacherous conditions that Lake Superior would throw at us. Knowing full well that our schedules were at the whims of the big lake, and not beholden to the time-tables of the Federal fiscal year or any other feeble inventions of man.

But the keyword in that slogan, "we'll get it done, we always do," is **WE**.

And as we draw in on our winter meeting at the end of next month.



We have assembled an excellent team comprised of 13 members of our chapter, eight of them pulling double or triple duty as board and/or committee members. We couldn't do it without them.

Our planning committee has put together an excellent winter meeting with two planned symposia, an array of guest speakers, social events, and other highlights that shouldn't be missed.

As I close out my term for the Wisconsin Chapter, I want anybody thinking about volunteering for a board or committee position to know, that it is worth it. Every job comes with work. All work comes with reward. And the reward for this job has been beyond measure.

The team of wildlifers, beyond your normal agency or staff circle, that you get to work with on a regular-basis is beyond compare. So yeah, it was definitely worth it and; we got it done, we always do.

Intelligent Tinkering

Published by Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society. TWS is an international nonprofit organization of wildlife professionals.

Submission Deadlines

Winter Issue: 1/15, Spring Issue: 4/15, Summer Issue: 7/15, Fall Issue: 10/15

[Click here](#) if interested in submitting content for publication.

STILL NEEDED OPEN POSITIONS

President-Elect: 3-Year-Term

Secretary: 2-Year-Term

Click [here](#) for more information!

Code of Conduct

By Lacey Hill Kastern, Past President
& Jen Merems, Secretary

As members of the wildlife profession, all our colleagues deserve to be welcomed, respected, and valued.

Even as we recognize the importance of and strive for diversity in our natural world, we acknowledge the contribution of individual diversity to our profession. Taken from our parent organization: “The Wildlife Society recognizes the value of including the richness of human diversity in our efforts to discover, educate, inform policy, and involve the public in wildlife science and management.”

In this light and with the goal of ensuring that our Chapter is welcoming and inclusive for all, we put forward the following guidelines for professional behavior:

- treat all members with respect and consideration, valuing the diversity of views and opinions that may be different than those you hold;
- communicate with respect for others and critique ideas rather than individuals;
- avoid personal attacks directed towards members;
- be mindful of your colleagues and your surroundings; and
- professionalism should be exercised at all times.

The following are examples of behavior that will not be tolerated

- harassment, threats, intimidation, or discrimination of any kind or in any form;
- physical or verbal abuse;
- verbal comments related to gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, race, religion, national origin which may reasonably be interpreted as offensive, insulting, or obscene or engaging in any conduct of a stalking or threatening nature directed to any member;
- behavior deemed to be excessively loud and/or disruptive of a meeting or any other event; and
- unlawful conduct or activity of any kind.

Local Vocal, Wisconsin’s Wildlife Vocalizations

Wildlife Vocalizations is a collection of short personal perspectives from people in the field of wildlife sciences. Reflect on the past while looking towards the future. This is a collective effort to provide voices representing a common theme of tenacity, perseverance, ingenuity, and passion. Open to Wisconsin wildlifere, WCTWS members and nonmembers alike. Our hope is to bring our community and membership together, showing that you are not alone in the wildlife field. [Click to see past submissions.](#)

Upcoming
Events

Wisconsin Prescribed Fire
2024 Conference

Feb 2 - 3, 2024

[Register here](#)

**Nominations due for the
WCTWS Winter Meeting
1/19! (see page 4,7)**

**Sponsors needed for the
WCTWS Winter Meeting**

If you or an organization you are a part of are willing to sponsor the 2024 Winter Meeting, please contact Jennifer Summers at jsummers@uwsp.edu. Sponsors will be recognized in the meeting program and on the Chapter’s website.

Sponsorships are greatly appreciated!

Share your voice!



Committee and Committee Chair Solicitation

By Lacey Hill Kastern, Past President

We are **still seeking** engaged members to chair and participate in our various committees. I recommend taking a co-chair approach to these committees to help reduce the workload and increase the sustainability of the committee work for the long term. We will leave that decision to the current chairs on whether they would like to invite someone to co-chair their committee. **Our organization is only as strong as our active and engaged membership, so please consider leading one of our committees.** Below is a list of the basic duties of the committees. Depending on the committee, there may be some additional responsibilities. These can be found in the WCTWS Operations Manual.

