

Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society



Message from the President



Where in the...?

Send us photos of you doing your thing in your MTTWS Jacket so we can share with your fellow members! Claire Gower volunteered to be our first poster child. She is banding a trumpeter swan. Thanks for sharing Claire!

Greetings from northwest Montana fellow Chapter Members! It is hard to believe how quickly time passes. It seems like only yesterday that I was chatting with many of you in Whitefish at the annual conference. Our passion for management and conservation of wildlife can sometimes be overwhelming as we see our desks become cluttered with reports, applications for internships and technicians, and let's not forget, all that data that needs to be entered. The funny thing is though, that most of us do this day in and day out without complaint and in some cases excitement. If I was a psychologist I would probably look at each of our chapter members in awe and struggle to diagnose what is really going on in our minds! I can think of one

word...dedication. We are dedicated to helping each other as professionals. We are dedicated to the young professionals and students that follow our footsteps. We are dedicated to all the people in the state as we strive for scientifically based conservation and management of their wildlife and the resources the wildlife requires to survive. Our list of accomplishments continues to grow thanks to that dedication. The Education and Information Committee attended the MEA-MFT Conference in Billings and shared the Chapter's mission with hundreds of public educators. We approved the Exurban Development position statement. We voted to make our chapter proceedings searchable and available online through the



Intermountain Journal of Sciences. We funded a comprehensive literature review regarding residential development and ungulates that was recently published in the Wildlife Society Bulletin. This list could go on and on, but you get the idea of the professionalism and dedication that is your Chapter. Thank you everyone for your participation and making the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society one of the best in the country!

News from President Elect

Kristina Boyd



This summer, I am working in the field collecting population data and placing radio-collars on wolves for the FWP Region 1 Wolf Program with the wolf biologist and 4 spectacular volunteers. The field work has kept me in great shape for my expectant delivery of a baby girl in early August. In addition to my job and home obligations, I have been working on preparing a few activities for the National Annual Conference in Milwaukee with other members of the Early Career Professional Working Group, including workshops on resume and interview techniques and peer-review and journal article submission, symposiums on early career federal job opportunities and an assessment of TWS programs focused on student and early career member development, and an associated meeting of all national working group boards to improve collaborative potential. I'm also assisting with this year's Leadership Institute and brainstorming the Montana Annual Conference. There's not a lot of room in there for spare time, but I just managed to make a peach pie with a crust crafted from bear lard that I rendered from the harvest of a beautiful fall black bear last year. The sun is shining and life is good in Troy, Montana.

News from Past President

Shawn Cleveland



Hello from Syracuse!

Well for those that do not know, I have been accepted to SUNY ESF for a PhD program working on landscape level beaver impacts on riparian systems. I officially arrived on June 30th and am living out of boxes, but slowly getting settled. My phone number and email address have not changed (406-370-5416, shawn.m.cleveland@gmail.com) and my new address is 122 Hunt Drive, Fayetteville, NY, 13066. I look forward to catching up with everyone again at the annual meeting next spring. If you find yourself in Syracuse, I always have room for the MT TWS family. Please contact me if you have any questions.

About our Treasurer

Chuck Bowey



Chuck spent his formative years roaming the woods of North Idaho where he cultivated a deep appreciation and love for all things wild. He has devoted his life to finding balances in land use and natural systems, currently managing over 35 ranches throughout Montana. When not working, you will find Chuck with his family in the mountains or along some river or stream, enjoying all that nature is.

About our Secretary

Melissa Foster



I am a wildlife biologist for FWP based out of Glendive, MT. My primary job duties include conducting game surveys, analyzing wildlife data, working on hunter access projects, and implementing habitat projects. There is a lot of oil and gas development occurring in my area, which keeps me busy commenting on development projects and plans. My biologist responsibility area covers nearly 10,000 square miles, so there are plenty of opportunities to develop projects to benefit wildlife and sportsmen.

2014 Annual Conference Planning

Our new President-Elect has been plugging away with the planning for the 2014 Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Conference. The theme for the conference is still undergoing some fine tuning, but the venue has been established. The 2014 Annual Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in Bozeman. If you are highly motivated and would like to help in any way with the conference planning, whether it be helping to line up sponsors, student paper judging, moderating sessions, etc., please contact Kris at mttwspreselect@gmail.com.

To keep up on
Northwest Section
news please visit their
website at:
[http://joomla.wildlife.
org/NW/](http://joomla.wildlife.org/NW/)

2013 Conference Wrap Up

We want to extend a huge **THANKS** to all the volunteers that answered our call for assistance to moderate sessions, judge student talks and posters, to work at the registration desk and the student professional mixer.

We heard from many folks that the Annual Conference in Whitefish was well worth attending. I was a little worried at first when the conference committee said that attendance drops of considerably the farther you get away from the bigger cities, but we had nearly 300 conference registrants and booked the entire Grouse Mountain Lodge for 3 days. Our attendance continues to grow and we have actually outgrown many of the venues in the state. We also had many sponsors that contributed to the success of the conference. While you are out and about please consider thanking our sponsors. Their logos are in the conference program.

