

# Indiana Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Volume 3, Issue 2

November 2017

## Items of note:

- ICTWS dues are \$12 in 2017. Dues can be paid online via PayPal at our website.
- 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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## Fall Wildlife Disease Workshop Recap

The Indiana Chapter of the Wildlife Society hosted a fall workshop titled "Managing Wildlife Disease in the 21st Century" on October 4th and 5th. The workshop was held at Purdue University's John S. Wright Forestry Center. The workshop was well attended, with 54 people in attendance.

The workshop featured speakers from across the Midwest. Some of the highlights Wednesday included:

**-Chris Anchor** (Cook County Illinois Wildlife Surveillance) speaking about wildlife disease surveillance and urban wildlife monitoring in Cook County.

**-Dr. Patricia Wakenell** (Professor of Avian Diagnostics, Purdue University) speaking about Avian Influenza in Indiana and its potential impacts.

**-Dr. W. David Walter** (Assistant Unit Leader, Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish & Wildlife

Research Unit) speaking about Chronic Wasting Disease and its potential impacts across the Midwest.

**-Jeanette McGavie** (Vectorborne Epidemiologist, Indiana State Department of Health) giving a thorough breakdown of tick borne diseases, their symptoms, and prevention.

The workshop also included a hands-on rotation of topics on Thursday. Participants were able to closely observe and help with a white-tailed deer necropsy lead by Dr. Joe Caudell, and a coyote necropsy lead by Chris Anchor. They were also able to dissect tadpoles to search for amphibian related diseases and hear about wildlife forensics.



Chris Anchor leads a necropsy of a coyote at the fall workshop

The chapter also hosted a fantastic dinner and social at the Lafayette Brewing Company with a buffet dinner and some fine craft brews.

## 2018 ICTWS Election Results

The election results are in and the ballots counted. Our 2018 ICTWS President-elect is **Jason Wade** and the Member-at-Large is **Erin Basiger**. Congrats to Jason and Erin.

Thanks everyone who voted and for **Sam Whiteleather** and **Seth Peters** for their work this past year or two. I especially want to thank each of the candidates for their willingness to serve our chapter by putting their names on the ballots. I will be reaching out to the membership again next August looking for nominees for President-elect, Treasurer (2 year term) & Member-at-Large. If anyone has an interest, I encourage you to talk to past and current officers about the workload and to let me know of your interest.

Thanks.

Brad Feaster (Nominations Committee)

## Scott Johnson given Lifetime Achievement Award

At the 2017 Midwest Bat Working Group meeting this spring, ICTWS member and past-president (1993) **Scott Johnson** was awarded The Dave Redell Lifetime Achievement Award for his achievements related to Midwest bat conservation, management, and research.

Throughout his career Scott's work has included species restoration, population monitoring and management. In 30 years with the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, Scott led efforts for the River Otter Restoration Program, studied population dynamics of the Allegheny woodrat, led efforts on winter bat counts and management/ protection of hibernacula, conducted field studies of bobcats and was the state's lead on white-nose syndrome monitoring.

Some of Scott's accomplishment relating to bats include:

- Helped conduct biennial winter hibernacula surveys from the time he started with DNR to the present.
- Long-term use of speloggers to monitor human visitation during seasonal closure period of caves. (CURRENT)
- Assisted with installation of angle-iron bat gate built at Batwing Cave, which at the time was home to up to 29,000 Indiana bats. (1980's)
- Data from up to 18 probes in 5 MYSO hibernacula in Indiana were analyzed to determine if roost microclimates are responsible for continued decline of MYSO throughout range. (1990's)
- Assisted Paul Cryan et al. in multi-state monitoring of bats using video surveillance (infrared and thermal imaging cameras) in Wyandotte Cave. (2010's)
- Assisted with installation of GateKeeper beam-break system to monitor bat activity at Wyandotte Cave. (2010's)



## Indiana Honored by MAFWA

Indiana received the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) "Excellence in Conservation" award in 2017. One of seven annual awards given by the 13-state MAFWA organization, the "Excellence in Conservation" recognizes a member agency that has shown excellence in conservation through a specific project. DFW Deer Biologist **Joe Caudell** and Indiana's bovine tuberculosis (bTB) surveillance team were recognized for implementing a comprehensive program to test hunter-harvested deer in southeast Indiana during the 2016-17 season.

