

The Washington Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Mike Hall, Editor

Autumn 2023



JAM 2023!

and a bunch of other cool stuff

Hello, WA-TWSers –

We've got a lot to tell you about the Joint Annual Meeting (JAM!) we held with SNVB and NW PARC back in April. I don't want to waste any time, so let's just jump right in.

Oh, all right. First, here's the skinny on what you can find in this edition of *The Washington Wildlifer*:

- A [message](#) from our Chapter President, Alex Pavlinovic
- A [rundown of our 2023 Joint Annual Meeting in April](#)
- 2023 [Chapter Award Recipients](#)
- Sneak preview of [JAM 2024](#)
- Get to Know [Your 2023 Board!](#)

President's Message

Hi, Wildlifers,

Thanks to everyone who attended our Joint Annual Meeting with NW-PARC and SNVB at Great Wolf Lodge in April. Attracting more than 250 attendees over the course of 6 days, the meeting was a great success. Look for more about the meeting elsewhere in this newsletter.

I want to welcome the new officers that WA-TWS members elected during the meeting. Claudine Reynolds is our new Vice President, James Butch is our new Treasurer, and Katherine Soltysiak and Jake Verschuyt are new board members.

I also want to share the news that our 2024 Joint Annual Meeting will be happening next March in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. You can learn more about that here.

Here are some more of our chapter's accomplishments over the past 13 months:

- Our first annual meeting since 2019 was professionally, socially, and financially profitable
- We produced three newsletters
- We ran two successful elections
- We awarded two Research Grants and two Scholarships, and we recognized the

achievements and contributions of more than ten individuals and organizations (see our 2023 honorees later in this newsletter)

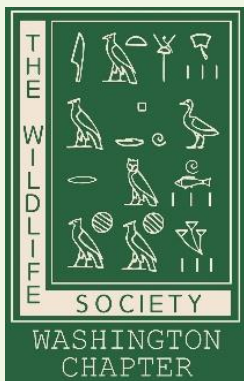
- We officially stood up our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, and we reinvigorated our Audit, Membership, Conservation Review, and Education and Information committees.

As I am sure many of you know, WA-TWS has been in the process of rebuilding over the last couple of years. Thanks to the efforts of many great members, new and old, we have made quite a bit of progress. I want to thank those who have already helped—and I especially want to encourage even more new folks to join us. We

need help with several of our committees. You can lend a hand by checking out the list of committees at our website, finding one that interests you, and reaching out to the committee chair. We'd also love your help on the newsletter team. So please consider joining a committee or encouraging a buddy to join our chapter. With your help, we will continue to build and grow.

I hope to see you at our next meeting, whether you can attend in person or remotely.

Best wishes,
Alex Pavlinovic
WA-TWS President



JAM 2023

Alex Pavlinovic

From April 24 through April 29, 2023, we enjoyed a successful Joint Annual Meeting (aka JAM 2023) at the majestic Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound, Washington. WA-TWS hosted the meeting with our partners from the Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology (SNVB), in association with Northwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NW PARC). Our theme this year was **Recovery and Resilience in a Pandemic and Climate Changing World**, with the goal of bringing everyone

together for our first in-person meeting since 2019. With 254 attendees, we achieved that goal in a big way! The meeting was JAM-packed with workshops, working sessions, special sessions, field trips, and concurrent technical sessions, interspersed with fun events to provide us time to break bread, laugh, and learn alongside our fellow wildlifers. We hoped this newsletter would feature some embarrassing photos of meeting attendees at the Great Wolf Lodge water park, but no one submitted any, alas.

For those of you who may have missed some of it (and who could possibly have participated in every single event?), here's a rundown of what happened, followed by some shout-outs to the folks who brought this event to (wild)life.

Day-by-Day Summary

Monday, April 24

We kicked it all off with two working sessions devoted to amphibian conservation. The first was **Effects of Climate, Invasive Species, and**

Disease on PNW Amphibians, moderated by Jonah Piovia-Scott and Sky Button. The second working session was **Monitoring/Surveillance Needs for PNW Amphibian Populations**, moderated by Katie Remine and Matt Distler. Participants described their work in progress,

discussed ways to identify suitable methods and deliverables, and set goals for future work.

Also on Monday we hosted a workshop titled **An Overview of Genomic Approaches for Wildlife Conservation**, moderated by Stacey Nerkowski. The workshop introduced genomic methods that can be used to address research questions in wildlife ecology, conservation, and management.

Tuesday, April 25

Day 2 featured three workshops, one special session, and one field trip.

Workshops:

- **DEI Foundations and Bystander Awareness Training**, led by the wonderful Larry Delgado, Mamta Ouyoumjian, and Staci Amburgey from WDFW. Through presentations and group discussions, this training covered foundational vocabulary and concepts on diversity, equity, and inclusion. We also explored ways of empowering individuals to become active bystanders when they witness discriminatory behaviors.
- **Conservation Communication**, presented by Bruce Thompson, helped participants hone skills for interacting with fellow natural resource professionals through interactive exploration of key facets of effective communication processes.
- **Indigenous and Western Science Communities Working Together**, moderated by Jen Syrowitz and Mark Thompson, was designed as an open forum to foster new partnerships between Western scientists and Indigenous peoples.