- ◆ Hold regular meetings of the committee
- ◆ Annually develop committee objectives and submit them to the executive board
- ◆ Submit a committee report annually to be published in the Chapter Newsletter.

Standing Committees

Nominating & Elections Committee –

Chaired by the past president (me), I am looking for volunteers to assist me on this committee this year. Please contact me at lacey.s.hill@live.com if you are interested in helping recruit for the upcoming 2024 executive board elections.

Membership Committee – This committee has great participation and leadership, but if you are interested in joining, please get in touch with Jennifer Summers (jsummers@uwsp.edu) or Darren Ladwig (darrenladwig@gmail.com)

Information and Education – This committee consists of our president, newsletter editor, and secretary (who is currently also the newsletter editor). Please get in touch with Jen Merems (jmerems@gmail.com).

Audit Committee – The past president also chairs this, and an individual did sign up to join this committee at the winter meeting. I am still looking for at least one other member, and we will meet in November. Contact me at lacey.s.hill@live.com

Public Comment Committee – This committee consists of the past president, president, and president-elect and is open for more members to join. Contact Ken Pemble at kenneth.pemble@usda.gov

Scholarship Committee – This long-standing committee has strong leadership chaired by Lesa Kardash (Lesa.Kardash@wisconsin.gov) and already has strong membership participation.

Winter Meeting Planning Committee – The president and president-elect co-chair this committee and needs more membership participation because a lot of planning and work goes into our winter meetings. Please get in touch with Ken Pemble at kenneth.pemble@usda.gov to join this committee

Awards Committee – Another long-standing committee with strong leadership is chaired by Derek Johnson (DerekJ.Johnson@wisconsin.gov).

Diversity Committee – Our newest committee with strong leadership. This committee is co-chaired by Jen Merems (jmerems@gmail.com) and Kelly VanBeek (Kelly_vanBeek@fws.gov).

Conservation Affairs Committee – This committee needs co-chairs. This committee oversees all of the individual issues sub-committees. This committee will also annually review, supervise, and provide a recommendation to the executive board to add or remove sub-committees as needed.

- ◆ Climate Change - *Open*
- ◆ Deer Management - *Open*
- ◆ Farm-Wildlife - *Open*
- ◆ Forestry and Wildlife – Ron Eckstein (roneckstein@charter.net)
- ◆ Government Affairs – Chuck Pils (cmpils@sbcglobal.net)
- ◆ Wildlife Damage - *Open*
- ◆ Wolf Management – Randy Jurewicz (jurewrb@yahoo.com)
- ◆ Furbearer Issues – Jenna Malinowski (Jenna.kosnicki@gmail.com)

Truisms - Contributed by Tom Bahti

Shamelessly borrowed, stolen and plagiarized from other sources

Are they still “bad habits” if I like them?

Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but not to their own facts.

Maybe you’ll find direction around some corner where it’s been waiting to meet you.

It’s only a family vacation if you think “We’re never doing this again.” at least once.

You can run from time, but nobody is ever dumb enough to think that you can hide.

If you’re testing my waters, you’d better know how to swim.

When people show you who they are, believe them the first time.

Stand in the way of profit and progress on environmental grounds, and you’re at least a tree hugging hippie if not an outright communist.

Tribal Conservation Spotlight

By Ally Scott, member

This section highlights conservation-related information, resources, and announcements affiliated with Wisconsin's Tribes and tribal organizations. Although this section is not exhaustive, we hope it helps to increase awareness of tribal-led conservation efforts and supports opportunities for cross-cultural collaboration and partnerships. If you would like to contribute to this section in future issues of *Intelligent Tinkering*, please contact Ally Scott at ascott@menominee.edu.

