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[EXTERNAL] Fwd: MTTWS 2022 Fall Newsletter

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From Brandi Skone <brandiskone@gmail.com>

Date Tue 10/29/2024 11:09 AM

To Skone, Brandi <BSkone@mt.gov>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** MT TWS <secretary@mttws.org>

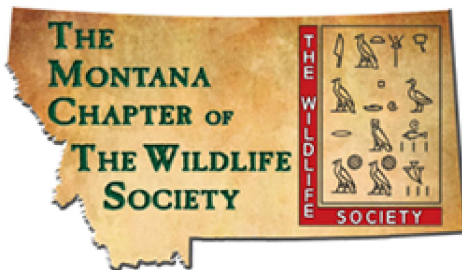
**Date:** November 4, 2022 at 12:47:19 PM MDT

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

**Subject:** MTTWS 2022 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 and Other Updates**



## The 2023 MTTWS Annual Conference February 13-17, 2023

**Theme: "PLANTS AND POLLINATORS: CONSERVING ALL  
OF THE INTERDEPENDENT PARTS"**

**Where: Delta Hotels Helena Colonial in Helena, MT**

Our 61st Annual Conference will be held in Helena, MT, during February 13-17, 2023, at the Delta Hotels Helena Colonial. This year's theme will be "*Plants and Pollinators: Conserving all of the interdependent parts*". As Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) continues to gain traction in Congress, state and tribal fish and wildlife agencies across the nation are having conversations about jurisdictional roles for conserving plants and insects. Whose responsibility is it? What is the role of a fish and wildlife agency? Do we presently have capacity in our existing organizations to meaningfully conserve plants and insects? The topic is especially timely as Montana considers a revision of its State Wildlife Action Plan. Our plenary panelists will include state, tribal, and federal agency representatives, a non-governmental organization representative, and scientists.

## Reserve Your Hotel Room!

You can already reserve your room with [Delta Hotels \[mttws.org\]](https://www.mttws.org) Colonial in Helena! We'll include a direct link in the next newsletter, but for now you can call the hotel directly at 406-443-2100 and mention that it's part of the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society to get the state rate. They will honor the rate until February 1, 2023.

## Workshops for 2023 Annual Conference

We've got lots of great options for folks this year. Stay tuned for more details and when to register!

- **Structured Decision Making** - *Sarah Sells*, Assistant Unit Leader, USGS Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit and University of Montana
- **Multigenerational Communication** - *Adam Jespersen*, Montana Nonprofit Association
- **Partnering with Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) for Conservation** - *Hunter VanDonsel*, Pheasants Forever and *Heather Brower*, NRCS
- **Legislative Policy** - *Amy Seaman*, MT Audubon and *Marcus Strange*, Montana Wildlife Federation

## Submit Abstracts!

That's right! We are ready for your abstracts! **Deadline TBD, sometime in early January 2023.** But why wait? If you have something ready to go, submit it [HERE \[mttws.org\]](https://www.mttws.org) now!

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## For those attending the National Conference (Nov 6 - 10)

The Northwest Section is hosting a social in conjunction with the WA Chapter on **November 7th at 7:30PM** in the Davenport Grand, Meeting Room 11. See the [schedule \[mttws.org\]](https://mttws.org) for more details. We hope to see you there!

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**Wildlife Trivia (answer on bottom):** How many native bee species exist in Montana?

- A. < 50
- B. > 100
- C. > 1,000
- D. > 5,000

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## Seeking Nominations for President-Elect

Your MTTWS board is still soliciting nominations for **President-Elect**. It's a 3-year term full of excitement, surprises, and good-humored folks that want to help you put on the conference of your dreams... or whatever we have enough money to do. Please consider! And if interested, please e-mail Andrea Litt ([andrea.litt@montana.edu](mailto:andrea.litt@montana.edu)) to nominate yourself or someone else.

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## Seeking Small Grant Applications

It's that time to start submitting your applications for our small grants! Every year MT TWS awards up to \$1,000 for scientific research AND up to \$1,000 for education and public outreach. If you have a project that falls into one of these categories and aligns with the goals and core values of our Chapter, consider applying! You can visit our [website \[mttws.org\]](http://mttws.org) for details on how to apply.

**Deadline TBD, sometime in early January, 2023!** Applications should be sent to Claire Gower at [cgower@mt.gov](mailto:cgower@mt.gov).

To provide a little inspiration, our two grant recipients from last year are featured below with descriptions on how they used the funds. Thanks to Bridger Creel and Carly Segal for sharing and congratulations again you two!