The special session on **Wildlife Morbidity and Mortality**, moderated by Christine Parker-Graham, included many fascinating talks.

The field trip, organized by Bill Vogel, explored **Herps in the Black River Watershed**. The outing was widely popular with the participants, who

got up close and personal with local herp species habitats and even some individuals.

Tuesday ended with our first annual icebreaker: A **Wildlife for All** event organized by Staci Amburgey and Kris Ernest. This year's focus was our members of the LGBTQIA+ community. The event was well attended, and everyone left happy with meeting new people and sampling an array of desserts.

Wednesday, April 26

Wednesday started with a welcome from the Chehalis Tribe. We thank them for honoring us with their presence and their words. Next, we had two rounds of plenary presentations. Dr. Marguerite Pappaioanou spoke about **Emerging Zoonotic Infectious Diseases and Pandemics in the Anthropocene Era**. This was followed by a series of excellent presentations and discussions about **Recovery and Resilience in the Dry Forests of Eastern Washington**, featuring Dr. James Johnston, Richard Tveten, Jennifer Watkins, and Matthew Danielson.

Following the plenary session and hosted lunches, it was time for some concurrent sessions:

- **Large Carnivores and Ungulates** (contributed papers), moderated by Hayley R. Rowe
- **Amphibians and Conservation** (contributed papers), moderated by Tony Fuchs
- **Beaver-Related Restoration** (invited speakers), moderated by Jesse Burgher
- **Climate and Connectivity in SW Washington** (invited speakers), a team effort moderated by Jeff Azerrad that was linked to our field trip later in the week.

Our Wednesday evening social mixer was a hit. It featured a poster session, a silent auction/raffle, and an animal-calling contest that was both fun and educational.

Thursday, April 27

After we hosted the popular **Breakfast with a Wildlifer** event, Thursday's calendar featured a series of special sessions:

- **Shrub-steppe Habitat and Species Conservation**, moderated by Scott Downes
- **Marine Mammals**, special session moderated by Shawn Larson
- **Ecological Responses to Forest Management**, moderated by Aimee McIntyre and A.J. Kroll
- **Forest Management to Increase Structural Complexity and Wildlife Use**, moderated by Claudine Reynolds and Jake Verschuyf.

Thursday also marked Day 1 of the 2023 Snake Ecology Symposium, an event that dates back to at least the 1970s and that has continued irregularly into the present. This one differed from its predecessors in having a regional (Pacific Northwest) focus, and a special effort was made to embrace a diverse assemblage of species and speakers. With 33 talks from 31 speakers over two days, this symposium provided golden nuggets for a range of snake enthusiasts. The symposium was co-organized by Marc Hayes and Chuck Peterson, with support from Adam's AV service. Chuck opened with a plenary presentation focusing on

crowdsourcing data and its application in uncertain times. The symposium program and archive are available at <https://thesnvb.org/meeting-history/>.

The day culminated with the banquet, during which WA-TWS caught up on 3 years' worth of awards that we hadn't been able to present in person. SNVB gave an award to our very own Bill Vogel for his efforts in reinvigorating that society.

Friday, April 28

In addition to Day 2 of the Snake Symposium and Day 1 of the Wildlife Handling and Chemical Immobilization workshop (more about that [below](#)), Friday featured one special session and two field trips.

- Special session: **Turtles of the Pacific Northwest: Biology and Management**, moderated by Gwen Bury, Don Ashton, and Bruce Bury
- Field trip: **Connectivity in Southwest Washington and Across I-5, hosted by Conservation NW**
- Field trip: **Facility tour and exploration of prairie habitat surrounding Wolf Haven International.**

Noteworthy Notes About JAM 2023

WA-TWS and our partners were pleased to provide financial support for 20 students from 8 different educational institutions in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, and British Columbia. We subsidized the room costs for 18 of those students and provided alternative financial incentives to the other two. Thanks to the generous contributions of our meeting sponsors, we were able to offer reduced registration fees for 14 students.

And what about those sponsors and contributors? JAM 2023 simply would not have been possible without tremendous

encouragement and financial support—totaling nearly \$24,000—from the following:

- Aquatic & Herpetological Research Consultants
- Beavers Northwest
- Cabela's
- COL Environmental
- Conservation Northwest
- Herrera, Inc.
- Inland Northwest Wildlife Council
- Manulife Investment Management
Timberland and Agriculture, Inc.
- Mountain Lion Foundation
- NW Section of The Wildlife Society
- Parametrix, Inc.