Ganawenindiwig plant guide

A new publication from GLIFWC empowers users to grow, promote, and use plant beings from natural plant communities adapted to coastal areas of Gichigami (Lake Superior) to heal and protect Gichigami shorelines. [Read Ganawenindiwig online.](#)

Assisted forest migration and Tribes

The new [Assisted Migration Plan](#) for Superior National Forest emphasizes Tribal treaty and cultural resource considerations and may serve as a model for other planning efforts. [Read the full plan online.](#)

Fifth National Climate Assessment

The [Fifth National Climate Assessment](#), released in November, dedicates an entire chapter to Tribes and Indigenous Peoples. [Read the chapter online.](#)

Great Lakes tribes' knowledge of nature could be key to navigating climate change. Will enough people listen?

Tribal knowledge of caring for the land, air and water could help as climate change accelerates. Read the full article from [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#).

Climate scientists are working with Indigenous Tribes

Native peoples have long collected environmental data. Now scientists are cataloging these observations and learning how they're affecting Indigenous communities globally. Read the full article from [Future Planet](#).

Tribal Colleges and Universities

Did you know that Wisconsin is home to 2 of the 35 accredited Tribal College and Universities (TCUs) in the United States? The [College of Menominee Nation](#) (Keshena and Green Bay, WI) and [Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University](#) (Hayward, WI) welcome Native and non-Native students and celebrate diverse student populations. TCUs are integral and essential to their communities, creating environments that foster American Indian culture, languages, and traditions.



A screenshot of GLIFWC's Summer Newsletter

Nominations for the winter WCTWS due Jan 19 2024!

The **Diversity Award** recognizes an individual or organization for outstanding efforts in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the natural resource-related professions, especially wildlife conservation and education. The award recognizes and honors promotion of and support for diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workforce, academic enrollment, or organizational membership.

Both individuals and organizations are eligible for the award. Individuals include anyone participating in a natural resource field. Organizations include public agencies, institutions of higher education, companies, and non-governmental organizations. WCTWS membership is not required.

Evaluation criteria for individuals are as follows: Leadership, Innovation, Tangible Results.

Evaluation criteria for organizations are as follows: Innovation and Creativity, Resource Investment, Overcoming Challenges and Obstacles, Sustained Efforts, Tangible Results

The primary letter of nomination should address how the nominee has excelled in one or more of the following pursuits: Demonstrated leadership in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, Demonstrated innovation in design and implementation of diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, Achieved tangible results (e.g., recruitment, mentoring, funding, program implementation), and may also include other relevant factors to further describe the impact and contribution of the nominee's accomplishments and the value of their efforts towards furthering diversity.

Nominations can be submitted by a second party or can be self-nominated. Packages should include a letter of nomination and at least one letter of support from another source. Contact information for the primary nominator and for the supporting reference(s) must be included. Submit these materials via email to kelly_vanbeek@fws.gov by January 19, 2024.

A Brief History of the WCTWS—the 2000s

By Scott Hygnstrom, member

*Preface - We celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society (WCTWS) at our annual meeting in La Crosse, Wisconsin on January 31, 2023, and what a glorious celebration it was! A 238-slide pictorial history of the WCTWS was developed for your viewing enjoyment and is available on the WCTWS website at [Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society - Chapter History \(wildapricot.org\)](http://WisconsinChapterofTheWildlifeSociety-ChapterHistory(wildapricot.org)). Members of the Board suggested that it would be nice to have an article on the history of the WCTWS for **Intelligent Tinkering**. This would seem to be a simple value-added product, but as the keyboard was put in motion, I quickly realized that a comprehensive history of the Chapter could end up being a 238-page book...far too much information for a newsletter article. Therefore, I decided to develop quarterly excerpts for IT on the history of the WCTWS by decade. Here's one for the 2000s!*

