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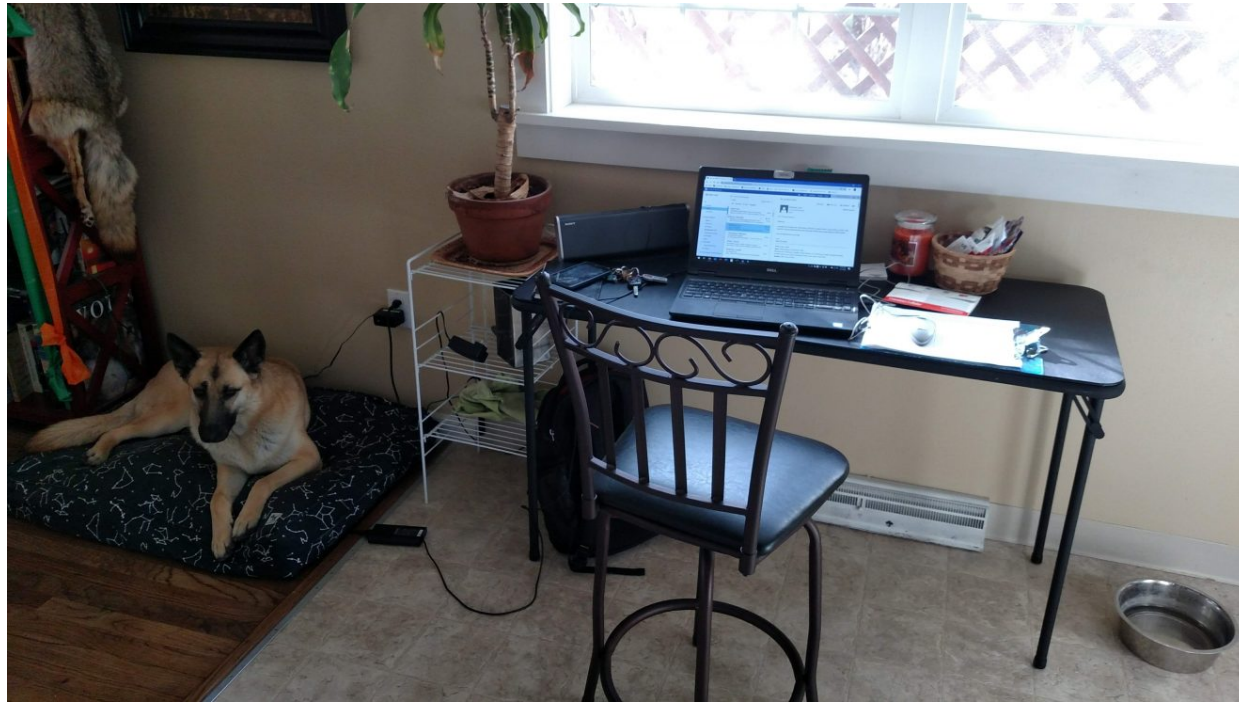
The Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society

The Roaring 20s

March is finally over! In like a lion, out like a lamb!!

...That's how it's supposed to go, right? Well, better luck next year I guess.

We hope you're all finding ways to stay occupied, happy, and healthy during this period of isolation and social distancing. My dog, at least, seems happy with this whole "home office" situation.



I was tempted to find a clever meme to include in this newsletter, or perhaps a helpful list of ways to keep yourself occupied, but hey, this is Montana: of all places to be stuck, with health officials recommending getting away from crowds, Montana in spring is just what the doctor ordered. Plus if your social media feeds are anything like mine, you don't need any extra attempts at COVID-19 humor from me. (That's COVID, not CORVID.) I will say, however, that one of my favorite jokes has been the Twitter thread involving deliberate mis-definitions of the word "quarantine", to include Passerine, Ovaltine, and Quentin Tarantino.

In the meantime, your MTTWS executive board is enjoying a little break after the 2020 Annual Conference, but we're already thinking ahead to 2021.

SAVE THE DATE: MTTWS 2021 Annual Conference!