- Port Blakely
- Puget Sound Energy
- SFI Washington State Implementation Committee
- Syndel
- The Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology
- USDA-Wildlife Services
- Vaagen Brothers Lumber
- Washington Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Washington State University
- Washington Trappers Association
- Washington Wildlife Federation
- Washington Wildlife First
- Weyerhaeuser

Finally, we cannot overstate the contributions of our Joint Meeting Steering Committee. This year's committee was led by Bill Vogel, Bruce Thompson, and Alexander Pavlinovic, with invaluable assistance from Laura Sprague and Christine A. Parker-Graham of NW-PARC and Teal Waterstrat of SNVB. Wendy Arjo did an excellent job of sending out advertisements and spreading the word about the conference. Jeff Kozma organized the posters. Lisa Egtvedt

organized and helped us earn money from our raffle and silent auction. Candace Bennett and Sara Hansen undertook the monumental task of setting up the chapter website for the conference, especially the registration process. George Ritchotte spent many hours formatting abstracts and creating and editing our program. Bruce Thompson, Jen Syrowitz, and Tony Fuchs did an excellent job of finding many sponsors for our meeting. Bill Vogel played a huge role by organizing the sessions, workshops, and field trips, along with leading the Awards committee. Alex Pavlinovic and Marc Hayes arranged the welcome from the Chehalis Tribe. Christine Parker-Graham coordinated and organized our volunteers. Bruce Thompson and Alex Pavlinovic oversaw the finances for the meeting. Kris Ernest and Staci Amburgey organized and ran the icebreaker event. Bruce Thompson oversaw and led the stuffing of the gift bags. Matt Wilson coordinated and moderated the plenary speakers. Marc Hayes spent many hours organizing and moderating the Snake Session, along with assisting with countless other tasks. We also thank all the moderators for their many hours spent organizing and moderating sessions.

Thank you to all the folks listed above and many more who helped make JAM 2023 a memorable success. We couldn't have done it without you!

***Special message to sponsors from Bruce Thompson, outgoing treasurer
and major contributor to the effort to secure sponsorships:***

We offer a sincere and resounding THANK YOU for the financial support you provided for JAM 2023. Some sponsor support was contributed several years ago before our intended 2020 Joint Meeting was cancelled in the early days of COVID precautions. We held those funds until we were able to meet in person again this year. Thanks to you and your agency/company/program, the sponsorship contributions supported about 40 percent of the cost to organize and present the technical, educational, and social aspects of JAM 2023. **More than 250 registrants and 14 specially sponsored students** benefitted from your support, and we informed them of your generosity.

Many more positive outcomes will become evident in the future as participants share knowledge and expertise in conservation of Pacific Northwest resources gained during JAM 2023. Please note the role all sponsors played in making that possible through your contributions. Thank you again on behalf of more than 250 registrants. We hope you consider being a sponsor when contacted for future Joint Meetings.

Awards

Bill Vogel

WA-TWS loves to recognize and honor the accomplishments of folks who are doing great things for wildlife and wildlife management in Washington. This year, we were finally able to present awards in person once again, during the Thursday evening banquet at JAM 2023. Here's the rundown.



WA-TWS award recipients and dignitaries.

Left to right: Matt Vander Haegen, Ed Arnett (TWS CEO), Jake Verschuyt, Alex Pavlinovic (WA-TWS President), Candace Bennett, and Jen Syrowitz (standing in for awardee David Werntz)

Chapter Award – Candace Bennett



Candace Bennett stepped into the role of Chapter Secretary in 2021 and has brought organizational talent, professional demeanor, dedication, innovativeness, and a can-do spirit to the

duties of the position. This has been an ongoing effort from Candace during a time of transition from the interruptions and challenges related to COVID-19. Candace's substantive accomplishments on behalf of Chapter interests and operation of the Executive Board include (but are far from limited to) the following:

- Organizing and managing the transition of our chapter membership records to a new website software system
- Preparing, distributing, and summarizing multiple member polls to advise the Executive Board
- Refining the format and ensuring completion and posting of official minutes for all Executive Board meetings
- Formatting, performing quality-control reviews, and routinely managing website-based services to support JAM 2023 registration
- Communicating with diverse Chapter members to resolve difficulties with membership records between our chapter and the parent TWS organization
- Serving as a reasoned sounding board for assessing ongoing and newly considered programs under review by the Executive Board
- Designing and implementing the Chapter Webinar Series to promote information exchange by and among chapter members and other professionals.

Candace's work on the webinars has been particularly influential. Presentation topics have included chronic wasting disease, hemorrhagic disease, cetacean strandings, avian influenza, wildlife conflict, adapting to change in the wildlife field, pollinators, and hummingbird migration. Upcoming topics include beaver eDNA, wolves, ARUs, and perhaps marine mammals. So far, more than 250 people have participated in the webinars.

Throughout all these endeavors, Candace displays a substantial professional demeanor, engaging person-to-person interactions, substantial knowledge within the wildlife profession, and a dedication to service when seeing a member in need of help. She has truly helped WA-TWS evolve and succeed during her tenure as Secretary.

Conservation Award – Jake Verschuyf



Dr. Jake Verschuyf earned his PhD from Montana State University in Ecology and Environmental Science and has worked for the National Council of Air and Stream Improvement

(NCASI) for the past 13 years. Currently, he is NCASI's Director of Forestry Research for the Western U.S. and British Columbia.