The year 2000 marked a step into a new millennium. Those concerned about their computers melting down with the Y2K transition found there was little to worry about. The 2000 decade was known for a dramatic rise in popularity of the Internet, Google, Facebook, and smartphones, which all led to a dramatic change in our lives. While doing research for this article, I found a copy of our newsletter *Intelligent Tinkering* from Spring 2000 (Figure 1), edited by Alan Crossley. It included several fascinating articles, including one by Mike Foy, President (1999), who in parallel with Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Lion, and the Wizard of Oz, lamented on some of the shortcomings of the WCTWS and its members, including conflicts of interest, lack of bravery, and no executive director. Some things never change. Tom Bahti was sharing those goofy “Truisms” back then, as he does today. Lesa Kardash took over the editorial reins of *IT* in 2004 and hung on for 20 years! Tim Andryk continued a regular column “On the Docket” that featured wildlife-related proposals before the Wisconsin Legislature. The Chapter was active in deer issues in the 2000s, with development of a position statement on herd control and captive cervids and testifying on deer management at a meeting of the WNRB. Our members also opposed legislation to split the WDNR into two separate divisions. The Chapter was involved in a variety of projects involving other meaningful acronyms such as CARA, COUWCH, CRP, and WWP and had some difficulties with the WWF. The WCTWS signed an agreement with the Aldo Leopold Foundation in 2008 that allows use of the image of the “Shack” for the WCTWS logo (Figure 2). The bylaws were revised in 2001 and 2008. With the uptick in Internet use, Dave Beckmann and student volunteers at UW-Stevens

Point initiated development of a website for WCTWS in 2001. It didn't go viral, but we had a presence on the “world wide web.” After several revisions, Jamie Nack became the Webmaster in 2008 and served in that capacity for 10 years.

The WCTWS held annual Winter Meetings and more throughout the 2000s. The 2000 Winter Meeting, held at the Memorial Union at UW-Madison, was marred by a vehicle-arresting blizzard. Scott Craven and Rebecca Christoffel hosted the 1st Annual Student Quiz Bowl at the Meeting. Unfortunately, the UW-Stevens Point Team was stranded on I-51, but the world's oldest student group consisting of Brian Buenzow, Jim Ruwalt, Tom Bahti, and Chuck Pils, aka the “Geezers,” filled in for the Pointers and to everyone's surprise made it through the first round. (I hope you can appreciate how difficult it is to stay on task writing an article on the history of the WCTWS when you come across crazy interesting historical information such as this!). In 2001, the Winter Meeting was held in Eau Claire and the theme was “Looking Back – Moving Forward.” (continues on page 6)

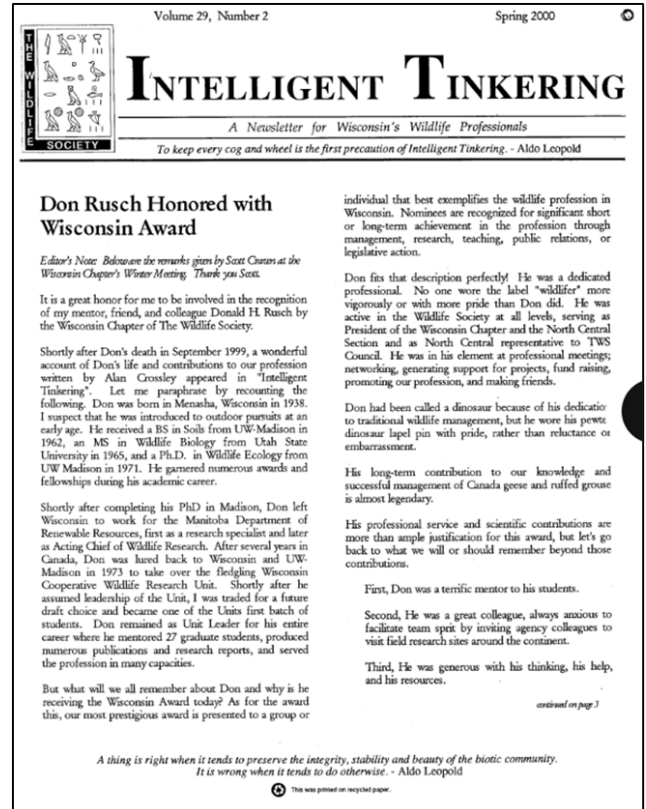


Figure 1. The first edition of *Intelligent Thinking* in 2000 include a lead article lamenting the loss of admired wildlife professional Donald H. Rusch (President, 1978) and the Wisconsin Award that was posthumously presented to his wife Doris (President, 1987).

