

# Indiana Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Volume 3, Issue 1

January 2017

## Items of note:

- ICTWS dues are \$12 in 2017. Dues can be paid in person at the spring meeting.
- ICTWS is now on Facebook and Twitter! See page 8 for info on how to connect with us!
- Upcoming event? New publication? Successful hunt? We want to know about it! See page 7 for info on how to contact us.

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Each year on January 1<sup>st</sup>, millions of Americans make a New Year's resolution. Whether it's losing weight or paying off credit card debt, many of us take the dawning of the New Year as an opportunity to set goals for personal improvement.

Others of us, myself included, may assign a brief moment of thought to setting a resolution before deciding it's not worth the effort and moving on with our lives. We plod along day to day going through the motions but not really paying much attention to where those motions may take us.....or leave us for that matter.

In doing so, we often lose sight of long term goals and objectives due to our lack of vision. Like a bullfrog in the bottom of a five gallon bucket, we are constantly in motion but never seem to get anywhere.

By now you're probably wondering what the hell Sam is trying to say here.....is he trying to say our TWS chapter is nothing more than a bullfrog in a bucket? Absolutely not. Our chapter remains vital and strong thanks to the efforts of our many members and those who volunteer to serve in leadership roles. We serve an important role within Indiana's conservation community by providing professional growth and development opportunities through our spring and fall meetings, encouraging development of the next generation of wildlife professionals through our Wildlife Student Hunting



Fund, providing financial support for student chapter professional growth opportunities and by providing sound wildlife science standpoints on important conservation issues through our conservation affairs committee.

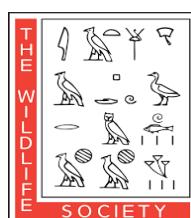
I bring all of this up because of a discussion that occurred at our fall business meeting. It was brought to the group's

attention that we have available financial resources that are currently not being utilized. A few suggestions on how to utilize the resources were put forth but I remember thinking that our conversation should start with what our needs are. Are there things that we are doing now that we would like to expand upon? Increasing the scope of our student or professional development efforts perhaps? Or maybe there are new areas we would like to expand into, increasing our impact in the realm of habitat conservation for example. Maybe it's time we look at where we've been and where we want to go.

I look forward to seeing you all at the 2017 Spring Meeting March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at the Seasons Lodge in Nashville Indiana. The conference committee has worked hard to provide a conference worth attending. Come prepared with some ideas about how to grow and improve our chapter and we'll see what the future may hold!

Cheers

Sam



**2017 SPRING CONFERENCE  
DETAILS ON PAGE 2!**

# 2017 Officers Announced

Think Donald Trump won the only election in 2016? Well, he didn't. The election for 2017 ICTWS officers were held in November and we are excited about the results. After the final votes were tallied—both popular and electoral—we are happy to have the following members selected as 2017 officers:

## **President-elect—Anthony Sipes.**

Anthony is very active and involved in The Wildlife Society. In 2016, he participated in the TWS Leadership Institute. For the Indiana Chapter of TWS, he currently serves as Member-at-Large, member of the Continuing Education Committee, and Chair of the Conservation Affairs Committee. He participates in several working groups for the parent society and chairs the Annual Technical Session Committee of the Hunting, Trapping, and Conservation Working Group. We should



Congratulations to Anthony Sipes on being elected as the 2018 ICTWS President.

all be very excited to have Anthony as our President-elect!

**Member-at-Large—Seth Peters.** Seth is a Purdue graduate and currently working for the Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife as a staff specialist in Indianapolis. Seth has also worked as the assistant manager, and later as the acting property manager at Kankakee Fish & Wildlife Area. Seth is excited to become more involved with the Indiana TWS chapter. Congratulations Seth!

## **Secretary/Treasurer—Cassie Hudson.**

Cassie has agreed to stay on for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year as Secretary/treasurer. We are THRILLED to have Cassie back as she has done a wonderful job keeping up with the administrative duties of the chapter. Everyone please thank Cassie for her continued service to the chapter!

# 2017 Annual Spring Meeting Details



The 2017 spring conference committee has worked hard yet again to put together another educational and entertaining conference. The conference will be held on March 7th and 8th at the Seasons Lodge in Nashville, Indiana.

The main topic of this years conference is “Central Hardwoods Oak Ecology”, which will focus on the importance of Indiana’s oak forests. The plenary session will include programs on oak ecology, disturbance ecology, white-tailed deer and oak forests, and funding for forest restoration and management. The second day will feature discussions on ruffed grouse decline, urban deer problems, bird responses to forest management, and many other topics. The 2nd day will also feature

an optional field tour showcasing the impact of fire on forest regeneration. There will also be a ICTWS business meeting and the always popular buffet dinner and social.

The annual spring conference is a great opportunity to network and socialize with other wildlife professionals from various agencies and backgrounds, as well as meet with students from several student chapters throughout the state. This years conference is a joint conference with the Society of American Foresters, providing additional opportunities to network with other natural resources professionals.

