
[EXTERNAL] Fwd: MTTWS 2021 Fall Newsletter

From Brandi Skone <brandiskone@gmail.com>

Date Tue 10/29/2024 11:10 AM

To Skone, Brandi <BSkone@mt.gov>

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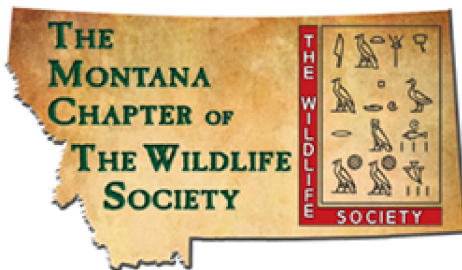
Date: October 15, 2021 at 8:08:50 AM MDT

To: Brandi Skone <brandi.skone@gmail.com>

Subject: MTTWS 2021 Fall Newsletter

Reply-To: MT TWS <secretary@mttws.org>

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**The Montana Chapter
of The Wildlife Society**

**Fall Newsletter: Annual conference
news, mostly**

But first: Greetings from your MTTWS secretary

I know what you're thinking: Secretary? Who? Why? Isn't that the person who's just supposed to sit in the background and creepily record your every word?

I know, I thought so too! Well, we didn't assign anyone else to write our standard little introductory newsletter blurb this time around, so I am taking it upon myself. After all, this is my last year as your MTTWS secretary, so the days available to me to make you read whatever I want to write are numbered!

In all seriousness....I have some sad news. Sad for me, anyway, but maybe not so sad for everyone. **We decided to make our 2022 annual MTTWS conference virtual again**, out of an abundance of caution for this never-ending pandemic thing. While I'm majorly bummed not to be able to see your beautiful faces in person for another year, and get my workout running around the hotel helping make sure everything is in place and the coffee carafes are filled and the name tags are printed and all that jazz, I'm still pretty excited about what we've got planned for you.

There are a lot of great opportunities with virtual conferences, such as getting speakers lined up who otherwise might not be able to travel to the Last Best Place; not having to choose which talk to attend when both concurrent sessions are super interesting; and still managing to get really emotional during the awards ceremony when you're a sympathetic crier and even though you don't even know the person who got the award, you're sitting there in your living room bawling in front of your very confused dog. Or was that just me?

In all seriousness though, people have been doing these virtual conferences for a while now and each new one--in my experience, anyway--seems to be a bit better, more fun, more engaging, less clunky, than the last. We'll be using the same platform as last year--but improved! (I won't say "new and improved" because that doesn't make sense.) So we hope you'll scroll down and read about our conference theme, register (but not yet), submit an abstract (but not yet), and join us in the Nebulous Realm of the World Wide Web this coming February!

-Rebecca Mowry, Secretary



My dog, my feet, and some fisherpeople on a late summer backpacking trip in the Bitterroot Range.

Wildlife Trivia (answer on bottom): What is the shortest river in Montana (and, in fact, the world)? **WARNING:** This one might make you mad.

- A. Roe River (Great Falls area)
 - B. Gardner River (Yellowstone area)
 - C. Saint Regis River (Western Montana)
 - D. Smith River (White Sulphur Springs area)
-

Seeking Nominations

Your MTTWS board is **STILL** soliciting nominations for **President-Elect** and **Secretary**. Both are 3-year terms. So far all we have is one secretary nominee, and we need at least two per board position. Seriously, **STEP UP!** It's fun, rewarding, and looks good on a resume. Please e-mail Andrew Jakes (jakesa@nwf.org) by November 1 to nominate yourself or someone else.

Awards

We are also nearly ready to accept award nominations! I say "nearly" because as of this moment I haven't updated the awards webpage yet, but will do so very soon. But the info is basically the same as last year, with a different deadline date (we think). So go to our [AWARDS PAGE \[mttws.org\]](https://mttws.org), check them out, and think of some deserving professionals who you can make cry at the next awards ceremony! Deadline will be sometime in early January, 2022, sent to Megan O'Reilly at moreilly@mt.gov.

There's still time to register for the National Conference

Register now for only \$125 (\$100 for students)

The 2022 MTTWS Annual Conference

February 22-25, 2022

Location: Your desk (but probably your couch)

**Theme: "FOSTERING DIVERSITY IN SPECIES, PEOPLE,
AND PERSPECTIVE"**

As a profession, we've long recognized the value of diversity in the species and ecosystems where we work. Many organizations, including The Wildlife Society, are having important, but often challenging, conversations about the value of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) with regards to people. In many cases, these conversations have resulted in new policies and initiatives that reduce barriers to participation, support recruitment and retention, and better ensure that diverse voices are heard within our community. For example, The Wildlife Society developed a DEI vision document that helps guide the society's operations and includes many resources and suggestions for further involvement. These DEI resources are included on the society's [Diversity webpage. \[mttws.org\]](https://mttws.org)

An important goal of the Montana Chapter of TWS is to "develop an active and diverse membership". The conference theme and plenary session will focus on

this goal, through presentations and discussion about how to enhance diversity in our chapter and the wildlife profession. Although we'll spend some time talking about the challenges (past and present), we'll also emphasize how we can all be part of the solutions. I'm excited about what can emerge from these conversation.

If you have ideas for workshops or trainings, please e-mail Andrea Litt at andrea.litt@montana.edu.



The Wildlife Society annual conference is virtual again this year, and will take place from **November 1-5, 2021**. Members get access to all conference content, including presentations, live video chats/panel discussions, networking events, student activities and SO MUCH MORE for just \$125 (\$100 for students and early career professionals, \$325 for nonmembers).

Register and check out the conference schedule by [clicking here \[mttws.org\]](https://mttws.org).

**Congratulations to the 2020 Leopold Conservation
Award Winners:**

Craig and Conni French: C Lazy J Livestock

We neglected to announce last year's winner of the Leopold Conservation Award, so we're covering it now!

For the past two years the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society has helped sponsor the Leopold Conservation Award, which is presented to private landowners dedicated to leaving their land better than they found it. The 2020 Leopold Conservation Award was presented to Craig and Conni French of C Lazy J Livestock. They own and operate a cattle ranch just south of Malta, where they make decisions not just with cattle in mind, but also the impacts on the soil, water, insects, and the wildlife. With a drive to constantly learn and improve conditions, they are making moves daily that will have generational benefits. I am happy to work with Craig and Conni and call them my friends. It was an honor to be at the award ceremony to pay tribute to all the amazing things they have already accomplished on their land. One thing is for certain though, they love to learn, adapt and think outside the box, and because of that I know there is so much more to come from them!

-Brett Dorak, past president

Congratulations to the 2021 award winners as well, the Flynn family of Hidden Hollow Hideaway Cattle and Guest Ranch near Townsend. We will cover them in another newsletter!

Answer to trivia question: (A) Roe River. Okay, so this one kinda made ME mad, honestly, because what makes a river a river and not a creek? I found something on the internet that said creeks are smaller, don't typically form new channels, and don't typically have tributaries....but then I know a lot of "creeks" that should, by this definition, be "rivers". So, I dunno. But apparently the Roe River was recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's shortest river in 1987, until disputes arose, and Guinness stopped including "shortest river" in its record book altogether...but Great Falls still claims the honor for the little river, which has a recognized length of 201 feet.

**Got something for our next
newsletter? Send it to
[mttws.secretary@gmail.com!](mailto:mttws.secretary@gmail.com)**

MTTWS website

[\[mttws.org\]](http://mttws.org)



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