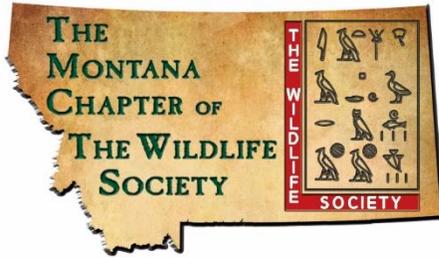


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# NEWS

Fall 2018

## Greetings from the MT TWS President



Three months seems like a long time, but the end of February will be here in a hurry! At least that is what our TWS board members are thinking. Liz, Lorelle, Vanna, and Dan have been working endlessly this past month as we ramp up preparations for our annual conference.

Something new is brewing this year, as the new Montana TWS website is now up and running! Not only will it be providing our Montana TWS members with news, updates, and all things useful, we plan to use it for conference registration and abstract submissions as well! Stay tuned!

*Kelvin J.*

## MT TWS Chapter Updates

### **Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Conference**

February 25 – March 1, 2019

*“Building a conservation ethic in the new outdoor economy”*

Delta Hotels Helena Colonial  
Helena, Montana

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## **The Montana TWS website is LIVE!!**

Check out our new website at this link here: <https://mttws.org/>



It is brand new, so there aren't a lot of things posted to it just yet. However, we invite you to explore the site, as we will have details about membership, conference registration and abstract submission, job announcements, upcoming events, news, and more.

We want this site to be a valuable resource that is worth saving as one of your favorite websites! Part of making this website a success is your contributions! If you have any Montana jobs, internships, or volunteer positions to announce or advertise, or if you have any kinds of wildlife conservation events or noteworthy news that you would like to have posted to our site, please contact us so we can post them for you!

We are currently working on conference registration and abstract submission portions of the website and we will let you know when those go live! It sounds like there might be some more incentives to register early again this year!

## **We Still Need 2019 MT TWS Board Nominations!**

We are still looking for more individuals who would be willing to toss their name in the hat for the President-Elect and Secretary positions on the Executive Board that will be opening in 2019. As voted on by our membership at the 2018 conference, all board positions are now 3-year terms. Anyone who would be interested should contact Kelvin Johnson, nominations committee chair, ([kelvinj@mt.gov](mailto:kelvinj@mt.gov) or 406-263-7648) for further information.

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# DEADLINE SOON!

## Attention Students! Conference Program Artwork Contest ends on December 3



Hey Students! Just a reminder to submit your wildlife artwork for the cover of our conference program related to this year's theme: "Building a Conservation Ethic in the New Outdoor Economy". So be thinking about artwork that represents some aspect of the interaction between wildlife and outdoor recreation.

**The winner will receive free registration for the annual conference and \$100**

Please submit your artwork by DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup> to Liz Bradley: [lbradley@mt.gov](mailto:lbradley@mt.gov); 3201 Spurgin Rd, Missoula, MT 59804.

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## **MT TWS 2019 Conference Preparations**

### **More student awards!**

Hey Students, don't forget you now have more opportunities to be recognized for your stellar academic performance. Starting at the 2019 MT Chapter conference, there will be separate categories for undergraduate and graduate students for best presentation and best poster.

### **More student travel grants!**

New this year, travel grants are available to MT wildlife students from 2- and 4-year colleges across the state to help them attend our annual meeting. We see this as a way to increase our role as mentors to young wildlife professionals; build working relationships with professors and students from tribal, private and state colleges; and facilitate stronger more effective conservation partnerships across the broad landscape of Montana. A big thanks to Keneda Foundation for their generous grant!