Lymph nodes from more than 2,000 deer were collected, none of which tested positive for bTB. The net result of this collective effort saved the DFW from spending an estimated \$1.3 million in license sales revenue to

respond to the chronic bTB situation in Indiana. DFW Director **Mark Reiter** accepted the award on behalf of the agency & partners at the 2017 summer MAFWA meeting in Nebraska.



## “Becoming a Wildlife Professional” now available

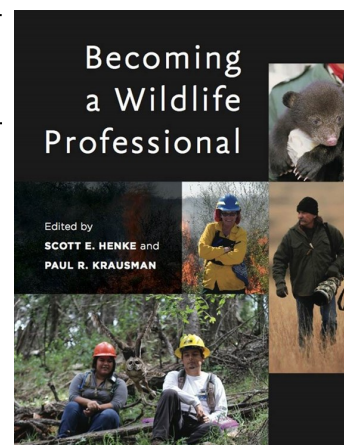
“Becoming a Wildlife Professional” is the first comprehensive book to describe the entry-level jobs available for the next generation of wildlife biologists and conservationists. If you are a student preparing for a wildlife career or new professional looking for career advice, this new book published by The Wildlife Society in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University belongs in your library!

Editors Scott E. Henke and Paul R. Krausman include detailed chapters on how students should prepare for a vocation in the wildlife profession while offering pragmatic advice about applying for and obtaining a job. The book presents over 100 diverse career options that are available to aspiring wildlife workers, including work in biological field research, forestry, rehabilitation, ranching, photography and refuge management. It also details each position’s educational and technical requirements, challenges, salaries and opportunities for advancement and offers advice from a range of seasoned experts who actually hold these jobs and have used these techniques to secure employment.

“Becoming a Wildlife Professional” also conveys important philosophical messages about the responsibilities and challenges of a career in wildlife conservation and management.

With all this information in one place, the book is an essential text for wildlife science students interested in making themselves marketable for employers across a wide spectrum of wildlife jobs.

TWS members receive 30 percent off on all titles published by the Society in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University Press. Be sure to enter the discount code **HTWS** at checkout.



## Purdue Chapter places 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2017 National TWS Quiz Bowl

Congratulations to the Purdue Student Chapter of TWS, whose Quiz Bowl Team won second place nationally in the Quiz Bowl at the national TWS conference in Albuquerque, NM. They lost in a close final round to the defending champion, University of Georgia. The team of Zach Truelock, Lexi Eiler, Ashley Higdon and Landon Neumann represented Purdue and Indiana well, not only in the Quiz Bowl, but also in various professional activities.

Overall, our team had a lot of fun and walked away with some



**Purdue’s 2017 National Quiz Bowl Team**  
(from left to right): Zach Truelock, Lexi Eiler, Ashley Higdon, and Landon Neumann

really great prizes, including brand-new Leathermans, textbooks, and a painting of a Gila monster we proudly feature in our student commons at Purdue.

It is quite a feat to place so well in a western venue, since many questions and identifications have a western bias - this suggests that the curriculum is strong, but also that much extra work went into their strong performance. Way to go!!



# Ball State Student Chapter Update



**BALL STATE** - This year, our officers focused on the recruitment of incoming wildlife/zoology/botany majors. The Wildlife Society had a strong presence at our Fall Activity Fair where we tabled alongside of another animal-advocate organization, the Pre-Veterinary Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), and gained 76 new emails! At our first call-out meeting, 43 members attended the bonfire social at the Cooper Farm – one of Ball State's Field Station and Environmental Education Centers. The second meeting was designed specifically for freshmen with interests in wildlife, zoology, and botany. This meeting offered support and advice to 33 new students through a course curriculum briefing and a Q&A panel of experienced upperclassmen. All of our new members really enjoyed our first speaker Dr. Kloepper, who is Assistant Professor of the Dept. of Biology at Saint Mary's College. She discussed her research of how bats sense in swarms using hawks, ziplines, and drones!