February 22-26, Helena, Montana

But we just HAD our annual conference! Yeah, I know! But if you work for the federal government, this means you can put in your travel request sooner rather than later. We're working on the theme and will announce that when we figure it out, but you can tell your supervisors we'll likely feature a timely and relevant wildlife conservation and management issue in the state of Montana, as well as our usual sessions on the latest state and university research, and opportunities for professional networking. Whether you work for the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, Central Intelligence Agency, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Institute of Peace, whatever (wow, we have a lot of federal agencies in this country), if you have an interest in wildlife conservation, WE WANT YOU!

Wildlife Trivia (answer on bottom): Which mammalian taxonomic group appears to harbor more dangerous (and potentially zoonotic) viruses, per species?

A. Bats B. Swine C. Rodents D. Primates

Message from the President

Well it doesn't seem like it has been two months already, in fact it seems a little longer some days with everything going on. Because of everything, I wanted to take another look back at the 2020 Montana TWS conference and reflect on the great time that was had. The working group meetings, trainings, movies, and presentations from both the students and professionals were exceptional, and I wanted to thank you all for making it one to remember. The information that was passed on and the experiences gained through these are what help make us truly great. Once again, the Copper King did an amazing job, and I hope you all enjoyed the accommodations, food, beverages, and

most importantly the social interactions!

Looking forward to what is on the horizon for next year, I wanted to take a quick second to welcome Andrew Jakes aboard as he was voted in as the president-elect and will be working on the 2021 conference that will be held in Helena. For those of you who do not know Andrew, he is the regional wildlife biologist for the National Wildlife Federation and is based out of Missoula. Andrew has worked on a variety of species over his almost 20 years in Montana – mountain lions, beavers, bats, kangaroo rats, lynx, mule deer, sage-grouse and pronghorn, to name a few. He felt it important to note that he's been fortunate to spend time in every one of Montana's 56 counties. So, welcome Andrew, and here's to looking forward to another great year!

--Brett Dorak



Sandhill cranes and migrating waterfowl near Ovando this spring. Photo by Mike Thompson.

Congrats to our 2020 Award Winners!





Distinguished Service Award: Alan Wood, presented by Kris Tempel



Biologist of the Year: Jay Kolbe, presented by Brent Lonner



Bob Watts Communication Award: Wesley Sarmento, presented by Jake Doggett



Wildlife Conservation Award: Matt Bell, presented by Bryce Maxell



Rising Professional Award: Torrey Ritter,



presented by Mike Thompson

Wynn Freeman Award UM: Jonathan
Karlen



Student Poster: Chris Hansen



Student Artwork Contest: Erika Nunlist



Wynn Freeman Award MSU: Shannon
Hilty, presented by Andrea Litt



Student Presentation: Elizabeth Flesch



Outreach and Education Small Grant:
Jennifer Helm and Kaitlyn Reintsma (not
pictured) - Supporting wildlife research
and conservation partnerships with
private land owners through
photography and data visualization



Research Small Grant (2): Amy
Seaman, Montana State-wide Citizen
Science for Species of Concern



Research Small Grant (1): Brian
Tornabene, Mechanistically Linking
Stress Physiology with Survival and
Demography of Amphibians Exposed to
Mercury Contamination and Disease

**Well done! And thanks to
Brendan Moynahan and
Megan O'Reilly (awards
chairs), Claire Gower
(small grants), and
everyone who judged
posters and
presentations!**



Just for fun...It got really cold on Lake Como in the Bitterroot this year.

.....

April Fools! These are icebergs in Jökulsárlón, Iceland this past March. Send me more pictures (of Montana)! mttws.secretary@gmail.com

Answer to trivia question: (A) Bats. While rodents may harbor more viruses/other pathogens as a group, a 2017 study published in Nature estimated that there are ~17 zoonoses in every bat species versus ~10 per rodent and primate species. Scientists

think it might have something to do with their life span, social behavior, and/or a naturally high immune tolerance for viruses.(Note: one of the studies came from researchers in Wuhan, China!) But bats are still cool animals that play a vital ecological role all over the world. Just, you know, wear your PPE.

Got something for our next newsletter? Send it to mttws.secretary@gmail.com!

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