Jake has contributed significantly to understanding wildlife-habitat relationships on private forests and has been a key contributor to increasing the science of conservation in the Pacific Northwest. Jake has a remarkably diverse background, leading influential work involving everything from northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets, black-backed woodpeckers, small mammals, stream amphibians, ungulates, created snags, and early successional bird communities.

Perhaps one of Jake's most significant accomplishments is the conception and implementation of a long-term study, started in 2011, to understand biodiversity response to intensive forest management during stand establishment. Involving partners from academia, industry, and NCASI, this highly collaborative, experimentally rigorous study has provided a wealth of data on early successional communities in managed forests. The research resulted in 16 scientific publications authored or coauthored by Jake and stimulated another study of early seral forests in the region.

In addition to Jake's own significant research and management contributions, he also manages NCASI's Western Sustainability Forestry Program, which investigates forest sustainability issues such as biodiversity, water quality and watersheds, and carbon and climate change. Jake

successfully brings together NCASI scientists, private company representatives, federal agency personnel, and university staff to successfully implement a comprehensive research and technical support program that significantly improves the ability of private forest owners to sustainably manage forestlands in Washington and the rest of the Pacific Northwest.

Partnership Award – David Werntz



David Werntz, Director of Science and Conservation for Conservation Northwest, has been an effective champion for wildlife and habitat for three decades. He began working for Conservation Northwest in 1995 and has partnered with numerous agencies and

organizations over his career to promote wildlife conservation. Groups he has partnered with include WDFW, USFS, USFWS, Colville Tribes, Upper Columbia United Tribes, Okanagan Nation Alliance, the Audubon Society, and many others.

Recent examples of Dave's achievements include the effort to transplant Canada lynx to the southern Kettle Range on the Colville Reservation, with the objective of transplanting 10 animals per year for 5 years. Dave initiated this effort and finessed it forward, and now the program is about to enter its third year. Dave played a similar role with WDFW and NPS in the partnership that reintroduced Pacific fishers into the Olympics and North and South Cascades with releases starting in 2008 and continuing successfully through 2021. When you think of the diverse partners, as well as diverse challenges, these are astounding partnership-development achievements.

In all his work, Dave remains a dedicated scientist and enthusiastic conservationist. Dave

stays current on the scientific literature and maintains relationships with researchers and managers. He cultivates partnerships with a wide variety of interests and responsibilities and has earned their trust. His leadership, insights, knowledge, and passion have made him a conservation leader and a passionate advocate for wildlife and biodiversity. Not all the people Dave deals with share his views or the views of his organization, but they know that Dave is coming from a place of knowledge, integrity, public service, and persistence.

As one of his partners said, “Dave is a tireless and tremendously skilled collaborator and partner in the conservation of wildlife and wild places in Washington, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond. Dave’s leadership, insights, knowledge, and passion have been the hallmarks and essential building blocks for the successes and achievements of Washington’s three fisher reintroduction projects. In his position as the Science and Conservation Director for Conservation Northwest, Dave also brings the unique values and capacities of a highly respected non-profit organization to the Washington fisher conservation team, and we are grateful to call him our partner and our friend.”

William H. Lawrence Special Achievement Award – Donny Martorello



We are pleased to recognize Dr. Donny Martorello for his work and accomplishments during his time as WDFW’s Wolf Policy Lead from 2015 to 2021, as well as continuing contributions to our understanding of wolf population dynamics.

Management of wolves is a sensitive and controversial issue, and the various publics and stakeholders involved hold strong opinions. Donny has always been keenly aware of this dynamic and has been steadfast in listening to and respecting both sides of the issues while adhering to the science and best available information.

As Wolf Policy Lead, Donny established and implemented strategic statewide policy related to the recovery and management of gray wolves, including being responsible for intergovernmental efforts with land-management agencies, USFWS, and tribal and local governments. Managing the state’s recovering wolf population requires a large effort to address conflict. Donny had the unique role of bridging the gaps between WDFW headquarters leadership, regional leadership, on-the-ground staff, and among many constituent groups and communities. Working with an internationally renowned facilitator, he helped to lead WDFW’s Wolf Advisory Group (WAG) through the development of the wolf-livestock conflict protocol to improve wolf conservation while addressing the needs of environmentalists, hunters, the livestock industry, and local communities around the state.

Donny led the development of public outreach strategies and products to promote the social tolerance of both a recovered wolf population as well as public support for the implementation of WDFW’s wolf conservation and management plan. He provided policy input to WDFW’s Fish and Wildlife Commission and Wolf Committee, the Director’s office, the Wildlife Program, and the Governor’s office. He also coordinated with WDFW’s Game Division regarding wolf-related issues, including the wolf conservation and management plan, wolf population monitoring, wolf-ungulate interactions, wolf-livestock conflict, and wolf outreach and education.