A special **THANK YOU** to our outgoing officers! Whisper Camel, Past President, and Ashley Beyer, Secretary, you are greatly appreciated for the years of service and knowledge that you brought to the board and the MT chapter.

Welcome to our newly elected officers, highlighted in previous section! Also thank you to all of the MT members who threw your hat in the ring to run for an officer position. The Society appreciates your willingness to volunteer! Keep in mind that The Society invites all of our members to serve on the Executive Board. It is sometimes difficult to nominate individuals to run for officer so we strongly encourage folks to consider helping out by self-nomination. This year we are looking for a President-Elect and a Treasurer.

We present deserving professionals and students in our field with yearly awards. A summary of awards and past winners are listed on our website, www.MTTWS.org. We are always looking for and accepting nominations in the following categories. Please feel free to make recommendations to Joann Dullum at any point in the year, joann_dullum@fws.gov. In 2013, our awards were presented to the following:

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dan Pletcsher (below right). The award is presented annually for cumulative, past, current, and/or continuing achievements in wildlife conservations.

The Biologist of the Year Award was presented to Bryce Maxell (below left). The award is presented annually for significant achievements in wildlife conservation anytime during the five years immediately preceding award presentation.



The Bob Watts Communication Award is presented for significant communication in media such as professional publications, popular wildlife articles, books, movies, or videos that have a relatively wide audience.

2013 Recipient: Thomas Baumeister



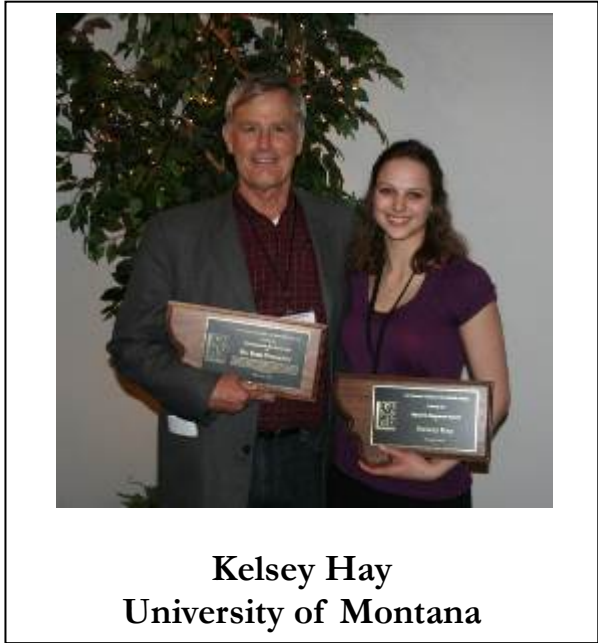
The Wildlife Conservation Award is given to an individual or non-governmental organization for past, present, or ongoing efforts that enhance wildlife conservation in Montana.

2013 Recipient: Flathead Land Trust



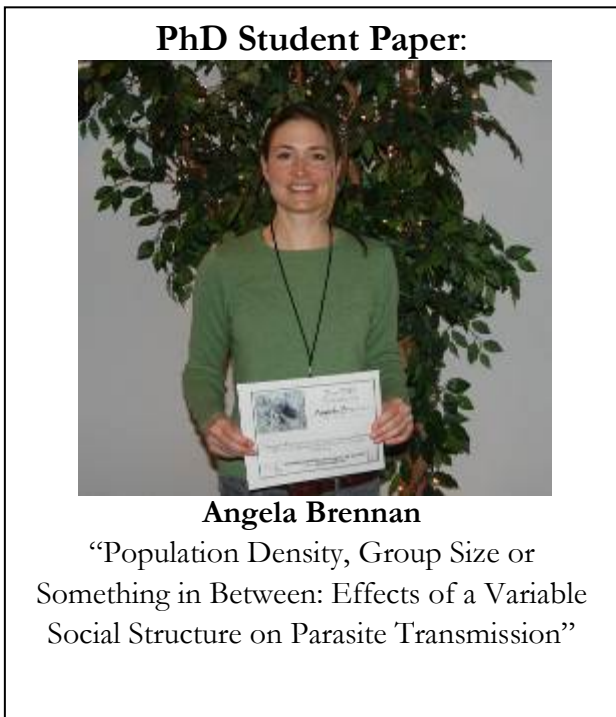
Wynn G. Freeman Memorial Scholarship Fund, established in 1979, is awarded annually by the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society to an outstanding wildlife student(s) at the University of Montana and/or Montana State University. Participation in and commitment to the wildlife profession as well as academics are considered in selecting individuals for this award. The award was established in tribute to the outstanding professional contributions of Wynn Freeman.