*Image: Bridger Creel with a red-winged blackbird nestling taken while banding and collecting blood samples. Nestlings are promptly returned to their nest and blood samples analyzed for concentration of heavy metals associated with mine waste contamination in their habitat.*

As data collection is integral to continuing to provide the most up-to-date information to the public on my research, funds from MT TWS paid for gas

expenditures for my field crew this summer. However, since I received funding from MT TWS, I have been able to invest time in education and outreach in several ways. Most notably, in collaboration with the University of Montana Bird Ecology Lab (UMBEL) and the Clark Fork Coalition (CFC), we hosted a "Superfund bird tour" near Warm Springs, MT. With about ~40 community members from across the watershed, we discussed the mine waste contamination and restoration history in the area, conducted a bird banding demo, and then returned to the CFC Field Center where I presented a 45-minute talk on my research. An [article \[mttws.org\]](https://www.mtstandard.com/story/news/2022/07/27/mt-tws-bird-tour-umbel-cfc/10311110002/) on the day was published in the MT Standard and Missoulian. In addition to this outreach event, I have created educational materials for the CFC to use in a high school education program and briefed members of UMBEL on how to incorporate findings from my research into their "Birds Eye View" education program.

~ Bridger Creel, University of Montana

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*Image: Bison in Yellowstone National Park*

Summer 2022 was a whirlwind, but reminded me that I do this work not just for the research itself, but also for the communities of dedicated, passionate, thoughtful, and fun people I get to work with. This year I received a small grant from MT TWS to support my graduate research on biodiversity in arthropod communities related to bison grazing. I work in Yellowstone National Park, with one of the largest remaining herds of free-ranging bison. We hope to be able

to assess whether there is a means by which bison grazing influence vegetation characteristics that are important for arthropods. It is a really exciting opportunity to examine interactions between two vastly different taxa with the intermediary of the plant communities. My work also requires a tremendous amount of time to collect the data and process all of the arthropod samples back in the lab.

I used the funds from MT TWS to pay for housing for a field technician. I need the assistance and believe strongly in mentoring the next generation of ecologists. The funding I received allowed me the flexibility to hire an amazing candidate, rather than just one that could afford to pay for their own housing. Housing options have become increasingly limited and expensive in the remote gateway communities surrounding Yellowstone, creating new challenges for projects to hire seasonal staff. In this case, I hit the jackpot and had an incredible technician who was competent and super excited to learn. We had to be flexible and patient with the disruptions to our summer field season, as Yellowstone was inundated with water in what has now been called a thousand-year flood event. Our field work was put on hold while the park assessed the safety of roads, so we redirected our efforts to the lab. My technician and I were able to complete a summer's worth of field work, despite losing weeks of data collection time to the flood disruption. We managed to characterize vegetation communities, collect arthropod samples, record other habitat information, and then return to the lab for the rest of the process. I am excited to begin to assess whether the data support my hypotheses.

*~ Carly Segal, Montana State University*

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## Seeking Award Nominations

It's that time to start sending your nominations for our 5 fabulous awards! Go to our [AWARDS PAGE \[mttws.org\]](https://mttws.org) for more information on each award. To make a nomination, email a written recommendation with justification for the nomination and qualifications of the nominee. While there is no prescribed format, nominations often take the form of a formal letter or letters, and are often supported by several agencies, organizations, or MT TWS members. **Deadline TBD, sometime in early January, 2023!** Nominations should be sent to Megan O'Reilly at [moreilly@mt.gov](mailto:moreilly@mt.gov).

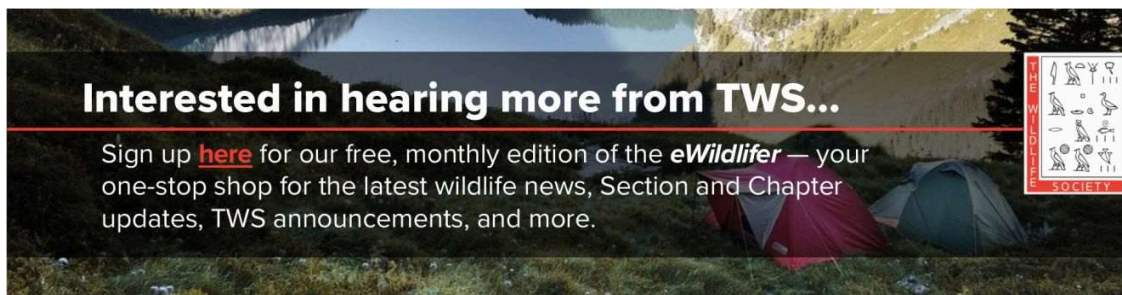
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**Answer to trivia question:** (B) > 100. Although it is not known for sure, it is estimated that the number of Montana native bee species is likely in the hundreds. In North America, north of Mexico, it is estimated we have 3,600 species and about 20,000 globally. Check out the [MSU extension \[mttws.org\]](http://mttws.org) page for more information on the types of bees we have and how to identify the different types!

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**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)

A banner image featuring a scenic view of a lake and mountains. In the foreground, there are two tents, one red and one green, set up in a grassy area. On the right side of the banner, there is a logo for the 'THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY' which includes various icons of animals and plants.

**Interested in hearing more from TWS...**

Sign up [here](#) for our free, monthly edition of the **eWildlifer** — your one-stop shop for the latest wildlife news, Section and Chapter updates, TWS announcements, and more.

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