Donny's ability to work with people of diverse views and intense feelings, all while maintaining scientific credibility, has led to substantial steps in the conservation of wolves in Washington State.

Leadership Awards – Matt Vander Haegen and Patti Happe

We were excited to recognize the accomplishments of two longtime wildlife professionals this year: Matt Vander Haegen and Patti Happe.

Matt Vander Haegen



Dr. Matt Vander Haegen has made many contributions to wildlife management over his long career with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Dr. Vander Haegen began his career as a wildlife research biologist

with the Northern Forest Research Station after completing his PhD at the University of Maine studying the bioenergetics of woodcocks.

Matt moved to Washington in 1994 and joined WDFW as a wildlife research scientist, beginning a career that would span 28 years and culminate in his leading a team of scientists conducting a wide range of research in eastern Washington. His research focused on studies of threatened and at-risk species. He collaborated with numerous groups and agencies during his career, including Battelle National Laboratory at Hanford, Joint Base Lewis McChord, USFWS, USFS, NPS, and Audubon Washington. As affiliate faculty member at UW and WSU, he has mentored numerous wildlife graduate students, and he oversaw the joint WDFW/UW Predator Prey Project. Matt's passion for research has

always been linked to management and to providing the best science to resource managers.

Two notable areas of Matt's research, each spanning well over a decade of consecutive field projects, serve to highlight some of his contributions to wildlife conservation in Washington. His research on shrub-steppe-dependent birds greatly expanded our knowledge of the shrub-steppe ecosystem and how habitat fragmentation can affect reproductive success through a variety of mechanisms. Most recently, Matt collaborated with Audubon Washington in a 5-year study that used community science to survey for birds across the shrub-steppe of eastern Washington. He used the study results to model the distribution of key species. The project included over 200 volunteers from 9 Audubon chapters and educated a cadre of local birders on the value of shrub-steppe ecosystems while producing reliable science for management.

In 1998, Matt began research on the western gray squirrel, which was State-listed as Threatened at that time. Over the ensuing 20 years, Matt and his team completed studies in each of the 3 population areas in Washington, focusing on habitat use, nest site characteristics, seasonal diet, annual survival, and reproductive success. These studies provided data that allowed the creation of science-based recommendations for habitat management. The studies also supported population modeling that identified demographic risks for isolated populations. Matt designed and implemented a program to augment the squirrel population on JBLM, resulting in the successful expansion of this small population to two new areas on the Base. Throughout his work on JBLM, Matt regularly consulted with Forestry and Wildlife staff to retain or improve habitat in specific planned timber harvests. His findings have had significant influence on forest management in Washington.

A Certified Wildlife Biologist, Matt has been a TWS member since 1983. He has served on several national committees, including Student Affairs and the Aldo Leopold Award Selection Committee. Matt has always approached his work with an abundance of energy and a talent for listening and understanding others. He has been exemplary in how to make progress in conservation while maintaining a professional and friendly demeanor. Matt's devotion to family and his passion for training dogs and hunting upland birds is well known. The long careers of those working under his oversight is a testament to his personable nature and leadership.

Patti Happe



We are pleased to recognize Dr. Patti Happe for her many accomplishments and powerful leadership skills during her 40-year career in wildlife conservation. At Abington Friends

High School in Pennsylvania (a Quaker school), Patti “fully embraced the importance of speaking her mind.” At Penn State, she majored in Environmental Resource Management with a focus in wildlife, and she worked for a professor doing research in mine reclamation. In 1981, she earned her MS from OSU doing research on suburban deer ecology, then began working in Glacier National Park. From 1986 to 1992, she worked on her PhD in Range Ecology, studying patterns of elk browse in the South Fork Hoh River in Olympic National Park. In 1993, Patti became the environmental protection specialist and then wildlife biologist at Wrangell-St Elias National Park. Her background in the effects of both mining and grazing on wildlife made her an ideal fit for both of these positions. She has been

the wildlife branch chief for Olympic National Park since about 1996.

Dr. Happe's contributions include a broad array of efforts focused on Roosevelt elk, mountain goats, fishers, Pacific martens, Olympic marmots, and northern spotted owls. She worked with local Tribes, the Olympic National Forest, WDFW, USGS, and many others on the restoration and subsequent monitoring of fisher populations on the Olympic Peninsula. Patti also secured NPS funding to support a master's project studying the distribution of Pacific martens throughout Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest. Patti collaborated with some of these same entities to remove and relocate hundreds of non-native mountain goats from the Park and the Forest. Patti has also worked with WDFW to conduct a major study of Roosevelt elk bull mortality within and adjacent to the Park. These activities required extensive collaboration and much coordination and organization. Patti was instrumental in making them happen.

Patti also initiated a citizen-science monitoring program in 2010 to gain a clearer understanding of the conservation status of Olympic marmots, an endemic species that is very vulnerable to climate change. She has also managed the monitoring programs for northern spotted owls and Roosevelt elk during her long tenure at Olympic National Park. While Patti would be the first to acknowledge the contributions of her staff and, of course, the many partners, her skills at organizing and motivating huge numbers of people have greatly advanced conservation efforts on the Olympic Peninsula.