### **Silent auction**

A reminder to donate an item to the Silent Auction!!! Recognizing all the cool things that we do for work, not to mention the amount of talent that's out there, we're encouraging members to consider donating OPPORTUNITIES and CRAFTS to the 2019 silent auction. How about donating a day tracking radio-collared bighorn sheep, banding birds, capturing sage grouse, collecting moose scat, trapping wolves, doing habitat work, surveying caves for bats...you get the picture. Or perhaps donate some of your homemade huckleberry jam, handcrafted barn wood picture frames, hand-tied flies, knitted hats, a tanned beaver hide...you get this picture, too. ***Don't procrastinate!!! Get in touch with Vanna now to donate your silent auction item (one less thing to think about next year). Contact Vanna [mttws.pastpres@gmail.com](mailto:mttws.pastpres@gmail.com) or 406-498-6989. Thanks a bunch!***

### **Raffle**

We received a lot of positive feedback from the raffle at our last conference, so YEP – THE RAFFLE IS BACK! This year, we already have several things lined up, including: Kenetrek hiking shoes, Vortex binoculars, a 20-gauge shotgun, a meat grinder, Onyx GPS chip, framed Shawn Steward photo, and a framed wildlife painting by Tom Roberts!

### **Looking for sponsors!!!**

If you know of any organization, business or private entity that would like to donate to MTTWS to help sponsor our annual conference, ***please contact Vanna [mttws.pastpres@gmail.com](mailto:mttws.pastpres@gmail.com) or 406-498-6989. Thanks a bunch!***

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## **MT TWS Committee Updates**

### **2019 Nominations for MT TWS Awards – *Call for Nominations!***

Awards are given annually in recognition of Montana wildlife professionals who have who exemplify the values of the Montana Chapter, have made remarkable professional contributions to wildlife science and/or conservation, or to those who have made it possible for wildlife professionals to be more effective. Awards are presented at the annual meeting of the Montana Chapter, to be held the week of February 25, 2019 in Helena.

The Chapter seeks nominations for four awards to be presented at the 2019 Conference.

**Nominations are due by January 18, 2019 (see below).**

**The Distinguished Service Award** is presented annually for cumulative, past, current, and/or continuing achievements in wildlife conservation. This is typically acknowledgment of accomplishments over a career.

**The Biologist of the Year Award** is presented annually for significant achievements in wildlife conservation anytime during the five years immediately preceding the 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.

**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. To nominate, email a written recommendation for a specific award, along with a compelling justification for the nomination and a discussion of the qualifications of the nominee. While there is no prescribed format, nominations often take the form a formal letter or letters, and are often supported by several agencies, organizations, or MT TWS members. Nominations will be reviewed by the Award Committee and selections will be made in early February. Nominators will be notified of selections at that time and will be asked to assist with coordinating the attendance of the awardee.

**NOTE:** The person nominating a selected award recipient will be asked to prepare an abstract of the nomination package that will be read at the awards banquet.

**Nominations must be received no later than Friday, January 18, 2019 and be sent to Brendan Moynahan ([brendan\\_moynahan@nps.gov](mailto:brendan_moynahan@nps.gov)).**

## **Small Grants Committee- *Call for Proposals!***

Proposals are due by **December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018**. Proposals will be reviewed by the Grants Committee and final funding decisions will be made by the Board. Grants will be awarded at the Annual meeting in February. Please note that grants to students will be awarded through their respective university. The Montana Chapter TWS is not responsible for paying indirect costs. Please send proposals to Claire Gower at [Cgower@mt.gov](mailto:Cgower@mt.gov). Please write **“TWS Small Grants Award”** in the subject line. If you have questions concerning the grant program, please talk to Claire at (406) 994-5953.

Starting this year (2018-2019), the small grants award will be divided into two categories, with up to \$500 awards available for each category.

1. Scientific Research (up to \$500)
2. Education and public outreach (up to \$500)

In the event that the grant committee does not receive qualified proposals for one of the categories (research or education/public outreach) both \$500 grants may be awarded in one category or the full \$1000 may be awarded to a single recipient at the Chapter's discretion.