(continued from page X)



Figure 2. The WCTWS logo with the “Shack” that precipitated from the signing of an agreement with the Aldo Leopold Foundation in 2008.

The registration fee was \$20, and it included a 2-day symposium on management of invasive plants, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association and Prairie Enthusiasts. I don’t think \$20 will go that far anymore. The 2004 Winter Meeting was held in Stevens Point and featured a keynote address by Mike Dombeck, a general session on conservation education, and concurrent sessions on research being conducted at Wisconsin universities. The WCTWS helped host the 2005 Annual Conference of TWS on the Monona Terrace in Madison, Wisconsin. I couldn’t find much on it in the WCTWS files, but I recall a couple of Wisconsin highlights when Jim Hardin, UW-Stevens Point was recognized as a TWS Fellow and A. Starker Leopold contrasted the citation decay that his publications were experiencing with citation indices of his father’s publications that were going through the roof. The Chapter served as co-host of the 68th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Madison in 2007, with the theme, “Be the Change—Manage Locally, Conserve Globally.”

The issue of “professionalism” had been kicked around throughout much of the decade and organizers of the 2007 Winter Meeting focused efforts with a plenary session and panel discussion on professionalism and presentations by TWS President John Organ, Executive Director Michael Hutchins, North Central Representative Gary Potts, and Leopold biographer Curt Meine. A joint Annual Meeting with the Wisconsin Chapters of TWS and the American Fisheries Society was held in 2008 with a theme of science and politics. Plenary speakers included Christine Thomas, Chair of the NRB and Dean at UW-Stevens Point and Dan Svedarski, President of TWS.

The two Chapters had met together 37 years before when both were just fledgling institutions. The WCTWS hosted technical training workshops on wildlife damage management in 2008 and Wildlife Inventory and Monitoring in 2009. Members also held memorable annual Summer Meetings at North Lakeland Discovery Center (2000), Mirror Lake State Park (2001), Hartman Creek State Park (2005), Kemp Biological Station (2006), and Lost Falls Campground (2007). In recognition of all the above-mentioned efforts and more, the WCTWS was recognized with the Chapter of the Year Award by TWS in 2009 (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Karl Martin (left) and Scott Walter (middle), representing WCTWS received the Chapter of the Year Award from TWS President Tom Franklin (right) in 2009.

The WCTWS had 150-175 dues-paying individuals during the 2000s. All members that contributed were identified in a Membership Directory, including images, areas of expertise, and contact information, that was available online and by hard copy. In January 2000, the total budget for WCTWS was \$18,663. (continues on page X)



Serve the Land

A film about Leopold's work at Riley

Watch this 20 minute film about Leopold and the Riley Game Cooperative to learn more.

Click on the picture to be directed to YouTube.

Nominations for the winter WCTWS due Jan 19 2024!

The **Wisconsin Award** is our chapter's highest recognition of a person or group that exemplifies the wildlife profession in our state. The award is intended to be given out annually and nominees are rated on the basis of their overall achievement or service to the wildlife profession in the fields of management, research, teaching, public relations, or legislative direction. Nominees may be any member of the wildlife profession and its supporting disciplines including members of governing bodies.

The **Don Rusch Memorial Award** is presented annually to a nominee who has made an outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation and meets the following requirements: 1) A wildlife professional actively working in the field of management, research, or education in the State of Wisconsin. 2) A member in good standing of the Wisconsin Chapter of TWS. 3) An active participant in or a strong supporter of the role of hunting in wildlife conservation.

The **Special Service Recognition Award** is bestowed upon anyone who has made a significant impact directly or in support of wildlife management or as a WCTWS member that has gone above and beyond the normal duties of a general or Executive Board member. Nominees for a Special Service Recognition Award may not at the time meet the qualifications for either the Wisconsin or Don Rusch Memorial Awards, but are still deserving of recognition by the WCTWS.