Registration for the conference is \$84 for both days, \$60 for one day, and \$60 for students. Registration is required by February 20, 2017. Agenda details and registration information can be found at [www.indianasaf.org](http://www.indianasaf.org).

**Hope to see everyone there!!**

## Pres-Elect Sipes attends TWS's Leadership Institute

By Anthony Sipes

In 2016 I was granted the opportunity to participate in The Wildlife Society's Leadership Institute. It was an excellent experience and greatly improved my leadership skills and confidence. The Leadership Institute is TWS's effort to improve the leadership capacity of its early professional members, for both the Society and conservation as a whole. The Leadership Institute generally includes around 10 participants composed of a mix of wildlife professionals from academia, tribal, state, and federal agencies, private industry, and other conservation organizations. They are also spread out geographically around the United States and Canada. My cohort included biologists from Arizona, Georgia, Kansas, Manitoba, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, and, of course, Indiana.

The Leadership Institute begins in early summer with conference calls and delivery of reading materials. Included in these are books on leadership development, including some wildlife-specific material. One of the readings is an excellent workbook that is completed as an assignment and discussed in groups. Assignments include reading the assigned literature, completing the workbook, completing write-ups, conducting a COWCH (Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage) interview, communicating with your Council and Alumni mentors, and creating a presentation on an issue of interest to Council. At the end of the summer, you will travel to the TWS Annual Conference. In 2016 this was in Raleigh, North Carolina and in 2017 it will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico. At the conference, participants present information to Council, participate in group discussions, attend meetings, and meet and network with prestigious TWS members.



The Leadership Institute Class of 2016 pictured with current TWS President, Bruce Thompson (far left). Photo credit: The Wildlife Society

I came away from the Leadership Institute with a much greater understanding of how TWS functions. I also developed much more confidence in my personal leadership abilities, both within the state chapter and the parent chapter. I also gained an appreciation for the fact that the core of TWS is composed of individual wildlife biologists much like myself. You do not have to be an agency head, heavily published researcher, or world-renowned biologist to be a leader in TWS and the wildlife profession. The point is that you should not be intimidated by the prospect of taking leadership roles, because everyone is capable if they have the drive and determination to do so.

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## Students Benefit From Student Hunt Fund

This year the Wildlife Student Hunting Fund was used to support a Division of Fish and Wildlife put-take pheasant hunt held at Deer Creek Fish and Wildlife Area November 20th, 2016. A total of 13 students from Purdue and Ball State participated. Students with limited hunting backgrounds were recruited through the Purdue and Ball State student chapters.

The hunt, which is designed to increase the level of hunting awareness and support amongst future wildlife professionals, was considered a success with all students harvesting at least one pheasant. For many of these students this was a first time hunting experience. The Wildlife Student Hunting Fund ensures that the Deer Creek put-take hunt and others like it will be conducted for many years to come. Since the inception of the fund, students have been able to participate in dove hunts as well as put-take pheasant hunts.

For more information about the program, if you are interested in volunteering to help with a hunt, or if you are interested in having a student hunt at your

property please contact **Sam Whiteleather** at [swhiteleather@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:swhiteleather@dnr.IN.gov)



13 students from Ball State and Purdue participated in a pheasant hunt thanks to the Wildlife Student Hunting Fund

## Sipes Leadership Institute continued...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

To me, the most valuable aspect of the Leadership Institute was getting to know the other wildlife biologists in my cohort. A very close second, was the interaction with TWS Council members and staff. It is refreshing to have conversations with wildlife colleagues from across North America, knowing that they face many of the same issues and have many of the same concerns as you. The wildlife profession is, indeed, a very small world. You would be surprised at the connections you can discover by attending regional and national conferences, as well as the new connections you can establish.

I would highly recommend the Leadership Institute to anyone interested in learning more about the structure and operation of The Wildlife Society, developing their leadership capacity in the wildlife profession, networking with the leading wildlife professionals, and taking on a more involved leadership role in the Society. If you

have contemplated being a leader in TWS, regardless of the level or position, I would highly encourage you to apply.

If you are interested in applying, keep your eye out for the call for applications, which should be available very soon. Please feel free to contact me ([arsipesjr@gmail.com](mailto:arsipesjr@gmail.com)) if you have any questions or would like to discuss the Leadership Institute in greater detail.

The links below take you to the Leadership Institute website and Facebook page where you can find more information.

<http://wildlife.org/next-generation/leadership-institute/>

<https://www.facebook.com/LITWS/>

# Student Chapter Updates

## PURDUE -



Fall 2016 was packed with great meetings, working group events, and the TWS conference. We mixed

the meeting topics to include both indoor and outdoor activities and topics included hearing from APHIS, placing bird houses around one of the Purdue properties, and holding a student panel about the pros and cons of the various wildlife related jobs and internships people have had. We also had a fun telemetry "tag" competition where students were

Purdue students visited Kankakee Sands Nature Preserve to observe wildlife and learn about bison reintroductions.



able to learn or practice their telemetry skills by finding hidden radio collars around the forest.