**Proposal Format:** Proposals should be 2-3 pages in length, typed, single spaced, and should contain the following sections:

- A. **Title**
- B. **Applicant's name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and affiliation.** If the applicant is a student or wildlife professional, please provide a Curriculum Vitae and the name of your advisor. If the applicant is representing a club or organization, please provide the organization's mission statement and a brief description about membership and the types of activities completed and/or sponsored in the recent past.
- C. **Please indicate whether the applicant is a current member of the State, Regional, and/or National Chapter of The Wildlife Society.**
- D. **Scope and Objectives** – Provide a description of the background and objectives of the project. Specifically explain how the project relates to the Chapter's mission and goals.
- E. **Project Implementation** – Provide a brief summary of how project objectives will be accomplished.
- F. **Expected Outcomes** – Provide a description of anticipated products or outcomes of the project.
- G. **Budget and Timelines** – Provide an itemized budget for the overall project, showing amount requested, cost sharing (if applicable), and time schedule for the project.
- H. **Supporting Materials** – if this is an educational project, please provide pertinent educational materials to the Montana Chapter for review.

Applicants should indicate on the top of the proposal if it is being submitted for (1) RESEARCH OR (2) EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH. In order to provide opportunities for multiple projects and

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multiple applicants, each proposal can only be included for one category and applicants can only submit one proposal for review.

Membership to of the State, Regional, or National Chapter is required to qualify for consideration (see Membership page for details on becoming a member).

### **Proposal Rating**

Proposals will be rated based on the following criteria:

1. Consistent with some or all of the Chapter goals
2. Integrate the Chapter core values
3. Significance of the proposed project in regard to its *research* value for wildlife conservation (research option) OR Significance of the proposed project in regard to its *educational* value for wildlife conservation (education option)
4. Adequacy of proposed implementation in relation to the project objectives.
5. Importance of project in relation to the requested funds.
6. Experience/expertise with the proposed research / education or outreach

If the full amount of the award was granted the prior year, the recipient cannot apply for the same project for 3 years. This precludes the same project being awarded the funds year after year.

### **Acknowledgements**

Grant recipients will be expected to present final results or a progress report of their project to the Grant Committee within one year of grant allocation. Additionally, grant recipients may be asked to present their project at a future Annual Meeting of the Chapter and/or provide a write-up for the Chapter newsletter. All printed materials supported by the Chapter shall contain an acknowledgement of support.

## **Education Committee – *Reports from the MEA/MFT Conference for 2018***

Megan O’Reilly and Brandi Skone, both wildlife biologists for Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, presented at the MEA/MFT Conference in October.

Megan’s presentation was “The Wild World of Birds” where she explored eggs, flight, adaptations of birds and more through various engaging activities using Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) bird education materials and the Flying Wild Educators Guide (these materials are available to be checked out at MFWP for use by educators.) About 15 teachers participated, although her slot was Friday afternoon which is typically poorly attended. Teachers ranged from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to High School, but most everyone thought our trunks would be worthwhile to check out and able to be adapted for their students’ grade level. We also gave each attendee a copy of the Flying Wild Educators Guide to use in their classroom.

Brandi’s presentation was “Batty for Bats” where she discussed the general biology/ecology of bats and provided the teachers with handouts for activities that were focused on learning more about

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echolocation and unique bat adaptations. She had a lot of interest from teachers and similar to Megan it ranged from elementary to high school teachers. Over 30 teachers attended! Feedback from those that participated was all good. Brandi has since heard from a few teachers who wanted the presentation to adapt for their own classrooms!

## Northwest Section TWS Updates

### Podcasts!

Oregon TWS is producing a natural history/conservation podcast entitled Northwest Nature Matters. The podcast will entail interviews with resource experts in various disciplines...largely focusing on the greater Pacific Northwest area (broadly interpreted). The goal is to reach a broader segment of the public in addition to our colleagues and friends.

Some last details are being finalized on their website (hosted by the Oregon Wildlife Foundation) and will be ready to **publicly launch on December 3rd**.

Stay tuned, as we get more details and updates, we will pass them along to you!



## National TWS Updates

### Summary of 2018 TWS National Meeting – by Kristina Boyd

This year, at the national TWS conference in Cleveland, Ohio, I did something uncharacteristic. On the last day, I took a break and went on a field trip. We drove past the railroad bridge on the Cuyahoga River, where a spark from a passing train ignited both the polluted water and the national environmental movement. We walked through a \$4 million anonymous gift to Cleveland Metro Parks: the 194 acre Valley View golf course, which is being restored to a nature reserve. And we toured the Cleveland Natural Science Club’s Look About Lodge, a tiny home version of the grand Yellowstone Lodge that I considered hiding out in for the rest of my life. But, lucky for you, an inscription was etched into a supporting beam of the lodge, “I come here often to find myself. It is so easy to get lost in the world,” and my mind’s eye refocused on the view from my own backyard. Holding back sentimental tears, I gladly hopped back on the bus and, as we drove back to the convention center, checked into my return flight home to Montana.