Nominations should be emailed directly to Derek at:
derekj.johnson@wisconsin.gov

(Continues from page 5)

In 2005, the WCTWS received a surprise donation of \$50,000 from the estate of Floyd Bjerke, an individual who felt it a personal responsibility to contribute to charitable groups. The Board moved quickly to put the funds into an interest-bearing account and changed the bylaws to allow the use of interest from the account to be used for WCTWS business. This generous donation has provided our Chapter financial stability and enabled us to move in many directions not afforded many other chapters. In 2007, the Board agreed to keep the membership dues at \$10 per year and the annual budget hovered around \$85,000. Proceeds from the Midwest Conference added another \$12,000 to the coffers in 2008, but \$10,000 had to be retained for hosting the Midwest in about 10 years.

Jerry Bartelt was the 29th President of WCTWS and first in the 2000s. Other Presidents included Jonathan Gilbert (2001), Tim Grunewald (2002), Jim Ruwaldt (2003), Adrian Wydeven (2004), Tim Van Deelen (2005), Michele Windsor (2006), Karl Martin (2007), Jamie Nack (2008), and Harvey Halvorsen (2009). Some of these members have retired, and Jon has been talking about the "R word" lately, but over half are still gainfully employed and active in WCTWS. Adrian retired from the WDNR, but is active on the WCTWS Conservation Affairs-Wolf Management Subcommittee. Tim still is immersed in teaching and research at UW-Madison and has served as Advisor to the UW-Madison Student Chapter and has contributed to activities of the Diversity Committee. Karl Martin now is Dean and Director of the UW-Madison Extension, but also has been seen occasionally at WCTWS Business meetings. Jamie still is working as an Extension Senior Wildlife Outreach Specialist at UW-Madison (Figure 4) and helped with the transition of existing online content to the current WCTWS website. All deserve a thanks if you happen to see them in a meeting, webinar, or out wandering around a tallgrass prairie.



Figure 4. Jamie Nack, President (2008, in red) working the crowd at a UW-Madison Extension event.

Recognition of exemplary service is a hallmark of the WCTWS. Our Chapter's highest honor, the Wisconsin Award, was initiated in 1977 and recognizes overall achievement or service to the wildlife profession in the fields of management, research, teaching, public relations, or legislative direction. Recipients of the Wisconsin Award in the 2000s included Charles Pils (2000), Keith McCaffery (2001), Scott Craven (2002), James Evrard (2003), Bruce

Kohn (2004), Edward Frank (2006), Gerald Bartelt (2007), and James March (2009). To the best of my knowledge, all are with us except Jim Evrard who passed away in 2020. Chuck still is a legislative watchdog for WCTWS in the halls of the state capitol. I have heard that 30 years after his retirement, Keith no longer goes into the WDNR office in Rhinelander daily, but he still is active in deer issues in the state. Scott is as active as ever and still can be heard monthly with Larry Meiller on Wisconsin Public Radio. It was great to see Ed, Founding Member and 2nd President (1973), still getting around well at the Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the WCTWS in La Crosse last year. We thank Jim and others for sharing the priceless history of the WCTWS at the Celebration.

(Continuous on page 8)

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In 1994, WCTWS created the Aldo Leopold Memorial Student Scholarships to provide support and recognition for future wildlife researchers and managers who are continuing their professional training. Funds for the scholarships were generated by sale of the print “Great Possessions” by Wisconsin artist Jonathan Wilde in the 1990s. Recipients of the Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarships in the 2000s included Angela (Wiegel) Wescott, UW-Stevens Point (2000); Matt Ruwaldt, UW-Madison (2001); Louise Venne, UW-Stevens Point (2002); Matthew Schmidt, UW-Stevens Point (2003); Ryan Schmitz, UW-Platteville (2004); Benjamin Pauli, Lawrence University (2005); Amy VanderVoort, UW-Madison (2006); Ashley Gramza, UW-Madison (2007); Joe Welsch, UW-Stevens Point and Linda Lyon, UW-Madison (2008); and Ryan Stephens (undergrad), UW-Stevens Point and Karl Malcolm (grad), UW-Madison (2009). Before 2009, Leopold scholarships only were awarded to undergraduate students, but in 2009 they were extended to include one undergraduate and one graduate student who have made a commitment to the wildlife profession and have shown exceptional commitment to developing themselves professionally.