2013 Wynn Freeman Scholarship Recipients:



Student Paper Awards: The Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society encourages student participation at the annual meeting and recognizes the best student paper in 2 categories, PhD and Master's.

2011 Student Paper Award recipients:



Student Poster Awards: The Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society encourages student participation at the annual meeting and recognizes best student posters.

2013 Student Poster Award recipients:

Student Poster Award:



Sarah N. Sells

“Proactive Management of Pneumonia Epizootics in Bighorn Sheep in Montana-Project Update”

Montana Chapter Grant was awarded to Lynn Kelly. Lynn extends a great thank you to the board and the chapter for the support of her project. With the Chapter's \$1000.00 grant Lynn was able to purchase 17-8X binoculars. Erin Kenison received the \$500.00 counter assault grant.



Lynn Kelly



Erin Kenison

Education Committee Report

Vanna Boccadori

I'm looking to raise funds on behalf of the Education Committee for MT-TWS so that we could reprint the "Back from the Brink" DVD and "Montana's Wildlife Legacy" book and make them available to all the schools, universities and libraries in Montana. The attached letter and proposal explains all this in detail. What I'm asking from each of you is to be a conduit between me and any rod & gun clubs or organizations that you work with that 1) you think might be interested in contributing to this cause and 2) you feel comfortable asking to contribute to this cause. If so, you could use the attached letter and proposal to initiate and explain the request. Overall, we need ~\$18,000. I'm expecting to get this in much smaller quantities from a variety of sources. If you've got a club that's interested in donating, we'd be thrilled with whatever amount they can give. Once we get enough, we'll get the printing press fired up, but we're hoping to have enough money raised by early September. I apologize for the short turn-around and realize that everyone's busy, on vacation, not having regular meetings, etc this time of year. Whatever you could do to help me/MT-TWS out will be greatly appreciated and will certainly earn you a beverage of your choice at our next gathering! If there are others not on this list that you think might be interested, please feel free to pass this along.

Vanna's email is vboccadori@mt.gov.

Finance Committee Update (Mike McGrath-Chair)

Chris Hammond

The Finance Committee met on March 14 for what would be a lengthy discussion regarding the Chapter's ability to finance its current operations and committed obligations to "do good things". One potential revenue stream that was discussed for generating sustained annual revenue for operations was to increase membership dues. For the value the chapter provides for its membership (e.g. lobbying the Montana Legislature, funding other committees, etc.), the Finance Committee recommended that the Executive Board consider raising membership fees from the current \$12 per year to \$24 annually. This may seem like a serious case of sticker shock, but this still only to \$2 per month, which the committee pointed out is less than the cost of a pint of your favorite beverage at the annual conference. As stated in the Chapter's by law, reduced rates could still be assessed to retired and student members. The executive board would like to receive your feedback regarding a potential increase in annual dues. Please take a moment to address the following questions. Would you be willing to pay the proposed \$24 for you annual membership dues (yes or no)? If no, what amount would you consider paying? If an increase is not approved by the Chapter, what programs or contributions would you recommend the Chapter remove or reduce? Also without an increase, can your provide recommendations for the Finance Committee and Executive Board to consider for other potential revenue streams? Your response is greatly appreciated and can be emailed to mttwsdues@gmail.com.



20th Annual National Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

In these critical times, achieving effective results demands a paradigm shift that can only be realized with exposure to new thoughts and ideas. The Wildlife Society Annual Conference will help you discover and implement ideas that deliver results. It will train your mind to search for innovative solutions. It will provide opportunities to make valuable connections with other association professionals and suppliers who have solutions you need. And, it will prepare you for the long road ahead.

Please visit the www.wildlife.org for more information on the conference program, attendance, and how to register!

For One of Our Own

Many of you have already heard Tonya's story. Some of you may have even contributed to a gift (a sweet iPad) that she used to help pass the time during her treatment. One of the coolest things we have in our Chapter is that feeling that most all of us are friends and in many cases treat each other like we would our own family. Up here in Kalispell we decided to show additional support to our colleague by holding a head shaving party at our regional headquarters. Not only did we get MTTWS Chapter Member involvement, but we had folks from fisheries, parks, and enforcement join in the head shaving ceremony. Some folks even went as far as shaving their head to the skin (your president included). Mohawks were created. Some had hardly any hair to begin with. Lindsey Stutzman and Kim Annis donated their locks of hair. We sent Tonya videos and photos (thank you to Kim Annis) of our ceremonies. She was surprised and very grateful as we were able to brighten her spirits when she was feeling down. Tonya is back at work at what I feel is only a slightly reduced capacity. We are anxious to see that she recovers fully and we thank everyone who participated. You can see a write up in the newspaper at the following link, http://www.flatheadbeacon.com/articles/article/with_set_of_bear_clippers_fwp_shows_solidarity_for_one_of_their_own/33988/.