TWS of Ball State has another focus this academic year, which is to coordinate and collaborate many opportunities for our members to earn meaningful wildlife research and volunteer experience. In September, 13 members of our chapter partnered with Muncie-Delaware Clean & Beautiful for the Annual White River Cleanup. Our volunteers stressed, "the reason we give is to help wildlife live better and healthier lives." Our chapter also assisted the DNR at Mounds State Park with the maintenance of their terrestrial and aquatic habitat enclosures, woodland edges, and stream-trail recovery sites. We are proud to say that we even caught a new green frog ambassador for conservation education! Our Chapter's Annual Camping Trip also was at Mounds. While herping, campers even got a response from a Barred Owl in the night!

This year, our chapter has been more involved with the Robert-Cooper

Audubon Society (RCAS)! We have attended bird walks and meetings, and even have been given the opportunity to have a TWS representative on their board! Along with RCAS, TWS is working with Master Gardeners and INPAWS (Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society) on a plan to install a pollinator garden at a local school. As a chapter, we have an ongoing project with a campus organization called Indiana Outdoors to create an educational video series called "Conservation & Wildlife Issues." These videos are released to all BSU students and the topics have ranged from hurricanes and their effects on birds to plant adaptations with change in seasons!

The research opportunities are endless with our Ball State University's Chapter! Students can assist undergraduate researchers from finding Eastern Red-Backed Salamanders to determine forest health to checking small mammal traps laid in Cooper Farm. Our TWS members also have a large avian interest and are heavily involved in the weekly bird banding located in our outdoor teaching laboratory – Christy Woods. In October, the banding station caught its very first Brown Creeper! Our chapter also began volunteering for another bird banding project to determine the migration habits of the Northern Saw-Whet Owl in Indiana.

Our Chapter's workshops included an entomology workshop where students



BSU students at a DNR dove hunt at Pine Creek Gamebird Area

learned about insects, how to identify them to order, and how to properly collect insects. The wetland construction workshop also was offered to our members, in which they learned how to design and build wetlands for mid-west amphibians! Our Chapter also participated in the DNR Dove Hunting session and learned about safe hunting and dove management. We also have had a professional series where our members attended an internship night to learn about how to get a future job and a second night to create and polish their CVs. We will be volunteering with the DNR deer check stations later in the season where members learn how to interact with the public, age white-tail deer, and other tasks. Every year, we also assist the Red-Tail Land Conservancy with honeysuckle eradication. Our chapter also has been given a special opportunity to go behind the scenes at the Louisville Zoo with PAWS!



BSU TWS members eradicating Honeysuckle at White River Woods

# Purdue Student Chapter Update



**PURDUE** - The Purdue Wildlife Society just started back up for the fall and we have many exciting events planned for this semester! Last spring we hosted the North Central Section Conclave, which was a major success and a great team-building experience for our members. We are certainly a tight-knit group this year and our club has become even more active as a result. We additionally participated in Purdue Agriculture Week and Spring Fest with many other Forestry and Natural Resources departmental clubs. These served as outreach activities and gave our members a chance to interact with audiences unfamiliar with wildlife biology and hunting conservation. The last event of the spring semester was Wildlife Olympics, which tested our members' skills and knowledge of subjects like bird-song identification and compass navigation.

Over the summer, our chapter participated in a Purdue Athletes Life Success Summer Field Day which gave underprivileged youth the opportunity to explore natural resources fields. Purdue TWS hosted a table which featured animal skins and skulls, as well as a tiger salamander larvae.

As a chapter, we visited the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary in southeastern Indiana Aug. 25-26 to participate in songbird and hummingbird banding. Our members extracted birds from mist-nets, banded songbirds under master bander Amy Wilms' supervision, and had the opportunity to release hummingbirds by hand. Amy Wilms is the only licensed hummingbird bander in the state, so it was an amazing opportunity getting to work with her!

Our chapter recently just hosted its call-out and we already have several events planned for this fall. Our hunting working group



**Purdue senior Sean Verkamp banding a warbler**

has a squirrel hunt and a dove hunt planned, the latter with the DNR at a nearby Purdue property. Herps working group has a couple events in the works as well, one involving a trip to Kankakee Sands to search for herpetofauna. We are currently looking into taking a tour with the Nature Conservancy at Kankakee Sands to learn more about their bison with our mammals working group. Birds working group will offer their annual Northern Saw-whet Owl banding opportunity later this fall.