In 2006, WCTWS initiated the Donald H. Rusch Memorial Award to annually recognize wildlife professionals who have made outstanding contributions to wildlife conservation in Wisconsin, are members of WCTWS, and are active participants in or strong supporters of the role of hunting in wildlife conservation. Don was the admired Leader of the Coop Unit at UW-Madison for 25 years. He was a very active member of the WCTWS, served as the 7th President (1978), and was recipient of the Wisconsin Award (1999). Recipients of the Rusch Memorial Award in the 2000s included John Olson (2006), Laine Stowell (2007), Brian Buenzow (2008), and Charlie Kilian (2009). Each of these individuals was recognized by their peers and stand as excellent examples of a working wildlife professional.

The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame (WCHF) is an organization with which the WCTWS has long been a contributing partner. The first inductees of the WCHF were Aldo Leopold and John Muir in 1985, followed by other notable wildlife professionals in the 2000s, including Joe Hickey (2002), Forest Stearns (2003), Larry Jahn (2004), George Archibald and Daniel Trainer (2006), and Buzz Besadney (2008). You can learn more of their legacies and others at https://wchf.org/wchf_inductees/.

Many other notable issues were raised and actions precipitated by members of the WCTWS during the 2000s, but there just isn't room or time to address all of them here. If anyone wants to explore the history of the WCTWS further, our Secretary traditionally maintains the files, newsletters, ledgers, and correspondence of the WCTWS in which there is a treasure trove of information. I look forward to exploring the 2010s with you in our next edition of *Intelligent Tinkering*.

Wildlife and Forests Conservation Affairs

WCTWS Membership on Integrated Teams (10 to 14 meetings per year)

- Co-chair, DNR Silviculture Guidance Team
- Member Governor's Council on Forestry ad hoc Sound Forestry Team
- Member Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) Forestry Team

Conferences on species management attended in the last two years:

- White pine at Keshena
- White cedar at Oconto County
- Oak at Wisconsin Dells

Wildlife & Forests Conservation Affairs deals primarily with forest habitat and forest biodiversity. If you wish to serve or discuss these issues contact roneckstein@charter.net.

Sandhill Deer Hunt Updates

By Darren Ladwig, President Elect & Wildlife Biologist at Sandhill

Since the last IT edition came through the digital presses, the last two deer hunts for the season were completed at Sandhill. The annual Learn to Hunt Deer (LHD) event was held on November 4th, and a 2-day firearm hunt was held December 9th-10th. With in-person registration, physical carcass tags, and metal registration tags, it is like stepping in to a time machine and turning the dial back to 2013.

We had 56 novice hunters show up for the 1-day LHD event, of which 12 were first-time adult hunters. All of these students had previously completed a full day workshop at Sandhill where topics such as deer biology, hunter ethics, firearm safety, and principles of wildlife management were touched upon in both classroom and field settings. These eager hunters registered 21 total deer that day composed of 15 antlered and 6 antlerless.



DNR staff (left to right: Darren Ladwig, Amanda McGraw, Quinn Brownell) obtaining biological and hunter data during the December firearm hunt. Photo by Darren Ladwig

The 2-day firearm hunt in December was designed to have a higher hunter density in hopes of helping reach the harvest quota for the year to make up ground from the rather poor harvest during the archery hunt. Saturday morning we had a small army regiment (224 hunters) of hunters ready to come in and try their luck. Overall that weekend went pretty smoothly as the hunters touched off 209 total rounds, registered 99 deer (33 antlered, 66 antlerless), and no gun related injuries occurred. Multiple hunters slept in their trucks overnight at their assigned entry gate to ensure they were one of the first in when we opened the gates in the morning. One hunter was mildly panicked for a bit as we had 2" of snow Saturday night and his body heat effectively locked him in his truck topper (he was sleeping the bed of his truck). He was able to get out with a bit of percussive force on the topper/tailgate in the morning though. One interesting wildlife observation was also reported during an exit interview with a hunter who reported seeing a very large mammal, either Sasquatch or an elk.