Award Nominations

You—**yes, YOU!**—can nominate a person, group, or organization for one of these awards. IT'S EASY! Just send a short note to the Awards Committee Chairperson (awards@watws.org) with the following information.

Award Category:

{see category descriptions at [our website](#)}

Nominee:

Submitted by:

Seconded by:

Contact information for person(s) submitting nomination:

Date Submitted:

Rationale:

{short description of pertinent accomplishments}

If you are not a WA-TWS member, please contact a Chapter member or the Award Committee Chairperson. If you want, you can further strengthen your nomination by providing additional statements of support or by having another member do the same or second your nomination. The Awards Committee will review all submittals and eventually make recommendations to the full Board. If the nomination is successful, we may ask for more information from you to help fully document the accomplishments and make award arrangements.

JAM 2023 Wildlife Handling and Chemical Immobilization Workshop

On Friday and Saturday, April 28 and 29, we held a 2-day workshop on Wildlife Handling and Chemical Immobilization, taught by Dr. Mark R. Johnson DVM. Dr. Mark founded Global Wildlife Resources (GWR), which has specialized in wildlife capture and handling and has provided training and field assistance for over 30 years.



This workshop was a slightly condensed version of the 3-day courses that Dr. Mark teaches across the county. He is a dynamic instructor who teaches practical, field-based training to

maximize human safety, field success, animal care, and professionalism. He listens well and involves his students and their experiences in the class. He is well known for developing ethical practices and habits in his students. All of his courses are the most current and extensive courses in North America.

TPRs! Temperature, Pulse, and Respiration. If you were in this workshop, you would have heard those words many times. You would have learned how to guide an animal's condition and temperature rather than react to it. We talked often about respect and compassion for the animal and how the animal is the most important part of our work. Careful planning can reduce your excitement and reduce the excitement of the animal, which will make the immobilizing drugs more effective. We learned what a tranquilizer and a sedative really are and how they work with anesthetics and antagonists.

This 2-day course was authorized to provide 16 hours of credit for the TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist Renewal/Professional Development Certificate Program. This workshop can also be applied toward any state or federal certification program.

The two-day workshop included lectures and discussion, interspersed with videos and hands-on labs each day. A needle and syringe lab taught basic techniques for handling immobilizing drugs, working with syringe poles, and performing IV injections. Dr. Mark's needle and syringe lab builds good habits to maximize human safety, animal care, and successful chemical immobilization. We also had a blood collection practice station (simulated mammal leg and vein—photo below) where people could practice collecting blood samples. A dart-gun lab on Saturday at the Capital City Rifle and Pistol Club indoor facilities provided opportunities for participants to practice a variety of drug-delivery systems.



We had 25 students from tribal, state, and federal agencies, universities, and private companies, as well as early career professionals. The students ranged from novices to biologists who have been capturing and handling animals with chemicals for years. Even the most experienced of these biologists said they learned a lot and were very happy with the class. One of them said “Thank you very much for the excellent workshop. I learned an amazing amount of good information that I will surely take to heart in my work.” All the comments we received were positive.

Our chapter contacted Dr. Johnson and asked him to put on this workshop because his classes are so thorough and interactive, and because he

teaches the most practical and field-based content. With every course, Dr. Johnson strives to support and empower each student and professional as well as improve the well-being of each animal handled for wildlife research and management.



Dr. Mark provides year-round support with monthly Q&A Discussion Sessions for anyone who has taken one of his live or online courses. You can check out his live and online courses at <https://wildlifecaptureandcare.com/>.

JAM 2024: Save the Date!

March 25-29, 2024

The next annual meeting of the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be a [joint meeting with the Idaho Chapter](#) at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Be sure to check our [website](#) regularly for abstract submittal guidelines, registration information, and other updates in the coming months.

Questions? Burning desire to lend a hand (please)? Contact George Ritchotte at 206.356.0511.

More to come! New opportunities and updates will be posted at watws.org

Grants! Scholarships!

Do you need money for education and/or research? WA-TWS is here to help. Come to our website and check out the details. The deadline for grant and scholarship applications is **December 31st**.

<https://watws.org/grow/research>

<https://watws.org/grow/scholarships>

WA-TWS Who's Who

Once again, it's time for a glimpse into the lives and minds of the fabulous folks who keep this organization humming. Of course, the best way to get to know these people is to join the Board or a committee. Maybe some of these photos and stories will entice you to take on a more active role in WA-TWS.

President—Alex Pavlinovic

Last year, I was lucky enough to be elected to the president-elect position. After this, I dove into the work of organizing and putting together a successful Joint Annual Meeting, with the help of many other individuals. Now, as president, I hope to reinvigorate the chapter with the help of WA-TWS's members.