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My flights were graciously supported by the Montana Chapter, and in exchange I represented it at various meetings throughout the conference. I attended the Section and Chapter Collaboration meeting, where we discussed ideas to solve common problems such as supporting student conclaves, increasing annual meeting relevance and attendance, and passing the torch to successive executive board members. I attended a symposium on the foundations of Student Chapter operations and asked some very pointed questions for the Montana chapter. I also led my own symposium on alternative career paths in the wildlife profession and recruited our own Jason Hanlon to speak (he rocked it.) And I attended a symposium on moving forward from the MeToo movement, which was simultaneously somber and uplifting.

As with all conferences, there were a lot of ideas generated from the talk and excitement. For instance, to revive our own student conclaves it was suggested that we send a few Montana TWS Student Chapter leaders to an active conclave in another section. Or to create a meaningful event for public outreach outside of our annual meeting, we could host an annual Bio-Blitz. And to ensure a safe work environment, we could collaborate with the national TWS Ethnic and Gender Diversity Working Group on guidelines for initiating conversations within field crews about the complexities of social dynamics and sexual harassment. Of course, ideas are one thing, and making them reality is another. For that, we need people power.

Have you had any conversations lately about what you would like to see happen in your profession? If not, come to the Montana Chapter annual meeting! I guarantee you’ll have some there. And when you’re ready to make a difference, offer yourself up to serve on a chapter or section committee, or run for a seat on the board. You have nothing to lose (well, maybe a little of your free time) and we have so much to gain (so much!) by your involvement.



Cleveland Natural Science Club's Look About Lodge

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## Student Updates

### Update from the University of Montana Student Chapter:

Greetings from UM! Our Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society has had a very active fall. We have students volunteering around the community apple picking to discourage bears with the Great Bear Foundation; rolling barb wire with the Backcountry Horsemen at the Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range; spending their weekends at Hunter Check-stations with the FWP biologists; and, a new activity of teaching in an afterschool program called Flagship.



Our current education outreach officer, Jonathan Karlen, came into the semester with the goal to get our students more involved with our community's youth. He has arranged our students to visit different Flagship elementary or middle school programs to teach 2-hour Bear Safety and Wildlife Jobs classes. Our TWS members are engaging the younger students with an activity-based program which features inert bear spray demonstrations, hands-on skull and skin inspection, PIT tag reading, and even a telemetry scavenger hunt! This has been a fun new opportunity for our students and we are happy to be inspiring future wildlife conservationist.



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Coming up, in a partnership with the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Student Chapter, we are hosting a program called Hunter Mentorship. The mission of Hunter Mentorship Program (HMP) is to provide the opportunity for natural resource pre-professionals to learn about the culture, ethics, and practice of fair-chase hunting on public, private, and block-management lands in Montana. We take students who are new hunters or just observers and pair them with experienced Montana hunters for a weekend. The group will travel to a cabin in Philipsburg where food and lodging is free to all participants. This is the fourth year of HMP, which was started by UM doctoral candidate James Goerz, and the TWS students are very excited to participate.

Our group appreciates the support and interest of the Montana State Chapter! We have an enthusiastic group of undergraduate students who would be thrilled to assist with wildlife related projects, so keep us in mind if you ever need some extra hands. GO GRIZ!

Megan Robbins  
President  
UM Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society

### **A Note to Our Students**

We welcome updates from any and all of our student groups to contribute to our newsletter and new website. If you have an interest in submitting something from your college, we would certainly welcome any and all contributions! These are a few possibilities that could help guide a newsletter or website submission:

- The contribution could be as little as one to two paragraphs...no need for a large submission to be a good submission.
- Any highlights of what has been happening during the school year.
- Any activities or events that you are planning.
- If/when appropriate, include photos.

Thank you!