(Continues on page [10](#))

Give Back and Gift a Complimentary WCTWS Membership

Do you know a Wisconsin Wildlifer who is not a WCTWS member? Starting today, each active WCTWS member can gift a 1-year complimentary membership to an individual of their choice, giving them the chance to experience all the WCTWS has to offer including but not limited to: networking opportunities with other wildlife professionals in the state, invitation to the fall technical training, quarterly society updates via the Intelligent Tinkering Newsletter, invitations to the monthly Brown Bag web series featuring presentations from Wisconsin Wildlifers, and opportunities to join conservation affairs committees on important wildlife issues. Help us engage even more wildlife professionals in the Chapter and gift a membership. Members can log into their account and submit nominations [here](#).

Note: Membership cannot be gifted to active WCTWS members. Each WCTWS member can gift one membership per year to new members only.

WCTWS Quarterly Summary of Board Meeting Minutes

Log in to the website to find complete Board meeting minutes under the "Meeting Minutes" tab or [click here](#).



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Treasurer Report

By Emma Hansen, Treasurer

Current Holdings and Assets:

Account	Jan 1 2023	Jan 11 2024
Checking	\$26,435.96	\$10,182.63
Savings (0.03% yield)	\$48,189.11	\$32,876.07
Bjerke Investment (10 year return 4.9%*)	\$82,872.70	\$92,417.20
Corpus:	\$57,576.56	\$61,977.48
Money Market 0.01% yield:	\$25,296.14	\$30,387.63
Leopold Scholarship Fund (0.03% yield)	\$10,463.08	\$8,470.11
Hardin and Hammerstrom Scholarship Fund	\$9,261.27	\$7,767.40
PayPal	0	0
Total Assets	\$177,222.12	\$148,589.03
Available Funds**	\$99,921.21	\$70,374.04

*as of 6-30-2023. Corpus rate of returns: 1 year – 14.41%, 3 year – 5.33%, 5 year – 9.66%,

** Excludes Bjerke corpus and Scholarship funds. Bjerke Corpus balance over \$65,250 is potentially available for spending or re-investment.

2023 Proposed Budget vs. Current Actual Income and Expenditures

As of October 29, 2023

2023	Proposed	Actual
Total Revenue	\$83,625.07	\$95,156.56
Total Expense	\$(74,780.00)	\$(50,348.26)
Balance	\$8,845.07	\$44,808.30

The following funds are available for members and committees. If you are interested, please email [Jennifer Summers](#) for more information.

- ◆ Committee support funds
- ◆ Conference and organization sponsorships
- ◆ Student chapter travel grants for national TWS and WCTWS annual meetings

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Considering we canvass the property multiple times with a helicopter performing deer surveys, and have 63 trail cameras active, it must be a very discrete and secretive creature to evade detection thus far.

A total of 129 deer were registered this fall at the property, the highest harvest since 2004, and close to our quota of 150. The goal was to remove approximately half of the deer herd this fall to facilitate a deer density research project. The goal was to remove approximately half of the deer herd this fall to facilitate a deer density research project. The removal was sufficient enough where impacts should be readily visible. Snow is falling as I write this and we will be in good shape to get up in the helicopter soon and get a good head count on the post-hunt population.

I hope everyone is having a good winter and I am looking forward to seeing those that make it to the annual meeting in Green Bay at the end of February!

Words to Live by

John F. Kubisiak

I was called by the U. of Michigan a couple years ago. They asked me "What you would tell the students today?"

You never know what you can achieve in life. I was not a high ranking student, but I suggested

"Be passionate about your chosen career and challenge yourself to be the best in all you do".

53rd Annual Winter Meeting: Partnerships in Conservation

February 27-29, 2024 Green Bay, Wisconsin

The meeting will be held at the Oneida Nation's Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, 2040 Airport Drive Green Bay, Wisconsin 54313.

Hotel reservations can be made by calling toll-free to 800-333-3333 or the hotel's direct line at 920-494-7300.

Ask for the "*Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society Conference 2024*" room block to receive the group rate.

Check the website for more information.



WCTWS Executive Board

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