With the goal of becoming a wildlife biologist, I have taken a variety of positions in the environmental science field, which included taking part in over 20 projects, for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Cascadia Research, Trout Unlimited, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, National



Marine Mammal Laboratory, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service. These projects included working on a variety of taxa from sea lions to beavers. Because of my efforts in assisting fisheries research on the Elwha River Restoration Project, I received the Olympic National Park Youth Volunteer of the Year award.

Currently, I am employed as a biologist for Cascadia Research. Also, I recently completed the Master of Environmental Studies program at The Evergreen State College. With the support of Cascadia Research and WA-TWS, I conducted my thesis research on a group of gray whales that come into the Puget Sound every year—the “Sounders.” In my free time, I look forward to spending time hiking, backpacking, and boating with my Great Dane, Rosie.

Immediate Past President—Matt Wilson



I began my wildlife career at Utah State University, working with a Master’s student studying effects of salinity on Canada goose development in Utah’s west desert. After completing my BS in Fisheries and Wildlife, I worked on nēnē in Hawaii, Key deer in Florida, Roosevelt elk on the Olympic Peninsula, and Mexican spotted owls in New Mexico’s Gila Wilderness. Following my passion for waterfowl, I led waterfowl field crews in the Dakotas and Alaska’s North Slope, before ending up in the San Francisco Bay area to pursue a MS at UC Davis, studying Pacific surf scoter breeding distribution and fecundity. I have been the Statewide Waterfowl Specialist with WDFW for almost 5 years.

I have been a member of TWS for most of my career. As an undergrad I was an active member in the student chapter at Utah State, helped develop a Quiz Bowl team, and doubled student participation with frequent outings and an engaged leadership group. Among other officer positions, I served as president my senior year. With my diverse wildlife experience, agency employment history (NPS, USFWS, USFS, etc.), and work with Tribes and non-profits, I believe I bring the experience and desire necessary to prepare WA-TWS for the challenging future of wildlife management.

President Elect—George Ritchotte



I am a wildlife ecologist with over 30 years of professional experience working for federal,

state, and local environmental agencies. I completed my undergraduate degree in Biology and French at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA, and my master's degree in Wildlife Biology at the University of Montana in Missoula, MT, where I participated in the University's Peace Corps Master's International Program. As part of that program I served 3 years in Madagascar, where I studied how community forest management was being implemented to conserve native forests and reduce deforestation and illegal logging. I am originally from Washington DC but have lived and worked in Seattle for the last 21 years, where I am an ecologist for a local environmental consulting firm.

I try to get outdoors as much as possible to enjoy the amazing landscapes of the Pacific Northwest and beyond. My partner and I enjoy backpacking, biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and paddle boarding, ideally with our two crazy German shorthaired pointers. I try to volunteer at least once a year with Washington Trails Association helping maintain our local trails. When in town I like to brew beer (lately I've been on a ginger beer kick), try new restaurants, and grow my own vegetables, no matter how little financial sense that makes.

I am passionate about wildlife conservation and excited to promote the mission of the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society in my role as President Elect. We are expanding our efforts to increase membership and diversity, and planning an exciting joint meeting in March of 2024 with the Idaho chapter in Coeur d'Alene, ID. I look forward to the coming year and meeting more of our members in person.

Vice President— Claudine Reynolds



I'm honored to serve WA-TWS, and I look forward to working with you to create inclusive, engaging, and meaningful opportunities that will amplify our ability to face the critical environmental challenges of our time.

I'm the Director of Wildlife and Environmental Policy at Port Blakely, a family-owned, sustainable forestland company with properties in Washington, Oregon, and New Zealand. In this role, I oversee all aspects of wildlife and fisheries resources in the U.S., providing scientific guidance on habitat conservation, protection, research, and restoration efforts. I also lead the company's forest policy and environmental education programs, and I oversee the development and implementation of federal and state conservation agreements.

My professional career began as a wildlife biologist nearly 20 years ago and has since spanned the federal, state, and private sectors of managed forests. Gaining a foothold in the streams and forests gave me an appreciation for our northwest ecosystems and fostered my



understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced in natural resource management. The complexity of issues we strive to solve underscores the need for collaboration and partnership.

As part of my work, I serve on the Washington Natural Heritage Advisory Council which provides guidance to state natural resource agencies on the designation and management of natural areas intended to conserve native species and ecosystems. I also serve on the Board of Directors for Pacific Education Institute, a non-profit organization that empowers educators to advance equitable civic and scientific literacy.

As a first-generation college student, I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to pursue an education. I have both a Bachelor of Science and Master of Environmental Studies degree from The Evergreen State College. As an undergraduate, my studies focused on salmon and the aquatic environment, while my graduate studies focused on biodiversity and the terrestrial environment. I'm also a graduate of the Washington Agriculture and Forestry Leadership Program.

WA-TWS fulfills a key function in bringing current research and applied scientists together. As a professional network, we are rich with opportunities to partner and collaborate. I'm excited to be part of it and look forward to working together to advance the mission of the chapter.

A northwest native, I live on a small farm with my partner and have two amazing grown sons. When we're not growing food, we love to work and play in the mountains, forests, and rivers that make this region so magnificent.