Our next regular meeting will be out at a nearby Purdue property and we will be teaching our new members how to herp! Purdue TWS is excited for busy, fun-filled new year.



**Purdue TWS members who helped run the 2017 spring conclave**



# EDITORIAL—Musings on National Dues

By Dean Zimmerman

Hello fellow wildlifers. I was greatly encouraged at the recent TWS Chapter meeting to see so many new and young faces in attendance. In order for the chapter to thrive we need new biologists and those committed to wildlife conservation to join and be active. We can only be successful in carrying out our mission (check the TWS Chapter website “home page” [www.intws.org](http://www.intws.org)), if we work together and are willing to serve in various capacities. The chapter has accomplished much in its nearly 50 years of history. There have been great achievements and lean times too.

When I was a student at Purdue in 1968, the staffer in charge of wildlife students was Dr. Charles M. Kirkpatrick. He was usually rather stiff and business like, and seldom smiled. He did have a grin that he periodically flashed which we students called the “Kirk smirk.” I learned over time that he really cared for his students, and he was what I considered, very professional. He belonged to The Wildlife Society, was at one point an editor of the TWS Journal of Wildlife Management and was much involved in the national organization.

One day while in his office he asked me if I belonged to The Wildlife Society, and I said not. I really didn’t know much about it. He said I should join to support the profession and keep up to date on what’s happening in wildlife conservation. So I did at a cost of \$10 for student membership. Full memberships were \$15 at the time.



I’ve been a member ever since and have no regrets forking over that money all these years (50 years). There is much to profit and much to learn by being a member of the national organization. At times it may not be obvious, but one needs to take initiative and go after it.

All that said, I was a bit disappointed in a discussion at our chapter meeting about paying for membership in the parent society for chapter officers. I know that not many practicing wildlife biologists in Indiana are members of the parent society, and it’s been that way a long time. I know it’s difficult to get people to run for chapter offices. I think that’s sad. Where is the commitment of our biologists to the wildlife profession? To learning? To the resource? To comradery? I believe every practicing wildlife biologist should be a member of the parent society and Indiana chapter, and should be working

to become a certified wildlife biologist. Here is the TWS website that outlines memberships available and the many benefits: <http://wildlife.org/join/>

***Dean Zimmerman retired in July 2015 after working 44 years for the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife as a district wildlife biologist. He continues to play a role in the chapter.***

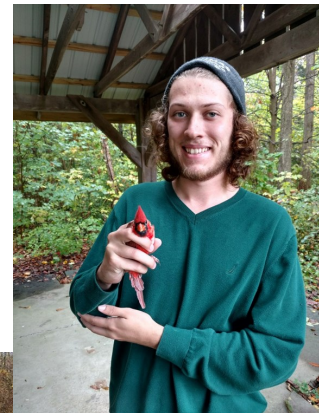
***All editorials are the views of the author and not necessarily those of ICTWS or the ICTWS Executive Committee.***



## 2017 Fall ICTWS Happenings.....



Student Hunts



Student Activities



2017 Fall Workshop





## Indiana Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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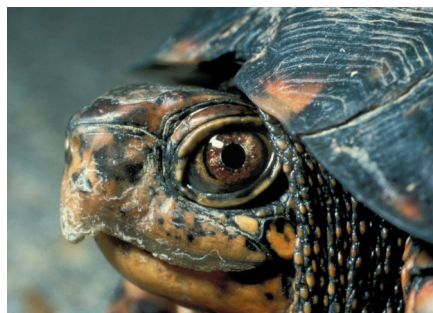
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Contributors to this issue include: Jason Wade, Sam Whiteleather, Mickey Weeks, Brad Feaster, Scott Johnson, Cassie Hudson, Dean Zimmerman, Mariah Simmons, Savannah Lundgren (BSU Student Chapter President), and Morgan Sussman (Purdue Student Chapter 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 Cassie Hudson at 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.