The Annual TWS Conference took place in October in Raleigh, NC, and 11 of our student chapter members attended and represented Purdue well: 3 students gave oral presentations and several more presented posters. The Purdue Quiz Bowl team also placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall! Purdue offered a class for preparing students specifically for attending a large conference which helped boost the confidence and interest of the students.

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**BALL STATE** - The Ball State Chapter of TWS had a great fall semester! We had some exciting guest speakers come to our meetings including Stephanie Raiman, a Ball State alumnus who came to talk to us about her zookeeper position at the Cincinnati Children's Zoo and Dr. Esteban Fernandez-Juricic who discussed his research on foveal and binocular vision in birds.

As the semester was starting members assisted our faculty advisor Dr. Tim Carter in Bat Blitz. Everyone got the opportunity to help set up mist nets as well as identify bats as they were caught, and learn more about their biology and impacts of White Nose Syndrome. Early in the semester our chapter participated in a dove hunt and a pheasant hunt put on by the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife. It was a great

opportunity for those who had no hunting experience to learn how to shoot and clean doves and pheasants while also networking with professionals and learning about game management.

Our chapter volunteered with the Indiana DNR at the deer check stations for opening weekend. It was a great opportunity for

members to network with DNR biologists while learning more about hunting and getting experience working with the public.

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## Purdue Student Chapter Update Continued.....

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5....

Working groups offered frequent trips throughout the semester as well. The birds working group and herps working group held a combined trip to Kankakee Sands early in the semester and found/observed some really cool wildlife. Later in the semester, the mammals working group also traveled to Kankakee to learn about the bison reintroductions and watch them in the prairie. Hunting working group had several hunts throughout the semester and the birds working group helped band Saw-whet owls in addition to everything else.

This coming semester we are busy preparing to host the North Central Section student conclave (March 24-26<sup>th</sup>!) but still have some great trips planned. In February we will visit Cook County Forest Preserves and help with an urban wildlife project on disease, which will include trapping and radio collaring deer and coyotes. Once the herps start moving, we will have several herping trips near Purdue, and we're trying to plan a hiking or camping trip later in the semester to enjoy the warm weather. We've had great

member involvement this year and are excited for the first 2017 semester!

*"Like" the Purdue Student Chapter on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/pages/Purdue-Student-Chapter-The-Wildlife-Society/402744159863568](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Purdue-Student-Chapter-The-Wildlife-Society/402744159863568)*



2017 Purdue TWS Quiz Bowl team. The team members were (from left to right) Rebekah Lumkes, Landon Neumann, Lexi Eiler, & Sarah Abercrombie. The team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at the 2017 National TWS Conference in Raleigh, NC

## Ball State Student Chapter Update Continued.....

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5....

Our chapter was also happy to continue volunteering and having fun working with our school and community. Members went on a camping/volunteer trip to Mounds State Park where everyone assisted in cleaning/maintaining exhibits and facilities and hiking during free time! Members also enjoyed volunteering with Red Tail Land Conservancy where they helped with invasive plant eradication. This past holiday season our chapter helped Ball State's own Orchid Greenhouse decorate and get prepared for their holiday season community event. We are excited to continue learning and volunteering this spring semester!

You can stay connected with the BSU Student Chapter on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/groups/BSUTWS/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/BSUTWS/)



Ball State students had the opportunity to help mist net bats as a part of "Bat Blitz"

## 2016 ICTWS Happenings.....



Purdue Student Activities





## Indiana Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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Contributors to this issue include: Jason Wade, Sam Whiteleather, Anthony Sipes, Brad Feaster, Sarah Clark (BSU Student Chapter President), and Rebekah Lumkes (Purdue Student Chapter President). **Thanks to everyone that contributed!**



**Not a member but interested in joining? We have many ways to join!**

- Visit our website at [www.intws.org](http://www.intws.org) to find the membership form. Send the completed membership form to the address at the top of this page, or via email to [IndianaTWS@gmail.com](mailto:IndianaTWS@gmail.com)
- Send \$12 via check (along with your membership form) to the address at the top of this page, or pay via PayPal using the link on our website.
- You can also join at any of our conferences or workshops.

**Yearly dues are used to support ICTWS conferences and workshops, support student chapters with travel to national conferences and conclaves, support youth wildlife education programs, and much more!**

The Wildlife Society (TWS), founded in 1937, is an international non-profit scientific and educational association dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. The Indiana Chapter of The Wildlife Society, was founded in 1968, under the parent society, as the professional organization of trained wildlife ecologists, biologists, and managers in the state

Our mission is to enhance the ability of wildlife professionals to conserve diversity, sustain productivity, and ensure responsible use of wildlife resources for the benefit of society. The Wildlife Society encourages professional growth through certification, peer-reviewed publications, conferences, and working groups.