Secretary—Candace Bennett



Hello, members! I am pleased to be your Washington Chapter Secretary since 2020. During my time, I have helped to launch our new website and created a monthly WA-TWS Wildlife Webinar Series.

A little about me: I have been a wildlife biologist for more than a decade, predominantly working on human-wildlife conflict and various carnivore centered research projects. On my personal time, I am a professional and published wildlife photographer. I love spending time outdoors with my giant dogs (a Newfoundland and two bloodhounds) or hiking to remote locations all over the world.

Treasurer—James Butch



Hello! I am happy to have been elected as your Treasurer. I hope to serve the organization for the next few years. Bruce Thompson left some

big shoes to fill, but after his multi-year term, the finances of WA-TWS are in great shape!

For the previous 15 years I have worked for a variety of private and public organizations, collecting and analyzing environmental data, mostly concerning bird migration and their breeding habits. I now help manage thousands of acres of wildlife habitat in Washington state. I am committed to enhancing and protecting wildlife habitat in the Pacific Northwest. I have been working as a wildlife biologist and environmental consultant for the last 5 years, based in Portland. I create and lead species surveys, conduct GIS analysis, coordinate management activities with a variety of stakeholders, and create wildlife habitat management plans in both Oregon and Washington. Before starting my current position, I worked for 10 years as a field technician, studying the breeding ecology and migratory patterns of raptors in the western United States. I also returned to school to earn a Master's in Biology. I recently became a Certified Wildlife Biologist with TWS, and I am looking for opportunities to support budding biologists through mentoring and skill sharing.

Board Member 1 (2023-2025)—Katherine Soltysiak



Katherine's story is under development—as is everyone's, come to think of it.

Board Member 2 (2022-2024)—Kris Ernest



Kristina (Kris) Ernest received her B.S. in Biology from Cornell University (1982), M.S. in Zoology from the University of Oklahoma (1985), and PhD in Biology from the

University of New Mexico (1993). She has been a faculty member in the Biology Department at Central Washington University since 1994, where she has taught Wildlife Ecology, Mammalogy, General Ecology, General Biology, Biomes of the Pacific Northwest, and Field Techniques. Her research spans population and community ecology, plant-herbivore interactions, and road ecology. For the past decade, she and her students (both undergraduate and graduate) have been investigating how American pikas, shrews, bats, deer mice, and other small mammal species respond to highways and wildlife crossing structures for the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East Project.

In her spare time, Kris enjoys hiking, cross-country skiing, kayaking, and birding.

THANK YOU to all of our board members, new and returning! Your time and talent are the warp and our members are the weft. Together, we make up the fabric of this organization.

Board Member 3 (2022-2024)—Jen Syrowitz



Jen comes to TWS driven to help build an empowered network of diverse users inspired by nature and engaged in natural resource protection. She is passionate about increasing the trust, confidence, and funding for Tribes, agencies, and organizations responsible for public trust resource management. Through reconciliation she works to center Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous-led conservation to improve the quality and outcomes of engagement on sustainability of wildlife resources and human environments. Jen has more than ten years of experience in the field of wildlife conservation, natural resource policy, community outreach and advocacy, and non-profit program management.

She has been a member of and involved with TWS since 2009. Originally hailing from the Canadian Prairies, Jen has a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies, a Bachelor of Environmental Studies, and a Master of Environment from the University of Manitoba where she studied greater prairie chickens in northwestern Minnesota.

Outside the office, Jen spends her time in the evergreen mountains, sagebrush plateaus and coastal beaches of Washington state—backpacking, snowshoeing, hunting upland game and harvesting shellfish.

Board Member 4 (2023-2025)—Jake Verschuyt



I am pleased to serve on the WA TWS board and have a passion for linking applied science and management. I am the Director of Forestry Research for the Western

U.S. and B.C. for NCASI or the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc. I have a PhD in Ecology and Environmental Science from Montana State University and completed my undergraduate degree in Wildlife Management at Cal Poly Humboldt. I have spent just over 20 years engaging in a variety of wildlife related research projects, primarily focused on the influence of forest management on biodiversity and ecosystem function. The research program I oversee for NCASI focuses on wildlife, biodiversity, sustainability, and aquatic ecosystems across private and public managed forests of the Pacific Northwest. This is a pivotal time for our Washington TWS chapter. I am excited to serve in a leadership role and enhance the ability of wildlife professionals to conserve the natural environments we share stewardship of. My past service in professional society leadership includes student representative to The Wildlife Society as an undergraduate (California North Coast Chapter), where we received a Chapter of the Year Award. More recently, I served as treasurer for the Biodiversity Working Group of The Wildlife Society. In addition to The Wildlife Society, I am an active member of the Society of American Foresters, American Ornithological Society, Ecological Society of America, and the Pacific Seabird Group. In my spare time I enjoy hiking, backpacking, kayaking, climbing, and snowboarding with my wife, kids, and our lab-German shepherd mix.